

Security forces arrest Egyptian, Indian beggars



Islamic State uses food to enlist fighters



Di Maria scores as Argentina beat Chile 2-1



Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:47
Asr:	15:21
Maghreb:	18:46
Eshaa:	20:18

150 FILES
40 PAGES
NO: 16898

NEW LABOR LAW STIFFENS SALARY DELAY PENALTIES, VISA-TRADING

KUWAIT LAWMAKERS UNANIMOUSLY PASS AMENDMENTS



Min 27°
Max 45°
High Tide 09:01 & 22:03
Low Tide 02:48 & 15:48

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday unanimously passed amendments to the labor law in the private sector raising penalties against employers suspected of trading in visas and those not paying salaries on time. The amendments, which increase jail terms and fines against employers who recruit expatriate laborers and fail to provide them jobs, were passed in the two readings without any debate reflecting a total agreement from MPs and the government.

The amendments introduced modifications to penalties in articles 138, 140, 142 and 146. Under article 138, employers are jailed for up to three years and fined between KD 1,000 and 5,000 for recruiting foreigners from abroad or locally but do not provide them with jobs. The amendment raises the fine to between KD 2,000 and 10,000 per worker without increasing the jail term. The same fine also applies to employers who employ foreign workers not on their residency.

Many employers exploit the sponsorship scheme and provide residence permits to foreign laborers not working for them against fees which sometimes exceed KD 1,000 per year. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has been trying to crackdown on such visa traders and sent dozens to court. But such actions have so far failed to resolve the problem.

Continued on Page 13

PRAYER AND RAMADAN

By Teresa Leshar

Another Ramadan has arrived and more than a billion Muslims around the world abstain from food and drink from dawn until dusk for an entire month. While this is one of the main deeds that characterize Islam, there is one that is superior to the month-long fast: it is the habitual daily prayer. The daily prayer is the most significant act of a believer since, according to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), it is the deed most loved by God and "Between man and non-belief is the abandonment of prayer."

Prayer is an exercise that increases one's self-discipline and strengthens one's faith by training him to look beyond the illusive qualities of life on earth. There is a specific sequence and method for the ritual prayer in Islam, which is preceded with ablutions. Just as one would groom himself before meeting an important friend, ablutions prepare the Muslim physically and mentally for his encounter with God. Every prayer starts with the first chapter from the Holy Quran, which constitutes what could be called "the Lord's Prayer" in Islam.

Bowing and prostration are also essential parts of the ritual prayer, and these postures are reserved for no other being but God as a tribute to His supremacy, power and majesty. After invoking blessings on God's righteous servants, especially Muhammad and Abraham (peace be upon them), the prayer ends with a greeting of peace. Habitual daily prayers nourish the soul, strengthen the will and revitalize the spirit. They are the mainstay of the Muslim's faith.

In addition to the ritual prayer, the Muslims engage often in remembrance of God and supplication, which differs from ritual prayer in that it can be offered at any time and in any form. It is a spontaneous prayer from the heart of a believer at any moment during his life - in times of need, in moments of joy, during reflection or strenuous effort. It is informal communication with God, a "spiritual snack" between the ritual prayers.

In addition to the five daily prayers, there are optional prayers at night, which can be performed in congregation or in solitude. Called taraweeh prayers during Ramadan, they begin daily about two hours after sunset. In addition, qiyam-ul-layl is prayer that is performed particularly during the last one-third of the night. These night prayers become especially important during the last ten nights of the month as Muslims anticipate Lailat-ul-Qadr, or the "Night of Destiny."

It is said to be worth a thousand months in merit (Quran 97:1-5). It is on the Night of Destiny that the Quran was first revealed. No one knows exactly which night it falls on so prayers are conducted late into the night for all of the last then days. Attendance at designated neighborhood mosques is high, and attendance at the Grand Mosque in Kuwait City reaches about 30,000 during these days. God instructs us in the Quran to "establish prayer for My remembrance" (20:14). Just as there is a "minimum daily allowance" of calories, vitamins and minerals for a healthy body, the five prayers can be considered the minimum daily allowance of communication with God for a healthy spirit.



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis shop at a market during the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, in downtown Kuwait City yesterday. Muslims fasting in the month of Ramadan must abstain from food, drink and sex from dawn to dusk, when they break the fast with a meal known as iftar. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

HILLARY CLINTON 'MAKES HISTORY'

FIRST US WOMAN TO BE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF A PARTY



CALIFORNIA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton arrives on stage for a rally at Long Beach City College on the final day of California campaigning in Long Beach, California. — AFP

LOS ANGELES: Hillary Clinton has captured enough delegates to secure the Democratic presidential nomination, according to tallies by two US media outlets, as she and rival Bernie Sanders faced off yesterday in contests in six states. A former senator and US secretary of state, Clinton would be the first woman to ever be the presidential candidate of a major political party in the country's history.

Sanders has vowed to keep up the fight in what has been a long and increasingly antagonistic Democratic primary race. The US senator from Vermont, who calls himself a democratic socialist, has commanded huge crowds spilling out of parks and stadiums, galvanizing younger voters with his promises to address economic inequality.

But Clinton has continued to edge out Sanders, particularly among older voters with longer ties to the Democratic Party. Her less lofty promises focus on improving upon the policies of her fellow Democrat and former boss, President

Barack Obama. Yesterday morning, Clinton secured the endorsement of House of Representatives Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California, who noted Clinton's career devoted to children and working families. "In this campaign, we have seen her vision, her knowledge, her ability, indeed her stamina, to get the job done for the American people," Pelosi said in a statement.

'Rush to judgment'

After the Associated Press and NBC reported on Monday night that Clinton had clinched the number of delegates needed to win her party's nomination, a Sanders campaign spokesman castigated what he said was the media's "rush to judgment." Under Democratic National Committee rules, most delegates to the party's July 25-28 convention are awarded by popular votes in state-by-state elections.

11 KILLED AS CAR BOMB TARGETS TURKISH POLICE

ISTANBUL: A car bomb ripped through a police bus in central Istanbul during the morning rush hour yesterday, killing 11 people and wounding 36 near the main tourist district, a major university and the mayor's office. The car was detonated as police buses passed, Istanbul Governor Vasi Sahin told reporters, in the fourth major bombing in Turkey's biggest city this year.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but

Kurdish militants have staged similar attacks on the security forces before, including one last month in Istanbul. Security concerns were already hitting tourism and investor confidence. Wars in neighboring Syria and Iraq have fostered a home-grown Islamic State network blamed for a series of suicide bombings, while militants from the largely Kurdish southeast have increasingly struck in cities further afield.

Continued on Page 13



ISTANBUL: Turkish police officers work at the scene of a blast just after an explosion in Istanbul yesterday. — AP

SAUDI UNVEILS REFORM PLAN

GOVT TO CREATE JOBS, CUT SUBSIDIES

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia plans to spend billions of riyals on technical training and other initiatives to boost the number of its citizens in private sector jobs, an economic reform plan released on Monday showed. The world's top oil exporter has been pushing labor reforms for years aimed at reducing the burden of employment on the state, but Monday's plans spelled out new details of how this might be achieved in a range of economic sectors.

The National Transformation Plan (NTP), announced by government ministers late on Monday, is part of the Vision 2030 reform scheme launched in April by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to prepare for a future with lower oil revenue. It aimed to increase the number of private-sector jobs by 450,000 by 2020 and to reduce public-sector salaries as a proportion of the state

Continued on Page 13



JEDDAH: Saudi Crown Prince and Minister of Interior Prince Mohammed bin Nayef (left), and deputy crown prince and Minister of Defense Prince Mohammed bin Salman attend a cabinet meeting in coastal city of Jeddah. — AFP

ALEPPO TO BE ERDOGAN'S GRAVEYARD: ASSAD

BEIRUT: President Bashar Al-Assad vowed yesterday to fight on in what he called Syria's war against terrorism, showing no sign of compromise in his first major address since peace talks broke down in April. Assad said he would win back "every inch" of Syria and said Aleppo would be a graveyard for the hopes and dreams of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, a major sponsor of the insurgents battling to topple him. "Our war against terrorism is continuing," Assad said in a speech to parliament broadcast by state TV. "As we liberated Tadmur (Palmyra) and before it many areas, we will liberate every inch of Syria from their hands. Our only option is victory, otherwise Syria will not continue."

The Syrian army and allied militia, aided by Russian

air strikes, recovered control of Palmyra from Islamic State insurgents in March. In addition to the war with Islamic State, Assad is fighting rebels who include groups that have received support from his foreign enemies, Turkey included. The war has greatly diminished Assad's control of Syria, with Islamic State, an array of rebel groups, and a powerful Kurdish militia establishing authority over wide parts of the country.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and pre-war commercial hub, and the surrounding area at the border with Turkey have comprised a major theatre in the war, divided between areas of government and rebel control.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets members of the supreme consultative committee on implementation of the provisions of Islamic sharia led by chairman Dr Khalid Mazkour.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atef.—Amiri Diwan photos

AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE SHARIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday members of the supreme consultative committee on implementation of the provisions of Islamic sharia led by chairman Dr Khalid Mazkour. During the meeting, the delegation briefed His Highness the Amir on the project of Watheq (Confident) that aims to instill principles of self-confidence in students of the Kuwaiti state schools. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting. The delegation later met with His Highness

the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. They briefed him on the Watheq project, and congratulated him on the advent of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan. His Highness the Crown Prince appreciated the committee's efforts, and lauded the ambitious project that lays down educational, religious and cultural principles. Separately, His Highness the Amir received a letter from Egyptian President Abdelattah Al-Sisi tackling bilateral ties, issues of reciprocal concern and an invitation for His Highness to visit Egypt. The letter was delivered by the

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atef. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince separately received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Khaled Ahmad Al-Kulaib. **Condolences** In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in which he expressed his deepest condolences and sympathy on the victims of the terrorist attack in the district of

Beyazit in central Istanbul, wishing mercy for those killed and speedy recovery for the wounded. His Highness the Amir expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of such terrorist attack against innocent civilians that contradicts with all norms and humanitarian principles, pointing to Kuwait's firm stance which denounces terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as its bid to dry out its sources in collaboration with the world community. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar

cables. Also yesterday, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem condoled with his Turkish counterpart Ismail Kahraman on the victims of the attack in the district of Beyazit in central Istanbul. In his cable, Ghanem expressed deepest sympathies to the victims of the 'terrorist' attack, and voiced out the strongest of condemnations to this act of terror that caused instability to Turkey. He stressed Kuwait's support to Turkey's security and called on combating terrorism through joint regional and international work frames. — KUNA

AMIR, AL-SABAH FAMILY RECEIVE RAMADAN WELL-WISHERS



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is greeted by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Thunaiyan Al-Ghanem greets His Highness the Amir.



Chairman of the Municipal Council Muhalhal Al-Khalid greets His Highness the Amir.— Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT: His highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Al-Sabah family received Ramadan well-wishers at Bayan Palace Monday. The reception, attended by citizens and expatriates, reflected the spirit of the one family and fraternity of Kuwait, Amiri Diwan said in a statement, wishing a happy return for such an occasion with blessings on all. — KUNA



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih greets His Highness the Amir.



A senior citizen greets His Highness the Amir.



Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) member Dr Nasser Al-Sane greets His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.



Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) member and former minister Dr Mohammad Al-Busairi greets His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society's Chairman Dr Helal Al-Sayer greets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Former minister and MP Dr Maasouma Al-Mubarak greets His Highness the Crown Prince.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah greets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



Former MP Safaa Al-Hashem greets Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.



Executive Director of the Central Apparatus of Illegal Residents Saleh Al-Fadhlah greets His Highness the Crown Prince.



The victim's body.



A firefighter is hospitalized.

In my view

ARAB WORLD'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES



By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

The 103rd general assembly of the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) executive council was recently held in Rabat. It was dedicated to discuss means of confronting the sustainable development challenges that Arab countries are currently facing. This is a major necessary step in the Arab world that is under endless threats, changes and attacks in recent years. Facing these challenges requires documenting cooperation and creating new, wider sustainability in partnership amongst them in various fields.

The efforts exerted by ARADO to develop public facilities and administrative development to meet Arab people's aspirations and ambitions are highly significant at such a critical phase, when all educational, health and state establishments in general need administrative development.

Some governments cannot bury their heads in the sand, especially since devastation in their cities is very considerable and goes way beyond all assessment of the cost. This devastation happens due to wars with local dimensions resulting from dreadful sectarian or religious conflicts, border clashes or multipurpose, multi-funded and armed or multifarm terrorist attacks.

The situation requires objectivity and more Arab consolidation and cooperation instead of retreating, dropping or reviewing major countries' agendas on distributing powers, volume, regional defense power, the period of controlling energy resources or the volume of their reserves.

Despite hardships, Arab countries are full of successful experiences and experts capable of developing Arab administration officials and improving civil services provided in them. However, having administration levels that would satisfy Arab citizens requires cooperation from all social sectors including officials, administrators and citizens, especially in view of the Arab countries' burdens of devastation and destruction resulting from Arab uprisings.

The Arab World must not waste any more time and must take care of the future through administrative development strategies and visions exchanged regionally and internationally. ARADO was established in 1961 as a specialized organization of the League of Arab States to shoulder the responsibility of administrative development in the Arab region. So it has to reflect youth and future generations' ambitions and aspirations regardless of any deterrents caused by ignorance or clinging to the ages of dinosaurs.

WOMAN DIES IN SALMIYA FIRE

CRACKDOWN ON BEGGARS CONTINUES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An Arab woman in her seventies died from smoke inhalation during a fire reported in Salmiya yesterday. Firemen rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call and discovered that the fire started inside the living room of a second floor apartment. Firemen immediately evacuated the building but the smoke resulting from the fire was so thick that it also affected three of the firefighters who suffered from thermal stress, burns and smoke inhalation. A case was filed for investigations.

Beggars arrested

Security forces arrested an Egyptian woman working for a beauty salon and two Indian housemaids, including one who had been reported for absconding, for begging. All three were caught in the act of begging in public and have been referred to the relevant authorities. Begging has become increasingly common in Kuwait and spikes especially during the holy month when more people are inclined to pass out charity.

Markets inspected

Kuwait Municipality inspectors continued their inspection campaign held under the title of 'Your health matters to us' by inspecting all butcheries and the fish market at Mubarakiya where they destroyed 30 kilos of foul fish, five kilos of banned items and filling 12 citations.



A beggar arrested with cash and two cell phones, including a smart phone.



Two beggars arrested.



Kuwait Municipality inspectors carry out a campaign at the fish market at Mubarakiya.



News

in brief

KUWAIT CONDEMNS JORDAN ATTACK

KUWAIT: The Foreign Ministry yesterday condemned the terrorist attack that targeted offices of the Jordanian intelligence in the refugee camp Al-Baq'a, claiming five lives earlier this week. A ministry's official source affirmed the State of Kuwait's stand alongside "the brothers in Jordan and support for the precautions they have taken to safeguard their security and stability," emphasizing Kuwait's unwavering stance in face of all forms of terrorism. The official source expressed deep and sincere condolences to families of the victims, government and people of the brotherly Kingdom of Jordan. — KUNA

MINISTRIES DISCUSS PREPARATIONS TO HAND OVER JABER HOSPITAL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Health (MoH) held extensive meetings recently to discuss handing over the new Jaber Hospital to MoH in order to install medical equipment, MPW Undersecretary Awatef Al-Ghunaim said, adding that since constructions are almost complete. Ghunaim added that within the coming few days, MPW would hand over all the hospital's blueprints upon MoH's request. She also said that MPW intends to meet with the contractor that executed the MoE building

to discuss the problems he was facing.

Students honored

The Ministry of Education's (MoE) Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Faisal Maqseed issued a decision to honor grade 12 students who secured the highest grades. According to the decision, the top 10 students in the science section (both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis), the top 10 in the arts section (Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis), the top 50 Kuwaitis in the science section and the top 50 Kuwaitis in the arts section, provided none got less than 90 percent, will be honored.



A model of the Jaber Hospital.

NO INCREASE TO KU ACCEPTANCE RATE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa denied increasing the minimum grades needed to accept students at Kuwait University (KU) in the coming academic year. Essa added that the ministry had some academic restrictions about certain British and American universities, adding alternatives would be offered to students planning to study in these countries. On a different concern, Essa issued a decision on forming a supreme committee for school evening clubs in various educational areas.

Manager of information systems at the ministry of education Tareq Al-Marzouq denied signing an agreement with a national company to provide a connection between cultural attaches and students abroad at a total cost of over KD 4 million, and stressed that it was his department

that initiated the project at a cost of not more than KD 100,000.

Lands' transfer

MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi warned Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane and the Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Salah Al-Musaad of excluding lands transferred by individuals to private companies from paying the proper fees that go up to millions of dinars. "This is violation of public funds," he stressed, warning that both Sane and Musaad were actually in the process of doing so and that he cannot remain silent about it.

KFSD receives land

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi agreed to re-allocate a land plot located over an area of 1,54,620 sq m to Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD).

57% Jaber Bridge complete

KUWAIT: Up to 57 percent of designing and construction work of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad bridge project has been accomplished, a senior official of the Public Works Ministry said. Ahmad Al-Hesan, the assistant undersecretary for engineering, said the venture includes construction of a 36.14-km-long bridge over sea waters, stretching from Al-Ghazali speedway to Al-Sabiya. The KD 738.750 million project includes construction of two man-made islands; one close to Kuwait City and the other adjacent to Al-Sabiya. He re-affirmed that the project is part of the strategy to transform Kuwait into a regional financial and commercial hub. — KUNA

Authorities monitor prices

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Industry and Commerce urged citizens and residents to report about any irregular hike of commodities' prices and expiry of goods, particularly during the fasting month of Ramadan. The ministry said Eid Al-Rashidi, the assistant undersecretary for supervision and customer protection, toured a number of cooperative stores to check prices of products and necessities. He has also headed a special team to monitor any manipulation with prices and urged customers to report about such cases on the hotline, 135. — KUNA

KFH HONORS GRADUATES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in sponsoring and honoring the graduates and distinguished students of Political Science Department at Kuwait University as part of its social responsibility and in recognition of the prestigious status of University.

The ceremony kicked off amidst huge participation of parents and students in presence of the teaching staff and official representatives who expressed their happiness and pleasure to take part in this significant event. They extended their wishes for the graduates for prosperous future.

It is worth noting that KFH's participation confirms its keenness to support the youth and the students in an attempt to empower them to involve in the practical life within the framework of KFH's vision that prioritizes the advancement of the society and the country.

KFH takes pride in playing a development role at Kuwait University that has a proven track record of achievements and contributions in the research and scientific fields.



KFH PR team leader participates in honoring the graduates.

CHINESE COMPANY AWARDS KU CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

KUWAIT: The Central Tenders Committee has awarded a \$580m contract to China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) to build part of the new Kuwait University (KU) campus system.

The deal sees CSCEC's Middle East unit build, operate and maintain the administration facilities for the Sabah Al-Salem University City, Kuwait University, CSCEC said. The project consists of seven buildings,

having what CSCEC called special and unique shape, including an administration building, grand mosque, cultural centre, convocation hall, conference centre, library and visitor centre.

The administration facilities are the main gateway to the campus, and have light lacy screens, which CSCEC said result in 'a very harmonious interactive dramatic effect between the light and shadow'.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: The traditional lantern that was commonly used in Kuwait in the past. — KUNA

Young Voices

'I MISS RAMADAN IN EGYPT, WHERE THE STREETS ARE FULL OF COLOR AND LIGHT'

By Faten Omar

Nearly a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.

Mansour Ali is a 9-year-old Egyptian boy who is incredibly smart. He is a third grade student studying for the Embassy of Egypt's exams; the education program that provides course materials that align with the Egyptian curriculum. He wants to be a doctor to treat his family whenever they get sick. "My mother told me that I have to try not to eat anything this Ramadan until the sun sets," Ali said. He told Kuwait Times about his last Ramadan's experience and how he succeeded to fast till noon.

Ali will fast this Ramadan because of the blessings and rewards that a fasting person receives, and because Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) used to fast. He said that his mother will prepare pizza - his favorite food - to break his fast, and will buy him a new bicycle at the end of the month. Ali loves the cannon fire that announces the breaking of the fast, but he misses Ramadan in Egypt, where the streets are full of color and light, and where he can play football with his cousins before iftar.

If you would like your child to be interviewed for this special series, please email us at local@kuwaittimes.net



ZAIN LAUNCHES RAMADAN IFTAR MEALS INITIATIVE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, launched its annual 'Iftar Al-Saem' initiative to provide fasting individuals with iftar meals as part of its extensive Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility program during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The company distributes daily iftar meals throughout the Holy Month in two different iftar halls in Jeleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Hawalli.

Zain's campaign is part of its growing support for charitable and social oriented programs, and is a reflection of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy. One such program Zain organized before the start of the Holy Month featured the distribution of "Machla Boxes" to underprivileged families.

Zain's annual 'Iftar Al-Saem' initiative, which comes for the eleventh consecutive time this year, is considered a main pillar of the company's comprehensive CSSR campaign during the

Holy Month. The iftar meal banquets are supervised by Zain's volunteers team and are spread in two main halls in Kuwait as part of a strategy to cover the most populated areas of Kuwait in order to assure the maximum amount of individuals' iftar needs are covered.

Ramadan presents a special occasion for Zain to communicate and interact with the Kuwaiti community it operates in through its extensive CSSR campaign. Zain's team started preparing for the iftar campaign prior to the coming of Ramadan to assure the process of distributing more meals to a larger geographical footprint goes smoothly.

Zain affirmed that its social and CSSR campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan will include an extensive array of initiatives and programs that will focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings.



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait started delivering iftar meals around the Nayef Castle and the Mubarakiya Market area.

Ramadan Quiz 2016

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ABU DHABI

LULU HYPERMARKET

Ruby Tuesday

Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes

Kuwait Times annual Ramadan Competition returns with one YES or NO question published every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw. All coupons must be received by Friday 8th July 2016 at Kuwait Times Office.

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win

3. What is the name of shortest surah of the Holy Quran?

Surah Al Kawther

YES NO

Date: _____

Name: _____

Civil ID.: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Espresso Ramadan Kareem Baby sebamed

Kuwait's

Heritage



KUWAIT: A rich man's servant with coffee pots ready to serve guests. Arabic coffee is one of the most important aspects of hospitality in the Arabian Gulf countries, especially in Kuwait. It is present at all times, traditionally served hot without sugar in a beautifully shaped jug. — Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information. (source: 'Kuwait Miracle on the Desert' by David Cooke)

86.8% MIDDLE EAST PROFESSIONALS AGREE RAMADAN ONE OF FAVORITE TIMES OF YEAR
6 IN 10 RESPONDENTS BELIEVE RAMADAN LIFTS MORALE AT WORK

DUBAI: It is no secret that Ramadan can bring out the best in people. Dedicated to reflection, restraint, generosity and unity, the holy month draws families and friends together to share and reflect-and for professionals in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), the spirit of Ramadan carries from home to the workplace. According to the new Bayt.com "Ramadan in the Middle East Workplace" poll, carried out by Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading career site, a majority of MENA professionals (86.8 percent) agree that Ramadan is one of their favorite times of the year. More than half (53.7 percent) of MENA respondents feel that they socialize more than usual with their colleagues during Ramadan. In keeping with a heightened morale and a more sociable atmosphere at work, a slightly higher percentage (56.3 percent) of MENA professionals believe that there is a noticeable increase in their company's charitable activity during Ramadan.

Favorable atmosphere

With a favorable workplace atmosphere during the holy month, responses are fairly evenly split when it comes to taking time off from work. 53.7 percent of respondents say that they do not take time off during Ramadan and 46.3 percent say that they do at least occasionally. Similarly, just over half (56.9 percent) of respondents travel on the Eid break while the rest (43.1 percent) do not.

Of course, Ramadan sentiments of illumination and compassion are evident in MENA professionals' personal lives as well. The vast majority (96.1 percent) of respondents say that they use Ramadan to reflect on their life and become a better person, and almost as many respondents (94.9 percent) say that they personally give more to charity during the holy month.

Additionally, more than eight in ten (81.1 percent) MENA professionals feel that they see more family and friends during Ramadan and a slightly higher number (83.1 percent) believe that their lifestyle habits are healthier for the month. It is evident that Ramadan has many positive effects on the MENA region, lifting people's spirits and enabling their generosity-and these can be seen in many ways in the workplace.

Substantial changes

"There are substantial changes in the MENA workplace during the month of Ramadan, and it is important for both employers, employees and job seekers to have a clear view of what to expect during this time. It is interesting that more than 3 in every five respondents believe that their morale is lifted during Ramadan, which is something employers can use to build employee loyalty, engagement, and retention," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "From their side, job seekers can use the time to network for their careers and dedicate extra time to learning. Bayt.com tools like Specialties and Courses can help. Ramadan is a month of spirituality, family and blessings revolved around doing good deeds and practicing self-restraint, and at Bayt.com we would like to wish everyone in the region a Ramadan Kareem."

Data for the 2016 Bayt.com 'Ramadan in the Workplace in the Middle East' poll was collected online from May 17 2016 to May 29 2016. Results are based on a sample of 3,660 respondents. Countries that participated are the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar, KSA, Yemen, and Others.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait launched a new television ad to commemorate the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.


Explore the wonders of Thailand



Escape to Phuket and be mesmerised by the crystal clear waters and pristine beaches or indulge in the bustling markets and ancient templates of Bangkok.

With incredible holiday packages to Phuket and Bangkok, there's never been a better time to book your next trip to Thailand with Etihad Holidays.

Call 22280566 or visit the Etihad Shop or your travel agent.

etihad.com | 22280566 |  ETIHAD AIRWAYS PARTNER

الإتحاد
ETIHAD
 HOLIDAYS

Al-Anbaa

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

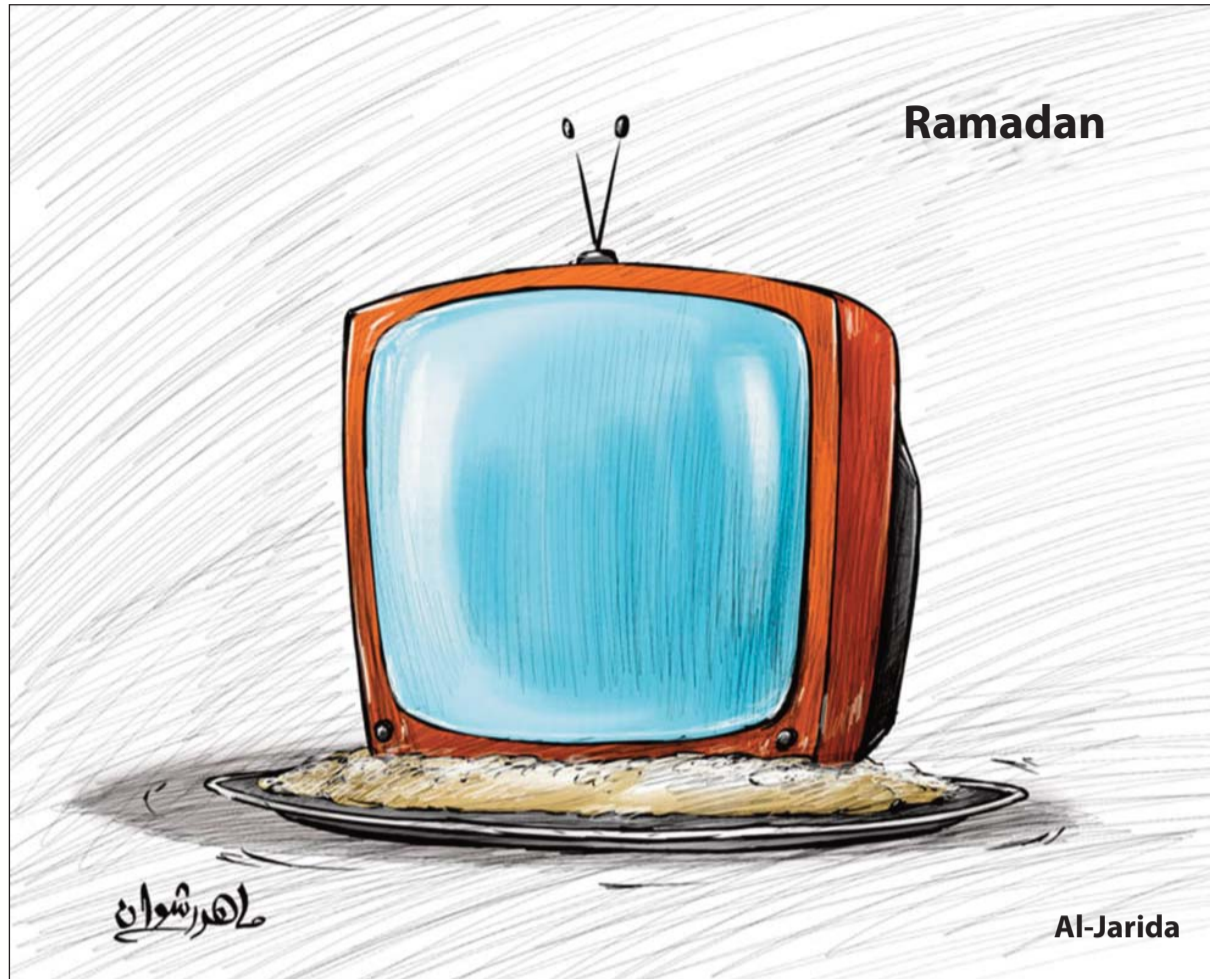
By Nermin Al-Houti

We are missing that moment of 'silence'. Most of our societies do not know the meaning of silence and its benefits. Everyone talks as if they are experts and scientists in everything! But for silence, few among us know its importance for the human being. When you keep silent, you can think about what is around you. These seconds and sometimes minutes and very rarely hours, with rare types of people, are a review of many things in the life of the human being or his surrounding world.

When you keep silent and go through the events around you and meditate about them with an open mind without disruption by talk and words and away from ideological comments, you will find yourself living the moment and think about its merits. In fact, sometimes you may discover many of the secrets that are not announced to you. That is silence, and its moments make the mind behave calmly without pressures, which makes the human being think proper and healthy.

In developed countries and the West, and few Arab and developing countries, we find some of the people use many means to reach this moment - some resort to yoga, others sit on the beach, a few read stories and others practice forms of sports and hobbies to get a clear mind and go deep to reach the moment of silence. Yet, for the majority of our Arab societies, they do not know the meaning of this moment and do not think about how to reach it. Rather to the contrary, we find that this majority always searches about means that preoccupy thinking all day long, with distorted ideas and talking with the least thought of what you say and to whom you are saying it, rejecting to give the mind and heart a moment of silence.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



MINISTRY TO PAY 'RARE SPECIALTIES' TEACHERS

KUWAIT: Following the announcement of high school exam results, educational sources said the Education Ministry asked education zones to tally teachers of rare specialties, so the lists can be sent to the financial center to pay them the rare specialty allowance. They said many educational areas have rare

specialty teachers who have not been paid the allowance, which is KD 50.

The source said that on the instructions of Education Minister Dr Badr Al-Essa and follow-up by Undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari and Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Sector Fatima Al-

Kandari, the ministry is working on giving dues to those who deserve them. Meanwhile, the public education sector asked schools administrations to send a weekly report that include absences, be it by teachers or administrators, in order to take the necessary action according to the rules of the ministry.— Al-Anbaa

Crime

Report

MAN CHARGED WITH BEATING PREGNANT WIFE

KUWAIT: A bedoon woman accused her Kuwaiti husband of beating her badly in an attempt to make her miscarry, adding that he also attempted to do so by using drugs. The man was charged with beating with intention to abort. The woman was taken to the hospital by her family with various injuries in the face, eyes, abdomen and jaw. Jahra police was asked to arrest the husband to appear at the public prosecution.

Fugitives arrested

Jahra police arrested a citizen in his forties in the market area, wanted to serve a seven-year jail sentence for felony. Policemen on patrol noticed him getting nervous when he saw them and asked to hand over his ID. They found he is wanted, so he was taken to the police station for further action. Meanwhile, Capital police arrested an ex-convict in Salmiya, wanted over a KD 5,000 debt case and kidnapping. He was sent to criminal detectives.

Absconder caught

A citizen refused to present her ID to police, and was found to be absconding for three weeks. The citizen was roaming the streets of Salmiya late at night, and when police patrols approached her, she hid behind cars. When asked for her ID, she refused to hand it and insulted them. She was arrested and taken to Fintas police station.

Fights

A bedoon youth was rushed to Farwaniya Hospital after being stabbed in the chest during a fight in Sulaibiya. Police received a call, but when they arrived, they found out that a citizen has already taken the injured man to the hospital. Separately, two citizens beat a bedoon man and left him bloodied in a dispute over the sale of a car. The victim lodged a complaint at Sulaibiya police station. Police are investigating.

Swindler at large

A citizen accused a friend of swindling him out of KD 5,100 in a partnership to import goods from China. The citizen told Rehab police that his friend disappeared after receiving the money.— Al-Rai

News

In brief

THE GRAND MOSQUE: ANDALUSIAN-STYLE MASTERPIECE



KUWAIT: With touches of Andalusian style, the sprawling Grand Mosque opened in 1986 during the era of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as an authentic Islamic landmark. Stretching on 45,000 square

meters, work to build the Mosque began in 1979, as a total of 50 engineers collaborated to erect the holy compound, which blends a slew of architectural styles, augmented by local design. The Mosque features three



spaces of worship, where throngs of devotees flock, notably during the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan, as it usually attracts tens of thousands of worshippers.— KUNA



Electricity consumption jumps over 12,000 MW

KUWAIT: The overall electricity consumption rate jumped on the first day of Ramadan to a 12,021 megawatts recorded on 12:45 pm; marking the first time it exceeds 12,000 MW this summer. The Ministry of Electricity and Water expects the highest consumption percentage to reach 13,500 MW this summer, while the maximum daily production capacity reaches 15,500 MW. Meanwhile, water consumption recorded on the first day of Ramadan reached 441,298 million imperial gallons, while production surpassed consumption by 20 million imperial gallons.— Al-Rai



Worshippers during Qiyam prayer on the 27th night of Ramadan at the Grand Mosque.



Worshippers perform prayer at the Grand Mosque.

KD 67 million spent on Ramadan food stocking

KUWAIT: The Joint Automated Banking Services Company (K-Net) recorded a jump for the first time in spending by Kuwaitis and expats on foodstuff for the month of Ramadan. Consumers spent KD 67 million during the first hours of Ramadan. K-Net CEO Abdellatif Al-Ajmi said spending on Ramadan goods varied between cash withdrawals at KD 33 million and purchases at KD 34 million.— Al-Anbaa

Heavy traffic in Ramadan

KUWAIT: Heavy traffic that preceded the advent of Ramadan was caused by people's rush to buy food and other requirements for the holy month, said Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna, the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs. A number of serious accidents meanwhile have complicated traffic at the Fifth Ring Road last Sunday, Muhanna indicated. He added that the traffic department has prepared a plan to ease traffic during rush hours in Ramadan, especially the post-iftar hours.— Al-Rai

Fake companies received farms

KUWAIT: The parliament's public funds protection committee discovered that 53 fake companies are suspected to have obtained farms illegally, as these companies had fake licenses and were already referred to the public prosecution. The committee will request extending its work period before the parliamentary summer break in order to investigate this issue, chairman MP Dr Abdullah Al-Hurajji said.— Al-Qabas

'Fake fingerprints' employees prosecuted

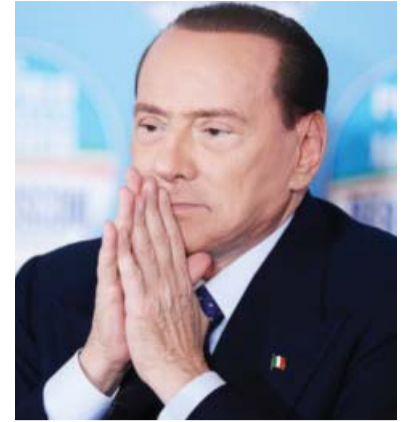
KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water referred 40 employees to the public prosecution after they used silicon fingerprints to check in and out of work using the fingerprints' scanner. The ministry had previously busted another group of employers who obtained pieces made from silicon and has copies for their fingerprints, then provided them to colleges to use it on the scanner so that they could skip work.— Al-Qabas



The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen during an inspection tour at the Grand Mosque.



Renovation works at the Grand Mosque's dome.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016



ARLINGTON, Virginia: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center) takes part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the unknown soldier watched by US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter (second right) and United States Army Military District of Washington commander Major General Bradley Becker (right) at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday. — AFP

IS OBAMA-MODI FRIENDSHIP REAL?

IN INDIA, MANY DOUBT IT, SEE IT AS PLAIN POLITICS

NEW DELHI: It's a friendship between two powerful men that transcends politics, transcends diplomacy. It certainly looked like genuine affection when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pulled President Barack Obama into a bear hug as he stepped off Air Force One last year. An intimacy seemed to envelope the two as they sat in the garden of an old royal palace, smiling and chatting. There are the gushing comments: Modi "transcends the ancient and the modern," Obama wrote in Time magazine. "Barack and I have formed a bond, a friendship," Modi said.

It's a refrain heard repeatedly among India's political analysts, who see calculation instead of genuine affection, with an Indian leader carefully shaping the country's political narrative by putting himself at the center of any diplomatic achievement. Foreign leaders have willingly played along, appearing with the prime minister in choreographed private moments, whether it's Modi taking a selfie in Shanghai with Chinese Premier Le Keqiang or pouring tea for Obama in New Delhi.

"The Americans have realized that one of the ways that you can get something out of Mr Modi is to emphasize his personal charm," said Sharma. "It's in the interests of pretty much every country he visits to stress the warmth of the personal relationship between their leader and the Indian prime minister." There is always theater in politics, of course, and all politicians understand the need to sometimes say one thing while believing something else. But Modi has carefully woven his personality into India's international standing, creating what former Indian national security adviser M K Narayanan has called a "personalized diplomacy."

Respect

In many ways it's about respect. India has long felt slighted by the global powers, seeing itself as a powerful, highly educated country that is all-too-often dismissed for its poverty, dirty streets and the lingering power of its caste system. Friendships with world leaders, particularly one as powerful as Obama, prove to India - and its voters - that Modi can change that. "He comes back from his visits (abroad) to say: 'I've been able to secure so much respect for India,'" said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a Modi biographer. When Modi publicly refers to Obama by his first name "he's claiming the position that he's equal to the president of the United States."

"It's kind of a reverse colonialism that India suffers from," said Mukhopadhyay. "We don't feel we're important until we've gotten some kind of endorsement, especially from Western

countries." The respect is particularly sweet in Washington, where Modi wasn't even welcome until becoming prime minister in a landslide election victory in 2014. Modi, who rose to prominence as a leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, was denied a visa to visit the US in 2005, three years after religious riots killed more than 1,000 Muslims in the western state of Gujarat, where he was then the top official. American officials largely avoided contact with him until the 2014 elections over suspicions that he was involved in the rioting or did not do enough to stop them.

Modi arrived in Washington on Monday during a five-nation tour that also takes him to Switzerland, Afghanistan, Mexico and Qatar. He meets with Obama yesterday, and addresses a joint meeting of Congress today. He'll also meet Congressional leaders and top business officials. Obama has much to gain from good relations with Modi, from increased US-India trade to closer ties to another country worried about the rise of China.

Potential

In many ways, the Washington-New Delhi relationship has not lived up to its potential since a landmark 2008 nuclear energy agreement, signed during the administration of President George W Bush. That agreement had seemed to signal the end of three decades of Cold War suspicions, when the US was more focused on ties with India's archrival, Pakistan, and many in Washington believed India was far too friendly with the Soviet Union.

But things haven't always gone as planned: There was the 2013 arrest in New York of an Indian diplomat, which infuriated India, and displeasure in Washington over a 2010 Indian liability law on accidents at nuclear power plants. US lawmakers say it's still too hard for Americans to invest in India, even with some easing of restrictions under Modi. Still, US-India trade has grown dramatically since the 2008 accord, expanding from \$60 billion in 2009 to \$107 billion in 2015. The US has also become a major supplier of military hardware to India. A defense logistics agreement is likely to be finalized during Modi's Washington visit. A solution is also expected to be reached on the nuclear liability law.

But the question remains: Are they really friends? There's no way to know. Both men regularly talk about their friendship, and officials from both countries highlight the relationship. Obama's quotes, though, seem carefully gauged to avoid anything too personal: "We have developed a friendship and close working relationship," he told Press Trust of India in an interview earlier this year. Modi, though, can be downright effusive, referring to their "personal chemistry" and hinting at a real intimacy. Asked last year what he and Obama had discussed during a private meeting, Modi responded coyly, quoting from a famous Bollywood musical: "Let that remain behind the veil." — AP

MIGRANT DEATHS IN MED 'HIT 10,000'

STRASBOURG, France: More than 10,000 people have died crossing the Mediterranean to Europe since 2014, the UN said yesterday, as the EU unveiled fresh plans to stem the migrant flow from Africa. Following a rash of deadly shipwrecks in recent weeks which claimed the lives of hundreds of people, the UN refugee agency said the number of deaths at sea had risen sharply this year, with a record 2,814 people drowning since January. And over the past few days, the overall number who have died since the start of 2014 has reached 10,085, the UNHCR said on Tuesday.

With Europe in the grip of its worst migrant crisis since World War II, the rising death toll has prompted urgent efforts to tackle the problem, with Brussels seeking ways to clamp down on the Africa route from after a deal with Ankara in March slashed numbers trying to cross from Turkey. "We cannot tolerate the loss of life on this scale, we need to do everything to stop it," European Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans said as he unveiled the plans. The new proposal involves using EU funds to pro-

mote private investment of up to A60 billion in key countries of origin for migrants, namely Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal, as well as Jordan and Lebanon, Timmermans said.

Eight billion euros of EU funds are available to support migration deals with external countries, many of which were first mooted at a crisis summit of European and African nations in Malta last year. The Commission also wants to speed up readmission deals with African countries and with Pakistan and Afghanistan to make it easier to send back migrants who do not win refugee status. "There will be consequences for those that refuse to cooperate," Dutchman Timmermans told the European Parliament alongside EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.

The European Commission was later to unveil a plan for a "blue card" system for skilled migrants to come to Europe legally. The aim is to reduce the incentive for people to try to smuggle themselves into the continent illegally on flimsy boats and put their lives at risk. — AFP

Share the iPhone 6 experience on the best Ramadan offer from Shamel

Additional internet SIM can be added to your bundle for extra cost. To get this offer, visit any Ooredoo branch or authorized dealer.

iPhone 6

Unlimited
Ooredoo minutes / SMS

100
Local minutes

4G+ 5GB
Internet

Extra internet SIM
100 GB for KD3

50,000 FLEE BOKO HARAM ATTACKS IN NIGER

NIAMEY: About 50,000 people have fled a town in Niger's troubled southeast after deadly attacks by Boko Haram insurgents, the United Nations said yesterday. The attacks began Friday against a military post in Bosso in Niger's Diffa region, killing 26 soldiers including two from neighboring Nigeria. "An estimated 50,000 people or so fled," UN refugee agency (UNHCR) spokesman Adrian Edwards told reporters in Geneva.

A total of 55 insurgents from the Nigeria-based Islamist group were killed and "many" injured, according to authorities. Edwards said most of those fleeing the violence walked westwards to Toumour, some 30 km west of Bosso. "Many people are reportedly traumatized and worried about their safety. People are sleeping in the open and urgently need shelter and other assistance," he said.

A local journalist working with Radio Anfani told AFP he was sheltering in Toumour with no food, along with many others who fled the violence. "The Boko Haram gunmen stayed in Bosso from 6:30 pm (1730 GMT) on Friday to 3:00 am on Saturday, burning the military barracks, police facilities and local administration office before looting shops and carting away food supplies," he said. "Everybody started leaving the town and surrounding villages at dawn after the gunmen had left." He said that the gunmen used heavy artillery which allowed them to overrun the town's garrison.

'Boko Haram in Control'

"They came in large numbers shouting 'Allah Akbar' (God is Greatest)," he said. The journalist, who declined to be named, said that he subse-

quently learned that the fighters returned later on Sunday and "engaged troops redeployed to the town in fierce battle." "The troops retreated, leaving Boko Haram militants in control of the town," he said, although the claims could not immediately be verified.

However, Niger's defense minister Assoumana Malam Issa has said that the military had regained control of the town. Edwards said some of those displaced had moved on from Toumour and were heading to the town of Diffa, around 140 kilometers west of Bosso, and northwards towards a camp for internally displaced people that is already nearing its maximum capacity of 10,000. "The welfare of these people and others forced to flee the violence in Bosso is of great concern," he said.

The latest attack was among the deadliest by

the jihadist group in Niger since it began launching raids in the country in February 2015 from its stronghold in neighboring Nigeria. At least 240,000 people have been displaced in the Diffa region since then. UNHCR, which has not had a presence in Bosso since the Boko Haram raids began nearly a year and a half ago, said it was working with the authorities and local partners to coordinate the response to the mass exodus. "A team will be en route to the Diffa region this week," Edwards said.

Boko Haram's seven-year insurgency has devastated infrastructure in Nigeria's impoverished northeast and forced around 2.1 million people in the country to flee their homes, according to UNHCR. The unrest has left at least 20,000 people dead in Nigeria and made more than 2.6 million homeless. — AFP



AMRIYAT AL-FALLUJAH, Iraq: Displaced Iraqi families, who fled their homes in and around Fallujah due to fighting between Iraqi government forces and the Islamic State (IS) group, head to receive food rations and other emergency supplies at a camp run by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on Monday. — AFP

REFUGEES SAY IS USING FOOD TO ENLIST FIGHTERS

SHOPS IN FALLUJAH CONTAIN NOTHING BUT STALE DATES

GARMA, Iraq: Iraqis who fled Islamic State-held Fallujah as government and allied forces advanced on the city said they had survived on stale dates and the militants were using food to enlist fighters whose relatives were going hungry. The ultra-hardline Sunni fighters have kept a close guard on food storage in the besieged city near Baghdad that they captured in January 2014, six months before they declared a caliphate across large parts of Iraq and Syria.

The militants visited families regularly after food ran short with offers of supplies for those who enlisted, said 23-year-old Hanaa Mahdi Fayadh from Sijir on the northeastern outskirts of Fallujah. "They told our neighbour they would give him a sack of flour if his son joined them; he refused and when they had gone, he fled with his family," she said. "We left because there was no food or wood to make fires, besides, the shelling was very close to our house." She and others interviewed in a school transformed into a refugee centre in Garma, a town under government control east of Fallujah, said they had no money to buy food from the group.

The Iraqi government stopped paying the salaries of employees there and in other cities under Islamic State control a year ago to stop the group seizing the funds. Fayadh escaped Sijir

on May 27, four days after the government offensive on Fallujah began, with a group of 15 relatives and neighbours, walking through farmland brandishing white flags. Most of the 1,500 displaced people who found refuge in the school in Garma were women and children, because the army takes men for screening over possible ties with Islamic State. Fayadh said she was waiting for news of her two brothers who were being investigated.

Human Shields

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said last week the offensive had slowed to protect tens of thousands of civilians trapped in Fallujah with limited access to water, food and electricity. Fayadh said the situation in the city was very difficult. "The only thing remaining in the few shops open was dates, old, stale dates and even those were very expensive," she said. Azhar Nazar Hadi, 45, said the militants had asked her family to move from Sijir into Fallujah itself, a clear attempt to use them as human shields. "We hid," she said. "There was shooting, mortars and clashes, we stayed hidden until the forces came in" and escorted them out to the refugee center.

The militants took hundreds of people, along with their cattle, with them into Fallujah, Hadi

said. "Life was difficult, very hard, especially when we stopped receiving salaries and retirement pensions. "The last seven months we ran out of everything and had to survive on dates, and water," she said. "Flour, rice and cooking oil were no longer available at an affordable price." A 50 kg sack of flour cost 500,000 dinars (\$428.45), almost half an average Iraqi employee's month salary.

Abadi ordered the offensive on Fallujah, which lies 50 km west of Baghdad, after a series of bombings claimed by Islamic State hit Shiite districts of the capital, causing the worst death toll this year. Between 500 and 700 militants are in Fallujah, according to a US military estimate. The Iranian-backed Shiite militia coalition that is supporting the Iraqi army offensive on the city says the number of IS fighters there is closer to 2,500.

The United Nations says about 50,000 civilians remain trapped in Fallujah, which has been under siege since December, when the Iraqi army recaptured Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province to the west. When Hadi was asked what Islamic State militants had been telling civilians in Fallujah, it was her six-year old child who answered, reciting the Quranic verse: "Be patient, God is with those who are patient." — Reuters

JORDAN KING PLEDGES ACTION AFTER INTEL OFFICERS KILLED

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II vowed yesterday to act decisively against anyone who threatens the kingdom's security, a day after a lone gunman shot dead five intelligence officers. "Jordan will act with all firmness and force against anyone seeking to undermine its security," he said on a visit to the headquarters of the intelligence services, according to a statement from the royal palace. "National unity is the weapon we will use to thwart all plans that aim to disrupt stability and cohesion," the king said, adding that the country would not be weakened by "the terrorist acts of traitors".

Earlier, the authorities imposed a media blackout on information about Monday's attack that killed the five security officers, the official Petra news agency reported. It said the sweeping ban covered not only traditional media such as newspapers and broadcasters, but also Internet sites and social media networks. The blackout came just hours after the government spokesman said a suspect had been arrested

following the shooting at the Palestinian refugee camp of Baqaa, north of Amman.

The five officers had been starting their shift when a gunman struck at their office in the largest of the kingdom's 10 official Palestinian refugee camps. "Investigations are under way but early indications are that this was an isolated and individual act," government spokesman Mohammed Momani said, announcing the arrest but without identifying the suspect, a Jordanian in his 20s. Presenting his condolences to intelligence chief Faisal al-Shubaki, the king welcomed the swift arrest of a suspect.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the shooting, which came on the first day of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan. Jordan is a leading member of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq and Syria, and has been the target of jihadist attacks in the past. — AFP

EGYPT PUTS FORMER AUDITOR ON TRIAL FOR EXPOSING CORRUPTION

CAIRO: Egypt's former top auditor who exposed massive corruption in the country went on trial before a court in Cairo yesterday, charged with spreading "false news" and "disturbing" the country's security. Hisham Genena, a former judge who until recently headed the Central Auditing Organization, is one of the highest officials of President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi's administration to face charges.

Last December, Genena went public, saying that corruption is costing the country billions of dollars. A pro-government daily quoted him as saying that Egypt has wasted 600 billion pounds (\$67.6 billion) in corruption in 2015 alone. He later said he was misquoted and that his remarks referred to the last four-year period. Sisi dismissed Genena in March, following an investigation that concluded the auditor had misled the public. The removal capped a series of measures critics say were aimed at sacking the chief auditor after speaking up against corruption.

After yesterday's hearing, Genena told reporters outside the Cairo Misdemeanor

Court that he trusts the Egyptian judiciary. "I was part of this institution," he said. Media were barred from attending the session during which Genena's lawyers asked for an adjournment in order to have more time to study the case. The court ordered the hearings to resume on June 21. Genena's trial has raised fears that Sisi, the onetime army chief-turned-president, is clamping down on voices of dissent, even among his own government. Since he led the ouster of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, Sisi has led a heavy security campaign against Morsi's supporters as well as pro-democracy activists.

Also facing trial are the head of Egypt's journalists' union and two board members, also accused of spreading false news and "harboring fugitives". The charges were raised after union head Yahia Qalash led a meeting that called for the removal of the interior minister and demanded an apology from Sisi over a police raid at the union headquarters to detain two journalists wanted for inciting protests. The reporters had taken refuge inside the union's building in downtown Cairo. — AP



CAIRO: In this April 16, 2014 file photo, Hisham Genena, then head of Egypt's oversight body, holds documents at his office. — AFP

RESIDENTS FLEE SYRIAN TOWN AS FORCES CLOSE IN



DAMASCUS: Syrians walk in Damascus' Al-Hamidiyah souk on the second day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan yesterday. — AFP

BEIRUT: Thousands of civilians yesterday fled a key town along the Islamic State group's supply lifeline in northern Syria as US-backed fighters closed in from three sides. The offensive on the town of Manbij is one of two major assaults on the jihadist supply line from the Syrian-Turkish border to IS' bastion of Raqa. The Syrian Democratic Forces alliance began its offensive against Manbij just over a week ago, crossing the Euphrates River and pushing west towards the town.

"We have surrounded Manbij from three sides and operations are progressing well," said Sherfan Darwish, who is leading the SDF offensive. "Every day, we are liberating villages and the only route open to IS now is towards Aleppo city" to the west, Darwish told AFP by phone. Overnight, SDF forces edged to within five kilometres of Manbij from the north, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. SDF fighters had pushed to within two kilometres of the town to the south and around seven kilometres to the east. "Daesh has begun allowing civilians to flee towards the west, whereas before they had banned anyone from leaving," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. He said some were in cars but many were carrying their belongings and walking along unpaved roads as IS fighters remained in the town.

Vital Supply Route

Manbij, in Syria's border province of Aleppo, had a pre-war population of about 120,000 — mostly Arabs, but about a quarter Syrian Kurds. IS overran the town in early 2014, just months before gaining international infamy by declaring a cross-border "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria. The "Manbij pocket" was the only remaining section of territory used by IS to smuggle recruits or funds from Turkey across the border. The US-led coalition battling IS in Iraq and Syria has carried out heavy air strikes to support the fight for Manbij.

The IS supply route leads from Jarabulus on the border south through Manbij and winds southeast along the Euphrates through the town of Tabqa and on to Raqqa city. Washington, which has more than 200 special forces troops deployed to back the SDF, has said some 3,000 Arab fighters are taking part in the assault, supported by around 500 Kurds. The Observatory has said that of the 4,000 fighters it estimates are taking part, most are actually Kurdish.

The SDF advance on Manbij has cut the route to Jarabulus to the north and to Raqqa province to the south, Darwish told AFP. Tabqa, another IS-held transit town which also lies near Syria's largest dam, is also under attack on two fronts. SDF fighters began

advancing on Tabqa last week, but are still 60 km away from the riverside town.

IS Reinforces Tabqa

Russian-backed regime fighters have steadily advanced from the town's southwest, and are just over 30 km away, a Syrian military source told AFP. "We are at the Abu Al-Alaj point, and have blocked a Daesh counter-offensive on our military positions," the source said. He said government forces had not seized any new territory there over the past 24 hours as they seek to reinforce positions they already hold. The Observatory said yesterday IS had sent a convoy of weapons and about 100 fighters to reinforce Tabqa in preparation for a major battle there.

As fighting for Tabqa and Manbij intensifies, it appears the battle for IS' de facto capital of Raqqa city — which would be a much more symbolic victory — has taken a backseat. The US-backed SDF's offensive north of the Raqqa last month began amid much fanfare, but progress appears to have slowed. Syria's conflict has evolved into a complex war involving foreign powers since starting in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. Peace talks to end the five-year war — which has killed more than 280,000 people and displaced millions — have stalled and a related ceasefire is in tatters. — AFP

PM FACES BREXIT GRILLING AS YOUTH REGISTER

CAMERON SEEKS TO REGAIN MOMENTUM

LONDON: Prime Minister David Cameron will seek to regain the momentum in his campaign against a Brexit in a prime time appearance yesterday, as young people rush to register to vote ahead of a midnight deadline. Cameron is under pressure to deliver a convincing television performance after opinion polls gave a slender lead to the campaign for Britain to leave the European Union in the June 23 referendum. The news caused a temporary fall in the value of the pound, amid concerns of the potential global market turmoil of the 28-nation bloc losing its first member.

In a potential boost to the "Remain" campaign, new figures from the Electoral Commission revealed a sharp rise in the number of young people registering to vote ahead of a deadline of midnight yesterday. Some 226,000 people applied to register on Monday alone, including 148,200 people under the age of 34 - a group which is overwhelmingly in favor of staying in the EU.

There was also a spike in registration applications on Friday, which coincided with a campaign by Facebook, which displayed a "register to vote" button for 24 hours. There are concerns among the "Remain" camp that their supporters are less likely to turn out than those backing a "Leave" vote, who tend to be more committed. "Leave" moved into the lead in the WhatUKThinks polling average on Monday for the first time in weeks with 51 percent against 49 percent for "Remain", excluding undecided voters. But the latest polls yesterday put "Remain" back in the lead with 51 percent to 49 percent.

Cameron will take part in a live question and answer session at 2000 GMT on ITV television, alongside UK Independence Party

(UKIP) leader Nigel Farage - although the two men will not go head to head. The prime minister's side has so far focused on the economic risks of leaving the EU, backed by warning from the IMF and the governor of the Bank of England. The head of the World Trade Organization, Roberto Azevedo, added his voice yesterday, warning of the difficulty Britain would face in forging new trade deals if it left the European single market.

"The likelihood is that a British exit would lead to a sequence of complex negotiations with the EU itself, with the 58 countries that have trade agreements with the EU, and also with all the other members of the WTO," he told The Times ahead of a speech in London.

'Spreading Fear'

Cameron's first television grilling of the campaign last week was criticized in the press, and he will be hoping for a better reaction in Tuesday's event with Farage. The UKIP leader is not part of the official Vote Leave campaign but has been dictating the Brexit agenda with his relentless focus cutting the hundreds of thousands of EU migrants who come to Britain each year. The "Remain" campaign turned their fire on Farage with a new video ahead of the debate, highlighting derisory comments he has made about gay people, Romanian migrants and ethnic minorities. "Share this video if you don't want to live in Farage's Britain," it said.

Conservative peer Sayeeda Warsi, who backs Brexit, also attacked Farage in a joint letter with senior female human rights advocates after he suggested that women in Britain may be at risk of mass sex attacks by migrants. "Spreading fear in this way is



LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech on the upcoming EU referendum at the Savoy Place yesterday. — AFP

an age-old racist tool designed to stoke division about the latest group of immigrants arriving in Britain," they wrote in the letter to The Guardian newspaper.

But Vote Leave maintained the focus on immigration by publishing details of 50 EU citizens convicted of serious crimes in Britain who cannot be deported

because of the bloc's laws and court rulings. "This puts British families at risk," said junior justice minister Dominic Raab. Junior immigration minister James Brokenshire, for the "Remain" camp, countered that the European Arrest Warrant had allowed the deportation of 6,500 criminals since 2010. —AFP

NATO LAUNCHES MASSIVE WAR GAMES IN POLAND

TORUN, Poland: Thousands of NATO troops hit the ground in Poland in a massive show of force yesterday as the alliance launched its biggest war games in eastern Europe since the Cold War. The 10-day Anaconda manoeuvres are intended to shore up regional security in the face of the West's standoff with an increasingly assertive Russia. But the Kremlin reacted angrily. "The exercises... do not contribute to an atmosphere of trust and security," said President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov. "Unfortunately we are still witnessing a deficit in mutual trust."

The exercises come a month ahead of a NATO summit in Warsaw set to seal its largest revamp since the Cold War by deploying more troop rotations to eastern European members spooked by Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. Moscow fiercely opposes the NATO moves, billed by the US-led alliance as part of its "deterrence and dialogue" strategy. Anaconda, the latest in a string of NATO manoeuvres in the region, involves 31,000 soldiers from 24 states, including 14,000 from the US, 12,000 Poles and 1,000 from Britain, as well from former Soviet "Partnership for Peace" states like Ukraine. Polish Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz said Monday that NATO was "checking the alliance's ability to defend its eastern flank". The exercises are NATO's biggest since the Trident drills last year involving 36,000 troops in Italy, Spain and Portugal.

'Cold War is History'

NATO has nevertheless sought to reassure Moscow, with Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg insisting last week: "the Cold War is history and we want it to stay that way." Russia has long protested at NATO's expansion in its Soviet-era backyard and in 1997 NATO formally agreed not to install permanent bases in former Warsaw Pact states. But some analysts question whether NATO's current strategy, based on the deployment of rotational rather than permanent forces, can really secure its eastern flank.

"When push comes to shove, how long will it really take to mobilise at break-neck speed troops in the possibility of a threat of an attack?" Carnegie Group analyst Judy Dempsey told AFP. "If it (NATO) is not going to permanently deploy troops, then it really should speed up infrastructure to move troops there (to eastern Europe) quickly." Since the Ukraine conflict erupted in 2014, NATO has established a high-speed "spearhead" response force, complete with forward command and logistic centres in eastern states.

But Dempsey questioned the usefulness of the relatively small units in the face of "huge conventional forces on the other side". Moscow has significantly stepped up its presence in the Baltic Sea area and its jets regularly violate the airspace of smaller ex-Soviet NATO allies like Estonia. In April, they even buzzed a US naval destroyer. "Russian exercises are sophisticated, they're big, they're intimidating and look what they're doing in Kaliningrad," Dempsey said, referring to Moscow's manoeuvres in the Russian enclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania. "It's like a warning to NATO: 'don't forget, we're right inside NATO territory.'" —AFP



Silvio Berlusconi

BERLUSCONI IN HOSPITAL OVER HEART PROBLEM

MILAN: Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, one of Italy's richest and most polarizing men, was hospitalized yesterday for a heart problem but his condition was not life-threatening, a spokesman said. The 79-year-old centre-right leader and media mogul, who was prime minister four times, was suffering from what Milan's San Raffaele hospital called a "cardiac deficiency". Berlusconi, who had a pacemaker implanted in a U.S. hospital when he was 70, would undergo tests in the next few days to determine the proper therapy, a hospital statement said. A spokeswoman for his Forza Italia party said his condition was not life threatening.

Berlusconi's political influence has waned since he left government in 2011. His preferred candidate for Rome mayor, real estate mogul Alfio Marchini, made such a poor in local elections this weekend that he was excluded in the first round. Berlusconi's legal woes have also forced him to take a back seat from the political scene. The former cruise-ship crooner, who has seen his once powerful centre-right become increasingly fragmented in recent years, lost his parliamentary immunity when he was ejected from the Senate in 2013 following a conviction for tax fraud.

Last year, a court in southern Italy found him guilty of bribing a senator to switch factions in a move which helped topple a centre-left government in 2008. That court also banned him from holding any public office for five years. Also in 2015, Italy's highest court confirmed an acquittal for Berlusconi on charges of abuse of office and paying for sex with a minor in the most sensational trial he faced.

Berlusconi was accused of paying for sex with former teenage nightclub dancer Kharima El Mahroug, known by her stage name "Ruby the Heartstealer", during "bunga bunga" erotic parties at his palatial home near Milan when he was prime minister in 2010. News of his hospitalization pushed shares in Mediaset, the TV company owned by his family holding, up 2 percent. Traders said the episode might induce the family to make succession arrangements that could provide new investment opportunities for the market. Berlusconi's political empire also includes football team AC Milan. He is currently in talks with a Chinese consortium to sell a majority stake in the club. — Reuters



SEASON OF Generosity
Ramadan Kareem

2016 EXPEDITION

Go further with our exclusive offers.
Discover why now is the best time to own a new Ford.

FULL COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE	3 YEARS OR 60,000KM SERVICE INCLUDED	5 YEARS OR 100,000KM MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY
FREE REGISTRATION	FREE 3RD PARTY INSURANCE	24 HOURS ROAD ASSISTANCE

SEARCH FORD RAMADAN

Visit Ford Al Wazzan showroom today

HAMAD M. AL WAZZAN & PARTNERS AUTHORIZED DEALER

Shuwaikh / Ahmadi / Jahra
Hot Line: 1828828

Go Further

HOW CLINTON FINALLY BESTED SANDERS

WASHINGTON: Shortly after declaring her candidacy for the US presidency in April 2015, Hillary Clinton hit the road in a van to win the hearts of Democrats. But what was initially expected to be a walk in the park towards the White House nomination became an epic battle of more than 420 days. Her popularity rating plummeted, she revived long-dormant divisions within the American left and the former secretary of state revealed her weaknesses as a candidate.

Clinton is only an average public speaker - her skills do not match the soaring oratory of Barack Obama, the man she hopes to succeed, or the foot-stamping rhetoric of her rival Bernie Sanders and her presumptive Republican opponent in November, Donald Trump.

New Beginning

April 12, 2015: After months of hollow suspense, Clinton launched her White House bid with a video and a tweet. She then hit the road in the so-called "Scooby van" to conquer Iowa. The former Democratic senator from New York and first lady for much of the 1990s, Clinton was the uber-favorite out of the gate - she was the first in the race, but her campaign oozed humility. No big rallies for Clinton - she instead spent two

months listening to voters at round table discussions and small meetings, ostensibly to rebuild her ties with the American public after nearly eight years out of the political limelight.

For her second run at the presidency, Clinton recruited the best and brightest operatives, poaching members of Obama's White House team. Her young campaign manager, Robby Mook, set the tone early in an internal memo: "We are disciplined: driven every day by strategy, not tactics or one-offs"-an allusion to the rifts within her 2008 team.

Benghazi and Those Emails...

While the summer of 2015 was dominated by Trump's improbable rise and the implosion of his rivals' campaigns, Clinton published a detailed policy platform. But she could not shake the controversy swirling around her use of a private email server during her time at the State Department rather than an official email account, despite federal guidelines to the contrary. It was only in September that she said she was "sorry," but that did not really stop the bleeding, or questions about her trustworthiness.

Oct 22, 2015: Clinton survives a marathon 11 hours of questioning about the 2012 militant attack on the US mission in the Libyan city of Benghazi that

left the US ambassador and three other Americans dead. Republican lawmakers pelted her with questions about the assault and her emails, but the 68-year-old Clinton remained calm - and proved her resilience. Her performance reassured her backers, and her path had already been made clearer when Vice President Joe Biden opted not to enter the race. But Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont who calls himself a democratic socialist, kept drawing big crowds - and started rising in the polls.

Feel the Bern

Feb 1, 2016: The political revolution promised by the 74-year-old Sanders and his repeated denunciation of what he says is America's "rigged economy" gained traction in Iowa. In the Midwestern state, the first step in the long nominations process, Clinton narrowly edged out Sanders, but about 80 percent of voters under the age of 25 chose him - a strong showing he would repeat across the nation.

Sanders quickly hit the Clinton "firewall" however - in the American South. In March, she swept the contests in southern states, where black voters turned out en masse to support her. Two-thirds of Hispanics in Texas and Florida also voted for Clinton. March

was a crucial month for the woman seeking to be America's first female commander-in-chief, as she built what would prove to be an insurmountable delegate lead over Sanders.

Never-Ending Primaries

Nevertheless, Sanders would not go away. The avalanche of small donations he received allowed him to stay on the campaign trail. He notched up more wins, even taking Michigan despite poll data favoring Clinton. And the tone of the campaign changed. The good-natured sparring of the early days vanished, and Sanders implied that Clinton was in the pocket of Wall Street and big business. He slammed the millions she earned in speaking fees in 2013 and 2014 after leaving the State Department, notably to Wall Street audiences. Clinton fought back, accusing the senator of being too soft on gun control and unprepared on certain policy issues. Sanders's never-say-die campaign highlighted Clinton's vulnerability, with polls showing that more than half of Americans believe she is "dishonest".

Trump repeatedly mocked her inability to put Sanders away. In opinion polls, Sanders fares better than Clinton does in a head-to-head match-up with the billionaire real estate mogul. That is the



SAN FRANCISCO: Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders speaks at a rally at the Presidio on Monday. — AFP

argument he has used, in vain, to try to persuade Democratic super-delegates - most of whom are in Clinton's camp - to back him.

June 6: Those same super-delegates eventually pushed Clinton over the top, according to estimates from several US media outlets on the eve of the last "Super Tuesday" of primaries. Clinton surpassed the magic number of delegates thanks to the party establishment that Sanders never stopped criticizing. Now, she'll need to muster her forces for the second long battle - the one that ends on election day on Nov 8. — AFP



LIMA: Presidential candidate Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and his wife Nancy Lange wave at supporters and reporters gathered outside their home on Monday. — AP

FUJIMORI GAINS GROUND IN TIGHT PERUVIAN VOTE

LIMA: The nail-biter race for Peru's presidency tightened yesterday as the daughter of imprisoned ex-president Alberto Fujimori gained ground on her rival thanks to votes trickling in from remote rural areas and embassies abroad. Former World Bank economist Pedro Pablo Kuczynski's razor-thin lead over Keiko Fujimori shrank to fewer than 51,000 votes early Tuesday morning. With tallies from nearly 97 percent of polling stations processed, Kuczynski had 50.2 percent of the votes compared with Fujimori's 49.8 percent.

While two quick counts showed Kuczynski prevailing in a tight contest, still to be counted are the ballots of 885,000 Peruvians eligible to vote abroad, the majority living in the United States. They turned out massively for Fujimori in the 2011 election. About 1.4 percent of the handwritten tallies collected at polling stations were being disputed and were sent to a special electoral board for review. Both candidates remained silent while awaiting final results even as their aides began to jockey for positions in an eventual alliance in congress, where Fujimori's Popular Force won a solid majority of 73 of 130 seats. Kuczynski's fledgling movement will have just 18, fewer than the country's main left-alliance.

While Kuczynski's campaign said it is ready to work with all political groups, supporters of Fujimori expressed doubt that the wounds from the final stretch of the

campaign, in which Kuczynski accused Keiko Fujimori of being the harbinger of a "narco-state," could be easily healed. "They called us drug traffickers, thieves," said Lourdes Alcorta, a congresswoman. "It's going to be difficult for us to hug them."

If Kuczynski holds onto his lead, it would be a stunning turnaround. Fujimori topped a field of 10 candidates in the first round of voting in April and consistently led Kuczynski in polls taken before Sunday's runoff. Kuczynski, 77, managed to climb back by abandoning his above-the-fray, grandfatherly appeal and attacking his younger rival as a risk to Peru's young democracy. Playing on memories of Alberto Fujimori's well-known ties to corruption, organized crime and death squads, for which he's serving a 25-year prison sentence, he seized on string of scandals that hobbled Fujimori in the final stretch.

The most notable was a report that one of her big fundraisers and the secretary general of her party was the target of a US Drug Enforcement Administration investigation. Peru is the world's largest producer of cocaine. PPK, as Kuczynski is almost universally known in Peru, also benefited from a last-minute endorsement by the third-place finisher in the first round of voting, leftist congresswoman Veronika Mendoza, the protagonist of a massive anti-Fujimori demonstration last week the likes of which Peru has not seen since the turbulent end of her father's rule 16 years ago. — AP

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SEX ATTACK SPARKS OUTRAGE

JUDGE'S LENIENCY PROMPTS CALLS FOR DISMISSAL

LOS ANGELES: The father of a Stanford University student convicted of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman has come under fire for dismissing the crime as "20 minutes of action". The judge who oversaw the case in California, Aaron Persky, has also sparked outrage for sentencing Brock Turner to six months in prison and probation for the assault, saying that he feared a stiffer jail term would have "a severe impact" on Turner.

The 20-year-old student from Ohio had faced up to 14 years behind bars for the Jan 2015 assault but is now expected to serve only three months of his six-month sentence in a county jail. His father said in a statement at the sentencing hearing last week that Turner, who quit Stanford after he was charged, did not deserve to go to jail. "(Brock) will never be his happy go lucky self with that easy going personality and welcoming smile," Dan Turner told the court in his statement made public on Monday. "His life will never be the one that he dreamed about and worked so hard to achieve. That is a steep price to pay for 20 minutes of action out of his 20 plus years of life."

The case has put the spotlight on rape at US college campuses where, according to one study, more than one in every six women are raped during their first year at university while too drunk or drugged to be able to fend off their attacker. The judge justified his lenient sentence saying Turner had shown "genuine feelings of remorse" and that the former swimmer did not pose a danger to society.

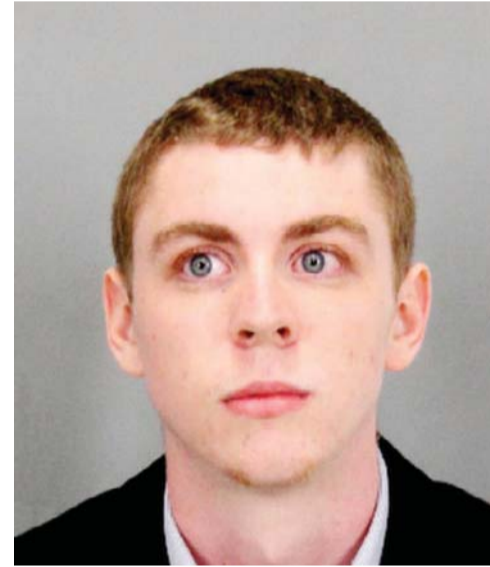
'Ruin Two Lives'

Details of the case went viral on social media over the weekend after the victim's emotional statement to the court was released by the prosecutor, with many denouncing the sentence as a slap on the wrist. "If someone's a rapist and an athlete, they're not an athlete who made a mistake, they're a criminal who can also swim," tweeted Lauren DeStefano, a US author, in a post retweeted more than 12,000 times.

In her statement, the victim described how the attack had left her emotionally scarred and made her "not want (her) body anymore". She recounted waking up in a hospital bed in San Jose, California, on the morning of January 18, 2015 without any recollection of what had happened and described the invasive exam she underwent. She also challenged Turner's own statement to the court in which he said "I want to show people that one night of drinking can ruin a life". "Ruin a life, one life, yours. You forgot about mine," she told the court as she faced her attacker. "Let me rephrase for you: I want to show people that one night of drinking can ruin two lives. You and me. You are the cause, I am the effect."

She also dismissed Turner's account that she was conscious and willing during the assault which took place outside a fraternity party where the two had met. Turner was convicted in March of three felony charges: assault with intent to commit rape of an intoxicated/unconscious person, penetration of an intoxicated person and penetration of an unconscious person. He was arrested after two bicyclists saw him assaulting the victim behind a dumpster. When they called out, he tried to run away but the two tackled him and held him until police arrived, authorities said.

The judge's perceived leniency has prompted calls for his dismissal but the prosecutor who handled the case said Monday he was against such an outcome. "While I strongly disagree with the sentence that judge Persky issued in the Brock Turner case I do not believe he should be removed from his judgeship," Jeffrey Rosen said in a statement. "I am so pleased that the victim's powerful and true statements about the devastation of campus sexual assault are being heard across our nation. She has given voice to thousands of sexual assault survivors." — AFP



Brock Turner



Aaron Persky

VENEZUELA OPPN IN NEW PROTESTS FOR RECALL VOTE

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition held new protests Monday, seeking to convert widespread anger over food shortages and economic havoc into pressure for a referendum on removing embattled President Nicolas Maduro. Clad in the red, yellow and blue of the Venezuelan flag, hundreds of opposition supporters rallied on a square in eastern Caracas, brandishing messages aimed at the allegedly pro-Maduro National Electoral Board (CNE): "Recall referendum now" and "My signature counts".

An economic crisis triggered by the collapse in the price of oil, the country's main export, has made daily life increasingly hard for Venezuelans, who face long lines at depleted supermarkets, hyperinflation, violent crime and daily power cuts. "We're tired of shortages. We're not eating properly at my house. There's not enough money for anything," 41-year-old Morella Briceno said at the rally.

The opposition has submitted a petition with 1.8 million signatures in favor of a recall referendum and wants electoral authorities to move on to the next step: Verifying at least 200,000 of those signatures with fingerprint scans. The opposition would then need to submit a second petition with four million more signatures. The opposition warns Venezuela risks erupting into unrest if electoral authorities do not let them call a referendum this year. But their fractious coalition, the center-right National Unity Roundtable (MUD), has struggled to rally large numbers of protesters. Monday's demo drew just a few hundred people in the capital.

Deadly Looting Incident

Many Venezuelans may be too busy waiting in lines to protest, too afraid of the security forces or haunted by violence that killed 43 people during pro- and anti-government

demonstrations in 2014. But spontaneous protests against food shortages have broken out in neighborhoods once seen as bastions for Maduro and his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez. Like scores of looting sprees that have erupted since the start of the year across Venezuela, these tend to be forcefully stamped out by heavily armed police and soldiers. Riots broke out Sunday outside a supermarket on the Caribbean island of Margarita off the Venezuelan coast, local media said. At least eight people were reportedly arrested. And a woman died Monday after being shot by police when looters tried to pillage a warehouse in the western city of San Cristobal, her family said. Jenny Ortiz, 42, was hit by a stray bullet Sunday night, said family spokesman Larry Mogollon Acevedo, calling it "an abuse of authority".

Amnesty International's director for the Americas, Erika Guevara-Rosas, warned the group was increasingly seeing "grave violations" of human rights in Venezuela, including the right to food and basic medicine. Many Venezuelans are fed up with both Maduro's camp and the opposition, which won control of congress in legislative elections last December but has struggled to wield power in the face of a hostile Supreme Court. "I've already dealt with two lines today to buy rice and sugar. Instead of squabbling they should fill the supermarkets," said Eneuris Cantillo, 46, who was waiting in line outside a store in the capital.

Key Ruling Rescheduled

Maduro's opponents accuse the authorities of dragging their feet so any referendum will not be held until after January 10 - four years into the leftist leader's six-year term - when a successful recall vote would simply pass power to the vice president rather than trigger new elections. — AFP



SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela: Forensic personnel walk by the site where a woman was shot dead during an attempt to loot a warehouse on Monday. — AFP

TRUMP UNYIELDING ON HISPANIC JUDGE UPROAR

WASHINGTON: US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Monday rejected a barrage of criticism from his own party over his allegations of bias against a Hispanic judge, insisting his concerns were valid. "All I want to do is figure out why I'm being treated unfairly by a judge. And a lot of people agree with it," Trump said on Fox News. Trump has been on the defensive since his comments last week about Mexican-American US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel, who is overseeing fraud lawsuits against Trump University, the New York businessman's defunct real estate school.

He has also been castigated by Democrats, including the party's likely presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. "I don't know what else you could call these attacks other than racist, other than prejudiced, other than bigoted," Clinton said in an interview with MSNBC on Monday. "It's just plain wrong, and certainly wrong coming from someone who is vying to become President of the United States."

Trump told campaign supporters in a conference call they should stand by him in

his attacks on the judge, Bloomberg Politics reported. It said during the call Trump distanced himself from a memo his campaign sent supporters on Sunday that urged them to avoid the issue. Asked for comment, Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said: "It was a very positive call to discuss overall messaging."

Two Trump supporters, Tana Goertz and Scottie Nell Hughes, told CNN that former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer had said on the call that she wanted the campaign to go on the offense against expected Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. Goertz said Trump told his supporters not to be afraid to "call out the media" when TV reporters suggest that Trump is racist.

Trump has suggested that Curiel's heritage is influencing the judge's opinion about the case because of Trump's campaign rhetoric about illegal immigration. Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for the Nov. 8 presidential election, has pledged to seal the US-Mexico border with a wall, and has said Mexico is sending rapists and drug dealers to the United States. — Reuters

Maths Teacher

The English Playgroup & Primary Schools - Kuwait

You will be responsible for planning and implementing a rich and stimulating learning environment, monitoring and assessing students' progress through the delivery of Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum of England and Wales, as well as, utilizing effective classroom management to ensure the safe welfare of their students is maintained within a positive and purposeful atmosphere.

Apply Now [JB3470761](#)

Office Manager

Al Sahraa Logistics Kuwait

You will be responsible for maintaining calendar, scheduling appointments and meeting rooms, making travel and accommodation arrangements, maintaining records through filing, retrieval, retention, storage, compilation, coding, as well as, updating to ensure all needed records and files are in safe place and easy to retrieve.

Apply Now [JB3470508](#)

Strategic and Financial Advisory - Global Innovation Company - Kuwait

You will be responsible for working closely with senior managers in all phases of the engagement sourcing, planning, and execution through to successful completion process, actively working on a number of live projects simultaneously and assisting with new business pitches, as well as, other ad-hoc requirements.

Apply Now [JB3470493](#)

Senior System Analyst Kipco Group Kuwait

You will be responsible for writing detailed descriptions of user needs, program functions and steps needed for developing or modifying applications, conducting studies pertaining to development of new information system to meet current project needs, as well as, handling insurance applications problem analysis and solution etc.

Apply Now [JB3470446](#)

Sales Associate Trafalgar Kuwait

You will be responsible for reaching sales goals as set by management developing customer base necessary to meet all sales forecasts and budgets, maintaining high level of product and vendor knowledge, attending exhibitions and other events as required, prospecting for new business, preparing/presenting proposals and maintaining existing relationships.

Apply Now [JB3470423](#)

Director - Country Head of Audit - Robert Walters Kuwait

You will be responsible for managing and performing risk based audits of the departments/ units/ branches for the Kuwait business ensuring that Governance, Risk Management and controls are in place to mitigate the inherent risks of the business, as well as, managing and executing the risk based audits.

Apply Now [JB3472478](#)

Claims Manager – Posts/ Marine - Menasa And Partners - Kuwait

You will be responsible for reviewing and investigating complex claims for delays, accelerations and wrongful terminations, managing delay analysis procedures and advising on any further procedures, providing advice on how to minimize the costs of legitimate claims and optimising the financial result of the project.

Apply Now [JB3472396](#)

Site Engineer ABB Kuwait

You will be responsible for assisting the functional manager with the planning of project deliverables in alignment with schedule, cost, contract, quality, safety, and environment requirements, executing and ensuring accuracy of all actions and tasks at project sites, assisting in developing site activity plans, as well as, interfacing with customers.

Apply Now [JB50114408](#)

Project Engineer (based in Abu Dhabi) Redflex Traffic Systems Pty. Ltd. - KSA

You will be responsible for performing project engineering activities, establishing, monitoring and tracking a project plan for each new project, ensuring all project communication is organized, registered and tracked through to completion, as well as, tracking and reporting to Senior Management.

Apply Now [JB3472337](#)

Construction Engineer Isam Kabbani Group KSA

You will be responsible for designing work & shop drawings you undertake, organizing work & coordinating with colleagues working on the same project, achieving the best design in less time, compliance with ISO system and supervising multiple projects, tasks, and individuals at any given time.

Apply Now [JB3472560](#)

Sales Executive Azeus Systems Limited KSA

You will be responsible for collaborating with sales and marketing teams to effectively achieve organizational goals, planning an effective sales targeting approach to the assigned sales territory to ensure that major sales opportunities are captured and explored, as well as, representing the company in trade exhibitions and events.

Apply Now [JB3472463](#)

Head of Treasury Mena Business Investment Group - KSA

You will be responsible for managing all cash management functions including bank transfers, cheques, cash payments, managing inter-company cash, including inter-company lending, dividends, and capital injections, as well as, monitoring the financial needs and duties of the company on a monthly and quarterly basis.

Apply Now [JB3472489](#)

Field Service Engineer Focus Management International - UAE

You will be responsible for planning, directing and controlling all technical support activities in the region including installation, internal and external customer training, maintenance, diagnosis and repair of products/services and ensuring the execution of pre and post-sale technical support services to customers.

Apply Now [JB3471967](#)

Operations Manager Deliveroo UAE

You will be responsible for managing a team of Driver Operations Associates responsible for hiring, training and performance managing a fleet of 100+ delivery drivers, supporting with driver and zone performance management, as well as, researching and implementing initiatives to foster driver community and ensure high retention.

Apply Now [JB3471970](#)

Commerical Manager - Concessions & Assets Randstad Middle East - UAE

You will be responsible for laying out the strategy to develop new opportunities and markets, elaborating a business development plan, designing and implementing processes to support business growth, through customer and market definition, as well as, developing and fostering productive and strong relationships with prospects, clients, etc.

Apply Now [JB3471928](#)

Property Sales Consultant Schon Properties UAE

You will be responsible for finding new clients, generating own leads through own strong network base, arranging presentations and meetings to promote the property, understanding the Real Estate market in Dubai, as well as, making appointments and showing buyers around the properties.

Apply Now [JB3471889](#)

Project Manager BPO+ Qatar

You will be responsible for acting as the primary liaison between the company and customer project teams with onsite support from Service & Sales, identifying the company's and customer's responsibilities and deliverables as defined in the sales contract, as well as, creating maintaining, and routing of formal project.

Apply Now [JB3472508](#)

Area Delivery Manager Menasa And Partners Qatar

You will be responsible for managing a portfolio of projects and acting as a single point of contact, overseeing all the projects individually and the teams executing those projects, liaising with clients, agencies or governmental entities to ensure successful deliverables, overseeing the performance, ensuring improvements are implemented across all projects and effective training provided.

Apply Now [JB3472397](#)

Document Controller Arab Engineering Bureau Qatar

You will be responsible for compiling, maintaining and controlling records of documents, drawings and other related documents, verifying completeness and accuracy of data, conferring with document originators, resolving discrepancies and compiles required changes to documents, posting changes to computerized or manual control records, and releasing documents.

Apply Now [JB1681763](#)

Technology Services Engineer, Hamad International Airport Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for ensuring that all tickets are responded to efficiently in a timely manner, ensuring that process and procedures are followed as per ITIL standards for HIA - IT Field Services and Support across all platforms, as well as, troubleshooting laptops, desktops, mobile phones, tablets, LED Screens, printers, scanners and special airport systems.

Apply Now [JB3472349](#)

www.bayt.com

Register > Upload your CV > Apply

WITH VULTURES GONE, PARSIS TURN TO CREMATIONS

MUMBAI: Kaikobad Rustomfram always thought that when he died vultures would feast on his corpse, as is Zoroastrian tradition. But then the scavenging birds disappeared from India's skies. The 90-year-old was cremated last month instead of receiving a sky burial, one of a growing number of Parsis opting to use a new prayer hall in Mumbai that is changing the ancient community's funeral customs. Rustomfram's wife, Khorshed, who died in January aged 82, also chose cremation at the ten-month-old facility, which conservative Zoroastrians oppose, in the centre of India's bustling financial capital.

"They wanted to be cremated ever since they learnt that the traditional way of disposing of the dead wasn't working because there were no vultures," their daughter, Hutokshi Rustomfram, told AFP. Zoroastrians believe in the god Ahura Mazda and follow the teachings of the ancient Prophet Zoroaster. They worship in 'fire temples', believing fire to be a symbol of god's purity. Known as Parsis, Zoroastrians first arrived in India more than 1,000 years ago after fleeing persecution in Persia.

They became one of India's wealthiest communities, boasting a number of famed industrialists including the Tata family synonymous with the financial rise of Mumbai. For centuries the community, which is dwindling at such a rapid rate that its future existence is now

under threat, have laid their dead out at the city's Towers of Silence. Ravenous vultures would devour the flesh of the body within an hour, leaving the bones to dry in the sun before being placed in a well, an efficient disposal system believed to purify the deceased.

But India's vulture population began to drastically decline in the early 1990s and was virtually wiped out by the mid-noughties owing to Diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug used to treat cattle. Birds which gorged on dead animals that had recently been administered the medicine died of kidney failure, resulting in the disappearance of around 99 per cent of India's total vulture population.

Toxic Drug

India banned the veterinary painkiller in 2006 but the damage to Zoroastrian sky burials had already been done, with claims that bodies were piling up at the tower in Mumbai's plush Malabar Hill district. "Kites and crows just pecked at the bodies. Those birds did nothing at all," Dinshaw Tamboly, a former trustee of Mumbai's leading Parsi organization the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, told AFP. "They would lie rotting in the heat for six to eight months. The pallbearers were complaining about the stench," added the 71-year-old.

Two Parsis a day die on average in Mumbai. Across India, where most Zoroastrians live, their numbers have

halved since 1940 to around 60,000. With numbers dwindling, the community is split over how best to preserve their religion and culture, including the most appropriate way to dispose of the dead. Tamboly was one of several reformists to advocate that Parsi priests should be allowed to officiate at cremations. After several years, space at an existing crematorium was granted by Mumbai's civic local authority and a large private donation was received, allowing the hall to open in September last year. Tamboly says the number of cremations at the center, situated in the Worli area, are "steadily increasing" from four in the first month to an average of between eight and ten currently.

At Kaikobad Rustomfram's funeral service two Parsi priests, clad entirely in white chant prayers from the sacred Zoroastrian text Avesta for an hour as around 80 mourners look on in the spotless hall. "My father got a great sense of satisfaction that the prayers were performed in a suitably dignified and reverential manner here for my mother," Rustomfram, 59, explained. "It's not a nice thought to think that your loved one's body is lying there like that in a heap. My parents felt they should adapt to the times," she added.

Cremations 'Wrong'

The strength of feeling runs equally deep amongst traditionalists. Khojeste



MUMBAI: In this photo taken on May 10, 2016, Parsi priests conduct a funeral service at a prayer hall. — AFP

Mistree, an orthodox scholar, insists the sky burials still "work" effectively, although slightly slower "without the vultures, and denies that there's a stench emanating from the Towers of Silence. He also points out that a "massive majority" still favor traditional decomposition. The numbers being cremated are rising significantly but it's still a fraction of the small but influential community. Jehangir Patel, editor of community magazine "Parsianna", told AFP that cremations now accounted for around 15 per cent of funerals in Mumbai's community of an estimated 45,000 Parsis - up from 6 per cent before the prayer hall opened. Mistree says that leaving corpses open to the skies is the only option because Zoroastrians

believe dead bodies to be impure. "Zoroastrians are extremely eco-conscious so the body cannot be burnt because that's desecrating fire," he told AFP. "It cannot be buried because that's polluting the earth and it cannot be drowned because that's sullying the waters. "Those who want to take the cremation route can certainly do it. But from a religious point of view clearly it's wrong," Mistree added.

For reformists such as 71-year-old Naval Surty and his wife, who have already told their two children that they wish to be cremated, they are merely being practical. "If the vultures were still here then things would be different, but now this is the best way to let the body pass," he said. — AFP

SOUTH KOREA COURTS NORTH'S OLD FRIENDS

SEOUL: South Korea's foreign minister will visit Moscow next week after touring Cuba, Uganda and Iran as part of a push to enlist North Korea's old allies to press for change in the isolated state, Seoul said yesterday. North Korea has come under growing diplomatic pressure since its January nuclear test and a space rocket launch in February, which led to a new UN Security Council resolution in March tightening sanctions against Pyongyang.

"The minister's visit to Russia following Iran, Uganda and Cuba is part of diplomatic efforts to enlist the international community to the effort to bring about change in North Korea on all fronts," South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June-hyuck told a briefing. South Korea said last week that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has pledged to halt security and military cooperation with North Korea, following a summit in Kampala with South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se visited Cuba, a first for the country's top diplomat, and held talks with his counterpart, Bruno Rodriguez, at the weekend. South Korean media said Yun conveyed Seoul's hope for establishing diplomatic ties with Havana. In May, Park made the first visit to Iran by a South Korean leader in the hope of broadening political and commercial ties after

Iran emerged from years of economic sanctions in January.

Cho also said Poland had stopped issuing visas for North Korean workers amid concern that Pyongyang may be subjecting them to conditions that violated their human rights. An official at the Polish embassy in Seoul said Poland had not issued any work visas for North Korean citizens this year, in reaction to the North's nuclear test and rocket launch at the beginning of the year. North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

North Korea has 53 embassies and overseas missions, according to South Korean government data, some of which have been notorious for engaging in business, including illicit activities. Much of North Korea's support at the United Nations is from fellow members of the Cold War-era Non-Aligned Movement. It has enjoyed consistent backing in UN General Assembly votes on human rights from a core group including Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Syria, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Venezuela. US Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking in Beijing at the end of high-level talks between the United States and China, said yesterday the two countries were determined to fully enforce sanctions against North Korea. — Reuters



SEOUL: In a photo taken on Monday, people pose for photos on an installation spelling 'Seoul' during a public holiday at Yeouido park. — AFP

CHINA TELLS US TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE SEA ROLE

BEIJING: China told the United States yesterday that it should play a constructive role in safeguarding peace in the disputed South China Sea, as US Secretary of State John Kerry called for talks and a peaceful resolution. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims, as well as close military ties with the United States.

China has been angered by what it views as provocative US military patrols close to islands China controls in the South China Sea. The United States says the patrols are to protect freedom of navigation. Speaking at the end of high-level Sino-US talks in Beijing, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, China's top diplomat who outranks the foreign minister, said China had the right to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights.

"China respects and protects the right that all countries enjoy under international law to freedom of navigation and overflight," Yang told reporters. Disputes should be resolved by the parties involved through consultation, he said. "China hopes the US will scrupulously abide by its promise to not take sides in relevant territorial disputes and play a constructive role in safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea," Yang said.

US Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Saturday the US approach to the Asia-Pacific remained "one of commitment, strength and inclusion", but he also warned China against provocative behavior in the South China Sea. Kerry said the United States did not take a

position on the sovereignty of any land features in the South China Sea but thought all claimants should exercise restraint. "We reiterated America's fundamental support for negotiations and a peaceful resolution based on the rule of law as well as our concern about any unilateral steps by any party ... to alter the status quo," Kerry said.

Kerry added that he and Yang reaffirmed their governments' commitment to upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight. The Philippines is hoping for a favorable ruling from a tribunal in The Hague this month after it went to court in 2013 seeking clarification on its economic entitlements in the South China Sea. China has said it will not respect the court's decision and there are fears in Manila that China may retaliate by declaring an air defense identification zone in the disputed waters or by reclaiming disputed Scarborough Shoal.

Gregory Poling, director of Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the US Center for Strategic and International Studies, said China would not risk an escalation if it knew the United States would try to deter its actions on Scarborough Shoal. "What we've seen over and over in the last years, China is unwilling to risk activities that threaten deadly force," Poling told diplomats and military officials at the main army base in Manila. "It is possible to deter them. We'll have to keep deterring them over and over. That is the test for next 10 to 15 years in this game of whack-a-mole until the Chinese decide that this is not the way to do international relations." — Reuters



DHAKA: Bangladeshi street vendors sell iftar food under a polythene cover as rain falls during the first day of Ramadan at a traditional bazaar in the old part of Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

HINDU PRIEST HACKED TO DEATH IN BANGLADESH

POLICE CRACK DOWN ON ISLAMISTS

DHAKA: Bangladesh police yesterday launched a deadly crackdown on Islamist militants as a 70-year-old Hindu priest became the latest victim in a series of gruesome killings by suspected jihadists. As a government minister tried to portray the recent attacks as part of a conspiracy involving Israel's Mossad spy agency, security forces waged deadly gun battles with members of a homegrown jihadist group. Two "high-ranking" members of the Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were shot dead in a battle in Dhaka and another was killed in a northwestern district, police told AFP.

The two JMB members killed in the capital had roles "in most of the recent attacks" including the bombing of a Shiite mosque and the murder of a liberal professor, said deputy commissioner of police M R Khaled. The third victim was killed in another gunfight in the town of Godagari in the northwestern district of Rajshahi, said local police chief Abu Forhad.

Bangladeshi authorities have been coming under mounting international pressure to end the string of attacks on religious minorities and secular activists that have left more than 40 people dead in the last three years. Authorities have blamed homegrown Islamists for the attacks, which have surged in recent weeks, rejecting claims of responsibility from the Islamic State (IS) group and a South Asia branch of Al-Qaeda.

Priest Slaughtered

IS claimed the latest victim, Hindu priest Ananda Gopal Ganguly, whose head was nearly severed. The group, through its Amaq news agency, said it "assassinated" the priest, according to the SITE monitoring group, as he was walking to prayers. Farmers discovered Ganguly's body in a rice field near his home in the village of Noldanga in the western district of Jhenidah. Investigators said the murder bore the hallmarks of recent attacks by local Islamist extremists who have carried out 10 other similar killings in the last 10 weeks. Witnesses saw three unidentified men on a motorcycle attack him with a bamboo stick before "they slit his throat", the district's deputy police chief Gopinath Kanjilal said. "He left home this morning saying that he was going to a Hindu house to offer prayers," Kanjilal told AFP. "Later, farmers found his near-decapitated body in a rice field."

Although most of the recent attacks have been claimed by IS or the local offshoot of Al-Qaeda, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government has blamed its domestic opponents for the attacks. Speaking to AFP yesterday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan again linked the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP) to the attacks, saying they were part of a wider conspiracy that also involved Mossad. "These killings are part of a national and international conspiracy. Those who are carrying out these incidents are communicating with Mossad," Khan told AFP. Israeli officials had no comment on the minister's remarks.

A senior BNP official was charged with sedition last month for allegedly plotting against the state when he met an Israeli government adviser. Aslam Chowdhury, a joint secretary of the party, was arrested after local media reported he had met the adviser, Mendi Safadi, in India in March. Experts say a government ban on Bangladesh's largest Islamist party Jamaat-Islami following a protracted political crisis has pushed many towards extremism.

Jamaat is a traditional ally of the BNP whose leader, two-time former prime minister Khaleda Zia, is facing a series of charges in connection with deadly firebombings. Victims of the recent murders by suspected Islamists have included secular bloggers, gay rights activists and followers of minority religions. Amnesty International yesterday demanded "a prompt, thorough, impartial and transparent investigation" of the recent killings, adding that the government must "protect those still under threat". "In the current climate of impunity, increasing numbers of people have reported facing threats that the authorities have repeatedly failed to address," the group's statement said. Although it is officially secular, around 90 per cent of Bangladesh's 160 million-strong population is Muslim. — AFP

BOY LEAVES HOSPITAL AFTER ORDEAL

TOKYO: A seven-year-old boy who survived for nearly a week after being abandoned by his parents in a forest left hospital yesterday, capping a 10-day drama that captivated Japan and sparked a national conversation about child discipline. Wearing a black baseball cap, Yamato Tanooka stopped to smile and wave to a throng of journalists and onlookers as he emerged from Hakodate Municipal Hospital on the northern island of Hokkaido.

In a scene broadcast on national television, he surveyed the crowd as he waved with one hand and held a baseball crafted out of paper that appeared to carry written messages of support with the other. Asked by a journalist if he looked forward to returning to school, he replied enthusiastically, "I want to go!" After a few minutes, which included applause, his father ushered him into a van and they drove off. The boy survived for six nights alone after his parents left him on a mountain road in bear-inhabited woods on May 28 as punishment for misbehaving. Many in Japan were angry at the couple, who said they had forced their son out of the car to teach him a lesson after he had thrown stone at cars and people. They had originally told police that he got lost while on a family outing, but later admitted they lied because they feared social censure.

The case sparked debate in Japan about discipline, with some voices calling for understanding of parental frustration in making their kids behave, though most condemned the extent to which the boy's mother and father acted. And though some have called for them to be prosecuted, police said that they will not face charges, a local officer said yesterday. "We plan not to

regard it as a criminal case," a Hokkaido police spokesman told AFP, indicating it would be referred to social services. Toru Numata, a lawyer who handles abuse and domestic violence cases, told AFP: "Considering the factors behind the case, the chances of making it a prosecutable one are extremely slim." — AFP



HAKODATE, Japan: Yamato Tanooka waves to photographers as he leaves the Hakodate Municipal Hospital yesterday. — AFP

ALEPPO TO BE ERDOGAN'S...

Continued from Page 1

Escalating fighting there helped ruin the cessation of hostilities agreement agreed in February. Assad accused Erdogan of recently sending thousands of militants to Aleppo. Russia, which has been bombing in support of Assad since September, said on Saturday more than 2,000 militants had mobilized in the Aleppo area.

Russia said on Monday its air forces would provide "the most active" support to Syrian government troops so as not to let Aleppo and the surrounding area fall into the hands of fighters it called terrorists. The United States and Russia brokered the cessation of hostilities as part of an effort to get UN-backed peace talks moving earlier this year. The talks broke down in April when the main opposition alliance withdrew over what it described as a worsening situation on the ground.

Assad said there had been no real talks in Geneva. He thanked Russia, Iran, China and the Lebanese Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah for the support they had provided. Alluding to suggestions of divisions in the alliance, particularly between Iran and Russia, Assad said people should not listen to reports about "differences, struggles and divisions". He said the alliance was stronger than ever. He was speaking at the parliament that convened this week for the first time since it was elected in April. The election was held in government-controlled parts of Syria. Government supporters said the vote was a sign of support for Assad, while his opponents said it was illegitimate. — Reuters



HERAT: Afghan youth cool off in a river during the second day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, in Herat yesterday. — AFP

11 KILLED AS CAR BOMB TARGETS TURKISH POLICE

Continued from Page 1

President Tayyip Erdogan vowed the NATO member's fight against terrorism would go on, describing the attack on officers whose jobs were to protect others as "unforgivable". "We will continue our fight against these terrorists until the end, tirelessly and fearlessly," he told reporters after visiting some of the injured in a hospital near the blast site. Sahin said the dead included seven police officers and four civilians and that the attack had targeted vehicles carrying members of a riot police unit. Three of the 36 wounded were in critical condition, he said.

The blast hit the Vezneciler district, between the headquarters of the local municipality and the campus of Istanbul University, not far from the city's historic heart. It shattered windows in shops and a mosque and scattered debris over nearby streets. "There was a loud bang, we thought it was lightning but right at that second the windows of the shop came down. It was extremely scary," said Cevher, a shopkeeper who declined to give his surname. The blast was strong enough to topple all the goods from the shelves of his store. The police bus that appeared to have borne the brunt of the explosion was tipped onto its roof on the side of the road. A second police bus was also damaged. The charred wreckage of several other vehicles lined the street.

Gunshots

Several witness reported hearing gunshots, although there was confusion as to whether attackers had opened fire or whether police officers had been trying to protect colleagues. "We were told that it was police trying to keep peo-

ple away from the blast scene," said Mustafa Celik, 51, who owns a tourism agency in a backstreet near the blast site. He likened the impact of the explosion to an earthquake.

"I felt the pressure as if the ground beneath me moved. I've never felt anything this powerful before," he said. US Ambassador John Bass condemned the "heinous" attack and said on Twitter the United States stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Turkey in the fight against terrorism. Turkey has suffered a spate of bombings this year, including two suicide attacks in tourist areas of Istanbul blamed on Islamic State, and two car bombings in the capital, Ankara, which were claimed by a Kurdish militant group.

That has hit tourism in a nation whose Aegean and Mediterranean beaches usually lure droves of European and Russian holidaymakers. Russians stopped coming after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane over Syria last November. The number of foreign visitors to Turkey fell by 28 percent in April, the biggest drop in 17 years. "Business hasn't been very good anyway. We're now expecting fast check-outs and we think it will get worse," said Kerem Tataroglu, general manager of the Zurich Hotel, less than 300 meters from where yesterday's blast happened.

While attacks by Islamic State have tended to draw more attention in the West, Turkey is equally concerned by the rise in attacks by Kurdish militants who had previously concentrated for the most part on the southeast. The outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged an armed insurgency against the state since 1984, claimed responsibility for a May 12 car bomb attack in Istanbul that wounded seven people. In that attack, a parked car was also blown up as a bus carrying security force personnel passed by. — Reuters

SAUDI UNVEILS REFORM PLAN

Continued from Page 1

budget to 40 percent from 45 percent by the same date. Unemployment among Saudis is targeted to fall to 9 percent from 11.6 percent in the next five years.

"The average public sector employee is paid about 70 percent more than the private sector average. This wage gap is one of the highest in the world and goes a long way to explaining why so few Saudis are employed in the private sector," said James Reeve, deputy chief economist at Samba Financial Group in London.

Previous labor reforms have focused on pushing companies to hire more Saudis instead of expatriates, with some effort also devoted to technical training schemes and other social tools to prompt young people to look for non-government jobs. The new reforms aim to increase enrolment in technical and vocational training colleges to 950,000 students a year from 104,000 now, spending 1.5 billion riyals (about \$400 million) to increase capacity, the NTP document showed.

The government will also spend 1.7 billion riyals on technical training facilities in schools and says it will target improvements in maths and science exam grades by 2020. At the same time, the Civil Service Ministry has targets to decrease its payroll and spending on employee benefits by 20 percent by 2020, and to ensure that only 1 percent of new jobs by that date are in government service instead of 5 percent now. Those reforms also carry a price tag. Restructuring civil service jobs will cost 52 million riyals by 2020 and a program to encourage government employees to become private sector entrepreneurs will cost 35 million riyals, the plan said.

Previous labor reform efforts have stumbled on social obstacles, such as the comparatively high benefits, wages, job security and social status associated with state employment and the lower cost to companies of hiring expatriates. In the NTP, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry has a target of reducing the cost of hiring a Saudi compared to a foreigner from being four times more expensive to only 2.8 times more expensive. Recent reforms have imposed some fees on companies that hire expatriates. It will also aim for half of all Saudis to want a private sector job by 2020, but it provided no details on how this might be achieved.

Meanwhile, proposed reforms in other sectors aimed at boosting the private sector are also intended to create jobs for Saudis. New opportunities in mining are supposed to lead to an extra 25,000 jobs, while investment in tourism is aimed at raising hiring by 400,000 people in the private sector. The government will also spend 117 million riyals on training more nurses and 720 million riyals on training doctors and other health practitioners to move more Saudis into public sector jobs now dominated by foreigners.

The reforms aim to increase the number of women as a proportion of the work force to 28 percent from 23 percent, and to quadruple the number of women in senior civil service roles to 5 percent, the plan said. However, it gave few details on how this might be achieved. One figure it did give - with no further explanation - was a spending target of 2.78 billion riyals to improve transport options for working women. Saudi Arabia is the only country where women are forbidden from driving and that figure shows how its strict social rules are obstructing key economic goals. — Reuters

HILLARY CLINTON 'MAKES HISTORY'

Continued from Page 1

But the delegate count also includes "superdelegates" - party leaders and elected senators, members of Congress and governors - who can change their mind at any time. For that reason, the DNC has echoed the Sanders campaign, saying the superdelegates should not be counted until they actually vote at the Philadelphia convention. But that has not deterred the news media. The AP and NBC reported that Clinton reached the

2,383 delegates needed to become the presumptive Democratic nominee with a decisive weekend victory in Puerto Rico, a US territory, and a burst of last-minute support from superdelegates.

"According to the news, we are on the brink of a historic, unprecedented moment," Clinton told a rally in Long Beach, California, shortly after the AP report. "But we still have work to do, don't we? We have six elections tomorrow and we're going to fight hard for every single vote, especially right here in California." Michael Briggs, Sanders' spokesman, dismissed the AP and NBC tallies. "Our job from now until the convention is to convince those superdelegates that Bernie is by far the strongest candidate against Donald Trump," he said.

California, New Jersey, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and New Mexico hold nominating contests yesterday. The outcome in California, the last and largest state to vote, could affect Clinton's efforts to unify the party behind her. If Sanders, who was trailing in polls in California until recently, roars back to take the state, he may have little incentive to exit the race despite increasing pressure from

party luminaries to stand down.

Clinton spent Monday working to turn out Hispanic and African-American voters - demographic groups that have provided a pillar of support for her during the nominating process. She spent the day in Southern California, first in the heavily Latino city of Lynwood, then later in central Los Angeles, speaking before throngs of black supporters. Sanders, meanwhile, campaigned in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sanders' supporters have become increasingly resistant to Clinton in recent months, with fewer than half saying they would vote for her if she becomes the party's nominee, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll in May.

Last month, 41 percent of Sanders' supporters said they would vote for the former secretary of state if she runs against Trump in the Nov 8 general election. That was down from 50 percent in April, and 52 percent in March. Those who have decided not to support Clinton are split on what to do if Sanders quits the race. Some may cross party lines and vote for Trump, but many others appear to be interested in a third-party candidate. Some 27 percent of Sanders' supporters said in May that they would vote for neither candidate or another alternative.

One Sanders supporter, Andrew Swetland, 31, an accountant from Long Beach, said he would not vote for Clinton if she heads the Democratic ticket. "We're tired of all the things the establishment in the party is trying to force on us," he said, adding that he would support the Green Party's Jill Stein instead. The Reuters/Ipsos poll included 2,919 Sanders supporters during the month of May and has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 2 percentage points. — Reuters

NEW LABOR LAW STIFFENS SALARY DELAY...

Continued from Page 1

The Assembly also agreed to amend article 140 which deals with violations against ministry inspectors who make sure the private sector businesses comply with the law. It raised the fine on such violations from the current maximum of KD 1,000 and made it at least KD 500 and up to KD 1,000, setting a minimum fine of KD 500.

The amendment aims at providing enough protection for ministry inspectors to help them apply the law. MPs also agreed to amend article 142 which originally stipulated a jail term not exceeding six months and a fine of up to KD 2,000 for those who open an establishment after ministry inspectors have ordered its partial or total closure. The new penalty stipulates a jail term of between one month and six months and a fine of between KD 500 and KD 2,000.

A new paragraph was added to article 146 to give the court the power to fine the employers who delay the payment of salaries. Under the new paragraph, the court will fine such employers one percent of the value of the unpaid salaries every month. This fine however does not restrict the employee to demand any other compensation from the court. The National Assembly also decided to return controversial amendments on the municipality law

due to sharp differences between lawmakers. The amendments had been already passed in the first reading two weeks ago but MPs found that the law required many more changes.

The main controversial article was the distribution of electoral districts especially the addition of new residential areas to existing constituencies. The Assembly also unanimously approved an amendment to the penal code under which people who are banned from travel can contest the order in the court within three months.

MPs also agreed to lift the parliamentary immunity of Shiite MP Abdulhameed Dashti to face investigation on two cases. Dashti, who has been living abroad for the past several months, has seen his immunity lifted several times on state security cases. The Assembly accepted a letter from the head of the Public Funds Protection Committee requesting an extension for the panel to complete its report on an investigation into providing state-owned farms to certain people through forgery. Head of the panel MP Abdullah Al-Tiraji said that one person had obtained 50 commercial licenses and was given 50 large farms based the licenses which were obtained only to get the farms. He said that officials at the agricultural authority assisted him.

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Best Saving Offers For RAMADAN

25% Save More

10% Save More

50% Save More

Ramadan Kareem

White-Westinghouse*

WANC18FNWHI

18000 BTU/hr

129

175,000 | 46,000

- Superior Quality & Performance
- Active Carbon Filter
- Quick Cool

YORK

BY JOHNSON CONTROLS

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR

EWCA1803

18000 BTU/hr

86

99,000 | 13,000

- 1.5 U.B
- iF/C
- 22

SHARP

AF-A18PCM

18000 BTU/hr

99

106,000 | 7,000

- Auto restart function
- Easy clean panel

AF-A24SCM

24000 BTU/hr

119

129,000 | 10,000

- Self Evaporative system with Timer
- Unique Quiet design

بيت
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from SKD • up to 48 month • interest approved

Shop Online: www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (The New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawaii 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawaii 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaeel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Alport (Departure Hall)

Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
 FAX : 24835620/1
 CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
 ACCOUNTS : 24835619
 COMMERCIAL : 24835618
 P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
 E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
 Website : www.kuwaittimes.net

Focus

HILLARY CLINTON - A
BURNING AMBITION,
RESILIENCE TO MATCH

By Ivan Couronne

On the subject of women in politics, Hillary Clinton is fond of quoting the words of another illustrious first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, who once said: "You need to grow a skin as thick as a rhinoceros." When out on the stump, in cafes, churches and rallies across the country, Clinton tells a thousand tales of the adversity she has faced down over the course of four decades in public life. "I have the scars to prove it," quips the 68-year-old, painted by her many enemies as "crooked," "corrupt"—even an enabler of her husband's affairs—as the Republican attacks flew thick and fast throughout the 2016 White House campaign.

A Machiavellian image clings to the ambitious Midwesterner, dating back to her years in the political spotlight as a tandem with Bill. She is considered "dishonest" by a majority of Americans, and the mudslinging is only set to intensify as she heads into a brutal showdown with Donald Trump. And yet, as the 2016 primary race draws to a close, Clinton stands at the threshold of the White House, set to make history as the first woman to carry the colors of a major US political party in the presidential race.

From Chicago to Arkansas

Hillary Diane Rodham was born October 26, 1947 and raised in a middle-class household in Chicago suburb Park Ridge. She adored her mother Dorothy but described her father Hugh Rodham, born from Welsh immigrants, as a stubborn and rigid taskmaster. He imposed his work ethic on young Hillary, but also his frugality. She still puts uneaten olives back in the jar and is loath to waste anything, she wrote in her 2003 autobiography, "Living History." Clinton shared her father's Republican convictions in adolescence, as well as his thunderous laugh. The family is Methodist, and to this day Hillary remains in the church. Since her school days, she chased success, earning honors and accolades that could fill a bookcase. From age 13, she took odd jobs to help finance her studies. Smart and ambitious, Hillary was admitted in 1965 to Wellesley, an elite women's college near Harvard where she was eventually elected president of her class.

It was the social tumult of the sixties, and Clinton's eyes were opened to the struggle for civil rights, the explosive debate over Vietnam and the fight for gender equality. When she was accepted in 1969 at prestigious Yale Law School, she met Bill Clinton, the "Viking" from Arkansas who would change the course of her life. After working for the Children's Defense Fund, and a period in Washington in 1974 on the commission investigating the Watergate scandal, she gave in and joined Bill in Arkansas. He was soon elected Arkansas governor and Hillary Rodham joined a prestigious law firm, eventually becoming its first female partner. Chelsea, their only child, was born in 1980.

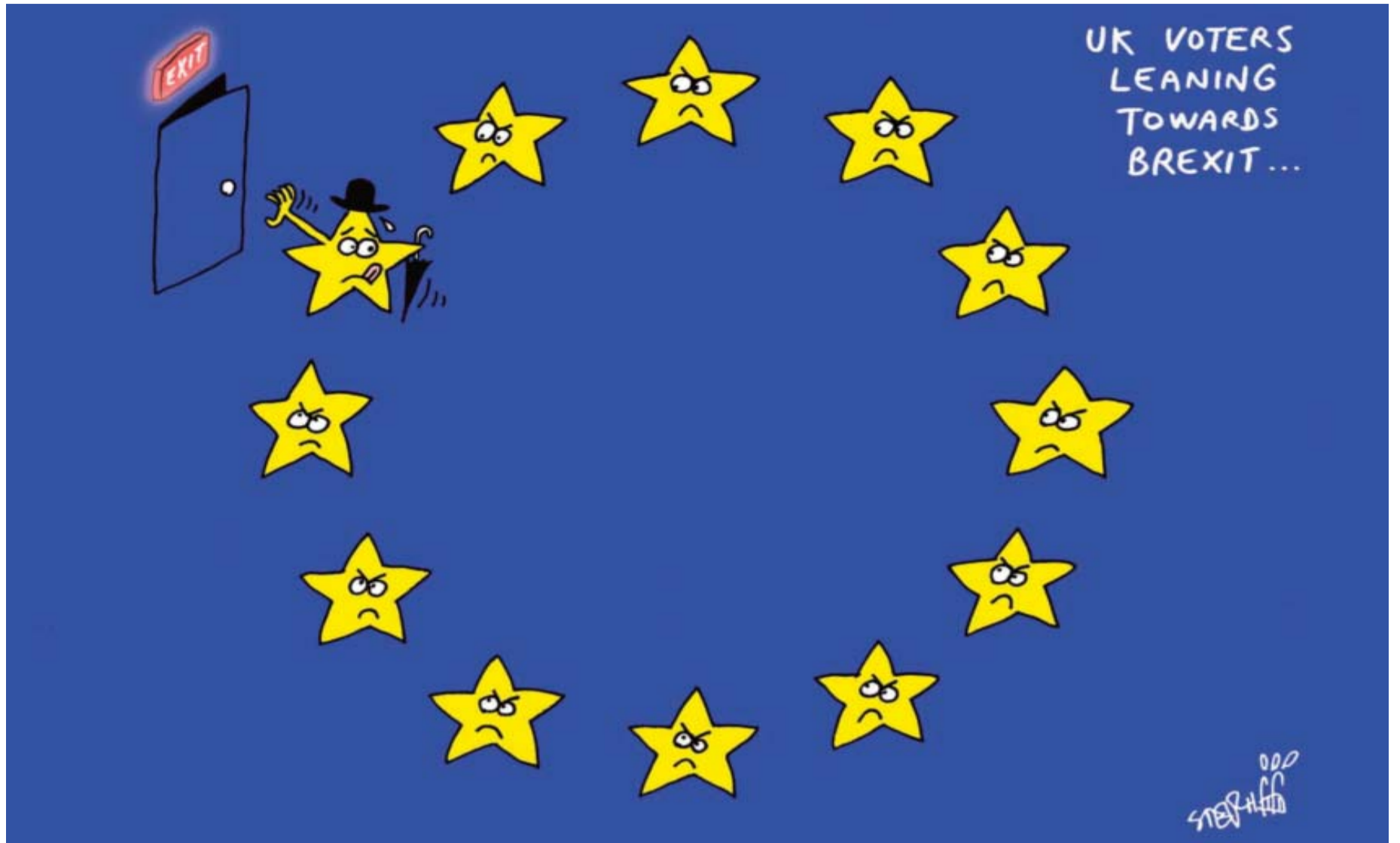
Political first lady

She soon dropped her maiden name and became Hillary Clinton, first lady of Arkansas and then the nation after her husband's White House election victory in 1992. Her assertive style contrasted with that of her predecessors. She played an active political role, symbolized by the location of her office in the West Wing. Her relations with lawmakers and journalists quickly soured, particularly over her efforts to reform the health care system, a role bestowed on her by her president husband. Republicans branded her a radical feminist. She suffered intense humiliation when news of Bill's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky surfaced in 1998. But her popularity has never been higher than the 67-percent approval rating she enjoyed in December 1998, according to a Gallup poll at the time.

Solo career

Pressured by friends and associates in Hillaryland, the first lady launched herself into politics, winning a US Senate seat for New York in 2000. She laid low during the 2004 presidential race, but four years later she entered the fray to challenge fellow senator Barack Obama, who savaged her vote supporting the Iraq war. Clinton chose to run on her experience, refusing to campaign on gender. But Americans opted instead on the 40-something political neophyte Obama, bringing hope of change after eight years of George W Bush.

After a detente with his party rival, Obama appointed Clinton secretary of state. Her critics argue she can claim no major diplomatic successes, and Republicans accused her of incompetence over a 2012 militant attack on the US mission in the Libyan city of Benghazi that left the US ambassador and three other Americans dead. Her use of a personal email account instead of an official government one has proved a crippling scandal for her, fueling suspicions that the Clintons see themselves as above the law. But her four globe-trotting years in the post also cemented her image as a powerful stateswoman—consistently ranked the most "admired" woman in America and that potent mix of tenaciousness and cold realism finally saw the better of her idealistic Democratic challenger Bernie Sanders. —AFP



DRONES BECOME KEY COG IN US WAR MACHINE

By Josh Smith

When US drones obliterated a car carrying Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour last month, it was the kind of targeted killing that unmanned aircraft are best known for. But 15 years after a drone first fired missiles in combat, the US military's drone program has expanded far beyond specific strikes to become an everyday part of the war machine. Now, from control booths in the United States and bases around the Middle East, Afghanistan and parts of Africa, drone crews are flying surveillance missions and providing close air support for troops on the ground. "In the wars we fight, this is the future," said drone pilot Lieutenant Shaw, as he stood in a hangar at the Air Force's drone base in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

Crews spoke to Reuters on condition that only their first names and rank be used to identify them. The increased use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in a wide range of battle applications comes as the United States looks to reduce the number of soldiers fighting abroad. The US military declined to provide statistics breaking down drone activity into types of missions, but dozens of interviews with people working in the secretive programs show UAVs have become an integral tool on the battlefield.

That is likely to raise further objections from critics who say drones often miss their intended targets, can only partly relay what is happening on the ground and encourage warfare with impunity waged by people at computer screens far from danger. In Afghanistan, the United States has around 9,800 troops left and plans to cut the level to 5,500 by early 2017. At its peak a few years ago, the US military had around 100,000 soldiers there, yet the dramatic decrease does not mean the conflict is winding down. In fact, the Taliban insurgency is as potent now as at any time since 2001.

Drones taking over

As part of its expanding program, the Air Force aims to double the number of drone squadrons over the next five years. Even some proponents, like retired Lieutenant Colonel T Mark McCurley, a former Air Force drone pilot, say over reliance on remote killing and electronic intelligence has hurt efforts on the ground. "Too often, remotely piloted aircraft are being used as a tool to wantonly kill individuals, rather than as one of many tools to capture and shut down whole terrorist networks," he said. Central to the shift towards remote operations is Afghanistan, where weak local forces, a dwindling troop presence and rugged terrain have made it something of a testing ground.

Drones there log up to eight times as many flight hours as the few remaining manned fighter aircraft. They also release more weapons than conventional aircraft, Reuters reported in April. For the first time, the top Air Force general in the country was trained as a drone pilot before he deployed, a move he said reflected the importance of unmanned aircraft in the broader military mission. "Our airmen are flying persistent intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and strike missions all across Afghanistan," Major General Jeff Taliaferro told Reuters in Kabul, referring to the drone program. "They're performing everything from counterterrorism to base defense, and really it's a capability a lot of our missions have come to rely on."

Rapid expansion

The latest generation of drones carries more and bigger weapons and an expanding payload of hi-tech sensors designed to handle a wider range of missions for the conventional military. The number of hours flown by the Air Force's newest attack drone, the MQ-9 Reaper, more than doubled globally between 2010 and 2015, to nearly as many hours as F-16 fighter jets, according to statistics from the Air Force Safety Center.

In a plan announced late last year, the Air Force proposed roughly \$3 billion in funding to expand its attack drone force further, adding 75 of the latest Reaper aircraft. It already fields at least 93 Reapers and 150 of the older MQ-1 Predators, both built by General Atomics, as well as 33 much larger Global Hawk surveillance UAVs, manufactured by Northrop Grumman. The US Army also operates a fleet of roughly 130 MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft, an upgraded version of the Predator, and all military services have thousands of smaller, mostly unarmed surveillance drones. One challenge for the US military is recruiting enough staff to operate a growing fleet and expanding range of roles. As many as 3,500 new personnel may be added to a workforce of roughly 1,700 pilots and sensor operators in a bid to expand the program and relieve stress and overwork, according to proposals released by the Air Force's Air Combat Command.

Full circle

While Afghan missions are flown via satellite link by pilots at bases in the United States, aircraft take off and land under the control of crews deployed to the airfields in Afghanistan. As a steady procession of Reapers rolled down the runways and into the bright Afghan sky, operators at Kandahar described life in on of the fastest-changing sectors of the mil-

itary. "My old job was going away, while this field is rapidly expanding," said Captain Bryan, a pilot who used to fly KC-135 refuelling aircraft. Kandahar's role as a drone centre in Afghanistan brings the drone full circle.

Fifteen years ago, a US drone made history over Kandahar when it fired the first weapon deployed by unmanned aircraft in combat, during a failed attempt to kill then-Taliban leader Mullah Omar in the first days of the US-led operation that ousted the hardline Islamists from power. On its way back to base, the drone fired its second missile at Kandahar airfield, then suspected of being occupied by Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters. At the height of the NATO coalition mission, Kandahar, which is also a civilian airport, hosted a range of military aircraft including F-16 fighter jets and C-130 cargo planes. Now, the only attack aircraft deployed here are about two dozen drones. Squeezed into sand-colored shipping containers just off the tarmac, pilots and sensor operators flip through checklists amid an array of monitors, touch screens, radio consoles and a secret chat system with which they talk to pilots in the United States.

At the beginning of the year, the squadron at Kandahar began flying new, extended-range Reapers, usually carrying four Hellfire missiles, one 500 lb GBU-12 bomb and an external fuel tank under the wings. That load has allowed the aircraft to be used for more than just hunting individuals, including close air support for troops fighting on the ground.

'Anything but a video game'

Almost 8,000 miles away, pilots sitting at another sun-bleached desert base, this time in the United States, are among the crews that take over a few minutes after takeoff and guide the aircraft during the mission. Sitting in dark, air-conditioned booths at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, pilots and sensor operators work closely with large teams of intelligence analysts who sift streams of real-time data transmitted by the drones on the other side of the planet.

While air strikes often grab the headlines, the vast majority of missions in Afghanistan involve hours of mind-numbing surveillance and intelligence gathering, crews say. The most revolutionary aspect of unmanned aircraft, crews add, is the combination of weapons and surveillance capabilities, which often provide more information than analysts can process. At Creech, crews handle nearly half of all the Air Force's 60 global drone flights on any given day. "For us it's anything but a video game," said Captain Tim, a pilot based at Creech, addressing one of the main criticisms leveled at the drone program. "From here you're having an impact on the battlefield." —Reuters

CASH KAO: CHINA'S TUTORS EARN FORTUNES ONLINE

By Tom Hancock

With a following of several million teenage fans, China's Liu Jie says he can earn nearly \$50,000 a month from his online videos and is often recognized on the street. But he is no pop star. A high school physics tutor, Liu belongs to a growing cohort of educators feeding the country's insatiable demand for after school online study. The industry is fuelled by the vast number of Internet users in China—the most in the world—combined with the annual university entrance exam, a national obsession that decides the fate of millions. The grueling two-day "gaokao" begins Tuesday, with police set to cordon off streets to ensure silence for students. "Because the gaokao is such a huge deal in China... that's where the main demand is," said Liu, fresh from recording a lecture on static electricity. Wiry and bespectacled, Liu was a private tutor before he began filming lessons for an online platform that

sells them to hungry students. His page on the platform shows a graduation certificate from China's top science university, while adverts of him appearing pensive appear elsewhere online. "Often people recognize me on the street, a parent recognized me just now," said Liu. "Students will often pursue a teacher like they pursue celebrities." When he reached the limit of 5,000 friends on social media platform Wechat, he added another account which quickly gained 3,000 more, mostly parents and students.

'Totally unexpected'

The almost unlimited size of an online classroom means that top teachers can earn a fortune. He whips out his iPhone, using the calculator to show how even relatively low fees of around 250 yuan (\$38) per class generate massive revenues from paying audiences that can reach tens of thousands. He can earn up to 300,000 yuan each month ahead of the exam, he said, generating an annual income of

about 2.8 million yuan—more than thirty times the standard wage of a high school teacher in Beijing. "I didn't think I could make so much money, it's totally unexpected," he said. "Teaching has always been seen as a poor profession."

China has long had the world's largest number of Internet users—now more than 650 million—but the rise of smartphones has pushed online courses into the mainstream. Reports of teachers making millions each year from such courses showed online teaching was "in the ascendant" said Xiong Bingqi, vice president of independent think tank 21st Century Education in Shanghai. "Teachers earning more than other online celebrities shows their abilities and the choices of consumers," he said.

Loyal fan

Ahead of the gaokao, high-school students study from soon after dawn to well beyond sunset. In 2012, the nation was shocked when it emerged that one school had provided students with intravenous drips of amino acids to give them strength to continue working. Cao Wei, an online mathematics tutor begins live-streaming his classes at 11:00 pm, often to an audience of several thousand. "I've shed more than seven pounds in the last two months," he said of his late-night schedule.

But he can earn some 80,000 yuan each month catering to teenagers drawn to his straightforward approach. "He's different than teachers at school. They are often long-winded. Cao is more simple," 17-year-old high school student Li Jiayao said. "I am his loyal fan." Celebrity teachers are not unique to mainland China. In South Korea, online cram school tutors can earn as much as \$8 million each year. Hong Kong is home to television celebrity "tutor kings" and "queens" who also rake in huge sums.

But as the popularity of online tutoring soars in China, authorities seem concerned that school teachers may abandon the classroom for greener pastures online. An education ministry official told state media in March that school teachers moving to Internet education might "affect their ordinary classes", but added such moves would not be banned. In the face of rampant online piracy, Liu said he must keep his material fresh to maintain his following. "Online pressure is very big. If you're not active for a couple of weeks, people will quickly forget you." "It's very similar to being a celebrity." — AFP



BEIJING: Chinese high school physics tutor Liu Jie gives an online lesson from a recording studio in Beijing. With a following of several million teenage fans, China's Liu Jie says he can earn nearly \$50,000 a month from his online videos and is often recognized on the street. — AFP

LACK OF FEDERATION HURTING INDIAN BOXING: MARY KOM

BENGALURU: The lack of an effective Indian boxing federation has damaged the competitiveness of the sport and contributed to the decline of boxing in the country, women's Olympic flyweight bronze medallist M.C. Mary Kom said yesterday. With no athletes representing India in women's boxing at this year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Kom said not enough was being done to promote the sport in the country. "There is no federation (in India)... there is no proper organised national (event) for the last two-three years. So no competition. If we have more competition every boxer will train regularly," Kom told Reuters. "Even other categories too but now the competition is getting tougher and tougher. It's not easy to qualify," added Kom, whose life inspired a Bollywood biopic in 2014. "Even men's boxing also. Last Olympics, seven qualified, now only one. They have a last qualification. If none qualify after that then we only have one." Kom, who won India's first Olympic medal in women's boxing in London four years ago, will not be able to represent India at the Rio Games as she needed to reach the semi-finals of the world championships but lost in the second round last month. — Reuters



GERMAN TV TO AIR 'PROOF' OF RUSSIA'S HAND IN DOPING

BERLIN: German public broadcaster ARD, which first brought the Russian doping storm to light, said yesterday it would air new footage implicating Russia's sports minister in what it described as "state-controlled doping". The explosive allegations in ARD's December 2014 documentary "Secret Doping Dossier: How Russia produces its Winners" have touched off investigations that led to a raft of Russian athletes being stripped of their Olympic medals. World athletics' governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), also imposed a ban on Russian athletes from competing in international track and field events over claims of state-sponsored doping. But ARD said it would air more evidence that accuses the Russian government of being "directly involved in the cover-up of the state-controlled doping". The new documentary called "The Secret World of Doping: Showdown for Russia" is due to be broadcast late today, just nine days before the IAAF is set to rule on whether to reinstate the Russian athletics federation ahead of the August 5-21 Rio Olympics. —AFP

PECHSTEIN LOSES DOPING CASE IN GERMAN COURT

BERLIN: A top German court yesterday ruled against speed skating icon Claudia Pechstein in her bid to seek compensation from the International Skating Union over a two-year doping ban. The Berlin-born policewoman is the most successful Olympic speed skater of all time, having won five Olympic gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The 44-year-old has competed in six Olympics (1992, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2014), but missed the 2010 Vancouver Games after a two-year ban (2009-11) for blood doping. Pechstein has always contested the ban, saying the blood anomalies were caused by an illness, and sought compensation of five million euros from the ISU, skating's world governing body. "We sportspeople are obviously second-class citizens. What I've heard today is definitely not acceptable for me," Pechstein told AFP subsidiary SID after the court's ruling in Karlsruhe. The speed skater said she could now take her case to the German constitutional court, also broaching the creation of a union for sportspeople. "It will still last a few years. But I have the endurance and I'll fight until the end," she said. The ISU welcomed the ruling by the Bundesgerichtshof. —AFP



PHILADELPHIA: Kris Bryant #17 of the Chicago Cubs looks to home plate umpire Vic Carapazza who rules him safe on a fielder's choice off the bat of Matt Szczur as catcher Cameron Rupp #29 of the Philadelphia Phillies holds up the ball in the seventh inning of a game at Citizens Bank Park on June 6, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. —AFP

LESTER DOMINATES PHILLIES AGAIN AS CUBS WIN 6-4

PHILADELPHIA: Jon Lester pitched eight scoreless innings, Jason Heyward hit a two-run homer and the Chicago Cubs held off the Philadelphia Phillies 6-4 on Monday night. Lester (7-3) improved to 6-0 in eight career starts against the Phillies while lowering his ERA against them to 1.46. He struck out nine, walked none and allowed four hits. Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo and Dexter Fowler each had three hits for the Cubs, who won their 11th in 13 games while extending their best start since 1900 to a major league-leading 40-16. Chicago moved 10 games in front of second-place Pittsburgh in the NL Central. Philadelphia scored all its runs in the ninth against Chicago's bullpen. Freddy Galvis hit a three-run homer and Tommy Joseph had a solo shot before Hector Rondon earned his 11th save. Adam Morgan (1-5) lost his fifth straight start. Philadelphia has dropped nine of 11 overall.

TIGERS 11, BLUE JAYS 0

Michael Fulmer allowed two singles over six innings in another outstanding performance, and Justin Upton and James McCann homered to lift Detroit over Toronto. Fulmer (6-1) has won four consecutive starts. The rookie struck out five and walked three in his third straight without allowing a run. Detroit has won four in a row. J.A. Happ (6-3) yielded six runs and six hits in five innings. McCann's three-run homer opened the scoring in the second, and Upton added a two-run shot in the third.

ORIOLES 4, ROYALS 1

Mark Trumbo and Matt Wieters hit solo homers in the seventh inning to back a sparkling pitching performance by Mike Wright, and Baltimore extended Kansas City's losing streak to five games. Manny Machado also homered for the Orioles, who have won five of six - all in come-

from-behind fashion. Wright and Kansas City left-hander Danny Duffy were locked in a scoreless duel until the Royals pushed across an unearned run in the seventh. Trumbo led off the bottom half with his 19th home run, and Wieters connected with one out to chase Duffy (1-1). Adam Jones capped the uprising with an RBI double. Machado homered off Kelvin

the eighth inning, Aroldis Chapman quickly returned to form and New York rallied past Los Angeles. The Yankees returned from a 4-6 road trip by beating the Angels for the sixth straight time at home. Beltran was the first batter Jose Alvarez faced after relieving starter Matt Shoemaker. Two-out singles by Jacoby Ellsbury and Brett Gardner prompted the Angels to go to

Yankees seventh, tying it at 2.

RANGERS 6, ASTROS 5

Rougned Odor hit a game-ending double to lift Texas over Houston. Odor, who also homered and had a sacrifice fly, drove in the winning run with an opposite-field shot that ricocheted off the left-field wall and past Colby Rasmus. Adrian Beltre scored from first base after reaching on a fielder's choice. Texas is 7-0 against the Astros this season and has won 11 in row at home against its AL West rival. Jose Altuve had three hits for the Astros, including a three-run homer. Odor's sacrifice fly in the seventh tied it at 5-all. Nomar Mazara singled off Ken Giles (0-3) with one out in the ninth for his fourth hit. Sam Dyson (1-1) worked a perfect ninth for the win. The Rangers, whose 35-22 record is the best in the American League, have won four in a row and eight of nine. The Astros had won 11 of 13.

RAYS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Desmond Jennings had three hits, including a home run, and Tim Beckham also went deep to power Tampa Bay past Arizona. Chris Archer (4-7) struck out 12 over six innings for the Rays, who have won four straight. Archer allowed three runs and five hits in his first win since May 17. Alex Colome pitched the ninth for his 16th save in as many chances. David Peralta homered in his first game off the disabled list for the Diamondbacks, who have lost 17 of 25. Arizona is 9-21 at home, the second-worst record in the majors behind Atlanta. Beckham hit a two-run homer and Jennings added an RBI double during a four-run fifth against Robbie Ray (2-5), who hit his first career home run.

INDIANS 3, MARINERS 1

Trevor Bauer pitched 7 1/3 strong innings and Rajai Davis homered to lead

Cleveland over Seattle for its sixth straight victory. Bauer (4-2) gave up one run and scattered five hits. He walked one and struck out 10 to earn his first victory since May 10. Bryan Shaw got the final two outs in the eighth and Cody Allen worked the ninth for his 12th save. It's the longest winning streak for the Indians since Aug. 25-31 and they extended their lead over Kansas City in the AL Central to 2 1/2 games. James Paxton (0-2) took the loss for the Mariners, who have dropped four straight. He allowed one earned run and struck out 10 in six innings.

PADRES 7, BRAVES 2

Yangervis Solarte hit a three-run homer and Matt Kemp drove in two runs as San Diego beat Atlanta in a matchup of last-place teams. The Braves lost their fifth straight game and dropped to 16-41, worst in the majors. The Padres improved to 24-35. Christian Friedrich (3-1) held the Braves to two runs in 6 2/3 innings. Solarte homered off Williams Perez (2-2) in the third. Wil Myers and Kemp were aboard on singles. Perez left with soreness in his right triceps.

ROCKIES 6, DODGERS 1

Tyler Chatwood pitched eight strong innings, Trevor Story and Gerardo Parra homered, and Colorado held Los Angeles to one hit. Chatwood (7-4) kept up his road dominance this season by limiting the Dodgers to Howie Kendrick's second-inning single. The right-hander leads the majors with a 5-0 road record and a 0.43 ERA, but at Coors Field he is 2-4 with a 5.30 ERA. Story hit a three-run shot in the sixth off starter Mike Bolsinger (1-3) on the first pitch after Carlos Gonzalez was intentionally walked. Colorado had lost seven of nine, and 13 of 16 against Los Angeles. The Rockies snapped the Dodgers' four-game winning streak and their seven-game home winning streak. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

Chicago Cubs 6, Philadelphia 4; Baltimore 4, Kansas City 1; NY Yankees 5, LA Angels 2; Detroit 1, Toronto 0; Texas 6, Houston 5; Tampa Bay 6, Arizona 4; San Diego 7, Atlanta 2; Cleveland 3, Seattle 1; Colorado 6, LA Dodgers 1.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Baltimore	33	23	.589	-	Washington	34	23	.596	-
Boston	33	24	.579	0.5	NY Mets	31	24	.564	2
Toronto	31	28	.525	3.5	Miami	30	27	.526	4
NY Yankees	27	30	.474	6.5	Philadelphia	28	30	.483	6.5
Tampa Bay	26	30	.464	7	Atlanta	16	41	.281	18
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	32	24	.571	-	Chicago Cubs	40	16	.714	-
Kansas City	30	27	.526	2.5	Pittsburgh	30	26	.536	10
Chicago White Sox	29	28	.509	3.5	St. Louis	30	27	.526	10.5
Detroit	29	28	.509	3.5	Milwaukee	26	31	.456	14.5
Minnesota	16	40	.286	16	Cincinnati	21	36	.368	19.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	35	22	.614	-	San Francisco	35	24	.593	-
Seattle	31	26	.544	4	LA Dodgers	31	28	.525	4
Houston	28	31	.475	8	Colorado	26	31	.456	8
LA Angels	26	31	.456	9	Arizona	25	35	.417	10.5
Oakland	25	32	.439	10	San Diego	24	35	.407	11

Herrera in the eighth. Demoted to the minors last week but recalled the following day when reliever Darren O'Day went on the disabled list, Wright (3-3) allowed one run and five hits over seven innings. Zach Britton earned his 18th save.

YANKEES 5, ANGELS 2

Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer in

their bullpen, and Beltran struck for his 14th homer. Andrew Miller (3-0) struck out Kole Calhoun, Mike Trout and Albert Pujols in order in the eighth. Chapman, who blew a save chance for the first time this season Sunday in Baltimore, pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save. Brian McCann and Starlin Castro hit back-to-back home runs off Shoemaker (3-7) with two outs in the

RECORDS TUMBLE IN ENGLISH COUNTY ONE-DAY GAME

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: The record books were rewritten twice in an astonishing run spree at Nottinghamshire's Trent Bridge ground on Monday which saw a record English one-day partnership and the most aggregate runs scored in a List A match.

By the close in the Royal London One-Day Cup game between Notts and Northamptonshire, statisticians were checking to see if there had ever been a day like it anywhere in the world.

The big hitting began from the start with Nottinghamshire's Riki Wessels and Michael Lumb

sharing a record one-day partnership in England of 342 from 39.2 overs.

Wessels eventually departed for a career-best 146, from 97 balls, while Lumb went on to make 184, also his best and a record for the county, as Nottinghamshire posted 445 for 8, the second highest score for a List A match in the world.

The runs continued to flow when Northamptonshire chased down what would have been another record for a team batting second. But they fell short despite 128 from Rory Kleinveldt.

Their total of 425 gave Nottinghamshire victory by 20 runs in a game which saw an unprecedented 870 runs scored in the day, three more than Surrey and Glamorgan managed in 2002.

Afterwards Lumb joked: "It was a bit twitchy. What a great game of cricket. Never in doubt."

"I was surprised they took it that deep but it's credit to them. Rory Kleinveldt was unbelievable. It was an unbelievable game. I don't think we could do too much more. I'm proud of all the boys."

The Nottinghamshire stand beat the previous

record in England of 318 by Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid for India against Sri Lanka at Taunton in the 1999 World Cup.

Lumb and Wessels' English record is the third-highest partnership in List A games, behind the 372 which Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels took off Zimbabwe in the 2015 World Cup.

The record for the highest team total is held by Surrey, who made 496-4 against Gloucestershire in 2007. List A matches are played over 40-60 overs. — Reuters

'LIKE PUNCHING A MOUNTAIN', INDIAN RECALLS ALI BOUTS

MUMBAI: Former Indian amateur boxer Haroon Khan bubbles with excitement and bravado as he recalls his two bouts with his hero, the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali, three decades ago.

Khan, now 72, went along to a charity fight night in India's Mumbai in January 1980 hoping merely to catch a glimpse of 'The Greatest' in action.

Instead, he got closer to his idol than he could ever have imagined, going blow for blow with ex-heavyweight champion Ali in the ring for three rounds of three minutes each.

"Beforehand my dad and I were just joking but he said, 'If you get the chance then box him,'" Khan told AFP, his eyes wide and grinning at the memory.

"Then during the event Ali shouted out to the audience and said, 'Is there anybody who will box with me in India?' 'Nobody was standing up. So I stood up, put my hand in the air and said, 'I will accept the challenge, I will box you.'"

Khan, a national bantamweight champion in 1964, had always been a massive fan of Ali, who died on Friday aged 74 after health problems complicated by a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

In his tiny south Mumbai flat, Khan removes a photo album from a plastic bag that he says holds his "treasure"-photographs and newspaper reports documenting that first bout with Ali.

'AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?'

"When I put my hand up Ali kept saying, 'You want to box with me? You want to box with me? Aren't you scared of me?, Aren't you scared of me?'" Khan explains.

"I said, 'No, I'm scared of Allah but I'm not scared of you. I'm Haroon Khan, I'm from India. You're a boxer, I'm a boxer, so let's box.'"

"Ali was fooling with me. He asked, 'What do you box, oranges or bananas?' I replied that I box boxers and I'm ready to box you."

Khan, who now coaches youngsters and keeps fit with a punchbag in his home, remembers thinking that because he was an amateur and Ali was a professional he must be on his game.

"I felt I couldn't just joke around so I fought a serious fight. Ali was surprised by how good I was but when I punched him it felt like I was hitting a mountain."

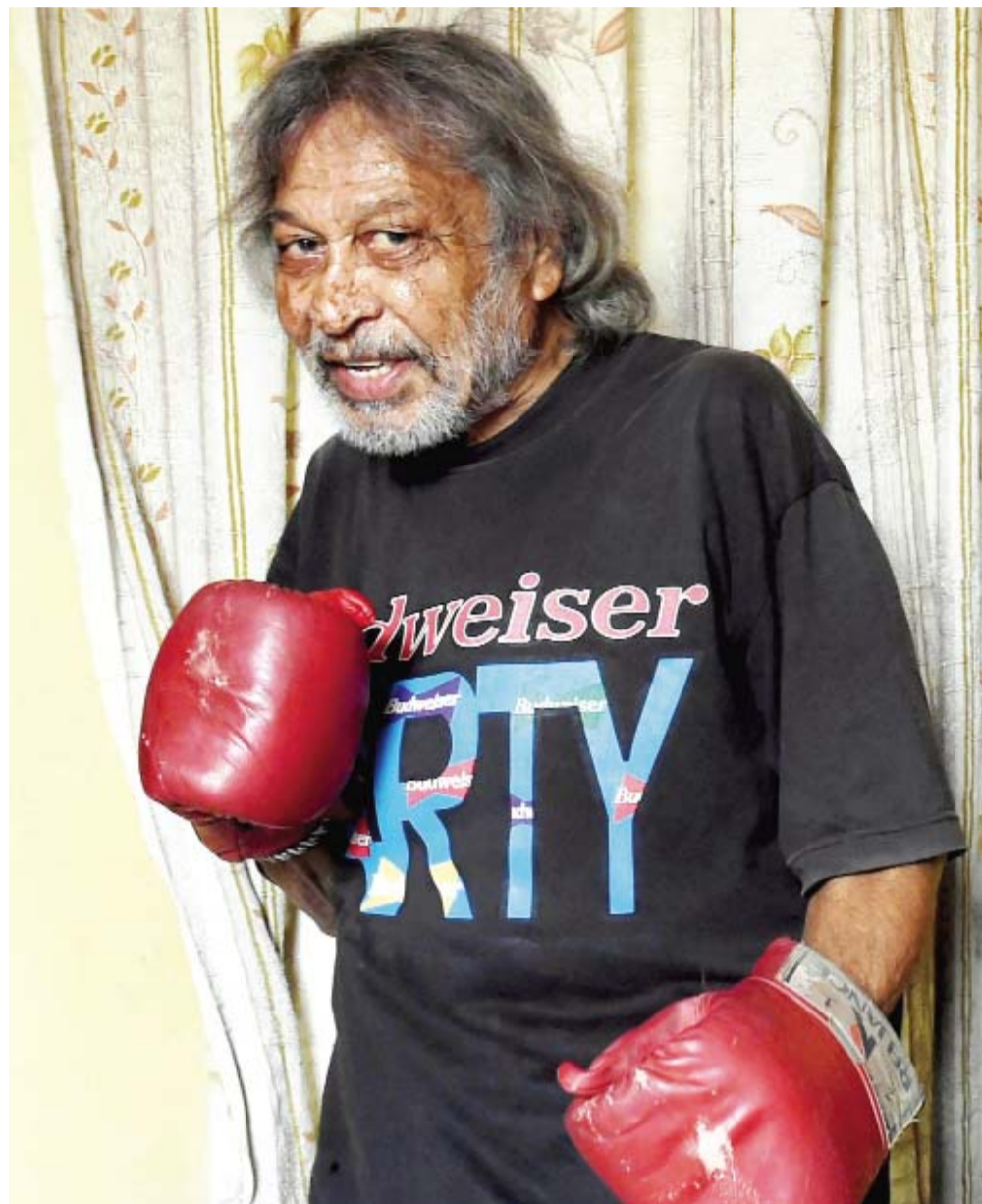
"Nothing happened. He didn't move at all. He just kept grinning. I wondered what sort of man is this? How much power does he have to take these punches?"

Ali, a three-time heavyweight world champion, was past his prime by 1980 but was still a year away from retirement.

He went easy on Khan during the first round of their exhibition bout, but the Indian boxer soon experienced the full force of Ali's powers.

"After the first round people started shouting at him saying, 'You're not boxing. We want to see a fight.'"

"In the second round he started to get seri-



MUMBAI: In this photograph taken on June 6, 2016, former Indian boxer Haroon Younis Khan, 72, who fought twice with his idol and boxing legend Muhammad Ali, strikes a pose like Ali after a practice session in Mumbai. Former Indian amateur boxer Haroon Khan bubbles with excitement and bravado as he recalls his two bouts with his hero, the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali, three decades ago. — AFP

ous. He was so fast. He started jabbing me and within a minute-and-a-half a whole side of my face was swelling," explains Khan, mimicking Ali's moves.

HEARTBROKEN

In the third round Ali displayed some of his famously quick footwork, but slipped and fell at one point. A photograph in Khan's album shows him smiling, standing over Ali after the fall.

"At the end he held my arm up and praised me to the crowd. 'I like this boy, I like his guts,' he said. He was a gentlemen boxer. I felt so lucky, happy and proud to have boxed him."

Two years later Khan saw a newspaper advert saying that Ali would be the star guest at an exhibition fight in the United Arab Emirates so he went along seeking a second bout.

Khan said he approached Ali at a press conference and he agreed to another three-round fight. "I was better prepared this time. I knew how he boxed. I kept guard, I covered myself," Khan proudly recalls, adding that the two of them went for dinner the next day.

Khan says he was heartbroken when his son called him on Saturday to say Ali had died.

"Tears just started to stream down my face." — AFP

ICC INISIST THEY HAVE LEARNT FROM MCCULLUM CASE

LONDON: The International Cricket Council said yesterday they had improved their procedures for handling evidence of match-fixing after coming under fire from Brendon McCullum. The former New Zealand captain, delivering the MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture at Lord's on Monday, recalled his anger that the evidence he gave against his old international team-mate Chris Cairns in a match-fixing court case in London last year was leaked prior to trial. "How can the game's governing body expect players to cooperate with it when it is then responsible for leaking confidential statements to the media?" McCullum, now playing for Lord's-based Middlesex in English cricket's domestic Twenty20 competition, said Monday.

The legal case ended with Cairns found not guilty and McCullum said he should have been given more warning from the outset of first giving evidence to the ICC in 2011 that he could be called as a witness in a court action. "I think

players deserve better from the ICC and that, in the future, the evidence gathering exercise has to be much more thorough, more professional. "In my opinion a person taking a statement should ensure that the witness is advised about what may occur."

Responding to McCullum's address the ICC acknowledged his stance but insisted they had not been the source of the leak.

'DISMAY'

"The ICC commended Brendon McCullum two years ago and continues to do so today for his brave, courageous and principled stand against corruption in cricket," the global governing body said in a statement. "The ICC also understood and shared his dismay at the leak of his confidential statement, which prompted a thorough and detailed investigation by the ICC."

"While the probe proved that the origin of the leak was not from within the ICC, it failed to

establish beyond doubt the actual source. "Nevertheless, the ICC has already put strong measures in place to ensure this type of incident is never repeated."

The statement added: "In 2014 (and unrelated to the leak of confidential information), a comprehensive review of the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit was carried out to review its processes, functions and resources. The review was conducted by the ICC's Integrity Working Party (IWP), which included independent corruption experts."

"All the recommendations of the IWP were reviewed and adopted by the ICC Board during the 2015 ICC Annual Conference in Barbados. "Every event or incident provides an organisation with opportunities to review its structures and measure its operations against best practice. This is exactly what the ICC has done in this particular case-it believes the outcome has been processes, procedures and resources which have been further bolstered and strengthened."

"The ICC reconfirms that it is doing absolutely everything in its power to fight the threat of corruption in the sport and will continue to do so. It also reaffirms its commitment to gain and retain the complete trust of cricketers, and to work in close co-operation with all stakeholders in cricket." The ICC were not the only cricket authority in McCullum's sights on Monday. Hard-hitting batsman McCullum said Lou Vincent, another former New Zealand team-mate had been harshly treated in receiving a life ban from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) after admitting engaging in spot-fixing-deliberately under-performing to stage a betting coup during a game-in county matches.

The ECB ban was applied worldwide and McCullum said: "I struggle with the severity of this when a player has cooperated fully and accepted responsibility. "It is vital that players found guilty of offences having acknowledged wrongdoing are shown a degree of clemency-failing which there seems to be very little incentive for them to come forward." — AFP

GILLESPIE STUMPS SPONSORS WITH VEGAN STANCE

LONDON: Yorkshire's Australian coach Jason Gillespie has risked the wrath of his English county's sponsors by claiming the "disgusting" dairy industry should be shut down.

Yorkshire are sponsored by Wensleydale Creamery, but that hasn't dissuaded Gillespie, who is a vegan, from revealing his opposition to the business.

The 41-year-old former Australia pace bowler, who has led his team to two County Championship titles, made it clear he is prepared to stand by his opinions in an interview with the Yorkshire Post on Tuesday.

Asked about any possible conflict with the company whose logo appears on Yorkshire's shirts, he said: "Yes, they are a sponsor. But it doesn't mean I agree with what they do."

"My wife and I often talk about it, because she's vegan as well. "I feel like I'm looking through eyes without

blinkers on. We treat animals like s**t, we really do - and in my opinion there's no justification for that."

"It's cruel and it's specicism at its very worst and I don't want to be part of it."

"I hope one day the dairy industry can be shut down. "I think it's disgusting and wrong on so many levels."

As for Yorkshire's shirt deal, he added: "It's out of my control, just like the fact that cricket balls are made of leather. "I'll have it out with people, I don't care. There's nothing wrong with standing up for what you believe in."

Responding to Gillespie's remarks, a spokesman for Wensleydale Creamery said: "That's a very bold statement, and I need to understand a bit more about what he's actually trying to say there."

"We are very proud sponsors. Our milk comes from over 40 local farms with very high standards of welfare." — AFP

BROAD HAS NO PROBLEMS FACING PAKISTAN'S AMIR

LONDON: Stuart Broad has insisted he won't have any issues playing against Mohammad Amir should the convicted spot-fixer make his Test return at Lord's next month.

Lord's was the venue six years ago when left-arm quick bowler Amir and two Pakistan team-mates were involved in the deliberate bowling of no-balls as part of a newspaper 'sting' operation to demonstrate the trio's willingness to take part in spot-fixing.

A teenager at the time and one of world cricket's undoubted rising stars, Amir was sent to jail by an English court and banned from all cricket worldwide for five years.

He has now served that ban and, unlike 2010 Pakistan captain Salman Butt and fellow paceman Mohammad Asif, Amir has now been included in the squad for a four-test series starting at Lord's on July 14.

Team officials are optimistic the 24-year-old will receive his British visa in the next couple of days following a special request for leniency from the Pakistan Cricket Board.

That the 2010 match, which England won by an innings, is now best remembered for the spot-fixing controversy rather than Broad's impressive 169 — his lone Test hundred-could rattle with the England fast-medium bowler.

But Broad, speaking at an event organised by England sponsor Hardy's wine on Monday, said: "I don't think any feelings will be dragged into this Test match from that one. "There are only four players in (this) England team from then, and Pakistan had a huge change-over. "So I don't think any ill-feeling or negativity from the players will have carried through."

Turning to Amir's possible return, Broad said: "I think he's served his time. "For quality of bowler, I don't think there is much doubt that he is up there with anyone. "I've not played him for six years, but in 2010 he was a constant threat and man of the series."

"It swung round corners for him."

However, citing the reaction of spectators at Lord's to England all-rounder Ben Stokes' controversial dismissal for obstructing the field in a one-day international against Australia last year, Broad said spectators at the 'home of cricket' may not welcome Amir back with open arms.

"The crowd might be a different story."

"There was a lively reaction to Ben Stokes' dismissal last year to Mitchell Starc, and it looked like a nasty atmosphere for a while."

RESULT DEVALUED'

As for his 2010 hundred-which surpassed the highest Test score achieved by his father Chris, a former England opening batsman-Broad does not feel it was tainted by the spot-fixing furore.

"I do look back at it, and I'm very proud of scoring a hundred at Lord's-and beating my dad's highest score."

"It's certainly not devalued in my mind. I still scored those runs and (I'm) still on the honours board."

Nevertheless, he added: "I think the result was devalued. We couldn't celebrate-we didn't celebrate-it was all a very strange time."

"The one-day series that followed was quite unpleasant, and the crowds reflected the bad feeling."

The ongoing England-Sri Lanka series has seen Broad displaced as the world's top-ranked Test bowler by new-ball colleague James Anderson.

Anderson's 18 wickets in the opening two matches have been central to England going 2-0 up in a three-match series ahead of this week's third Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's starting on Thursday.

"It's a lovely accolade for our partnership that we've both managed to climb up the rankings like that," said Broad, who has now dropped down to third place in the standings. "It's great to have a little bit of competition, and we are both really competitive guys." — AFP



MUMBAI: Indian cricketers Mandeep Singh (L), Dhawal Kulkarni (2L) and Jayant Yadav (R) look on as KL Rahul speaks during a pre-departure press conference on the eve of their tour to Zimbabwe in Mumbai yesterday. — AFP



LONDON: England's Stephen Finn during a nets session at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, yesterday. — AP

GOLD WOULD BE SWEET FOR FACTORY GIRL RATCHANOK

SYDNEY: As the humble daughter of factory workers at a Bangkok sweet-maker, badminton was a ticket out of poverty for Ratchanok Intanon, who hopes winning gold at the Rio Olympics might inspire more Thai girls to chase their dreams.

The 21-year-old will be among Thailand's main medal hopes in Brazil and one of the chief threats to China's chances of defending their astonishing sweep of all five badminton titles at the London Games.

Ratchanok is spurred by a painful memory of London, where, as a teenage sensation set to rock the Chinese establishment, she choked in a quarter-final when poised to defeat the tournament second seed, Wang Xin.

"Actually I think I had a chance to win

or (be) close to the medals," Ratchanok told Reuters ruefully in an interview in Sydney yesterday.

"But I think I lost with the experience, because that time I was still young and she was also good, world class. "So maybe... mentally she was better than me. "That time, I didn't feel good after losing. I felt like I didn't want to train again. I felt I didn't want to play badminton again. "But I had support. My family, who love me, just said that it's okay, you still have time. Just learn more."

Ratchanok did not wallow for too long. The following year, she became badminton's youngest world champion at the age of 18 when she stunned Olympic champion Li Xuerui in the final of her

home tournament in Guangzhou. Ratchanok may face Li this week at the Australian Badminton Open, the last major meeting before the Olympic tournament starts Aug. 11.

CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS

Ratchanok has had injury troubles and dips in form since her world title but has been in ominous condition in recent months, capturing three consecutive Superseries tournaments to rise to the world number one ranking in April.

She has since conceded it to Spain's two-time world champion Carolina Marin but her brief spell at the top sent Thailand into a frenzy.

Rather than shy away from the hype,

Ratchanok has embraced the expectation. "I hope that I can get the gold medal for Thailand," said Ratchanok, standing on a terrace at her hotel adjacent to Olympic stadiums built for the 2000 Sydney Games.

"It's not too difficult for me and I believe that I can do it." Ratchanok had an unusual route into badminton, being handed a racquet at the age of six and told to go play outside the factory where her parents worked making sweet Thai desserts.

Her tournament winnings and endorsements have been enough to help her parents start their own food business, while her achievements have won her friends in high places.

After becoming Thailand's first world number one, Ratchanok played a game

with Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha during a visit to government house.

During the meeting she asked him if her Chinese coach's application to become a Thai citizen could be expedited, local media reported.

Xie Zhuhua, who once battled China's current head coach Li Yongbo during competition in the 1990s, has coached Ratchanok since her junior days and is seen as key to her ability to unlock the games of her Chinese rivals.

"He just takes care of me like I'm his daughter, because he also doesn't have (one)," Ratchanok said of their special relationship. "He loves me like a daughter and takes care of me. For me, he's like a second father, so I just do my best." — Reuters

MURRAY SHOULD CONSIDER RE-HIRING LENDL: MCENROE

LONDON: French open runner-up Andy Murray should consider re-hiring Ivan Lendl as his coach ahead of Wimbledon, according to American seven-times grand slam champion John McEnroe.

The two parted company in March 2014 after a successful three-year relationship in which Murray won the 2012 US Open, 2012 Olympic gold and the 2013 Wimbledon title.

He has not added to his two grand slam titles since and the 29-year-old split with coach Amelie Mauresmo this year. "I think clearly my old rival Ivan Lendl made a positive difference with Andy," the American told the Daily Telegraph.

"I am not sure if the baggage that took place when they broke up... I don't know if that was really mutual or if it was Andy or Ivan. I don't know if it is like going back out with your ex-wife or ex-girlfriend.

"But it would not surprise me and it might even make sense. It might not work. But it is an interesting thought." Murray currently has former British player Jamie Delgado in his entourage, but many of the top-ranked men work with so-called 'super coaches'.

World number one Novak Djokovic has six-times major winner Boris Becker in his corner, Kei Nishikori works with former

French Open champion Michael Chang and Milos Raonic will tap into McEnroe's grasscourt knowledge for Wimbledon.

Even 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer has gone down the same route, previously working with Stefan Edberg.

"It's been a win-win for Boris and Novak," McEnroe said of Djokovic's partnership with the German.

McEnroe even said he would have been interested in working with Murray. "Andy is extremely professional. He won a couple of majors. So you're talking about the cream of the crop," he said.

"When you look at someone who's that good, you're always interested... (but) I don't recall ever getting a call. There was never any discussion."

Murray, who reached his first French open final last week where he lost to Djokovic, appears to be in no hurry to recruit a new coach, but McEnroe believes the world number two could look at bringing in someone to work with Delgado.

"I mean he has got Delgado, so he has a coach, but he might want to bring in a second guy—the 'looking for some extra attention' guy. I fall into that category too, by the way—that was my attempt at a joke," he added. — Reuters



SAN JOSE: Pittsburgh Penguins' Matt Murray, right, defends against San Jose Sharks' Joonas Donskoi (27) during the second period of Game 4 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals on Monday, in San Jose, Calif. At center is Penguins' Olli Maatta (3). — AP

PENGUINS BEAT SHARKS 3-1 TO TAKE 3-1 SERIES LEAD

LOS ANGELES: The Pittsburgh Penguins defeated the Sharks 3-1 in San Jose on Monday to move within one victory of capturing their fourth Stanley Cup championship.

The Penguins used their suffocating speed to overcome the Sharks, taking a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven NHL championship series. "This is the hardest hockey I've witnessed in all the years I've been in this league," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "You've got to work for every inch of ice." Pittsburgh will have a chance to seal the title when they host game five on Thursday, while the Sharks will be battling to force a game six.

The Penguins opened the scoring for the fourth straight game, when defenseman Ian Cole threw a Phil Kessel rebound past Sharks goalie Martin Jones at 7:36 of the opening period.

The goal not only was Cole's first of the playoffs, but his first in 105 games, including regular season and playoffs.

Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin scored his first goal of the series and fifth of the playoffs nine seconds after Melker Karlsson of the Sharks was

sent off for interference at 2:28 of the second period. Malkin had an easy tap-in as he slipped behind the Sharks defense on the far post, where teammate Phil Kessel hit him with a perfect feed from above the left circle.

"Malkin's overall game was really good, at both ends of rink," Sullivan said. "(He's) so hard to defend. The puck follows him. It's one of his strongest games."

Karlsson spoiled Pittsburgh goalie Matt Murray's shutout bid with his fourth goal of the playoffs, picking up a rebound of Brenden Dillon's blocked shot and beating Murray to make it 2-1 at 8:07 of the third.

But Murray finished with 23 saves and Eric Fehr scored his third goal of the playoffs for the Penguins at 17:58 of the final frame to send Pittsburgh home with a commanding series lead.

OPPORTUNITY

The Penguins are well aware, however, that their lead is not insurmountable. They built a 3-1 edge over Tampa Bay in the first round of the playoffs in 2011 only to lose the next three

games, and did the same against the New York Rangers in the second round in 2014. "We've earned an opportunity, and that's it," Pittsburgh forward Matt Cullen said. "We haven't done anything yet and it's easy to get far ahead of yourself."

Sharks coach Peter DeBoer said the Penguins' quick starts were putting San Jose under pressure and he again shuffled personnel on his forward lines. "When you have the lead, you can play differently and feel more comfortable getting into a four-line rhythm," DeBoer said. "You can put your guys out there, trust them, because there's not that pressure we have to create a chance and score a goal."

Sharks forward Chris Tierney said San Jose must be quicker off the mark if they want to have a chance to rally in the series.

"We've got to get the first goal," Tierney said. "It's huge. We're good when we have the lead and they're good when they have the lead."

But Tierney insisted the Sharks have plenty of fight left. "This group doesn't get too frustrated," he said. "We just have to keep going." — AFP

SERENA TOPS SHARAPOVA AS HIGHEST PAID SPORTSWOMAN

LOS ANGELES: Two days after her stunning loss to Garbine Muguruza in the French Open final, Serena Williams scored a different win on Monday, when Forbes Magazine reported she has overtaken Maria Sharapova as the world's highest-paid sportswoman.

Williams earned \$28.9 million over the past 12 months, the financial magazine reported in an article posted on its website. Russian tennis star Sharapova had held the title for the past 11 years.

Williams, 34, has dominated her sport for more than a decade. She won her second Grand Slam in 2002 before going on to win 19 more since then. After falling at Roland Garros on Saturday, she vowed to keep trying to equal Steffi Graf's Open-era record of 22 Grand Slam titles.

Williams's career prize money of \$77.6 million amounts to more than twice as much as any other sportswoman's. However, Sharapova dominated in endorsement profits before companies including Nike, American Express, Porsche and TAG Heuer distanced themselves after she tested positive for the recently banned drug meldonium earlier this year.

Sharapova earned \$21.9 million over the past 12 months, down almost \$8 million from the previous year, Forbes said. American mixed martial arts star Ronda Rousey was third on the list with \$14 million, just ahead of NASCAR stock car driver Danica Patrick, who earned \$13.9 million.

Meanwhile, teenager Taylor Fritz earned the chance to face his hero Roger Federer after the American defeated an unranked French qualifier yesterday to reach the second round in Stuttgart.

Federer will be playing his first match in nearly a month after recovering from back pain and skipping the French Open, as he ramps up his preparations for Wimbledon.

Number 65 Fritz has had time on court with the Swiss legend-a

Wimbledon training session a year ago but booked his place into the match of his life with a 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1 win over Fabrice Martin on the grass at the Weissenhof Club.

Fritz, 18, said he will not worry with nerves when he faces one of the best players on the planet. The teenager said he had watched and admired Federer as a boy aged 11. "I never thought then that I'd be playing Federer in singles and teaming with (Juan Martin) Del Potro in doubles (this week). "I cannot remember the first time I heard the name of Federer or saw him on TV. But it's amazing to play him in the next round.

"I grew up in the generation when he was just dominating everyone. It's crazy to be stepping onto the court with him, I never thought that would happen."

Unseeded Argentine wildcard Del Potro posted a victory over Grigor Dimitrov, with the 6-4, 6-2 result marking the fourth straight first-round loss for the one-time Bulgarian phenomenon. "I'm surprised with my level," said Del Potro, who is working his way back after a wrist injury and sealed the win with an ace.

"I didn't expect to play that well. Now I have another chance to get a few more matches. I'm just glad to be playing tennis again.

"I have the chance to make a start in the grass court season for the first time in a long time. My body responded well to this match."

The former world number four next plays Australian John Millman, who beat French eighth seed Lukas Pouille 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-4.

Czech qualifier Radek Stepanek, still going strong at age 37, booked into the second round as he beat Denis Istomin 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. Viktor Troicki became the first seed to exit, to German Florian Mayer 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

American Denis Kudla beat Dusan Lajovic of Serbia 6-0, 6-2. — Agencies



Serena Williams

CAVS NEED BETTER IRVING, 'PUNKED' LOVE IN FINALS

NEW YORK: Shaquille O'Neal played on the last team to overcome a 2-0 deficit in the NBA Finals, so he knows what it takes. For Cleveland, he thinks it starts with better play from Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love, who he said is being "punked" by Draymond Green.

"Because remember last year, the story line was, 'OK, Golden State, you won a championship, but that's because Kyrie and Kevin Love weren't playing.' Now they're playing, now you've got to play like you know how to play," O'Neal said Monday night.

Irving averaged 18 points but shot just 33 percent in the first two games. Love was just 9 for 24 from the floor in Oakland, California, and his status for Game 3 in Cleveland on Wednesday is unknown because of a concussion.

He's been no match for Green, who scored 28 points in the Warriors' 110-77 Game 2 stomping. "Kevin Love's getting punked by Draymond, he really is," O'Neal said during an interview with The Associated Press. "I hate to be the one to say it, but he has to step up. You can't let a guy do the muscle thing in your face and you don't respond."

O'Neal said his Miami Heat never lost their belief in the 2006 finals, when they dropped the first two games in Dallas and were in deep trouble in Game 3 before storming back to win four straight. "We didn't feel like we were down and we knew we were better than that team," he said. "Our whole message was just one game at a time because they're up, the pressure's not on them. Once you start to squeeze, the pressure starts to be on them."

He thinks the Cavaliers can still get back into this series, though he's not sure if they can join the three teams to come back from 2-0 down in the Finals.

O'Neal, who provided analysis for NBA TV in Games 1 and 2, was in New York to take part in an event for American Express card members with his

former Los Angeles Lakers coach, Phil Jackson.

Jackson's Chicago Bulls overcame a 2-0 deficit against the Knicks in the 1993 Eastern Conference finals en route to one of his NBA-record 11 championships as a coach. He recalls that series swinging when Michael Jordan became enraged after press accounts of his trip to Atlantic City following practice between Games 1 and 2 and "played like a man possessed."

"Sometimes it takes something like that," Jackson said, adding that LeBron James might need to find something that gets him to play with equal passion.

The Warriors' 73 victories broke the Bulls' 1996 record, but O'Neal said his 2001 Lakers would have beaten them. That team set an NBA record by going 15-1 in the postseason for the second of three straight championships under Jackson, back when O'Neal could be an even bigger physical force before rules changes loosened the game for free-flowing offenses like Golden State's to thrive.

"If you're using those rules, we'd win. Now we use these rules these days, we'd still win, because you wouldn't be allowed to touch me, you wouldn't be allowed to touch Kobe," O'Neal said. "So yeah, that's how I always look at it." — AP



PARIS: This file photo taken on June 04, 2016 shows Serbia's Novak Djokovic training with his coach Boris Becker (L) at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open in Paris on June 4, 2016. German tennis legend Boris Becker said yesterday he considers himself a better coach than player after overseeing Novak Djokovic's victory in the French Open. — AF

FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH FOR WALES COACH COLEMAN

CARDIFF: For Wales manager Chris Coleman, who has led his country to a first major tournament since 1958, the greatest triumph of his managerial career sprang from his deepest tragedy.

Coleman, 45, only took up the job following the death of his close friend and former Wales team-mate Gary Speed from an apparent suicide in November 2011. Coleman described it as the "worst, worst, worst" day of his life and when Wales sealed their place at Euro 2016 last October, his thoughts quickly turned to Speed.

"I will be raising a glass to my good friend Gary Speed, obviously who is no longer with us, but always in my thoughts-our thoughts," he said. "Gary Speed played his part and I'm sure he is smiling tonight."

Born in Swansea, south Wales, on June 10, 1970, Coleman was an avid Liverpool fan as a youngster and joined Manchester City's youth set-up, only to leave at the age of 17, citing homesickness.

He returned to his hometown with Swansea City and would go on to represent Crystal Palace, Blackburn Rovers and Fulham at centre-back, as well as winning 32 caps for Wales, before a broken leg sustained in a car crash forced him into early retirement in October 2002.

Initially employed as a coach under Jean Tigana at Fulham, he succeeded the Frenchman as manager in April 2003 and confounded expectations by leading the ambitious west London club to a ninth-place finish in his first full season.

But despite establishing Fulham in the top flight,

he could not sustain his initial success and was eventually dismissed in April 2007.

LOST PASSPORT

There followed varied subsequent spells with Spanish side Real Sociedad, Coventry City and Greek club Larissa, before Speed's untimely passing opened the door for him to take charge of Wales in February 2012. The gum-chewing, perma-tanned Coleman was not a universally popular appointment and made a slow start, with a 6-1 loss to Serbia in World Cup qualifying in September 2012 prompting him to consider walking away. There was further embarrassment for Coleman the following September, when he lost his passport prior to a match in Macedonia, causing him to miss a pre-match training session. But the

beginning of qualifying for Euro 2016 was to prove a watershed moment as Coleman's introduction of a 3-5-1-1 system turned Wales into a formidable defensive unit armed with the break-neck counter-attacking pace of Real Madrid star Gareth Bale.

With Bale contributing seven goals, Wales took Group B by storm, winning four points against much-fancied Belgium and securing a place at a major tournament for the first time since the 1958 World Cup.

Drawn alongside Russia, Slovakia and old rivals England at the Euro, Coleman says that Wales will not be going to France simply to make up the numbers.

"We can't be going there thinking, 'It'll be nice,'" he said. "I think we've got the sort of players where we can soak it up and on our day we can hurt anybody." Speed would no doubt approve. — AFP



MONTPELLIER: Switzerland's players practice during a training session at the team's training ground at the Mosson stadium in Montpellier yesterday, three days ahead of the beginning of the Euro 2016 European football championships. — AFP

SWISS FOOTBALL BANKING ON XHAKA AT EURO 2016

ZURICH: Granit Xhaka's transfer to Arsenal for a fee reported to be about 40 million euros means there is pressure on the Swiss midfielder to prove his worth at the European Championship finals.

Despite being just 23, the rising star has been capped 41 times, with former Swiss national coach Ottmar Hitzfeld branding Xhaka a "young (Bastian) Schweinsteiger," in a widely quoted comparison to the German football great.

Xhaka's performances with the Bundesliga's Borussia Mönchengladbach and previously with Swiss club Basel made him a target for English Premier League clubs. Arsenal believe they have one of the best deals of the transfer window. Liverpool and Bayern Munich were also watching the Swiss lynchpin. Xhaka will be a key player in Switzerland's drive to beat low expectations and make a run at the European Championship.

FACING HIS BROTHER

Xhaka was born in Switzerland, but like other

key players on the Swiss side, has Albanian-Kosovar roots.

His parents were among some 300,000 Kosovars who moved to Switzerland to escape the territory's brutal independence war with Serbia in the 1990s.

That has put Xhaka along with Swiss teammate and Stoke City star Xherdan Shaqiri at the centre of a touchy-and sometimes xenophobic-debate in the federation over the national side's identity.

Countless Swiss fans simply want to see the best possible players on the pitch.

But the country, perhaps more so than some other European nations, is known for anti-migrant sentiment which has at times seeped into public discussion about the football team.

A 2012 World Cup qualifying match against Albania was a flashpoint moment.

With Switzerland leading 2-0 in the 84th minute, Xhaka had what appeared to be an uncontested shot at the Albanian net, but sent

the ball softly towards the keeper. Swiss TV commentator Sascha Ruefer questioned if Xhaka had missed deliberately because of his Albanian roots.

The comments were roundly rejected, with the team and most media dismissing any doubts about Xhaka's allegiance.

But Xhaka has also played a role in fuelling speculation that he may prefer to compete with another nation's crest on his chest. In multiple media interviews, he has made clear that full recognition of Kosovo's national team by FIFA could inspire him to play for the territory where his parents were born.

Kosovo is not a United Nations member and FIFA has only cleared its team to compete in friendlies.

Xhaka will therefore be playing for Switzerland when their Euro 2016 bid starts on June 11 against Albania, a team that could include up to 6 Swiss-born players, including Xhaka's brother, Taulant. — AFP

DESCHAMPS SETS SIGHTS ON MORE HOST NATION GLORY

PARIS: Having scaled the international football heights as a player, Didier Deschamps now has his sights set on leading France to European Championship glory on home soil as coach.

Deschamps was captain of the French team that won the World Cup at home in 1998 and also led Les Bleus to glory at Euro 2000, so could hardly be better placed to handle the pressure and expectation that comes with being in charge of the Euro 2016 hosts.

When asked by sports daily L'Equipe if he felt France-also winners in 1984—could lift the Henri Delaunay trophy for a third time in July, Deschamps said: "We will go into it with that objective. We can be humble and ambitious."

The 47-year-old who hails from Bayonne, the capital of the French Basque Country and very much rugby territory, has been building towards the Euro climax. Exiting the 2014 World Cup in Brazil at the quarter-final stage was accepted, especially as some of the performances were encouraging and there was none of the off-field problems that marred previous major tournaments for the French.

But an exciting young team is now expected to deliver at Euro 2016. It has not been all plain sailing for Deschamps, who has had to deal with a sex-tape blackmail affair involving Karim Benzema. "Nothing shocks me anymore," he said, but he must hope the decision to drop the Real Madrid striker from the squad does not come back to bite the national federation.

Nevertheless, public opinion appears to back the decision and Deschamps has plenty of other attack options.

Unless things go badly wrong, Deschamps will be in charge through to the

2018 World Cup in Russia, even though he has hinted at missing the day-to-day rush of club management.

"I am flourishing," he told L'Equipe recently when asked if he were still enjoying himself.

"I am privileged. I would like to spend more time with my players, as would all national coaches, but I live very well with my duties. My objective is the Euro and I am focused exclusively on that." Schooled at Nantes under the legendary coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau, 'DD' was part of the France side that famously suffered a gut-wrenching last-gasp loss to Bulgaria to miss out on qualifying for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The heartache marked a generation, with the exception of Deschamps, who recovered to lift the World Cup at the Stade de France in 1998 and then the Euro two years later. He won the last of his 103 caps in September 2000 and retired from playing a year later at the age of just 32, bringing a premature end to a glittering career as a defensive midfielder.

'BLESSED'

Once described by Eric Cantona as a "water carrier", he captained Marseille to Champions League glory in 1993 and won the trophy again with Juventus in 1996. His coaching CV is remarkable too, featuring a Champions League final appearance with Monaco in 2004 and a French title triumph with Marseille in 2010.

He departed OM under a cloud in 2012, though, and might have done the same from the national team until a dramatic play-off win over Ukraine saw them snatch qualification for the last World Cup. — AFP



REYKJAVIK: Liechtenstein's Andreas Malin (L) and Martin Rechsteiner (R) vie for the ball with Iceland's Eiour Smari Guojohnsen during the Euro 2016 friendly football match between Iceland and Liechtenstein in Reykjavik on Monday. — AFP

HODGSON SEEKS ANSWER TO 'IMPOSSIBLE QUESTION'

LONDON: Studious and well-travelled, Roy Hodgson has the weighty responsibility of ending England's 50 years of major tournament heartache at the European Championship in France.

After a run to the quarter-finals at Euro 2012, less than two months after succeeding Fabio Capello as manager, Hodgson presided over a galling group-phase exit at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

A flawless Euro 2016 qualifying campaign, allied to the exciting emergence of Harry Kane and Dele Alli, has raised expectations, but Hodgson has greeted the fervour with characteristic caution.

"It's the impossible question," the 68-year-old said when asked whether, in light of England's stirring 3-2 victory over world champions Germany in March, his side could win the tournament.

"If I say 'yes', then it's 'Hodgson thinks we can win the Euros'. If I say it's a tough ask, then

'Hodgson has no confidence in the team.'

"We still don't really know how this young group would perform in tournament conditions against much more experienced teams like Germany, who are used to reaching finals, and France as the home nation.

"But I believe in the team. Absolutely."

Having previously failed in a high-profile post at Liverpool, Hodgson was seen as an underwhelming choice to succeed Capello when the Italian abruptly stepped down in February 2012.

England performed creditably at Euro 2012, falling to Italy on penalties in the last eight, and qualified for the World Cup with an unbeaten record.

But a two-man midfield of Jordan Henderson and the ageing Steven Gerrard was overrun in Brazil, with successive 2-1 losses to Italy and Uruguay seeing England eliminated after just two

matches. Hodgson altered his tactical approach for the Euro 2016 qualifiers, switching between a 4-3-3 formation and a 4-4-2 with midfield diamond, and guided his team to 10 successive wins.

MEANDERING

A native of Croydon in south London, Hodgson has built his reputation on producing disciplined, well-organised teams, but England's youthful edge has revealed a more daring side to his approach.

"It is great to see young players coming through and playing with the enjoyment that you want them to play with," says former England captain David Beckham.

"It is what Roy has done so well. He has brought so many young players into the squad and given them the chance to play on the biggest stage."

An undistinguished player, whose career included a spell in South Africa, Hodgson went into management with Swedish club Halmstad in 1976, winning two league titles.

He later returned to Sweden with Malmo, winning five league titles, and his managerial meandering has also included jobs with clubs as varied as Inter Milan, Blackburn Rovers and FC Copenhagen, as well as the national teams of Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Finland.

Hodgson's experience at Fulham, who were 18th in the Premier League when he arrived in December 2007, showcased his best qualities in microcosm. The west London club stayed up that season, finished seventh the following year and reached the final of the Europa League in 2010, losing 2-1 to Atletico Madrid.

His success at Craven Cottage earned him a crack at the Liverpool job, although he lasted only half a season. A subsequent stint at West Bromwich Albion restored his reputation sufficiently for the Football Association to come calling in 2012.

Not unlike the late and fondly remembered Bobby Robson prior to England's run to the semi-finals at the 1990 World Cup, Hodgson is perceived in Britain as a bumbling, avuncular figure. Eclipse Robson by leading England to glory in France, 50 years on from their 1966 World Cup triumph, and he will become a national treasure. — AFP



CHANTILLY: England's forwards Jamie Vardy and Harry Kane (R) take part in a training session at their training ground in Chantilly, yesterday during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

5 THINGS ABOUT ENGLAND AHEAD OF 'EURO 2016'

LONDON: Five things about England ahead of the European Championship, where they face Russia, Wales and Slovakia in Group B:

FIFTY YEARS OF HURT

This year marks the 50th anniversary of England's only major tournament triumph: victory on home soil at the 1966 World Cup.

A team managed by Alf Ramsey, captained by Bobby Moore and inspired by Manchester United midfielder Bobby Charlton came through a group containing Uruguay, Mexico and France. They saw off Argentina in a bad-tempered quarter-final before Charlton's brace secured a 2-1 success against Portugal in the last four. In the final at Wembley, West Ham United's Geoff Hurst scored a hat-trick in a 4-2 extra-time win over West Germany, becoming the first and to date only player to score three times in a World Cup final. Despite producing some of the game's best-known footballers, England have reached just three major tournament semi-finals at the 1990 World Cup and the 1968 and 1996 European Championships in the years since. At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, they were eliminated after just two matches.

RECORD-CHASING ROONEY

Captain Wayne Rooney broke Charlton's 35-year-old England scoring record last October when his penalty in a 2-0 Euro 2016 qualifying win over Switzerland took him to 50 international goals. The 30-year-old Manchester United striker could surpass David Beckham's record of 115 appearances for an outfield player if England reach the knockout phase in France.

FEARLESS YOUTH?

Having seen stalwarts including John Terry, Rio Ferdinand, Ashley Cole, Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard retire from international football over the course of his tenure, Hodgson has presided over the bleeding of a new generation. Leading the way are the Tottenham Hotspur pairing of striker Harry Kane (22) and midfield dynamo Dele Alli (20), who have formed a formidable

Premier League partnership. Other young players in the squad in France include Everton pair John Stones (22) and Ross Barkley (22), Spurs holding midfielder Eric Dier (22), Manchester City tyro Raheem Sterling (21) and Manchester United's 18-year-old striker Marcus Rashford.

EURO 96 HEARTACHE

England's last brush with major tournament success came 20 years ago in the 1996 European Championship, which was played on home soil. Terry Venables's side thrilled in the group phase, beating Scotland 2-0 in a game that featured a wonderful Paul Gascoigne goal and outclassing the Netherlands 4-1, before edging Spain on penalties in the quarter-finals. But they fell to old foes and eventual champions Germany in agonising fashion in the last four. After early goals from Alan Shearer and Stefan Kuntz cancelled each other out, Gascoigne came within millimetres of touching in a cross from Shearer in extra time that would have given England a golden-goal victory. Gareth Southgate was the fall guy in the penalty shootout, with Andreas Kopke parrying his tame spot-kick. England previously finished third at the four-team European Championship of 1968.

CRADLE OF THE GAME

Football's modern rules were first codified in a London pub in 1863 and England played the first ever international match against Scotland in 1870. But a strained relationship with world governing body FIFA meant that England did not compete at a World Cup until the 1950 edition in Brazil, where they were humiliated 1-0 by the part-timers of the United States. They were dealt their most painful defeat three years later when a Hungary team inspired by the great Ferenc Puskas romped to a stylish 6-3 victory at a shell-shocked Wembley. The 1966 World Cup triumph restored the English game to its former lustre, but recurrent subsequent failings have exposed how far behind the rest of the world England has fallen. — AFP

BRAZIL TEEN STRIKER GABRIEL JESUS AIMS HIGH AT RIO OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil football fans are more excited by the country's young Olympic team than with the squad playing now at Copa America Centenario in the United States.

One reason is that Barcelona star Neymar will be playing in the Olympics. He's not in the Copa America. But the main reason is 19-year-old Gabriel Jesus, a striker at Sao Paulo club Palmeiras, who may wind up being the star in the Olympics as Brazil shoots for its first soccer gold medal.

He's also absent from the Copa. In the Olympics, where squads are only allowed three players aged over 23, Jesus is expected to play alongside the country's other upcoming star Gabriel Barbosa - nicknamed Gabigol - and

Neymar. "To play with Neymar at the Olympics will be another dream come true," Jesus told The Associated Press. "He is a mirror to all of us. If I ever play with him, it would be great for my career. I hope to win gold with him on my side and make history with him wearing the Brazil shirt."

Brazil coach Dunga, who handles both the Copa America and Olympic team, wanted Jesus for the Copa America, but the youngster didn't have the documents to travel. He could have replaced Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa, Brazil's injured goal-scoring winger.

Brazil played a lackluster 0-0 draw against Ecuador in its opening match in the Copa

America, and faces Haiti today in its second match in Group B.

That Jesus didn't have documents to travel is a surprise for a player already drawing interest from giants like Juventus and Arsenal and others. But he says he isn't thinking of moving overseas yet.

"I only want to think about Palmeiras now, they gave me everything and I want to become a reference here," he said. "But playing in Europe is surely in my plans. I have no preference for a specific country or a club."

Website Transfermarkt ranked Jesus as one of the top young players in Brazil, valued at 8 million euros. Palmeiras officials have expressed concern about losing their young star as soon as the

Olympic Games are finished.

Since January, Jesus has scored 12 goals, including three in the first six rounds of the Brazilian Championship. The striker has also enhanced his defensive role, according to his Palmeiras coach Alexi Stival, known as Cuca.

"He still has a lot to mature, but Gabriel is undoubtedly a gem," Cuca said.

Two-time world Cup winner and three-time FIFA world player of the year Ronaldo also has high hopes for Jesus and Brazil. "I am betting on two great talents that are still developing but already show a lot of skill: Santos' Gabigol and Palmeiras' Gabriel Jesus. And they haven't even turned 20 yet," Ronaldo said. — AP

DANGER AWAITS REIGNING CHAMPIONS SPAIN AT EURO

PARIS: Spain are bidding to win a third consecutive European Championship but a difficult draw awaits a team whose coach Vicente del Bosque admits are in transition.

The 2008 and 2012 champions are looking to avoid a repeat of their disastrous showing at the World Cup in Brazil two years ago and they come up against Croatia, Turkey and the Czech Republic in Group D.

"We go there with the maximum objective. And that is to defend the title we won four years ago," Del Bosque told sports daily Marca before La Roja departed for their base camp on the delightful Ile de Re off France's Atlantic coast.

"It is the same situation as in 2012, but with a bit more responsibility because we are defending two consecutive titles.

"But we must differentiate between what is an objective and what is an obligation. Winning the title cannot be an obligation," Del Bosque, 65, says that because his squad has changed significantly since 2012.

Perhaps six of those who played in the 4-0 final win against Italy in Kiev will start against the Czech Republic in Toulouse next Monday. But this could be the time for the likes of Koke, Alvaro Morata and Lucas Vazquez to shine. "We need to make the most of the players we have," Del Bosque said, signalling a possible move away from the 'tiki-taka' style of past tournaments.

"Lucas Vazquez has pace and can trouble defences, while you can't argue with Ariz Aduriz's statistics. If in three touches we manage to get to the opposition goal then that is also great." Finishing top of the group has to be the aim, with Belgium or Italy potential last-16 opponents for the Group D runners-up. If any team goes through in third France could lie in wait.

Spain will hope to have their last-16 berth sewn up before they face a dangerous Croatia side in Bordeaux in their last group match.

STRENGTH IN DEPTH

Ante Cacic's men represent a small nation but their strength in depth is impressive and Spain know all about Real Madrid's Luka Modric and his fellow midfielder Ivan Rakitic, of Barcelona.

Mateo Kovacic of Real Madrid and Juventus centre-forward Mario Mandzukic are also involved for a side who arrive in France as dangerous dark horses, even if Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren will not feature. "Our group is challenging. But, nevertheless, I believe that we can pass the first round, and then in the knockout stage everything depends on the opponent in front of us," Cacic told World Soccer magazine.

"You need to have the best morale and harmony. We have those ingredients."

The Czech Republic travel with an excellent past record in European Championships but a squad lacking the star quality of their rivals. Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech, the country's most-capped player, remains the biggest name at Pavel Vrba's disposal. Veteran midfielder Tomas Rosicky, now 35, is still around despite hardly playing at club level for Arsenal in recent times.

The Euro 96 runners-up topped their qualifying group after beating the Netherlands home and away and defeating Turkey away. They will face the Turks again in their last Group D game in Lens, one that could prove decisive for both teams. Turkey, under 'Emperor' Fatih Terim in his third stint as coach, recovered from a dreadful start in qualifying to advance as the best third-placed team.

Their squad contains plenty of young talent supplemented by Bayer Leverkusen's Hakan Calhanoglu, a brilliant free-kick taker, and skipper Arda Turan of Barcelona. "We have a young squad who wants to prove itself. And everybody knows hungry people are dangerous," Turan told World Soccer. "Our coach tells us that if we fight, we can make a big surprise. I tell you, we're going to fight!" — AFP



ORLANDO: Blas Perez #7 of Panama and Ronald Eguino #21 of Bolivia fight for the ball during a match during the 2016 Copa America Group D at Camping World Stadium on Monday in Orlando, Florida. — AFP

GLOBE-TROTTING PEREZ SHINES FOR PANAMA

ORLANDO: Panama striker Blas Perez has certainly seen his share of the world, playing in eight different countries in his career, but somehow he always seems to save his best for his homeland.

Goals in each half from the 35-year-old gave Panama a 2-1 over Bolivia in the Copa American Centenario on Monday—a win hailed as "historic" by Panamanians given they had never faced South American opponents in a competitive match before.

Certainly, judging by the reaction of Perez, who collapsed to the ground and was mobbed by his team-mates after striking the 87th minute winner, the victory was more than just a good start to their Group D campaign.

"We are enjoying this one," Perez told reporters after the game. "It is our first time in the Copa and it is a joy." The brace took Perez's

career tally for his country to 41 goals in 106 appearances and will have surely ended any debate over whether coach Hernan Dario Gomez was right to stick with the forward despite his age.

"Blas works so hard, does so much running and he knows how to score," Panama keeper Jaime Penedo told AFP.

"He is also a great guy, a real leader in the dressing room," he added. Perez has seen plenty of different dressing rooms having played for 16 clubs in eight countries.

After debuting in his homeland, he has performed in Uruguay, Mexico, Colombia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Canada where he currently plays for Major League Soccer's Vancouver Whitecaps.

"He is a man that represents a lot of things on and off the field," Gomez said. "He has had his

share of heaven and hell but again, he was out there demonstrating his qualities for 90 minutes, running and fighting.

"He scored two very important goals tonight. This group loves him and he transmits a lot of important things to the group. We have supported him, even through his difficult times," Gomez added. "He has great experience, he is a great man and Panama loves him." Panama has never reached a World Cup final and while the improving nation certainly has a chance for Russia 2018 that may come too late for Perez.

That will make the upcoming two games in Group D, against Argentina and Chile, even more special for the Panama City born forward.

"Argentina will be hard, Chile too," Perez said. "But our coach just told us—now go and enjoy this Cup." Judging by the smile on his face, Perez needs no invitation. — AFP



SANTA CLARA: Supporters of Chile make a selfie before a Copa America Centenario football match against Argentina in Santa Clara, California, United States, on Monday. — AFP

SPAIN PROSECUTORS SEEK NEYMAR CORRUPTION TRIAL

MADRID: Neymar could follow FC Barcelona fellow star Lionel Messi to court after Spanish prosecutors asked for the Brazilian striker to be tried over his murky multi-million-euro transfer to the Catalan giants.

Prosecutors from Spain's top criminal court accuse the 24-year-old, his father, Barca's ex-president Sandro Rosell and the club itself of concealing the true cost of his 2013 transfer deal from Brazil's Santos to FC Barcelona, a judicial source said Tuesday.

If the case comes to trial, Neymar will be the second Barcelona star to take the stand after Lionel Messi appeared in court earlier this month on charges of tax fraud related to income earned from his image rights. Brazilian investment fund DIS, which held 40 percent of Neymar's sporting rights when he played at Santos, claims it was cheated of its real share of the transfer due to parallel contracts that Barcelona and Santos allegedly used to hide the total cost.

They also believe a pre-contract agreement between Neymar and Barca impeded other clubs from making offers for the player, affecting the value of the transfer fee.

The deal was originally valued at 57.1 million euros (\$64.9 million) by Barca, 40 million of which was paid to the N&N company owned by the player's father.

Santos—where Neymar started his career—received 17.1 million, 6.8 million euros of which went to DIS.

However, Spanish judicial authorities have estimated the number of simultaneous

deals in the transfer amounted to at least 83.3 million euros—with the difference allegedly going to Neymar and his family, and Santos. Rosell resigned from Barcelona in 2014 over the affair. The club was also indicted for alleged tax fraud linked to the signing, and made a voluntary tax payment of 13.5 million euros. So far though no trial has been held.

'CORRUPTION', 'FRAUD'

The Brazilian football star and his father have in the past defended themselves in the media. "Before saying nonsense—that we hid this, or hid that—they should prove it," Neymar told Brazilian TV station Globo in February, when he was called to give evidence to a judge in Madrid.

"My father is doing everything to ensure that I can just focus on playing football. He handles the books. But in the moment when you see someone you love suffering, it starts to hurt." Prosecutors want Neymar, his father Neymar Da Silva Santos, Rosell and FC Barcelona itself to be tried for "corruption," said the judicial source, who refused to be named.

If the case comes to trial, Neymar faces a six-month to two-year prison sentence, as well as fines. Prosecutors also want Rosell, FC Barcelona, Brazil's Santos and its president to be tried for "fraud." Neymar's mother Nadine, meanwhile, could also be tried for having profited financially from the alleged fraudulent transfer. — AFP

MESSI COULD RETURN FOR SECOND GAME: MARTINO

SANTA CLARA: Argentina coach Gerardo Martino expects Lionel Messi to be fit for his team's second Copa America Centenario fixture this week—even if he is satisfied that the two-time world champions are adjusting to life without their injured superstar.

Martino was a happy man after watching the Argentines open their Group D campaign with a convincing 2-1 win on Monday over reigning Copa America champions Chile, a result that should ease their passage into the quarter-finals.

Goals from man-of-the-match Angel Di Maria and Ever Banega secured the points for Argentina, who left the injured Messi on the substitutes bench at Levi's Stadium as he recuperates from an injured back.

Martino revealed the 28-year-old FIFA World Player of the Year could be fit to return for Argentina's second group game against Panama at Chicago's Soldier Field on Friday.

"He has continued working here, he's kicking the ball better now," Martino said. "We expect in four days he'll be in a condition to play. So we're thinking we will be in a better position by then."

Although Messi's replacement, Benfica's Nicolas Gaitan, performed well on the right side of Argentina's front three, Martino is not discounting the importance of their absent talisman.

"We're always a better team when Messi is in the team," Martino said. "Our chances of winning the Copa are always going to be higher when he's playing." Argentina struggled in their first three 2016 World Cup qualifying matches last year when Messi was absent with a knee injury, posting a loss and two draws.

Martino however believes his team is learning how to adapt in their captain's absence.

"It's important to respond the right way when he's not there," Martino said. "Today we came with 23 players and all of them contributed. We showed virtue as a team."

Meanwhile, Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi shrugged off suggestions that his team was in a slump after what was a third consecutive defeat following recent friendly losses to Jamaica and Mexico.

"During the course of the game I did not notice a big difference between the two teams," Pizzi said. "What happened is that we made crucial mistakes and they cost us two goals."

Pizzi is confident that Chile's star-studded team will be able to recover and qualify from Group D, which also includes Panama and Bolivia. "I trust in my abilities and the abilities of the team and we're going to get up and get back to winning," he said.

"We believe we're going to get into the next round. I know we have difficult games ahead of us. We're going to continue working and we have the belief to move to the next round." — AFP



SANTA CLARA: Lionel Messi #10 of Argentina stands for the playing of Argentina's National Anthem prior to the start of their game against Chile during the 2016 Copa America Centenario Group match play between Argentina and Chile at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. — AFP

Sports

Lester dominates
Phillies again as
Cubs win 6-4



Serena tops
Sharapova as
highest paid
sportswoman



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016

BRAZIL TEEN STRIKER GABRIEL JESUS AIMS HIGH AT RIO OLYMPICS Page 19



SANTA CLARA: Chile's Arturo Vidal (R) and Charles Aranguiz (2-R) vie for the ball with Argentina's Augusto Fernandez (L) and Nicolas Gaitan (2-L) during a Copa America Centenario football match in Santa Clara, California, United States, on Monday. — AFP

DI MARIA INSPIRES ARGENTINA AT COPA

SANTA CLARA: On the day his grandmother died back home, Angel Di Maria's mother asked him to stay with his team, stay focused, and represent his country well in Copa America. He made them all proud with a gutsy performance.

Di Maria scored in the 51st minute off a pass from Ever Banega, then later assisted on Banega's goal, and top-ranked Argentina looked plenty powerful without injured captain Lionel Messi in beating Chile 2-1 in its Copa America opener Monday night.

After his goal, Di Maria held up a shirt reading "Grandma, I'll miss you very much." "I am so happy because I was able to score. It was for my grandmother and my family that are having a difficult time," Di Maria said. "In the morning when I knew what happened I knew that I would score today, and that happened, and it was for her. The coach was afraid I was not going to play, but if I don't play my grandma was going to get mad." His coach didn't even know until afterward and was impressed with Di Maria's poise given the emotional day. "Those are very important circumstances and aspects of life that transcend football," Gerardo Martino said. "He didn't tell me anything. He was feeling good to play. Not all people respond the same in those situations."

Di Maria assisted on Banega's deflected goal in the

59th minute as Messi cheered from the bench. Jose Pedro Fuenzalida scored in the third minute of stoppage time as Chile avoided a shutout.

There were five yellow cards issued in a testy rematch of last year's final won by La Roja on penalty kicks. Cards were given to Di Maria and Gary Medel in the 65th minute after they tussled near the left sideline of Argentina's offensive half.

Chile's Eugenio Mena was taken off on a stretcher in the 53rd minute after pulling up and appearing to grab his right hamstring, with no contact made.

SELLOUT CROWD

Playing at home last year, Chile beat Argentina and Messi 4-1 on penalty kicks for La Roja's first Copa championship. Argentina's senior team has not won a major title since the 1993 Copa, losing to Germany in the 2014 World Cup final.

Argentina beat Chile 2-1 in World Cup qualifying in Santiago on March 24. Monday's match in the San Francisco 49ers' \$1.3 billion stadium attracted a sellout crowd of 69,451 - outdrawing the Friday opener in which Colombia beat the United States 2-0 and a crowd of 67,439 was announced.

Both teams had good chances in a fast-paced first

half featuring two yellow cards against Chile. Nicolas Gaitan had a header from 8 yards in the second minute that Chile goalkeeper Johnny Herrera punched over the crossbar. In the 18th minute, Gaitan - starting in place of Messi - went down hard and his right knee buckled after a tackle from behind by Arturo Vidal that earned him a yellow card.

Gonzalo Higuain's shot from the left side in the box went just left off the post in the 23rd minute, then Argentina had another chance thwarted on Marcos Rojo's header off a corner kick.

La Albiceleste goalkeeper Mariano Andujar made a great diving stop in the 30th minute, using his right hand to swat away a shot by Alexis Sanchez after a pair of pretty passes from Marcelo Diaz and Vidal, prompting Messi to clap on the bench.

MESSI TO RETURN

"The team is different if Messi is playing or not," Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. "Messi's probably more dangerous than any other soccer player. That's an advantage we had. But the player who replaced Messi, Gaitan, played well. He has other virtues, other characteristics. He helped them have a better structure and made them a solid team. They were able to take advantage of their

opportunity." The news about Messi not starting was hardly a surprise given the 28-year-old Barcelona star's recent back injury. The midfielder practiced on the side during Sunday's training and not with the full team. Martino is optimistic Messi might be ready to return for Friday's match against Panama in Chicago.

"Everything has to do with him being healthy and in good condition to play the next game," Martino said. "We expect in four days he will be in condition to play. We're thinking he will recover by then."

Messi testified last Thursday in his tax fraud trial in Spain and joined the national team the next day. He didn't get to catch up with Golden State Warriors superstar MVP Stephen Curry, who instead offered his well wishes after a Game 2 NBA Finals win against Cleveland.

"He's got business to take care of, so good luck to him," Curry said. "I know he's going to be ready."

Chile defender Gonzalo Jara played in his first Copa match since sticking his finger into the backside of Uruguay's Edinson Cavani in the 2015 Copa quarterfinals that earned Jara a three-game suspension.

US Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati was in attendance Monday ahead of traveling to Chicago for the Americans' second Group A stage match against Costa Rica. — AP

EX-CHELSEA DOCTOR SETTLES CASE AGAINST MOURINHO

LONDON: Former Chelsea doctor Eva Carneiro yesterday agreed a deal to settle a case against Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho for alleged discrimination for an undisclosed sum, Chelsea said.

"The parties agreed to the settlement of this dispute on confidential terms," a representative of the club said at the start of a brief hearing at a London employment tribunal.

Carneiro said she was "relieved" to have concluded the tribunal case, calling it an "extremely difficult and distressing time for me and my family," in a statement issued after the announcement.

The club said it was "pleased" that an agreement had been reached.

"The club regrets the circumstances which led to Dr Carneiro leaving the club and apologises unreservedly to her and her family for the distress caused," said a club statement.

Mourinho made an unexpected appearance alongside Chelsea chairman Bruce Buck at the London South Employment Tribunal in suburban Croydon on Tuesday, shortly before the announcement of the settlement.

The tribunal was examining a claim of constructive dismissal against Chelsea and a connected, personal legal action against Portuguese boss Mourinho, who left the Blues in December, for alleged victimisation and sexual discrimination.

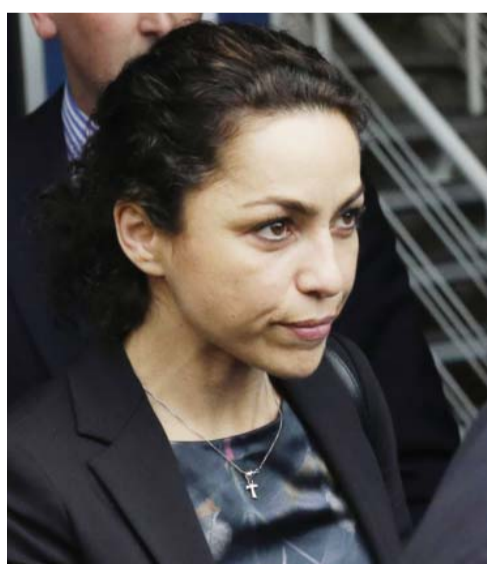
Carneiro alleges Mourinho shouted "filha da puta" at her-Portuguese for daughter of a whore — after she ran on the pitch during a match. An extract from a statement by Mourinho was read out on Monday. In it he claimed he was known for regularly using the term "filho da puta", meaning son of a whore, and had done so throughout the match in question last August.

A skeleton argument submitted to the tribunal on behalf of Chelsea and Mourinho said Carneiro had been "made an open offer of £1.2 million (\$1.73 million, 1.52 million euros) to settle her claims".

Mourinho dropped Carneiro as Chelsea's first team doctor after the Blues' opening match of last season in the English Premier League, a 2-2 draw at home to Swansea on August 8. Mourinho angrily berated her after she and physio Jon Fearn went on the pitch to treat midfielder Eden Hazard, obliging him to leave the field of play before being readmitted.

Carneiro defended her actions in her statement, saying "my priority has always been the health and safety of the players and fulfilling my duty of care as a doctor.

"In running onto the pitch to treat a player, who requested medical attention, I was following the rules of the game and fulfilling my medical responsibilities."



LONDON: Former Chelsea team doctor Eva Carneiro leaves at the end of her employment tribunal at the Croydon Employment Tribunal in Croydon, south London, yesterday. Chelsea has reached a settlement with its former club doctor at the start of an employment tribunal, details were not disclosed yesterday. — AP

Chelsea accepted that the doctor had "always put the interests of the club's players first", calling her a "highly competent and professional sports doctor."

"Jose Mourinho also thanks Dr Carneiro for the excellent and dedicated support she provided," it added. — AFP

UEFA KEEPS CLOSE EYE ON RUSSIAN TEAM

CHATENAY-MALABRY: European soccer's governing body UEFA is paying "special attention" to the Russian team for potential drug violations during the month-long Euro 2016 tournament, the head of UEFA's anti-doping arm said yesterday.

Russia was suspended from world athletics in November after an international investigation uncovered damning evidence of widespread doping and corruption.

More than 20 Russian track and field athletes have also tested positive in re-tests of samples from the Beijing and London Olympics, putting their participation in this summer's Rio games in doubt.

"We are aware of what happened in Russia. We have been paying special attention to the Russian team," UEFA's head of medical and anti-doping Marc Vuillamoz told reporters at the headquarters of the French anti-doping agency, which will run the testing for the tournament.

Vuillamoz said UEFA had been working closely with the United Kingdom doping agency (UKAD) on the issue and that the Russian team and a number of the squad playing at home and overseas had been tested in recent months.

UKAD has taken charge of testing Russian athletes while the local agency is suspended for non-compliance following a string of doping scandals.

Without giving details, Vuillamoz said some of the 24 national teams competing in the tournament, which begins on Friday, had already been tested two or three times more than others. Russia kicks off its campaign against England on June 11.

Although, on the surface, doping has not been a major problem in football as it has been for sports like athletics and cycling, there have been recent instances of players using illegal substances to gain an unfair advantage.

Dinamo Zagreb midfielder Arijan Ademi was banned for four years after he failed a drug test following a Champions League match in September. France international Mamadou Sakho was given a provisional suspension in April for a doping offence.

Since 2004, only Croatia striker Ivica Olic has failed a test during the tournament, but was cleared to continue playing.

"I don't have an explanation (on why so few positive tests), but the results are comparable to other team sports," Vuillamoz said. In the month running up to the competition, UEFA has conducted over 1,000 tests, including urine, serum and blood passport samples. That adds to almost 1,300 since the start of the year and a further 874 in European club competitions.

For each game, two players from each team will be tested with the possibility of random testing on non-match days. — Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016

Kuwait weighted index
declined 2.4% in May

Page 23

US worker productivity
slumped again in Q1

Page 25



Ooredoo among 'Top
Companies in the
Arab World 2016'

Page 22

Page 26

KUWAIT'S CA SURPLUS NARROWS TO 13-YEAR LOW



BEIJING: (L-R) US Secretary of State John Kerry, US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Chinese vice premier Liu Yandong, Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang meet for talks at the Great Hall of the People at the end of the eight round of US-China strategic and economic dialogues in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

CHINA GIVES US INVESTMENT QUOTA FOR FIRST TIME

MOVE TO DEEPEN FINANCIAL TIES, INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN 2 COUNTRIES

BEIJING: China said it will give the United States a 250 billion yuan (\$38 billion) investment quota for the first time to buy Chinese stocks, bonds and other assets, deepening financial ties and interdependence between the world's two largest economies. Chinese officials also repeatedly pledged in two days of talks with US counterparts that they saw no need for sustained weakening of the yuan currency, which many investors fear could shock the already sluggish US and global economies and roil financial markets as happened in January. A central bank vice governor, Yi Gang, announced the quota at the bilateral Strategic and Economic Dialogue talks in Beijing, without providing further details such as a timeframe. "We believe the US market is very important, so we granted 250 billion yuan in RQFII quotas to the United States," he said. The Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor programme allows financial institutions to use offshore yuan to buy securities in mainland China, including stocks, bonds and money market investments.

"The ability to do RMB transac-

tions in the United States will be a real advantage, to small firms in particular and to large businesses that are not financial businesses," US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said late yesterday. "It will make it easier, it will make it cheaper," he said.

China and the United States will also each pick a qualified bank to conduct yuan clearing business in the United States, Vice Premier Wang Yang said yesterday. The moves will allow Beijing to pursue its ambition of making the yuan a more widely used global currency, while giving US investors greater access to China's domestic markets.

The new quota will significantly expand the RQFII program, under which 501.77 billion yuan had been allocated as of May. The quota is the first granted to the United States under the scheme and is the largest given to a single jurisdiction after Hong Kong. Under the system, US financial institutions would apply to use part of the quota. Ivan Shi, head of research at Shanghai-based fund consultancy Z-Ben Advisors, said the move also increased the chances that global investment index compiler MSCI will include Chinese

shares in its index, a decision that could come next week, as it broadens foreign access to China's stock market. "But its implementation depends on how widely the yuan is used in the US and how much interest US investors have toward Chinese stocks and bonds," he added. Chinese regulators have been pushing to expand foreign investors' access to domestic financial markets to make its markets broader and attract more capital inflows. But foreign interest has waned after a near meltdown in China's equity markets last year and subsequent heavy-handed official intervention to shore them up.

China's cooling economy, growing debt levels and anxiety over its currency policy have also kept investors at bay. Some analysts said the quota move appeared to be largely symbolic, as many others channels for investing in Chinese assets have opened up since the RQFII program was launched in 2011. China's central bank said in February it would allow all kinds of financial institutions that are registered outside the country to buy bonds in the interbank market and

would scrap quotas for medium- and long-term investors. Yi said yesterday that internationalization of the yuan currency would be market-oriented. Lew said during the talks that China was committed to continuing "market-oriented exchange rate reform that allows for two-way flexibility" of its yuan currency. US financial services firms will have increased access to China and legal, corporate and financial regulatory reforms will increase investors' participation in China's financial markets, Lew also said. The optimal window to make progress on a US-China bilateral investment treaty (BIT) was before the G20 leaders meeting in September, he said. Aside from discussions about the internationalization of the yuan, China and the United States also agreed to push forward reforms at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to increase quotas for emerging economies, which determine their voting powers in the organization and access to financing. "Both sides reiterated the allocation of IMF quotas should be shifted towards emerging markets and developing countries," Lew said. — Reuters

SAUDI STOCKS JUMP AFTER REFORM ANNOUNCEMENT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market rose yesterday after the government announced details of its economic reform plans, while an improved mood in global markets lifted bourses elsewhere in the Middle East. A 110-page Saudi reform document released on Monday night contained hundreds of policies and targets, including major austerity measures. The government aims to reduce public salaries and wages as a proportion of the state budget to 40 percent from 45 percent by 2020, and cut water and electricity subsidies by 200 billion riyals (\$53 billion).

Investment firm EFG Hermes commented: "Our first reading reaffirms our view that Saudi Arabian companies and consumers face a period of relative austerity over the next few years, and we stay underweight on Saudi equities." But the austerity steps were largely expected—the market had been falling in previous weeks on those expectations—and the main stock index closed 0.9 percent higher, in the highest trading volume for two weeks.

"The absence of a direct corporate tax and a tax on dividends are both positive catalysts for the Saudi equity market in the short term," said Mohamed el-Jamal, managing director of capital markets at Abu Dhabi's Waha Capital. "Sectors that are expected to benefit from the plan are ones linked to religious tourism, private education, mining; whereas sectors like petchems and materials will see their subsidies phased out over the next few years."

Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) rose 1.8 percent. The energy minister said the kingdom planned to issue new licenses covering exploration for minerals and to build more industrial cities.

"This opens huge possibilities for future investment from foreign companies into the Saudi resources space, because there is vast untapped potential," said Jassim Al-Jubran, senior analyst at Saudi-based Aljazira Capital. In the near- to medium term, Ma'aden will remain the prime beneficiary of the mining industry push, he added. Medical insurer MedGulf, which could benefit from the plan's intention to develop the medical sector, rose 4.9 percent in unusually heavy trade. Retailer Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair Co jumped its 10 percent daily limit after it received an offer from a fund managed by a Dubai-based investment bank to buy its investment in Spanish clothing retailer Blanco for 350 million riyals (\$93 million). "Investors clearly welcomed this move by Alhokair because Blanco was eating at the company's profits and was one of the main reasons why the company barely broke even in its latest quarterly financial reports," said Jubran. Dar Al-Arkan, one of the kingdom's largest property developers, also jumped 10 percent. The company, which reported declining profits in six of the last seven quarters, may benefit from the reform plan's goal of boosting the construction sector's contribution to gross domestic product to 10 percent from 5 percent.

GULF, EGYPT

Asian stocks hit five-week highs and Brent crude oil held above \$50 a barrel, encouraging investors to accumulate shares in other Gulf markets. Dubai's stock index jumped 1.5 percent in the highest volume in two weeks. Dubai Parks and Resorts, which accounted for almost a third of the market's total turnover, jumped 2.8 percent to 1.45 dirhams. Last week HSBC initiated coverage of the company with a "buy" rating and a target price of 1.80 dirhams.—Reuters

EU EYES AIR TRAFFIC PACTS WITH GULF, TURKEY, ASEAN

BRUSSELS: EU member states gave the green light yesterday for the European Commission to pursue air traffic agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey and countries in southeast Asia to try to support its airlines. Europe's aviation industry, which contributes 110 billion euros (\$123 billion) to EU gross domestic product, has been hit by the rapid expansion of Gulf airlines, such as Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways, and shifting traffic flows to Asia. The Commission, the European Union's executive, asked national governments in December to give it a mandate to start talks on air transport agreements with a number of countries, including China, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Qatar. Such agreements, now often done on a bilateral basis between the governments of two countries, would set out where and how often foreign airlines could fly into the EU, and vice versa.

The Commission hopes the aviation deals will give European airlines greater access to some of the world's fastest growing aviation markets, notably the Gulf countries and Turkey, and bring billions of euros in economic benefits. "Once agreed, these agreements will offer new business opportunities to the whole aviation sector, new routes and better fares to passengers, whilst guaranteeing a level playing field to our companies," said EU Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc.

Some European carriers, notably Lufthansa and Air France KLM, as well as major US airlines, have accused Gulf carriers of receiving unfair state subsidies, allegations they have rejected. The Commission will be able to seek fair competition and financial transparency provisions in the talks on aviation agreements, a key demand from countries such as France and Germany.

For the first time, member states introduced a flexible

sunset clause in the mandates to ensure that talks on bilateral agreements can resume if the EU-level ones drag on for too long. EU member states may not engage in bilateral talks for aviation deals with third countries as long as EU-level negotiations are ongoing.

That has sparked concern among some Gulf carriers such as Emirates that the EU-level mandates would be used to freeze their flying rights in Europe. The mandates for Turkey and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — which includes Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Myanmar, Brunei and Cambodia—will last four years, whilst the ones for Qatar and the UAE three years. The Commission will be able to ask for an extension if the talks are progressing. However the Commission is expected to challenge the idea of a sunset clause at the EU's top court, an EU official said. —Reuters

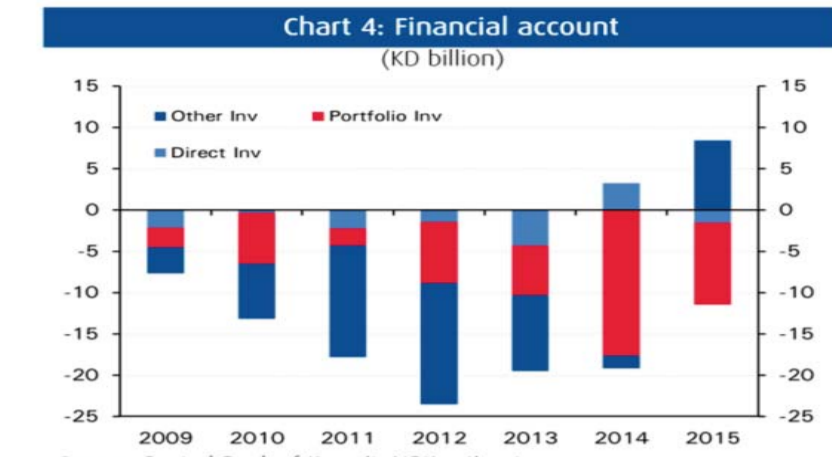
KUWAIT'S CA SURPLUS NARROWS TO 13-YEAR LOW

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait's current account surplus narrowed to a 13-year low in 2015, as oil export earnings declined. The surplus in Kuwait's current account fell from 33 percent of GDP in 2014 to 5.1 percent in 2015. The surplus came in notably lower mainly due to a deterioration in the goods balance, as oil export receipts fell amid a weaker oil price environment. Robust growth in imports and net services outflows, as well as a drop in net investment income, also weighed on the current account balance. Meanwhile, a decline in worker remittances helped provide some relief to the current account.

We expect the surplus in Kuwait's current account to shrink further in 2016, before improving in 2017 as oil prices recover. Kuwait's current account is projected to log in a small deficit of around 1 percent of GDP in 2016, against a backdrop of still softer oil prices and healthy import growth. Indeed, Kuwait's external position remains relatively strong in comparison to its GCC peers thanks to its high level of overseas assets and more resilient current account.

The goods balance shrank by more than half to an 11-year low of KD 8.4 billion in 2015 (Chart 1), mainly due to a 47 percent drop in oil exports. Oil exports were dragged lower by a steep 51 percent decline in oil prices. A modest acceleration in import growth and a wider deficit in net services also drove the goods balance lower. Import growth remained firm at 7.1 percent as sizeable increases in spending on capital projects, on the back of sustained strength in



Source: Central Bank of Kuwait, NBK estimates

the economy, boosted capital goods imports. Net services outflows continued to rise in 2015, boosted by solid growth in net travel expenditures of 10 percent.

A decline in net investment income also added downward pressure on the current account balance. Net investment income fell by 7.8 percent in 2015, largely as a result of a rise in investment income outflows (income from foreign investment in Kuwait). Meanwhile, investment income inflows from Kuwaiti overseas investment continued to see healthy growth of 8.2 percent. Income from portfolio investment was particularly robust, growing by 10 percent during 2015.

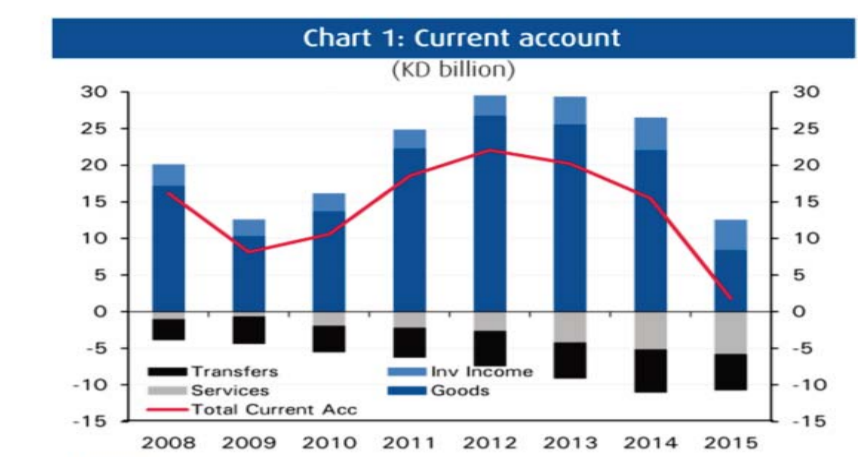
Lower worker remittances helped offset some of the decline in inflows to the current account. Outflows from current transfers fell

by 16 percent in 2015, on the back of a 12 percent decline in worker remittances. The drop comes on the heels of a strong 14 percent rise in remittances in 2014.

Capital and financial account

The shrinking current account resulted in a commensurate drop in Kuwait's financial outflows. Nonetheless, Kuwait remained a net creditor to the rest of the world, with a financial outflow of KD 2.1 billion compared to KD 16.4 billion in 2014. Most of the drop came from a drawdown of liquid assets. Currency and deposits held by the government declined by KD 8.1 billion.

Portfolio outflows also retreated but remained positive and relatively healthy, reflecting continued investment in the



Source: Central Bank of Kuwait, NBK estimates

Future Generations Fund. Portfolio outflows, which reflect investment in equities and debt securities, declined by 44 percent to KD 9.9 billion. Kuwait also increased its direct investments overseas during 2015 by KD 1.5 billion.

The smaller capital account witnessed deterioration in 2015, largely due to the absence of any compensation payments for damages sustained during Iraq's 1990-91 invasion and occupation. In a gesture of good will, Kuwait agreed to suspend the payment schedule in an effort to show support to Iraq's government in the current lower oil price environment.

BoP surplus and foreign reserves

Kuwait's broader BOP balance narrowed

sharply, though it remained in surplus. The balance, which reflects the accumulation of foreign assets by key government entities and the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), dropped from KD 16.4 billion in 2014 to KD 1.6 billion in 2015. Though the government as a whole continued to see a net accumulation of foreign assets, the CBK saw foreign assets decline, as reflected by the simple BOP balance. Indeed, by this measure, Kuwait witnessed a small deficit. Nonetheless, the CBK continued to hold substantial reserves of KD 7.8 billion at the end of 2015, or an estimated 9.9 months of imports. Meanwhile, the foreign assets of the state as a whole, the bulk of which are held by Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), are thought to be in excess of KD 170 billion.

News

In brief

Saudi Arabia's Alhokair gets offer for Blanco

DUBAI: Saudi Arabian retailer Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair Co has received an offer from a fund managed by a Dubai-based investment bank to buy its investment in Spanish clothing retailer Blanco for 350 million Saudi riyals (\$93 million), it said in a bourse statement yesterday. The payment would be made over five installments, it said. The transaction is subject to shareholder approval at an extraordinary meeting as chairman Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair is among the investors in the fund that have made the offer, the statement said.

DP World wins concession to develop Ecuador port

DUBAI: Dubai's DP World has won a 50-year concession to develop a port project in Ecuador that will require initial investment of \$500 million, the ports operator said in a bourse statement yesterday. The initial investment "will include the purchase of land, dredging of a new access channel, a 20 km access road and a 400 metre berth equipped to handle containers and other cargo," the statement said. The project will be conducted with DP World's local partners, Consorcio Nobis and Grupo Vilaseca. A signing ceremony for the deal took place in Ecuador on Monday.

Turkish lira firms to below 2.9 against dollar

ISTANBUL: The Turkish lira firmed to below 2.9 against the dollar yesterday, its strongest level in a month, on expectations that the US Federal Reserve will not raise interest rates in the near term, dealers said. The lira stood at 2.985 at 0815 GMT, firming from 2.9058 in early trade and after weakening as far as 2.91 during the morning after a car bomb blast targeted a police bus in Istanbul, killing 11 people.

Oman April oil output down 1.4% from March

DUBAI: Oman's oil production stood at 29.8 million barrels in April, the National Centre for Statistics and Information said yesterday, down 1.4 percent from March. The drop was attributed to the decline in crude oil by 2.5 percent to reach 26.9 million barrels from 27.6 million barrels in March 2016, the National Centre for Statistics and Information said in a statement. The sultanate also recorded a 16.4 percent month-on-month drop in gasoline production in April. Oil exports declined by 8.7 percent compared with the same period last year.

OIL PRICES HIT 2016 HIGH ON EBBING SUPPLY, SOFTER DOLLAR

LONDON: Oil prices hit their highest in eight months yesterday, buoyed by the dollar nearing one-month lows and by falling Nigerian oil output after a spate of attacks on infrastructure.

Brent crude futures were up 67 cents on the day at \$51.22 a barrel by 1135 GMT, having hit an intraday peak of \$51.29 earlier in the day, their highest since October. US crude oil futures rose 60 cents to \$50.29 a barrel, having touched a fresh 2016 peak of \$50.37, their highest since October last year. "With Brent staying above \$50, oil is on an upward momentum with the restart of French refineries that were shut on strikes and pipeline attacks in Nigeria," said Kaname Gokon at brokerage Okato Shoji in Tokyo.

Preliminary work got under way on Monday to restart three of Total's French oil refineries, stopped as part of nationwide strikes. Crude futures have nearly doubled since January when they hit their lowest since late 2003 buoyed by supply outages in Canada, Venezuela, Libya and Nigeria.

Nigeria's Bonny Light crude output is down by an estimated 170,000 barrels per day (bpd) following attacks on pipeline infrastructure, according to one source.

OPEC failed to agree on a clear oil output strategy last week, but traders said Saudi Arabia's promise not to flood the market has provided support to oil. Oil, along with the rest of the commodities complex, has also been supported by a weaker dollar.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has indicated the US central bank will raise interest rates, but has not given a sense of when. US commercial crude oil inventories likely fell by 3.5 million barrels last week, marking a third straight weekly drop, a preliminary Reuters poll showed. The data by the American Petroleum Institute is due out at 2030 GMT.

Oil also received support after market intelligence firm Genscape reported a drawdown of 1.08 million barrels at the Cushing, Oklahoma, delivery point for WTI crude futures last week.

But this support may prove fleeting. The market is braced for signs of recovering US oil production after weekly data from Baker Hughes showed that US drillers added rigs for only the second time this year, analysts said. "Oil prices at \$50 a barrel could revive shale drilling activity and stabilize declining US oil production, possibly already harbingered by the recent uptick in rig counts," said Norbert R. cker, head of commodities research at Julius Baer. — Reuters



JAKARTA: Employees prepare fruits for customers at the supermarket in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesia's economy is expected to grow by between 5.2 and 5.6 percent next year, the central bank governor said early this week. —AFP

AUSTRALIA REGULATOR CHARGES NAB OVER RATE-RIGGING

SYDNEY: Australia's securities regulator yesterday said it had laid charges against National Australia Bank (NAB) for allegedly manipulating benchmark interest rates used to price financial products, an allegation the bank said it disputes. The court action is the third launched by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) against a major Australian bank this year over claims they fixed the bank bill swap reference rate (BBSW) to their financial advantage.

"ASIC alleges that NAB was seeking to maximize its profit or minimize its loss to the detriment of those holding opposite

positions to NAB's," the regulator said in a statement.

The watchdog is pursuing two other actions, against Australia and New Zealand Banking Group and Westpac Banking Corp. NAB is Australia's biggest lender. NAB chief risk officer David Gall said the bank had cooperated with ASIC's review of the issue but that it would be disputing its claims in court.

"We do not agree with ASIC's claims, which means they will now be settled by a court process," Gall said in a statement. ANZ and Westpac have also denied the corporate regulator's allegations.

The BBSW is the primary interest rate benchmark used in Australian financial markets to price home loans, credit cards and other financial products. ASIC has alleged that NAB intended to create an artificial price for bank bills on 50 occasions between 8 June 2010 and 24 December 2012.

The regulator alleged that NAB had several products priced or valued off BBSW and that it traded in the bank bill market with the intention of moving the BBSW higher or lower. The methodology used to calculate the BBSW was changed in 2013. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.825
Indian Rupees	4.513
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.051
Nepali Rupees	2.826
Singapore Dollar	222.820
Hongkong Dollar	38.900
Bangladesh Taka	3.852
Philippine Peso	6.540
Thai Baht	8.553

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.616
Qatari Riyal	83.042
ani Riyal	785.213
Bahraini Dinar	802.840
UAE Dirham	82.307

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.416
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	143.200
Jordanian Dinar	425.890
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.014
Syrian Lira	2.154
Morocco Dirham	31.805

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.150
Euro	344.450
Sterling Pound	436.610
Canadian dollar	234.040
Turkish Lira	104.730

Swiss Franc	310.850
Australian Dollar	222.680
US Dollar Buying	300.950

GOLD

20 Gram	250.790
10 Gram	128.310
5 Gram	65.000

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	234.405
Sterling Pound	440.385
Euro	345.255
Swiss Franc	296.765
Bahraini Dinar	801.595
UAE Dirhams	82.735
Qatari Riyals	83.950
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	426.835
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.057
Indian Rupees	4.498
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.508
Cyprus pound	577.120
Japanese Yen	3.835
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.805
Malaysian Ringgit	75.020
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.470
Thai Bhat	9.540
Turkish Lira	104.640

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

Europe		
British Pound	0.431464	0.441464
Czech Korune	0.004674	0.016674
Danish Krone	0.042045	0.047045
Euro	0.0337538	0.0346538
Norwegian Krone	0.032900	0.038100
Romanian Leu	0.075871	0.075871
Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995
Swedish Krona	0.033074	0.038074
Swiss Franc	0.304581	0.315581
Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.216219	0.228219
New Zealand Dollar	0.202875	0.212375
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.2230251	0.239251
US Dollars	0.298050	0.302750
US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302750
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003404	0.003988
Chinese Yuan	0.044523	0.0478023
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036809	0.039559
Indian Rupee	0.004192	0.004602
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024

Japanese Yen	0.002721	0.002901
Kenyan Shilling	0.002979	0.002979
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070066	0.076066
Nepalese Rupee	0.002879	0.003049
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002999
Philippine Peso	0.006387	0.006687
Sierra Leone	0.000073	0.000079
Singapore Dollar	0.217112	0.227112
South African Rand	0.014171	0.022671
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001669	0.002249
Taiwan	0.009233	0.009413
Thai Baht	0.008206	0.008756
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.794890	0.803390
Egyptian Pound	0.027923	0.033041
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422155	0.431155
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020069	0.044069
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778385	0.784065
Qatar Riyal	0.082182	0.083632
Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.139062	0.147062
Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539
Yemeni Riyal	0.001365	0.001445

COMMERCIAL BANK GUIDELINES ON PROCESSING CHEQUES

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait would like to draw the attention of all its customers that in the near future, the Bank will no longer accept processing cheques, issued in Kuwaiti dinars, that do not conform with the standards and security features as prescribed by the Central Bank of Kuwait. The Bank will advise customers' beneficiary of these types of cheques to go to the issuer Bank to cash their cheque or deposit it in their accounts - if available with the issuer Bank.

Accordingly, Commercial Bank of Kuwait would

like to urge its customers who print their cheques directly through press companies and not through the Bank; to print their cheques at the earliest only through authorized entities and by taking into consideration that they need to refer back to the Bank to provide them with the mandated standards and security features before printing these cheques.

It is important to note that customers must adhere to the following instructions for ensuring acceptance of standard cheques through Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), in

which the clearing cycle of cheques has been reduced from 3 days to be cleared in the same day for certain cases or to the next working day in other cases.

The Bank, further, draws the attention of its customers to the importance of using and maintaining their cheques properly for ensuring acceptance of cheques under KECCS. As such, customers need to ensure that the MICR line is printed at the bottom of the cheque, avoid writing or signing over the MICR line at the bottom of the cheque, keep the

cheques in a good condition by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing cheques and avoid storing cheques in places that are warm or under direct sunlight as it can damage the cheques.

The Bank always endeavors to provide its customers with the best banking services and emphasizes that adherence to the new KECCS requirements by its customers is strongly recommended to ensure the acceptance and processing of the cheques under KECCS and to highly benefit from the new system.

YELLEN'S VIEW OF ECONOMY: SOLID BUT LACED WITH UNCERTAINTIES

WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen went out of her way Monday to stress that the US economy appears fundamentally solid. The job market has rebounded. Consumer spending is picking up along with confidence. Higher home prices have lifted household wealth. Low energy prices have strengthened spending power.

Yet the Fed chair also sent a contrasting message in a speech in Philadelphia: So many uncertainties surround the economy that it's impossible to sketch any timetable for when the Fed might raise interest rates again.

Thirteen times Yellen mentioned some variation of the word "uncertainty" - starting with a question raised by a dismal jobs report the government issued Friday:

"Is the markedly reduced pace of hiring in April and May," Yellen asked, "a harbinger of a persistent slowdown in the broader economy?" She didn't claim to know the answer. The Fed, she said, "will be wrestling" with that question in the months ahead - just as it will be studying other uncertainties she pointed to. In contrast to what she signaled late last month, when Yellen said a rate hike would likely be appropriate in "coming months," she offered no timetable Monday for the Fed to resume raising rates.

That "suggests to us that she is in no hurry," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFJ Union Bank in New York. "We are telling clients to take the summer off. See all of you Fed watchers in September." Among the uncertainties she noted in her speech:

THE JOB MARKET

Yellen called Friday's jobs report for May "concerning." Employers added just 38,000 jobs in May, the weakest monthly gain in more than five years. Job gains have now averaged just 116,000 in the past three months, down sharply from an average of 230,000 in the 12 months ending in April.

But Yellen noted that other gauges of the job market, such as fewer applications for unemployment benefits, have been more positive. She said the Fed would be studying whether Friday's jobs report marked a temporary slump or signaled more lasting troubles.

DOMESTIC DEMAND

While the US economy has been outperforming the rest of the world, its growth has depended on domestic demand, especially its main fuel - consumer spending. Yellen said a key question is whether US demand can remain strong "amid fairly considerable global bumpiness." She said a particular concern is weakness in investment spending by US companies, a slowdown that she said she thinks will prove temporary.

GLOBAL PRESSURES

Many of the financial stresses from abroad that erupted early this year have eased. But Yellen cautioned that there is still cause for concern, particularly from China. China is straining to rebalance its economy, the world's second-largest, away from export-led growth to more domestic demand. At a time of sluggish global growth, low inflation and ultra-low interest rates, investor sentiment could shift very

quickly. Yellen said a particular worry is a negative reaction if British voters decide to leave the European Union in a June 23 vote.

WEAK PRODUCTIVITY

Even as the job market has strengthened, overall economic growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, has been tepid. In part, Yellen said, that's because productivity has been so weak. Productivity - the amount of output per hour of work - is a vital factor supporting rising living standards. Yellen noted that economists are divided over whether the productivity slowdown will soon end. The Great Recession, the Fed chair said, depressed spending on the research and development needed for future productivity growth. Once this spending rebounds, she said, productivity gains could accelerate.

TOO-LOW INFLATION

Oil prices have stopped falling, and the dollar has stopped rising - good signs for higher inflation. A price gauge favored by the Fed has shown inflation running below its 2 percent target for four years. Yellen said one reason for concern is that some surveys of long-term inflation expectations by consumers and businesses have declined. If that trend deepens, she said, it could make it harder for inflation to reach the Fed's target.

When inflation remains too low, it can depress spending, hold back growth and make the cost of loans more burdensome. For all the uncertainties she cited Monday, Yellen said she still expects the job market to keep improving, wages to accelerate and inflation to rise toward the Fed's target.

"I continue to believe that it will be appropriate to gradually reduce the degree of monetary policy accommodation, provided that labor market conditions strengthen further and inflation continues to make progress toward our 2 percent objective," Yellen told an audience at the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia.

In a question-and-answer session that followed her speech, Yellen was asked about fears that the global economy could be headed for a crash if Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, were to win the White House. "I'm sorry - I have got nothing for you on that," Yellen said to laughter from the audience. "We are very focused on doing our jobs. We will just see what happens."

Afterward, Yellen took part in a discussion at the West Philadelphia Skills Initiative, which offers career training and connects job seekers with neighborhood employers. The area is home to the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University, as well as a host of hospitals, but a large swath of the community grapples with poverty.

One program graduate, Myra Whitney, told Yellen that she finished at the top of her high school class yet even with financial aid couldn't afford to continue attending Widener University. She said the program gave her the confidence and skills to apply for jobs.

After being in the program, "I felt like I could work wherever I wanted - like I could work for the Federal Reserve," Whitney told Yellen. — AP

MENA Market Trends – May 2016

Index	M. Cap (USD Bn)	Last close	2015 %	May'16 %	YTD %	S&P correlation**	ADVT* (USD mn)	P/E TTM	P/B TTM	Div. Yield
S&P Pan Arab										
LargeMid Cap	107.8	133	-17.0	-3.9	-1.4	0.166	N.A	9.78	1.16	5.26
Saudi Arabia	394.3	6,448	-17.1	-5.3	-6.7	0.178	1,350.18	11.85	1.51	4.68
Qatar	117.6	9,539	-15.1	-6.4	-8.5	0.111	63.40	12.74	1.41	4.25
Abu Dhabi	111.8	4,250	-4.9	-6.5	-1.3	0.125	39.42	10.04	1.27	5.89
Kuwait Price	80.2	5,400	-14.1	0.2	-3.8	0.082	32.66	13.44	1.07	5.67
Kuwait Wt.ed	80.2	357	-13.0	-2.4	-6.4	0.045	32.66	13.44	1.07	5.67
Dubai	79.9	3,314	-16.5	-5.1	5.2	0.126	93.58	8.20	1.12	4.80
Egypt	50.0	684	-24.4	-2.9	8.6	0.082	64.00	9.24	1.27	2.99
Morocco	50.1	9,758	-7.2	-2.2	9.3	-0.024	13.68	17.35	2.36	4.25
Jordan	22.1	4,004	-0.2	1.6	-5.3	0.017	11.26	14.24	1.28	4.74
Bahrain	17.0	1,112	-14.8	0.1	-8.6	0.026	0.58	9.13	0.77	4.45
Oman	16.5	5,811	-14.8	-2.2	7.5	0.096	12.25	10.18	1.14	6.38

Source: Reuters, Zawya, * - Average Daily Value Traded for the month, ** - 3-year daily return correlation

KUWAIT WEIGHTED INDEX DECLINED 2.4% IN MAY

MARKAZ: A NEGATIVE MONTH FOR MENA MARKETS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Market Research report. In this report, Markaz examines and analyzes the performance of equity markets in the MENA region as well as the global equity markets for the month of May.

May was a negative month for MENA indices, barring Jordan, as investors continued to book profits in the absence of positive cues, and fund managers proved cautious over Fed rate hike speculation. Jordan (1.6 percent) was the lone survivor, followed by Kuwait Price (0.2 percent) and Bahrain (0.1 percent), while Kuwait weighted index declined 2.4 percent, because of selling pressures in the Financial Services and Telecommunications sectors. Abu Dhabi (6.5 percent), Qatar (6.4 percent), Saudi Arabia (5.3 percent) and Dubai (5.1 percent) fell in May, marking it as the worst month since January this year. Brent crude continued to climb in May, closing at \$49.69 per barrel, after surpassing \$50 per barrel in the month; the first time since November 2015.

S&P GCC also declined by 5.1 percent in May, to close at 90 points. Worries over contraction in the construction industry and possibility of rise in provisions and non-performing loans in regional banks made investors wary of taking long-term positions in banking and construction shares, despite positive Q1 results for the former.

MENA markets liquidity had a negative month, with volumes decreasing by 32 percent and value traded falling by 7 percent. Morocco and Bahrain witnessed increases in both volume and value traded, whereas the rest of the markets recorded declines in both. Volume and value traded in Morocco increased by 32 percent and 44 percent, respectively, despite which the index declined by 2.2 percent in May.

Most Blue Chips ended the month of May in red, barring Emirates NBD (UAE) and Saudi

Electricity (SEC, KSA). Emirates NBD entered into a co-location agreement with Du that will help optimize operational expenses, and provide direct access to vital data center ecosystem. The Saudi government is reviewing plans to break up SEC into four divisions, as part of a drive to privatize the utility. NBAD (UAE, -12.2 percent) and Ooredoo (Qatar, -10.6 percent) stocks had a poor streak in May. Financial institutions in Abu Dhabi are witnessing tightening liquidity conditions due to weaker energy revenues, prompting NBAD to look beyond domestic operations for revenue. Ooredoo posted a Q1 revenue of



\$2.16bn, down 2 percent from 1Q15, as revenues from the voice segment contracted. Arabtec Holding (UAE) declared a loss of \$12.6mn for the first quarter of the year, as the company struggles with a difficult environment, due to slowdown in Gulf economies and governments restraining spending because of low oil prices. Ongoing expansion of projects and comprehensive development plans on facilities and assets have helped Ezzan Holding Group (Qatar) record a \$161mn first-quarter net profit, a 12 percent growth compared to the \$143.5mn posted in 1Q15.

Saudi Arabia market reforms

Saudi Arabia announced a string of reforms to its stock market in a bid to attract billions of dollars of foreign investment, and to facilitate the smooth sales of state assets, as the kingdom grapples with deficit caused by low oil prices. In

June 2015, the Saudi CMA took a cautious approach to market reforms, however, in May'16, more reforms were announced to aggressively court foreign investors.

In May 2016, the kingdom announced a cut to the amount of assets foreigners must have under management to invest directly in the nation's stocks to \$1 billion from \$5 billion in Jun'15. The CMA will also now accept investments from sovereign wealth funds and university endowments. The exchange will also amend its settlement cycle to T+2 (from T+0) for share trading, bringing it in line with European markets. Each of the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) will be allowed to own directly a stake of just under 10 percent of a single listed company, up from a previous ceiling of 5 percent. Other restrictions were scrapped, including a ceiling of 10 percent on combined ownership by foreign institutions of the market's entire capitalization. All foreign investors combined will still be limited to owning 49 percent of any single firm.

Saudi CMA has also approved the introduction of securities lending and covered short selling to the stock market, which would give investors more options to hedge their purchases against market downturns. The changes will be effective before the end of the first half of 2017.

Oil Market Review

Brent crude crossed the \$50 per barrel in the month of May, the first time since Nov'15, before climbing down marginally, and closing the month at \$49.69 per barrel, up 3.2 percent from last month's close. Supply disruptions in Nigeria, Canada and Venezuela, and stronger overall demand has led to rise in price of the oil this month. Investors brushed aside concerns regarding higher Middle East output, as fight for market share between Saudi Arabia and Iran is on the cards.

SECURITY FEARS TAKE SHINE OFF TURKEY'S ONCE-BOOMING PRIVATE EQUITY MARKET

ISTANBUL: Once seen as a prime target for private equity firms, Turkey's allure has waned as security concerns and fears about President Tayyip Erdogan's growing authoritarianism have knocked investor appetite - and the lira currency.

Turkey has been hit by a spate of deadly bombings this year, including two in Istanbul blamed on Islamic State and two in the capital Ankara claimed by Kurdish militants. The mainly Kurdish southeast has been scorched by violence after a ceasefire between militants and the state fell apart last year.

Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city, was hit by another attack yesterday, when a car bomb ripped through a police bus during morning rush hour, killing 11 people and wounding 36 near the main tourist district. "The M&A activities of both strategic investors and private equity funds are very low so far this year," said Mehmet Sami, founding partner at Istanbul-based advisory firm Pretium.

"Some travellers, indeed some investors, are avoiding Turkey just because of security concerns," he said, a reference to the sharp drop-off in foreign tourist arrivals this year.

Turkey attracted some of the top names in private equity - such as US funds Carlyle and KKR - over the last decade, thanks to years of stellar growth and its enviable demographics, including the youngest population in Europe. Even as broader sentiment is worsening, some still see opportunities in the coun-

try. US private equity firm Warburg Pincus said in February it had hired a veteran local banker to help it scour for deals, a vote of confidence in Turkish domestic demand.

Turkey is grappling with a spillover from a five-year-old Syrian civil war and Islamic State rocket attacks on border towns. Heightening the tension, last year Ankara shot down a Russian jet over Syria. Mergers and acquisitions totalled \$935 million in the first four months of this year, according to consultancy Ernst & Young, on track for the weakest year since 2009. Last year, M&A totalled \$15.5 billion, down from \$22 billion in 2014, it said. "I think what's making investors pause and observe as opposed to rush to invest is the political situation and, to a certain extent, the geopolitical situation," said Nikos Stathopoulos, managing partner at buy-out firm BC Partners.

BC Partners bought a majority stake in supermarket chain Migros in 2008, later increasing its holding to 80.5 percent. The deal, worth around \$3 billion, was the largest leveraged buyout in Turkey at the time. The fund last year sold half of its stake to Turkey's Anadolu Group for around \$800 million and is on track to reap two times its original investment. In 2007, KKR bought shipping company UN Ro-Ro Isletmeleri for about 910 million euros. It sold it in 2014 to local private equity firms Esas Holdings and Actera Partners in a deal sources

said was worth about 700 million euros. Larger transactions, though, are becoming more rare.

"Fundraising is really bad right now," said a senior executive at a local private equity firm, declining to be identified. "After Turkey downed the Russian jet the impact was enormous. People thought Erdogan was so unpredictable." A steep fall in the lira hasn't helped. The lira lost a fifth of its value against the dollar last year, and 11 percent against the euro, hurt by worries about Erdogan's tightening grip on power.

Erdogan has repeatedly criticized the cost of credit in Turkey, equating high interest rates with treason, sparking concern about his influence over monetary policy. The government has also cracked down on opposition journalists, and, most recently, Ahmet Davutoglu was ousted as prime minister last month after weeks of tension with Erdogan.

RISING CONSUMER

The deals that have taken place are mostly focused on Turkish consumers, as investors bet that consumption may be able to weather the political storm. Turkey's population is expected to rise to more than 93 million by 2050, from 79 million now. In April, South Korean movie theatre operator CJ CGV said it would acquire all of cinema chain MARS Entertainment Group for 605 million euros, from Turkey's Esas and Actera, in what appears to be the biggest deal so far this year. — Reuters



SINGAPORE: Vessels are seen moored along the eastern bunkering anchorage of Singapore yesterday. — AFP

SOOTHING FED REMARKS LIFT GLOBAL STOCKS

LONDON: World stocks hit their highest in five weeks yesterday as a dovish tone from Janet Yellen cooled near-term US rate hike bets and a seven-month peak in crude prices cheered oil firms. European stock markets rallied yesterday following gains elsewhere that were triggered by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen expressing confidence in the US economy despite poor jobs data. Eurozone markets, including Frankfurt, Paris, Madrid and Milan, shot higher also as official data showed economic growth in the single currency bloc was revised higher.

London's main stocks index meanwhile climbed at a slower pace compared with its eurozone rivals. Royal Dutch Shell topped the London leaderboard, its shares winning almost 3.0 percent in morning deals, after the energy giant forecast bigger-than-expected savings following a recent huge takeover of smaller rival BG Group.

On foreign exchange, the British pound rebounded, a day after falling to around three-week low points on an uncertain outcome to the June 23 referendum on Britain's EU membership. Around 0930 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE

100 index was 0.7-percent higher compared with Monday's close. Frankfurt jumped 1.9 percent, Paris won 1.4 percent, Milan surged 2.0 percent and Madrid gained 1.1 percent. "Equity indices are handsomely in the green as risk appetite and momentum build," said Mike van Dulken, head of research at Accendo Markets. That was balanced however, by her cautioning against attaching too much significance to the payrolls data in isolation and as she pointed to other more upbeat signals for the world's largest economy. "Yellen has certainly put pay to a rate rise in June but there's more

going on here than that," said Aberdeen Asset Management's Luke Bartholomew.

"Her message really is that the US is making consistent progress towards full-employment, that inflation should pick up and there's more positives than negatives. This should give those hoping for a July rate rise some modicum of solace."

With the Fed suggesting it was in no rush to increase interest rates, bond yields slipped with 10-year US Treasury yields retreating to 1.74 percent from 1.84 percent last week. Benchmark yields are down 63 basis points so far this year. European bonds barely moved in early trading with German Bunds already near all-time lows thanks to the European Central Bank's unprecedented stimulus efforts. In the FX markets, Yellen's comments also kept the dollar pinned near a one-month low against other top currencies.

The Australian dollar meanwhile jumped 1 percent after the Reserve Bank of Australia appeared to raise the bar for further rate cuts. Sterling also climbed 0.7 percent to \$1.4524 as jostling continued over the UK's June 23 vote on its European Union membership.

Earlier yesterday, Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso told reporters that he would refrain from commenting on Japan's possible response in the currency market if the yen were to rise further.

Aso declined to comment on US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew's remark over the weekend that described recent currency market

moves as "orderly" in a sign of caution towards currency intervention.

FIFTY SHADES

Elsewhere, Brent oil prices held firmly above the psychological \$50 a barrel mark after crippling attacks on Nigeria's oil industry and data showing fresh draw downs in US crude stockpiles. Global crude benchmark futures, which have now surged more than 50 percent this year, hit a seven-month high of \$50.83 per barrel on Monday before easing to \$50.46 early yesterday.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude stood firm at \$49.60 per barrel, after rising 2.2 percent on Monday, its largest gain in three weeks. Nigeria's Bonny Light crude output is down by an estimated 170,000 barrels per day (bpd) following attacks on pipeline infrastructure, according to one Reuters industry source. Metals markets were a touch lower too but have also been signalling lately that the worst of the commodities rout may be over. Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange had slipped 0.7 percent to \$4,656.50 a ton after it had hit its highest in four weeks while zinc, another key industry metal, was at its highest in almost a year. "This week's rally continues to be supported by a weaker USD and falling inventories. However, investors will remain cautious leading into the release of China's trade data tomorrow," ANZ said in a note.— Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 10.06	5,393.03	5,382.97	5,396.51	5,379.33
Weighted Index	▼ -0.75	354.18	354.93	354.93	352.71
KXSX 15	▼ -2.30	816.08	818.38	818.38	811.73

Volume	70,138,191
Value (KWD)	5,813,551
Number of Trades	1,867

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	40.0	40.0	120,000	4,800	6	40.0	▲ 0.0
IPG	305	305	45	14	1	305	▼ -25.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	46.0	44.5	30,100	1,350	11	46.5	▼ -0.5
GPI	43.5	43.0	846,981	36,754	25	43.5	▲ 0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas	997,126	42,918	43	759.25	▼ -9.53		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFOUC	176	176	80	14	1	176	▲ 4.0
BPCC	520	510	211,920	109,296	17	520	▲ 10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	208	202	6,771	1,368	8	202	▲ 0.0
Basic Materials	218,771	110,679	26	937.66	▲ 8.30		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	▲ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
CABLE	400	390	11,529	4,602	7	400	▲ 0.0
SHIP	168	158	42,200	6,862	18	166	▲ 6.0
PCEM	990	990	60,000	59,400	2	990	▼ -10.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
ACICO	300	295	12,312	3,638	12	300	▲ 0.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	▲ 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
NICRM	210	204	35,514	7,248	3	210	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0
GYPSON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	77	77	100	8	1	77	▲ 4.0
AGLTY	480	470	444,061	210,938	22	480	▲ 5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	40.5	39.5	169,020	6,736	6	40.5	▲ 0.5
CITYGROUP	580	580	750	435	1	580	▲ 50.0
KGL	48.5	48.5	89,980	4,364	6	48.5	▲ 0.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,360	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0
GFC	32.0	32.0	4,500	144	2	32.0	▼ -2.5
MAYADEEN	26.0	25.0	6,380,054	162,744	52	25.5	▲ 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0
MTCC	68	68	500	34	1	68	▲ 1.0
UPAC	680	680	1,000	680	1	680	▲ 10.0
ALAFCO	206	206	1,100	227	1	206	▲ 8.0
MUBARRAD	63	62	22,964	1,425	2	63	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	84	83	431,000	36,193	18	84	▼ -1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	▲ 0.0
FCEM	75	73	8,859,450	655,917	166	74	▲ 1.0
RKWC	94	94	282	27	1	94	▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	▲ 0.0
Industrials	16,566,016	1,161,621	322	1055.50	▲ 4.80		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	36.0	35.5	400,000	14,395	13	36.0	▼ -0.5
KRE	56	56	527,888	29,562	4	56	▲ 1.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	▲ 0.0
NRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	▲ 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	580	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	▲ 0.0
MASALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	32.5	31.5	775,100	24,729	17	32.0	▼ -1.0
ERESCO	54	53	1,596,250	85,791	31	53	▼ -2.0
MABANEE	790	790	55,901	44,162	3	790	▲ 0.0
INJAZZAT	76	72	85,110	6,273	11	74	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	22.5	22.0	337,470	7,497	13	22.5	▲ 0.0
IRC	34.0	32.0	751,352	24,801	35	34.0	▲ 1.5
ALTIUARIA	75	75	210,000	15,750	6	75	▲ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	63	63	757,500	47,723	9	63	▲ 0.0
ADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
ALAGARIA	24.0	24.0	25,000	600	1	24.0	▼ -1.0
MAZAYA	120	118	508,500	60,203	6	118	▲ 0.0
ADNC	12.5	12.0	2,618,049	32,092	32	12.0	▼ -0.5
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.5	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	23.0	22.5	1,436,118	32,831	25	23.0	▲ 0.5
ARKAN	90	90	5,000	450	1	90	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	146	144	75,000	10,850	2	144	▼ -6.0
ABYAR	24.0	23.5	441,000	10,534	8	24.0	▲ 0.0
MUNSHAAT	55	55	1,500	83	1	55	▼ -1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	70	68	707,951	48,438	38	68	▼ -1.0
KBT	41.5	40.5	419,273	17,192	15	41.0	▼ -0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	▲ 0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	▲ 0.0
ALMUDON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.5	▲ 0.0
MARAKEZ	23.0	20.0	4,500	92	4	23.0	▲ 1.5
REMAL	34.5	33.5	7,127	239	3	34.5	▲ 0.5
AWJ	77	75	75,000	5,675	5	77	▲ 2.0
Real Estate	11,821,489	519,961	283	850.55	▼ -2.54		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
FACIL	180	178	10,750	1,935	4	178	▼ -10.0
IFA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5	▲ 0.0
NINV	92	89	3,213,010	290,050	60	89	▼ -1.0
KPROJ	510	510	247,467	126,208	16	510	▼ -10.0
COAST	40.5	38.0	7,711,486	303,403	146	39.5	▲ 1.0
SECH	40.5	40.0	1,353,000	54,547	28	40.5	▲ 0.0
SGC	82	82	14,806	1,214	1	82	▲ 0.0
ARZAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	▲ 0.0
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	▲ 0.0
ALAMAN	49.5	49.0	44,500	2,203	2	49.0	▼ -0.5
ALOLA	49.5	48.5	50,500	2,450	3	48.5	▲ 0.5
ALMAL	28.5	27.5	5,358,145	150,257	91	28.0	▲ 0.5
GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	▲ 0.0
AAYAN	37.0	36.0	471,000	17,241	13	36.0	▼ -1.5
BAYANINV	34.5	34.0	653,899	22,233	16	34.5	▲ 0.5
OGUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	▲ 0.0
KFCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.5	▲ 0.0
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
NIH	55	53	184,500	10,009	12	54	▲ 3.0
ISKAN	31.5	30.5	3,380,734	104,912	65	31.0	▲ 1.0
MADAR	14.5	14.0	194,100	2,724	8	14.0	▼ -1.0
ALDEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	▲ 0.0
ALSALAM	38.0	38.0	178,500	6,783	6	38.0	▲ 0.5
EKTTITAB	36.0	35.0	320,057	11,357	16	36.0	▲ 0.5
ALMADINA	47.0	46.0	701,001	32,497	18	46.5	▲ 0.5
NOOR	39.0	38.5	465,368	18,117	12	39.0	▼ -0.5
TAMINV	360	360	235	85	1	360	▲ 25.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	▲ 0.0
TAIBA							

OIL MARKET IS BACK IN BALANCE: ANALYST

LONDON: Global oil markets seem to have moved back into balance thanks to strong growth in fuel consumption and a series of large supply disruptions in major crude producing nations. Motorists' soaring consumption of cheap gasoline in the United States as well as in some large emerging economies, including India and Mexico, will help boost global oil demand by more than 1.4 million barrels per day in 2016. Consumption had already risen by 1.8 million bpd in 2015 and is predicted to increase by well over 1.0 million bpd again next year, marking the strongest and most sustained increase in demand since before the financial crisis.

On the supply side, US oil production is expected to fall by 700,000 bpd between 2015 and 2016 as lower prices curb onshore shale drilling. And a lengthening list of supply disruptions from Libya, Nigeria, Venezuela and Canada among others has grown to more than 3 million bpd.

While stocks of crude and fuels remain unusually high following heavy oversupply in 2014 and 2015 they are no longer increasing. The shift from oversup-

ply to market balance is evident in the relationship between nearby and deferred futures prices.

The link between timespreads, consumption, production and inventories has been established since the 1930s and is closely watched by traders.

In general, periods of oversupply and increasing inventories are associated with a contango in futures prices, where the price for nearby contracts is lower than for those maturing later. Excess demand and falling stocks are normally associated with backwardation, the opposite condition, where the price for nearby contracts is higher than for deferred dates.

Over the past 30 years, shifts in the market balance from oversupply to excess demand have normally been heralded by a change from contango to backwardation and vice versa. In the last six months, the degree of contango in both Brent and WTI futures has shrunk significantly, consistent with signs of strong demand and faltering supply.

Both futures markets continue to trade in a small contango but that is consistent with a market very close to balance. Since 2005, the "normal" condition

in the crude oil market has been a small contango (between 1985 and 2004 the typical condition was a small backwardation and the reason for the shift is controversial).

Contango

Between 2005 and 2014, the first and seventh WTI contracts traded in contango more than 70 percent of the time (reversing the previous tendency to trade in backwardation more than 70 percent of the time). The current contango in WTI prices at around \$2.00 per barrel is not significantly different from the average contango of \$1.50 per barrel between 2005 and 2014. The current Brent contango at around \$1.70 per barrel for the first six months is not far from the decade average of \$0.73. The risks to the supply-demand-price outlook now appear reasonably balanced which is being reflected in both spot prices and the timespreads.

On the supply side, crude production could surprise on the upside in the next 12 months if some of the current disruptions are resolved. If Nigeria's gov-

ernment can restore security in the delta, more than 0.5 million bpd of extra supply could return to market relatively. US shale production could also stabilise and start to rise again if oil prices remain at or above the \$50 per barrel level.

The number of rigs drilling for oil and gas in the United States rose last week for the first time in nine months, probably in response to the recent rise in prices. But the bigger risk in the medium term comes from demand, which is now growing much faster than new sources of supply.

Investment in oil exploration and production have been slashed in response to the collapse in prices since the middle of 2014. As the cycle turns, however, significant increases in investment will be needed to replace declining output from existing oil fields and meet the continued growth in consumption, which may require a further price increase.

By 2018, assuming the global economy avoid recession, higher prices will be needed to restrain super-fast growth in demand and incentivize quicker growth in supply. — Reuters



MANILA: A vendor rests as he waits for customers at a T-shirt shop in Manila yesterday. The Philippines' economy grew a better-than-expected 6.9 percent in the first quarter, the government said, putting it on track to meet full year targets and making it one of Asia's best performers for the three month period. — AFP

EUROZONE GROWTH SNEAKS UP A NOTCH

BRUSSELS: Growth in the eurozone strengthened to a revised 0.6 percent in the first quarter of 2016, official EU data showed yesterday, but analysts warned the trend would falter later in the year.

The Eurostat statistics agency said growth in the 19-nation single currency bloc accelerated in January to March at a slightly greater pace than the previous estimate 0.5 percent.

This expansion was stronger than the 0.3 percent posted in the two previous quarters in the eurozone and gave the bloc 1.7 percent growth year-on-year. The data compares favorably with the US, where GDP rose just 0.2 percent from the previous quarter and 2 percent for the 12-month period, Eurostat said. "Today's final estimate confirmed that the economy got off to a strong start to the year,

driven by household spending," Jack Allen European Economist at Capital Economics. "But the economy is unlikely to expand as quickly throughout the rest of this year," he added, citing higher oil prices and a stronger euro as reasons for caution.

That wariness was reflected last week by the German and French central banks, which issued downbeat growth forecasts for the rest of the year. "Global economic uncertainties and problems are still a handicap for eurozone growth," said Howard Archer, of IHS Global Insight. "It is also notable that first quarter growth was clearly helped in some countries (notably Germany) by the mild weather helping construction activity," he added. The EU bloc of 28 countries also grew by 0.5 percent in the first quarter, Eurostat said. — AFP



NEW YORK: The American flag flies above the Wall Street entrance to the New York Stock Exchange. Global stocks rallied yesterday after US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen hinted that an interest rate increase next week is unlikely in light of a weak US jobs report and uncertainties surrounding the US and world economies. — AP

WTO CHIEF WARNS OF BREXIT RISK TO UK'S COMPETITIVENESS

GENEVA: British business competitiveness will suffer if Britons vote to leave the European Union, the head of the World Trade Organization warned during a visit to London yesterday. WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo joins a chorus of international figures, including Bank of England Governor Mark Carney and International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde, who have said that a British exit from the EU would have damaging economic consequences. Two polls published yesterday show Britons narrowly favor remaining in the EU, in contrast to surveys released on Monday which showed the campaign for Brexit ahead.

Such divergent polls have made it difficult to predict the outcome of the vote on June 23 on whether Britain should remain part of the EU, a choice with far-reaching consequences for politics, the economy, defense, diplomacy and trade. "While trade would

continue, it could be on worse terms," Azevedo said of a vote to leave the EU. "Most likely, it would cost more for the UK to trade with the same markets - therefore damaging the competitiveness of UK companies," Azevedo said in a prepared text of his speech. Britain gets preferential export terms for 60 percent of the goods it sells abroad-including the 47 percent of its exports that go to the EU and the 13 percent that go to other countries with EU trade deals. "The implication is that UK exporters would risk having to pay up to 5.6 billion pounds (\$8.2 billion) each year in duty on their exports," Azevedo has already said that Britain would have to renegotiate its relationship with the rest of the World Trade Organization, which could take years or decades, and he reiterated that it would not be a simple job.

"Key aspects of the EU's terms of trade could not simply be cut and pasted for the UK," he said.

Britain might also need to negotiate at the WTO to keep other rights that are currently bound up with its EU membership, such as free movement of people and the right to run public utilities as monopolies, he said. Azevedo, who was a Brazilian trade negotiator and ambassador before taking over at the WTO, said he wanted to offer insight as someone with a lifelong career of brokering trade deals. Trade negotiations were highly complex and required partners who were willing and able to put a competent negotiating team in place. But running several negotiations at once would make things even more challenging. "Moreover, if you need to complete a deal quickly when the other side can wait, you are negotiating from a very weak position," he said. "So, on this basis, it could take quite some time before the UK got back to a similar position that it has today in terms of its trading relationships with other countries." — Reuters

RIT CAPITAL DROPS PLANS TO BUY UK INVESTMENT FIRM ALLIANCE TRUST

LONDON: RIT Capital Partners Plc, a British investment trust chaired by financier Jacob Rothschild, said it did not intend to make an offer for Alliance Trust Plc. RIT, which manages about 2.4 billion pounds (\$3.5 billion) of assets, said it would not be in the best interests of its shareholders to make an offer for the fellow investment firm. Alliance Trust said in May it received an informal merger approach from RIT. Alliance Trust, with assets of about 3.4 billion pounds, appointed a new chairman earlier this year as part of a major overhaul and hired Canaccord Genuity to advise the company on a strategic review.

The 128-year old trust, which has been under pressure from activist investor Elliott to make changes, said last year it planned to sell non-core investments, cut costs and make its board fully independent, consisting solely of non-executive directors.

Alliance Trust said in a statement yesterday that the review had made good progress and would continue. The company said it would continue to suspend share buybacks until the review was completed. Alliance's stock was down 1 percent at 511 pence at 1131 GMT on the London Stock Exchange, while RIT Capital was up 0.6 percent. — Reuters

US WORKER PRODUCTIVITY SLUMPED AGAIN IN Q1

LABOR COSTS CLIMB AT FASTER PACE

WASHINGTON: American workers were less productive again in the January-March quarter, although the decline wasn't as severe as first thought. Meanwhile, labor costs climbed at a faster pace than initially estimated. The Labor Department said yesterday that productivity declined at an annual rate of 0.6 percent in the first quarter after a 1.7 percent drop in the fourth quarter. The government first estimated that productivity fell at a 1 percent rate. Labor costs for employers rose at a 4.5 percent rate in the first quarter, even faster than the 4.1 percent gain first reported.

Productivity has been weak for the past five years, a troubling development since productivity growth is the key factor that pushes up living standards. The rise in labor costs indicates that worker pay is finally climbing after an extended period of weak wage growth.

Blerina Uruci, an economist with Barclays Research, said she forecasts only modest productivity growth in the coming years, with "limited scope for an imminent return" to the stronger productivity gains that were occurring before the 2007-2009 recession.

Fed Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Monday that lackluster productivity gains represented a key uncertainty facing the economy. Productivity growth has been unusually weak over the past five years, averaging just 0.5 percent per year, just one-third of the annual gains seen from 1970 to 1990, she said. While some economists are pessimistic about the prospects for productivity in the coming years, Yellen remains "cautiously optimistic" as the adverse effects of the Great Recession on investment spending and research begin to fade.

But she also urged pursuit of policies that would boost productivity saying "strengthening education and promoting innovation and investment" would support longer-term growth in productivity and greater gains in living standards.

The upgraded estimate for productivity in the



ATLANTA: Construction workers unload supplies off a hoisted pallet on a rooftop in Atlanta. Yesterday, the Labor Department issues revised data on productivity in the first quarter. — AP

first quarter reflected the fact that the government revised its estimate for total output, as measured by the gross domestic product, showing GDP grew at a 0.8 percent rate in the January-March quarter. That was slightly stronger than the 0.5 percent gain first reported. Productivity is the amount of output per hour of work. While output was revised higher, it wasn't enough to compensate for the fact that employment - and thus the number of hours

worked - rose at a faster pace in the first quarter.

The 4.5 percent rise in labor costs in the first quarter followed an even sharper 5.4 percent increase in the fourth quarter. While gains at this pace could raise concerns about inflation, the increases are coming after an extended period of wage weakness. Economists believe American wages have room to increase at faster rates before becoming an inflation problem. — AP



RITTERSHOFFEN: French minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Segolene Royal(C) speaks to journalists as she visits France's first deep geothermal power plant which will collect water at 165 degrees in the center of the Earth to provide steam to a starch factory, during its inauguration in Rittershoffen, eastern France, yesterday. — AFP

GOLD HOLDS NEAR TWO-WEEK HIGH ON FED RATE CAUTION

LONDON: Gold eased yesterday as investors turned cautious after the metal failed to sustain a recent rally, though it held near the previous day's two-week high after the Federal Reserve further dampened speculation about an imminent US rate rise.

US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on Monday provided a largely upbeat outlook for US economy and said interest rate increases were coming, but investors focused on her lack of guidance about when they would materialize. Spot gold was down 0.3 percent at \$1,240.71 an ounce at 0934 GMT, while U.S. gold futures for June delivery were down \$3.90 an ounce at \$1,243.50. It hit its highest since May 24 on Monday at \$1,248.40.

Gold is highly sensitive to rising rates, which lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion while boosting the dollar, in which the metal is priced. After sliding 6 percent in May after Fed officials struck a more hawkish tone on rates, gold has risen about 2.4 percent so far this month as expectations for a summer rate rise faded.

It rallied nearly 3 percent on Friday alone after US payrolls data for May came in much weaker than expected. However, it failed to overcome resistance in the \$1,240-1,245 area and is now trading water.

"Yellen was pretty noncommittal - she didn't give a timeframe for rate rises," Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar said. "There's a bit of indecision here. We had the knee jerk reaction on the non-farm payroll numbers, and now gold is hesitating over where to go."

"The next \$20 is difficult to call," he said. "It's had a big rally, but what's the next catalyst to push it higher?" Almost ruling out the possibility of a rate rise at the Fed's meeting next week, two top US central bankers, Dennis Lockhart and James Bullard, continued to support the prospects of a rate increase soon after. World stocks hit five-week highs yesterday on Yellen's dovish tone and a seven-month peak in crude prices cheered oil companies. Holdings in the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, New York-listed SPDR Gold Shares, fell 0.03 percent to 881.15 tons on Monday. "Over the past week holdings have increased 12.5 tons, and it shall be interesting to see whether holdings expand, we plateau, or see some selling at these higher prices," MKS said in a note.

Among other precious metals, silver was down 0.8 percent at \$16.27 an ounce, platinum fell 0.1 percent to \$990 and palladium was 1.2 percent lower at \$550.50. — Reuters

OOREDOO AMONG 'TOP COMPANIES IN THE ARAB WORLD 2016'

COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE RECEIVES AWARD AT FORBES MIDEAST GALA CEREMONY

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has recently been recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the 'Top Companies in the Arab World 2016', during its annual gala ceremony that was held under the patronage of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel & Spa in Kuwait and was attended by numerous CEOs from corporate, public and private institutions, in addition to diplomatic institutions in Kuwait and the Arab region. On behalf of Ooredoo Group, award was received by Dr Hamad Al-Nuami, Senior Consultant at Ooredoo Kuwait.

Commenting on this achievement, Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo said: "Proud to receive such a prestigious award from one of the top leading publications in the Arab region. This is considered to be a strong indicator of the success and development of the Group's performance over the past years. We will continue reinforce our strategies and plans, in order to provide the best services, products and the latest telecommunication technologies to all our customers."

He added: "Thanks to Forbes Middle East for recognizing our performance and great results achieved. We consider this award to be a motivation to further develop, progress and achieve excellence in the telecommunication field. I would also like to thank Ooredoo's top management and employees, who are the main pillar behind all our achievements and accomplishments."

Forbes Middle East is licensed by Forbes international magazine, as its solo publisher in the Middle East, and aims at



Dr Hamad Al-Nuami and Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.



(From left) Nazem Al-Ghabra, Fatima Dashti, Dr Hamad Al-Nuami, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Mijbil Al-Ayoub.

spreading its brand across the Arab world. Forbes Middle East is known for its unique editorial style that attracts a wide range of readers who are keen to stay up-to-date with the latest news about wealthy people, influential Arabs, entrepreneurs, senior managers, investors and government officials who share the same belief in the importance of having a free economy and entrepreneurial values.

In addition to this award, Ooredoo had recently been ranked as one of the top ten most valuable brands in the

MENA region for the first time according to a new study done by the leading intangible asset valuation consultancy Brand Finance, following a successful year that has seen the company raise its profile around the world.

After obtaining this position, Ooredoo had become one of the most valuable brand in the telecommunication sector. According to the report, Ooredoo's brand value has consistently increased since the company began its global brand roll-out in February 2013. During these three years, Ooredoo has seen

a 169 percent increase in its estimated brand value, which the report calculates at \$2.1 billion in 2016.

The report also notes that, with its AA+ brand rating, Ooredoo is the strongest telecoms brand in the region. The report states that the company is one of the most valuable communications brands in the Middle East today, and could rank higher in the future as Ooredoo continues to build its customer base and reinforce its brand. Ooredoo's global customer base reached 118 million by the end of March 2016.



Call: 177
Book now: jazeeraairways.com

JAZEERA AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES NEW SERVICE TO TAIF, SAUDI

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, the largest airline serving the Middle East out of Kuwait, yesterday announced the start of its four-weekly direct flights to Taif, Saudi Arabia's number one summer destination located in the Makkah province.

The inaugural flight, J9801, departed Kuwait International Airport at 4:00 pm (7th June, 2016), landing at Taif Regional Airport at 6:00 pm local time. Passengers departing were met with an airport ceremony attended by Jazeera Airways management who welcomed the passengers at the check-in counters and handed them flowers and discounted vouchers. The return flight, J9802, departed at 7:00 pm from Taif and arrived in Kuwait at 9:00 pm local time.

"Taif is an amazing destination, where our customers can enjoy, rejuvenating their senses while appreciating the beautiful, refreshing scenery," said Dr Mohammed Barakat - VP Marketing and Product at Jazeera Airways. "We are today the only Kuwaiti carrier flying to Taif. This translates our continuous strategy to address our customers' interest while providing them with our best in-class services on-ground and on-board," added Dr. Barakat.

The new destination started June 7th and will continue until September 23rd, 2016, with 4 weekly flights from Kuwait to Taif on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

With this new route, Jazeera Airways now extended its network to reach three main cities in the Kingdom including Riyadh, Jeddah and now Taif, with a total of 25 weekly flights. Nestled in the western part of the country, Taif serves as the cool and green summer capital, where people from all over

the Gulf region relish its moderate weather, beautiful scenery and the town's stress-free atmosphere.

Visitors to Taif are greeted by a fresh breeze as they ascend to the city. Set in a plateau between granite hills rising from the eastern slope of the Hejaz in the southwest region of the Kingdom, this city has become the official summer seat of Saudi Arabians and Gulf travelers.

For centuries, visitors to this mountain city 5,600 feet above sea level have enjoyed the captivating views from wind-sculpted rocks, a pleasant climate and the verdant setting of its surroundings, as well as the abundance of fruits which grow in its fertile valley. Fragrant roses, lush parks, sunny skies and exotic birds and wildlife have for generations drawn families to this resort town each summer. Not only is Taif popular among vacationers, but it has become the most popular holiday resort.

Taif is a contrast of the old and new. There are ultramodern government offices of marble and glass besides the old mud structures with wooden louver windows and carved wooden doors. The plantings of oleander and palms enhance the old and new building. It is noted for its pink palaces and for the astounding modern corniche road that winds down the sheer cliffs of the Taif escarpment to the hot coastal plain.

To learn more about Jazeera Airways offers, promotions and destinations, customers can contact the Call Center on 177 or visit the airline's website on www.jazeeraairways.com. Customers can also download the Jazeera Airways app on the iPhone or Android or Windows.



BOURSA KUWAIT HOLDS WORKSHOP ON 'THE NEW ERA OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN KUWAIT'

KUWAIT: Bursa Kuwait recently held its first workshop on 'The New Era of Corporate Governance in Kuwait', which addressed the impact of investors' trust and market liquidity, in line with its mission driven approach and its aim to create a platform to enhance communication with its stakeholders and to build up and enrich their knowledge and thought leadership on technical issues. The workshop, which was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at the Bursa Kuwait headquarters, targeted portfolio and collective investment system managers and brokerage firms.

The workshop was initiated by Mohamed Al-Osaimi, Markets Executive Director - Bursa Kuwait, who welcomed the attendees and briefed them about the company's strategy and its main objectives, which are to create an attractive platform for issuances, expand the investor base, enhance the efficiency of the market infrastructure and launch products in line with international markets.

It was then followed with a presentation given by Ahmed Al-Kiswani, Risk, Compliance and Corporate Governance Executive Director - Bursa Kuwait, where he highlighted the developments of Kuwait governance in light of the CMA's executive agenda. Kiswani also touched on the main pillars of good corporate governance, which include transparency, accountability and risk management and the impact it has on reinforcing investors' trust and their ability to make the right investment decisions. The session also covered the modern techniques and pioneering practices adopted to calculate market liquidity and link it to governance indicators across different market segments.

Bursa Kuwait, which assumed responsibility for the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) operations on 25th April, 2016, will continue to create opportunities to engage with its stakeholders and ensure that it delivers the three core pillars of transparency, efficiency and accessibility.

AGILITY NAMED ONE OF TOP COMPANIES IN ARAB WORLD

AGILITY BOARD MEMBER ONE OF MOST POWERFUL ARAB BUSINESSWOMEN

KUWAIT: Agility, a leading global logistics provider, was named as one of the Top Companies in the Arab World by Forbes Middle East, which also singled out Agility board member Henadi Al-Saleh as one of the most powerful Arab business women.

Agility and Al-Saleh were honored at a Forbes Middle East gala held to mark the fourth year that the magazine has recognized businesses and individuals for their contributions in the region. Forbes Middle East used four metrics - sales, net profits, assets and market value - to identify Agility and other publicly traded companies for the honor. The magazine also recognized privately held Kuwaiti companies.

Agility is the largest logistics provider in the Middle East and a leading provider of supply chain services in emerging markets in Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

Al-Saleh represented Agility at the gala. "We are honored to be recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the top companies in the Arab world," she said. "This recognition further highlights our strong leadership and dynamic contributions to the regional economy." The event took place at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa in Kuwait. It was attended by corporate executives, public sector leaders and diplomats.

About Agility

Agility brings efficiency to supply chains in some of the globe's most challenging environ-



ments, offering unmatched personal service, a global footprint and customized capabilities in developed and developing economies alike. Agility is one of the world's leading providers of integrated logistics. It is a publicly traded company with more than \$4.3 billion in revenue and more than 22,000 employees in over 500 offices across 100 countries.

Agility's core commercial business, Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), provides supply chain solutions to meet traditional and complex cus-

tomers needs. GIL offers air, ocean and road freight forwarding, warehousing, distribution, and specialized services in project logistics, fairs and events, and chemicals.

Agility's Infrastructure group of companies manages industrial real estate and offers logistics-related services, including e-government customs optimization and consulting, waste management and recycling, aviation and ground-handling services, support to governments and ministries of defense, remote infrastructure and life support.

FORD WINS BEST SMALL ENGINE 'OSCAR' FOR FIFTH YEAR RUNNING

DUBAI: An iconic Mustang dashes down the highway. A deft Focus navigates downtown traffic. A Ford GT screams down the race track. A capable Ford Explorer fords a stony creek. A Ford F-150 delivers best-in-class 5,534Kg towing power. But what's under the hood powering these cars? All that oomph comes from an EcoBoost engine.

Traditional engine thinking is that size equals power, and that's why Ford's EcoBoost technology has amazed the skeptics. While the smaller size of EcoBoost engines delivers greater fuel economy, they deliver the power of larger engines. The secret behind the sizzle is EcoBoost technology combines smaller overall size with turbocharging, direct injection and variable valve timing to bring customers outstanding performance and fuel economy. Ford EcoBoost engines deliver up to 20 percent better fuel economy than larger-displacement gasoline engines.

Ford's tiny yet powerful 1.0 litre EcoBoost engine has been voted best in class at the International Engine of the Year Awards for the fifth year in a row. Judges praised the combination of drivability, performance, economy, refinement and technology that continues to set the standard.

The frugal three-cylinder EcoBoost engine was named "Best Engine Under 1.0-litre" by a panel of 65 automotive journalists, from 31 countries, to win in its class each and every year since it launched. This year the EcoBoost engine finished ahead of 32 competitor engines, 19 more than it competed against in 2012. Significantly, 2015 also saw an increase in competition from global automotive manufacturers of sub 1.0-litre, turbocharged engines with direct fuel injection.

In 2014, the 1.0-litre EcoBoost became the first engine to be named overall International Engine of the Year for a third time in a row, and in 2012 was also named "Best New Engine".

"The 1.0-litre EcoBoost was a game-changer, and despite others following our lead, it remains the undisputed benchmark in its class five years on," said Kalyana Sivagnanam, Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Service of Ford Middle East and Africa. "The spirit of innovation continues to drive us as we look to use the same smart thinking for a new breed of efficient, clean and powerful down-sized diesel engines."

Available with 100 PS, 125 PS and 140 PS, and even 180 PS in the Ford Fiesta R2 rally car, the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine powers vehicles in 72 countries worldwide. In 140 PS form, the engine delivers a bigger power-to-litre ratio than a Bugatti Veyron. A road-legal Formula Ford fitted with a 205 PS version of the engine also lapped the famous Nurburgring circuit, in Germany, in 7 minutes 22 seconds; a performance that put it ahead of a host of supercars including the 600+ horsepower Lamborghini Aventador, Ferrari Enzo and Pagani Zonda.

"That it's won the overall award three times and keeps getting the jurors' votes now highlights just how special Ford's 1.0-litre EcoBoost is," said Dean Slavnich, co-chairman of the 18th International Engine

of the Year awards that were held in Stuttgart, Germany, and editor-in-chief of Engine Technology International magazine. "It's a fantastic testament to how down-sizing and greater fuel efficiency needn't mean sacrifice in other areas like power, refinement and drivability, and can even help enhance these elements."

The all-new Edge will feature three engine options, two of which are new EcoBoost powerplants - a standard twin-scroll 2.0-litre EcoBoost(r) four-cylinder and a 2.7-litre EcoBoost V6. A normally aspirated 3.5-litre V6 engine will also be offered. All will be equipped with dual exhaust and a six-speed automatic transmission.

Edge represents the first Ford vehicle to feature standard EcoBoost power

The twin-scroll 2.0-litre EcoBoost, offering an estimated 253 PS and 378 Nm of torque, is significantly improved over the previous 2.0-litre EcoBoost. Beyond efficiency advantages, this new engine will also provide more capability. The Edge is equipped with the 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine and can be specified with the newly available all-wheel drive and a towing package capable of hauling a 1588kg trailer.



The 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine is a twin-scroll design enabling optimised camshaft timing for improved engine performance and reduced turbo lag. A new, lighter engine block casting along with new aluminium balance shaft assembly shaves six pounds from the engine's gravitational weight. Other changes include lighter pistons; a newly designed, integrated exhaust manifold; and a new, high-pressure direct-injection fuel system for finer fuel atomisation. These upgrades pave the way for an increased compression ratio of 9.7:1, up from 9.3:1, for improved overall fuel efficiency.

On the other side of the engine spectrum is the Edge Sport, with an exclusive, all-new 2.7-litre EcoBoost engine that will provide an exceptional combination of power and efficiency. Setting a new standard in world-class powertrain engineering, this twin-turbocharged V6 is one of the world's most advanced engines. The 2.7-litre EcoBoost uses the same compacted graphite iron in its cylinder block as is used in the 6.7-litre Power Stroke. This advanced cylinder

block allows for a remarkably stiff and compact design that returns exceptionally refined noise, vibration and harshness control. The compacted graphite iron core is mated with a die-cast aluminium engine-block ladder frame and composite oil pan, saving weight by applying advanced materials where they are needed most.

The strength of the compacted graphite iron cylinder block allows the 2.7-litre EcoBoost engine to produce impressive power and torque for its size. Compact and efficient, the all-new engine can produce the power and torque of a mid-range V8.

Expected to deliver 340 PS and 542 Nm of torque, this 2.7-litre EcoBoost will ensure that the Edge Sport is the highest-performance Edge ever built.

* Ford Mustang - Featuring a 2.3L EcoBoost

Specifically tuned for use in Mustang, the all-new 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine brings the performance Mustang drivers expect and the ability to deliver projected best-in-class fuel economy. Turbocharging, direct injection and twin independent variable camshaft timing deliver 324 PS and 439 Nm of torque.

* Ford F-150 - Featuring a 3.5L EcoBoost

The Ford F-150 trucks equipped with EcoBoost engines will also benefit from standard Active Grille Shutters. The Active Grille Shutters stay open when extra engine cooling is required, such as during low-speed stop-and-go driving or while working in hot weather. The shutters automatically close to reduce aerodynamic drag at cruising speed. A proven engine with a combination of direct fuel injection and turbocharging that provides the low-end torque that helps get big loads moving from a dead stop.

* Ford Explorer - Featuring a 3.5L EcoBoost

The 2016 Ford Explorer Sport offers the 3.5-litre EcoBoost which delivers best-in-class V6 power with 370 PS and best in class torque with 475 Nm of torque @ 3,500 rpm.

* Ford Focus - Featuring a 1.5L EcoBoost

The 2016 Ford Focus remains one of the world's most popular nameplates, offering features normally found in vehicles with much higher price tags. Available technology like Blind Spot Information System with cross-traffic alert, lane-keeping assist, a heated steering wheel and LED signature lighting are just a few examples. The Focus is offered with 1.5-litre EcoBoost engine with 150 PS with 240 Nm of torque.

* Ford Focus ST - Featuring a 2.0L EcoBoost

The 2016 Ford Focus ST is ready for another year of spirited driving and great performance value. Its tenacious suspension with sporty spring and shock absorber tuning, electric power-assisted steering, gutsy 2.0-litre turbocharged 250 PS EcoBoost engine and six-speed manual transmission deliver a sharp, dynamic performance.

EMC ALL-FLASH PORTFOLIO DOMINATES MARKET SHARE

DUBAI: EMC Corporation (NYSE: EMC) yesterday announced a series of all-flash customer and market share milestones as enterprises around the globe continue to turn to EMC as their leading provider for all-flash storage solutions to address a multitude of enterprise needs for consolidated and mixed workloads and the world's most performance-intensive enterprise applications.

Led by the blockbuster market entry and sustained rapid growth of its leading XtremIO all-flash storage array, EMC has accelerated its market share lead in all-flash arrays according to a recently published Quarterly Enterprise Storage System Tracker by IDC. In the all-flash array market, EMC's leading 40.3 percent market share in vendor revenue for CYQ42015 climbed 4.1 percentage points from the previous year. For the entire calendar year 2015, EMC's 37.7 percent market share for all flash array vendor revenue is more than two-and-a-half times the next competitor's market share.

This market share increase is reflected across industry verticals. For example:

- In 2015, 15 of the top 20 Banking & Finance companies on the Forbes Global 2000 Top Companies list purchased flash solutions from EMC with a 202 percent increase in bookings YoY.

- EMC revenue from Telco, Media & Entertainment companies grew 316 percent in 2015 YoY with 19 out of the top 20 companies on the Forbes Global 2000 Top Companies using EMC(r) flash solutions.

The announcement reinforces an industry-wide surge towards all-flash storage solutions, as customers consolidate, accelerate and modernize data center infrastructures. The most recent full-year comparisons help illustrate the trend. Between 2014 and 2015, EMC increased its base of flash customers globally by 78 percent, with revenue for flash offerings increasing by 104 percent in H2 2015 over H1 2015. EMC's XtremIO business also achieved a \$2 billion run rate for bookings in Q42015, capping full-year 2015 XtremIO revenues of more than \$1 billion.

As EMC's fastest-growing product of all time, XtremIO topped the all-flash storage array market in just nine months after its 2013 debut, with customers continuing to choose XtremIO over competing AFAs for its ease of use and unique architecture that delivers consistent and predictable performance at scale. Several thousand customers have deployed XtremIO for its always-on, always inline data services such as deduplication and compression as well as integrated Copy Data Management (ICDM) that enables customers to accelerate and improve productivity in the business and IT organization.

Notable customers that have recently embraced EMC's all-flash-based storage systems include:

- Etisalat Group is a leading telecommunications company offering services to consumers and businesses in 19 countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Etisalat Misr is the company's Egyptian subsidiary, with more than 20 million users. Etisalat Misr deployed both EMC XtremIO

and all-flash configurations of EMC's VNX(r) storage arrays, helping improve overall performance of its business applications by a reported 300 percent. The company was looking to accelerate database response times and leveraged XtremIO and VNX to drop this into the sub-millisecond range.

- State of Indiana, USA, based in Indianapolis, invested in ten, 20TB EMC XtremIO X-Bricks for its two data centers. The deployment enabled State of Indiana to manage its virtual server performance, reduce its data center operating costs by slashing its space requirements by 75 percent, and consolidate the mission-critical database workloads of its agencies across the state. As a result of its EMC implementation, State of Indiana will become the first state government to run an all-flash data center.

- CMA, an IT consultancy based in New York, runs some of the world's most complex workloads, but were faced with intense performance and bandwidth challenges for their applications and real-time analysis of their data. With EMC DSSD(tm) D5(tm) they were able to fundamentally change their business by eliminating unnecessary software, hardware and pre-processed batch jobs.

EMC offers the industry's broadest all-flash portfolio, purpose-built to address virtually any enterprise data center use case:

- XtremIO all-flash arrays for accelerating and consolidating mixed block storage workloads such as databases, analytics, server virtual machines, and virtual desktop infrastructures that require consistent and predictable performance with sub-millisecond latencies.

- VMAX(r) All Flash for consolidating mixed block and file workloads that require the highest levels of enterprise availability, rich data services, IBM mainframe and iSeries support, and scalable storage growth.

- DSSD D5 Rack-Scale Flash - a new flash storage category with breakthrough performance - for the most performance-intensive, traditional and next-generation use cases that require microsecond latencies such as real-time analytics for Hadoop and Oracle.

- Unity(tm) - a new family of simple, affordable storage systems that deliver enterprise capabilities, all-flash performance-intensive, traditional and next-generation use cases that require microsecond latencies such as real-time analytics for Hadoop and Oracle.

EMC Executive Quote:

Jeremy Burton, President of Products and Marketing, EMC.

EMC has declared 2016 as the year of All-Flash for primary storage. Built on the amazing success of XtremIO our comprehensive portfolio now includes VMAX All Flash, DSSD D5 and the brand new EMC Unity designed to enable the Modern Data Center for today's global enterprises. As performance-hungry workloads continue growing in diversity, enterprises can turn to EMC for the industry's broadest portfolio of innovative all-flash storage solutions at price-performance points to match almost any data center use case."

LUNG CANCER: MOBILE APP COULD EXTEND LIFE EXPECTANCY

CHICAGO: A new mobile application could help doctors better provide care to patients with advanced lung cancer, perhaps even extending life expectancy, according to a study presented in the United States yesterday.

The app, named Moovcare, enables patient-doctor communication even at a distance, using remote monitoring to quickly detect relapses or complications. "This approach introduces a new era of follow-up in which patients can give and receive continuous feedback between visits," said lead author Dr. Fabrice Denis, a cancer researcher in Le Mans, France.

Study participants who used the app reported an improved quality of life and on average survived 19 months, seven months longer than the control group that received standard medical care.

"With new technologies like this app, we can make communication even simpler, which is great for doctors and even better for patients," said Gregory Masters, a lung cancer expert who did not work on the study.

Better adapted treatment

Developed by Denis, a lung cancer specialist, the app is still at prototype stage, but the Israeli firm Sivan Innovation plans to roll it out commercially in 2017 at a price yet to be determined. Sivan Innovation and the Cancer Institute of Western France co-founded the study whose results were presented at the annual American Society of

Clinical Oncology (ASCO) conference. Researchers randomly selected 133 patients to test the app or receive standard medical care following chemotherapy, radiation treatment or surgery.

Patients who used the app had the same medical visiting schedule-doctor visits and CT scans every three to six months-but used the app to assess their own symptoms weekly.

If the app detected specific changes in any of a dozen symptoms, doctors received alerts to adapt treatment accordingly. One year after the study began, 75 percent of patients using the app were still alive, in contrast to 49 percent in the control group.

Relapse rates in both groups hovered around 50 percent, but 74 percent of those using the app were strong enough to continue treatment following relapse. Just one-third in the control group were considered healthy enough for more procedures.

Doctors did note that while corresponding with patients via the app did not significantly add time to their work weeks, the app could burden medical facilities with additional costs, if nurses or other staff must also help monitor patients who were using it.

An estimated 224,000 people will receive a lung cancer diagnosis in the United States alone this year. It is the most common cancer worldwide, with 1.8 million new diagnoses and 1.59 million deaths in 2012, according to statistics cited by ASCO. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: Hands type on a computer keyboard in Los Angeles. News that Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's rarely used Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest accounts were briefly compromised should serve as a reminder that we're all susceptible to hacking. — AP

ZUCKERBERG HACKING SERVES AS REMINDER TO CHANGE PASSWORDS

THE LESSON: EVERYONE IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO HACKING

NEW YORK: Mark Zuckerberg can be hacked and so can you. The Facebook founder's rarely used Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest accounts were briefly compromised on Sunday, serving as a reminder that everyone is susceptible to hacking.

Safeguards you could take include creating strong passwords and changing them frequently. Yes, all this is a pain, and it's not your fault that the tech industry couldn't grapple with the rise in security breaches. But if you do nothing, someone could break into your financial account or use your social media account to spew obnoxious or hateful messages. Think of how many friends you'll lose.

Here are six things you can do to stay safe.

PICK A GOOD PASSWORD

The more complicated and lengthy a password is, the harder it will be for hackers to guess. Don't include your kids' names, birthdays or references to any other personal details. Hackers routinely troll Facebook and Twitter for clues to passwords like these. Obvious and default passwords such as "Password123" are also bad, as are words commonly found in dictionaries, as these are used in programs hackers have to automate guesses.

Long and random combinations of letters, numbers and other characters work best.

DON'T REUSE PASSWORDS

Avoid using the same password for multiple sites, so that a break of your school's PTA site wouldn't lead hackers to your online banking

account. You can make things easier on yourself by using a password-manager service such as LastPass or DashLane. They remember complex passwords for you - but you have to trust them. Last June, LastPass disclosed "suspicious activity" and told users to change their master passwords.

Some web browsers such as Apple's Safari and Google's Chrome also have built-in password managers. They work if you switch devices but not if you switch browsers.

NEW TOOTHBRUSH? NEW PASSWORD

It's important to change your password regularly, just as good physical hygiene calls for replacing your toothbrush every few months. And don't be tempted to recycle an old one. The longer a password sits around, the more likely it is to fall into the wrong hands.

And if company announces that it's been hacked, change your password right away, even if it says your information wasn't compromised. Breaches are often worse than they first appear. LinkedIn recently disclosed that a 2012 breach affected 117 million accounts - not the 6.5 million previously thought.

MAKE IT HARDER

Multi-factor identification - which asks users to enter a second form of identification, such as a code texted to their phone - will provide additional protections at services that offer it.

Even if hackers manage to get your password

to, say, Facebook, they still need your phone with the texted code. It's not as much of a pain as it seems, as services typically ask for this second code only when logging on from a new device or browser.

TAKE OUT THE TRASH

Delete or deactivate accounts you no longer use. Got a spam-filled Juno or AOL email account lying dormant? Maybe it's time to say goodbye. Just last week, Myspace said a hacker has put up for sale login information for some accounts created before June 11, 2013.

If, like most people, you've moved on to greener social media pastures, permanently get rid of the ones you no longer use. This often can be done through your account settings - as long as you still have your password to sign in.

SOCIAL MEDIA CLEAN UP

And while we're on the subject of social media, make sure you restrict posts to just your actual friends. You can adjust that in the settings. Some companies try to help their users with this. Facebook, for example, occasionally prompts its users to review who can see their personal information and how strong their security settings are.

Nonetheless, assume that everyone everywhere can see what you're posting. Personal tidbits can not only help hackers crack easy passwords, they also can be used to answer supposedly personal questions to reset passwords. — AP

SULTAN TELECOM ADDS NEW SERVICE TO IZONE.SERVICES

KUWAIT: Sultan Telecom, one of The Sultan Center Group of companies is keen on establishing its name within the retail segment by offering innovative services for the consumer market. The consumer facilities branches branded as "iZONE Services", has added maintenance service and fixing of all types of mobiles and smartphones to its already existing bouquet of services.

Currently, iZONE Services are available across Kuwait and located within the premises of The Sultan Center at Shuwaikh, Al-Kout Mall, Souk Sharq, Eaila, Salmiya and Hawalli. The current services offered are Internet Subscription services for Service Providers like KEMS, Mada, Fasttelco, Qualitynet and GulfNet. We are also conveniently located to allow the mobile user community to have their bills paid or to top up their accounts. We offer services for Zain, Ooredoo and Viva. Apart from providing mobile accessories, we also provide mobile repair services.

Sultan Telecom is one of the leading communications solutions and infrastructure companies in all sectors and is one of the major companies in Kuwait



and has contributed in many major projects in Kuwait and abroad. The company has a branch in the State of Bahrain as well and has plans to grow to other countries as well.

"iZONE Services" has been developed by ArabianITS an ISO 9001:2008 certified company and is a subsidiary of Sultan Telecom and The Sultan Center Group.

SOLAR-POWERED AIRPLANE'S FLIGHT TO NEW YORK CITY POSTPONED



ALLENTOWN: Bertrand Piccard takes a selfie on board the "Solar Impulse 2" during his flight from Dayton, Ohio to Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown, Pa, where he landed on May 25. The plane was expected to make at least one more stop in the United States - in New York - before crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Europe or northern Africa. — AP

ALLENTOWN, Pa: The latest leg of a solar-powered airplane's around-the-world journey has been postponed due to weather conditions. The Swiss-made Solar Impulse 2 was scheduled to take off from Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown and head to New York City around midnight Monday, but project officials announced around 12:30 am yesterday that the flight had been postponed because of showers and thunderstorms moving through the area.

The plane was scheduled to fly over the Statue of Liberty before landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport, its last stop in the United States before crossing the Atlantic Ocean. It wasn't immediately clear when the flight would take place. The plane has been in Allentown since May 25.

The voyage began March 2015 from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. — AP



ARRAS: French President Francois Hollande (C-R) attends a ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone of LFB pharmaceutical biotechnology group's new fractionation plant, with LFB CEO Christian Bechon (L), President of the Hauts-de-France region, Xavier Bertrand (3rd L) and member of the Pas-de-Calais General Council, Frederic Cuvillier (5th L) in Arras, northern France. — AFP

MALAWI ALBINOS FACE 'UNPRECEDENTED' KILLINGS

LILONGWE, Malawi: Albinos in Malawi are being targeted in an "unprecedented wave of brutal attacks", Amnesty International said yesterday, blaming police for failing to tackle a scourge fuelled by ritual practices. At least 18 albinos who have white skin because of a hereditary condition that causes an absence of pigmentation have been killed across Malawi since November 2014. Five others are still missing after being abducted, the London-based rights group said in a report. The report titled "We are not animals to be hunted or sold" painted a chilling picture, with the body parts of victims, including children, routinely hacked off for use in witchcraft.

"The unprecedented wave of brutal attacks against people with albinism has created a climate of terror," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty's director for Southern Africa. The actual number of people killed may be much higher, Amnesty noted, as many cases go unreported due to the secretive nature of ritual practices in rural areas. "Malawian

authorities have dismally failed them, leaving this population group at the mercy of criminal gangs who hunt them down for their body parts," said Muchena.

'A macabre trade'

"Talking will not end these attacks. Concrete action is urgently required." The Amnesty report said the body parts were used as "charms and magical potions in the belief that they bring wealth and good luck." "The macabre trade is also fuelled by a belief that bones of people with albinism contain gold." Malawi police said they had recorded at least 69 crimes against people with albinism since November 2014, and some 39 cases of illegal exhumation of the bodies of people with the condition.

Police spokesman Nicholas Gondwa was unable to give earlier statistics for albino killings but confirmed that 18 albinos had been killed since November 2014. He told AFP that the police "were doing all they can to educate people about the need for communities to provide security

to albinos." The Machinga district in the south of the impoverished country has been identified by police as the area where most attacks take place.

'Systematic extinction'

Amnesty documented several cases, including that of a 17-year-old boy, who was abducted and trafficked to Mozambique in April where he was killed. Both his arms and legs were chopped off and his bones removed. The attacks and discrimination have sown terror among the 7,000-10,000 Malawians living with albinism. Amnesty called on the government to improve protection, including better policing in rural areas. In April, Malawi's police chief Lexen Kachama issued an order for the police to shoot those who attack albinos, calling them "dangerous criminals."

The killing of albinos is also prevalent in Tanzania and Mozambique. The UN in April warned that Malawi faces "systematic extinction" of people living with albinism if



LILONGWE, Malawi: This file photo shows Malawian albino tailor Henry Bauti (right) working at his sewing machine as a customer waits at the Mitundu Trading Center in a suburb of Lilongwe. — AFP

they continue to be murdered for their body parts. "People tell me in my face that they will sell me," a 37-year-old man told

Amnesty. "One time someone said I was worth 6 million Malawian Kwacha (\$10,000)," — AFP



PARIS: The low-fat movement has not prevented a global epidemic of obesity linked to health concerns such as diabetes, heart attacks and stroke. — AFP

STUDY THROWS FAT IN THE FIRE OF DIET DEBATE

'TIME TO END OUR FEAR OF FAT'

PARIS: A health study came to the defense of certain dietary fats yesterday, adding fuel to a scientific row over low-fat guidelines that have bedeviled dieters for nearly half-a-century. The low-fat movement has not prevented a global epidemic of obesity linked to health concerns such as diabetes, heart attacks and stroke, said researchers who probed whether fat in olive oil and nuts pile on the pounds. Of nearly 7,500 overweight and obese people enrolled for a trial in Spain, those who boosted "healthy" fat intake did not gain more weight than those who tried cutting back on all fat, researchers found.

"Our trial demonstrates that a high-fat, high vegetable diet such as (a) Mediterranean diet does not promote weight gain," study author Ramon Estruch of the University of Barcelona told AFP. Commentators cautioned against reading too much into the trial, which targeted a very distinct group of people: Caucasians aged 55-80, already overweight and at risk of heart disease. Even those limiting fat had much more of it in their diet than the 30 percent recommended by the UN's World Health Organization (WHO), they said.

For decades, dietary fat has been blamed for artery-clogging cholesterol linked to heart disease and stroke.

Recently, researchers started poking holes in the hypothesis, and seeking to distinguish between different fats. Last month, Britain's National Obesity Forum published a controversial report entitled: "Eat fat, cut the carbs and avoid snacking to reverse obesity and type 2 diabetes". In April, a study said replacing animal fat with veg-

etable oil seems not to lower heart disease risk, and may even boost it.

Too fat, or not too fat?

Last October, a review of 53 scientific studies said low-fat diets did not yield greater weight loss than low-carb ones. The latest study divided people into three groups. At the start, fat represented about 40 percent of the diet of all the individuals. Two of the groups were allowed an unrestricted-calorie "Mediterranean" diet one with as much olive oil as they wished, and the other with unlimited nuts. The third group were given the traditional, avoid-all-fat, advice. After five years, the third group had reduced fat intake to 37.3 percent, while the other two increased theirs to about 42 percent.

People lost a little weight in all the groups—less than a kilogram on average. All saw a slight increase in average waist circumference, especially the "low-fat" group. This meant "the fear of weight gain from high-fat foods need no longer be an obstacle to adherence to a dietary pattern such as the Mediterranean diet" with its widely-documented health benefits, said Estruch. However, the findings did not amount to a blank cheque for eating "unhealthy fats" such as processed meat, sweetened drinks, deserts or fast foods, he added.

In a comment carried by the journal, Dariush Mozaffarian of the Massachusetts-based Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, argued it was "time to end our fear of fat." "Dietary guidelines should be revised to lay to rest the outdated, arbitrary limits on total fat consumption," he wrote. "Calorie-obsessed caveats and

warnings about healthier, higher-fat choices such as nuts, phenolic-rich vegetable oils, yoghurt, and even perhaps cheese, should also be dropped."

Fat chance

Some were more cautious.

"The differences in fat and carbohydrate intake between different groups was rather modest and therefore the results don't support either a low-fat or low-carbohydrate approach to weight loss," University of Reading nutritional scientist Gunter Kuhnle told the Science Media Centre in London. Added University of Oxford diet expert Susan Jebb: "It is impossible from this study to draw any conclusion about the impact of low fat diets on body weight." The World Health Organization said it would publish a review of fat guidelines this year.

"At the moment, the WHO still recommends to keep the energy intake from fat low," the UN body's nutrition head Francesco Branca told AFP. "Certainly we don't recommend to increase ad libitum (as desired)." In countries where fat intake has skyrocketed, such as China, there has been an associated rise in obesity and health problems, he pointed out. A healthy diet will vary from person to person, said Branca, depending on factors such as age and lifestyle, and "isolating a single nutrient from the context of the dietary recommendation can be a little bit problematic." Published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, the study was funded by the Spanish government. Oil and nut companies donated the olive oil and nuts that the trial participants consumed, but had no role in the study design, data collection or analysis, the authors said. — AFP

WOMAN BREAKS SILENCE AMONG FUKUSHIMA THYROID CANCER PATIENTS

KORIYAMA, Japan: She's 21, has thyroid cancer, and wants people in her prefecture in northeastern Japan to get screened for it. That statement might not seem provocative, but her prefecture is Fukushima, and of the 173 young people with confirmed or suspected cases since the 2011 nuclear meltdowns there, she is the first to speak out. That near-silence highlights the fear Fukushima thyroid-cancer patients have about being the "nail that sticks out," and thus gets hammered.

The thyroid-cancer rate in the northern Japanese prefecture is many times higher than what is generally found, particularly among children, but the Japanese government says more cases are popping up because of rigorous screening, not the radiation that spewed from Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant. To be seen as challenging that view carries consequences in this rigidly harmony-oriented society. Even just having cancer that might be related to radiation carries a stigma in the only country to be hit with atomic bombs.

"There aren't many people like me who will openly speak out," said the young woman, who requested anonymity because of fears about harassment. "That's why I'm speaking out so others can feel the same. I can speak out because I'm the kind of person who believes things will be OK." She has a quick disarming smile and silky black hair. She wears flip-flops. She speaks passionately about her new job as a nursery school teacher. But she also has deep fears: Will she be able to get married? Will her children be healthy?

Thyroid cancer is curable

She suffers from the only disease that the medical community, including the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, has acknowledged is clearly related to the radioactive iodine that spewed into the surrounding areas after the only nuclear disaster worse than Fukushima's, the 1986 explosion and fire at Chernobyl, Ukraine. Though international reviews of Fukushima

have predicted that cancer rates will not rise as a result of the meltdowns there, some researchers believe the prefecture's high thyroid-cancer rate is related to the accident.

The government has ordered medical testing of the 380,000 people who were 18 years or under and in Fukushima prefecture at the time of the March 2011 tsunami and quake that sank three reactors into meltdowns. About 38 percent have yet to be screened, and the number is a whopping 75 percent for those who are now between the ages of 18 and 21. The young woman said she came forward because she wants to help other patients, especially children, who may be afraid and confused. She doesn't know whether her sickness was caused by the nuclear accident, but plans to get checked for other possible sicknesses, such as uterine cancer, just to be safe.

"I want everyone, all the children, to go to the hospital and get screened. They think it's too much trouble, and there are no risks, and they don't go," the woman said in a recent interview in Fukushima. "My cancer was detected early, and I learned that was important." Thyroid cancer is among the most curable cancers, though some patients need medication for the rest of their lives, and all need regular checkups. The young woman had one cancerous thyroid removed, and does not need medication except for painkillers. But she has become prone to hormonal imbalance and gets tired more easily.

She used to be a star athlete, and snowboarding remains a hobby. A barely discernible tiny scar is on her neck, like a pale kiss mark or scratch. She was hospitalized for nearly two weeks, but she was itching to get out. It really hurt then, but there is no pain now, she said with a smile. "My ability to bounce right back is my trademark," she said. "I'm always able to keep going." She was mainly worried about her parents, especially her mother, who cried when she found out her daughter had cancer. Her two older siblings also were screened but were fine. — AP



JAPAN: In this file photo, a young evacuee is screened at a shelter for leaked radiation from the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima, northeast of Tokyo. — AP

NEW US DATA SYSTEM TO CENTRALIZE CANCER DATA

CHICAGO: The US National Institutes of Health announced Monday the creation of a centralized data system to facilitate cancer research access and sharing. The Genomic Data Commons (GDC) will centralize, standardize and facilitate access to large-scale programs of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), such as The Cancer Genome Atlas—which has mapped important genetic mutations for 33 types of cancer—as well as its pediatric equivalent, Therapeutically Applicable Research to Generate Effective Treatments.

TCGA and TARGET represent some of the largest databases on cancer genomics, with more than two petabytes of data, or the equivalent of 446,000 DVDs. Part of the national Cancer Moonshot and Precision Medicine initiatives, the new data platform has a budget of \$70 million. Vice President Joe Biden—who leads Cancer Moonshot—launched the GDC operations center at the University of Chicago during a visit on Monday, the NIH said in a statement.

Biden, who also addressed the American Society of Clinical Oncology's

annual meeting in Chicago, has played a public role in the fight against cancer since the death of his son Beau from a brain tumor last year. Data in the GDC will be harmonized to make it accessible to all cancer researchers, who will also be able to add their results to the database. "These datasets will lead to a much deeper understanding of which therapies are most effective for individual cancer patients" and accelerate the effectiveness of precision medicine, said Louis Staudt, director of the NCI's Center for Cancer Genomics.

Precision medicine is aimed at treating patients according to their individual genes as well as their lifestyles and the environments in which they live. After almost a century of growth, cancer death rates fell by 23 percent between 1991 and 2012 because of the sharp decline of smoking combined with better treatment and earlier detection, the American Cancer Society says. Obama announced the Cancer Moonshot initiative in January, aiming to double the pace of cancer research for the next five years. — AFP

HONG KONG CULLS THOUSANDS OF BIRDS OVER AVIAN FLU SCARE

HONG KONG: Hong Kong culled 4,500 birds yesterday after the deadly H7N9 bird flu virus was discovered in a chicken at a local market. Health officials in white hazmat suits and masks dumped the

chickens into green plastic bins at a wholesale poultry market in central Hong Kong yesterday morning. The bins were then pumped with carbon dioxide to kill the birds. Hong Kong is particu-

larly alert to the spread of viruses after an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) swept through the city in 2003, killing 299 people and infecting around 1,800.

Bird flu scares in the past two years have seen mass culls of up to 20,000 birds in Hong Kong. A spokeswoman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said the latest cull included chickens and pigeons. Trade of live poultry has also been suspended after authorities said Saturday the avian flu virus was found in a fecal sample collected from a chicken at a market in the Tuen Mun, a neighborhood in the west of Hong Kong. The city's health minister Ko Wing-man said the city was staying "stringent" against infectious diseases when he announced the cull late Monday.

H7N9 is a particular worry for authorities as it does not kill infected chickens or cause them to develop symptoms, which allows it to spread undetected until contact is made with humans. The majority of human cases of H7N9 infection have been associated with direct or indirect contact with infected live or dead poultry, according to the World Health Organization. Human infections from the H7N9 strain were first reported in China in 2013. The virus can cause serious respiratory illness and has led to deaths. — AFP



HONG KONG: Workers cull chickens at the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market in Hong Kong. — AFP

DOWN'S SYNDROME 'TREATED' WITH GREEN TEA

PARIS: A chemical in green tea has been shown to improve cognitive ability in persons with Down's syndrome, scientists and doctors said yesterday. In a year-long clinical trial, the treatment led to improved scores on memory and behavior tests, they reported in a study, published in the *Lancet Neurology*. The positive impact remained six months after the trial ended. Brain scans revealed that the compound, called epigallocatechin gallate, altered the way neurons in the brain connect with one another.

"This is the first time that a treatment has shown efficacy in the cognitive improvement of persons with this syndrome," said Mara Dierssen, senior author of the study and a researcher at the Centre for Genomic Regulation in Barcelona. While significant, she added in a statement, the results should not be interpreted as a "cure." "But it may be a tool to improve these individuals' quality of life." Experts not involved in the

study described it as "exciting" and "an important piece of work." At the same time, they cautioned, the findings must be validated in additional trials.

Down's syndrome is the most common genetic form of intellectual disability, and afflicts approximately one in 1,000 people, according to the World Health Organization. Also known as trisomy 21, the condition is caused by the presence of an extra, or third, copy of chromosome number 21. Humans normally have 23 pairs of chromosomes, which together contain up to 25,000 protein-coding genes.

In Down's syndrome, the extra copy causes some of the genes in chromosome 21 to be "over-expressed", leading to reduced cognitive abilities and other health problems. In earlier experiments with mice designed to mimic Down's, Dierssen had shown that inhibiting one of these genes, DYRK1A, improved function and development in the brain.

'A leap forward'

But the technique used—gene therapy—was not an option for humans, so the researchers turned to the green tea compound. In the trials, 84 young adults with Down's syndrome were split into two groups. One was given a decaffeinated green tea supplement containing 45 percent epigallocatechin gallate, along with weekly online cognitive training. The second group had the same training, but ingested a look-alike placebo instead of the supplement. The subjects took cognitive tests after three, six and 12 months.

There was little-to-no change in most categories, but in a few—the ability to remember patterns, verbal recall, adaptive behavior—the "green tea" group scored significantly better. Moreover, they improved over time. "It's exciting that an understanding of the genetic neurobiology of Down's syndrome is leading to the possibility of disorder-specific treatments," said David Nutt,

head of the Centre for Neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London, in commenting on the study. Marie-Claude Potier, a Down's specialist at the Brain and Spine Institute in Paris, said the results were a "leap forward," but that safety and efficacy need to be confirmed.

Still genetics is not everything, cautioned another pair of researchers, even as they recognized the importance of the new study. "We can no longer afford to view someone with Down's syndrome solely through the lens of trisomy 21," noted Fabian Fernandez and Jamie Edgin of the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Arizona in a commentary. It is equally important to "understand each individual in light of their larger genetic and environmental background," as well as other health problems and access to education, they wrote in *The Lancet Neurology*. — AFP

NEW BLOOD TEST POINTS TO DEPRESSION TREATMENT

LONDON: Scientists have developed a blood test that can predict whether people with depression will respond to common antidepressants, a discovery that could bring in a new era of personalized treatment for people with the debilitating mental illness. Guided by this test, the researchers said, doctors should in future be able to direct depressed patients with a certain level of inflammation in their blood towards earlier treatment with a more potent course of antidepressants, possibly including combining two medications, before they get worse.

"This study moves us a step closer to providing personalized antidepressant treatment at the earliest signs of depression," said Annamaria Cattaneo, who led the work at King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN)

Depression is one of the most common forms of mental illness, affecting more than 350 million people worldwide. It is ranked by the World Health Organization as the leading cause of disability globally. Treatment usually involves either medication, some form of psychotherapy, or a combination of both. But around half of all people treated for depression fail to get better with first-line antidepressants, and around a third of patients are resistant to all available medications designed to help. Until now, doctors have not been able to establish whether someone will respond to an antidepressant, or whether they might need a more aggressive treatment plan from the start. As a result, patients are often treated with a trial-and-error approach, trying one drug after another for months on end and often seeing no improvement in their symptoms. — Reuters

CLEVER FISH CAN RECOGNIZE HUMAN FACES

PARIS: A tropical fish can tell one human face from another despite lacking a part of the brain that animals considered much smarter use for this task, scientists said yesterday. This unsuspected ability was demonstrated in experiments with archerfish, a tropical species best known for spitting jets of water to shoot prey out of the air. Instead of aiming at bugs, the sharpshooter fish were taught to spit at pictures of human faces displayed on a computer monitor outside their aquarium.

The fish were first introduced to two faces, and taught to spit at one of them in exchange for a food reward. The researchers then tested whether the fish would recognize, and spit at, the face they had learned from among 44 new ones. And they were right more than 80 percent of the time, the team found.

"Even when we did this with faces that were potentially more difficult because they were in

black and white and the head shape was standardized, the fish were still capable of finding the face they were trained to recognize," said study co-author Cait Newport of the Oxford University's department of zoology.

Fishy feat

Distinguishing between human faces is a surprisingly difficult task, she said. As we all have two eyes above a nose and mouth, doing so depends on identifying sometimes subtle differences. "It has been hypothesized that this task is so difficult that it can only be accomplished by primates, which have a large and complex brain," said Newport, whose study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*. But the archerfish were able to do this despite not having a neocortex, the most recently evolved part of the brain. In humans, the neocortex governs sensory perception and language. — AFP



OXFORD: This photo handout by Oxford University shows an archerfish in its aquarium at a laboratory in Oxford. — AFP



MEXICO CITY: This photo shows a dead totoaba, top, and a vaquita marina after they were caught in gillnet, set by fishermen to catch totoaba fish in the El Golfo de Santa Clara, in the northern part of Mexico's Sea of Cortez. — AP

DEBATE SURROUNDS HOW TO SAVE MEXICO'S VAQUITA PORPOISE

MEXICO CITY: A new report on Mexico's endangered vaquita marina porpoise says authorities may have to consider trapping some of the few remaining specimens to try to breed them in captivity or semi-captivity. The vaquita is the world's smallest porpoise, and only around 60 remain in the Gulf of California, the only place in the world they live. The report by the International Commission for the Recovery of the Vaquita says offsite - "ex situ" - conservation should be considered. That could mean putting the dolphins in breeding pens, either in coastal waters or elsewhere.

Some experts oppose that, saying efforts to capture them could kill the few vaquitas left. The Commission, known by its initials in Spanish as CIRVA, acknowledged the risks involved. Nobody has ever kept vaquitas in captivity, much less bred them. "While recognizing the risks and complexities of such an approach, CIRVA concluded that fieldwork to determine the feasibility of ex situ conservation actions for the vaquita is warranted," according to the report.

"CIRVA agreed unanimously that capture of all remaining vaquitas is not a viable conservation strategy for vaquitas, which must, first and foremost, be protected in their wild habitat."

'Every single vaquita counts'

Omar Vidal, the head of the Mexico office of the World Wildlife Fund, the WWF, said that "capturing vaquitas to breed them would be far too risky and is not a viable option." "With only around 60 vaquitas left, we simply cannot gamble with killing some while experimenting. Every single vaquita counts!" "I see no other way to save this porpoise than by focusing all efforts and resources in eliminating its accidental deaths in fishing activities," Vidal said.

Both sides agree that Mexico's current efforts haven't worked, and that the species is in a death spiral. Since the latest population estimates were made in December, at least three more dead vaquitas have been found, all killed by nets. "The species is racing toward extinction," the commission wrote. "Even under

optimistic scenarios about reproductive and survival rates, a catch of only three animals per year will likely result in a continued decline."

The vaquitas are threatened primarily by gillnet fishing for the totoaba fish, another endangered species in the area that is hunted for its swim bladder, considered a delicacy in China. In April 2015, Mexican authorities announced a \$70 million plan to ban gillnet fishing in about half of the upper Gulf. The plan promised to compensate fisherman for not using gillnets and offered them alternative, safer nets.

However that has not been effective for reasons ranging from the very high payoff - a totoaba bladder can sell for \$5,000 in the United States and double that in Asia - to inefficiency in the compensation program. Some say criminal gangs may be involved in the illicit trade. The commission said the Mexican government must enforce rules against gillnets, or ban all fishing in the upper Gulf, also known as the Sea of Cortez. — AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
وفهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

BRITISH EMBASSY SENDS WARM WISHES FOR START OF RAMADAN

REDUCED EMBASSY HOURS

On the occasion of the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Her Majesty's Ambassador Matthew Lodge, on behalf of the British Embassy, would like to send his warmest wishes to Muslims across Kuwait and the world.

On this occasion, Ambassador Matthew Lodge said: "At the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, I am pleased to send you greetings and best wishes on behalf of the British Embassy in Kuwait. Ramadan is a very special and important time of the year: A time for reflection, tolerance, forgiveness and charity. It is also a time when families and friends come together. The UK is home to a large and diverse Muslim community, many of whom will be fasting and sharing iftar with their loved ones. The last year has seen the people of the United Kingdom further strengthen their historic friendship with Kuwaitis through the introduction of the new electronic visa waiver system. The system has made it faster and easier to visit the UK; to reconnect with old friends, visit family or make new connections. I look forward to enjoying the holy month with friends new and old."

During the holy month, the British Embassy working hours will be reduced, and the Embassy will be open from 08:30-14:30 from Sunday to Thursday. Application submission at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) will be available from 09:00 to 14:30, while passport collections will run from 14:00 to 15:30 from Sunday to Thursday. The British Embassy in Kuwait wishes you and your family a blessed time.

HUMOUD CONGRATULATES GSSC GRADUATES

Professor Moudi Al-Humoud, President of the Arab Open University (AOU), congratulated the graduates of the General Secondary School Certificate (GSSC) for the year 2015/2016, wishing them all success, good luck and progress in their educational life and hoping they obtain higher education certificates and contribute to building their countries. She also extended her gratitude and appreciation to all students' parents and teaching and administrative staff of all schools of the Ministry of Education in Kuwait for their support and assistance to their students who were able to achieve best results. She also wished good luck to the students who were not able to pass this year.

This came in a press statement on the occasion of the announcement of GSSC results. Humoud considered these results excellent and satisfactory to all students and all who work in the sector of private and public education. She also said 'It pleases me that the results have come in conjunction with the holy month of Ramadan, May Allah return this month with our dear country and the whole Arab and Islamic nation blessed with surplus good and blessing. This occasion gives another flavor for the happiness of students and their parents in their success.'

Humoud stressed on the importance of graduates' choice of suitable academic majors that meet their desires, labor market requirements and development plans as well as the comprehensive development in Kuwait.

Humoud added that the AOU is keen on admitting all GSSC graduates who fulfill conditions of the University and competent authorities in Kuwait or in other branch countries, pointing out the AOU is an educational non-profit project spreading in nine Arab countries and its headquarters is based in Kuwait.

She noted that depending on the partnership with the Open University in UK, the AOU adopts a high quality and diverse blended learning system, combining traditional learning, self-learning and e-learning, adding this system suits students' capabilities and circumstances and allows students to attend their lectures flexibly.

The AOU degrees are equal to others awarded by Arab and international universities and accredited by official accreditation authorities in branch countries and by other international programmatic and institutional accreditation bodies, said Humoud, adding the AOU offers a range of academic programs taught in English such as B.A. program in English Language and Literature, B.Sc. Programme in Information Technology and Computing, B.A. Program in Business Studies, while there are diplomas and master's programs in education taught in Arabic at some AOU branches. She added that AOU graduates obtain two certificates, one from (AOU) and another from (OU-UK).



Some of the graduates in a group photo

AL BAYAN BILINGUAL SCHOOL CELEBRATES GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016 UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF PARLIAMENT SPEAKER MARZOUQ AL-GHANEM

Al Bayan Bilingual School (BBS) officially graduated 98 students of the class of 2016, who are prepared to leave school behind and begin a new chapter in their academic life. Held in the Arraya Ballroom at the Courtyard Marriott, the ceremony commenced with the Kuwaiti national anthem followed by a recitation of the Holy Quran.

This year's ceremony was attended by the honorary guest Speaker of the Kuwaiti Parliament Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, school owners and members of the board of trustees, BBS parents, the BBS Acting Director, High School staff and teachers and other members of the school community. Once students were seated, Master of Ceremony and High School Principal, Jihad Sadeddin, welcomed guests and invited BBS Acting Director, Maha Kaddoura to the podium.

In her opening remarks, Maha Kaddoura congratulated both students and their parents on this significant accomplishment and said: "something is very special about graduation speeches, they mark the last time we meet with our beloved graduates. As of today, they will embark on the wonderful journey of life. We, at Al-Bayan, made sure to prepare them to their future and to cope with all the changes and challenges that they may come across. May Allah (God) bless them with success in each step they take wherever they are"

High School Principal, Sadeddin, later introduced keynote speaker, Marzouq Al-Ghanem to deliver his speech. During his speech, Ghanem expressed his happiness to be sharing this moment with BBS graduates and said: "Allah has blessed me, since I started to be a public figure, with many opportunities and one of them is to be

standing in ceremonies like this one, a ceremony where we congratulate you on your graduation, touch the ambition that filled your hearts, see the hope through your eyes and see the happy tears in your parent's eyes."

"In each ceremony I have been to, my heart was full of faith and optimism in a better future for our beloved country Kuwait. Honestly, today's ceremony is very special as I am seeing some of my old friends, friends that I shared a class desk with. We did not get, back in our time, to celebrate our graduation however, today we will make it up by celebrating the graduation of the most precious people in our lives, our children"

Later during the ceremony, class valedictorian Mohammad Al-Mejel and salutatorian Lama Abuloghod were honored for their high academic achievements. In order to qualify for these two awards, students must achieve the highest and second to highest cumulative GPA throughout High School.

Several other students were awarded for their outstanding achievements in academics, athletics and community service including the Council of International Schools (CIS) Award, the Senior Project Award, the Student Government Award and the Mufarrej Award that is given annually to an 10th or 11th grade student.

The ceremony concluded with the traditional presentation of diplomas by Keynote Speaker, Ali Al-Ghanem, Chairperson and Board of Trustees, Dr Martha Thompson, Dr Mohammad Al Fares, BBS Acting Director, Maha Kaddoura, and High School Principal, Jihad Sadeddin.



(From left) Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Abdulmohsen Al-Ali and Maha Kaddoura



Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Hamad Al-Huwaidi



(From left) Jihad Sadeddin, Sharifa Al-Hajeri and Maha Kaddoura



(From left) Maha Kaddoura, Hamad Al-Mufarrej, Ahmad Al-Bassam and Jihad

ASDA'A BURSON-MARSTELLER ARAB YOUTH SURVEY WINS IN2 SABRE EMEA AWARD FOR 'THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN PR'

ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller, the leading public relations agency in the Middle East and North Africa, has been awarded the In2 SABRE EMEA Award for Thought Leadership in PR for its work on the Seventh Annual ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey 2015. The agency was recognized at an awards ceremony in Berlin recently.

The SABRE Awards by The Holmes Report are the world's biggest PR industry accolades. The In2 SABREs recognize excellence in various categories of innovation and insight-with an emphasis on content creation-as well as PR agency management and marketing.

"Our thought leadership platform, the Arab Youth Survey, has been recognized as a pioneering initiative for the PR industry across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa" said Sunil John, founder and CEO of ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller. "The Survey has earned a reputation as a unique piece of work that

adds a new dimension to the dialogue in and about the Middle East, providing a valuable insight for policymakers, businesses and civil society. It is rewarding to see our hard work and investment in this major initiative recognized at the highest level by our peers in the PR industry."

ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller also received a Certificate of Excellence in the Social Media - Collective category for its Warriors in Pink campaign for Ford Middle East. Warriors in Pink aims to support and maintain a long-term breast cancer awareness and early detection program across the Middle East. The October 2015 campaign saw breast cancer survivors from the region becoming Models of Courage by taking part in an event to showcase the fundraising 2015 Warriors in Pink apparel and accessories range, inspiring other patients in their battles, and encouraging the region's women to get regular check-

ups. For the 2015 survey, which the 2016 SABRE EMEA Awards recognized, international polling firm Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) conducted 3,500 face-to-face interviews with exclusively Arab national men and women aged 18-24 in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain; as well as Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Yemen. The interviews were conducted from January 20 to February 12, 2015.

In-depth results from the 8th and most recent Annual ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey, including survey highlights and a White Paper in Arabic and English, are available at www.arabyouthsurvey.com. The White Paper from the SABRE Award-winning 2015 Survey can also be downloaded from the website.

ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller



ARAB YOUTH SURVEY 2016

arabyouthsurvey.com



OOREDOO WELCOMES RAMADAN WITH 'GRAISH' FOR STAFF

ANNUAL CELEBRATION TO REVIVE THE KUWAITI HERITAGE

Welcoming the Holy Month of Ramadan Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, has organized a special 'Graish' meal for its staff, on June 5th at Ooredoo's head-

quarter in Al-Soor Street. Ooredoo is keen on organizing the annual 'Graish' meal, which is a way to welcome the Holy Month with its employees and to revive the old Kuwaiti customs

and heritage. All employees gather on this occasion to have one last meal before Ramadan together, greet each other and exchange best wishes. Ooredoo is continuously seeking opportunities to

enhance the team spirit while celebrating various social and religious occasions, especially those which help reviving the local culture and traditions.



CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/06/2016 TO 08/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1 THE JUNGLE BOOK GO WITH ME	9:45 PM 12:05 AM	MARINA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	GO WITH ME	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-1 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND THE CODE OF CAIN	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	360°-2 THE CODE OF CAIN PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
SHARQIA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK GO WITH ME	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	360°-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:45 PM 12:05 AM
MUHALAB-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta	9:30 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-4 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE GO WITH ME	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	360°-4 X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:15 PM
MUHALAB-2 GO WITH ME GO WITH ME	10:15 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-5 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	360°-5 HIGH STRUNG THE NICE GUYS	10:30 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-6 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR NO MON Hepta NO MON	9:30 PM 12:30 AM	360°-6 DON'T GROW UP DON'T GROW UP	11:00 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-7 HIGH STRUNG THE NICE GUYS	10:30 PM 12:45 AM	360°-7 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) Ely Ektashou Matou	9:30 PM 12:05 AM
FANAR-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK Hepta	9:45 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-8 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:30 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.1 THE JUNGLE BOOK WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-3 THE CODE OF CAIN DON'T GROW UP	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-9 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE NOTUE DON'T GROW UP NOTUE	10:15 PM 12:30 AM	AL-KOUT.2 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE GO WITH ME	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-4 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-10 Hepta Ely Ektashou Matou	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.3 Hepta DON'T GROW UP	10:15 PM 12:45 AM
FANAR-5 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) GO WITH ME	9:30 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-11 WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D)	10:00 PM 12:30 AM	BAIRAQ-1 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 12:05 AM
MARINA-1 GO WITH ME MONEY MONSTER	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	360°-1 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:30 PM	BAIRAQ-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
MARINA-2 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 12:05 AM			BAIRAQ-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:45 PM

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kotakonda Manohar (Passport No: Z3017614) S/o Kotakonda Ramachandra, age 33 years, R/o bearing K Vaddipalli, Obulavaripalli, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is here by declare that with my free consent I have embraced Islam on 14-3-2016 at state of Kuwait and I have adopted my name as Shaikh Umar Farooq. (C 5182)

I, Devarapalli Narasimha Sasindhra (Passport No J7195771) s/o Devarapalli Narasimhulu, age 29 years, r/o bearing Kondur H.W, Pengalur, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is hereby declare that with my free consent. I have embraced Islam on 20-4-2016 at state of Kuwait and I have adopted my name as Shaikh Muhammad. (C 5182)

I, Ande Narasimhulu (Passport No. J5342718) s/o Ande Bala Raju, Age 39 years, r/o bearing Akkulayapalli village, Viswanathapuram post, Mydukur Mandal, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is hereby declare that with my free consent I have embraced Islam on 5-9-2012 at state of Kuwait and I have adopted my name as Shaikh Abdul Khaliq. (C 5182) 8-6-2016

I, Anthony Manuel Desouza, holder of Indian Passport No. F9269570, House No. 1488, opp. American Bar, Orda, Candolim, Bardez, Goa, has change my name from Manuel D'souza to Anthony Manuel Desouza. Here after in all my documents I will be known by my new name

REQUIRED DRAFTSMAN / DESIGN ASSISTANT

An Interior Design & Contracting company in Kuwait is searching for a AutoCAD Draftsman and Design Assistant with following qualifications:

- Proficient in AutoCAD & 3D MAX
- Experienced in Interior details
- Minimum 3 years' experience

Diploma or University Degree, Fluent in English Transferable Visa #18. Honest, dedicated, accurate and punctual applicants only

Forward CV to: **apply@dfineline.com**

Anthony Manuel Desouza. (C 5181) 7-6-2016

I, Husain Kutbuddin, holder of Indian Passport No. G1276114, address: Mohamedi Pura Sagwar, Dingarpur, Rajasthan, hereby change my name Husain Kutbuddin Maudiwala. (C 5177)

I, Elaine Peter Caido holder of Indian Passport No. J6957804, address in India as 17/C Sherry village, Off Carter Rd, Bandra - W, Mumbai - 50 hereby change my name to Elaine Caiado. (C 5180)

The public is hereby notified that Ms. Albina Baronia Laguicao has filed with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, a Migrant Petition for Correction of Clerical

Error to correct the middle name of her daughter from Mohammed to Laguicao and first name of mother of child to Albina in the report of birth filed with the embassy. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition, file his written opposition with the embassy within ten (10) working days. (C 5178) 6-6-2016

I, Murtuza, holder of Passport No. H2187463, I changed my name to Murtuza Khamoshi. (C 5175) 5-6-2016

FOR SALE

AC (Craft), veg.-fruit juicer, food dehydrator. Contact: 96945155. (C 5179) 7-6-2016



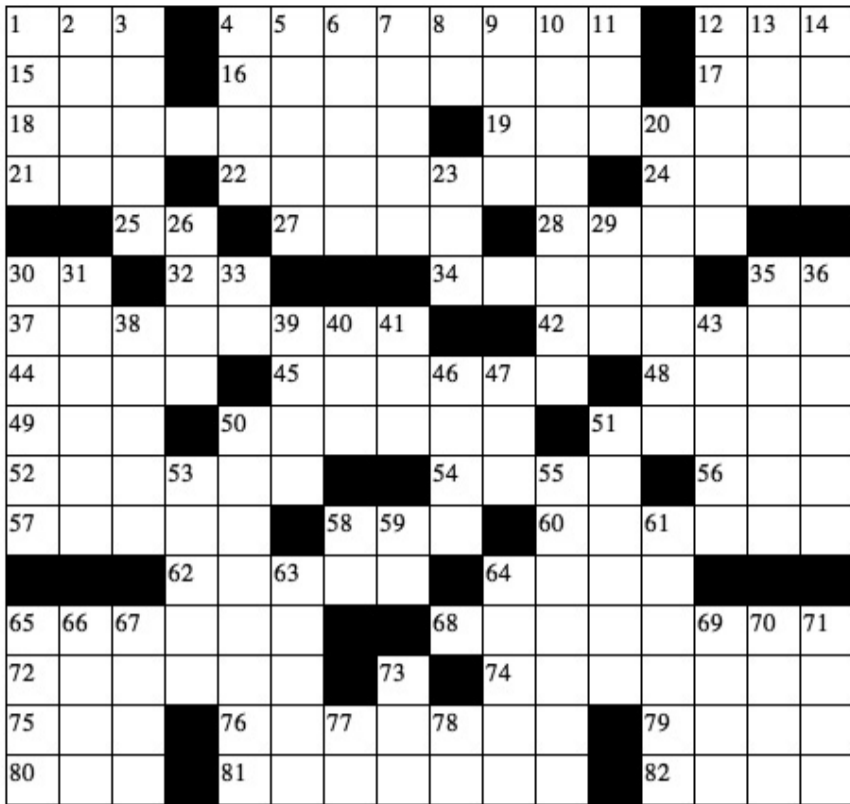
Flight Schedule

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 8/6/2016					Departure Flights on Wednesday 8/6/2016						
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airline	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	512	Jeddah	14:30	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	540	Mashhad	14:30	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KNE	683	Jeddah	15:05	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ETD	303	Madinah	15:10	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	OMA	645	Abu Dhabi	15:10	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:25	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	SAW	705	Damascus	17:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	CCE	343	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:35	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
BAW	157	London	06:40	SYR	341	Damascus	18:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	JZR	1770	Jeddah	08:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	KAC	791	Madinah	08:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	MSR	606	Luxor	19:30	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KAC	102	New York/London	19:55	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	CCE	342	Sharm el-Sheikh	11:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:15
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	1780	Jeddah	21:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	ALK	129	Colombo	21:20	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	KAC	103	London	12:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	564	Amman	22:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:40	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:05	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
JZR	1771	Jeddah	14:15	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40	KNE	382	Taif	14:55

CROSSWORD 1278



ACROSS

- Any of various units of capacity.
- (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
- Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- A member of the Pueblo people living in northern New Mexico.
- (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- New Zealand conifer.
- Make amendments to.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
- German romantic composer known for piano music and songs (1810-1856).
- Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- A name for the Old Testament God as transliterated from the Hebrew YHWH.
- A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
- The basic unit of money in China.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Carolinas.
- The last (12th) month of the year.
- (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
- How long something has existed.
- A historical region in central and northern Yugoslavia.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- An African amulet.
- Remove offensive capability from.
- (Greek mythology) Wife of Nereus and mother of the Nereids.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
- A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
- A characteristic language of a particular group (as among thieves).
- A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
- (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- Slice of sweet raised bread baked again until it is brown and hard and crisp.
- The smaller of the two satellites of Mars.
- Found along western Atlantic coast.
- Being or passing over or across the sea.
- A Mid-Atlantic state.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- Any of several plants of the genus *Camassia*.
- A rule made by a local authority to regulate its own affairs.
- God of wealth and love.
- King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
- American novelist (1909-1955).
- A fit of shivering.
- A unit of weight used in east Asia approximately equal to 1.3 ounces.
- A genus of Mustelidae.
- The compass point that is one point north of due east.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing

- Any of various units of capacity.
- (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
- Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- A member of the Pueblo people living in northern New Mexico.
- (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- New Zealand conifer.
- Make amendments to.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
- German romantic composer known for piano music and songs (1810-1856).
- Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- A name for the Old Testament God as transliterated from the Hebrew YHWH.
- A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
- The basic unit of money in China.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Carolinas.
- The last (12th) month of the year.
- (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
- How long something has existed.
- A historical region in central and northern Yugoslavia.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- An African amulet.
- Remove offensive capability from.
- (Greek mythology) Wife of Nereus and mother of the Nereids.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
- A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
- A characteristic language of a particular group (as among thieves).
- A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
- (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- Slice of sweet raised bread baked again until it is brown and hard and crisp.
- The smaller of the two satellites of Mars.
- Found along western Atlantic coast.
- Being or passing over or across the sea.
- A Mid-Atlantic state.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- Any of several plants of the genus *Camassia*.
- A rule made by a local authority to regulate its own affairs.
- God of wealth and love.
- King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
- American novelist (1909-1955).
- A fit of shivering.
- A unit of weight used in east Asia approximately equal to 1.3 ounces.
- A genus of Mustelidae.
- The compass point that is one point north of due east.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A taste for art and an appreciation for the finer things in life are where your attention is just now. This is a good time to project your image to others, especially those in a position of power. Many positive opportunities are opening up for you now. You try something and if it does not work, you toss it aside and go on to something else. You do not want to waste your time changing or fixing something that is not going to work anyway. Your sense of value is piqued and you may decide to pick through a few options and choose to teach or help others for now. This evening you could be shopping and finding bargains. Projects at home get your attention and if someone wants to help, let them. You make a positive, visible difference in others attitude for the best.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Some past restrictions are reviewed. You will be able to move forward and not feel as though you are burdened. Your ideas and thoughts will be clear and you will know which direction you should be headed. Fine-tuning the steps that will help you reach your goals helps you feel exhilarated and self-confident; you just know you are focused and moving in the right direction for success; nothing can stop you. There are highlights of leadership and opportunities for advancement. You will feel powerful and those around you will see your ability to make decisions, accomplish goals and relate with authorities. There are plenty of compliments and encouragement coming your way. You inspire the young people.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today you may have a new understanding of that familiar employee review. Not to worry... You will do well. Review your own accomplishments and your positive qualities... Savor them and plan on ways to improve or expand your scope of knowledge; this is always a good confidence builder and will allow you to have more power than you ever thought possible. Cultivate and collect positive images of successful situations and use these to assuage any anxiety. Focus on small achievable tasks and see them as success steps. Any project involving real estate looks positive. You could buy, sell or work in the real-estate business. Leave some time to celebrate; this is a wonderful time to celebrate!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your ability to manage and direct others has positive results today; it is a good day to work with others. There is a high probability that if you decide you want to join a group or you have a desire to own property, the results will also be positive. There is an urge to have a little property in the country or perhaps, near a lake. You would eventually be able to build on that property. You are optimistic and set your goals within reason, so keep up the good work. Any frustrations this workday do not last past the quitting hour. Someone or some circumstance may leave you speechless, but this could be valuable for you in the end. Use any free time to reorganize at home.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There are not many people of your talents out there when it comes to management. If you are not in a management position, you may find the opportunity will open to you soon. New business will bring an opportunity to you. Don't hesitate or you will miss the boat! Work on securing your financial future-have a plan. You have a young friend that you want to lend some attention to this afternoon. With more employers requiring solid basic skills, a high school diploma and often college experience as prerequisites to a job... You may volunteer to help encourage and educate.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today is a positive day, although a bit challenging. Career and values may not coincide just now. You may find that you will need to speak up and remind others of a particular schedule or added duty. Your sense of value may be tested. If you are in the mood to challenge authority-think through your action and plot your path. If you proceed with tact, you will be pleased at the results-others will see your point of view. Rocking the boat may be a bigger part of your day-but a very gratifying one. You face challenges with a great attitude. With an eye to progress and the future, you feel compelled to try for what is just out of your reach. A friend or relative is willing to help you with a creative project this afternoon. Perhaps it is time to paint a room.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a day to let life move along a little slower. Sorting things out and getting them prepared keeps you busy. There could be personal accomplishments later today that will help you in your place of business. This may mean a lecture or some public speaking that puts your company in good light. You may find some exciting subjects come to your attention while visiting with your peers after the workday has ended. The latest developments in individual tracking technology, the future of robotics and a few other subjects inspire you to research and study. Be aware that there may be a need for sensitivity within the family unit this evening. Changes that you think need to be made, may best be held for later. Be happy!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a time where you will become more focused mentally and have many friendly conversations with others. There is more involvement with other people and gathering information is important and is successful when done discreetly. There is likely to be an emphasis on reading, writing, studying, etc. This will serve as a path for self-discovery and personal development. If you have children and you feel you must work, you will begin to look for more time to set aside for these young people. Parenting requires important one-on-one time, yet parents often give less and less. You may decide to help bring this to the attention of society in order to initiate a positive change. Others support your positive developments.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your mind is ready to absorb new information. Trying something new and unusual is just what you would prefer. This is the way new ideas are spawned and it could be a breakthrough time for you. You could discover something new or design a better approach to an old idea. This is also an energetic time; your communication abilities are inspired. Not only is it a creative time, it is a time when you should be able to get your point across with enthusiasm. Fear is not for you today; you are ready and willing to express yourself-and you do it well. Be careful that you do not go on a spending spree this evening, for you may appreciate the beauty and value of everything you encounter. Budgeting and investing are worthy of your attention.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your own life seems more important these days. This could be a time of reflection, meditation and appreciation of the value of life itself. You may take this time to explore the information you receive. It is just the type of day you have needed for some time. You take this opportunity to involve yourself with some type of mechanical engineering, creative thinking, or a little experimenting. You may gain results from your efforts in the form of a design for some new addition to your home or the perfect presentation at work. There is approval for whatever you are attempting. This afternoon you feel relaxed and glad that you can catch your breath, so to speak.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may feel that you have been sent on too many senseless errands today. Hang in there; your attempts to please and accomplish are a plus to your benefit. You may actually find some corners to cut, so to speak. Create a plan on paper and present your findings. The ability to get things accomplished is what earns you respect. You attract good company this afternoon and others enjoy being around you. If you find another project is unfolding, gather the forces together to help you and be patient. All will end on a positive note! If you haven't noticed you may soon discover that the secret to success is confidence, patience and humility. Your personal income will increase very soon. This evening there are no projects; whew! There are books for later.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You can really get your thoughts and ideas together today. It is a period of great mental concentration and your thinking abilities are finely tuned. Ideas flow with ease. You can speak with such animation that people love to hear you tell a story. The sharpness and quickness of your mind may result in your saying a little too much however, careful. Quick-witted you are, but you might also find a foot-in-mouth. Take measures to listen to yourself as you speak and you will know how to make the necessary adjustments. Just think about what you would want to hear from others. You are inquisitive about the world and the people in it. You also have your own opinions, but you are never afraid to absorb new information.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

80's Songs 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

K	S	K	K	L	A	C	I	S	Y	H	P	P	V	K	R	F
W	U	T	S	J	E	O	P	A	R	D	Y	A	O	M	A	O
W	N	J	K	A	G	N	I	Y	R	C	A	S	R	L	P	O
Q	E	B	R	K	R	T	Z	N	H	L	M	L	L	F	T	T
A	V	D	U	M	C	C	I	S	T	A	Z	E	I	N	U	L
V	L	X	T	N	A	A	F	T	E	X	N	S	Z	G	R	O
V	L	O	G	I	O	L	H	R	A	T	J	T	H	J	E	O
D	O	G	N	J	W	T	D	S	O	E	C	I	D	O	Q	S
P	I	A	U	E	Y	T	O	W	E	O	B	M	Q	E	U	E
N	M	M	O	R	E	B	N	R	N	V	D	E	Y	L	F	T
M	P	C	Y	E	C	M	A	G	I	C	O	T	G	C	C	T
W	N	N	W	M	H	R	A	P	G	O	V	L	M	I	H	S
M	U	S	J	U	A	B	M	W	V	I	U	W	E	G	A	Q
Z	O	D	G	S	C	D	W	B	C	A	R	S	X	C	O	B

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| ALLENTOWN | JEOPARDY | PHYSICAL |
| ALONE | JUMP | RAPTURE |
| BEAT IT | LADY | SARA |
| CARS | LOVE SHACK | SHOUT |
| CONGA | MAGIC | SWEET DREAMS |
| CRYING | MANIAC | TIME |
| FOOTLOOSE | NOTORIOUS | VENUS |
| HIM | | YOUNG TURKS |

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

80's Songs 1 - Solution

E	K	U	N	H	R	R	E	V	E	N	I	T	R	U	E	
V	A	B	E	N	F	E	U	T	H	G	I	N	L	O	O	C
O	P	D	K	N	O	D	L	O	H	L	E	E	T	H	K	L
L	Z	R	C	S	H	I	X	L	R	O	K	I	S	I	R	O
D	C	I	I	B	M	A	T	I	O	A	V	H	R	E	Y	V
E	K	V	M	N	A	G	A	L	E	E	E	Y	Y	V	E	
T	O	E	G	G	A	N	N	E	R	R	I	L	S	T	K	B
N	K	N	E	C	W	T	R	E	R	B	A	R	G	I	F	I
I	O	L	I	O	G	I	E	I	A	R	E	E	E	R	B	T
A	M	O	T	W	F	A	E	E	G	T	Q	L	L	L	H	E
T	O	P	C	B	D	B	J	O	Y	B	E	D	E	W	A	S
S	U	D	D	E	N	L	Y	N	G	E	E	R	N	C	A	V
E	C	L	B	C	R	U	S	W	E	J	S	D	P	U	C	W
W	S	J	K	Q	W	H	V	G	R	O	S	A	N	N	A	Y

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ANGEL | KEY LARGO | OH SHERRIE |
| TRUE | KOKOMO | PRIVATE EYES |
| CELEBRATION | KYRIE | ROSANNA |
| COOL NIGHT | LEGS | SUDDENLY |
| DRIVE | LOVE BITES | TAINED LOVE |
| FIRE LAKE | MANEATER | UPTOWN GIRL |
| HELLO | MICKEY | VALERIE |
| HOLD ON | NEVER | |

Yesterday's Solution

S	L	A	B	A	B	L	A	Z	E	T	H	E	A		
C	O	M	A	L	I	O	M	Y	S	H	U	R	L		
A	G	O	R	A	N	O	E	L	Z	A	M	I	A		
M	O	N	A	C	A	N	N	O	S	I	N	E	S	S	
			K	E	B	A	B		P	A	N	E			
Y	U	C	A	T	E	C			R	B	C	A	S	P	
A	N	U	A	D	L	U	M	I	A			U	V	E	A
C	A	B	O	T	E	D	A	M				F	E	S	S
C	R	E	T	E		M	L	C	L	A	R	E	T		
A	M	B	O		G	U	A	I	R	A		S	L	E	
			E	X	P	I	R	Y	A	B	S	E	I	L	
A	G	A		I	A		T	A	M	B	A	C			
P	R	E	F	A	C	E			A	W	N	L	E	S	S
P	A	G	A	N		C	H	A	R	I		A	L	C	A
A	P	I	S		O	R	U	D	I	S		F	A	U	N
L	E	S	T		S	U	N	D	A	E		F	N	M	A

Daily SuDoku

9			3					6	2
	4					1	5		
7				4					
3							8	9	
	6	5			9		2	4	
	9	4							6
						7			3
				7	2				5
4	3					9			8

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

8	4	6	1	2	7	5	9	3
7	3	9	6	4	5	8	2	1
5	1	2	8	3	9	4	7	6
4	6	3	7	9	8	1	5	2
9	8	1	3	5	2	6	4	7
2	5	7	4	1	6	3	8	9
3	2	8	5	7	1	9	6	4
6	9	4	2	8	3	7	1	5
1	7	5	9	6	4	2	3	8

medium

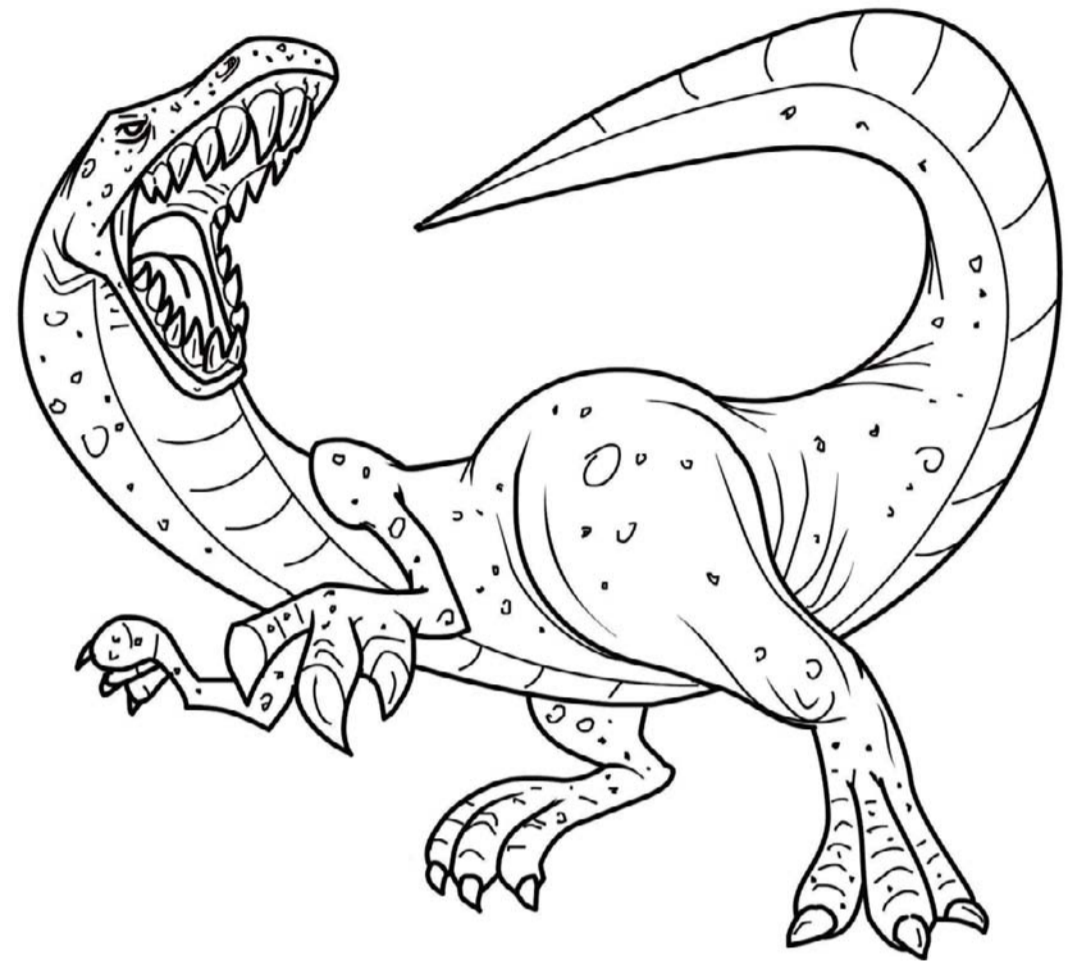


		6	7		9	2		5
		1			8		9	4
5	3			2				8
9	8	7	4	5				6
	6							3
3				9	2	5	8	7
4				7				6
1	7		9			8		
6		3	2		5	7		

SUDOKU

6	9	3	2	8	5	7	4	1
1	7	2	9	4	6	8	5	3
4	5	8	3	7	1	9	6	2
3	1	4	6	9	2	5	8	7
9	8	1	7	4	3	9	6	5
6	8	7	4	5	3	1	2	9
5	3	9	1	2	4	6	7	8
7	2	1	5	6	8	3	9	4
8	4	6	7	3	9	2	1	5

Solution



Greece

Greece officially the Hellenic Republic also known since ancient times as Hellas is a country located in southeastern Europe. According to the 2011 census, Greece's population is around 10.8 million. Athens is the nation's capital and largest city. Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Situated on the southern tip of the Balkan peninsula, it shares land borders with Albania to the northwest, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north and Turkey to the northeast. Greece consists of nine geographic regions: Macedonia, Central Greece, the Peloponnese, Thessaly, Epirus, the Aegean Islands, Thrace, Crete, and the Ionian Islands. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of the mainland, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Eighty percent of Greece is mountainous, with Mount Olympus being the highest peak at 2,918 meters.



Greece has one of the longest histories of any country, and is considered the cradle of Western civilization, having been the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature, historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles, and Western drama, including both tragedy and comedy. The Greeks were first unified under Philip of Macedon in the fourth century BC. His son Alexander the Great rapidly conquered much of the ancient world, spreading Greek culture and science from the eastern Mediterranean to the Indus River. Annexed by Rome in the second century BC, Greece became an integral part of the Roman Empire and its successor, the

Byzantine Empire. The first century AD saw the establishment of the Greek Orthodox Church, which shaped the modern Greek identity and transmitted Greek traditions to the wider Orthodox World. Falling under Ottoman dominion in the mid-15th century, the modern nation state of Greece emerged in 1830 following a war of independence. Greece's rich historical legacy is reflected in large part by its 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, among the most in Europe and the world.

Culture

The culture of Greece has evolved over thousands of years, beginning in Mycenaean Greece and continuing most notably into Classical Greece, through the influence of the Roman Empire and its Greek Eastern continuation, the Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire. Other cultures and nations, such as the Latin and Frankish states, the Ottoman Empire, the Venetian Republic, the Genoese Republic, and the British Empire have also left their influence on modern Greek culture, although historians credit the Greek War of Independence with revitalizing Greece and giving birth to a single, cohesive entity of its multi-faceted culture.

Sports

Greece is the birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, first recorded in 776 BC in Olympia, and hosted the modern Olympic Games twice, the inaugural 1896 Summer Olympics and the 2004 Summer Olympics. During the parade of nations Greece is always called first, as the founding nation of the ancient precursor of modern Olympics.

Mythology

The numerous gods of the ancient Greek religion as well as the mythical heroes and events of the ancient Greek epics and other pieces of art and literature from the time make up what is nowadays colloquially referred to as Greek mythology. The principal gods of the ancient Greek religion were the Dodekathion, or the Twelve Gods, who lived on the top of Mount Olympus. The most important of all ancient Greek gods was Zeus, the king of the gods, who was married to Hera, who was also Zeus's sister. The other Greek gods that made up the Twelve Olympians were Demeter, Ares, Poseidon, Athena, Dionysus, Apollo, Artemis, Aphrodite, Hephaestus and Hermes. Apart from these twelve gods, Greeks also had a variety of other mystical beliefs, such as nymphs and other magical creatures.

Did you know..?

- Although sharks have a reputation as destructive beasts that attack almost anything that enters their water habitat, the actual number of shark attacks is probably lower than you imagine. There are many different types of sharks including the great white shark, hammerhead shark, bull shark, tiger shark and mako, they all offer varied and interesting information so read on and enjoy our cool shark facts.
- If a shark was put into a large swimming pool, it would be able to smell a single drop of blood in the water.
- A pup (baby shark) is born ready to take care of itself. The mother shark leaves the pup to fend for itself and the pup usually makes a fast get away before the mother tries to eat it!
- Sharks do not have a single bone in their bodies. Instead they have a skeleton made up of cartilage; the same type of tough, flexible tissue that makes up human ears and noses.
- Not all species of shark give birth to live pups. Some species lay the egg case on the ocean floor and the pup hatches later on its own.
- Some sharks remain on the move for their entire lives. This forces water over their gills, delivering oxygen to the blood stream. If the shark stops moving then it will suffocate and die.
- Great whites are the deadliest shark in the ocean. These powerful predators can race through the water at 30 km per hour.
- Sharks have outstanding hearing. They can hear a fish thrashing in the water from as far as 500 meters away!
- Unlike other species of shark, the great white is warm-blooded. Although the great white does not keep a constant body temperature, it needs to eat a lot of meat in order to be able to regulate its temperature.



RECIPES FOR KIDS

Blueberry Pancakes

- Ingredients**
 3/4 c. flour
 1 tbsp. sugar
 1 tsp. baking powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 tbsp. margarine
 1 egg
 3/4 c. milk
 1/2 c. blueberries, washed and drained
 extra margarine for the pan

- Directions**
 In a large bowl, sift together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Set the bowl aside.
 Melt the margarine in a small saucepan. Crack the egg into a medium-size bowl, then add the milk and melted margarine. Whisk egg mixture until it is well mixed.



Add the flour mixture to the egg mixture. Whisk again until both mixtures are blended together.
 Put extra margarine in the saucepan and heat it on the stovetop on medium heat. It is hot enough when the margarine starts to bubble.
 Use a measuring cup or a small ladle to spoon the batter into the pan. Put some blueberries on top of

each pancake. Cook your pancakes on medium heat until small bubbles appear on the top. Use a spatula to see when your pancakes are light brown on the bottom. When they are, flip them over with the spatula. Cook for another few minutes until the pancakes are light brown on the other side. Remove your pancakes and put them on plates to enjoy!

DINOSAUR WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words about dinosaurs. They go in all directions and some are tricky. See if you can find them all.

S S D T R I A S S I C S
 F D I N E J E R P A E T
 A O N L D U A N D N R E
 S P O T A R E C I R T G
 U O S I M R E Y R Y R O
 L R A N M A U Q E C E S
 O U F O S S I L A X A
 U A R E L I T P E R O U
 R S I N D C E R I E N R
 R S U O E C A T E R C U
 R S U B E C H T E R G S

WORD LIST

- CRETACEOUS
- DINOSAUR
- FOSSIL
- JURASSIC
- REPTILE
- TREX
- TRIASSIC
- TRICERATOPS
- SAUROPODS
- STEGOSAURUS





Kuwaiti soap operas in Ramadan: 'Saq Al Bambo', Been Galbin

Episode one

By Nawara Fattaova

The Kuwait Times is publishing daily reviews of two Kuwaiti soap operas aired on Al-Rai TV and MBC Drama.

'Saq Al Bambo' (The Bamboo Stalk)

The series is based on a Kuwaiti novel with the same name, telling the story of a young Kuwaiti who falls in love with a Filipina maid working at their house and marries her secretly. They have a boy

named Eisa, but his family forces him to leave her and his son. So Eisa grows up with his mother in the Philippines. He feels confused about his religion and sense of belonging, and is eager to go back to Kuwait.

Josephine, who believed she was Cinderella when she was a young girl, leaves her poor family in the Philippines to work in Kuwait. Rashid, the son of the family at the house where she works, falls in love with Josephine and defends her from his rude mother, who shouts at her. Rashid loves writing and reads a lot, especially about human rights. Josephine tells him her story of her alcoholic father, who is addicted to gambling. He forced her sister to work as a prosti-

tute and after she got pregnant and had to stop, he wanted to make her work in her sister's place, but she left for Kuwait.

Rashid was in love with a girl, but his mother refused to let him marry her as she is from a lower-class family. That girl sends him a letter telling him her parents forced her to get married. His mother wants him to have an arranged marriage with a woman whom she chooses. Rashid's friend Ghasan is in love with Rashid's sister and leaves her a letter on her car.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

This is a Kuwaiti drama also based on a novel of

the same name about a young guy, Bashar, who is torn between two women. Bashar lives with his sisters, one of whom started suffering from psychological problems after their mother passed away. Their neighbor Dana, who lives with her aunt, as her father lives in the UAE, visits them and has a crush on Bashar.

Aryam lives with her father, as her Lebanese mother got divorced when she was a little kid and lives abroad. Aryam is married to her cousin Marzouq. Aryam is the daughter of a well-known businessman and recently started working as a translator in a ministry. She meets Bashar in the parking lot and fights with him over parking space.



Photo shows downtown Lincoln Avenue in Steamboat Springs, Colo., as people sit outside under umbrellas at Winona's restaurant.



Golfing bicycles stand at attention outside the pro shop at the Haymarket Golf Club, ready for outdoor enthusiasts who eschew motorized carts in Steamboat Springs, Colo.



Men are seen fly fishing on the Yampa River near downtown Steamboat Springs, Colo.—AP photos

Steamboat Springs, Colorado: Not just a winter playground

Skiers thrive during winter on Steamboat Springs' trademarked dry "Champagne powder" snow, but outdoor pursuits on mild summer days can rival those mountain experiences. Call it a back-to-the-future effect because travelers in the early 1900s first came here for seasonal hunting, fishing and the open-air hot springs. On the Yampa River, you will find tubers floating under downtown bridges, sometimes joined by kayakers. Runners pace each other through shade and open meadow on multi-purpose trails lining the river's banks. Hikers and mountain bikers can explore the surrounding mountain slopes.

And on the porch of the Haymaker Golf clubhouse, it's not unusual to see bicycles with golf clubs stored vertically in the saddlebags as an alternative to motorized golf carts. "People that play them really enjoy them," said Tom Taylor, head professional at Haymaker. He introduced the golf cycles in 2015 and ordered more for this summer. Walkers and golf cyclists outnumber the players who ride in carts, consistent with other physical activity that defines summer in this resort town.

Diversity of opportunities

The backdrop for Haymaker's first hole is stunning: the western side of a high Rocky Mountain pass called Rabbit Ears, elevation 9,426 feet. You also take in dramatic views of the pass on the drive to Steamboat from Denver, a 3.5-hour trip via I-70, then north to US 40 from the Silverthorne exit. But park the car once you arrive and walk or rent bikes if you're staying in Steamboat's center. That's what my wife and I did during our stay in a 1,700-square-foot condo with a wrap-around balcony, outdoor grill and views of Mount Werner. The \$450 nightly cost, split among friends, seemed like a bargain. Galleries, restaurants, fly fishing and the colors and calm-

ing beauty of Yampa River Botanic Park's trails, ponds and gardens are all within walking distance. The historic FM Light & Sons, a Western store heralded by ubiquitous highway signs since 1928, is a short stroll along the town's main artery, Lincoln Avenue, as is Natural Grocers, where we bought tender grass-fed steaks and organic greens for a "stay-in" dinner on our balcony. Around the corner was Winona's, which deserved repeat trips for lunches of "Sunshine Salad" - curried chicken, sunflower seeds, grapes and berries - or traditional hoagies and gyros.

The new Salt & Lime restaurant has taken over the long-running Rio Grande Grill's location, offering open-air second-floor seating, specialty tequilas and funky entrees like bison tacos. When I inquired with the Chamber of Commerce about Salt & Lime's emergence, the receptionist said, "There's already a crowd there on the roof." Steamboat is home to Texas emigre Verne Lundquist, the nationally known CBS sportscaster. "There is no celebrity factor, an element that defines some of the other resorts in Colorado," he said, adding, "The best part of a Steamboat summer is the diversity of opportunities. On a Saturday night, you'll find the rodeo arena filled to capacity, while two blocks away, a rock and roll group or a country band or a hip-hop star will perform a free concert in front of 2,000 at the base of Howelsen Hill, where the ski jumps are located."

Seal juices

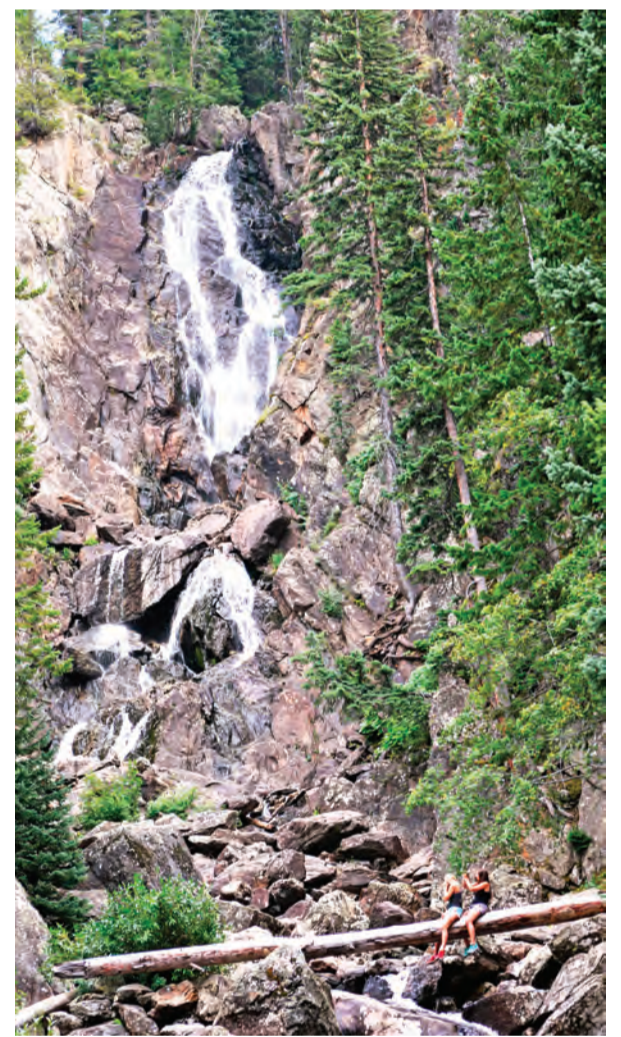
Strawberry Park Hot Springs, which lured long-ago visitors, remain open year-round with shuttle service and 104-degree mineral water. Four miles from downtown Steamboat is Fish Creek Falls, so take a car or, if you have the stamina, a bike. A spellbinding 280-foot drop, the falls are accessed by descend-

ing a quarter-mile from the parking lot (altitude 7,440) to its base. Beer aficionados may perceive something familiar; the fall's image first appeared on Coors Banquet bottles and cans in 1937 and remains on those products today.

Our first night's dinner was just across the street from the condo at E3 Chophouse, owned by the LaRoche family of professional baseball players. Why the name E3? Adam LaRoche won Major League Baseball's Gold Glove Award for best fielder at first base while playing for the Washington Nationals. "E" is the abbreviation for "error" in a scoring chart and "3" is first baseman, so "E3" means "error on the first baseman," LaRoche's nod to humility. (LaRoche made national news this year when he quit baseball, giving up a \$13 million salary after team management said his son was no longer welcome in the clubhouse of his then-current team, the Chicago White Sox.)

Brother Andy, a former major leaguer, plays for the minor-league Sugar Land, Texas, Skeeters, and Jeff LaRoche is on the scene in Steamboat, making sure the steaks are flash-cooked in his 1,800-degree over-fired broiler to seal juices. The beef comes from their ranch in Kansas. "Hey, we had a ranch. The steakhouse would be a great opportunity to get rid of our beef," quipped Jeff. After baseball, he moved to Vail, but didn't like Interstate 70 "in my backyard." On to Steamboat Springs, because "you have to want to get here. There's nothing past us." — AP

Visitors to Fish Creek Falls are perched on log near the base of the falls in Steamboat Springs, Colo.



'Lost Recipes' book tells story of bygone restaurants, inns

A new cookbook called "The Book of Lost Recipes" remembers classic dishes from long-gone hotels, iconic restaurants and roadside eateries of yesteryear. But the book is more than a collection of recipes. It also chronicles the evolution of American food culture, telling stories of how and why certain dishes and restaurants became popular when they did. "A good restaurant, a restaurant that becomes famous or that a community cares about - it has to do with food, but it has to do with so much more," said cookbook author Jaya Saxena, a writer for The Daily Dot. "The things people are driven to eat are influenced by the economy, politics, immigration trends and all kinds of other things."

A recurring theme in the book, out this month from Page Street Publishing, is how immigrant chefs took ethnic food mainstream. There are recipes from establishments like Paoli's Restaurant (Italian) in San Francisco, Ruby Chow's (Chinese) in Seattle, and iconic Jewish delis like Ashkenaz's in Chicago and Wolfe's Rascal House in Miami.

No formal training

Celebrity culture gets its turn in the book, too, with recipes from Chasen's, a West Hollywood joint that hosted the likes of Liz Taylor and Ronald Reagan, and The Pump Room in Chicago, which Frank Sinatra referenced in a song. Other dishes in the book were beloved by regular folk, like chicken soup and mac-and-cheese from Horn & Hardart's, the famed automat.

Many recipes offer a window into travel trends and pop culture. Saxena describes, for example, how tiki culture, a fake, kooky mashup of South Pacific motifs, reigned supreme at the Kahiki Supper Club in Columbus, Ohio. And how a dude ranch

in Tucson, Arizona, opened an upscale restaurant called The Tack Room so that its guests - who came to Arizona to escape cold weather - could enjoy fancy meals like veal with chanterelle mushrooms after a long day of riding horses.

Saxena not only pored over old guidebooks to see what restaurants were recommended as worthwhile for diners to seek out on their travels, but she also tracked down descendants of chefs and restaurant owners to get their stories. Once she had an original recipe in hand, she scaled it down from restaurant-size portions to family-size. She has no formal training as a chef, but with help from her mom and others, each dish was tested in a home kitchen.

A few of the lost recipes sound archaic today or involve obscure ingredients, like one for roast venison with currant port sauce from New York's long-defunct Planters Hotel. But other dishes would be right at home in any hipster cafe in Brooklyn, like bratwurst and sweet-and-sour lentils, created by a German immigrant, Henry Thiele, a famous restaurateur in the Pacific Northwest who was admired by none other than a young James Beard. The sausage-and-lentils dish is one of Saxena's favorites.

"This recipe from 50 or 60 years ago tasted current, like the upscale comfort food that has become such a big thing," she said. "I could see people eating this for hundreds of years in Germany but it also appeals to a modern palate."

Ashkenaz's blintz treat

(From "The Book of Lost Recipes" by Jaya Saxena, Page Street Publishing Co, 2016)

Start to finish: 20 minutes

Servings: 6

For the crepes:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 1/4 cups water

Pinch salt

Vegetable oil (for cooking)

For the cheese mix:

1 pound dried farmers cheese or dried baker's cheese

1 egg

6 tablespoons sugar

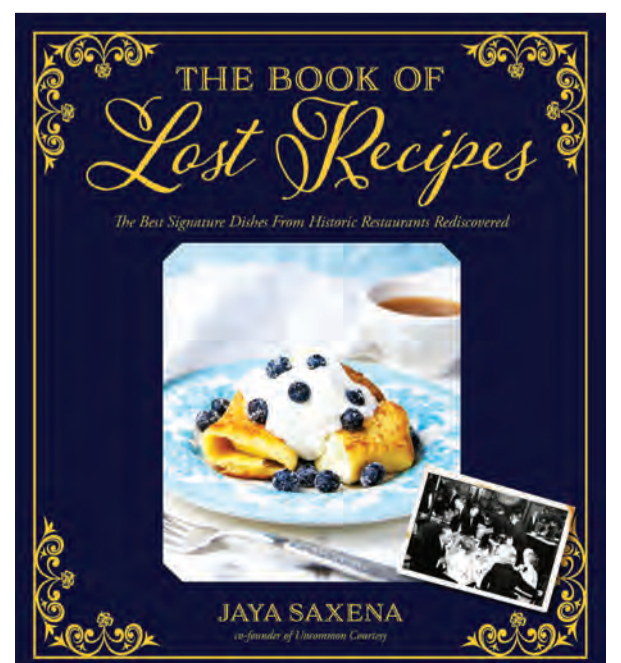
For garnishing:

Sour cream, apple sauce and sugared blueberries

To make the crepes, heat an 8-inch pan over medium-low heat. Whisk together the flour, water and salt, and grease the pan lightly with vegetable oil or butter, using a towel to apply so all corners of the pan are covered. When the pan is hot, pour about half a ladle of batter into the pan, and turn the pan to spread it as thin as possible. When the crepe begins to curl (after about a minute), flip it onto a paper towel.

For the filling, stir together the cheese and eggs, sprinkling sugar on top of the mixture as you turn it in. The mixture should still be firm. Lay about 1/4 cup of the mixture on the blintz in a 4-inch row. Fold the sides of the crepe over, and roll the blintz back to front. Heat a half-inch of vegetable oil in a pan. Once the oil is hot, fry blintzes (being sure not to crowd the pan) for 2-3 minutes per side, until they're lightly golden and crispy. Remove blintzes to a paper towel to drain, and place on a heat-

ed serving platter. Serve with sour cream or apple sauce, and sugared blueberries. Nutrition information per serving: 234 calories; 72 calories from fat; 8 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 60 mg cholesterol; 110 mg sodium; 29 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 9 g sugar; 19 g protein. — AP



Minnesota goes purple for Prince birthday

The state of Minnesota yesterday celebrated "Prince Day," with residents encouraged to wear the music legend's signature color purple on what would have been his 58th birthday. Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, in a proclamation making June 7 this year Prince Day, hailed the chart-topping singer for his "revolutionary music and iconic identity." He also credited Prince, who died suddenly on April 21 from an accidental overdose of painkillers, with boosting the profile and ultimately the economy of the Upper Midwest state.

"Minnesotans are encouraged to wear purple on Prince Day in honor of The Purple One's enduring legacy," said the proclamation issued Monday by Dayton. Prince was born in the state's largest city Minneapolis, which became known as the hub of his trademark style of instantly danceable funk. Despite selling more than 100 million albums and being instantly recognizable around the world, the "Purple Rain" star chose to stay in Minnesota, building his state-of-the-art Paisley Park studio complex in the suburb of Chanhassen. Prince—who had outwardly appeared to be a model of health and played shows that ran for hours-left no will and

had no recognized children. With coincidental timing, a judge in suburban Carver County scheduled a closed hearing to take place on Prince's birthday to discuss his estate, which has temporarily been put under a professional administrator. At issue will be an objection by a Kansas City man who says he is Prince's son to a move by the special administrator to hire entertainment industry experts for help on maintaining copyright protection, which the late singer enforced vigorously. A lawyer for Carlin Williams, a prisoner whose mother says she had sex with Prince in a hotel in 1976, says the administrator's first priority should be DNA testing and establishing heirs. The court has already set a June 27 hearing to hear any objections on the plan for DNA tests. — AFP

This file photo taken shows an estimated 5,000 Prince fans, wearing purple and black, attend a tribute concert outside Los Angeles City Hall in Los Angeles, California. — AFP



Conductor Christopher Rountree leads a rehearsal of the orchestra of the Interlochen Center for the Arts on June 2, 2016 in New York City. — AFP

With open eyes, high school plays NY Philharmonic premiere

As far as high school achievements go, the venue could hardly be more prestigious. In a first, the New York Philharmonic tasked a high school orchestra to premiere works, bringing teenagers' fresh-eyed enthusiasm to contemporary music. The orchestra of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, a prestigious high school and summer camp nestled in the woods of Michigan, Sunday performed four pieces at Lincoln Center as part of the Philharmonic's biennial, its showcase of original music.

The selections included "So Far So Good" by prominent composer Nico Muhly, which was accompanied by an original dance by Interlochen students, and the world premiere of "Bound to the Bow" by Ashley Fure, a challenging composer who explores extended techniques for strings such as using the wood rather than the hair of the bow.

Christopher Rountree, who conducted the students and has also led professional orchestras in premieres, said he found the experience especially rewarding due to the teenagers' eagerness and time investment. "They really don't know what they're capable of, and what they're capable of is huge. So there is this kind of secret not to tell them that something is difficult and just do it." Then someone who knows it is difficult will ask, "How did you get them to do that?" he said.

Guiding young people who have never been involved in a world premiere, Rountree said he could also push them to their limits and even anger them-to get results in a way he said would be "completely verboten" with professional musicians. "Conducting as a job is basically, at any level, like being a coach of a sports team. And that's probably more true the younger the ensemble is," he said.

'Wide-eyed wonder'

At a rehearsal before the premiere, Fure came in to offer guidance, with the teenagers politely asking her questions as they attempted her work. "There is just this different, wide-eyed

wonder," Fure, who has premiered works with adult musicians around the world, said of the students. "They want to get it right. They don't have any other frame of reference for these techniques," she said of the unique sounds she seeks from the instruments. Fure, a 2000 graduate of Interlochen who is an assistant professor at Dartmouth College, said that teenagers also felt few constraints whereas even university students would be starting to dwell on whether music would be a profitable career.

"They have a lot more abandon, actually, in their pursuit of the music itself and in their ability to dream big and ask the big questions," she said. The Interlochen performance marked the first premiere by a high school orchestra at the biennial, although the New York Philharmonic played concerts with an ensemble of local students, the All City High School Orchestra, in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Philharmonic approached Interlochen in hopes of adding a youth component to the biennial, said Christopher Gruits, executive director of Interlochen Presents which handles the school's concerts. Founded in 1928, the Interlochen Center for the Arts has been a major training ground for professional musicians with past students including late Philharmonic music director Lorin Maazel, acclaimed soprano Jessye Norman and the folk-pop star Jewel.

Taking advantage of the school's class structure, the Interlochen orchestra spent four months rehearsing for the biennial, far more time than a professional orchestra would devote to learning an original work. French horn player AJ Carter, 18, said the students faced a unique challenge with the pieces as they could not go back and listen to recordings as they would for canonical works. "It's all so fresh. Everything is new and right in front of your eyes; you can see the process going on," he said. "It's both thrilling and a little nerve-wracking at the same time. I'm loving it, though." — AFP

'Warcraft' movie director draws inspiration from 'Rings'

When director Duncan Jones was tasked with translating the popular video game "Warcraft" into a studio film, he was inspired by filmmaker Peter Jackson's adaptations of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy saga "Lord of the Rings." "Not everyone had read Tolkien when he went and saw those films but (Jackson) crafted a film with interesting characters and a plot that's engaged and people by the millions wanted to see more," Jones told Reuters. "Hopefully we've done the same with 'Warcraft.'"

The film, out in US theaters on Friday, brings an origin story of the fantasy world explored in the role-playing "World of Warcraft" gaming franchise from Activision Blizzard Inc., which had 10 million subscribers as of November 2015. Jones said that

while he wanted to make a film that fans of the game would enjoy, he also wanted to introduce the world of "Warcraft" to newcomers and "make them come in and feel embraced by this fantasy setting that this film takes place in."

"Warcraft" follows the battle between the monster-like Orcs as they try to colonize the human land of Azeroth, with magic playing a key role in the fight. The film features mythical Orcs, dwarves, elves, wizard-esque mages and trolls, much like "Lord of the Rings." Comcast Corp's Universal Pictures and Legendary Pictures, a subsidiary of China's Wanda Cinema Line Corp., co-financed the film's \$160 million budget, with Universal distributing it globally except for China. The film has already grossed \$70 million internationally.

At the heart of the story is Sir Anduin Lothar (Travis Fimmel), and the Orc prisoner Garona (Paula Patton), who band together to fight against the Orcs, led by the ferocious, power-hungry Gul'dan (Daniel Wu). "Whether you are a hard-core gamer like Rob (Kazinsky, co-star) is or you're someone who never played the game like myself, you connect right off the bat to a strong compelling story and a character-driven story," said actor Ben Schnetzer, who plays talented young mage Khadgar. Jones said Patton's character is an outcast and presents the point of view for the audience as she is caught between two cultures. Patton said she liked that her character "is a warrior and quite strong" but also vulnerable at times. — Reuters



Statues are seen in front of the Chinese Theater during the premiere of 'Warcraft' in Hollywood, California. — AP/AFP photos



Actress Jamie Lee Curtis attends the premiere of 'Warcraft'.



Fans attend the premiere of 'Warcraft'.



Actress Paula Patton attends the premiere of Universal Pictures' 'Warcraft'.

Sequels, once a sure thing, are slumping at the box office

Sure things in Hollywood are beginning to look like an endangered species. Sequels, for years the industry's most "can't miss" assets, are struggling at the box office this year. The downturn, which continued over the weekend with the low turnout for "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows," calls into question one of the industry's bedrocks of bankability. Roughly two decades ago, the sequel—once largely seen as a blatant and disrespected cash grab—threw off its stigma. Comic-book serials and long-running franchises stretched the sequel business into a new realm of round-the-clock production and box-office records.

That era is nowhere close to ending; the most popular franchises have plans in place to last the next three presidential elections. But the recent sequel slump suggests that Hollywood may have become too quick on the sequel trigger—that maybe not every profitable movie deserves a second chapter, that the world might not have been craving another "Ninja Turtles" or "Zoolander." No studio executive today could get away with not ordering up a sequel to a \$1 billion-grossing movie like 2010's "Alice in Wonderland." Yet the drop was staggering for the badly reviewed "Alice Through the Looking Glass," which has made just \$51.4 million domestically in three weeks.

Exhibitor Relations

"It's hard to argue with \$1 billion and that's what I think keeps studios' finger on the greenlight: 'Press that button. Press it, press it. We just made \$1 billion. Let's go, let's go,'" says Jeff Bock, senior box office analyst for Exhibitor Relations. "And at some point, that just runs into the ground. Even audiences can



In this image released by Twentieth Century Fox, Jennifer Lawrence, left, and Evan Peters appear in a scene from, 'X-Men: Apocalypse'. — AP

take only so much Vin Diesel." Diesel's "Fast and Furious" franchise is one of the more astounding success stories in recent box office history. Last year's seventh installment topped \$1.5 billion worldwide; naturally, there are plans for eight, nine and 10.

In such an environment, the fast-paced greenlighting of sequels isn't just good business, it's like minting money. Of the top 10 films of 2016 thus far, nine are sequels, spin-offs or

reboots. And while sequels may have recently dipped, originality is cratering. Last weekend, the romance "Me Before You" performed well with \$18.7 million, but the well-received Andy Samberg comedy "Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping" flopped with just \$4.7 million. Still, "sequel underperforms" has become the steady drum beat of 2016. "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" has made \$872.2 million globally, but the \$250-million film has struggled to turn a profit for Warner Bros. and been roundly lambasted by critics and moviegoers alike. "X-Men: Apocalypse," "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising," "Ride Along 2" and "The Huntsman: Winter's War" have all done worse than their preceding films.

Cause panic

Bock calls the recent sequel swoon a trend that should "cause panic" within the Hollywood studio system. It is, after all, a system currently built on the sequel business; a sequel problem for Hollywood would be like if cars went out of favor for Detroit. "Conjuring 2" and "Now You See Me 2" will brave any sequel-itis this week. "Finding Dory," "Independence Day: Resurgence," "Ghostbusters," "Star Trek Beyond" and "Jason Bourne" are all on tap this summer. Pixar's "Finding Dory"—a sequel to 2003's "Finding Nemo"—is widely expected to be among the season's biggest hits, and perhaps benefits from the 13 year break since the 2013 original.

More essential

"There is something to be said for absence makes the heart grow fonder," says Bock. "Studios need to realize that in the long term, you can kill a franchise really quickly, like the

"Spiderman" one, by throwing out films that are not near and dear to the hearts of audiences." If there's a silver lining in the underperforming sequels, it's that few of them have been in franchises as blue-chip as "Spider-Man," which floundered in a too-quick reboot. It's not altogether shocking that another "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," a Tim Burton-less "Alice" and "Zoolander 2" weren't enticing to moviegoers; some of them are just plain bad.

Critical reaction has never been a key component of the sequel business; mediocre reviews did nothing to slow "Jurassic World" from becoming one of the highest grossing films of all time last year. But Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore, believes that with social media speeding up reaction, quality is becoming more essential to sequels. "It's a wake-up call," says Dergarabedian. "It says to the industry just because something did well, you can't exploit it. You have to enhance it. It has to be additive if you want to make a great sequel." The most glaring exception to the trend has been "Captain America: Civil War," the highest grossing film of the year at \$1.1 billion worldwide; the Marvel train keeps chugging. Bock, citing the planned mash-up between "21 Jump Street" and "Men in Black," wonders if such "Avengers"-style team-up films may be the future for sequels. Could Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles join the next "Transformers" film? It's a chilling new frontier to ponder. — AP



Beyonce accepts CFDA Fashion Icon Award onstage at the 2016 CFDA Fashion Awards at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City. — AP/AFP photos



Designer Marc Jacobs accepts The Award for Womenswear Designer of The Year.



Designer Thom Brown accepts The Menswear Designer of The Year.



Fashion designer Brandon Maxwell and model Naomi Campbell attend the 2016 CFDA Fashion Awards.

Beyonce steals show as surprise honoree at fashion awards

In a surprise appearance, Beyonce strode onstage in sparkling pinstripes Monday evening to speak emotionally about both family and fashion at the annual Council of Fashion Designers of America awards ceremony. "As long as I can remember, fashion has always been a part of my life," the pop superstar, who was honored with the Fashion Icon award, told a glittery crowd of designers, TV stars and other celebrities. She went on to recount how her grandmother had been a seamstress, and then passed that skill on to Beyonce's mother.

"When we were starting out in Destiny's Child, high-end labels, they didn't really want to dress four black, country curvy girls," she said. "And we couldn't afford designer dresses and couture. My mother ... used her talent and her creativity to give her children their dreams." She spoke of wearing her first costumes, which her mother and uncle had designed and sewn, "putting so much passion and love into every detail." It felt, she said, "like an extra suit of armor. It was so much deeper than any brand name."

More glamorous

Usually, organizers announce the name of the Fashion Icon winner well in advance, but this year they kept it under wraps until the end of the ceremony, when designer Diane von Furstenberg took the stage to introduce Beyonce, saying she represented everything women aspire to be. "The image of a woman in charge has never looked more glamorous," the designer said. The surprise honoree was one highlight of an evening that also included a touching tribute to the late David Bowie, from his friend, actress Tilda Swinton. Swinton's speech took the form of a letter she'd written to the singer, telling him he was being honored "for all your colors, all your magic, all your vim and vigor."

"This is a good thing: You have brought out the freak in everyone," Swinton said. Her tribute was followed by a performance of Bowie's song "Changes" by actor Michael C. Hall, a star of Bowie's musical, "Lazarus." And another recently departed rock legend was also memorialized in Monday's ceremony: Prince, who received a musical tribute from Jennifer Hudson to close out the show, including a rousing rendition of his song "Let's Go Crazy."

There was one brief, but enthusiastic reference to politics, when Vogue editor Anna Wintour took the stage to present the International Award to Alessandro Michele of Gucci. But first, she wanted to tell the crowd the news that had broken during the ceremony - reports of Hillary Clinton becoming the presumptive Democratic nominee based on delegate counts. Wintour, long active in Democratic Party fundraising, raised her arms in triumph. In major awards, Marc Jacobs won the prize for womenswear designer of the year, accepting his trophy in a black T-shirt.

Sleeping bag

"Marc, we have your tux backstage," quipped the evening's host, comedian and actor Joel McHale. The menswear prize went to Thom Browne, and the accessory prize to Rachel Mansur and Floriana Gavriel. Norma Kamali, famous for her "sleeping bag" coats and her swimsuits - including the red one actress Farrah Fawcett wore in her famous poster - received the lifetime achievement award from presenter Michael Kors, and Donna Karan was handed the Founder's Award from friend and designer Calvin Klein. The three Swarovski awards for emerging designers went to Paul Andrew for accessories, to the Orley label for menswear, and to Brandon Maxwell for womenswear.

Maxwell, Lady Gaga's stylist, spoke movingly about growing up "very gay in a very small town" in Texas, where styling his female friends gave him a sense of purpose in

life. But the show's finale was all about Beyonce, who along with her glittering pantsuit wore a large, black wide-brimmed hat. She praised fashion designers for being, in her words, fairy godmothers, magicians, sculptors - "and sometimes even our therapists." "I encourage you to not forget this power that you have, or take it lightly," the singer said. "We have an opportunity to contribute to a society where any girl can look at a billboard or a magazine cover and see her own reflection." — AP



Imran Amed accepts the Business of Fashion Media Award.



Actress Tilda Swinton speaks onstage honoring David Bowie with Board of Directors Tribute.



Designers Floriana Gavriel and Rachel Mansur awarded Accessories Designer of The Year speak onstage.



Designer Norma Kamali accepts The Geoffrey Beene Lifetime Achievement Award.



Brandon Maxwell accepts the Swarovski Womenswear Award.



Designer Calvin Klein presents designer Donna Karan with The Founders Award In Honor of Eleanor Lambert.



Alex Orley, Samantha Orley, and Matthew Orley of Orley accept the Swarovski Menswear Award.



Designer Alessandro Michele accepts The International Award.

Awards

Winners from the 2016 CFDA Awards

- Fashion Icon Award:** Beyonce
- Womenswear Designer of the Year:** Marc Jacobs
- Menswear Designer of the Year:** Thom Browne
- Accessories Designer of the Year:** Mansur Gavriel: Rachel Mansur and Floriana Gavriel
- Swarovski Award for Womenswear:** Brandon Maxwell
- Swarovski Award for Menswear:** Orley: Alex Orley, Matthew Orley, Samantha Orley
- Swarovski Award for Accessory Design:** Paul Andrew
- Geoffrey Beene Lifetime Achievement Award:** Norma Kamali
- The Media Award in Honor of Eugenia Sheppard:** Imran Amed, editor in chief of The Business of Fashion
- The Founder's Award in Honor of Eleanor Lambert:** Donna Karan
- International Award:** Gucci: Alessandro Michele
- Board of Directors' Tribute Award:** David Bowie



Irina Shayk and Misha Nonoo



Designer Paul Andrew and actress Jessica Chastain



Actress Gabrielle Union and designer Lela Rose



Jennifer Hudson performs onstage.



Gillian Jacobs



Actress Leven Rambin



Designer Monique Lhuillier



Jennifer Hudson



Model Ashley Graham



Model Taylor Hill



Editor-in-chief of American Vogue Anna Wintour announces Honoree for The International Award on stage.



Designer Diane von Furstenberg speaks on stage announcing the winner of the CFDA Fashion Icon Award.



Model Sara Sampaio



La La Anthony



Model Adriana Lima



Designer Rachel Zoe



Actress Sarah Paulson



Actress Selma Blair



Elsa Hosk



Heidi Klum



Laverne Cox



Model Josephine Skriver



Host Joel McHale speaks onstage.



Syrians wait for costumers at Damascus Al-Hamidiyah souk on the second day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan yesterday. More than a billion Muslims observed the start of Ramadan but in the besieged cities of Syria and Iraq residents struggled to mark the holy month. — AFP



On the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, drummers, backdropped by a mosque, pose for a photo before walking the streets of the neighborhoods in Istanbul to wake people for the 'sahour', the traditional breakfast of Ramadan. — AP photos



On the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Selami Aykut, 38, center, surrounded family observe the "sahour", traditional breakfast of Ramadan, in Istanbul, after being woken by street drummers early Monday.

In Istanbul, drummers keep ancient Ramadan tradition alive

In the dark of night, when the streets of Istanbul enjoy a rare moment of quiet, Ali Buldu sets out beating his drum to wake up his neighborhood. For most, Buldu's passing is a welcomed sign that the Muslim month of fasting and prayer has begun. The 55-year-old decked in traditional Ottoman attire has been making these pre-dawn Ramadan rounds for half of his life. It's a tradition he treasures, just like his forefathers did, and one that he is trying to pass on to the next generation.

Roughly 2,000 drummers wander around Istanbul's neighborhoods during Ramadan, a time when Muslim families fast from sunrise to sundown and come together for prayer and copious meals sweetened by dates and pastries to break off the fast. The drummers wander the streets to wake up residents for "sahur" - meals eaten before dawn.

"The Ramadan drummer has existed since the age of the Ottomans," Buldu says with pride as his 23-year-old nephew Emrah, who is joining him in the tradition, vigorously stirs sugar into his teacup before they march off in different directions at the speed of seasoned soldiers. Throughout the year, Buldu and many of his male relatives earn money by playing at weddings and other festivities. But during Ramadan, they rely on the generosity of residents to survive.

Alarm clocks

"During Ramadan, we don't have a job as no one organizes weddings," he tells The Associated Press before his first outing of the year. "May God bless the neighborhood residents, we take tips from those who (want to) give." On average, Istanbul's drummers are in their forties or fifties. Most young people are not interested in taking on

the task and seek out different jobs, says Buldu who picked up the sticks when his uncle died. Sometimes, the veteran drummer worries the craft will disappear and that drummers will be unceremoniously replaced by alarm clocks.

However, the introduction of Ottoman costumes five years ago and official membership cards for those who play have restored a sense of pride to the age-old tradition and helped expand the network of drummers in the booming metropolis. In the past three years, the ranks of drummers have grown from about 900 to 2,000, says Selami Aykut, a neighborhood administrator in the middle-class district of Bahcelievler. Before, there would be just one drummer per neighborhood.

"We want to keep the old traditions alive," Aykut tells the AP after his family shares a light pre-dawn meal. The practice is welcomed by most, except a small minority who are bothered by the bang of the drum - typically the elderly, sick or mothers with young babies, Aykut says. "It is important because people know that Ramadan has come from the sound of the drum," he says. "People were complaining because they couldn't hear the drummers on the streets anymore."

There is not much money in the business, with drummers knocking doors twice in the month to collect bakhshish, a small reward that can run from less than a dollar to around \$20. But for Buldu's young nephew, who is bucking the trend among his contemporaries, the best reward is keeping the tradition alive. "It makes people happy and it makes us happy to play during Ramadan," Emrah Buldu says. — AP

