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JAMADA ALAWWAL 29, 1437 AH

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conspiracy theories

AGE BARRIERS



By Badrya Darwish

badrya_d@kuwaittimes.net

One of my friends recently came to me complaining that he cannot bring his father to visit Kuwait as he normally does. I jokingly asked him, "Is your father a terrorist?" He said that they allowed his mother but his father's visit application was rejected because he was born before 1950. And I told him: Are you sure this is the reason? There are no security concerns or other issues?

Honestly speaking, I'm not interfering in the legislation in my country and especially with any measures that are taken for the security and safety of Kuwait. I also totally support any rules that are for the safety and stability of my country.

But this one, excuse me, I could not digest. I tried to think it through left, right and center, and I could not see any benefit out of it, as the guy is not coming for residency or to stay but only for a short visit to see his son. I'm sure when someone visits, he buys tickets and spends money here, which can boost the economy. Visitors are equal to tourism, but as we don't have much tourism in Kuwait, so God compensates us with visitors for the people who work in Kuwait who receive their families, and this equals tourism. They come here and buy tickets, eat in restaurants, go shopping, take taxis, stay in hotels, visit local sights, etc.

I don't know in which way it harms us if people over 50 or 60 or 65 come to visit us. What's the point of keeping them away? I know a friend of mine who brought his father recently to be treated in Kuwait and took him to a private hospital, and so far he has paid thousands of dinars for his treatment. So in which way does this harm Kuwait?

If the reason for the age barrier is health treatment, then it could be easily tackled. I heard on the other hand that yes, there are a few people who are taking advantage to come and get treatment in public hospitals. But I found this a bit difficult to understand. How are they allowed to do so unless they have wasta or have cheated the system? In this case, they and not the whole society should be punished for the bad doings of a few.

And if I'm wrong and it's not just a few but many who are doing this, then the government should set a rule to require visitors to have health insurance or set a rule that they cannot be treated in public hospitals. Full stop.

Imagine if other countries tomorrow started refusing to give Kuwaitis visit visas if we are older than 40 or 50 or 65 or whatever age. No one has put an age limit on visitors as long as they are not a security threat.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of cassation yesterday upheld a four-year jail term against Kuwaiti tweeter Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Fadhel for writing comments on his account deemed offensive to a number of top judges. Fadhel was sentenced to four years in jail by the criminal court in Oct 2014 after three top judges sued him on charges of defamation. The sentence was confirmed by the appeals court in February last year, and yesterday the same verdict was upheld by the cassation court, whose rulings are final. The court also asked Fadhel to pay a temporary compensation of KD 5,001 to the judges. This allows them to seek larger damages from civil courts.

Meanwhile, MP Saleh Ashour yesterday called for transferring the forensic and criminal evidence departments from the interior ministry to the justice ministry to ensure that they carry out their duties in a fair and neutral manner. The lawmaker said that the two departments play a very important role in helping courts and the public prosecution in establishing justice and it is not logical for them to remain under the control of the interior ministry. This demand is not new as many MPs in the past have made similar proposals, but the government has always opposed it.

Also yesterday, MP Saud Al-Hurajji criticized Justice Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane for sending him wrong answers to a question he had asked him. Hurajji also threatened to grill the minister for failing to pay attention to his question.

EXCLUSIVE

YUNUS UPBEAT ON FUTURE OF MICROFINANCE

By Dr Serajul I Bhuiyan

DHAKA: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will meet Bangladeshi Nobel Laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus today. Yunus is the founder of Grameen Bank and a pioneer in the field of microcredit. In an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times prior to his arrival in Kuwait, Dr Yunus discussed his views on the global economy and the growth of microfinance in the Middle East.



Muhammad Yunus

Today, microfinance providers reach more than 200 million clients globally. In Bangladesh, Grameen Bank has 8.4 million borrowers, 96 percent of them women. In 2006, Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution in the process of poverty alleviation in the world.

Professor Yunus is one of only seven individuals to have received the Nobel Peace Prize, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom and the United States Congressional Gold Medal, and the only Muslim in the world who has received the US Congressional Gold Medal. For his constant innovation and enterprise, Fortune magazine named Professor Yunus in 2012 as "one of the greatest entrepreneurs of our time".

See Page 3 for full interview

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attend the ceremony. — Photos by Amiri Diwan and Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: (From left) His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Chief of the Court of Cassation and Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Al-Mutawaa attend the graduation ceremony of the 43rd batch of non-commissioned officers at Ali Al-Sabah Military Academy yesterday.

AMIR PATRONIZES OFFICERS' GRADUATION AT ALI AL-SABAH MILITARY ACADEMY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, patronized and attended the graduation ceremony of the 43rd batch of non-commissioned officers at Ali Al-Sabah Military Academy yesterday.

His Highness the Amir's motorcade arrived at the ceremony site where he was greeted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder, the Defense Undersecretary Jassar Abdulrazzak Al-Jassar, the faculty chief General Mohammad Ahmed Al-Kheder and other commanders.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, senior sheikhs, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Chief of the Court of Cassation and Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawaa, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Finance Minister and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, senior State officials, a large group of students' families and citizens.

The ceremony with the National Anthem, followed with a token military parade signaling start of the act-

al graduation, then a demonstration by elite forces. His Highness the Amir distributed the awards to the top graduates. He later headed to the Amiri Hall where he was saluted by the faculty officers. And, a memorial award was granted to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Modern innovations

In an address at the ceremony, the faculty commander, Lieutenant General Kheder, expressed gratitude to the military and political leaders who contributed to enabling the faculty to stay abreast of modern scientific innovations, adopting latest combat techniques and doctrines. He also expressed gratitude to the officers, non-commissioned officers, educators and trainees.

He urged the graduates to remain faithful to Kuwait, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, shun sectarian or tribal affiliations and follow the ancestors' footsteps in preserving the homeland while being united. He also called on them to abide by guidelines of His Highness the Amir.

He renewed the pledge to safeguard the internal front as well as the homeland security and stability and renewed the pledge of allegiance to the top leaders, saying in part, "we promise that we will remain the protecting shield of our dear homeland and our Amir. "We will safeguard security and stability of the homeland so that the Kuwait Flag remains hoisted aloft under your sagacious leadership." — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors a graduate.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors a graduate.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen during the ceremony.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah are greeted during the ceremony.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

PROF YUNUS CALLS TO REDESIGN ECONOMY TO REDESIGN WORLD

By Dr Serajul Bhuiyan

KUWAIT: In an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times prior to his arrival in Kuwait, Dr Muhammad Yunus discusses his views on the global economy and the growth of microfinance in the Middle East. Some excerpts:

KUWAIT TIMES: You will be speaking at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce on redesigning economics to redesign the world. What do you mean by this?

Professor Yunus: One of the issues I keep raising is that the problems we have created around the world for human beings are not accidental. This is by design. Not that we wanted to make this happen, but somehow these kinds of negative results came out of it - there are many positive results but there are negative results also built into the system. If you want to avoid and remove the flaws or the negative results of the current economic system, the point I have been promoting is that we have to look back to the thinking process, the conceptual framework, the entire economic thinking and entire economic system to find out the causes of the problems and remove the flaws.

For the present design or current economic system, you get the same old results - you create poverty, unemployment, health hazards and danger for the world, carbonization of the economy, and wealth concentration in a few hands. All these things are built into the current economic system. You can rethink it piece by piece but this does not solve the problem because it will come back soon unless you change the system which created it.

So, we need a redesigning process and once you redesign the process, the problems created in the past can be avoided or eliminated, and we can have a much better world than before. It is almost like building a road that leads you to a destination which is a good one, but on the way we have created problems by using this road, and if you keep on using the same road, you will just perpetuate the same problems that we have. In order to avoid these problems, we have to build a new road. We have to redesign the road in a way that those problems do not occur again and we can achieve the goals we wanted to achieve. The destination we have defined can be reached without creating a problem. This is what I have been saying - to redesign the economy to redesign the world - and this is what we will be talking today at the chamber of commerce.

KUWAIT TIMES: Microfinance has created much debate today on whether it works. How would you describe the state of this field?

Professor Yunus: You have to admit that access to capital or credit is very important. If you look at the world today, I would say probably two-thirds of the world's population does not have access to financial services. That is the first thing that we should take care of. Money begets money. If you do not have it, you wait around to be hired by somebody and are at the mercy of others. If you have money in your hand, you desperately try to make the best use of it and move ahead. And this generates income for yourself.

I strongly believe that all human beings are very creative - full of potential, full of energy. Money allows them to express this. And if you are successful, you can make more money. You can expand your capacity, reach the next level of capacity, and so on.

If you remember long before the crisis of 2008, when financial institutions were crumbling all over the world, many of us had been

saying that we need to redesign the financial system which only serves the top one-third of the world - two-thirds are left out. Microcredit has shown how you can reach out to people that conventional banking cannot. It has demonstrated that it's a doable proposition.

When we designed microcredit, the purpose was to help people get out of poverty, but some people moved away from that motivation. Grameen is still the same. It reaches out to the poorest - the women - and has demonstrated that despite disasters, it can work.

KUWAIT TIMES: Microfinance is struggling to find its feet in the Middle East. Various reports say that institutional structures, poor



Dr Muhammad Yunus

regulations and a general backwardness of the financial system are hampering microfinance's growth in the MENA region. Where do you see the role of respective countries to make microfinance a success?

Professor Yunus: We will be discussing these issues in the upcoming Microcredit Summit in Dubai in two weeks with MENA country representatives. Slowly, microcredit is taking root. Yes, microfinance has blossomed in recent years across parts of Asia and South America, but its start in the Middle East and North Africa hasn't been as auspicious.

It is good that microfinance institutions have existed in the Middle East since the 1990s and they quickly made strides in countries like Egypt and Morocco, where large, relatively poor populations and pent-up demand for financing fed into its growth. But by the late 2000s, things stagnated. It seems to me that most of the financing firepower has become concentrated in the hands of a few players. We will discuss these issues at the summit, but I must attest that every country and region is different. I am hopeful that it takes good shape in the Middle East and MENA region.

Initially, there was confusion between microcredit and commercial banking, but now people understand these concepts. But there must be a policy in place to put microcredit to work, meaning that there must be a legal framework. There are banking laws in every country including countries in the Middle East, but banking laws are not suitable for microfinance to work properly. The existing banking law is framed for rich people. So you need to create a system or bank where poor people can have access to credit without collateral. There are nine such banks in the Middle East and I hope Kuwait will set up a bank for the poor in the future.

KUWAIT TIMES: You came up with an idea of social business, which you say is a kind of New Capitalism. Please describe this idea to

us and explain how you reached it?

Professor Yunus: Social business is a cause-driven business where the investors/owners can gradually recoup the money invested, but cannot take any dividend beyond that point. The purpose of the investment is purely to achieve one or more social objectives through the operation of the company, and no personal gain is desired by the investors. The company must cover all costs and make a profit, and at the same time achieve the social objective, such as health-care for the poor, housing for the poor, financial services for the poor, nutrition for malnourished children, providing safe drinking water, introducing renewable energy, etc in a businesslike way.

I have been proposing and practicing a new kind of business which is based on selflessness, replacing the selfishness of human beings. This type of business runs parallel to the selfishness-driven business that rules the world. Conventional business is personal profit-seeking business. The new business, which I am proposing, is personal profit-for-sake business. It is a for-profit business, but not personal profits. I call it social business - a non-dividend company to solve human problems. The owner can take back his investment money, but nothing beyond that. After getting the investment money back, all profit is ploughed back into the business to make it better and bigger. It stands between charity and conventional business. It is designed with the objectives of charity and carried out with the methodology of business, but delinked from personal profit-taking.

Charity is a great concept to help people, and has been in use since time immemorial. But it is not sustainable. Charity money goes out, does a wonderful job, but does not come back. Social business money gets the job done and then it comes back. As a result, this money can be reused endlessly. It creates independent, self-sustaining enterprises, which have their own lives. These enterprises become self-fueled entities.

The capitalist system is justified on the assumption that making money is the sole source of happiness. The more money you make, the happier you are. Money is an incentive, no doubt, but it is not the only incentive for human beings. Making money is happiness; but I feel making the world happy is super-happiness. The capitalist system is about freedom to choose. But when it comes to looking for happiness, it gives no choice. By introducing social business to make the world happy, we give people another choice. Now they can choose.

Business schools today train young people to become business-warriors to capture market and money. They are not given any social mission. If we accept the concept of social business, business schools will be required to produce another category of graduates equipping them to become social problem-fighters to bring an end to social problems through social businesses. We would need to create social stock markets to attract investors who would like to invest in problem-solving enterprises, without having any intention of making personal profits.

The impact of the business on people or environment, rather than the amount of profit made in a given period, measures the success of social business. Sustainability of the company indicates that it is running as a business. The objective of the company is to achieve social goals.

Note: Dr Bhuiyan is a professor at Kuwait University



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly cabinet meeting. — KUNA

CABINET HOLDS WEEKLY SESSION

KUWAIT: The Cabinet held its weekly session yesterday, presided over by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. At the onset of the session, the Cabinet viewed a letter sent to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, by Egyptian President AbdelFatah Al-Sisi, one that solidified long-standing ties between Kuwait and Egypt.

As part of an international wave of praise for His Highness the Amir, the Cabinet viewed a series of letters sent to His Highness the Amir. The letters came from UK Prime Minister David Cameron, United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing and United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director General Irina Bokova. The letters expressed deepest gratitude for His Highness the Amir's support of humanitarian causes and Kuwait's hosting of donors' conferences for Syria.

Moreover, the Cabinet extolled efforts exerted by the Amiri Diwan for putting together a successful fireworks celebration on Saturday, marking Kuwait's 55th Independence Day, 25th anniversary of Liberation Day and the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's assumption of power. The Cabinet also thanked security forces for maintaining order in an event that sparked joyous emotions across the nation. The Cabinet also discussed current Arab and international political developments. —KUNA

SPEAKER: WOMEN'S ISSUES TAKE LEGISLATIVE PRECEDENCE

KUWAIT: Women's issues are of top legislative priority, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem said yesterday, a day before the world celebrates International Women's Day. In a press statement, Ghanem described Kuwaiti women's attainment of full-fledged political rights in May 2005 as a milestone, saying "it was merely a launch pad for greater social, legal and economic rights."

"International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to pay tribute to the sacrifices of Kuwaiti women," Ghanem said. "Women have actively contributed to progress and development in a wide array of realms," he noted.

"We are proud of the fact that women make up around 50 percent of the National Assembly's security council's workforce," Ghanem said, adding that "senior positions are occupied by women." "We believe in the power of



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem

women as valuable contributors to society, and Kuwait's history proves this," he said. — KUNA

KUWAIT VOWS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

JAKARTA: The Envoy of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, taking part in the extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that kicked off in Jakarta yesterday, announced that the Gulf country would continue to support the brotherly Palestinian people and seek to ease off their hardships under Israel's occupation.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who is taking part in the crucial summit as the Envoy of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, called on the Palestinian parties, during the summit devoted for Palestine and the Holy City Jerusalem, to unite their ranks and stances in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He expressed confidence that the "concerned parties could overcome any obstacle affecting unity of the brotherly Palestinian people."

The Envoy of His Highness the Amir called on the international community, namely the Security Council, to shoulder the responsibilities in this respect and coerce Israel respect relevant UN resolutions, namely resolutions 465 and 478. He also urged the UNESCO to undertake all needed measures to safeguard historic heritage of Jerusalem. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak conveyed His Highness the Amir's greetings to the conferees and his wishes the convention would be crowned with success.

Critical conditions

The conference is held amid very critical global conditions, particularly in the Islamic world, he said, singling out the Syrian crisis "which is a bleeding injury tearing apart the nation, as well as the situation in Yemen, Libya and Iraq, witnessing fierce struggle for restoring security and stability, in addition to the hateful terrorism undermining security of the societies. International and Islamic efforts must be rallied for restoring hope to peoples of the region and the world."

The Palestinian cause and Holy Jerusalem remain among the top issues "preoccupying us," he said, alluding to Israel's ongoing violations of the relevant international legislations, aggression on the Palestinian people, Islamic and



JAKARTA: Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attends the extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). — Amiri Diwan photo

Christian sanctities. "In this respect, we call on the international community namely the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and coerce Israel into respecting the relevant UN resolutions namely resolutions 465 and 478. We also call on the UNESCO to take necessary measures to safeguard the historic heritage of Jerusalem."

"The State of Kuwait, in accordance with its full obligation for supporting the Palestinian cause, will spare no effort in continuing the backing to end suffering of the brotherly Palestinian people," His Highness the Amir's Envoy pledged at the special Islamic summit. He noted in this respect Kuwait's contributions to various funds and programs to help the Palestinian people.

A dignified life for the Palestinian people will not be attained without establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, he said, urging the OIC member states to continue backing the cause.

He praised recent efforts by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas that resulted in granting Palestine the observer status at the UN, hoisting the Palestinian Flag at the UN headquarters and joining several influential international organizations. He lambasted Israeli's aggressive policies against the Palestinians and prayed for souls of the Palestinian martyrs. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Director General of the Kuwait Ports Authority Sheikh Youssef Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah is seen during the meeting of the joint committee on stocktaking storage areas. — KUNA

PLAN TO BOOST PORTS EFFICIENCY: KPA

KUWAIT: The plan to develop Kuwaiti ports aims to increase their space capacity and operational efficiency, Director General of the Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) Sheikh Youssef Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah said yesterday. It also includes promoting cadres in charge of operations

inside the ports. Sheikh Youssef added in a press statement on the sidelines of the first meeting of the joint committee on stocktaking the KPA's land storage areas. The KPA is currently taking steps to remove many obstacles in cooperation with relevant bodies, he said.

According to Sheikh Youssef Al-Abdullah, a top priority of the authority at present is to make the utmost use of KPA's lots of land and storage areas through field visits, to reassess and develop them, as part of the efforts to offer standard logistic services to benefit the local and world trade. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Scenes from the 'By Kuwaiti Hands' exhibition which took place at Souq Al-Manakh recently.



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

'BY KUWAITI HANDS' SHOWCASES YOUTH TALENT



By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: 'By Kuwaiti Hands', an expo organized by Kuwait Investment Company at Souq Al-Manakh in Kuwait City, showcased the talents of creative youth and their projects. Talal Sulaiman Al-Rashdan, Senior Manager for Public Relations and Media at Kuwait Investment Company, wel-

comed guests and thanked the people behind the success of the expo.

Recalling the establishment of Kuwait Investment Company in 1961 through an Amiri decree, he said the company has an important role to play in the society. "We believe in realizing the wish of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-



Sabah, who said that Kuwait is proud of its young people, as they are the foundation of its future. From this emerged the idea of holding an exhibition called 'By Kuwaiti Hands' to serve as the right platform for talented youth and their projects. They need our support in those projects and help to succeed," said Rashdan. The initiative was welcomed by many par-

ties, including the Sabah Al-Ahmed Center for Talent and Creativity, the strategic partner, and the Ministry of Youth, that provided considerable facilities to ensure the success of the exhibition, along with a group of Kuwaiti volunteers and others who assisted in bringing this initiative to life. "I would like to thank the management of



Kuwait Investment Company for their valuable initiative to adopt these talents by organizing this exhibition and for giving our creative and talented youth an opportunity to exhibit their works at the Souq Al-Manakh building, with a view to supporting them and giving the opportunity to the public to visit the exhibition that is held to highlight the creativity of Kuwaiti youth," he added.



KFH ACHIEVES OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATIONS IN FEBRUARY EVENTS



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) achieved outstanding participations in the national events in the month of February 2016 through its various activities, which confirms its leadership in assuming the corporate social responsibility CSR, while emanates from its firm belief in the importance of its social and national role towards Kuwait and the society.

KFH started its events by participating in the inaugural ceremony of Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village in the presence of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The bank took part in the national campaign of hoisting the Kuwaiti flag. This campaign encompassed the participation of hoisting the flag in Nayef Palace in the presence of the Capital Governor, at KFH Headquarters, on Al-Fayha branch, Al-Safat Square, Al-Qurain Martyrs Museum, not to mention the participation in launching the world's longest free-flying flag in collaboration with "Our Flag Brings Us Together" team.

Moreover, the bank organized February competition on its official account on Instagram. This competition attracted thousands of participants and witnessed remarkable interaction. KFH honored a group of national champions who achieved outstanding results in international forums. The champions are the Rider in Kuwait Motocross Meshari Bu Shayba, the Jest Ski World Champion Mohammad Bu Rubaiea, the Skydiver

Mohammad Al-Refaei, the inventor who received international recognitions Mohammad Bin Awon, the Disabled Diver Faisal Al-Mousawi, the Shooting champions Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Fahad Al-Dayhani, and the inventor Hawraa Al-Gallaf, where KFH held a seminar to recognize them at Kuwait University amid huge student attendance.

KFH launched national chant performed by the distinguished Salah Al-Shati. It launched an advertising campaign in tandem with the occasion of the 55th National Day and 25th Liberation Day.

Furthermore, KFH participated in the national open day for people with special needs organized by Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem's Committee for people with special needs. It distributed gifts for clients at the airport branch, and organized awareness campaign in collaboration with the Fire Department Directory.

The bank also distributed badges to the employees as an expression of the pride in Kuwait and the happiness in celebrating the national days.

It is worth noting that KFH is keen on embracing its social responsibility, while participating in the events of importance to the society, primarily the national events. This incarnates its prestigious status and underlines its unremitting efforts in shouldering the social responsibility, while motivating other private sector institutions to follow suit.

NO UNQUALIFIED TEACHERS IN KUWAIT SCHOOLS IN FEW YEARS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait will allow only qualified teachers to practice the vital profession, after completion of a special plan in this respect forecast to be put together by 2019-2020, said the head of the National Center for Education Development (NCED).

Dr Sbah Al-Mekhaizeem, the NCED Director, said in an exclusive interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the center is involved in a project for issuance of "the teacher license," noting that it is one of the axes of the State Development Strategy, effective as of April 2016. Once the project has been finalized by 2019-2020, "only teachers of distinguished performance" will be allowed to teach, explained Dr Mekhaizeem. The NCED had been established through the Amiri Decree 308/2006 for developing education in Kuwait, based on scientific methodology.

Dr Mekhaizeem expressed hope that the

project, to be executed in phases, would be finalized according to the set schedule for sake of achieving quality teaching, noting that the approach would be applicable on nationals, expatriates, newly-graduated or veteran teachers and professors in both the private and public sectors.

Elaborating, the educational strategist said the center is currently executing a number of projects, including the main program, tackled in coordination with the World Bank, also aimed at overhauling the teaching sector, valid till 2019, in addition to several others, currently on hold, pending budgets' allocation, as of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. They are also included in the state development strategy.

Shedding light on these plans, he mentioned "the schools' distinctiveness project," designed to work out a mechanism to examine the schools' status, also noting that the center

is seeking to regulate private schools' fees "to set them according to scientific and specific criteria." He noted in this respect that the center is examining "quality of structures and buildings, teachers and curricula." The fees will be set according to the NCED examination and judgment.

The NCED also handles the issue of exams, with aim of choosing the best students to be enrolled in the higher educational institutions and for matching the skills with the employment market. Part of the center's agreement with the WB addresses overhauling the curriculums, he said, noting that the current ones focus on memorizing, instead of acquiring skills. Another axis the center is embarked on is lifting level of teachers' skills, Dr Mekhaizeem said, explaining the teachers would be subjected to certain quizzes before being granted "the teacher license." — KUNA

KUWAIT COMMITTED TO CITES PROVISIONS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) said yesterday that Kuwait is working with other state parties of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to ensure effective implementation of the treaty.

"Through its wildlife observatory, PAAAFR maintains fruitful cooperation with the Global Trade Watch (GTW), the World Wildlife Federation (WWF) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)," Director General Faisal Al-Hasawi said in a press statement.

"The CITES, also known as the Washington Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty to protect the endangered plants and animals against overexploitation; it was opened for signature in March 1973," he pointed out.

The treaty aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants, he noted.

"It helps maintain the balance of nature and biodiversity through combating the illicit trade in endangered plants or animals in order to protect the fauna and flora life in keeping with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"The treaty has three appendices that provide legal umbrella for more than 28,432 kinds of plants and 5,000 kinds of animals. It bans exportation or re-exportation of any of the listed species," Hasawi stated. To ensure strict implementation of the treaty, PAAAFR is in contact

with the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait Municipality, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Kuwait Airways as well as the CITES Secretariat, he went on. In 2003 PAAAFR formed a flora team which is authorized to issue CITES licenses for plant exporting companies and individuals, and verify the validity of documents of importers, he said, noting that some members of the team were mandated as judiciary police.

Pursuant to the provisions of CITES, the PAAAFR has also launched a nature reserve over an area of 650 square meters for keeping the endangered species seized by the team, Hasawi added. Kuwait has joined the 169-member convention in 2002. — KUNA



ABDULRAHMAN AL-SUMAIT CHARITY CENTER OPENED IN TANZANIA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ambassador to Tanzania Jassim Al-Najem inaugurated yesterday the 'Abdulrahman Al-Sumait' center in Pemba Island, near Zanzibar. The Ambassador asserted Kuwait's continuing humanitarian support through Kuwaiti charities, most importantly projects that benefit communities in Tanzania, which are much appreciated by the Tanzanian people.

Najem also praised Kuwaiti charities for their humanitarian role and contribution to development in Tanzania, including serving those in need, describing Kuwait's charitable work as "hallmark" in the history of Kuwait's philanthropic work in Africa.

Najem said the center is named after Kuwait's leading figure in humanitarian work,

Abdulrahman Al-Sumait. The ambassador added that donations for the center took place through cooperation with Kuwait's Direct Aid society, noting that the total cost of project was collected through donations in a very short amount of time. Najem also thanked the exerted efforts by the Kuwaiti leadership and people in continuing the humanitarian work. — KUNA

NO NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN CAPITAL

By Jamie Etheridge and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council yesterday approved a new regulation that would bar government bodies from building or being assigned any new office space in Kuwait



Eng Ali Al-Moussa

City. Eng Ali Al-Moussa, head of the master structural plan committee, told the Kuwait Times that the plan has already been

reviewed and okayed by the Municipality and has the support of the Supreme Planning Council. Intended to reduce traffic and congestion in the capital area, the plan has also had a legal review and needs only to go through the submission phase and be published in the official gazette, Kuwait Al-Youm.

"The plan is part of Kuwait's 2020 Masterplan [overseen by the Amiri Diwan] and will lead to a stronger economy, better allocation of resources, easing of traffic and congestion in the capital," explained Eng Al-Moussa.

Once published in the official gazette, the Municipality will stop receiving all requests from government bodies for space allocation in the capital area. This means that government bodies may not take up residence in government buildings or build new structures. However, government ministries and other departments already located in the area will not be required to move. They may also opt for private sector office space.

Eng Al-Moussa noted that the Baladiya will consider allocating space in areas like Ardhiya, Qurain and near the airport as alternatives to the capital. Despite limited opposition, nearly 90 percent of council members supported the new regulation.

COURT DROPS JOINING NUSRA CASE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday abstained from punishing a citizen who had been accused by state security of joining the Nusra Front group in Syria. The court also annulled the sentence of a Kuwaiti stu-

dent who was jailed in absentia to 10 years over charges of fighting with the Nusra Front. Separately, a court yesterday ordered an insurance company to pay a citizen KD 400,000 plus a KD 2,000 monthly salary for life in compensation for serious injuries he sustained in a traffic accident.

PAS REITERATES RESPECT FOR CLUBS' PROFESSIONALISM REQUIREMENTS

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) yesterday reaffirmed its respect for sporting club chairmen's requirements for partial professionalism aiming to help players keep their technical levels. The PAS said in a press release that partial professionalism would also contribute to highly promoting the State of Kuwait at international sports events.

It added that just like all other state bodies, it is keen to "keep public money" in line with retrench-

ment instructions for all authorities and agencies amid the current critical situation in the region. It reaffirmed that its decision 2/2016, which was approved by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah "didn't come out of nothing", but it was the fruit of several consultative meetings held by clubs' representatives and the PAS officials. —KUNA

THREE MPs COORDINATE TO GRILL SUBAIH

FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR KUWAITI WOMEN'S CHILDREN

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MPs Abdullah Maayouf, Mohammed Tana Al-Enezi and Saleh Ashour yesterday met to coordinate on grilling Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih, said informed sources. The sources added that the three MPs plan to discuss the motion in the March 29 session and delayed filing it so as not to be listed on the March 15 session's agenda. The sources said that the three MPs are mobilizing their colleagues to make at least 10 of them sign a no-confidence motion, as some lawmakers have not yet made up their minds on cooperating with them.

Medical services

The parliamentary family affairs committee yesterday met health ministry undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi and discussed medical services for Kuwaiti women's children, be they bedoons or non-Kuwaitis. The committee's rapporteur MP Mohammed Tana Al-Enezi said that the committee found that many ministerial decisions had been made on providing bedoons with free medical services for life. He added that Kuwaiti women's children are also treated as citizens in terms of medical services. Enezi added that the committee also discussed recruiting Kuwaiti women's children, namely bedoon doctors, pharmacists and lab and radiology technicians, in Ministry of Health (MoH) facilities.

In addition, Enezi said that the MoH agreed to issue special cards for bedoon children of Kuwaiti women with detailed information about the ministerial decisions and medical services they would be entitled to. "The cards will be available in all polyclinics soon," he underscored.

Meanwhile, advisor to the parliamentary women and family affairs committee Dr Farah Sadeq said that the MoH confirmed providing free medical services for Kuwaiti women's children for life as stipulated by ministerial decision number 146/2010, and said that the ministry had initially approved these privileges in the meeting.

Sadeq also said that the committee inquired about collecting KD 50 from Kuwaiti women's children for health insurance, while they should only pay KD 5. "The ministry promised to look into the matter," she underlined, pointing out



Minister Hind Al-Subaih



MP Abdullah Maayouf



MP Mohammed Tana Al-Enezi



MP Saleh Ashour

that MoH also promised to study the possibility of granting them some exceptions on visiting outpatient departments.

Water grid

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) stressed that Kuwait's water grid has a very flexible capacity that helps annual maintenance

operations of desalination plants. The ministry added that water reserves are usually used during maintenance after coordination with water desalination and distillation plants. "Top storage capacity was recorded on January 25, 2015 with 3,859 million imperial gallons while the lowest storage was recorded on July 28, 2015 with 2,509 imperial gallons," MEW sources explained.



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad tours the Saad Al-Abdallah Police Sciences Academy's hospital.



Major General Yousuf Al-Ansari, Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) visits Lieutenant Fahad Al-Azmi.

MINISTRY OFFICIALS INSPECT POLICE ACADEMY CLINICS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad lauded the health services provided at Saad Al-Abdallah Police Sciences Academy, and its state-of-the-art equipment. Al-Fahad spoke during a tour at the academy's hospital, where he inspected the expansion and maintenance work. He was received by Assistant Undersecretary for Education and Training Affairs Major General Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad, Acting Director General of the Academy Brig Nasser Buresli and Director of Health Affairs Department Dr Faisal Al-Oraifan.

Official visits injured Lieutenant

Major General Yousuf Al-Ansari, Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) visited Lieutenant Fahad Al-Azmi at Razi Orthopedic hospital, after breaking his foot while participating in the firemen challenge tournament that was held during the recent Fireman's Day Festival.

Drug possession

Four Kuwaiti young men were sent to the Drugs Control General Department after they were arrested with possession of drugs. The arrest was made at a check

point at Amman street in Salmiya, after a driver attempted to escape. The four had a piece of hashish, 10 white tablets, half a tablet with red color, as well as a white substance, all suspected to be drugs.

Reckless driving

Director General of Ahmadi Security Brig Adballah

Saffah ordered the detention of a Kuwaiti youth, who drove recklessly in Jaber Al-Ali according to several complaints. He was taken to Fintas police station.

Thieves caught

Criminal detectives arrested two Gulf nationals who committed several robberies while impersonat-

ing police detectives. A microphone was found inside a car that belongs to one of the thieves, which he used to order drivers to pull over. An Indian delivery man said a driver stopped him in Qasr area, then the suspect stole KD 120 from him. The victim identified the two thieves, and further legal action is being taken.

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Crime

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SOLDIER, POLICEMAN ARRESTED FOR SELLING UNLICENSED WEAPONS

KUWAIT: Weapons detectives busted a soldier and a policeman, who separately sold unlicensed weapons and ammunition, and both were sent to the prosecution that ordered them jailed. In the first case, a security source said Director of Detectives Lieutenant Colonel Hamad Al-Ajmi learned that a person was trading in weapons, and investigations led to discovering that he is a soldier living in Ardiya. The source said that a warrant was obtained and an undercover agent agreed with the soldier to buy a shotgun. He was arrested red-handed. In the second case, a policeman living in Jahra was discovered selling unlicensed weapons, and police found a machinegun and two pistols in his house. He was arrested and sent to the public prosecution.

Kidnap attempt

A Filipina beautician was the target of a kidnapping attempt by an Egyptian because she refused to marry him. A security source said the Filipina told Abu Halifa police station that when she finished her work at a salon, she was surprised by a person attempting to kidnap her, but was able to escape. The Filipina said she was about to marry the Egyptian, but some problems prompted her to change her mind.

Smuggling foiled

Customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of illicit tablets by two Syrians who placed them inside a container loaded with steel and windows. Director of northern ports Waleed Al-Nasser and Customs Detectives Director Rashid Al-Baraka learned about a container coming from Syria with a large quantity of drugs in them. Baraka coordinated with the Drugs Control General Department to prepare a plan for their arrest. Officers waited for the container's arrival at Shuwaikh port on Friday, and the container was allowed to go through and was under surveillance until it reached Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The source said two Syrians were waiting for the container, and as soon as they received it, detectives arrested them and sent them to concerned authorities.

Teens fight

Four juveniles in Dhaher stabbed their friend following a dispute over an ATV, and the victim was rushed to Adan Hospital. Police received a call about the fight, so they rushed to the area but did not find anyone. While there, they received a call from the Adan Hospital investigator telling them that a person was brought in with a stab wound. Police then found the juvenile was stabbed during the same fight they were called about. Police are investigating.

Cafe scuffle

Police put an end to a fight between three citizens in a Fahaheel cafe, and all were detained. All three exchanged accusations, and it was found that two of them had differences with the third, so they were all charged with fighting and trading insults and detained for further legal action. —Al-Rai

SMART METERS TENDER SOON

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water is preparing for a tender to install smart meters in one of Kuwait's governorates, Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said, adding that the tender is expected to be placed within two or three months. Bushehri said the ministry installed 1,000 meters on trial bases in several Hawally buildings, adding that the experiment was a success. —Al-Rai

SAUDI, QATAR ASK KUWAIT FOR EUROFIGHTER SPECS

KUWAIT: Saudi and Qatari military officials asked their Kuwaiti counterparts to provide them with the specifications of the Eurofighter jets that the Gulf state recently chose to add to its Air Force, Kuwaiti military sources said. Notably, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah had emphasized that the Eurofighter deal would enhance Kuwait Army's capabilities. Kuwait signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2015 to buy 28 Eurofighter jets, the consortium that makes the aircraft said, in a deal worth up to 8 billion euros (\$8.7 billion). Last week, the parliament approved a draft law on Tuesday allowing the government to make an advance payment of KD 150 million (\$500 million) as part of the deal. —Al-Rai

MINISTRY TO HIRE PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

KUWAIT: While Education Minister Badr Al-Essa confirmed accepting Palestinians residing in Kuwait to work as teachers, he denied the cancellation of contracts of any teacher working in government schools, be they Egyptians or anyone else. Essa told Al-Rai that accepting Palestinians comes as support for foreign recruits from Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan. He said contracts with teachers will only be in specialties needed by the ministry.



Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa

Essa said the education ministry is full of administrative jobs, while it has a shortage in some scientific specialties like mathematics and physics, adding "this problem is in most Arab governments". He said the ministry is going ahead with retiring those on the job for 33 years, which is a decision that will be implemented gradually every school year.

Meanwhile, Al-Jarida reported that the education ministry prepared a list of 400 teachers to be terminated by the end of the current school year as an implementation of the education ministry's decision to reduce the number of expat teachers by 25 percent in specialties with surplus in Kuwaitis and Gulf nationals. Informed sources said those included in the decision work in computers, social science and science, adding that they will be informed three months before the termination date. —Al-Rai, Al-Jarida



Al-Anbaa

NATIONAL UNITY AND HYPOCRITE'S PRAYERS

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

T rue national unity means to be fully convinced that we differ from each other and that we need to coexist despite differences. However, some people have been insisting that national unity means to be alike in everything, to agree on all opinions, to have the same political views and to form one political bloc and consider whoever opposes us as a traitor or tension-creator, and this is a true calamity in understanding the true meaning of national unity. We have been experiencing this calamity for years and some veteran politicians have even been promoting such concepts that mix up national unity and similarity.

Real national unity means to consolidate and coexist despite differences that may go as far as paradoxes in race or doctrine. The story that we will not be united unless we are all alike is a wrong one and has nothing to do with national unity, terminology or political wise. Some might argue that the quest for national unity can only go through attempts to look for similarities instead of looking for differences, which cannot be more wrong. Neither me nor you have to look for common grounds and values to be convinced that we share this nation and need to agree before we unite!

We must not agree with all fellow-citizens. I would only believe such allegations of achieving the so-called national unity if you can just name an example of a country where everybody is the same. For example, the Soviet Union historically tried to impose national unity by forcing all citizens to act and look alike for more than seven decades and finally collapsed when differences defeated attempts to melt entire peoples into one mold.

Some people have gone as far as considering political opposition as treason to national unity and called for waging war on the opposition, be that inside or outside the parliament. Well, this is a very stupid interpretation of unity. Opposition is part of national unity. The funny thing is that some politicians and media figure who advocate national unity have revolved on seeing pictures of MPs Saud Al-Hurajji and Abdulhameed Dashti sharing a laugh in the parliament as if they only want them to kill each other simply because they politically disagree. Well, they are lawmakers who may politically disagree within constitutional and legal frameworks, but their human relations or fellowship is something else.

Well, gentlemen, if your national unity is but a hypocrite's prayer.....do not pray!
—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

AMERICA'S SALT!

By Saad Al-Motesh

I wonder who invented the saying 'lying is men's salt' and I do not know what is meant by it. Is it the type of lies men tell? Well, someone told me it means the kind of lies men keep telling their wives so as to keep their marriages safe. Well, suppose such 'salt' was granted to men, we have to remember that it is restricted to married men alone. What about unmarried ones, then? I believe it would be unacceptable from them because it would only make them sillier and they would have to come up with certain ingredients to have us buy their lies, provided they pay much attention to the 'recipe' ingredients.

So guys, do not be shy that your lives include or involve lies because the world's most powerful country has been practicing lies on a daily basis without any fears from any man or even the most beautiful of women in the world. The most recent lie has been known as the story of IS. I once read a report saying

that the US was offering help to any state that had been subject to IS' treacherous attacks!

They have dropped a lot of aid and weapons on IS groups in Iraq and Syria and yet keep claiming that they fell on them by mistake, though they even know the chassis number of each vehicle IS has looted from the Iraqi army because they had been equipped with GPS devices that can be easily located and detected by the US air force. Nonetheless, American fighters keep missing them, not to mention selling stolen oil before their very eyes!

If you are really serious about help, many videos have recently spread of people claiming responsibility for acts committed by this satanic terrorist organization. I bet you can locate those people if you really mean what you have been offering, which I fail to believe because the role set for your Satan is not over yet. —Translated by Kuwait Times

VIVA SHOWCASES PRODUCTS, SERVICES FOR KUWAIT AIRWAYS' EMPLOYEES

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, participated recently in an open day held at the Headquarters of the Kuwait Airways Company from 6 to 8 March 2016, in Dajeej. Professionals from Corporate Division at VIVA, welcomed employees of Kuwait Airways, and informed them about latest VIVA's unique products and services.

VIVA's presence at the Kuwait Airways headquarters reaffirms its continued commitment to the society through communication with various Kuwaiti institutions and committees, promoting its products and services while meeting the clients' needs and aspirations.

VIVA reiterates its commitment to provide the latest and unique telecom products and services designed to ensure customer satisfaction and to exceed their expectations. The company will continue to seek new innovative ways to offer exceptional services to clients and become closer to them while meeting their needs in a better and faster way. To find out more about VIVA's competitive promotions, products and packages, visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw, or call VIVA's 24-hour call center on 102.



WARBA BANK SPONSORS 14TH FIREMAN FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: Since its inception in the Kuwaiti market as an Islamic and fastest growing Bank providing full range of integrated banking and investment services in full compliance to the provisions of Islamic Sharia at local and global levels, Warba Bank has spared no efforts in

(Acting Minister of Water and Electricity), Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, over three days at Souq Sharq.

Warba Bank's sponsorship of the event comes in recognition of firefighters' efforts and courage, and in an effort of the Bank to help and

the least possible losses.

Warba Bank participated in the event through a special booth where a professional sales team showcased and marketed the Bank's innovative and tailored products services for employees of the General Fire Directorate as well as visitors. The Bank's offers have been welcomed by visitors who had the chance of a direct access to the Bank's rich high-end portfolio products and services specially designed for meeting customers' needs and aspirations in the banking sector.

The Show also includes several episodes, such as documentary films about firefighters and competitions for visitors under which winners got prizes, in addition to of the Challenge Championship Show, Machinery Show and Firefighting Sectors as well as other activities.

Warba Bank expressed strong interest in attending key occasions that enable direct communication with its customers and providing them with the latest products and services. The Bank finds this a great chance to listen and talk to customers, thus enhancing and deepening better relationships with its customers.

It is worthy to note that Warba Bank continues to provide sponsorship for objective social events that enrich general culture and highlight the efforts of the various sectors in the society, their people, appreciate their efforts and push them forward.



participating with Kuwaiti society for bringing in development and spread of cultural, health and environmental awareness across the country. The Bank sticks to its promising CSR program. Therefore, Warba Bank has recently sponsored and participated in the 14th Firefighter's Festival organized by the Fire General Directorate under the auspices of his Excellency the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs

encourage them do their best in saving lives, especially they belong to Kuwait courageous soldiers who never hesitate to sacrifice their souls for saving people. Warba Bank underlines that its leading role in providing awareness to the Kuwaiti society entails encouraging citizens in all fields and educating the society about the role of firemen and the techniques that they apply for putting out fires as soon as possible at

TURAJI: HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF KUWAITIS ILLEGALLY GOT CITIZENSHIP

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Turajji disclosed an unusual increase by hundreds of thousands in the numbers of



MP Abdullah Al-Turajji

Kuwaiti citizens, and stressed that according to specialized census experts, many of them got citizenship through forgery and random naturalization. He added that experts stress that the total number of citizens must not be more than one million, while real figures show that they are over 1.2 million. "This means that there are hundreds of thousands who got citizenship through illegal ways," Turajji stressed, adding that the total number of stateless people whose original nationalities have not been revealed are only 745 out of the total number of 23,371 cases studied by a special committee.

Turajji added that the committee proved that large numbers of the bedoons examined had documents proving they are from other countries, mainly Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran. "According to the central apparatus for illegal residents' statistics, bedoons' numbers dropped to 93,000 after the Iraqi occupation," he underlined.

Turajji added that some citizens had even got their citizenship through forgery and hailed the efforts recently exerted by the interior minister and his assistant undersecretary for citizenship and passports Maj Gen Mazen Al-Jarrah in discovering several forgeries committed over the past years. "He even found that some Kuwaiti siblings did not know one another," he added, noting that the citizenship department had been recently arresting people who got citizenship through forgery and paying considerable sums to add people to citizens' files as their children. "Kuwaiti citizenship has become an item for sale," he said. —Al-Rai



Jailed Palestinians' wives caught between pride, struggle

RUBIO STILL SEARCHING FOR VIABLE BASE



ABU DHABI: US Vice President Joe Biden visits the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque yesterday. — AP

BIDEN VOWS US WILL 'WIPE OUT' IS
 US VICE PRESIDENT STARTS MIDEAST TOUR

ABU DHABI: US Vice President Joe Biden said yesterday Washington was going to have to "squeeze the heart of" the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq to wipe it out. "We have to squeeze the heart of Daesh in Iraq and Syria so they can't continue to pump the poison in the region and the rest of the world," he said, using an Arab acronym for IS. Biden was speaking to hundreds of American and allied forces inside a hangar at a military base in the United Arab Emirates. "This fight is going to take time, but we are committed to seeing it through until we wipe out this evil - and we will wipe out this evil," Biden said.

Earlier, he ruled out a military solution to end Syria's conflict, and called for a political transition. "That should be clear to everyone," Biden told Abu Dhabi newspaper The National at the start of his visit to the UAE ahead of travelling to Israel, the West Bank and Jordan.

"So as hard as it is, we have to keep trying to reach a political settlement," he said. Saudi Arabia, which backs the Syrian opposition, and ally the UAE have said they are willing to send ground troops to Syria under US command to battle IS.

Biden's comments come as President Bashar Al-Assad's regime and its opponents are due this week to resume UN-sponsored peace talks in Geneva as a fragile ceasefire holds in Syria. The talks are aimed at ending the five-year Syria war that has killed more than 270,000 people, displaced millions and devastated the country.

Sticking Point: Assad's Fate

The fate of Assad, who is refusing to step down, has been one of the main sticking points in talks. "A political solution between the parties is the only way to end the violence

and give the Syrian people the chance they deserve to rebuild their country. To create a credible, inclusive, and non-sectarian system, a new constitution and free and fair elections," Biden said. He said the truce that went into effect in Syria on Feb 27 "seems to be holding" but was "not perfect".

But he also noted that "levels of violence have dropped significantly across the country", and said this opened the way for the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian aid. Biden also praised US relations with the UAE and its partners in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which also includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. He acknowledged the "challenges" posed by the historic nuclear deal struck last year between Iran and world powers and also the concerns it raised in GCC countries which are wary of Tehran.

"That's why we worked so hard to achieve a nuclear agreement with Iran, because as dangerous as Iran's actions are, they would be exponentially greater if Iran possessed a nuclear weapon." He said steps were being taken to bolster the security of the GCC monarchies to be able to "deal with Iran diplomatically from a position of strength". Biden held talks later yesterday with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and today will meet Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

Earlier in the day, Biden visited Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, pausing outside to remove his black dress shoes in keeping with Islamic custom. He examined a wall in the ornate mosque bearing the 99 names of God written in Arabic before stepping outside to wave at visiting tourists kept a short distance away. Accompanying Biden on the mosque

tour was its director-general, Yousif Abdallah Alobaidli, and Minister of State Reem Al-Hashimi.

Biden later visited Masdar City, a government-backed clean energy campus on the capital's outskirts, taking a few moments to talk to Shefaa Mansour, a student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, studying at the affiliated Masdar Institute. He later looked at a model of a desalination plant, something crucial to the Emirates, which experts warn may run out of groundwater in the next 15 years. Emirati Minister of State Sultan Al-Jaber handed him a bottle of water made at the plant. The vice president looked at it, then smiled. "Now make sure I'm still standing," he said. "Watch what happens when I take the first sip. I'm more energized." Biden then paused for a moment and added: "Do you need a partner? I'm out of a job soon." — Agencies

CLINTON FACES DOWN SANDERS, BLASTS TRUMP

FLINT, Michigan: With the Democratic presidential nomination within reach, Hillary Clinton Sunday sought to repel sharp ideological attacks from party rival Bernie Sanders, while training some fire on Republican frontrunner Donald Trump. "Donald Trump's bigotry, his bullying, his bluster are not going to wear well on the American people," Clinton said, turning some of her attention to a general election, in which she vowed to take the moral high road. "I will do whatever I can as the Democratic nominee to run a campaign you'll be proud of," she said. "I don't intend to get in to the gutter with whoever they nominate." Nine months after launching her presidential

campaign, Clinton appears to be on the cusp of securing her party's nomination, despite a spirited and stronger-than-expected challenge from leftist Bernie Sanders. Sanders has won a string of state-wide nominating primaries, including in Nebraska and Kansas on Saturday, and he is projected to win Sunday's party vote in Maine. But thanks to Clinton's own victories and strong second place showings, she maintains a two-to-one lead in all-important nominating delegates.

After three months of voting, a general election between Democrat Clinton and Republican Trump seems increasingly likely. "As of last night Donald

Trump had received 3.6 million votes, which is a good number," Clinton said, remarking on the mogul's shock electoral success. But, she added: "There is only one candidate in either party who has more votes than him, and that's me."

First Thing, First

Still, in a chaotic election year that has seen outsiders tap voter unease, Clinton will not be taking anything for granted, not least Sanders. Ideological differences between the two Democratic White House hopefuls was thrown into sharp relief Sunday, in a sometimes testy debate in Flint, Michigan, a town where lead-tainted water has poisoned thousands of children. Clinton and Sanders both criticized Michigan's Republican governor Rick Snyder, who they said should resign or be recalled from his post for neglecting Flint.

More than 8,000 children in Flint, economically devastated by the closure of General Motors factories, were exposed to lead for more than a year before the tap water contamination was uncovered by citizen activists. "The governor should resign or be recalled and we should support the efforts of citizens attempting to achieve that," Clinton said. "But that is not enough. We have to focus on what must be done to help the people of Flint," she added, saying federal funds should be released.

Sanders said he had been "shattered" by visiting the city and meeting citizens. "It was beyond belief that children in Flint, Michigan, in the United States of America in the year 2016, are being poisoned. —AFP



FLINT, Michigan: Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Sen Bernie Sanders argue a point during a Democratic presidential primary debate at the University of Michigan-Flint on Sunday. — AP

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JAILED PALESTINIANS' WIVES CAUGHT BETWEEN PRIDE, STRUGGLE

RAMALLAH: When he was sentenced to life by Israel a decade ago in a murder case, Ahdad Abu Golmi offered to divorce his wife so she could live freely, but she refused. "I love Ahdad and we are still connected," said Wafa, who has taken care of their son and daughter alone since her husband went to jail. More than 7,000 Palestinians are currently held in Israeli prisons, with around 600 serving life sentences, including Golmi, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Club rights group.

The prisoners are often glorified in Palestinian society as heroes of the "resistance", but their wives are less noticed, often left to care for families alone. Women who indeed choose to divorce often do so quietly, with the subject seen as taboo. Khalida Muslih, 39, said she had no second thoughts in deciding what course to take when her husband Mohammed was given nine life sentences for deadly attacks against Israelis. According to her, being the wife of a prisoner serving time for attacking Israelis is something to be proud of, and

she will never change her mind.

When her husband was sentenced in 2002, only a year and a half after they were married, she ululated in joy. "All these years I have never regretted a thing," said Muslih, whose son was just four months old when his father was jailed. "I was proud to be the wife of a fighter, even if that meant depriving myself of many things and breaking my heart."

Hopes of Prisoner Swap

At one point, she went 12 years without being able to speak to him, but after a long legal battle, she was given the right to visit her husband. Now she can speak to him by telephone - with a panel of bulletproof glass between them. Muslih says she maintains the "indestructible hope" that they will one day be reunited through a prisoner exchange. She prides herself on taking care of the family home that she and relatives of her husband rebuilt after it was destroyed by the Israelis in retaliation for her husband's attacks.

She now works in a telecommunications company and takes care of her son. "Whenever I look at him, I tell myself that he lacks a father at his side," she said. As a result, "I am a mother, father, brother and sister to my son." It was for that very same reason that Abu Golmi, who was sentenced to life for taking part in the murder of Israeli tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi in 2001, suggested to his wife that they divorce.

Wafa rejected the offer, but says she knows "many women who divorced when their husbands were given life sentences". "Some did it because their husbands demanded it, others asked for it themselves," she said. Some Palestinian wives have come up with extreme ways of enlarging their families while their husbands are behind bars. Semen has been secretly smuggled out of prison in unclear circumstances to allow women to have more children, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Club. It says that 35 babies have been born that way after more than 60 such clandestine transfers. — AFP



RAMALLAH: Khalida Musleh, wife of Palestinian prisoner Mohammed Musleh who is held in an Israeli jail, shows a portrait of her husband at her house in this West Bank city on March 3, 2016. — AFP



BEN GUERDANE, Tunisia: Tunisian special forces take position during clashes with militants in this southern town near the Libyan border yesterday. — AFP

TUNISIA KILLS 35 MILITANTS IN CLASHES NEAR LIBYA BORDER

PRESIDENT SLAMS 'UNPRECEDENTED' ATTACK

BEN GUERDANE, Tunisia: Tunisian forces fought off fierce attacks from jihadists near the Libyan border yesterday, killing 35 extremist fighters in clashes that also left seven civilians dead. Ten members of the security forces were killed in the fighting in the border town of Ben Guerdane, which President Beji Caid Essebsi condemned as an "unprecedented" jihadist attack. It prompted authorities to close the frontier and order a nighttime curfew. In statements broadcast on state television, Essebsi said the assault was "maybe aimed at controlling" the border region with Libya, and he vowed to "exterminate these rats".

It was the second deadly clash in the border area in less than a week as Tunisia battles to prevent the large number of its nationals who have joined the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in Libya from returning to carry out attacks at home. The jihadists have taken advantage of a power vacuum since the NATO-backed overthrow of longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 to set up bases in several areas of Libya, including the Sabratha area between Tripoli and

the Tunisian border.

The government said that an army barracks and police and National Guard posts in Ben Guerdane came under attack in coordinated pre-dawn assaults. The defence ministry said at least 35 jihadists, six members of the National Guard, two policemen, a customs official and a soldier died in the fighting, the defence ministry said. Seven civilians were also killed. Seven militants were captured, the defence ministry said. Hospital official Abdelkrim Chafroud said a 12-year-old boy was among the dead civilians.

An AFP correspondent reported that schools and offices in Ben Guerdane were closed and troops were posted on rooftops across town. Residents were being urged to stay indoors even before the 7:00 pm (1800 GMT) start of the nighttime curfew.

Jihadist Presence Growing

As well as closing border crossings with Libya, authorities also closed the main road north to the rest of Tunisia, the correspondent said. Authorities said ground and air patrols along the

border would be reinforced. Prime Minister Habib Essid, who will hold a press conference today, ordered the defence and interior ministers to Ben Guerdane to oversee operations against the jihadists. Last Wednesday, troops killed five militants in a firefight outside the town in which a civilian was also killed and a commander wounded.

Troops have been on alert in the border area following reports that militants had been slipping across since a US air strike on an IS training camp in Libya on February 18 killed dozens of Tunisian militants. At least four of the five militants killed in last week's firefight were Tunisians who had entered from Libya in a bid to carry out attacks in their homeland, the interior ministry said. "Suspicious movements had been reported since the Sabratha strike and there was a feeling that IS was looking for revenge," said Hamza Meddeb, a researcher for the Carnegie Middle East Centre.

Deadly attacks by IS on foreign holidaymakers last year, which dealt a devastating blow to Tunisia's tourism industry, are believed to have been planned from Libya. Tunisia has built a 200-kilometre (125-mile) barrier that stretches about half the length of its border with Libya in an attempt to stop militants infiltrating.

US Air Strike

February's US strike on the IS training camp outside Sabratha targeted the suspected mastermind of two of last year's attacks, Nouredine Chouchane. Washington has said Chouchane was likely among the dozens of militants killed, and that the strike probably averted a mass shooting or similar attack in Tunisia. Western governments have been increasingly alarmed by the growing IS presence in Libya just 300 km across the Mediterranean from Europe, and have made contingency plans for intensified military action. Rival administrations which have vied for power since mid-2014 in Libya are being urged to sign up to a UN-brokered national unity government to facilitate the fight against the jihadists.

Handfuls of US, British and French special forces have already been reported in Libya. A contingent of around 50 Italians is about to join them, Il Corriere della Sera newspaper reported last Thursday, citing a classified order signed by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi in February. Britain announced last week that it was sending a team of around 20 soldiers to Tunisia to train troops patrolling the border with Libya.

Thirty Britons were among 38 foreign holidaymakers killed in a gun and grenade attack on a beach resort near the Tunisian city of Sousse last June. And last March, jihadist gunmen killed 21 tourists and a policeman at the National Bardo Museum in Tunis. According to a UN working group on the use of mercenaries, more than 5,000 Tunisians have travelled abroad to join jihadist groups, many of them in Libya. — AFP

SAUDI CENTER LOOKS TO ONLINE VIDEOS TO COUNTER EXTREMISM

RIYADH: Two Saudi boys, one Sunni, another Shiite, push their desks together and sit side-by-side smiling in a classroom. Then teachers tell the boys their opposing sects are "evil" and they pull their desks apart, before their parents insist it is okay to be friends, and they walk off hand-in-hand. These scenes were featured in a YouTube video posted online in November for a Saudi center, funded under an endowment from the late King Abdullah, that is making a push on social media to counter Islamic extremism.

Saudi Arabia, one of the world's most conservative nations, has long been accused of fuelling extremism by promoting the teachings of 18th century Sunni preacher Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Wahhab. But Saudi authorities say they are working to counter extremist messages, and the Riyadh-based King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue (KACND) has intensified efforts to promote tolerance. "The biggest challenge is how to compete with the ideas of ISIS," said Habeeb Al-Shammari, a media specialist with the center, using an alternative acronym for IS. Since seizing control of large parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014, the jihadists of IS have developed a sophisticated online presence, releasing slick and often gruesome videos to promote their headline views.

Countering IS 'Propaganda'

The centre is trying "to stop this kind of propaganda" with its own online campaigns, said the head of its New Media department Ali Al-Shehri. "We work very hard in social media, to spread our message, to convince people," Shehri said, noting that Saudi Arabia is the world's highest per capita consumer of

YouTube videos. Its latest effort saw 128 entries in a contest that offered 150,000 riyals (\$40,000) divided among the five best producers of short films promoting national unity and tolerance, and opposing extremism.

All the films had to be uploaded to YouTube as a condition of entry. "The Missing Meanings", a slick three-minute production, took first place at an awards ceremony last month. It featured images of division transformed into scenes of joy. A gunman about to shoot his victim became the two men laughing together. Office workers divided by an invisible wall instead shared coffee.

As well as its social media strategy, the center brings Saudi Sunnis and Shiites together in meetings and workshops, promoting mutual understanding through contact. Shiites make up roughly 10 percent of Saudi Arabia's population and have long complained of marginalization. Tensions have escalated since the Jan 2 execution of prominent Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr, who was convicted of sedition. The kingdom's Shiite-dominated regional rival Iran denounced the execution, accusing Riyadh of "sectarian hate-mongering".

Calls for Anti-Hate Law

On the contrary, said Shehri, the center is trying "to protect our country" through efforts to forestall the type of sectarian hatred which has devastated neighboring nations like Iraq. Many in the kingdom were sceptical after the centre's founding 13 years ago, he said. Sunni clerics often refused to attend its sessions, saying they would not sit next to Shiites or "liberals". One imam even branded the center "evil" for bringing the sects together, but later ended up joining its meetings, Shehri said with a laugh. — AFP



RIYADH: Head of the new media department of the King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue (KACND) Ali Al-Shehri works at his office on Feb 17, 2016 in the capital. — AFP

IRAQI TOWN LIVES IN SHADOW OF 'MOST DANGEROUS DAM'

WANA, Iraq: Amid growing talk that Iraq's largest dam risks bursting, residents of the town of Wana, which would be wiped out within minutes of a breach, are both sceptical and anxious. Wana lies a bit more than 10 km downstream from the Mosul dam on the Tigris river, the first town on the path of a possible doomsday wave. A major failure of the dam would unleash millions of cubic metres of water down the valley and Wana would be swept by a wave experts say could reach more than 15 m in height.

Yet life goes on as usual in the small town of around 10,000 inhabitants where children continue to play and cows to graze on the shores of the river every day. Some residents choose to trust the local authorities, who have downplayed alarming assessments by the Iraqi prime minister's office and the US army. "We are relying on Iraqi experts who tell us there is no risk the dam will burst. That is all media hype," said Fadhel Hassan Khalaf, a 52-year-old civil servant who remembers when the dam was built in the early 1980s.

The US embassy recently released an overview of a breach scenario and said 500,000 to 1.47 million Iraqis living in areas most exposed to the flood wave would probably not survive if they were not evacuated. People in the Mosul and Tikrit areas would have to move five or six kilometres away from the riverbank to reach safety, it said.

'We Will Not Survive'

Bashir Ismail, 63 years old and a father of 13, owns a small convenience store on Wana's main street. "If the dam was going to collapse,

they would have told us to leave the area... It's impossible that they would not tell us," he said. Ziyad Saeed was less sure. "I won't lie to you. We are now very scared that the dam will collapse, and many residents are thinking of leaving their homes and moving to Kurdistan," the young man said.

Early this month, a contract was signed between the Iraqi government and Italian company Trevi for the repair work needed to prevent a disaster. The pressure on the dam is increasing as melting snow feeds the reservoir and technical teams are expected to start work immediately. "I don't know what to do, there is Daesh on one side, their trucks could just roll in," Saeed said, using an Arab acronym for the Islamic State group. "And on the other side we have this dam that could collapse," he said, gazing at the river.

The jihadist organization that swept across Iraq in 2014 briefly took the dam, which is now under the control of Iraq's Kurdish peshmerga forces. "After the dam was taken back from Daesh, we carried out some tests on the foundations. There was no indication that the dam was at risk," Mohsen Hassan, the deputy head of the dam, told AFP in his office there. Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi is taking US warnings seriously though and the contract awarded to Trevi is for \$300 million.

The US Army Corps of Engineers have said that "in terms of internal erosion potential of the foundation, Mosul dam is the most dangerous dam in the world". The mayor of Wana, Ali Mohamed Saleh, said there had been no official alert or evacuation plan from the government yet. — AFP

SYRIA REGIME SAYS PEACE TALKS TO START MARCH 14

BEIRUT: Syria's regime said yesterday it had been invited to peace talks in Geneva from March 14 but the opposition said it was still considering whether to attend despite a major lull in fighting. The United Nations is hoping to restart peace talks that collapsed last month, building on a ceasefire that has led to the first significant decline in violence in Syria's nearly five-year civil war. A source close to the Syrian regime delegation told AFP it had been invited to a new round of talks starting from March 14 in the Swiss city.

The UN's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura has said he hopes the talks can begin from Thursday but officials have indicated it could take several days of preparations for the negotiations to get off the ground. President Bashar Al-Assad's regime has already expressed its willingness to take part in talks but the opposition has sent mixed signals on whether it will attend this latest round.

The head of the Riyadh-based High Negotiations Committee, Riad Hijab, yesterday refused to commit to the talks. "The HNC will assess the situation in the coming days and we will take the appropriate decision," he told reporters. Speaking in a conference call from Riyadh, Hijab said a small delegation from the HNC would travel to Geneva "in the next two days" to meet with the international task force monitoring the truce. Hijab's statements appeared to be a step back from earlier com-

ments by HNC spokesman Riad Naasan Agha, who said the opposition delegation would arrive on Friday to take part in talks.

Aid Deliveries Rise

The truce between President Bashar al-Assad's regime and non-jihadist rebels is part of the biggest diplomatic effort yet to resolve Syria's conflict, which has killed more than 270,000 people and forced millions from their homes. Russia and the United States are on opposing sides of the conflict - Moscow backs Assad and Washington supports the opposition - but the two powers have made a concerted push for the truce and further peace efforts to succeed. Observers say the partial truce, which does not apply to the Islamic State group or the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra Front, has largely held despite widespread scepticism before it took effect.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, said Sunday had been the "calmest day" in Syria since the ceasefire began. Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP that the average number of civilian deaths a day had fallen by 90 percent since the truce came into force, with an 80 percent decline among soldiers and rebel forces. Aid deliveries have also improved, with the UN delivering aid yesterday to a key rebel bastion east of Damascus, the third distribution since truce began on February 27. — AFP

TRUDEAU BRINGING CANADIAN STAR POWER TO WHITE HOUSE

TORONTO: Justin Trudeau, the new, young prime minister of Canada with the famous name, is bringing his star power to the White House. The 44-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous politicians was sworn into office in November. Within weeks, President Barack Obama granted Trudeau one of the highest honors the US reserves for close allies: a pomp-filled visit with plenty of time in private talks and in front of cameras with Obama, who remains popular in Canada.

Trudeau, accompanied by his wife, Sophie Gregoire, will be feted Thursday at a sparkly state dinner, the first of Obama's final year in office and the first for Canada since April 1997. "Obama was delighted that Trudeau got elected," said Nelson Wiseman, a University of Toronto political science professor, offering perspective on Trudeau's speedy invitation. "They're both liberals. They both like to talk the same kind of language."

Stephen Harper, Trudeau's predecessor, is a conservative who held office for nearly a decade. His relations with Obama were strained over various issues, most notably the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline that would have run from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. After years of US government reviews, Obama killed the project last year. Trudeau's election has ushered in a new era in Canada's politics that he and others hope

will help strengthen relations with the US. "I think we've seen the incredible excitement that Justin generated during his campaign in Canada," Obama said after their first meeting at a summit in the Philippines last fall. "We're confident that he's going to be able to provide a great boost of energy and reform to the Canadian political landscape. And we're looking forward very much to working with him."

Added Trudeau: "It's going to be a wonderful time of strengthening ties between our two countries both on the economic, on the security, on the engagement with the world and on the personal level." Nik Nanos, a Canadian pollster, said more Americans have become interested in Canadian politics because of Trudeau. "Not all Canadian prime ministers have star power. Justin Trudeau has star power," Nanos said. Trudeau channels the charisma of his father, the late Pierre Trudeau, who often flashed his intelligence and wit. Trudeau aims to restore his father's legacy as leader of the Liberal Party, a record that was under siege during 10 years of Conservative rule under Harper. Pierre Trudeau swept into power in 1968 on a wave of support dubbed "Trudeaumania" and, with a short interruption, served until 1984. He was often compared to John F Kennedy and remains one of the few Canadian politicians who are recognized in America.—AP



BOISE, Idaho: Republican presidential candidate Sen Marco Rubio poses for a photograph at a campaign rally on Sunday. — AP

RUBIO: A CANDIDATE STILL SEARCHING FOR VIABLE BASE

FLORIDA SENATOR STRUGGLES TO WOO VOTERS

BOISE, Idaho: Marco Rubio finds his Oval Office ambitions squeezed by Donald Trump's outsider ambush and the Republican Party's resulting identity crisis. The Florida senator has struggled to reconnect with the kind of voters who sent him to Capitol Hill six years ago as a tea party favorite, instead watching them fuel Trump and his closest challenger to winning the GOP presidential nomination, Texas Sen Ted Cruz.

Yet left to depend on more traditional Republicans, Rubio also has not fully harnessed the financial and organizational muscle of the GOP old-guard eager to derail Trump, with some backers of failed candidates like Jeb Bush remaining on the sidelines and others supporting Ohio Gov John Kasich. And even where Rubio has corralled establishment players, voters haven't always followed.

Rubio insists he feels "real good about the map as we move forward", telling AP in an interview late Sunday he believes voters across the GOP spectrum want "an optimistic message of conservatism", not just "anger and frustration". But the result of Rubio's pitch so far is two wins out of 20 nominat-

ing contests - the second coming Sunday in Puerto Rico - and now he faces a must-win March 15 primary in his home state, where polls suggest Trump remains well-positioned to capture the winner-take-all prize of 99 delegates.

Rubio said he doesn't want to be cast either as an establishment figure or an outsider incapable of getting anything done. "I've only been in the Senate for five years, and I've kept my promises to fight hard against the status quo, and that's why I'm running for president," he said. And he is projecting confidence hoppedancing from Puerto Rico to Idaho and back to Florida after a string of defeats from Super Tuesday through Saturday. "We're going to win Florida," he promises, ahead of a "long slog" for delegates thereafter.

Conundrum

Still, his conundrum is on full display. In Wichita, Kansas, he declared: "Every traditional institution in America is failing you." He named "the media ... higher education ... big business ... and, by the way ... your politicians and your political parties." Rubio

tells the story of his 2010 Senate bid, when he "took on" the "Washington establishment" by running against prohibitive favorite and then-Gov Charlie Crist in the GOP primary. Yet the senator also touts his 15 years in government - what he pitches as "taking conservative principles and turning them into conservative action". Even more noteworthy, he embraces elected officials at one campaign rally after another. In Idaho, which hosts its primary Tuesday, Sen James Risch praised his colleague's effectiveness and support for the Idaho National Laboratory, a federal energy research installation. In Kansas, Gov Sam Brownback, Sen Pat Roberts and Rep Mike Pompeo took the stage. Brownback - who has abysmal approval ratings amid sweeping state budget cuts - drew boos in Kansas City when called upon to introduce his guest. A day later, Rubio garnered 17 percent in the Kansas caucus, another third-place finish behind Cruz and Trump. Rubio has campaigned with South Carolina Gov Nikki Haley and former Louisiana Gov Bobby Jindal. He lost both their states, registering just 11 percent on Jindal's home turf.—AP

LAWMAKER ASKS WHY SEALS DON'T HAVE ENOUGH RIFLES

WASHINGTON: The tip of the spear may be losing its edge. Navy SEAL teams don't have enough combat rifles to go around, even as these highly trained forces are relied on more than ever to carry out counterterrorism operations and other secretive missions, according to SEALs who have confided in Rep Duncan Hunter. After SEALs return from a deployment, their rifles are given to other commandos who are shipping out, said Hunter, a former Marine who served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. This weapons carousel undercuts the "train like you fight" ethos of the U.S. special operations forces, they said.

Hunter said he's been contacted by several SEALs, but he declined to provide further information about the weapons they use in order to protect their identities. US military officials said they were looking into the issue. Sharing rifles may seem inconsequential. It's not. The weapons, which are outfitted with telescopic targeting sights and laser pointers, are fine-tuned to individual specifications and become intensely personal pieces of gear. "They want their rifles," Hunter said. "It's their lifeline. So let them keep their guns until they're assigned

desk jobs at the Pentagon."

The problem isn't a lack of money, according to Hunter. Congress has frequently boosted the budgets of special operations forces in the years since the 9/11 attacks, he said. Rifles also are among the least expensive items the military buys, leading Hunter to question the priorities of Naval Special Warfare Command, the Coronado, California, organization that oversees the SEALs. "There is so much wasteful spending," he said. "Money is not reaching the people it needs to reach."

Combat rifles can cost up to several thousand dollars depending upon the type of weapon and quality of the sights and other attachments. But the M-4 carbine, the standard combat rifle used by the military branches, cost less than \$1,000 each when bought in bulk, according to Defense Department budget documents. Hunter wrote last month to the Naval Special Warfare Command's leader, Rear Adm Brian Losey, about the alleged weapon shortage and also asked him for a full accounting of how the command's budget was spent last year. Losey has told Hunter to expect a reply by Wednesday.—AP

Mais Alghanim



ميس الغانم
Mais Alghanim



comes in first for the sixth time in a row



Mais Alghanim has succeeded in being the number one restaurant with the best customer service for the sixth time in a row. The award followed a 2015 poll conducted by Service Hero, the first [performance] index in Kuwait and the only index in the Arab World to measure customer satisfaction. The Service Hero annual awards ceremony was held in Hotel JW Marriott in Kuwait on February 15, 2016.

The poll included 14,860 participants who were selected from Service Hero's website, its smartphone application and through phone calls. The process underwent strict measures to ensure the validity of the results and the assessment relied on eight standards, namely: product reliability, speed, product quality, the staff's efficiency and behavior, value for money, location, and quality of service provided at the call center and on the website.

Mais Alghanim's win for the sixth time in a

row is a high-level achievement that it was able to accomplish thanks to the ongoing efforts to maintain the quality service it has been providing for its customers since 1953. In this competition, Mais Alghanim has shown the greatness of its achievements in hospitality and outstanding services, which it develops year after year, allowing it to stay in the first place for the sixth year in a row.

The poll was conducted in a bid to show which services or goods really exceeded customer expectations in Kuwait. The awards were given following a direct vote through the application and an online voting that lasted for a whole year and included a large segment of consumers interested in assessing the services provided by companies in Kuwait.

The Service Hero index follows the protocols of Esomar, a leading European organization in the promotion of market research standards, as well as it adheres to the American Custom-

er Satisfaction Index standards. Service Hero is monitored by an independent advisory board which consists of sponsor educational institutions, particularly the American University of Kuwait, the Gulf University for Science and Technology, the Australian College of Kuwait, the Kuwait Maastricht Business School, as well as senior professionals from some of the most prominent institutions, including the American Customer Satisfaction Index, the Boston Consulting Group and Noor Financial Investment Company in Kuwait.

Commenting on this great achievement, Managing Director of Barakat Foods, in charge of the Mais Alghanim Restaurants, Mr. Chawki Barakat, said, "The fact that Mais Alghanim has been number 1 in the catering sector for six consecutive years is a great accomplishment for us and a greater responsibility towards our customers." Adding, "The Barakat Foods administration seeks to develop the culture of hospitality and it continuously trains

its staff and workers at all the company's facilities to keep pace with the aspirations of Mais Alghanim's customers by providing them with the best service they could possibly expect. This is how we were finally awarded and we dedicate this win to our customers who put all their trust in us and we promise to remain at the same level of hospitality as ever." He also praised the efforts of all employees in all business units, without whom Mais Alghanim would not have been able to remain in the first place since 2010.

Meanwhile, the 2016 poll is currently available for all those who wish to participate, either through the Service Hero website, on social networking sites or even on the Service Hero smartphone application. Customers have all year to vote as they are given the time and chance to express their satisfaction and share their opinion regarding all the services they use and the products they buy.

TURKEY OFFERS MORE HELP TO STEM FLOOD OF MIGRANTS

EU WANTS TURKEY TO HOLD BACK MIGRANTS, TAKE BACK MANY

BRUSSELS: Turkey offered the European Union greater help yesterday to stem a flood of migrants into Europe but demanded more money, faster accession talks and quicker visa-free travel for its citizens in exchange, diplomats said. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Ankara was willing to take back all non-Syrian migrants denied asylum in Europe as well as all those intercepted in its territorial waters, and to crack down harder on people smugglers, they said.

An emergency EU-Turkey summit, originally planned to last half a day, was extended to give Davutoglu a chance

seeking 20 billion euros. "I am sure these challenges will be solved through our cooperation and Turkey is ready to work with the EU," Davutoglu said on arrival for the summit. "Turkey is ready to be a member of the EU as well. Today I hope this summit will not just focus on irregular migration but also the Turkish accession process to the EU."

Among his demands, diplomats said, was to grant Turks visa-free travel in the EU from June instead of waiting for a planned October review of preparatory measures. One EU diplomat said Berlin and some allies were open to bringing forward the date if

Merkel and Rutte, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, spent five hours talking with Davutoglu until 2:45 am to try to nail down commitments to halt the migrant flow after more than one million people - mostly Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans - entered Europe last year, most ending up in Germany. "It's going to be a proper Turkish bazaar - first we will throw our hands up in the air expressing shock about Turkey's demands. Then we'll offer to meet a tiny, tiny, tiny part of what they want. And then we'll see how the bargaining goes from there," said one EU diplomat.

paper, top-selling daily Zaman.

European Parliament President Martin Schulz said he had told the Turkish premier that media freedom was "a non-negotiable element of our European identity" and they had differed sharply. The migrant crisis meant the EU needed to work with Turkey even if it was in "total disagreement" with its policies, he said. German and Dutch government spokesmen said Merkel and Rutte had raised the issue with Davutoglu, and French President Francois Hollande said the EU was and should remain extremely vigilant about press freedom and human rights in Turkey.

Nevertheless, the EU was taking care not to alienate Ankara just as hopes are rising of a solution to the migration problem. Fellow EU leaders, long divided over how to end chaotic movements that have put Europe's Schengen open border system in jeopardy, were to assure Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of help housing migrants now stranded in Greece.

Tsipras said the bloc must speed up the process of relocating registered asylum seekers from Greece to other EU countries as promised last September. EU states have so far taken in only a few hundred of a promised 160,000 people.

"ROUTE CLOSED"

A draft EU statement seen by Reuters said: "Irregular flows of migrants along the Western Balkans route are coming to an end; this route is now closed."

However, negotiations were continuing and Berlin, Athens and the European Commission opposed that formula, officials said. NATO said on Sunday a new naval force had approval to operate in Turkish and Greek waters to support a deal with Turkey to take back migrants halted in its waters and those who reach Greek islands but do not qualify for asylum.

Germany has been pushing for direct resettlement of thousands of Syrian refugees from Turkey. But diplomats say that is unlikely to be discussed in detail by other EU leaders until they see flows from Turkey are falling sharply. Some 33,000 migrants are bottled up in Greece and about 2,000 more have been arriving daily. British Prime Minister David Cameron said he was sending a naval force to the Aegean to join German and Canadian warships in the NATO force assisting the Greek and Turkish navies.

Though Britain is outside the Schengen zone and Cameron stressed it would take no part in any common EU asylum policy, further migrant chaos could damage his efforts to win a June referendum and keep Britain in the EU. —Reuters



A child plays with a ball in a makeshift camp at the Greek-Macedonian border near the Greek village of Idomeni, yesterday where thousands of refugees and migrants wait to cross the border into Macedonia. —AFP

EU LEADERS CLASH OVER MIGRANT ROUTE 'CLOSURE'

BRUSSELS: Divided EU leaders argued yesterday about a plan to declare the Balkans migrant route closed as they held a summit with Turkey's prime minister to urge Ankara to accept large-scale deportations of economic migrants.

At the last minute, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker insisted that a mention of the route closure be dropped from the proposed closing statement of the summit in Brussels, European sources told AFP.

The row underlined the deep divisions in the 28-nation European Union as it tries to harden its stance in the face of the worst refugee crisis to hit the continent since World War II.

More than one million refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe since the start of 2015 - mostly arriving in Greece from Turkey-with nearly 4,000 dying while crossing the Mediterranean.

"On the issue of how we can decrease the number of refugees not just for some countries but for all countries including Greece, the issue cannot be that something is closed, but that we find a sustainable solution with Turkey," Merkel said as she arrived in Brussels.

The EU is putting the onus on Greece and Turkey, which is the launchpad for most migrants who cross the sea to the Greek islands and then travel up through the Balkan countries to reach wealthy Germany and Scandinavia.

'This route is now closed'

Austria last month abruptly capped the number of asylum seekers it would accept, triggering a domino effect of border restrictions along the Balkans that has trapped tens of thousands of desperate migrants on the border between Greece and non-EU Macedonia.

Merkel-who is facing pressure at home over her open-door policy towards

refugees-and Juncker had objected to the initial draft statement approved by EU ambassadors on Sunday, which said: "Irregular flows of migrants along the western Balkans route are coming to an end. This route is now closed."

The draft raised concerns that agile smugglers would circumvent EU barriers and take alternative routes, which those working on the migrant problem say could run through Bulgaria or Albania.

Brussels sees curbing the flow of migrants as part of a plan to restore by the end of the year the full functioning of Europe's cherished passport-free Schengen zone after the series of border closures.

It was timed with calls for better cooperation from Turkey-currently home to 2.7 million Syrian refugees-which signed a deal with the EU in November last year to curb the migrant flow.

Arriving at the summit, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said his country was ready to work "shoulder to shoulder" with Europe on migration, while also raising Ankara's long-stalled EU membership bid. "Turkey is ready to work with EU. Turkey is ready to be member of EU as well," he said as he arrived in Brussels.

Davutoglu said Sunday he would discuss with his EU counterparts efforts to begin building schools and hospitals for refugees within weeks with the three billion euros (\$3.3 billion) pledged by the bloc under the November deal.

EU president Donald Tusk said in his invitation letter for the summit that success depended largely on securing Turkey's agreement for the "large-scale" deportation from Greece of economic migrants who do not qualify as refugees. Syrians, who top the influx of 1.13 million people into Europe over the past 14 months, are considered genuine refugees requiring admission under international law. —AFP



BRUSSELS: European Council President Donald Tusk, front center, shakes hands with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, front second left, during a group photo at an EU summit in Brussels yesterday. —AP

to present "new ideas" going beyond Ankara's commitments so far.

The 28 EU leaders would deliberate on his proposals in the afternoon and meet him again to discuss them over dinner, an EU official said. "They (Turkey) are offering more and demanding more," he said after the first working session. A spokesman for Davutoglu confirmed that there were new proposals but declined to discuss the substance.

Diplomats said that at a preparatory meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on Sunday night, Davutoglu demanded more than the 3 billion euros (\$3.29 billion) earmarked so far to support Syrian refugees in Turkey. One source said Ankara was

Ankara met all the requirements including changing its visa policy for Islamic states and introducing biometric passports. EU leaders voiced concern and unease that the offer of increased cooperation coincided with a crackdown on media freedom that runs counter to cherished European values.

With tens of thousands of migrants stranded in Greece by closing borders, the summit may formally declare closed the Balkan route from Greece to Germany, although diplomats said Greek and German officials were fighting to soften the wording. Leaders will pledge help to Athens cope with the backlog and seek assurances that Turkey, with NATO naval back-up in the Aegean, will stop people smugglers putting migrants to sea.

DIVISIONS

There were also continued divisions among EU leaders, with Merkel resisting a push for a public endorsement by the summit of border closures by Austria and Greece's Balkan neighbors. Merkel, who faces a possible political backlash in three regional elections on Sunday against her welcome for the refugees, insisted on the emergency summit to show voters the EU is acting to resolve the crisis.

Her finance minister, Wolfgang Schaeuble, said on Sunday Berlin had major doubts about whether Turkey should become a member of the EU. Before the meeting, EU officials told Davutoglu of their concerns about human rights after the Turkish government seized control of a critical news-

ANTI-MIGRANT GERMAN PARTY SURGES IN POLLS

BERLIN: Germany's right-wing populist AfD party, which has railed against a record migrant influx, made strong gains in local polls in the western state of Hesse, results showed yesterday, ahead of key state elections this weekend.

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) became the third-biggest party in Hesse, with support reaching 13.2 percent, according to initial results. The eurosceptic party, which sparked a

storm in January by suggesting police may have to shoot at migrants at the borders, was eroding support for Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and junior coalition partner the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Support for the CDU fell 5.5 percent to 28.2 percent, although it still came in as the strongest party, just ahead of the SPD which polled 28 per-

cent, down 3.5 percent from the previous elections.

The AfD has so far made its biggest gains in formerly communist eastern states that still lag western Germany in jobs and prosperity. The result was "very alarming", the vice-chairwoman of the SPD's national parliamentary group, Eva Hoegl, told ARD public television.

Manfred Pentz, the CDU's general secretary in Hesse, acknowledged that voters were seeking to punish Merkel and her party over her liberal refugee policies.

"The protest is coming at the expense of established parties and benefitting the AfD," he said.

Merkel herself had harsh words for the AfD, which she described in an interview with Bild am Sonntag as a "party that does not bring society together and offers no appropriate solutions to problems, but only stokes prejudices and divisions". Misgiving is growing in Germany over Merkel's refusal to put a cap on the number of refugees entering the country, after 1.1 million arrived in 2015 alone. The populist party has been quick to capitalise on the mood.

In some localities where the AfD did not field candidates, voters even turned to the neo-Nazi NPD, which is currently fighting at the constitutional court a bid by the upper house of parliament to have it banned. The far-right party polled around 14 percent in Buedingen, a town of 21,000 inhabitants which has one of the biggest asylum shelters in Hesse.

State-wide, the party obtained 0.3 percent of the vote. The AfD, which began life as an anti-euro party, now has seats in five regional parliaments and is represented in the European Parliament. It is eyeing its first seats in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt in polls on Sunday. —AFP



Frank-Juergen Weise, Manager of the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees inspects passport scanner during the official opening of an arrival center for asylum seekers in Halberstadt yesterday. —AP



Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (L) and Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (R), pose with their children, Princess Charlotte (2L) and Prince George (2R), during a private break skiing at an undisclosed location in the French Alps yesterday. —AFP

WILLIAM, KATE AND KIDS ENJOY SNOW IN SKI HOLIDAY PHOTOS

LONDON Kensington Palace has released photos of Prince William, the Duchess of Cambridge and their children George and Charlotte on a ski holiday in the French Alps.

The six images published yesterday show William, Kate, 2 1/2-year-old George and 10-month-old Charlotte on the snowy slopes last week. The palace says it was "their first holiday as a family of four and the first time either of the children had played in the snow."

Two photos show the royal couple having a playful snowball fight. The release of the pictures follows a media policy established when William and his brother Prince Harry were children: privacy in exchange for agreed-upon photo opportunities at birthdays and during school holidays.

That allowed the princes to have - by royal standards - a relatively normal upbringing, something Kate and William are keen to give their own children. —AP

IS LOOKING FOR 'SPECTACULAR ATTACKS' AGAINST BRITAIN?

LONDON: Islamic State fighters want to carry out "enormous and spectacular" attacks against Britain and the Western lifestyle in general, Britain's most senior anti-terrorism officer said yesterday. London Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said the threat from the group which has taken over large parts of Syria and Iraq was evolving, and

that it was keen to repeat elsewhere incidents such as last year's Paris shootings and suicide attacks that killed 130 people.

"What we are now seeing in recent months ... is the broadening of that threat, more plans to attack Western lifestyle ... going from that narrow focus on police and military and symbols of the state to something much broader,"

Rowley told reporters. "You see a terrorist group that has big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks, not just the types that we've seen foiled to date."

British security chiefs have previously warned that the biggest threat posed by the group was the radicalisation of young Britons over the internet and the danger posed by

those who joined the fighting in Syria and Iraq to return home to carry out attacks.

About 800 British citizens are thought to have travelled to Syria, many to join Islamic State (IS), since the outbreak of civil war. Rowley said recent arrests showed that IS was adopting a different methodology in trying to get fighters into northern Europe who had

weapons and paramilitary training.

"Terrorist groups have always wanted to do the grand and the more spectacular attack because it gets more impact," he said. He said British police had made more counter-terrorism arrests in 2015 than in any previous year including a marked number of women and those aged under 20. —Reuters

PHARMA CRUSADER TAKES INDIA'S DRUG REGULATORS TO COURT

NEW DELHI: One of India's best-known whistleblowers, who exposed dangerous practices in the generic drug industry in 2013, is taking the country's drug regulators to court, accusing them of failing to enforce rules on drug safety in the \$15 billion industry.

Three years ago, Dinesh Thakur exposed how India's then largest drug-maker and his former employer, Ranbaxy Laboratories, failed to conduct proper safety and quality tests on drugs and lied to regulators about its procedures. He made his name, and almost \$48 million as a whistleblower award from the United States, when US regulators fined Ranbaxy \$500 million for violating federal drug safety laws and making false statements to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Ranbaxy said the fine marked the resolution of past issues and it continued to make safe, effective and quality medicines. Thakur's fresh case, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) suit, is listed on

the Supreme Court website for hearing on Friday.

It alleges that responses provided to him by government show how lax regulation can lead to potentially harmful medicines being sold in India without proper approvals.

The suit, which names as respondents the health ministry, the Drugs Consultative Committee and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), would not result in penalties but sets as objectives the creation of a framework for the recall of drugs and a commission to examine faulty drug approvals. The head of the CDSCO, GN Singh, said: "We welcome whistleblowers, we have got great respect, but their intentions should be genuine, should be nationalistic... I don't have any comment on this guy."

The other named parties did not respond to requests for comment. Thakur, who said there was no financial motive for the suit, spent much of 2015

working with lawyers to file more than 100 public information requests on how state and central drug authorities had responded to cases where rules had been broken, some of which first came to light five years ago.

Thakur says the responses he obtained show CDSCO and the health ministry have still not adequately investigated and prosecuted those breaches, despite saying they would. "An overwhelming number of non-standard-quality drugs are not prosecuted in criminal cases, since state drug controllers only impose minor administrative penalties on the offenders," Thakur says in the lawsuit, citing government data. The health ministry and CDSCO did not respond to requests for comment on its penalty policy.

NO INQUIRY

Thakur, who worked for Ranbaxy for two years from 2003 before turning whistleblower, is now chief executive of

Florida-based MedAssure Global Compliance, which advises drug companies on quality and safety.

After the Ranbaxy settlement in the US in 2013, Thakur said the authorities in India did not contact him about it or probe the reasons for the fine, nor did they respond when he approached them through 2014. The ministry and CDSCO did not respond to requests for comment on their response.

The Ranbaxy case prompted the FDA to increase inspections of Indian pharmaceutical plants. Products from 44 such plants are now banned for sale by overseas authorities but still sell in India.

Thakur's suit refers to the case of Bucizine, a drug made by Belgian firm UCB but since sold to Mankind Pharma for marketing in India. The CDSCO allowed UCB to sell Bucizine as an appetite stimulant in 2006, though it was not approved for that purpose in Belgium and banned in several other countries.

UCB was not asked for clinical studies, the parliamentary committee found. UCB said it couldn't answer current questions related to Bucizine but that it observed all regulatory, legal, quality and safety regulations.

The CDSCO website says its expert advisory committee found "no convincing literature to support the drug's use as an appetite stimulant" in 2013 but agreed to give Mankind Pharma time to make a case for the drug. Since then, Mankind Pharma Managing Director Sheetal Arora told Reuters it had received no official request for data to prove the safety and efficacy of the drug, which it was still selling.

The parliamentary committee demanded an investigation and the drugs regulator committed to one in 2013. Thakur received a statement from the health ministry last year, seen by Reuters, showing no inquiry had begun. The regulator did not respond to requests for comment. —Reuters



SHABQADA: Pakistani volunteers show a blood-soaked burqa of a woman who was killed in a suicide bombing in the town of Shabqadar, Charsadda district, Pakistan, yesterday. —AP

BLAST KILLS 13 AS TALEBAN AVENGE EXECUTED ISLAMIST

SUICIDE BOMBER BLOWS HIMSELF UP NEAR PAKISTAN COURT COMPLEX

PESHAWAR: A suicide bomber killed 13 people and injured 23 in northwest Pakistan yesterday, in an attack which the Taliban described as revenge for the hanging of an Islamist assassin last week.

The bomber, whom police said was aged around 20 and had up to six kilograms (13 pounds) of explosives strapped to his chest, attacked as lawyers and litigants were arriving at a court complex during the morning rush hour in the town of Shabqadar.

Senior police official Fayaz Khan said 13 people were killed and 23 wounded after the bomber blew himself up inside the complex, with the toll confirmed by a local administration official.

Schoolteacher Murid Khan, who was in the complex for a land dispute hearing, said he was getting documents photocopied when he heard gunshots. "I looked back and there was a huge explosion," he said, adding the blast threw him over the photocopyer.

"I heard screams and saw black clouds of smoke, then I fell unconscious" after being hit by two pieces of shrapnel, he said. The

Pakistani Taliban's Jamat-ul-Ahrar faction claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it avenged the hanging of Mumtaz Qadri-feted as a hero by Islamists after he gunned down the liberal governor of Punjab in 2011 over a call to reform the country's blasphemy law.

Qadri was hanged on February 29 in what analysts described as a key moment in Pakistan's long fight against militancy, saying it demonstrated the government's resolve to uphold the rule of law rather than allow extremism to flourish.

His funeral brought up to 100,000 people on to the streets, hailing him as a hero. Yesterday's blast also targeted the court complex because Pakistan's judiciary was strengthening "un-Islamic laws", Ehsanullah Ehsan, a spokesman for the Taliban, told AFP.

Local TV channels showed footage of victims being rushed to hospitals soon after the blast. Authorities said two children and two policemen were among the dead. Senior regional police official Saeed Wazir

praised the bravery of officers who "sacrificed their lives".

There were around 300 people in the complex at the time, another police official said. Local bar association president Shair Qadir said they had requested security after receiving threats of an attack, but no action was taken in what he termed a police failure.

Shabqadar is near the Mohmand tribal district, one of seven semi-autonomous regions bordering Afghanistan where militants from Al-Qaeda and the Taliban had established bases in the past.

Islamabad launched a military offensive in the tribal areas in 2014 that has reportedly killed thousands of militants and pushed the rest over the border to Afghanistan, resulting in improved security inside Pakistan. However, insurgents associated with the Pakistani Taliban occasionally carry out attacks from bases inside Afghanistan. Shabqadar is some 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of Charsadda, where extremists attacked a university on January 20 in a rampage that left 21 dead. —AFP

OVER 40% OF INDIA'S WOMEN CONFINED TO DOMESTIC WORK

MUMBAI: Women are among the most excluded groups in India, with almost 43 percent of working-age women confined to domestic work, while many who do work outside the home face exploitation and low pay, according to the India Exclusion Report.

Despite rising levels of literacy, the proportion of working-age women in India's formal labour force is only about 27 percent, compared with almost 60 percent in Britain and the United States, World Bank data shows. Domestic work is not considered as productive and is neglected in policy, leaving the women at a severe disadvantage, said the report by the Centre for Equity Studies in New Delhi.

Besides cooking, cleaning and caring for children and elderly family members, Indian women also perform unpaid work in family businesses and low-paid labour in factories and enterprises in the so-called informal sector, where they are discriminated against and paid less than men.

"Social status and poverty intersect

to make women from historically marginalized groups especially vulnerable to exploitative labour arrangements, forcing them to provide cheap labour," wrote the authors led by social worker Harsh Mander. "With women in conditions akin to bondage, factors such as confinement of workers engaged in this work in homes or hostels, and the mediation of the employment relationship through the male head of the household—for instance, in brick kilns and quarries—further serve to render women invisible."

Women in India do almost 10 times as much unpaid work as men a much higher ratio than the global average—leaving them out of the formal workforce and unable to contribute to the economy, consultancy firm McKinsey said in a report last year. If that work were to be valued and compensated in the same way as paid work, it would contribute \$300 billion a year to India's economic output, it said.

Indian women are also denied equal access to services including education, health care, housing and

public transport. Single women and so-called Devadasis, girls who are forced into sex work from the time they reach puberty, are among the most vulnerable, the 2015 Exclusion Report said.

Sex workers and women in hazardous occupations such as construction and mining are routinely discriminated against. Lower-caste Dalit women who are forced to clean up excrement from dry toilets and open drains, face threats of violence, eviction and withholding of wages if they try to give up the practice.

Recent campaigns including #SelfwithDaughter and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Beti padhao, beti bachao' (educate your daughter, save your daughter) have helped increase awareness of women's rights.

But India must get more girls into secondary and university education, expand skills training and provide greater access to financial services, while also dispelling deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes, the McKinsey report had said. —Reuters

MARSHALL ISLANDS WARN OVER NUKE ARMS RACE AT UN COURT

THE HAGUE: The Marshall Islands yesterday painted a vivid picture of the horrors of nuclear war decades after some of its atolls were vaporized in atomic tests, in an unusual legal battle against the nuclear arms race.

The small Pacific island nation opened a case against India, Pakistan and Britain in a David-versus-Goliath fight before the UN's highest tribunal based in The Hague. The Marshall Islands aims to shine a new spotlight on the global nuclear threat, its lawyers and representatives said yesterday, as they remembered apocalyptic scenes after US-led tests in the 1950s.

"Several islands in my country were vaporised and others are estimated to remain uninhabitable for thousands of years," Tony deBrum, a Marshall Islands government minister, told the court. He remembered in particular the "Castle Bravo" test of March 1, 1954, which he witnessed as a nine-year-old while fishing with his grandfather in an atoll, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the blast's epicentre.

"The entire sky turned blood red," deBrum recalled when US scientists exploded a hydrogen bomb, with a force 1,000 times stronger than the device dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. "Many died, or suffered birth defects never before seen and cancers as a result of contamination." Judges at the International Court of Justice are holding a series of hearings over the next week-and-a-half to decide whether it is indeed competent to hear the lawsuits brought against India and Pakistan.

A third hearing against Britain, scheduled to start tomorrow, will be devoted to "preliminary objections" raised by London. The Marshall Islands alleges that despite their suffering, the world's nuclear powers have failed to comply with

the terms of the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). They were "not fulfilling their obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament."

Britain has signed the NPT, but not India and Pakistan. The hearings are starting just days after North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un Friday ordered the country's nuclear arsenal to be readied for pre-emptive use at any time, causing global concern.

Pressure to cut arsenals

The Marshall Islands had sought to bring a case against nine countries: Britain, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States. Israel has never admitted to having nuclear weapons. And the ICJ has only admitted three cases against Britain, India and Pakistan because they already recognized the ICJ's authority.

Despite not having signed the NPT, India and Pakistan had an obligation under "customary international law" to negotiate and eventually reduce their nuclear arsenals, Majuro's lawyers insisted.

"Contrary to the obligation to pursue in good faith negotiations on nuclear disarmament... India's conduct includes the quantitative build-up and improvement of its nuclear arsenal," deBrum said.

India's representatives declined to comment yesterday and are to argue their case on Thursday, with follow-up hearings next week. In 1996, the ICJ in another case issued a non-binding advisory opinion in which it urged the world's nuclear powers to negotiate and reduce their nuclear stockpiles. —AFP



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A man pulls children on a sledge through fresh snow fallen on the clock park, a sculpture by artist Klaus Rinke made of 24 station clocks, in Dusseldorf in western Germany yesterday. — AFP



BRASILIA: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff steps from a helicopter at the Planalto Palace after arriving from a trip to the state of Rio Grande do Sul in southern Brazil yesterday. — AFP

BRAZIL PRESIDENT FIGHTS FOR HER POLITICAL LIFE

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff is fighting for her political life in Congress, the courts and streets this week, but her path to survival has got ever narrower, analysts said yesterday. Rousseff faces impeachment proceedings over alleged fiscal mismanagement, while the Supreme Electoral Court is considering possible campaign funding irregularities that could end up annulling her 2014 reelection. Those threats had appeared to be receding in the last few weeks. Even Rousseff's dismal popularity ratings were creeping up.

But on Friday, what analyst Gabriel Petrus called "an atomic bomb" was thrown at her leftist Workers' Party with the brief detention of Rousseff's mentor and charismatic predecessor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Lula, as he is universally known, is accused of taking bribes from companies involved in the gargantuan embezzlement and kick-

backs scheme at state oil company Petrobras. And the extraordinary scene of a powerful ex-president being taken away by police, backed up by officers in camouflage with rifles, brought all the simmering tensions to a boil. Now, with the relative lull forgotten, both the opposition and pro-Rousseff camps are promising to take to the streets, while opposition parties in Congress are licking their lips over a revitalized impeachment push.

Petrus, at the Brasilia-based consultancy Barral M Jorge Associates, said both Lula and Rousseff have their backs up against the wall - and if necessary will go down swinging. "The Workers' Party will play a winner-take-all strategy - everything or nothing," Petrus said. "I think both sides are preparing for that battle." The Workers' Party will try to show its muscle with a series of demonstrations announced in big cities, on Tuesday, March 18 and March 31. — AFP

REPS FACE TOUGH CHOICES AS RACE CHURNS FORWARD

WASHINGTON: Republicans desperate to stop Donald Trump from capturing the party's presidential nomination may have to unite behind Ted Cruz, a polarizing figure who has made many enemies within the party. Cruz, 45, a US senator from Texas, won nominating contests in Kansas and Maine on Saturday, bolstering his argument that he is the leading alternative to Trump, 69, the blunt-spoken billionaire businessman.

Many mainstream Republicans are reluctant, however, to rally behind Cruz, whom they see as too conservative for the general electorate in the Nov 8 election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama. Cruz has run as an outsider bent on shaking up the Republican establishment in Washington. A favorite of evangelicals, he has called for the United States to "carpet bomb" the Islamic State militant group and has pledged to eliminate the tax-collecting Internal Revenue Service and four Cabinet agencies.

But he angered many Republican colleagues when he led an unsuccessful effort to repeal President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act that shut down the government for 16 days in 2013. Republican pollster Neil Newhouse said Cruz had not yet shown an ability to appeal beyond the most conservative voters. "The way things are going, I think it's extraordinarily unlikely that Senator Cruz becomes the focal point for Republicans who want to stop Trump," said Newhouse, who was lead pollster for 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

Kim Reem, a member of the executive committee of the National Federation of Republican Women, said three factions were emerging among Republicans: Those supporting Trump, those backing Cruz, and supporters of the party establishment. None are inclined to compromise, she said. "I don't see a path to making everybody happy," she said. Former US Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi said



CONCORD, North Carolina: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses the crowd at a campaign rally yesterday. — AFP

he would have a hard time supporting a Cruz nomination. "He'd have to change his tactics and his conduct an awful lot," he said. Cruz has feuded with party leadership, including Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and has often accused fellow Republicans of selling out conservative principles. Although he has been in the Senate for four years, Cruz has not won a single endorsement from any other senator. He touts that on the campaign trail as evidence he is an outsider.

Rubio Florida Hope

To win the nomination, 1,237 delegates are needed. According to The New York Times, Trump leads with 384 delegates and Cruz has won 300. US Senator Marco Rubio, 44, of Florida, an establishment favorite still seen by some in the party as an

option to Trump, has won 151 delegates and Ohio Governor John Kasich trails with 37. Some establishment Republicans say the best way to stop Trump would be for Rubio to win the 99-delegate Florida contest and Kasich the 66-delegate Ohio primary. Opinion polls show Cruz trailing in both states, which award all their delegates to the top vote-getter on March 15.

Michigan, Mississippi, Idaho and Hawaii hold nominating contests today. Recent opinion polls show Trump leading by a wide margin in Michigan, the day's biggest prize. If Cruz, Rubio and Kasich can collectively prevent Trump from getting the needed majority of delegates, they could force a brokered Republican Party convention in July in Cleveland, aimed at producing a compromise candidate. — Reuters

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Issues

DON'T DISMISS OR
PANIC OVER NORTH
KOREA THREATS

By Hyung-Jin Kim

When North Korea makes threats to nuke its enemies, as it has twice over the last several days, outsiders often have one of two reactions: to dismiss it as yet another example of empty propaganda or to panic. There are good reasons to do neither. There are many ways the North can retaliate that fall short of war, nuclear or conventional. North Korea's latest warning came Monday in response to the beginning of annual South Korean-US military drills, and included vows to turn its enemies into "seas in flames and ashes" with nuclear missiles aimed at South Korea, US bases in the Pacific and the US mainland.

Pyongyang always responds furiously to the springtime South Korean-US drills, which it views as an invasion rehearsal. This year's drills are the largest ever, meant to respond to the North's recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch. South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing unidentified military sources, reported that the allies will work on drills for precision attacks on North Korean leadership and its nuclear and missile arsenal in the event of war.

The first thing to keep in mind is that Pyongyang's near-term nuclear warnings are mostly bluff; more of a strong deterrent that Pyongyang can use in its propaganda, rather than an actual sign of imminent war. The North knows that its atomic program, which is still relatively primitive, is out-gunned by the thousands of warheads the United States possesses. Pyongyang is very unlikely to do something that could lead to overwhelming retaliation by superior militaries in the United States and South Korea, and therefore end the ruling autocratic Kim dynasty in Pyongyang.

Danger

Still, the bellicose bluster is not without danger. North Korea is so poorly understood by outsiders, even by analysts in the South, that its threats make the already jittery Korean Peninsula even tenser. This general anxiety causes both Korean militaries to bolster their positions and increases the possibility that a misjudgment by North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, could lead to an escalation of violence should a skirmish erupt. South Korea has vowed to hit back hard on future North Korean attacks, raising the possibility of escalation.

South Korean analysts believe North Korea will follow its nuclear threats with some sort of low-level provocation. It launched short-range projectiles last week, hours after the UN Security Council approved new sanctions, and it could fire more missiles or artillery pieces into the sea as a show of force. It also could stage a cyberattack, which South Korea says Pyongyang has done in the past.

Rather than traditional military confrontations, in which it would be heavily outgunned, the North favors covert, surprise attacks that South Korea cannot immediately respond to. In 2010, North Korea was said to have staged a torpedo attack on a South Korean warship and an artillery bombardment on a South Korean island that killed a total of 50 South Koreans. The ship sinking happened when South Korean and US militaries were conducting springtime military drills.

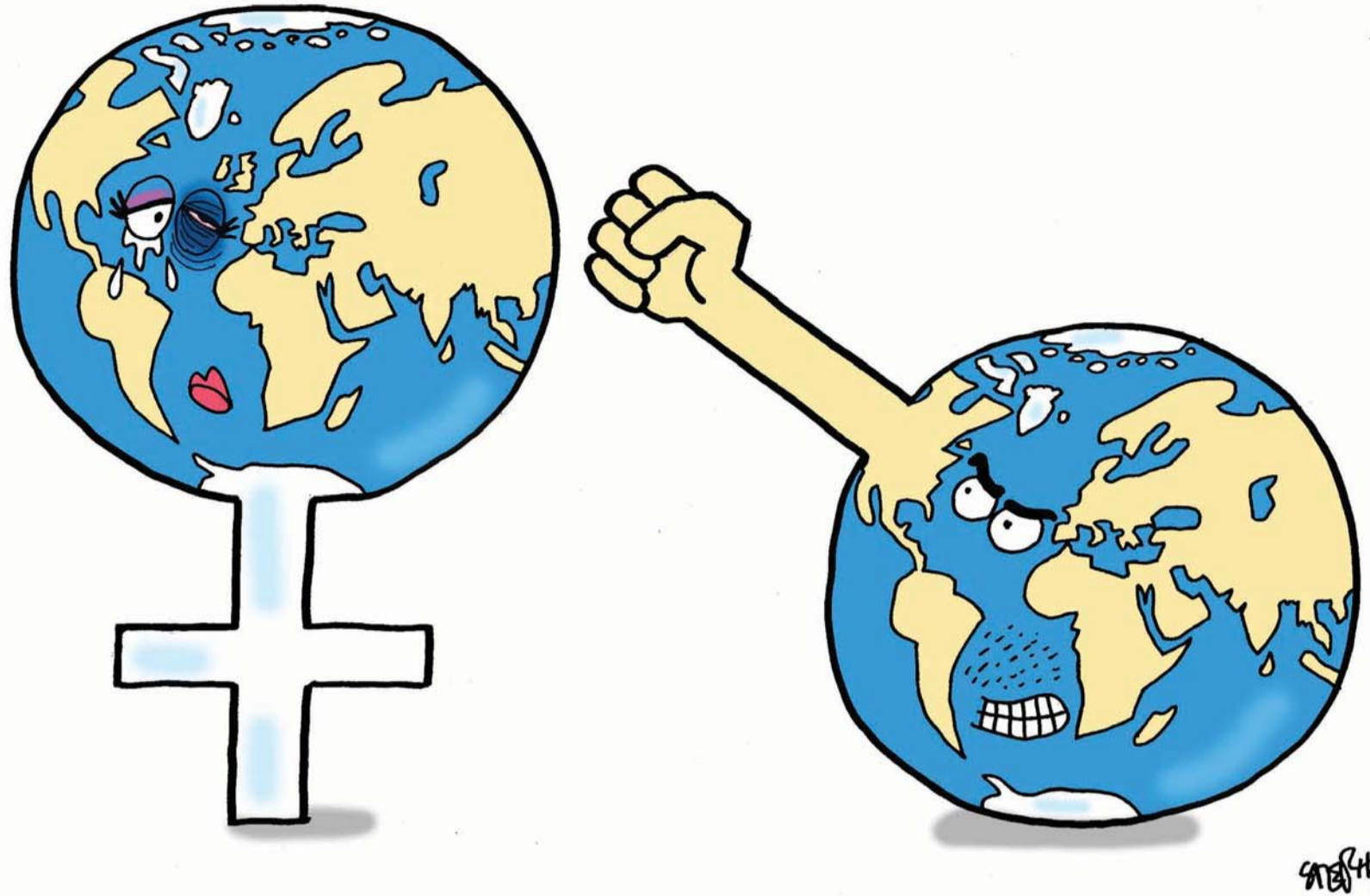
North Korea denies it torpedoed the South Korean ship, though it acknowledges shelling the South's front-line Yeonpyeong Island, its first attack on a civilian area in South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. The North's tenaciousness marks another reason the threats should worry. The exact status of North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a mystery, but a general outside consensus is that North Korea has yet to master the technology needed to build a nuclear-armed missile that can directly attack the US mainland.

Bombs

Still, after four rounds of tests since 2006, the North is thought to have a handful of rudimentary nuclear bombs. Some analysts think it can arm shorter-range missiles with warheads. And even a crude nuclear weapon could be delivered by other means, such as a plane. The country, one of the world's poorest, has also successfully sent satellites into orbit twice, rocket launches that outsiders say were covers for tests of banned technology used in long-range missile firing.

Seoul defense officials believe North Korea doesn't yet have a workable re-entry vehicle necessary to get a warhead safely back into the Earth's atmosphere; this is something not tested in satellite launches. Analysts, however, believe it's only a matter of time before North Korea gets a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile because its scientists will continue to explode new, advanced atomic devices, and send up rockets, to improve their designs and technologies. —AP

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INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

HOW HILLARY CLINTON CORNERED THE BLACK VOTE

By Jennie Matthew

Hillary Clinton is on a roll. If her candidacy ever looked in doubt to an insurgent Bernie Sanders, she's all but guaranteed the Democratic nomination - thanks overwhelmingly to African Americans. A month after her bruising defeat in New Hampshire, where Sanders won every category of voter except those older than 65 and earning more than \$200,000 a year, Clinton has chalked up massive wins. In Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia she romped to victory, and is tipped to win Tuesday in Mississippi and Michigan, which all have sizeable African American communities.

Black voters have become critical to winning US elections. Without decisive African American turnout in seven states, Barack Obama would have lost to Mitt Romney in 2012, the independent Cook Political Report found. Four years later, blacks are voting overwhelmingly for the former secretary of state, cold shouldering the white-haired democratic socialist from the north. But why?

Certainly Clinton has done much more than Sanders to address systemic racism, white privilege and the need for more opportunities for blacks. "I have spent a lot of time with the mothers of African American children who have lost them," she told Sunday's Democratic debate in Flint, Michigan, the black majority city suffering from water contamination. "I can't pretend to have the experience that you have had and others have had, but I will do everything that I possibly can, to not only do the best to understand and to empathize, but to tear down the barriers of systemic racism."

Forcefully

Clinton raised the specter of environmental racism, questioning whether the lead-contaminated scandal would have happened in wealthy white suburbs. "She talks very forcefully about these issues in a way that she hasn't before and you don't normally have from presidential candidates," said Stefanie Brown James, Obama's African American vote director in 2012. While Sanders has spent his career in Vermont, where only one percent of the population is black, Clinton was first lady of Arkansas for 12 years, taking on a prominent role in trying to improve health and education.

She ran legal clinics representing disenfranchised people. While still a student at Yale Law School, she went to South Carolina to investigate juveniles in adult jails and to Alabama to investigate segregation in schools for the Children's Defense Fund. After more than a generation on the national stage, all of this has become common knowledge - particularly among blacks. In South Carolina, she addressed the nation's oldest black sorority, dressed in green - a courtesy to an organization whose colors are green and pink. "That's the kind of little stuff, the attention to detail that people notice and appreciate," said Andra Gillespie, an associate professor of political science at Emory College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Right or wrong for a feminist campaigning to become the first woman president of the United States, experts also agree that much of her appeal stems from her marriage to Bill Clinton. For more than a generation black Americans have embraced the Clintons as a couple who have worked against racial prejudice and

presided over economic prosperity in the 1990s when black unemployment fell and incomes rose.

Race Matters

On the campaign trail, Clinton frequently recalls the economic growth of her husband's administration as a legacy she will continue. Bill Clinton's poor southern background and easy manner - playing saxophone on television wearing shades - won him love and admiration from black voters. He supported affirmative action, appointed a record number of African Americans to his cabinet and was close friends with business executive and civil rights figure Vernon Jordan.

During the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Nobel Prize winning novelist Toni Morrison famously dubbed him the first black president by comparing him to the black man always presumed guilty. The Clinton record is not unblemished - Bill Clinton's welfare reform and crime bill are blamed for fanning poverty and record incarceration rates which have hit blacks disproportionately - both have since expressed regret.

While Sanders has spoken of being arrested during the 1960s civil rights movement, his plea for votes has focused far more on economic inequality. "That's the problem that blacks typically have with white progressives, that they look at everything through class and forget that race still matters, and it's that type of framing that has frustrated some blacks," said Gillespie. African Americans who agonized in 2008 about whether to vote for Clinton or Obama and picked Obama now feel they can do right by Clinton, the woman who has gone out of her way to present herself as Obama's heir. —AFP

FLINT: POSTER CHILD OF ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM?

By Sebastien Blanc

Would the scandal surrounding the lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan happen if the residents were rich white people? Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders raised this sensitive question Sunday as they highlighted the health disaster blamed on penny-pinching political decisions in this city that once relied heavily on the auto industry. The political rivals found common cause in their criticism of Michigan's Republican Governor Rick Snyder, calling for him to resign. Both candidates agree that Flint's neglected water distribution network, eaten away by corrosion, needs an overhaul. They called for more action from the federal government, and accountability overall. "What I heard and what I saw literally shattered me, and it is beyond belief that children in Flint, Michigan, in the United States of America in the year 2016 are being poisoned," Sanders said at a CNN debate. He called for rebuilding America's "crumbling infrastructure," water systems, wastewater plants, roads and bridges. Clinton said the state should "immediately" send money to help Flint.

Both have called for revamping Flint's water supply network, eaten away by corrosion, and condemned Snyder's cost-cutting measures that led to more than 8,000 children ingesting lead each day. But the two presidential contenders are also targeting their strongest messages at Flint's black community and, beyond, at African Americans suffering economic and social injustices elsewhere in the United States. Some are calling the Flint scandal an example of environmental racism. The expression has been used in recent decades to describe how African Americans are disproportionately exposed to pollutants in air, water and the ground.

Legacy of Segregation

Segregation may have been abolished nationwide in 1964, a century after the Emancipation Proclamation, but African Americans still have lower wages and poorer housing conditions than whites on average. "African American communities across the nation have always been disproportionately representative of the toxic areas," said Laura MacIntyre of the University of Michigan-Flint.

"Most of the people that bear the brunt of living in the polluted areas or next to incinerators or factories or all sorts of places that have toxic or hazardous waste are communities of color and Flint is no exception. "It is a racial issue in terms of the fact that we have to deal with it disproportionately."

Those inequalities were similarly illustrated in the aftermath of the devastation Hurricane Katrina brought on New Orleans in 2005. After losing about half its population and nearly all of its auto industry, Flint now has about 100,000 inhabitants - 57 percent of them African Americans, and nearly half of residents in poverty. A recent study found that the percentage of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood increased "particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods."

It noted that ageing infrastructure was to blame for more children being exposed to

lead through tap water. Flint has the highest home vacancy rates in the United States - with 7.5 percent of homes empty - according to a RealtyTrac report. That's nearly five times higher than the 1.6 percent national average. The situation is even worse in Flint's northern, primarily African American, neighborhoods. Some streets are completely deserted, with house after house boarded up or dilapidated.

'Flint Lives Matter'

"We lost a lot of schools, I can't tell you how many schools, and you see how the water situation was ignored... This wouldn't have happened in a white neighborhood," said Charles Marion, a father of three. That's a theme Clinton, who has a strong African American voter base, has repeated recently. "If the same thing that's happening in Flint had happened in Grosse Pointe or Bloomfield Hills, I think we all know that we would've had a solution yes-

terday," she said, referring to wealthy suburbs of Detroit.

Civil rights activists are taking up the cause as well. While the Oscars ceremony took place a week ago amid controversy over the lack of diversity in Hollywood, Flint was organizing a Blackout for Human Rights concert, with a "Justice for Flint" theme and Stevie Wonder as surprise guest star. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement protesting police shootings of African Americans, the slogan "Flint Lives Matter" has been taken up online and in protests.

"The water crisis in Flint is one of many ways state agencies and elected officials have sanctioned violence against black people," Black Lives Matter said in a "solidarity statement." "A man-made disaster, the water crisis is an explicit and egregious form of state violence, one that impacts low-income black people hardest." —AFP



Volunteers load cases of free water into waiting vehicles at a water distribution center at Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, Michigan, on Sunday. —AFP

JAPAN'S IRON LADIES MISS RIO OLYMPIC SPOT

OSAKA: Former world champions Japan hit Vietnam for six yesterday but failed to qualify for the Rio Olympic women's football tournament after other results went against them. A 6-1 demolition of Vietnam in Osaka was scant consolation for the 2011 World Cup winners, whose failure to reach this summer's Olympics four years after taking silver in London comes as a major shock. China's 1-0 victory over South Korea sealed Japan's fate before a ball had been kicked in anger in the late match. The Chinese qualified along with Australia after the Matildas beat North Korea 2-1 in a bruising encounter. Japanese hopes of qualifying had been hanging by a thread after the medal contenders were ambushed 2-1 by China last Friday. An alarming slump in form by Japan's 'Nadeshiko'-who are named after a frilly pink carnation-has sparked dismay, with former superstar Homare Sawa accusing the players of lacking heart and questioning their desire. Japan famously beat the mighty United States to lift the World Cup in 2011, providing a symbol of the steely determination of a nation battling to recover from a deadly tsunami and the resulting nuclear crisis. —AFP

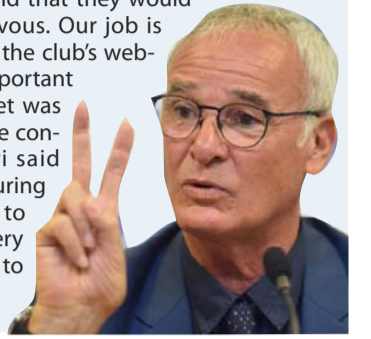


FRANKLIN UNFAZED BY ZIKA THREAT

LOS ANGELES: United States swimming star Missy Franklin yesterday shrugged off the possible threat posed by the Zika virus to athletes at August's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro as team officials outlined precautions to protect competitors. Franklin, one of the stars of the 2012 London Olympics, said she was unfazed by the series of headlines emerging from Brazil in recent months, which has seen 1.5 million cases of the Zika virus since 2015. The virus has been linked to a rise in microcephaly, in which an infected mother's baby is born with an abnormally small head as well as the neurological disorder Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Four-time Olympic gold medalist Franklin, however, said she was happy to place her trust in directives from the US Olympic Committee (USOC) and health authorities. "We're very aware of it but for us this is just one of those things that comes up that's really out of our control," Franklin told reporters as the US Olympic team media summit got under way. "I just trust that the USOC and USA Swimming always prepares us for whatever we're going to encounter and I trust they'll do the same thing there. I'm honestly not thinking about it," the 20-year-old added. — AFP

RANIERI BACKS FOXES TO STAY CALM ON RUN IN

LONDON: Manager Claudio Ranieri is confident that nerves will not derail Leicester City's season, after watching his team defeat Watford 1-0 to stretch their lead at the top of the Premier League table. Leicester's closest rivals, second-placed Tottenham Hotspur and third-placed Arsenal, drew 2-2 at White Hart Lane on Saturday and the Foxes capitalised with an assured display to go five points clear with nine games left. Ranieri said the team's self-belief stemmed from the fact that they had already achieved their main target of avoiding relegation and that they would not flag in their remaining fixtures. "We're not nervous. Our job is done. Our job was to save the team," the Italian told the club's website (www.lcfc.com). "The target was safety and it's important to remind people who Leicester were. The first target was to save the team. "Our fans continue to dream and we continue to work... it's a good combination." Ranieri said Leicester's spirit would stand them in good stead during the title run in and that the Foxes would continue to fight hard for a first Premier League title. "We know very well it's a strange chance that we have, but we want to fight," he added. —AFP



KUWAIT CROWNED CHAMPION OF AMIR'S SHOOTING GP

350 ATHLETES FROM 31 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait was crowned champion of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Fifth International Shooting Grand Prix, by being on top of participating teams. As on the final day of the tournament Kuwait's Olympian Fuhaid Al-Daihani won the silver medal in the double trap event, second to Italy's Giuseppe Clavaglia, while the bronze medal was won by Hungary's Roland Gerebics. This places Kuwait in first place with three gold, three silver and two bronze medals, followed by Kazakhstan and Italy with a gold medal each, Lebanon and New Zealand with a silver medal each and Egypt, Czech and Hungary with a bronze each. President of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng Duajir Khalaf Al-Otaibi

thanked in the closing speech, 350 athletes who represented 31 countries for participating in this major event at the State of Kuwait and at this particular time as Kuwait celebrates its national day. Eng Duajir Al-Otaibi thanked HH the Amir for his support of the Arab shooting, and patronizing the Grand Prix. He expressed pleasure at the presence of an elite group of world shooters side by side with Kuwait's champions who are always present at the award ceremonies. Eng Al-Otaibi thanked representative of HH the Amir, Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for opening the tournament and following it all the time, in addition to the role of Director General of Sports Public Authority Sheikh Ahmad Al-



Mansour. He also lauded the efforts of the officials who had a role in ensuring the tournament's success. On his part shooter Mohammad Nayef Al-Daihani said competition was very strong and happy to win the silver medal, though he really felt the gold can be his. He said that shooter Abdallah Al-Rashidi deserves the gold medal bearing in mind his vast experience in this sport. Abdallah Al-Rashidi said the gold medal he won in the skeet event is very special as it bears the name of HH the Amir. He added that he considers HH the Amir Grand Prix as the best tournament in the world as far as organization and competition are concerned, and it forms one of the most important stages in preparation for participating in Rio de Janeiro in August.



OLYMPIC SUCCESS CAN CHANGE MINDS IN CHINA, SAYS FENG

SINGAPORE: Feng Shanshan said Olympic success this year could erase "negative images" of golf in China, where it is often viewed as elitist and was singled out in an anti-corruption drive last year.

Feng, the women's world number nine and the only Chinese golfer to win a major, told AFP that a medal in Rio would do wonders for the sport in her home country.

"The history of golf in China is still pretty short compared to the other countries," she said at last week's HSBC Women's Champions in Singapore.

"I think it's going to make a big differ-

ence if somebody is going to do well (in Rio)," added Feng.

The 26-year-old hit the big-time by winning the 2012 LPGA Championship but it had nothing like the impact of Li Na's victory in the 2011 French Open, which sent tennis soaring in the Chinese consciousness.

But Feng suggested it could be very different after the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, where golf is returning to the Games after a 112-year gap. "Most of the people in China maybe still don't know about (golf) because it has got a lot of negative images in their heads," Feng said. "But I think everything is going to

change after they see that golf is in the Olympics and it's the same as the other sports." "Golfers can bring the country the gold medals, which they really love," she added.

ILLEGAL COURSES

Last year, China's 88 million Communist Party members were banned from joining golf clubs in a corruption crackdown which also targeted banquets and lavish gift-giving.

China also shut down 66 illegally built golf courses in another sign of hardening attitudes to golf among the authorities, which have long had an ambivalent

relationship with the pastime.

Feng, who finished joint 13th in Singapore, is a four-time LPGA Tour winner but she believes TV coverage of China's Olympic golfers will help change attitudes. "Golf is a great sport, once people know about the good things and they see how fun it is, maybe there will be more people trying to pick up the sport," she said.

"Even though they don't play it themselves, they'll watch on TV, I think that's enough," she said. Feng is one of only two Chinese golfers in the women's top 100 — along with 43rd-ranked Lin Xiyu, 20 — but she says she's now a "big sister"

to younger Chinese players who are coming through the ranks.

"They always have a lot of questions that they always ask me. So I try my best to answer them and I think the best way for me to help them is when they come up to the Tour I can introduce my friends to them," she said. But in Rio, Feng will focus on her own game-with the aim of a transformative gold medal in mind. "My goal was to at least get into the Olympics and I think I'm fine with that goal now," she said. "What I can focus on is to play my own game now and try to play well and I think everything will work out itself," she said. — AFP

LIN JOINS ALL-ENGLAND LINE-UP AHEAD OF RIO

BIRMINGHAM: This year's All-England Championships is likely to mark the final appearance of five-time champion Lin Dan at the sport's oldest event, as the garlanded Chinese player bids for a berth at the Rio Olympics before a possible retirement. For the first time since 2012, Lin will appear in the men's draw alongside compatriot Chen Long, the world and defending champion, and Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia, the Asian triviriate who have lifted 11 of the last 12 All-England titles between them.

World number one Chen, 27, has underlined his top seed status by virtue of his six Superseries wins on tour last year. Meanwhile Lee has surged back up the world rankings, from 182nd, to sit behind Chen after his eight-month suspension for doping ended last year.

However the participation of fifth-seeded Lin, who missed the All-England in 2013 and 2014 to take time out from the sport, is the most eagerly anticipated this week. Lin's win at the German Open on Sunday was his opening event of the year as he bids to win a hat-trick of Olympic singles' titles, the 32-year-old having hinted that the Rio Games could be his final event before retirement.

But with two automatic places available and Chen currently top of the Race to Rio standings, Lin currently sits in seventh place, two places ahead of compatriot Tian Houwei.

"I would say that this is probably the

last chance to see these three best players together at the top," Poul-Erik Hoyer, Badminton World Federation president, told Reuters.

"Possibly a few may retire while Lee has said that he may continue." Of Lin's quest to win an unprecedented set of golds, Hoyer added: "It would certainly be the story of the Olympics. If he's in the final it would be very interesting to follow." Asian domination is less certain in the women's singles, with world champion Carolina Marin of Spain aiming to become the first European to retain the All-England title in the modern era.

Her main rival and last year's runner-up, India's second-seeded Saina Nehwal, has been dogged by a foot injury which has seen her withdraw from a number of recent events. Li Xuerui, the Olympic champion who also landed the German Open women's singles title, is seeded third and offers China its best hope of usurping Marin's current dominance.

In all, China have won at least two All-England titles across singles and doubles since 2000, but with rivals jostling for bragging rights in Olympic year, the powerhouse nation's record will come under threat this week.

Japan achieved its finest success in badminton history at the year-end Superseries finals in December when Kento Momota and Nozomi Okuhara captured the men's and women's singles titles respectively. — Reuters



LAS VEGAS: Henry Hutchison (C) of Australia carries the ball against Fiji during the Cup Final at the USA Sevens Rugby tournament at Sam Boyd Stadium on Sunday in Las Vegas, Nevada. Fiji won 21-15. — AFP

FIJI FIGHTBACK STUNS AUSTRALIA IN LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS: Defending champions Fiji produced a stunning second half fightback to defeat Australia 21-15 and retain their Las Vegas Sevens crown here Sunday.

Australia looked to be on course for an upset victory at a windswept Sam Boyd Stadium after tries from Sam Myers, captain Ed Jenkins and Cameron Clark handed them a 15-0 half-time lead. But the introduction of Fiji substitute Kitione Taliga at half-time proved crucial for Fiji, with the pacy back conjuring two tries out of nothing to haul the South Pacific islanders back into the match.

Taliga's first try came with Fiji camped on their own line, with the speedster spotting a gap and darting some 95 meters to score under the posts. Moments later Taliga went clear again, galloping over under the posts for a converted score to cut Australia's lead to 15-14. Australia responded strongly but were again undone by another Fijian long-range effort.

This time it was wing Savenaca Rawaca who applied the coup de grace, the newly signed Saracens player shrugging off a weary Australian tackler to run virtually the length of the pitch to score to help make it 21-15. "The wind made it an awful game of rugby but second half we fought back and I'm really proud of the boys to get a win in the conditions," said Fiji's English coach Ben Ryan, who dedicated the win to victims of the recent cyclone in his team's homeland which has left at least 44 people dead. "We've had a hard time with the cyclone, people have lost their livelihoods. I hope we put a smile on some people's faces this weekend," Ryan said.

Earlier, Australia had battled through to the final after a bizarre semi-final win over South Africa which saw them advance after being awarded two penalty tries.

South Africa looked to have done enough as they led 12-7 with just seconds remaining and Australia down to six men after Quade Cooper's



LAS VEGAS: Jordan Williams (L) of Wales and James Johnstone of Scotland run for the ball during the USA Sevens Rugby tournament at Sam Boyd Stadium on Sunday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

sin-binning. However Cooper returned to join one last attack for the Australians which ended with captain Ed Jenkins hauled down short of the line after a high tackle by South Africa's Rosco Specman.

Specman was given his marching orders for the tackle and Australia were awarded a second penalty try of the game which was duly converted by Cooper for a nail-biting victory.

It capped a miserable match for Specman, who had earlier been sin-binned for another high tackle which saw Australia earn their first

penalty try of the game.

Fiji meanwhile reached the final after defeating hosts the United States 21-14.

Fiji, the reigning world sevens series champions, were always in control with Jasa Veremalua, Vatemu Ravouvou and Pio Tuwai all dotting down for tries.

The United States fought back with tries from Danny Barrett and former American football player Perry Baker but all too often were undone by basic errors as they sought to build momentum against the Fijians. — AFP



Lin Dan

PENDLETON RACE ON GOLD CUP DAY AT CHELTENHAM

LONDON: Double Olympic cycling champion Victoria Pendleton will ride at next week's Cheltenham Festival just over a year after becoming an amateur jockey.

The 35-year-old will race Pacha Du Polder in the Foxhunters Chase on Friday March 18, the final day of the festival.

Pendleton claimed her first win when she impressively led the Paul Nicholls-trained nine-year-old to a 29-length victory at Wincanton last week. But she fell when well placed to challenge on 10-1 shot Supreme Danehill at Kingstons Blount on Saturday, leaving her Cheltenham hopes in the balance. She has been given the go-ahead to make her festival debut by Nicholls and a team of experts, despite concerns over the succession of falls she has suffered since taking up the sport.

Pendleton, who won Olympic cycling gold medals in both 2008 and 2012, is delighted to have achieved the target she set for herself. "We have always had the extremely ambitious target of riding competitively in the Foxhunters as our goal, so to be announcing that I have achieved this goal is a truly amazing feel-

ing," she said. Pendleton has been tutored by the experienced duo of Alan and Lawney Hill, while record 20-time champion jockey AP McCoy has also backed her Cheltenham bid. But former rider John Francome, the third most successful National Hunt jockey of all-time, said last month that she was "an accident waiting to happen" after being unseated at Fakenham.

Pendleton though is confident in her ability to put in a good performance on the horse owned by Andy Stewart. "It is not a decision I have taken lightly - I feel capable of being part of that race," she said. "The whole journey has been a remarkable experience and I have a lot of lasting memories from the last 12 months. "This has been no walk in the park, it has been physically demanding. I've had to dig deep, but I never wanted to give up.

"This is hugely exciting. There'll be a phenomenal crowd at Cheltenham and I am so excited. Getting round would be incredible.

"If I get round on the horse and complete the course I'll feel like that's a gold medal!" — AFP

KYRGIOS SLAMS TOMIC IN 'FAKE' ILLNESS ROW

SYDNEY: Nick Kyrgios has returned serve at teammate Bernard Tomic after he accused the maverick star of faking illness to avoid playing in Australia's Davis Cup tie against the United States.

The storm erupted when 20th-ranked Tomic was overheard during a changeover in his match with American John Isner on Sunday questioning Kyrgios's absence from the tie.

While in conversation with team captain Lleyton Hewitt, television microphones caught Tomic muttering: "Nick's sitting down in Canberra. Bullshit he's sick." Tomic was also heard saying "that's twice he's done it", in what has been interpreted as Kyrgios's withdrawal from the tie against the Czech Republic last year.

Tomic did not step back from his claims during the post-match media conference following his defeat to Isner, which gave the Americans a 3-1 win in the World Group tie at Kooyong in Melbourne. "He didn't come to Czech (Republic) and had stress fractures and somehow played Indian Wells and felt good," Tomic told reporters. "Now it's going to be funny for me to see whether he plays Indian Wells, then he's definitely lost a little bit of my respect." The fiery Kyrgios, who pulled out of the tie citing a virus and back trouble, took to social media to hit back. He initially made a mild acknowledgement that Tomic's criticisms had been in the "heat of the moment, not gonna take it personally, Indian Wells a week away, plenty of time." But a matter of minutes later fired back: "Just don't expect me to have your back anytime soon." He



MELBOURNE: This combination of file photos shows Australian tennis player Bernard Tomic (R) taken in Sydney on January 15, 2016 and his counterpart Nick Kyrgios (L) taken in Melbourne on January 25, 2015. — AFP

then referred in a subsequently deleted tweet to Tomic's infamous record-quick 28-minute loss to Finn Jarkko Nieminen at the Miami Open after his premature return from surgery on both hips in 2014. "Let's not forget who holds the quickest loss on the ATP tour lol #how many minutes again," wrote Kyrgios. Hewitt, in his first Davis Cup tie as Australia's captain, said Kyrgios was genuinely ill and unavailable for the Melbourne match.

Former Australian captain Wally Masur played



down the public feud, saying the pair were close friends and Tomic's criticism would not create lingering issues. "What's happened has happened, and for me the best thing is that they both play Indian Wells in five days' time," Masur told Fox Sports News on Monday. "That they just meet up in the locker room ... shake hands and just get on with it. "We don't play another Davis Cup tie until September so there will be a lot of water under the bridge from now until then." — AFP

Kuwait crowned
champion of Amir's
shooting GPLyon show
Champions
League
credentials

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

INDIA EYE WORLD T20 CROWN

Page 17



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Lakers guard Jordan Clarkson, top, falls from the rim after a dunk during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in Los Angeles, Sunday. The Los Angeles Lakers won 112-95. — AP

LAKERS HAND WARRIORS ITS SIXTH LOSS OF SEASON

LOS ANGELES: Jordan Clarkson scored 25 points, D'Angelo Russell added 21 as the Los Angeles Lakers stunned the Golden State Warriors 112-95 on Sunday, handing the defending NBA champions just their sixth loss of the season, all on the road. Kobe Bryant added 12 points in helping the Lakers earn one of the biggest upsets in NBA history and their biggest victory in a down-trodden farewell season for Bryant, who spent the fourth quarter on the bench resting his aching right shoulder. Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 18 points on a day when they were awful offensively. Klay Thompson added 15 points but the Splash Brothers were a combined 1 of 18 from 3-point range. In all, the Warriors missed 26 of 30 attempts from long range. Golden State fell to 55-6 and the Lakers improved to 13-51. The loss snapped Golden State's seven-game winning streak and was their first since a 32-point blowout defeat at Portland on Feb. 19.

ROCKETS 113, RAPTORS 107

James Harden had 40 points and 14 assists to help Houston end Toronto's franchise-record, 12-game home winning streak. The Raptors lost at home for the first time since Jan. 3 against the Chicago Bulls. The Rockets also snapped their eight-game losing streak north of the border, winning in Toronto for the first time since the 2006-07 season. Corey Brewer had 23 points off the bench for the Rockets, who trailed by as many as 18 points in the sec-

ond quarter. Dwight Howard added 21 points and 11 rebounds. Luis Scola led the Raptors with 21 points, while DeMar DeRozan had 19.

THUNDER 104, BUCKS 96

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Kevin Durant had 32 points and 12 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook posted his 10th triple-double of the season as Oklahoma City built a big early lead and held off Milwaukee. Westbrook finished with 15 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for the Thunder, who led by 21 with six minutes left in the third quarter before nearly getting overrun by the Bucks. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo picked up his third triple-double of the season with 26 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Khris Middleton scored 18 points, including 10 straight during a 24-5 run between the third and fourth quarters that drew the Bucks within 84-82 with 11:23 left. But the Thunder withstood the Bucks from there, holding Milwaukee without a field goal for about a seven-minute stretch of the fourth quarter.

PISTONS 123, TRAIL BLAZERS 103

Reggie Jackson scored 30 points in another big game against Portland as Detroit beat the Trail Blazers. Jackson scored 40 points when Detroit beat Portland on Nov. 8, including 26 in the fourth quarter. He picked up right where he left off in Sunday's rematch, scoring 11 points in

the first quarter as the Pistons took a 30-16 lead. Andre Drummond had 14 points and 18 rebounds for Detroit, and Marcus Morris added 19 points. Jackson had nine assists along with all of his scoring. Damian Lillard led the Blazers with 26 points but shot 8 of 22 from the field. Detroit led 58-51 at halftime, then scored the first nine points of the third quarter, taking a 16-point lead on Jackson's driving layup.

NUGGETS 116, MAVERICKS 114, OT

D.J. Augustin scored Denver's last eight points of overtime, including two free throws with 0.9 seconds left as the Nuggets beat Dallas. Augustin finished with 12 points to help the Nuggets get payback after an overtime loss in Dallas on Feb. 26. Kenneth Faried had 25 points and a season-high 20 rebounds for the Nuggets, who rallied from four down in the last 10 seconds of regulation. Will Barton added 20 points. Dirk Nowitzki scored 30 points and Deron Williams had 17 for the Mavericks, who have lost two straight. The game was tied when Williams missed a layup with 16.8 seconds left in overtime. After a timeout, Augustin drove the lane and was fouled by Raymond Felton. He calmly sank both free throws and Emmanuel Mudiay blocked Wesley Matthews' 3-pointer at the buzzer.

SUNS 109, GRIZZLIES 100

Devin Booker had 27 points and nine assists, Alex Len

added 19 points and 16 rebounds as Phoenix beat Memphis. Mirza Teletovic added 18 points for the Suns, who won their second straight. Tyson Chandler finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Phoenix won for only the third time in the last 18 games. Two of those wins have come against the Grizzlies. Mike Conley led Memphis with 22 points while Matt Barnes and JaMychal Green each had 17 points. Mario Chalmers scored 14 points and Lance Stephenson finished with 13. The Suns connected on 52 percent of their shots, including 12 of 28 from outside the arc. Memphis, meanwhile, was limited to 40 percent and stayed close by going 10 of 22 from 3-point range.

HEAT 103, 76ERS 98

Hassan Whiteside had seven blocked shots, including a pivotal one late as Miami won their fifth in a row, beating Philadelphia. The Sixers were short-handed and endured their 12th consecutive loss but they were a handful for the Heat. Ish Smith had 21 points and five assists to lead Philadelphia. Goran Dragic had 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists, and Dwyane Wade also had 23 points for the Heat. Whiteside had 14 points and 13 rebounds off the bench. The Heat missed 10 consecutive shots in the second half and went nearly eight minutes without a basket as the 76ers took a 72-69 lead and the margin reached 79-73 before Miami rallied. — AP

MESSI OR RONALDO? SOCCER ARGUMENT ENDS IN MURDER

MUMBAI: Indian police said yesterday a man has been charged with murdering his friend after a heated argument over whether Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo is the world's best footballer.

They said the Nigerian national stabbed one of his countrymen to death after the two of them wrangled over whether the Barcelona star or the Real Madrid forward was better.

Police Inspector Kiran Kabadi told AFP an offence of murder had been registered against Michael Chukwuma, 21, over the death of 34-year-old Obina Durumchukwu on Sunday in the northern Mumbai suburb of Nallasopara.

The friends had apparently got together on Saturday night to celebrate Durumchukwu's birthday. The following morning an argument over football turned to tragedy.

"The two Nigerian youngsters were discussing football players. One is a fan of Messi and the other was for Ronaldo," the inspector said.

"During the conversation a quarrel has taken place. The deceased threw a glass into the face of the accused person. The glass broke and caused small injuries.

"After that the accused took the broken glass and assaulted the deceased person who died due to heavy bleeding," added Kabadi. No one was available for comment at the Nigerian high commission (embassy) in New Delhi. — AFP

ZIDANE READY FOR BIGGEST TEST IN ROMA RETURN

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is preparing for his biggest game since taking charge as the Spanish giants eye a place in the Champions League quarter-finals against Roma today.

Madrid hold a commanding 2-0 lead from the first leg in the Italian capital three weeks ago, but have little room for error with the Champions League their last realistic hope of a trophy this season after a poor domestic campaign.

"For me it is the most important game because it is the next one," said Zidane. "The only thing we have to do is win the game tomorrow. That is our goal, we need to think solely about tomorrow's game.

"Many people think it is going to be easy and it won't be." Indeed, Roma have won their last seven Serie A games since coach Luciano Spalletti's return to the club in January to propel themselves back up to third.

Madrid also sit third in La Liga, 12 points adrift of runaway leaders Barcelona and four behind city rivals Atletico. However, Zidane's men did at least bounce back from their derby defeat against Atletico last weekend with a 7-1 thrashing of Celta Vigo on Saturday with Cristiano Ronaldo scoring four.

Ronaldo also opened the scoring in the first leg against Roma to take his tally in the Champions League to 12 in just seven games this season.

Nevertheless, the three-time World Player of the Year was jeered by his own fans early in the second half against Celta before exploding with four goals in 28 minutes.

And Zidane laughed off suggestions Ronaldo could be entering his final few months at the Bernabeu before a big-money move at the end of the season.

"I am the coach and I want Cristiano," said the Frenchman, who also played for Madrid between 2001 and 2006.

"They whistled me and everyone else. It is not questioning the player, it is a fan base that always wants more from their players and that is good for the players to improve and always do well.

"In the end, the fans love the players and that is the most important thing. I always see a full stadium and that says a lot."

Ronaldo is expected to be joined in attack by Gareth Bale today. The Welshman came off the bench to score against Celta in his first appearance in six weeks after a calf injury.

Bale wore socks with holes ripped out around his calves in an attempt to ease the pressure on his muscles after suffering a slew of injuries during his three years at Madrid. Lucas Vazquez, who has been praised for his tireless work in defence and attack, is likely to be the man sacrificed for Bale's return.

"He is prepared and ready to play," added Zidane. "I can't say that Gareth is going to do the same number of kilometres (as Vazquez), but the idea that we defend and attack as a team remains the same."

Luka Modric, Toni Kroos and Marcelo are also expected to return to the starting line-up after injury as all three featured in training yesterday.



MADRID: Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane (L) and Real Madrid's Portuguese defender Pepe arrive to a press conference yesterday at Real Madrid Sport City in Madrid on the eve of their UEFA Champions League football match Real Madrid CF vs AS Roma. — AFP

French international Karim Benzema remains sidelined by a thigh injury, so 18-year-old Borja Mayoral and Jese Rodriguez—who scored the crucial second goal in Rome—are expected to fight it out for a place alongside Ronaldo and Bale. — AFP



Cadillac Alghanim holds largest Cadillac convoy in Middle East

EUROPE SHARES DIP AFTER ASIA HITS 2-MONTH HIGH



ABU DHABI: United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei (right) talks to journalists during the Global Aerospace Summit in Abu Dhabi yesterday.—AFP

OIL OUTPUT FREEZE ALREADY IN PLACE: UAE

CRUDE PRICES EXPECTED TO RECOVER TO \$70 BY 2020: EXPERT

ABU DHABI: Emirati Oil Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei said yesterday that current market prices are forcing most producers to freeze oil output levels, insisting it made "no sense" to pump more crude.

"Current prices are forcing everyone to freeze. So I think it is happening as we speak," Mazrouei told reporters in Abu Dhabi. "It does not make any sense for anyone to increase production at current prices." Mazrouei said he was aware of talks to hold a meeting between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC producers, but that he has not received an invitation.

"We hear about a meeting. I have not received an official invitation for an OPEC and non-OPEC meeting," he said. "If there is an invitation, the UAE is always cooperating within OPEC," he said, adding that the cartel would first have to hold talks to decide on whether to take part in such a meeting.

"The majority of the world, 99.8 percent, maybe 99.9 percent, are not going to increase production. To the contrary many producing assets are losing now at the current oil prices... We are seeing a reduction and we will see a reduction in those fields," he said.

"This is all good news towards balancing the market. We just need to be patient. It's not happening in weeks or months. Correcting to a sustainable price will take time. I'm still optimistic that before the end of year we will see a correction."

OPEC leader Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC producer Russia, the world's two largest oil exporters, agreed last month to freeze output at January levels to prop up prices if other nations agreed to join the first global oil pact in 15 years.

Front-month Brent crude futures were trading at \$39.10 per barrel at 0745 GMT yesterday, up 38 cents from their last settlement and around a third higher than their January low, when prices fell to levels not seen since 2003. Yet the freeze accord has so far failed to have a dramatic impact on crude prices, partly because OPEC's third-largest producer Iran plans to steeply raise production after the lifting of international sanctions on the Islamic Republic in January.

Price rise

Oil prices are expected to rise gradually over the next five years but will remain well below the pre-crash level, according to a

survey of professionals who follow the oil industry. Brent prices are expected to climb from an average of \$40 per barrel in 2016 to between \$65 and \$70 per barrel by the end of the decade.

The price expectations are based on an email survey sent to more than 2,500 energy professionals working in oil and gas, banking, hedge funds, research, professional services, trading and specialist media earlier this month. More than 800 responded. The full tabulation of responses as well as summary statistics are available for download. The results are more bullish than the futures strip, where Brent is currently trading around \$50 per barrel on average in 2020. In the survey, there is a high degree of consensus about prices for the rest of 2016. Most forecasts for 2016 are tightly clustered between \$35 and \$45 per barrel. Nearly all lie between \$30 and \$50.

Brent prices have averaged just \$33 per barrel so far in 2016, so most respondents expect prices to be slightly firmer in the remainder of the year. But in the latter years covered by the survey there is far less consensus about what will happen, reflecting uncertainty about how far and how fast prices might recover from the crash.

The central forecast rises progressively by \$5 to \$10 per year between 2017 and 2020, but the range of expectations also becomes successively more dispersed. Most respondents expect prices to rise to around \$65 to \$70 per barrel by 2020. But as many as a quarter think prices will remain stuck below \$55, while another 25 percent think they will have risen to more than \$80 by then.

One way to measure the increase in uncertainty is to look at the standard deviation of survey responses over longer time horizons. The standard deviation of responses grows from less than \$8 for 2016 to \$20 by the end of the decade, suggesting uncertainty about prices at the end of the decade is almost twice as great as in the near term.

For 2016, 90 percent of forecasts lie in a \$20 range from \$30 to \$50 per barrel, but by the end of the decade the comparable range is \$60 wide from \$40 to \$100 per barrel. Despite market chatter about a looming supply crunch as a result of cuts in investment spending, only 7 percent of respondents expect Brent prices to climb back to \$100 or more by the end of the decade. — Agencies

GULF MARKETS LOSE STEAM, EGYPT RISES

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most stock markets in the Gulf lost steam yesterday after strong rises on the previous day due to climbing oil prices, but active trading volumes indicated investor sentiment remained positive. Egypt rose moderately in line with firm global bourses. The Saudi stock index, which had jumped 2.9 percent on Sunday, closed 0.1 percent lower as petrochemical blue chip Saudi Basic Industries, which had climbed 20 percent since mid-February, fell back 1.0 percent.

But there was active trade in second- and third-tier stocks such as Saudi Fisheries, which surged 5.9 percent. Abdullatif Industrial Investment Co gained 2.8 percent after its annual general meeting approved a 3 percent dividend payment for the fourth quarter.

Dubai's index, which had also gained 2.9 percent on Sunday, rose a further 1.1 percent in its heaviest trading volume since last June. Construction firm Arabtec was again the most heavily traded stock as it sunk 6.6 percent after saying in a brief statement that rumours former chief executive Hasan Ismaik would be appointed to its board were false. This was taken as a cue by speculators to take profits.

The stock had previously soared more than 60 percent since late February after Ismaik raised his stake in the builder to 11.91 percent from 11.81 percent, causing wild speculation about his intentions. The stake has not changed since then. Arabtec's pull-back failed to discourage investors in other stocks. Union Properties, the second most active stock, soared 14.4 percent and another second-tier real estate developer, Deyaar, added 6.5 percent.

Abu Dhabi's index rose 0.2 percent as First Gulf Bank retreated 0.4 percent. But Qatar's market, which had been closed for a public holiday on Sunday, jumped 2.3 percent.

Oil-sensitive stocks were particularly strong, with drilling rig provider Gulf International Services up 8.9 percent. Among petrochemical producers, Mesaieed climbed 2.5 percent and Industries Qatar added 2.2 percent. Egypt's index rose 0.8 percent as Commercial International Bank gained 1.1 percent. Palm Hills Development added 2.2 percent to 2.32 Egyptian pounds after EFG Hermes started coverage of the stock with a "buy" rating and a fair value estimate of 3.45 pounds. — Reuters

FOREIGN GOVTS PRESS SAUDI ON WORKERS' DELAYED WAGES

RIYADH/MANILA: Foreign governments are pressing authorities and executives in Saudi Arabia to ensure that local construction firms make delayed salary payments to thousands of workers, a sign of pressure on the kingdom's economy due to low oil prices.

Since late last year, the Saudi government has responded to shrinking oil revenues by clamping down on state spending to curb a budget deficit running at about \$100 billion annually. This has squeezed construction firms in the kingdom; as they have received less money from the government, they have in some cases delayed paying wages to thousands of their foreign workers. Some employees have not been paid for months.

About 10 million people, largely from south Asia, southeast Asia and other parts of the Mideast, work in Saudi Arabia. Most of them do low-paid jobs in sectors which Saudis spurn, such as construction, domestic service and retailing. Countries taking up the cause of the unpaid include the Philippines. In Manila, Labour Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz told Reuters yesterday that the Philippine embassy in Riyadh was contacting Saudi authorities to resolve the issue.

Baldoz has assigned her official in charge of workers' welfare to tackle the issue. "I am

deploying ... a fact-finding mission headed by Undersecretary Ciriaco Lagunza to meet with the workers, employers and competent authorities," she said. In recent weeks, the French ambassador to Riyadh sent a letter to the chief executive of Saudi Oger, one of the country's biggest builders with about 38,000 employees, asking him to resolve the cases of French staff who had not been paid for four months, a diplomatic source said.

Bangladeshi diplomats said they had contacted major Saudi construction firms to discuss wages that had gone unpaid for over two months. In a brief statement to Reuters, the Saudi labour ministry said all private sector companies were obliged to pay salaries on time and that it would impose sanctions against firms which were late. It did not elaborate, or comment on individual cases.

An executive at Oger said his company, like others, had been affected for several months "by the current circumstances which resulted in some delays in fulfilling our commitments to our employees".

Oger has adopted a recovery plan which will enable it to resume payments from March, the executive said, without giving financial details. He declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue. The squeeze on the construction sector has

become a major issue for the business community in the kingdom. Last month Abdulrahman Al-Zamil, president of the Council of Saudi Chambers business association, publicly asked King Salman to ensure that the government paid the companies.

At some companies, including Oger, hundreds of unpaid foreign workers have halted work and staged public protests to demand their wages, industry sources said - rare in a country where demonstrations are prohibited.

WORKERS

Foreign workers flocked to the kingdom when oil prices were high and its economy boomed, but as the outlook has darkened since late last year, some companies - particularly in the construction sector - have begun cutting staff. People with knowledge of the matter told Reuters last November that Saudi Binladin Group, another top building firm, planned to cut about 15,000 staff in one wave. Binladin did not reply to requests for comment.

Delayed payments to foreign workers, because of bureaucratic inefficiency and cash shortages, have long been an occasional feature of the construction industry in the Gulf.

But the Saudi spending clampdown

since oil prices dropped has made the situation much worse. The finance ministry has cut advance payments to firms doing state building work, the government has awarded fewer contracts, and its payments to companies for work already done have slowed. In absolute terms, the state does not lack money to pay its debts; it still has nearly \$600 billion in overseas assets. But austerity controls imposed on government departments have slowed approvals for payments and their disbursement.

The government has not disclosed a figure for the amount of money it owes the companies, but industry executives estimated privately that it could total hundreds of millions of dollars; one executive suggested at least several billion dollars. Some executives said they had been informed by authorities that the government intended to pay its debts by the end of this month. Others were sceptical, however, saying such undertakings had been made and broken repeatedly in recent months.

According to documents seen by Reuters, representatives of unpaid workers, the Saudi labour ministry and Binladin, as well as a local police representative, reached an agreement designed to resolve pay disputes after workers staged public protests in Mecca earlier this year. — Reuters

SAMSUNG Unveils Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge to Consumers in Kuwait

Next generation smartphones couple sleek design with powerful performance including advanced camera features, water resistance and external memory



Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd launched the newest additions to the Galaxy family of products, Samsung Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge to consumers in Kuwait at the Radisson Blu yesterday. Created for today's consumer lifestyle, Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge lead the industry with a refined design, more advanced camera, streamlined software functionality and unparalleled connectivity to a galaxy of products, services, and experiences.

"The Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge are very bold representations of our commitment to the hundreds of millions of people around the world who love our products and inspire our work. Class-leading camera technology, a longer-lasting battery, cutting edge processors and optimization for gaming are just some features that will make these the most innovative smartphones you've ever owned," said Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics.

Advanced Camera: High Quality Images No Matter the Time of Day or Location

Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge introduce the first Dual Pixel camera on a smartphone, delivering brighter and sharper images, even in low light. Thanks to the revolutionary Dual Pixel technology, brighter lens with wider aperture, and bigger pixel, the camera has a faster shutter speed and a more accurate autofocus even in low-light conditions. Motion Panorama, a new camera mode, brings movement to traditional panoramic photos, giving the user a completely immersive visual experience.

Refined Design and Function

The 5.1-inch Galaxy S7 and 5.5-inch Galaxy S7 edge are constructed with 3D glass and metal – all in a sleek design with durability and ergonomic curves for a comfortable grip. From work to play, the device's new Always-On Display, gives users a simplified, zero touch experience where they don't need to worry about missing a call or important notification.

Without compromising design, Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge both have increased utility with IP68 water and dust resistance. Edge UX, the advanced edge experience available on Galaxy S7 edge, provides convenience and increased efficiency by creating easy shortcuts to users' most loved functions such as email, selfie mode, panorama mode or third party applications.

Enhanced Performance: From Charging to Gaming

Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge deliver fast wired and wireless charging technology. Additionally, the hybrid SIM card tray allows users to insert a microSD card for up to 200GB of additional storage and in some select countries, the tray can be used with a

dual SIM card.

Samsung also made significant hardware and software updates to optimize gaming performance on Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge. The powerful processor and bigger battery capacity ensure longer playing time, and the internal cooling system keeps the device from overheating. Game Launcher, a new add-on for gamers, allows users to manage battery consumption and minimize notifications. Additionally, users can record their gaming experience or share their screen to play with others. Paired with Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge, Vulkan API gives users the ability to play high-performance graphic games with lower battery consumption.

The Galaxy Experience

Samsung Gulf Electronics has also announced the launch of the Galaxy Entertainer application in conjunction with the launch of the flagship Galaxy S7 and S7 edge smartphones. The partnership with the Entertainer maximizes the user experience for consumers in the Gulf region, by offering more than 1,000 'buy 1 get 1 free' offers that provides unparalleled access to several global hotspots including restaurants, cafes, premium spas, leisure attractions, golf courses, luxury hotels and much more. The combined value of the benefits (inclusive of international locations) is estimated to be over AED 390,000 worth of savings.

Samsung continues to push the boundaries of hardware, software and services to create devices that are designed to improve how consumers connect, share, organize and get more out of life. The company is redefining what is possible, beyond the limits of today's technology, by introducing a constellation of seamless mobile experiences.

Whether it's the seamless connection between Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge and the new Gear S2 Classic and Sport to monitor fitness, or connecting with Gear VR to "travel" the world – Samsung redefines what's possible for the mobile experience and beyond.

The Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge will be available at all major retailers in Kuwait starting March 14. The recommended retail price for Galaxy S7 is KWD 210, with the Galaxy S7 edge available at KWD 230.

Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge Product Specifications

	Galaxy S7	Galaxy S7 edge
OS	Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)	
Network	LTE Cat.9(450/50Mbps) May differ by markets and mobile operators *	
Dimension	x 69.6 x 7.9mm, 152g 142.4	x 72.6 x 7.7mm, 157g 150.9
AP	Octa core (2.3GHz Quad + 1.6GHz Quad), 64 bit, 14 nm process Quad core (2.15GHz Dual + 1.6GHz Dual), 64 bit, 14 nm process * May differ by markets and mobile operators	
Memory	(
Display	5.1" Quad HD Super AMOLED 2560 X 1440 (577ppi)	Quad HD Super AMOLED "5.5" 2560 X 1440 (534ppi) Edge Screen
Camera	Rear: Dual Pixel 12MP (F1.7), Smart OIS Front: 5MP (F1.7)	
Battery	3,000mAh	3,600mAh
Sensors	Fast Charging both on wired and wireless Wireless Charging compatible with WPC and PMA Accelerometer, Proximity, RGB Light, Geo-magnetic, Gyro, Fingerprint, Barometer, Hall, HRM	
IP Code	IP68	
Audio	MP3, M4A, 3GA, AAC, OGG, OGA, WAV, WMA, AMR, AWB, FLAC, MID, MIDI, XMF, MXMF, IMY, RTTTL, RTX, OTA	
Video	MP4, M4V, 3GP, 3G2, WMV, ASF, AVI, FLV, MKV, WEBM	

*All functionality, features, specifications and other product information provided in this document including, but not limited to, the benefits, design, pricing, components, performance, availability, and capabilities of the product are subject to change without notice or obligation.

About Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies that redefine the worlds of TVs, smartphones, wearable devices, tablets, cameras, digital appliances, printers, medical equipment,

network systems, and semiconductor and LED solutions. We are also leading in the Internet of Things space with the open platform SmartThings, our broad range of smart devices, and through proactive cross-industry collaboration. We employ 319,000 people across 84 countries with annual sales of US \$196 billion. To discover more, and for the latest news, feature articles and press material, please visit the Samsung Newsroom at news.samsung.com.

EUROPE SHARES DIP AFTER ASIA HITS 2-MONTH HIGH

LONDON: European shares fell yesterday, unable to maintain the momentum that took Asian equities to two-month highs after upbeat US jobs data and as oil prices rose further.

Chinese shares rose for a fifth consecutive day as reassurances by the country's leaders that the economy would remain on a sound footing soothed investors' concerns. The dollar rose against most of its peers, except the Japanese yen, as markets priced in a higher chance the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates this year and US Treasury yields edged higher.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index, which rose 0.7 percent on Friday after the jobs report, fell 0.6 percent but is still up around 7 percent this year. Britain's FTSE 100 also lost 0.6 percent.

Asian shares generally rose. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.4 percent to its highest since Jan. 4. It has recouped about 80 percent of its losses since the start of 2016.

Japanese shares snapped a four-day win-

ning streak as the yen strengthened and investors took profits on last week's sharp rally. The Nikkei 225 index closed down 0.6 percent.

Chinese shares rose after Prime Minister Li Keqiang spelled out on Saturday a new five-year economic plan, which included an average growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent and a moderate increase in the fiscal deficit to 3 percent of GDP this year.

"Chinese investors weren't expecting big fiscal stimulus at all so there's no disappoint-

ment there," said Naoki Tashiro, president of TS China Research. The CSI300 index of the biggest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen closed up 0.4 percent and the Shanghai Composite rose 0.9 percent.

Friday's forecast-beating US payrolls data, that saw 242,000 jobs created last month, assuaged fears that the US economy could be headed into recession. Market prices suggested no prospect of the Fed raising rates this month but a 50 percent chance of a June hike, according to CME Fedwatch.

However, an unexpected fall in average earnings soothed concerns that the Federal Reserve would be in a hurry to raise interest rates. The data and its implications for the global economy helped lift oil prices, which were also supported by a fall in the number of active US rigs for the 11th week in a row to its lowest since 2009.

Leuchtman, head of currencies research at Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

"But for traders it is still tricky. Clearly there will be a much bigger move if they do not deliver." The yen bucked the trend and rose 0.2 percent to 113.58 per dollar. German 10-year Bund yields fell 2.5 basis points to 0.21 percent.

"With the increase of the deficit ratio, stronger fiscal stimulus will set a floor for growth and economic expansion is likely to become faster later this year," China Merchants Securities analyst Sun Binbin told Bloomberg News. China's leaders have sought to reassure jittery global markets in recent weeks with a unified message that authorities still have the tools to keep the economy — a key driver of world growth — from a further slowdown. Shanghai stocks ended up 0.8 percent, with investors also cheered by an expected delay in a plan to speed up initial public offerings.

Among other markets, Sydney rose one percent and Seoul put on 0.1 percent. There were also gains in Taipei, Wellington and Bangkok. Hong Kong dipped 0.1 following last week's gains, but Tokyo slipped 0.6 percent after climbing around six percent over the course of last week. Shares in Chinese telecoms equipment giant ZTE were suspended in Hong Kong and Shenzhen following a report it allegedly flouted export sanctions to Iran. — AFP



Monday 07 March 2016
Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades

Table with columns: Sector, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, Change

Table with columns: Sector, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, Change

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Table with columns: Sector, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, Change



Global Stock Indices table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %

MENA Stock Indices table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %

Global Currencies Exchange Rate table with columns: Currency, Kuwait Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, Australian Dollar

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate table with columns: Currency, US Dollar, Kuwait Dinar, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, Qatari Riyal, Omani Riyal, Emirati Dirham, Egyptian Pound

Global Interest Rates table with columns: Currency, 1-Week, 1-Month, 3-Month, 6-Month, 1-Year

Global Bond Yields table with columns: Country, 2-Year, 5-Year, 10-Year, 30-Year

Commodities table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %



CADILLAC ALGHANIM HOLDS LARGEST CADILLAC CONVOY IN MIDDLE EAST

ALL-NEW ATS-V HEADLINING THE PROCESSION

KUWAIT: As part of the company's continuous support of Cadillac brand ambassadors and enthusiasts, Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, sponsored for the second time in a row the annual convoy by Kuwait Cadillac Group (KCG), which is considered the largest convoy in the Middle East, amidst an enjoyable spring atmosphere, on Saturday, February 20th, 2016. The event comes as a reflection to the huge success of last year's convoy, which was also made possible by Cadillac Alghanim's generous sponsorship.

Headlined by the all-new 2016 ATS-V, the convoy also featured more than 70 Cadillac vehicles of various models. The procession began in Al-Bidaa and continued all the way to the Green Island, escorted by the police who cleared the road for the occasion, while representatives from Alghanim Automotive and GM officials from Dubai waited for the motorcade at the Green Island. When the convoy arrived, the GM official announced the KCG as the first official organization in the Middle East to be recognized and supported by the Cadillac Brand.

KCG is comprised of passionate Kuwaiti fans that truly appreciate Cadillac's rich history and commitment in manufacturing forward-thinking luxury vehicles in terms of design, performance and technology. Since its inception, the



group has been organizing special gatherings amidst creative and youthful events, which Cadillac Alghanim has continued to sponsor as part of the company's social responsibilities and continuous involvement with the Kuwaiti youth and Cadillac fans.

The all-new Cadillac ATS-V

The first-ever ATS-V - offered as a coupe and sedan - introduces class-leading twin-turbocharged power and a comprehensive suite of design and performance systems, expanding the ATS product line and advancing the V-Series legacy with its first turbocharged entry. Building on the strengths of the award-winning ATS prod-

uct line, the V-Series adds impressive track capability to what was already the lightest and most agile-driving car in the luxury compact class. The result is a dual-purpose luxury performer - a car with true track capability right from the factory that is also a sophisticated luxury car on the road.

The ATS-V is powered by the first-ever twin-turbocharged engine in a V-Series. Rated at an SAE-certified 464 horsepower (346 kW) and 445 lb-ft of torque (601 Nm), the engine is the segment's highest-output six-cylinder and enables 0-60 performance in 3.8 seconds and a top speed of 189 mph. It is backed by a six-speed manual - with Active Rev Match, no-lift shifting and launch control - or a paddle-shift eight-speed automatic



transmission featuring launch control and Performance Algorithm Shift.

The Cadillac Twin Turbo engine supports comprehensively redesigned chassis, suspension and drivetrain systems developed to make the ATS-V one of the most agile, responsive and confident luxury performance cars on the market.

Premium Care Program

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive's showcases the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance

for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.

Adding to the luxury experience, Cadillac offers its customers in Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim the highest quality of services. The service center is equipped with a large variety of the most advanced equipment operated by a team of skilled professionals and effective consultants who ensure timely service. Visit Cadillac's showroom in Safat Alghanim in Al Rai today and do not pass up this opportunity to test-drive the most powerful Cadillac ever.



GLOBAL, GCC MARKETS REMAIN UNDER PRESSURE

KFIC REPORT CAPITAL MARKETS FOR FEBRUARY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) clarified in its financial report for February; in which the report highlights the performance of the world's major financial markets that there were negative returns. As the MSCI World Index in February fell by -1.0 percent. Along with the US equities that were measured by the S&P 500, in which it closed slightly lower by -0.4 percent. The government stated that the GDP grew at an annual rate of 1 percent in the fourth quarter, which is an improvement from an estimate of 0.7 percent. Furthermore, consumer spending also grew in January at the fastest pace in eight months.

With regards to China Shanghai Composite, it has gained 1.1 percent. As China's central bank head mentioned that the country has more room to support the economy. China's central bank reiterated assurances that it will not use currency depreciation to boost exports, and that it intends to keep the Yuan stable against a basket of currencies. In regards to the Eurozone equities, it has slipped for the second month in a row. As Euro-Area economic confidence declined to the lowest level since June. Germany's DAX index closed -3.1 percent lower, France's CAC 40 fell by -1.4 percent. On the other hand, UK's FTSE 100 finished the month flat at +0.2 percent amid global concerns, surrounding Britain's possible exit from the European Union. As most G20 finance ministers agreed that this matter would pose a risk to the world economy. In Japan's the Nikkei 225 plunged by -8.5 percent. The trigger was caused by the yen's rise and concerns over the scenario of Brexit.

Freezing of oil production

The report has shown that the commodities have witnessed mixed performances in February. WTI Crude declined by 4.3 percent to \$32.8/bbl and Brent Crude fell by 0.7 percent to \$35.4/bbl. This was derived from Saudi Arabia's initiation to freeze oil output near record levels of supply of January, in which it was agreed upon with Russia, Qatar, and Venezuela. However, this was below market expectations as markets were expecting an output reduction. Gold and silver on the other hand, reported strong gains, increasing by 10.8 percent and 4.5 percent respectively.

Rating downgrade

In Saudi Arabia, liquidity is being dampened as the government is being forced to tap into local banks for funding, trim spending and withdraw government deposits. However, SAMA contacted commercial banks to inform them that the amount they can lend as a portion of deposits has been raised to 90.0 percent from 85.0 percent. In February, for the second time in four months ratings agency S&P has downgraded Saudi Arabia's debt rating which makes it more expensive for sovereign issuers to borrow money. S&P cut its rating on Saudi Arabia's debt from A+ to A-. S&P notes that Saudi Arabia is currently primed for a deficit of 13.0 percent in 2016, on oil trading at USD 45/bbl. In Kuwait, S&P sees Kuwait weathering the current low oil price environment despite the drop in oil prices given its large fiscal and external net asset positions. Real GDP growth was forecasted at an average of

2.4 percent in 2016-2019. Subsequently, it is anticipated that Kuwait budget surpluses around 8 percent of GDP for budget years 2016-2019. In UAE, the IMF lowered its forecast for growth to 2.5 percent for 2016 from 3 percent, citing weaker investor confidence and a further drop in oil prices since October



which contributed to the downward revision. IMF also stated that the recent tightening of liquidity in the banking sector will have an adverse effect overall and slow down credit growth. However, the UAE remains in a strong position with assets providing a fiscal buffer. Qatar on the other hand, has stable outlook according to Moody's Investors Service, in which it has

affirmed the country at AA+/A-1. The outlook reflects view that the economy will remain resilient and supported by macro-economic fundamentals. Oman's sovereign credit ratings was downgraded by two notches to A3 by Moody's Investors Service and kept the rating on review for a further

periods its ratings on Bahrain to "BB" with a stable outlook, from "BBB-" with a negative outlook. This is due to the impact of falling oil prices that have impacted kingdom's revenues and its influence on its public finances.

Gulf Index rises

MSCI GCC IMI index increased by 3.6 percent in February. ADX General Index contributed to the highest gains, followed by DFM Index and QE Index. Saudi Arabia's Tadawul index rose by 1.6 percent. Positive performance came from Energy, which increased 9.2 percent, Telecom 5.5 percent, and Cements 6.2 percent. Negative performance came from Hotels at 15.5 percent which continued to witness a decline in occupancy rates. Dubai's DFM index surged 8.1 percent higher with Telecom rising 9.8 percent, Real Estate 16.1 percent, and Financial Services 17.6 percent. Abu Dhabi's ADX index increased by 7.3 percent as Energy rose 16.2 percent, Financial Services 14.9 percent, and Real Estate 13.5 percent. Consumer Staples declined by 3.5 percent. Kuwait's weighted index increased by 1.4 percent. Strong performance came from Consumer Goods which rose 15.9 percent and Oil & Gas increased 3.4 percent. Qatar's QE index surged by 4.3 percent with positive contribution coming from Banking, which rose 5.1 percent. Bahrain's BB index fell 0.8 percent with negative contribution coming from Industries 6.1 percent.

Stunning Lexus 'F Range' cars on display at Kuwait Yacht Show



GS F, RC F AND RX F SPORT SET ENGINES ROARING AND HEARTS BEATING



KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer and Lexus, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies has partnered with the 4th edition of the Kuwait Yacht Show as one of the sponsors. The event which was held at the Marina Crescent under the patronage of HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait represented by Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs.

According to Simon Frith Business Director Lexus Kuwait "It's a great honor to partner with 2016 edition of Kuwait Yacht Show - national event with an international appeal. There is no better time to showcase recently launched F Series models. Lexus F cars are the pinnacle of performance. Powered by innovative engineering F series aims to set new benchmark for the middle east luxury high performance car segment. Through partnering such high-profile events we aim to connect and engage with consumers passionate

about luxury and performance for an ultimate driving experience." The Kuwait Yacht Show engages all the various entities of Kuwait's society from private to public, from companies to individuals, from marine to luxury lifestyle and across to the media sector and more.

Bader Musaed Al-Sayer Deputy Business Director Lexus Kuwait said "Lexus F series stand for fast dynamic response, high efficiency and seamless performance on everyday roads in addition to racetracks that can be enjoyed by everyone. 3 models from Lexus under the F range - GS F, RC F and the RX F Sport have been displayed at the Yacht Show event"

From the most affordable fishing boats and jet skis to the most luxurious large yachts, Kuwait Yacht Show caters to all sea lovers. The 2016 edition of Kuwait Yacht Show recorded 30 percent increase in the value of the exhibits, hosting over 75 exhibitors each varying in size and product range.



AN OIL OUTPUT FREEZE WOULD HAVE A LIMITED IMPACT

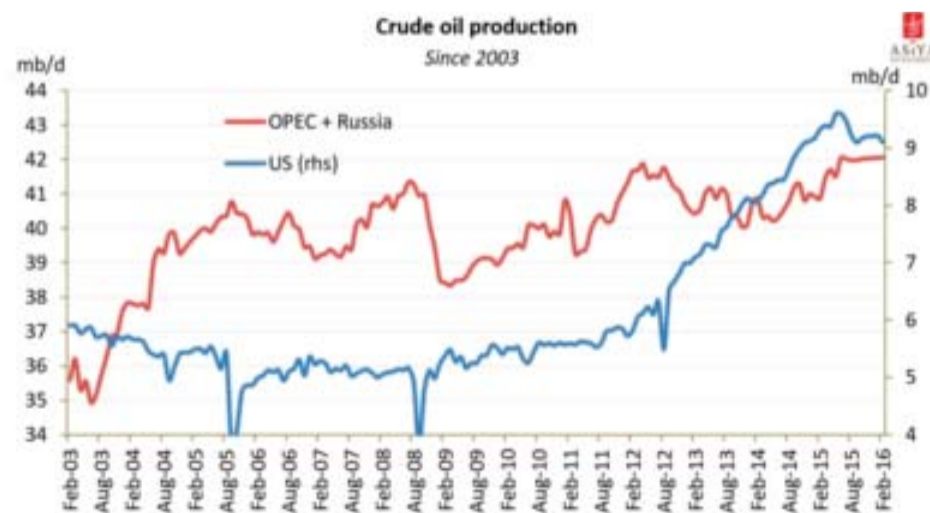
Asiya Capital Investments Company Report

By Camille Accad

KUWAIT: The Russian energy minister announced on Tuesday that over 15 countries had already announced their intention to join the agreement. According to the Russian energy minister, that would be equivalent to 73 percent of global oil supply, a substantial success. That number seems to be exaggerated or inaccurate. Assuming that the United States, Canada, China and Iran are not in the agreement (they account for 26 percent of global production), it would imply that all other oil producers in the world have agreed to the freeze.

A coordinated oil output freeze will have little impact on global supply since the group of countries in the agreement will freeze production at record-high levels. OPEC members and Russia are already producing around record highs with little room to produce more. Thus, a freeze would only succeed at controlling a small part of the potential increase in future oil output. Exceptions are (a) Iran and Iraq, which will most likely be given an output allowance since both countries are producing much less than their full capacity and will not accept any cap at current levels?, and (b) Libya, which despite producing much less than full capacity remains severely handicapped by a disrupting civil war.

Despite having little effect on actual oil production, the agreement would produce important benefits for oil exporters. First, the deal would create a wider-than-OPEC framework for decision making. Second, it creates a mechanism for producers to track each other's production levels - the details are already under discussion. Transparency has been a recurrent problem for OPEC members



Source: Asiya Research on EIA, 2016.

and steps on this direction will improve the effectiveness of future decisions. Finally, a production freeze is a prerequisite to potential coordinated output cuts. Although production cuts remain unlikely for this year, an agreement would open the door for such a possibility.

In spite of the potential agreement, the clearing of the supply glut is underway, because US output, the main source of production increase in the last decade, has already started to adjust. Between January 2012 and December 2014, global oil supply rose from around 76.5 million barrels per day to around 80 million bpd. The main contributor was the US, whose production surged by 3.5 million bpd. US crude oil output peaked in May 2015 at 9.6

million bpd, and has since fallen by around 500,000 bpd, because of the high cost of extracting shale in a low oil price environment. Saudi Arabia's decision to ramp up production in 2015 in a bid to fight for market share led to the sharper decline in oil prices in the second half of last year. With US production already falling and global output peaking, an agreement between the major oil producers is not necessary to clear the supply glut, especially if Iran would not have to immediately comply to the freeze. Moreover, tensions in the Middle East - marked by a bruised relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Russia and Arab states - further suggests that such a deal would have to come out of necessity.

ABK CONTINUES TO IMPLEMENT ITS 'SIMPLER' BANKING STRATEGY



KUWAIT: In line with its commitment to making Banking 'Simpler' for its customers, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced that it has deployed a series of new developments to its digital channels, which are now live to all ABK customers. The new enhancements allow customers to manage their banking needs more securely, conveniently and in less time.

The first of these developments applied by ABK is the suppression of all SMS' for any transactions made for the value of 1 KWD or less. For cash withdrawals from Knet ATMs, subscribed customers will receive only one summary message, as opposed to the two messages customers used to receive.

ABK has also applied an all new 'Automatic Caller ID Recognition' system. This allows any customer calling the ABK Call Centre from a mobile number registered in the Bank's SMS subscription database to be automatically identified. In this case, the customer is only required to enter the four digit PIN number for verification, instead of the need to identify themselves. Due to this development, calls are less time consuming since keystrokes

have been reduced substantially and customers no longer need to have their card and account details in hand prior to the call.

The 'Priority Call Center Queue for International Callers' system is another enhancement introduced by the Bank, where customers calling from abroad are now automatically identified and transferred to a 'priority queue', minimizing the waiting time. The Bank will also be rolling out a much simpler menu structure for those callers, which will be announced in due time.

Last but not least, customers can now pay their utility bills and enjoy other services (e.g. iTunes Cards) easily and securely, from anywhere, by simply calling Ahlan Ahli at 1899 899, and selecting the relevant IVR option.

ABK is proudly creating a unique and differentiated experience for its customers and will continue to develop its systems to better cater to their changing needs.

For more information on Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com or contact an ABK representative via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



CANON TO LAUNCH FIRST VIDEO CAMERA WITH ISO 4 MILLION AT CABSAT 2016

DUBAI: Canon Middle East is all set to take video capturing to newer and greater heights by launching the new ME20F-SH multi-purpose video camera at CABSAT 2016.

Canon's 'magic camera', the ME20F-SH is a professional multi-purpose video camera capable of capturing full colour images in extremely low-light environments. Boasting an industry-leading unrivalled maximum ISO of over 4 million (+75dB) the camera can capture 'never before seen' colour footage in almost complete darkness (0.0005 lux), plus additional support for infrared (IR) filming.

Supporting image capture in situations where it previously would not have been possible, the ME20F-SH is ideal for use within specialist applications such as TV productions of night-time wildlife, deep sea/cave exploration, astronomy

and surveillance. The ability to install the camera in a semi-permanent location, with remote control operability also means that for documentary and natural history filmmakers, long term projects and events can be captured with minimum staffing.

Canon, having exhibited at CABSAT for several years now, will showcase its first-class 4K range in its entirety for the first time in the Middle East - with 4K lenses, sensors and reference displays all on show to demonstrate the company's advanced glass-to-glass 4K workflow.

A SPECIAL 4K EXPERIENCE ZONE

The Canon stand will include dedicated areas for live capture, providing visitors with the opportunity to get hands on with Canon's 4K and Full HD product range through a series of shooting scenarios, review and editing processes. A

variety of live demonstrations including cinema shooting and documentary shooting will also be available to visitors.

Canon will have a special 4K Experience Zone which will feature the unique 4K Projector - the XEED 4K500ST, a first-of-its-kind projector to be launched in the Middle East. The zone will have other 4K technology such as the highly anticipated EOS-1D X Mark II, its new flagship DSLR that shoots 14 frames per second (fps) with full AF/AE tracking and 16 fps in Live View mode, the EOS C300 Mark II, a 4K video camera specially designed for filmmakers and broadcast producers and XC10, a compact, lightweight video and digital stills 4K camera.

"As the industry realises the benefits of 4K within a professional workflow, Canon has been developing our product range to meet the needs of our profes-

sional imaging customers," said Hendrik Verbrugghe, Marketing Director, Canon Middle East. "Canon recognises that demand for higher quality production is going to grow. This year at CABSAT 2016 will be displaying the full set of tools needed for this next step forward in versatile 4K content production."

At the show, broadcast and cinematography professionals will be able to get hands-on with Canon's full range of 4K and Full HD products, as well as having the opportunity to experience the full power of its optics portfolio. Industry professionals will also be able to experience the full power of the company's optics portfolio with the opportunity to touch and try Canon's extensive range of lenses, from broadcast to cinema and EF lenses. Canon Middle East will be present in Hall 4, Stand D1-20 at CABSAT 2016, at Dubai World Trade Centre.



Hendrik Verbrugghe

CHINA LOOKS TO RAMP UP INTERNET GROWTH, AND ITS CONTROLS

BEIJING: China's government has highlighted big data, encryption technology and "core technologies" such as semiconductors as the key elements of its push to grow into a tech powerhouse, according to a new five-year plan released Saturday that envisages the Internet as a major source of growth as well as a potential risk.

Even as it highlighted the need to improve Internet infrastructure to rural areas and unlock the digital economy's potential, Chinese economic planners called for a more secure and better managed Web, with enhanced Internet control systems, Internet security laws and real-name registration policies.

Chinese officials including Internet czar Lu Wei have played down concerns over what critics have described as China's expanding Web censorship, saying that it is the Chinese government's sovereign prerogative and a necessary measure to maintain domestic order.

China's development plan calls for a better cybersecurity approval system and more "precise" Web management to "clean up illegal and bad information."

The plan also calls for a multilateral, democratic, transparent and international governance system and active participation in international Internet governance efforts.

Premier Li Keqiang highlighted the promise of the Internet, saying Saturday that various traditional sectors, ranging from manufacturing to government to health care, need to connect to the Web and raise their efficiency as part of an overarching national strategy called "Internet Plus." He vowed to raise research and technology spending to account for 2.5 percent

of gross domestic product in the five years through 2020, which he said would mark a "remarkable achievement."

The five-year plan calls for all families in large cities to have access to 100 megabyte-per-second Internet service and broadband coverage reaching 98 percent of the population in incorporated villages.

At the same time, Chinese leaders, wary of over-relying on foreign technology, will seek to boost China's homegrown industry and cut down on imports - a strategy that has drawn complaints from trade partners like the United States.

Similar to previous years, when Chinese leaders highlighted industries such as e-commerce as a growth focus, the new draft of China's development plan specifically elevated big data and cloud computing, relatively new and promising fields that Chinese industry experts view as not yet cornered by U.S. companies that dominate other parts of the technology market.

The plan also calls for China to catch up on "core" technologies such as semiconductors and basic computer parts and software, as well as encryption technology.

China's campaign to beef up its chip technology has encountered political resistance from the United States. China's national chip champion, Tsinghua Unigroup, said last month that it would abandon its attempt to acquire a stake in California data storage firm Western Digital, the second deal it has scrapped because of opposition from US regulators who do not want sensitive technology to fall into Chinese hands. —AP

EMAIL INVENTOR RAY TOMLINSON DIES AT 74

WASHINGTON: Ray Tomlinson, the US programmer credited with inventing email in the 1970s and choosing the "@" symbol for the messaging system, died at the age of 74, his employer said Sunday.

Tomlinson invented direct electronic messages in 1971. Before his invention, users could only write messages to others on a limited network. "A true technology pioneer, Ray was the man who brought us email in the early days of networked computers," his employer, the defense contractor and electronics giant Raytheon, said in a statement.

"His work changed the way the world communicates and yet, for all his accomplishments, he remained humble, kind and generous with his time and talents, he will be missed by one and all." A company spokesman said Tomlinson died on Saturday, and the cause of death was not yet confirmed.

Tributes poured in from the online world. "Thank you, Ray Tomlinson, for inventing email and putting the @ sign on the map. #RIP," Google's Gmail team tweeted.

Vint Cerf, considered one of the fathers of the Internet who was once a manager of the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), lamented the "very sad news" of Tomlinson's passing.

When Tomlinson invented the "user@host" standard for email addresses, it was applied at DARPA's ARPANET, a US government computer network that is considered the Internet's precursor. He was the first to use the @ symbol in this way, to distinguish a user from its host.

At the time personal computers were virtually unknown, and the use of personal email now a keystone of electronic communications-would not be adopted at a mass scale until the 1990s.

FIRST MESSAGE 'QWERTYUIOP'?

Tomlinson, a graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, detailed his creation on his blog in an attempt to prevent legend from overtaking the facts.

"The first message was sent between two



OVIEDO: This file photo taken on October 22, 2009 shows US programmer Raymond Samuel Tomlinson arriving prior to the presentation of the Prince of Asturias awards in Oviedo Spain. Tomlinson, who implemented the first email system, died reportedly of a heart attack on March 5, at age 74. His death was confirmed by the Internet Hall of Fame. — AFP

machines that were literally side by side" connected only through ARPANET, Tomlinson wrote.

"I sent a number of test messages to myself from one machine to the other. The test messages were entirely forgettable and I have, therefore, forgotten them.

"Most likely the first message was QWERTYUIOP or something similar," he added, referring to the first row of letters on the traditional English-language keyboard. "When I was satisfied that the program seemed to work, I sent a message to the rest of my group explaining how to send messages over the network. The first use of network email announced its own existence."

The international non-profit Internet Society, which promotes Internet-related education,

standards and policies, said that the Internet community "has lost one of our true innovators and pioneers." Tomlinson was inducted into the society's Internet Hall of Fame in the "innovator" category in 2012.

According to his Hall of Fame biography, Tomlinson's email software was widely distributed for years, "and proved to be an exceptionally innovative solution."

Tomlinson also played a leading role in developing the first email standards. "I see email being used, by and large, exactly the way I envisioned," Tomlinson told the online tech publication The Verge in May 2012. "Everybody uses it in different ways, but they use it in a way they find works for them," he said. —AFP



Codemotion team and participants.

EUROPE'S BIGGEST TECH CONFERENCES CODEMOTION IS COMING TO DUBAI

DUBAI: Codemotion, one of Europe's largest tech conferences devoted to developing an ecosystem of innovation in coding, will arrive for the first time in the UAE on 1-2 April, offering a unique platform for pioneering developers and technical talents to meet and discuss the latest trends and advances in the field.

Codemotion is now a regular feature on the tech conference calendar in eight countries, including the UK, Italy, Spain, Germany, Poland, Ireland, Netherlands, and the UAE, with 11 scheduled conferences now operating across the EMEA region.

The first Codemotion Dubai will be held at the Impact Hub in Downtown Dubai, with the two-day conference set to offer up a series of presentations, talks, and workshops, as well as highlighting services for start-ups and regionally based companies. Codemotion's event partners include Dubai Internet City, Google Developer Group Dubai, Wamda, and Impact Hub.

Key topics on the conference agenda include areas dedicated to Devops (enterprise software), the Cloud, Big Data, game development, security, web

development, coding methodologies, and IoT (the "Internet of Things").

For Dubai's first Codemotion event, the line up of speakers include some of Silicon Valley's foremost coding experts as well as those from around the region and other international markets. These include speakers from Google, Amazon, Namshi, Jet.com and propertyfinder.

"As one of the most successful coding events in Europe, we're extremely excited to be bringing Codemotion to Dubai and to tap into a burgeoning market of tech savvy developers and companies," said Mohamad Harastani, Codemotion Regional Partner.

"We are confident that the UAE and region's tech community can seriously be enhanced by an event of this nature and we look forward to welcoming some of the most exciting regional talent for what should be a fantastic two days of discussion and discovery," Mohamad Harastani added.

If you are interested in being part of Codemotion Dubai 2016, visit their website <http://dubai2016.codemotion-world.com/> for more information. General admission to the event is USD150 (AED552) per visitor.



AMERICAN COMPANY BUNGLED EBOLA RESPONSE

'THEY MESSED UP ON EBOLA. THAT CAN HAPPEN'

WASHINGTON: A US company assigned a crucial role in the efforts to battle Ebola in Sierra Leone made a series of costly mistakes during the 2014 outbreak, an Associated Press investigation has found. Staffers with the San Francisco-based company, Metabiota Inc, not only misread the epidemic, they contributed to botched lab results, undermined partners and put people at risk of the terrifying virus, according to leaked documents and interviews with international health responders.

The company had been tapped by the World Health Organization and the Sierra Leonean government to help fight Ebola. But internal emails from WHO and other international health agencies obtained by AP show senior scientists were alarmed at a spate of problems in a lab shared by Metabiota and Tulane University. "This is a situation that WHO can no longer endorse," WHO outbreak expert Dr Eric Bertherat wrote in a July 17, 2014, email to colleagues. Bertherat relayed reports of "total confusion" in the government lab split between Metabiota and Tulane at the Kenema hospital in Sierra Leone, noting there was "no tracking of the samples" and "absolutely no control on what is being done." He said the flubbed results were particularly dangerous given suspicion among the local population that international workers were spreading Ebola deliberately.

Outbreak response

Metabiota chief executive officer and founder Nathan Wolfe said no evidence shows his company was responsible for the lab blunders, that the reported squabbles were overblown and that any predictions made by his employees who were on loan to the Sierra Leonean government didn't reflect the company's position. He said Metabiota doesn't specialize in outbreak response and that his employees performed admirably amid the carnage of the world's biggest-ever Ebola outbreak.

"We are incredibly proud about everything they did," he said at an interview in his office Thursday. "These are individuals who took substantial personal risk and worked incredibly long hours." Metabiota's problems mirror the wider mismanagement that hamstrung the world's response to Ebola, which has killed upward of 11,000 people. Previous AP reporting



has shown that WHO resisted sounding the alarm over Ebola for two months on political, religious and economic grounds and failed to put together a decisive response even after the alert was issued.

Metabiota bills itself as a pioneer in tracking emerging viral threats and says it works to "improve the world's resilience to epidemics." The firm and its nonprofit sister company, Global Viral, have received millions from the US Department of Defense, USAID, Google and the California-based Skoll Foundation.

In the early months of the 2014 Ebola outbreak, with WHO and partners thin on the ground, authorities in neighboring Sierra Leone turned to Metabiota to help respond to the epidemic in Kenema. The company had been in the country since 2009 and supported the government on issues including outbreak investigation and laboratory work. At first, Metabiota appeared to be doing well; according to an account on its website, company staffers helped to train hundreds of health workers under the guidance of WHO.

Questioning

But within weeks, the virus exploded across the country and, as the death toll mounted, experts began questioning the work being done at the lab in Kenema shared by Metabiota and Tulane, which had its own long-standing project researching Lassa fever and other diseases. When Gary Kobinger, head of special pathogens at the Public Health Agency of Canada, double-checked some of the facility's work in mid-July, he found worrying discrepancies in four of eight tests and identified as many as five people wrongly diagnosed with Ebola, according to emails obtained by AP. "If you detect two, three, four, five, how many are out there?" Kobinger said in a recent interview. The mistakes sparked concern about bigger problems in the lab - worries relayed all the way up to WHO's Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan.

"Several patients have been wrongly tested positive in these labs," Geneva-based staffer Pat Drury told Chan in an email, adding that Metabiota and Tulane did not meet international biosecurity standards. Metabiota founder Wolfe said "we did wonderful lab work as far as I'm concerned." He said that errors in the shared facility stopped once "other groups" were pulled from Ebola testing. Documents show Metabiota and Tulane blamed each other for the mistakes.

Eventually, US health official Austin Demby was sent to evaluate the Kenema facility at the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Sierra Leonean government. Demby wrote in an email to US officials that the lab lacked an ultraviolet light for decontamination and didn't have enough space to process blood samples safely. He put much of the blame on Tulane's diagnostics, saying Metabiota's tests were always closer to the mark and that Tulane's "add no real value."

Demby found the shared lab a mess, though. "The cross contamination potential is huge and quite frankly unacceptable," he wrote in late July. Soon after Demby's report, both Metabiota and Tulane suspended their Ebola tests. Despite Metabiota's performance, Wolfe's firm has largely been congratulated on its work in West Africa. Last year, the company raised some \$30 million in investment intended to support its efforts "to further develop and deliver epidemic risk management worldwide," according to a press release. —AP

SAILORS FACE MORE LENIENT BODY FAT RULES

SAN DIEGO: The Navy is giving another chance to thousands of sailors who otherwise would be kicked out for repeatedly failing their physical fitness tests because they exceeded body fat limits. The service branch loosened its body fat restrictions in January and is allowing those who failed their exams three or more times to get one more opportunity to be tested this spring under the more lenient guidelines. The Navy said it has been losing too many talented sailors. Some were resorting to liposuction, diet pills and other measures to save their careers.

The Navy allowed about 2,400 sailors who passed a preliminary test under the new rules to stay in, reducing the number of failures on their records from three to one, said Navy spokesman, Lt Cmdr Nate Christensen. In the past, three failures were grounds for being kicked out. The sailors will be measured again this spring and allowed only two failures now instead of three. The changes are the latest by the military looking to improve its abilities to recruit and retain talented people as it builds up its cyber-warfare strategy and faces competition from a rebounding economy.

Health problems

A 2014 Pentagon study found that roughly two-thirds of Americans would not qualify to enlist in the armed services as a result of health problems, obesity and the failure to complete a high school education. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said the service is not lowering standards but rather adjusting to reality: People today, in general, are bigger but not necessarily fat. The Navy is also considering larger uniforms sizes for the first time in two decades. "It's far more realistic," Mabus said of the new body fat standard. "We were kicking more people out of the Navy for failing that, than for drugs."

The number of sailors booted from the Navy annually because they did not meet physical standards has more than doubled from 694 in 2011 to 1,536 in 2014. The changes come amid debate over whether the physical requirements demanded of service members across the board are still relevant or should be adjusted according to the job so the armed forces can maintain the pool of talent it needs for today's high-tech warfare.

There's been talk in the Army of easing up on strict body fat requirements for its cyber-warriors, for example. All branches are reviewing their job standards to mod-

ernize their forces and prepare for the opening of combat posts to women.

From drone operators to cyber-warfare officers, "there are a number of officers in jobs where it is really obvious why it would not make whole lot of difference what their weight is, other than to the extent that the culture in the military disrespects it and therefore, they can't lead," said former Army officer James Joyner, who teaches at the Marine Corps University. He believes the military must change. "It's absurd the percentage of high



CALIFORNIA: Petty Officer Lentoyi White does pushups while training with fellow Petty Officer Theresa White in Coronado. —AP

school teenagers who are considered to be too fat to join the military," Joyner said. "Maybe there are two problems: One, obesity, and the other that the standards are out of date and not relevant."

Some 34,000 sailors, or roughly 10 percent of the force, have failed the physical requirements at least once since 2011, mostly because of body fat, Christensen said. The Navy's old policy allowed for 22 percent body fat for males ages 17-39, and 33 percent body fat for females ages 17-39. Sailors age 40 and older were allotted one additional percentage

point or 23 percent for males and 34 percent for women over 40.

'Tape test'

The new limits fall in line with the Department of Defense standards and allow sailors to pass with a maximum 26 percent of body fat for men and 36 percent for women. Service members have long complained that the Defense Department's method of estimating body fat punishes bulkier, muscular builds. Plastic surgeons in

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN GAIN ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING CONTRACEPTION

BOGOTA: Access to potentially life-saving contraception and abortion can be a lottery for women and girls in Latin America, often depending on their ability to pay or the personal and religious views of a health worker, Amnesty International said yesterday.

In a new report, the rights group looked at sexual and reproductive healthcare in eight countries - El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. "Tragically, for women across Latin America, receiving life-saving medical treatment depends on the good will of a health professional or the depth of her pockets," Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty, said in a statement. "This outrageous and utterly illegal lottery-style approach to health care is putting thousands of lives at risk," she said.

Latin America has some of the world's strictest abortion laws, with seven countries imposing total bans on the procedure under any circumstances. In most countries in the region, abortion is only allowed in cases of rape, incest or if the life of the mother is in danger.

The influential Catholic Church, along with evangelical churches, which say life begins at the moment of conception, are a driving force behind the region's strict abortion laws. Another reason is the pervasive cultural stereotypes that promote the role of women "first and foremost as mothers," the report said. It cited the case of a pregnant 10-year-old girl in Paraguay who was denied an abortion in 2015 after she had been allegedly raped by her stepfather. In the Dominican Republic, 16-year-old Rosaura Hernandez, died of leukemia in 2012 after doctors delayed her

treatment because she was pregnant, the report said. Hernandez wanted an abortion, allowing her to undergo cancer treatment, but doctors refused as abortion is banned in the Caribbean nation.

In the few countries where abortion is legal, such as Uruguay, women seeking abortions still face obstacles as health workers use their right to declare themselves as conscientious objectors and refuse to perform the procedure, Amnesty said. Such attitudes can force women to undergo dangerous backstreet abortions, which were the cause of at least one in 10 maternal deaths in Latin America in 2014, the report said. Around 760,000 women each year in Latin America are treated in hospital for complications linked to unsafe abortions.

Zika virus

The spread of the Zika virus, linked to birth defects among children in Brazil, has revived the debate about easing abortion laws in Latin America and the need to improve access to contraception, including emergency contraception. One in three women of reproductive age in Latin America who would like to use contraceptives do not have access to them, according to the United Nations Population Fund. So far four countries in the region - Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador and Jamaica - have recommended women delay getting pregnant due to the Zika virus.

"This recommendation is not just absurd, it is insulting in a region where more than half of pregnancies are unwanted or unplanned, where there are extremely high rates of sexual violence, where the demand for contraception far outstrips availability," Amnesty's report said. —Reuters



INDONESIA: File photo shows firemen spray water to contain burning wild-fire in Ogan Ilir, South Sumatra, Indonesia. —AP

INDONESIA AGENCY PUSHES PLAN TO TACKLE DEFORESTATION, FIRES

JAKARTA, Indonesia: Indonesia's anti-graft commission yesterday said government agencies have agreed on a plan to combat corruption in the forestry industry that costs the state billions of dollars in lost revenue and is behind fires that pollute Southeast Asia. The attempt to address a longstanding crisis in the management and conservation of Indonesia's prized tropical forests comes after a study by the anti-corruption commission estimated that the commercial value of undeclared logging was \$60.7 billion to \$81.4 billion between 2003 and 2014. The study released in October estimated the government's loss of revenue from royalties at \$6.5 billion to \$9 billion over the same period.

Dian Patria, head of corruption prevention for natural resources at the Corruption Eradication Commission, said top officials from other ministries and agencies have given their backing to the plan. Protecting extensive tropical forests that are among the largest in the world is a key issue for Indonesia and Southeast Asia. Unreported timber production deprives the Indonesian government of revenue it could use to improve infrastructure and services for its still largely poor population of more than 250 million.

Annual burning of forests and peat land in Sumatra and Kalimantan to clear land for palm oil plantations and other agriculture is a regular bane for Malaysia, Singapore, southern Thailand and parts of Indonesia.

The fires produce a smoky haze that is a health hazard, often forcing people indoors and shutting down schools and airports.

Monica Tanuhandaru, the executive director of Kemitraan, which lobbies for clean government and business, said the plan is significant but will require continual support from President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to be fully implemented.

The plan developed by the anti-corruption commission, along with Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Finance, Supreme Audit Agency, and financial regulatory agencies, leans heavily on technology to build an accurate picture of where illegal deforestation and conversion of peat land into farmland is occurring. The anti-corruption commission hopes use of Land sat satellites, drones and LIDAR pulsed laser-based mapping will identify land clearing on a close to real-time basis. That will provide the information for prosecuting companies that log more than they declare. According to the report released in October, official statistics on timber production capture less than a quarter of what is cut down.

The plan also requires the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to disclose more information about its monitoring efforts. For the first time, it would issue quarterly reports on where deforestation and peat land conversion has occurred and also detail what law enforcement actions it has taken. —AP

CELLEX DISCONTINUES LATE-STAGE STUDY OF BRAIN CANCER VACCINE

NEW YORK: Celldex Therapeutics Inc said it would discontinue a late-stage study of its brain cancer vaccine after an independent interim analysis suggested the therapy might not show a statistically significant difference in survival rates compared with chemotherapy. The company's shares plummeted about 60 percent to \$3.28 in premarket trading yesterday.

The vaccine, Rintega, is designed to target a specific genetic mutation seen in

about 30 percent of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) tumors. After a preplanned interim analysis, the independent data safety and monitoring board estimated that overall survival of patients with newly-diagnosed GBM who were given Rintega was at a par with those in the control group. Based on the board's recommendation, Celldex is abandoning the study, it said, adding that it did not expect to incur substantial additional costs related to Rintega. —Reuters



INDIA: A local municipal worker collects dead fish at Ulsoor Lake in Bangalore yesterday. —AP photos



INDIA: Lifeless fish float near a bank of Ulsoor Lake.

THOUSANDS OF DEAD FISH WASH UP ON THE BANKS OF INDIA RIVER

BANGALORE, India: Thousands of dead fish washed up on the banks of a polluted lake yesterday in India's southern technology hub of Bangalore. A stink pervaded the air in a residential district around Ulsoor Lake in central Bangalore. Sewage has been flowing into the lake, depleting its oxygen, said V Purushottam, president of a residents' group.

Kiran Kumar, an environmentalist, said water samples were being collected for testing. Purushottam said authorities ignored pleas to repair a barrier that was supposed to keep sewage from flowing into the lake.

The lake is a popular fishing and boating site, but it has been choked with water hyacinth with no effort by authorities to clear it, he said. Last year, a toxic froth spilled over to some of Bangalore's streets due to extreme levels of pollution in Bellandur Lake and flames were seen in another polluted lake in the city, Indian newspapers reported. Tests found extremely high amounts of phosphorous and other inorganic chemical compounds in the lake, the reports said. More than half of its 1.2 billion people still defecate in the open, causing rivers and lakes to stink with sewage. —AP

ONCE EXTINCT, WORLD'S LAST WILD HORSE RETURNS TO RUSSIAN STEPPES

'THERE ARE FEW PLACES WITH NO HUMAN INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD'

MOSCOW: If the world's only surviving wild horses had a say in the matter, they might opt for a cozy stable and fresh daily oats, scientists studying them joke. But the path out of oblivion for the species known as Przewalski's horse which only two decades ago was extinct in the wild lies in getting on a plane to China, Mongolia and, most recently, the Russian steppes with their deep snow and icy winds.

Six animals born at a reserve in the south of France are now spending their first winter in Russia's flagship reintroduction project for the species. Eventually scientists hope to have 100 of the endangered animals on the site in the Orenburg Reserves, a cluster of six strictly protected nature areas along the border with Kazakhstan. The area spanning more than 16,500 hectares (40,770 acres) is "the largest unbroken, strictly protected plot of virgin steppe in Russia," safeguarded, ironically, by the fact that it belonged to the military for decades, said Przewalski's horse expert Tatjana Zharkikh, who heads the reintroduction project.

'They are quite happy'

"They are quite happy," she told AFP in an interview, despite the harsh climate in the region, with extreme snowfall which in January trapped several drivers on a local highway, leading to a man's death. The animals actually enjoy rolling around in the snow, scratching their backs on the crusty surface, she said. "They are not afraid of wind, snow, cold... If the Przewalski's horse has enough food, it is practically invincible." Yet, she quipped: "If you ask them, they will tell you: we want a warm stable, daily oats, fresh grass and maybe strawberries and cream. But this is a wild animal and it has to be in its natural habitat."

Despite its hardiness and monumental efforts by conservationists to save the endangered species, there is "still a long way before the Przewalski's horse can be considered saved from extinction," said Frederic Joly of the Association for the Przewalski's horse (TAKH) in France, which provided the animals for the Orenburg project. Native to China, the stocky, tan-colored horse with a spiky mane once inhabited the Eurasian steppe extending through Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Bred to be wild

The species was discovered by Russian explorer Nikolai Przhevalsky who described it in the 19th century, leading to a surge of interest in Europe, followed by a brutal campaign to capture these animals. Herds were chased down to exhaustion to capture the young foals, said Zharkikh, but in the end the process secured enough animals to save the species after they had gone extinct in their natural habitat. All 2,000 animals existing today are descendants of just 12 wild-caught horses, including a mare from Mongolia called Orlitsa, gifted to Soviet chairman Kliment Voroshilov during a visit in 1957, and breeding a viable population from

such a limited gene pool has been a headache.

Adding to that headache is the fact that the Przewalski's horse can breed with domestic horses to produce fertile hybrids, threatening to dilute the species decades down the line. Although the Russian project meant to set the

horses rather than a species?" A wild population would only work if the protected area is much larger, she said, 100,000 hectares or even more, and if such a park is created in the future, it can be populated with Przewalski's horses from the project. "Our goal is to form a reserve of geneti-



MOSCOW: A picture shows Przewalski horses on a snow covered field in the Orenburg Reserves, a cluster of six nature reserves near the border with Kazakhstan. —AFP photos



MOSCOW: A picture shows Przewalski horse eating hay on a snow.

horses completely free in the wild, scientists eventually rejected this idea as too risky after studying the experience of other reintroduction centers, opting instead to build a fence around the entire area. The problem is, young mares who venture out of a protected park can breed with horses kept by herders in nearby villages and then bring hybrid offspring back to the population of Przewalski's horses.

Not 'cute shaggy-haired horses'

"Even a few hybrids can cancel out all conservation efforts," said Zharkikh. "What is the point of protection if they are just cute shaggy-haired

cally pure animals," said Rafilya Bakirova, director of Orenburg Reserves that hosts the project, dreaming of expanding the project and cross-border cooperation with Kazakhstan. "For now we just want to survive the winter," she said.

Although the species is considered a conservation success, Joly of the TAKH association in France conceded that it is becoming nearly impossible to find a place where Przewalski's horse can be truly wild. "Even sites that look wild like Russian or Mongolian steppes are not completely devoid of human activity," he said. "It indeed shows that there are very few places with no human influence in the world." —AFP

AUSTRALIA'S 'UGLY' ANIMALS ATTRACT LESS STUDY

SYDNEY: Koalas and kangaroos are subject to more scientific study than Australia's twitching rodents and bats, according to new research which finds 'ugly' animals attract less funding and investigation. The bias towards more attractive creatures means that while 'ugly' animals make up 45 percent of Australia's native fauna, they are rarely subject to intense scientific scrutiny, said a study to be published in Mammal

Review this week. Researcher Trish Fleming said once mammals were classed as 'good' (such as kangaroos, echidnas and koalas), 'bad' (introduced species including cats and rabbits) or 'ugly' (native bats and rodents), the latter group had very little written about it.

"Australians are probably surprised to know how many species of native bats and rodents we have," Fleming told AFP yesterday. "We know so little about them,

we tend to ignore them completely. But everyone knows what a koala and kangaroo looks like." Fleming, a wildlife biologist at Western Australia's Murdoch University, said this bias had a potential impact on conservation, with an incomplete understanding of the importance of these often small and nocturnal animals on ecosystems making them more vulnerable.

"The major problem is that if you don't know anything about their biology

you could manage their environment in a way that's detrimental to them," she said. Fleming said while global and national conservation funding largely overlooked the 'ugly' species—which include hairy rodents and the carnivorous ghost bat with its oversized, fleshy ears and sharp teeth—these were the ones arguably most in need of research. "For the majority of species, researchers have been able to do little more than catalogue their exist-

ence," Fleming said in a statement. "We need to document observations of their diets, habitat selection, space use and reproduction in order to identify threats and management options."

Researchers could also be discouraged from investigating obscure species for fear that the resulting papers may be too "parochial and of limited interest" to be published, she added. With co-author Bill Bateman, Fleming has called for

improved funding for the lesser known mammals. "Since European settlement (in Australia) we have lost about 20 species of mammals, we have about another 20 odd in grave danger of extinction," Curtin University's Bateman told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "I think it would be tragic if we ended up causing the extinction of even more without even knowing anything about them." —AFP

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Kuwait Times

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد 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



LA MAMMA PIZZERIA UNVEILS NEW MENU

After almost 2 years of providing the most authentic and contemporary Italian countryside cuisine, La Mamma Pizzeria at Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait unveils its new menu as the centerpiece of an exciting and unprecedented commitment to serving its guests the most distinctive and original flavors of the Italian villages, through a selection of mouthwatering dishes produced to the highest quality to fully satisfy ones craving.

The new menu features a bold and modern assortment of over 25 appealing dishes varied between Antipasti, Pasticceria, Le Pizze and I Dolci, promising its guests a great combination of variety and value. Starting off the

antipasti with L'insalata Di Marie; marinated seafood salad and spicy foccacia tips, or guests may enjoy starting with Classica Struttura Mista E Calamari; a battered and deep fried seafood, spicy tomato and tartar sauce. Moving to the pastas, where 10 new dishes were added including the most exquisite Ravioli; ricotta and spinach ravioli, or pumpkin or salmon. In addition, La Mamma Pizzeria provides the delectable Linguini pasta with the cream sauce, sausage, Alba truffle oil and red basil. For those in love with the Italian rustic cuisine, La Mamma Pizzeria unveils 7 new wood oven baked pizzas awaiting you to experience the paramount secrets to the most authentic Italian pizza fea-

ture Napoletana, with La Mamma's special homemade tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, anchovies, capers and oregano providing the true flavors of Neapolitan pizza.

La Mamma Pizzeria's authentic ambiance and the contemporary decorations of trendy colors provide its guests with a relaxed atmosphere in addition to the wooden furniture that evokes the simple and rustic charm of the Italian countryside, while overlooking the historical Al-Jahra Gate from the second floor of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait.



ESF SPORTS DAYS 2016

Sports play a big part in stimulating students at The English School Fahahel (ESF). Recently ESF held a series of Sports Days for Kindergarten and Reception classes, Middle and Upper Schools. The events were fun filled and enjoyed by both students and the spectators.

Congratulations to the Blue House for emerging as the overall winner and snap-

ping up the Gold Cup. A big thank you goes out to the physical education department at ESF headed by Ms Martin and her staff for making the events so successful.

ESF is an active member of Inter school organization KFSAC and ISACK and the boys Volleyball U13 team recently won the ISACK Volleyball Championship. ESF also offers a host of Sport clubs as part of its rich extra-curricular sports program.

THE SULTAN CENTER ORGANIZES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT FOR STAFF

As part of 'TSC Together' initiative, The Sultan Center (TSC) organized a football tournament under the title 'Football Champions 2016', that was held for employees across the company during the month of February.

A total of eight teams competed in the tournament, displaying their skillful moves to win the title. The games took place among a cheering crowd of families and friends over a five-day period.

By the end of the tournament, six winners took the titles; ranked first taking the title of 'Football Champions for 2016' was STSG, followed by TSC Jabriya team taking second place. TSC employee, Mahmoud Moussa, from MVT was named as the Top Goal Scorer, while the commercial team took the title of Best Sportsmanship Team. Ibrahim Ali Jbara was awarded the title of Best Goal Keeper. The most Valuable player award went to Samy Tokal Samy Ahmed Elhabeby and The Special Player award was given to Hamam Majed Huhsen Khahn Fous Al Enizi from TSC Jabriya branch.

Commenting on the event, Hani Ismael - Director of Human Resource for TSC said: "We are very pleased that so many teams took part in this competition, as a company, we realize the importance of maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle. Equally important, however, is that these team events foster a sense of team spirit and friendly rivalry, whilst strengthening relationships with colleagues, all in the spirit of fun".

The recently established TSC Employee Sports and Social Committee aims to foster team spirit along with the opportunity to share common activities. TSC Together members worked diligently to deliver a top-class event, for all TSC employees to enjoy in an environment that embraces teamwork through fun and engaging activities.



KIG LAUNCHES 'THAFHEEMUL QURAN' CD DISTRIBUTION

In a solemn function held at Riggae, the CD of 'Thafheemul Quran' (understanding Quran) was formally released to the public by MES Kuwait chapter President Sadique Ali by giving a copy to Dr Ameer Ahmed. The world famous Thafheemul Quran written by Moulana Abul A'la Maududi is the most authentic and widely used translation of Quran in the modern world. In this modern era of cutting edge technology along with the developments in information technology our reading habits are also changing and hence the CD has been design to suite our taste and reading habits. It is more than a traditional commentary on the scripture as it contains discussions and debates regarding economics, sociology, history, and politics. Maududi took 30 long years to complete the project of Thafheem and it is translated to many world languages as well as almost all Indian languages. In Malayalam the printed version is published in six volumes. The user friendly CD of Quran is the result of two and half years of hard work of dedicated scholars. The CD can guide you to the deep oceans of Quranic knowledge and highlights in Quranic perspective and argues that Islam provides ample guidance in all spheres of our life. Maududi uses the standard technique of providing an explanation of the Quranic verses from the Sunnah of Muhammed (PBUH), including the historical reasons behind the verses with insight to modern world. The Tafheem deals extensively with issues faced by the modern world in general and the Muslim community in particular. The CD is very useful to students of Religious studies of all walks of life as well as to students who follows the English medium as it contains the English version with the audios of world famous reciters like Sheikh Mishary bin Rashid Al-Afasy, Sa'ad Al Ghamdi, Abdul Rahman Ibn Abdul Aziz as-Sudais etc.



MCDONALD'S KUWAIT INTRODUCES A NEW RANGE OF BIG TASTY BURGERS

Adding to one of the most popular line-ups in the region, McDonald's Kuwait yesterday introduced two new burgers to the Big Tasty range. Designed with beef lovers in mind, the newly launched burgers include the Big Tasty Mushroom Melt and the Big Tasty Spicy. They will be available in all restaurants starting March 5, 2016 for a limited time period only.

The original Big Tasty with its 100 percent pure Halal beef and wholesome flavor has been further enhanced with the addition of "Big Tasty Mushroom Melt" and "Big Tasty Spicy." Driven by taste, quality and unique ingredients, these burgers promise to be hearty meals that satisfy the biggest of cravings. From mushrooms and cheese over succulent beef patties, spicy harissa that excites the taste buds to the original hearty beef burger, the new Big Tasty range is the ultimate in beef satisfaction.

The mouth-watering Big Tasty Mushroom Melt includes a 100 percent pure Halal beef

patty and is stacked with mushrooms, grilled onions, two slices of Emmental cheese, lettuce, sliced tomato and topped with black pepper mayo. The Big Tasty Spicy gives your taste buds a kick with a 100 percent pure Halal beef patty that's topped with jalapeno slices, two slices of Emmental cheese, lettuce, sliced tomato and finished off with spicy harissa ranch sauce.

Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait, commented: "As one of our most legendary offerings at McDonald's, the Big Tasty deserved to have a new range of options to better serve our customers. Catered to the beef lovers of the region, Big Tasty boasts high quality ingredients and fresh taste and by adding a new range it would give our consumers the chance to enjoy their favorite Big Tasty in new tasty ways." For more information on the McDonald's Big Tasty burgers, please visit www.mcdonaldsarabia.com.



COSTA COFFEE CELEBRATES ENGLISH HERITAGE, LAUNCHES STORE IN SHEIKHA COMPLEX IN SALMIYAH

Costa Coffee, London's favorite coffee shop chain and part of Alghanim Industries Food and Beverage portfolio, celebrated the opening of its new flagship store in Sheikha Complex in Salmiyah, on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016. The British ambassador to Kuwait, Matthew James Lodge, and the Vice President of the Food and Beverage division at Alghanim Industries, Phil Broad, inaugurated the opening ceremony through a fun-filled atmosphere rooted in the bustling scene of London Underground, with arts and music provided by Kuwait's most celebrated artists. Along with senior executives from Alghanim Industries and Costa's VIP officials, loyal customers and local press members were also present.

The new store enjoys a number of attractive characteristics, mainly being the first Costa Coffee in the Middle East to feature the latest Costa design, Atlas all while aptly being situated in Al-Balajat Street, one of Kuwait's most beautiful coastlines. Like the passion and care Costa baristas take with every cup of hand crafted coffee the quality of Costa store design is no exception. The interior incorporates a unique blend of artistic moods with carefully crafted zones to cater for the variety

of different occasions we see our coffee lovers enjoying. Bringing warm colors and soft lighting for when customers want to relax and enjoy one of Costa's signature offerings, such as the Flat White and Corto. As well as open areas for conversations with friends and family over a delicious Frostino. While there is a modern and unique feel with exposed brick work and contemporary artwork - coffee remains at the heart of the design.

Moreover, the new location also has access to a large terrace that can cater to up to 120 customers, who can enjoy their favorite coffee all while overlooking the gorgeous Arabian Gulf.

Perfect example

Commenting on this event, Vice President of the Food and Beverage division at Alghanim Industries, Phil Broad said: "This new Costa coffee location is a perfect example of how we are adding value to our local communities, what a wonderful place to sit and relax, work or just enjoy a perfectly handcrafted beverage, whilst enjoying the view. We are actively looking for more prime locations so more people of Kuwait can enjoy the Costa experience and our loyal customers have more

places to visit."

Costa Coffee's General Manager, Haamed Alfulajj, said: "We are excited to invite all coffee lovers to enjoy their handcrafted cup of coffee at this special store overlooking the beautiful sea view of Arabian Gulf. We are proud to open the first Atlas store outside London, which features unique zones to fit every mood and soon to offer an entirely new food range that should delight our customers."

The British ambassador to Kuwait, Matthew James Lodge said: "I am delighted to be here today at Costa Coffee's impressive new flagship store. As a personal fan of Costa and a regular purchaser of my favorite Costa product - the Flat White - I am particularly pleased to see Costa doing so well here in Kuwait as one of a large number of British franchises expanding successfully into the Kuwaiti market. Our two countries share a long history and enjoy to this day a close partnership - it is great that quality coffee and a successful UK brand should be part of what brings both societies together. I would like to congratulate Costa for their new store and thank them for their warm welcome."



(From left) Fadi Sabbouri, Samer Sayegh, Haamed Alfulajj, Robert Etman, Ambassador Mathew James Lodge, Phil Broad, Siraj VC, and Rana Emera.



Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum hosted a ceremony recently to celebrate Kuwait's national days.



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (03/03/2016 TO 09/03/2016)

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Duhr:	11:59
Asr:	15:21
Maghrib:	17:52
Isha:	19:08



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 Contact: **97414191**

Flight Schedule

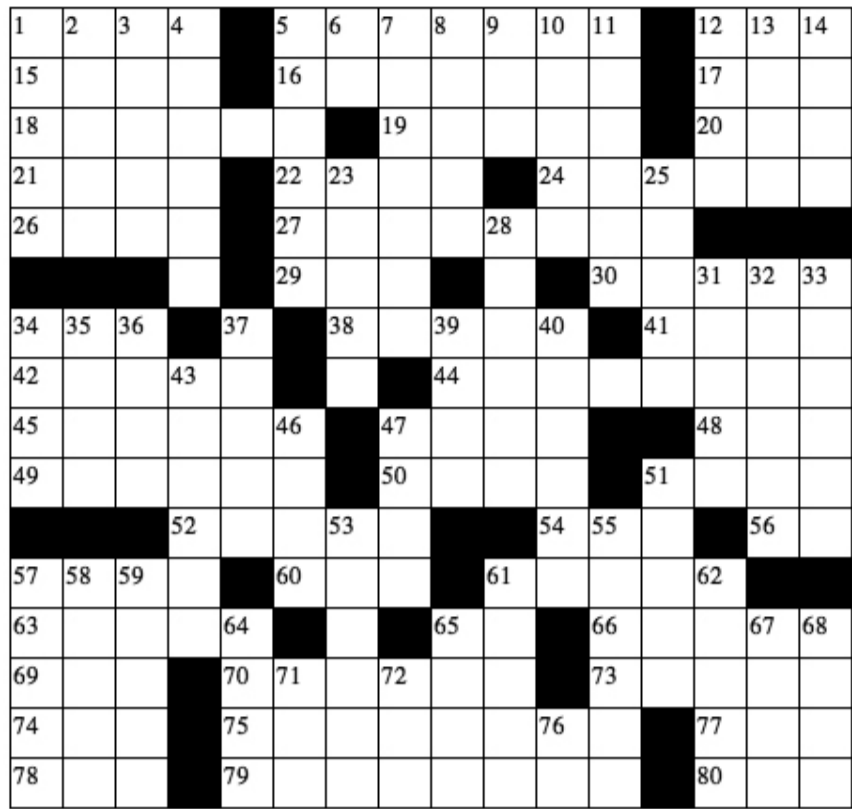
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 8/3/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 8/3/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	14:20
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	FDB	072	Dubai	14:30
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	14:40
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	14:50
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	MSC	416	Sohag	15:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	15:30
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	KLM	411	Amsterdam	15:40
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	THY	773	Istanbul	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	15:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	15:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	16:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	16:30
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	OMA	644	Muscat	16:30
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	FDB	068	Dubai	16:40
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KKK	6508	Istanbul	17:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	QTR	1077	Bahrain	17:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	LMU	511	Cairo	17:50
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	765	Istanbul	17:50
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	FDB	070	Dubai	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	164	Dubai	18:00
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	RJA	645	Amman	18:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	THY	771	Istanbul	18:20
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55	FDB	5062	Dubai	18:25
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	18:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	FDB	054	Dubai	18:45
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	QTR	1087	Doha	18:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	BAW	156	London	19:05
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	19:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	OMA	642	Muscat	19:25
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	19:30
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	19:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	513	Tehran	19:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KAC	101	London/New York	19:40
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	KAC	541	Cairo	19:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	UAE	856	Dubai	20:05
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	KAC	561	Amman	20:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	KAC	671	Dubai	20:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	20:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	KAC	501	Beirut	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	FDB	056	Dubai	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	SYR	342	Damascus	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	21:20
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	QTR	1071	Doha	21:20
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	21:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRC	6508	Shiraz	21:40
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	IRA	674	Shiraz	21:45
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	RBG	554	Alexandria	22:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	22:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	UAE	874	Dubai	22:05
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55	MEA	405	Beirut	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	NIA	152	Cairo	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	679	Muscat	22:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	22:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	FDB	076	Dubai	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	402	Alexandria	23:45
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:40	JZR	176	Dubai	23:50
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	611	Cairo	23:55
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	UAE	872	Dubai	23:55

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1189



ACROSS

1. Influential German idealist philosopher (1724-1804).
5. A spot that is open late at night and that provides entertainment (as singers or dancers) as well as dancing and food and drink.
12. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
15. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
16. Inclined toward or displaying love.
17. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
18. A full skirt with a gathered waistband.
19. Malicious satisfaction.
20. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
21. A primeval personification of air and breath.
22. A Loloish language.
24. Covered with or as if with clothes or a wrap or cloak.
26. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.
27. The framework of a bed.
29. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
30. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
34. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
38. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
41. A strong wind moving 45-90 knots.
42. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
44. A band of cloth or leather or metal links attached to a wristwatch and wrapped around the wrist.
45. A violent hot sand-laden wind on the deserts of Arabia and North Africa.
48. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
49. An authoritative person who divines the future.
50. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
52. Remote and separate physically or socially.
54. Fiddler crabs.
56. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
57. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
60. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
63. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
66. Obvious and dull.
69. A toilet in England.
70. Of or associated with or requiring the use of the mind.
73. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
74. Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
75. Relating to or demonstrating acapnia.
77. A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
78. (informal) Of the highest quality.
79. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
80. An edge tool with a heavy bladed head mounted across a handle.

DOWN

1. A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
2. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
3. A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe on the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
4. (British) A loudspeaker.
5. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
6. Before noon.
7. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
8. (Greek mythology) A Titan who was forced by Zeus to bear the sky on his shoulders.
9. The former capital and 2nd largest city of Brazil.
10. Avoid or try to avoid, as of duties, questions and issues.
11. The cardinal number that is the sum of three and one.
12. A sudden very loud noise.
13. A measuring instrument for measuring and indicating a quantity or for testing conformity with a standard.
14. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
23. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
25. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
28. Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
31. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
32. Separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument.
33. Personification of the sky or upper air breathed by the Olympians.
35. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
36. A state of deep and often prolonged unconsciousness.
37. Young of any of various canines such as a dog or wolf.
39. Little known Kamarupan languages.
40. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.
43. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
46. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
47. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
51. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.
53. Hear or try a court case anew.
55. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
58. (geology) Before the appearance of life.
59. The address where a person lives.
61. (computer science) American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
62. Squash bugs.
64. Strike sharply.
65. The basic unit of money in Papua New Guinea.
67. A stock exchange in New York.
68. Lacking companions or companionship.
71. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
72. Administration of a nutritionally adequate solution through a catheter into the vena cava.
76. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A financial surprise resulting from some investment or a bonus that you or your mate will receive soon is a positive. You have magic in the house-the flower essence remedies. The flower essence remedies are wonderful tools for relaxation and you may think the good changes that have happened recently may be because of these remedies. Some of the changes did not happen because of the flower essence-however, it certainly made things peaceful and open to creative thinking. Your earning power is steadily increasing and you are learning to appreciate and respect money-this is fun! If you are not on vacation today, take a little trip to a romantic restaurant or a good movie this evening. It is time to enjoy the company of your loved ones.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is an overflow of responsibilities that may be in front of you for the duration of this day. The stress, however, can be just as fun as the rewards. These extra pushes that you do to perform at your best, help you to be more creative, and in turn, productive. When you are not in high gear, you can become fidgety. At the least... Take your breaks and make sure you stop often enough to find and enjoy the beauty that is around you. This afternoon you may be of tremendous help to an associate or stranger because of your compassionate nature that comes so easily when you enjoy a break. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. This is a good day, with lots of ambition and renewed appreciation of life.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Things are happening and your career or path depends upon your own ambition and drive-which are strong now. You are able to use your good sense about financial risks and you make the right moves. It is time now to get ahead by taking action. More and more of your time will be freed for people skills. There could be boring and complicated work ahead, but you are able to handle it. An important relationship, perhaps with a young person or someone in your near environment, may come into focus today. There could be an emotional overtone to all of this that may require understanding and flexibility on your part. The most interesting person you will meet in your life could be you! Slow down and enjoy the quiet times... Hear the birds?



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Before the conversation begins, think through the important matters that are up for discussion, particularly concerning business. Clear communication is important. You could find that you are appreciated for your ability to act and get things done. There is comfort and ease in your daily routine. Business get-togethers after work call for networking-as often as you can. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. Relations with your friends are strong and carefree. There will be opportunities to be with your family members in a positive gathering this evening. Perhaps an evening out for dinner or a movie is in the making.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is a willingness now to conform more to the norm and less insistence on showing your independence. Your social life may also be toned down a bit to allow more concentration on success with your financial production. This is short-term; however, you might feel that some avenues of support have been changed. In actuality, you are given an opportunity to grow and create. There is an instinctive imperative to be powerful and in control-pulling the strings-which may lead to greater interest or experience in healing and investing. You may join your friends this evening in a group activity that encourages movement.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This morning calls for clear and sharp thinking. It is easy to organize your thoughts-communication of all kinds is encouraged. This may mean it is your turn to do the book report, teach or influence higher-ups about some long-term difficulty. All sorts of communicative activity are encouraged. There is a lot of motivation for disciplined work, but push too hard and you may have a lot of difficulty. This afternoon you are in the mood to begin reading or writing your book, taking that course, or using your mind in some other constructive way. A family member calls this evening and relays some interesting news. This evening you will find some fun times with a friend with whom you feel you can open up and be expressive.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will be picking up new ideas all day, like a radio receiver. The air is electric and your mind is wide open. This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you discover. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth are important issues in your life. A fear of asserting yourself can hold you back-as can coming on too strong. Good advice from a guide or older person may be forthcoming and it is all positive. This is a good day. Other people's ideas that just seemed impossible to you are not quite impossible after all. This may be travel to parts unknown or snow skiing. An attractive co-worker catches your eye and there could be a battle with your thoughts-careful.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You hit the day running and there are lots of things to accomplish. Human interaction and experience involve processing information in order to make decisions-today you may have to allow yourself some time to think about the options before making a decision. Quick decisions can be risky in some cases, so slow down a bit. Take some time during your lunch break to read, listen to music or walk. Ideas and thoughts will have greater meaning and form just now. You are particularly creative and taking advantage of this creative energy is a good idea. Giving flowers or some other token of esteem, particularly to a sick friend or neighbor, could bring surprising results. Close relationships take on more emotional depth, power and importance.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You could make poor choices this morning if you do not slow down a bit. This means that after you get to work you are still running. You are trying to beat the traffic, or you jerk the phone off your desk so fast that you could knock something over and break it. Slow down a bit and mistakes will happen less often. It may be difficult to relax today, just because so much is on the agenda. You are good at what you do, but... Taking caution when you are in a hurry is always a good idea. This afternoon you may spend more time with your head down, writing, translating, proofing, etc. Aim for a balance in order to maintain your stamina. Speaking, teaching or becoming involved in some fun activity will help you to clear away the stress.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

There is a tendency for you to be extremely hardworking, particularly today. This is a day you could set examples and make much progress. Be practical in how you use your energy. Try to involve yourself in projects that need to be finished before going on to something else. This will lead to a feeling of accomplishment and help you to see the results of your hard work. Check all areas of a project to rule out any mistakes. Renovations and spring-cleaning can be initiated later this afternoon by starting with one room or one portion of the house a day. When this weekend rolls around, you will be the first to have a party.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

There are opportunities today to become extremely communicative with your associates. This is a most beneficial time to exchange ideas and create some good friends or associates. It is also a good time to be with others in an atmosphere of work. You could be thinking about using the home as a place to do some work in the future. Additionally, it is a favorable time to line up and plan for repairs or refurbishing tasks at home. Although you are usually healthy you need a good exercise activity on a regular basis to keep you feeling fit. Exercising with others is fun and you may look for ways to involve another person in regular times for this activity. The sudden need to push your physical strength probably comes from viewing healthy friends or family members.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Someone from another department or perhaps another class may come looking for you-you have the answers. At least, if you don't have answers, you seem to know the way to reach the answers. Your fertile mind will be picking up new concepts and inspirations all day-like a radio receiver. The air is electric and wide open. Others' ideas, once illogical to you, may now seem quite logical. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. There is a revival of sorts within your career path-you should expect to let go a bit and enjoy the rewards. You enjoy your own life situation today. A friend or a family member feels especially kind toward you-he or she works to please you. Many hugs and good wishes are for the taking.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

The Golden Girls

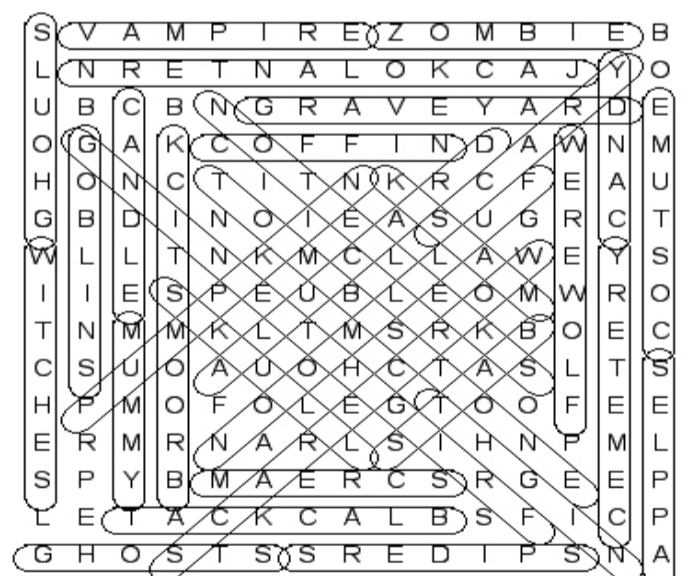
Find and circle all of the words and names from *The Golden Girls* TV show. The remaining letters spell the name of a spinoff of *The Golden Girls*.

C S O U T H E R N B E L L E
H T S R U H T R A A E B H R
E S T E L L E G E T T Y U E
E F A L O T S E G Y O E R F
S L N C R O H Y D B M O D R
E D O O P C E D E C H S O I
C C S H N L A T C C E I R E
A E I A R D T L N L Y T O N
K A L A G Y A A I D E C T D
E B H I W N Y M E N P O H S
A C B H A T I M A I M M Y H
S P I H S N O I T A L E R I
L T A U A C L A Y T O N C P
E N R E S H A D Y P I N E S

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| BEA ARTHUR | COMEDY | RUE MCCLANAHAN |
| BETTY WHITE | DOROTHY | RUSTY ANCHOR |
| BIG DADDY | ESTELLE GETTY | SHADY PINES |
| BLANCHE | FRIENDSHIP | SITCOM |
| CHARLEY | MIAMI | SOPHIA |
| CHEESECAKE | MILES | SOUTHERN BELLE |
| CLAYTON | RELATIONSHIPS | ST OLAF |
| COCO | ROSE | STAN |

Yesterday's Solution

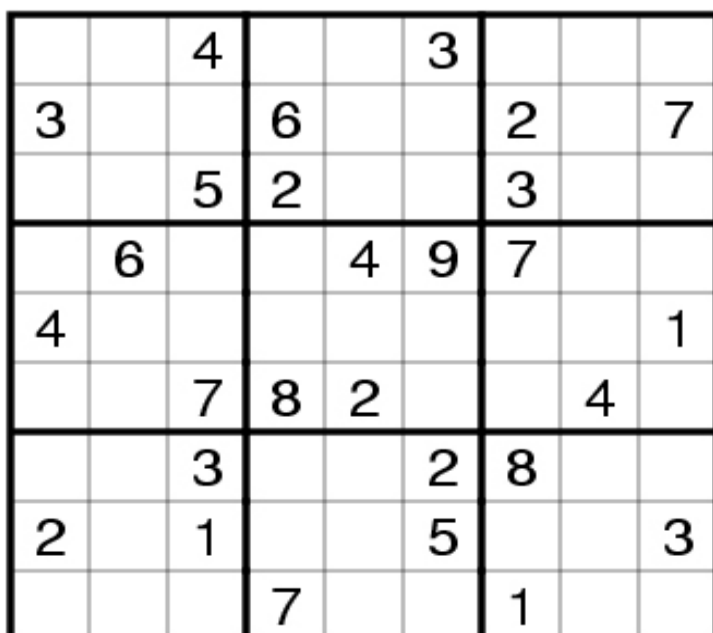
Halloween



- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| APPLES | COSTUME | JACK O LANTERN | SKELETON |
| BATS | DRACULA | MASK | SKULL |
| BLACK CAT | FRIGHTENING | MUMMY | SPIDERS |
| BROOMSTICK | FULL MOON | NIGHT | TOMBSTONE |
| CANDLE | GHOSTS | PUMPKIN | VAMPIRE |
| CANDY | GHOULS | SCARECROW | WEREWOLF |
| CEMETERY | GOBLINS | SCARY | WITCHES |
| COFFIN | GRAVEYARD | SCREAM | ZOMBIE |

The hidden message is: BOBBING FOR APPLES

Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



very hard

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	Sao Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

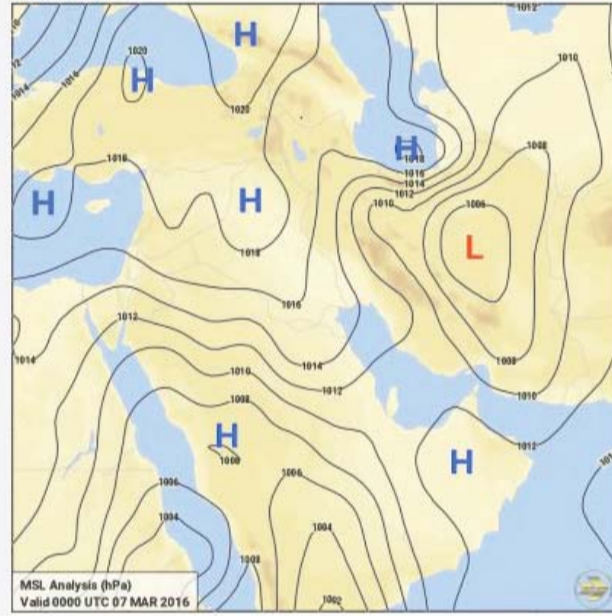
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 07/03/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 27 °C

By Day : Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h
By Night : Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy	cloudy + scattered rain	sunny	partly cloudy + cloudy + scattered thunder rain
Min Temp °C	17	17	18	20
Max Temp °C	27	26	30	31
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	variable	variable	southerly to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	06 - 20	06 - 20	15 - 45

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	18		26	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	18		27	
ABDALLY	16		29	
BUBYAN	16		27	
JAHRA	18		29	
FAILAKA ISLAND	18		25	
SALMIYAH	18		26	
AHMADI	19		25	
JAL ALIYAH	15		29	
QAROH ISLAND	20		23	
UMM AL-MARADEM	19		23	
NUWAISIB	19		25	
WAFRA	17		26	
MANAGISH	17		28	
SALMY	15		29	
MUTRIBA	15		29	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	29
Min Temp (°C)	20
Max Rel Hum (%)	66
Min Rel Hum (%)	18
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:07
Sunset	17:51

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:48
Sunrise	06:07
Zuhr	11:59
Asr	15:21
Sunset	17:51
Isha	19:08



PRIVATE CLINICS

<p>Ophthalmologists</p> <p>Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223</p> <p>Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)</p> <p>Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510 Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660 Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478 Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996 Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426</p> <p>General Practitioners</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem 22636920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea 25333501</p> <p>Urologists</p> <p>Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427</p>	<p>Plastic Surgeons</p> <p>Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60</p> <p>Family Doctor</p> <p>Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581</p> <p>Psychiatrists</p> <p>Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0</p> <p>Gynaecologists & Obstetricians</p> <p>DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787</p> <p>General Surgeons</p> <p>Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148</p> <p>Internists, Chest & Heart</p> <p>Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3</p>	<p>Paediatricians</p> <p>Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarouf 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282</p> <p>Dermatology</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955</p> <p>Dentists</p> <p>Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111</p> <p>Neurologists</p> <p>Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875</p> <p>Gastrologists</p> <p>Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135</p>	<p>Endocrinologist</p> <p>Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330</p> <p>Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888</p> <p>Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924</p> <p>Physiotherapists & VD</p> <p>Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291</p> <p>Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288</p> <p>Rheumatologists:</p> <p>Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060</p> <p>Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290</p> <p>Internist, Chest & Heart</p> <p>DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210</p> <p>Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667</p> <p>Consultant Cardiologist</p> <p>Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123</p>
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Psychologists /Psychotherapists

Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center 25716707

Noor Clinic 23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



Abdullah Nasser Al-Husainan at Mount Shams summit.



Abdullah Nasser Al-Husainan at another site of the mountain.



Kuwaiti adventurer resumes dangerous expeditions by trip to Mount Shams



Mount Shams, the highest GCC summit.

Kuwaiti adventurer, Abdullah Nasser Al-Husainan recently resumed his daring adventures and expeditions by a trip including nine Kuwaitis and six Saudis plus guides to mount Shams, Oman, which stands 3000 meters above sea level and is thus the highest summit in GCC, near the ancient city of Nizwa to the west of Muscat.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Husainan stressed that this expedition was one of the most difficult ones he had ever went on. He added that he had gone to another expedition to the North Pole in March 2013 where he hoisted a Kuwaiti flag and did the same thing on another one in December 2013 to Antarctica.

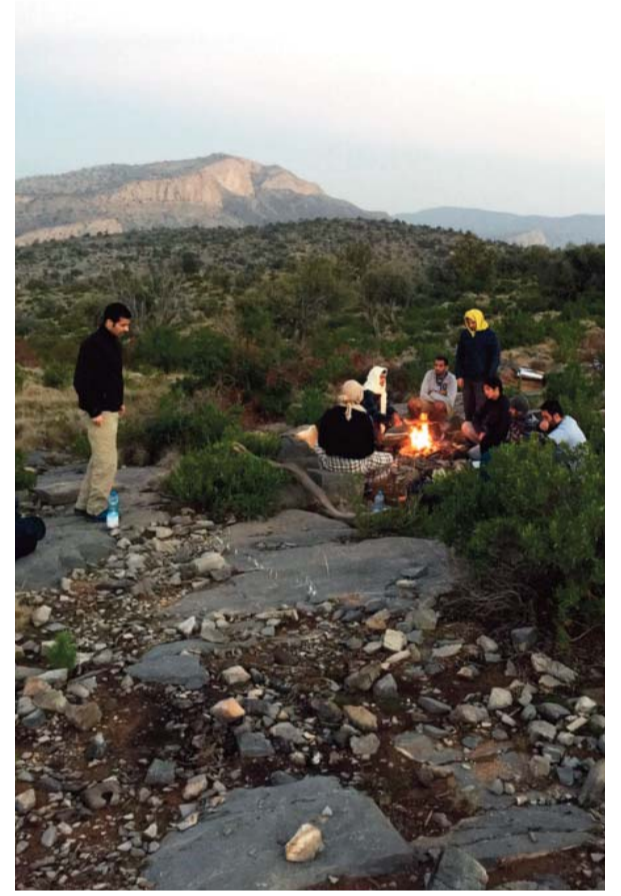
"My expedition to Mount Shams was very difficult because of the hard terrain and the paths full of gravel and stones in addition to extreme cold after sunset", he explained pointing out that temperatures there drop to -2 degrees centigrade after sunset.

Al-Husainan added that such expeditions take high degrees of both physical and mental fitness because the journey up and down the mountain can add up to 20-25 kilometers of ascending and descending, especially with the heavy gear packed in a back bag full of all necessary tools, extra warm clothes, special boots,

anti-mosquito sprays and crutches. "The bag must not weigh more than 25 kilograms, however", he remarked.

"We arrived to Muscat at night where we met our guide and at noon the following day we drove for three hours to the starting point where we pitched our first camp and got acquainted with the villagers around us. The following dawn, we started walking up the mountain, which was very difficult and made some of us decide going back", Al-Husainan explained adding that he himself thought of calling the expedition off because of the severe pain he felt in his legs but then he changed his mind and continued the journey.

Further, Al-Husainan stressed that the aims of ascending Mount Shams included enhancing physical, mental and psychological abilities, appreciating the good nature, enhancing the values of determination and patience, meeting and cooperating with new adventurers from other GCC states, contemplating about Allah's creation, learning the skills of leadership and making the right decision under stress, testing values of giving and modesty as well as exploring GCC landmarks.



Kuwaiti and Saudi adventurers on a break.

Remembering Nancy Reagan's brief Hollywood career

Before Nancy Reagan became a fixture in the national consciousness and on home television sets, the late first lady also shared the big screen with the likes of Barbara Stanwyck, Ava Gardner, Glenn Ford and Ray Milland in her short career as a Hollywood actress in the post-war era. After a few years on Broadway, Reagan, then Nancy Davis, moved to California and signed a seven-year contract with Metro Goldwyn Mayer, leading to roles in 11 features - her last of which was the 1958 feature "Crash Landing," a middling Fred F Sears drama about a pilot (Gary Merrill) reflecting on his troubled marriage (to Reagan's character) in the midst of an engine crisis over the Atlantic. She was never the biggest star, but she had her moments in a wide variety of genres from noir to melodrama, often as loving and supportive wives and girlfriends.

The doctor and the girl (1949)

Nancy Reagan's first big screen role was in director Curtis Bernhardt's drama about a wealthy doctor (Glenn Ford) who defies his family's wishes by opening a practice in a poorer neighborhood. Reagan played the main character's sister Mariette, who is engaged to a class-lusting physician (played by Warner Anderson).

East side, west side (1950)

In this Mervyn LeRoy-directed melodrama about a married couple torn apart by the husband's infidelities, Reagan played Helen Lee, a socialite and best friend to Barbara Stanwyck's wronged wife. James Mason played Stanwyck's philandering husband, one of whose consorts was Ava Gardner. "The ladies all wear expensive garments and the gentlemen drink expensive booze. But that still doesn't elevate the effort above the level of hopeful pretense," wrote New York Times critic Bosley Crowther in his review.

Shadow on the wall (1950)

After a run of playing mostly wives and girlfriends, Reagan got a particularly meaty and serious role in this Pat Jackson-



In this May 14, 1984, file photo, Michael Jackson, center, stands with President Ronald Reagan, left, and first lady Nancy Reagan on the south lawn of the White House prior to receiving an award from the president for his contribution to the drunk driving awareness program.

directed psychological crime thriller about a 6-year-old girl (Gigi Perreau) who loses her memory after witnessing the murder of her stepmother. Reagan played a doctor who endeavors to help cure the girl and makes some critical discoveries about the nature of the murder along the way. The New York Times said Reagan gave a "beautiful and convincing" performance.

The next voice you hear ... (1950)

When God starts giving radio broadcasts in this odd little William A. Wellman film, a married couple (James Whitmore and Nancy Reagan) and their 11-year-old son living in suburban Los Angeles are forced to confront their own faith. Reagan was praised for her "delightful" performance as the kind, gentle and very pregnant wife in the film.

Night into morning (1951)

Reagan plays a widow who saves Ray Milland from his depression and drunkenness after his wife and child die tragically in a fire. Milland and Reagan were both applauded for their performances, but the melancholy story was seen as a bit of a letdown.

Hellcats of the navy (1957)

This WWII-set film about a submarine commander charting minefields off the Japanese coast marks the only time Reagan and Nancy Reagan, already married for five years, shared the big screen. As the land-locked love interest, Nancy Reagan didn't have much to do besides fret though. It's far from a classic - in fact it's somewhat derided - but the film remains an interesting document of historical value just by nature of the fact that it features the future President and first lady. — AP



In this March 16, 1983, file photo, first lady Nancy Reagan, left, gets a laugh with Ray Charles, center, and Willie Nelson, right, and other entertainers at a salute to country music at Constitution Hall in Washington. — AP photos



Recording artist Ace Frehley performs at Brooklyn Bowl Las Vegas at The LINQ Promenade on March 6, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada.—AFP

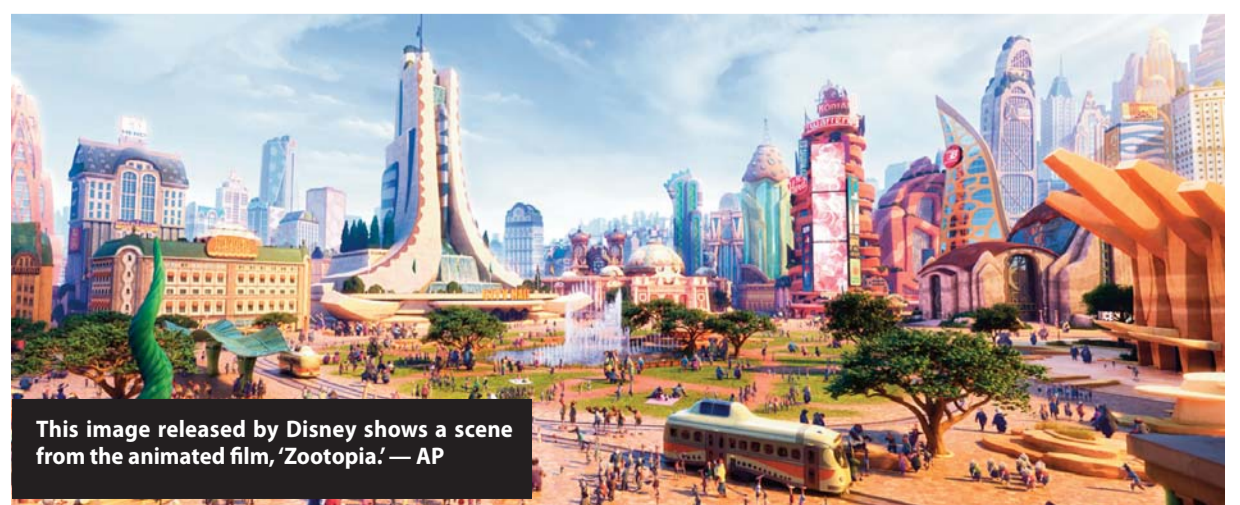
'Zootopia' sets record opening for Disney Animation Studios

Disney's "Zootopia" bounced its way to \$73.7 million in its US opening weekend, a record-setting box office debut for Disney Animation Studios, industry estimates showed Sunday. The film about intrepid rabbit police officer Judy Hopps who works with a fox to solve a crime in the Zootopia animal kingdom topped the \$67.4 million opening weekend take for 2013 Disney blockbuster "Frozen." Analysts said "Zootopia" was helped by very positive reviews as well as the relative lack of other family films currently in theaters. Action thriller "London Has Fallen" was a distant second, earning \$21.7 million in its opening weekend, according to the estimates from industry tracker Exhibitor Relations said. Directed by Iranian-Swedish filmmaker Babak Najafi and starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman, the film is the sequel to 2013's "Olympus Has Fallen."

Superhero blockbuster "Deadpool" dropped to the third spot with \$16.4 million, contributing to its \$311.2 million take over four weeks. Starring Ryan Reynolds as a foul-mouthed Marvel anti-

hero, "Deadpool" clocked the fastest rise of any R-rated movie in history following its debut. "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" was in fourth place after its opening weekend, earning \$7.6 million. The comedy starring Tina Fey was based on Kim Barker's memoir of being a female war reporter in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Falling from the second spot to fifth, "Gods of Egypt," which also stars Butler, took \$5 million in its second week. With a production budget of \$140 million, it was on track to be the year's first flop. Rounding out the rest of the top 10 were:

- "Risen," \$3.9 million
- "Kung Fu Panda 3," \$3.6 million
- "The Revenant," \$3.3 million
- "Eddie the Eagle," \$3.1 million
- "The Witch," \$2.5 million — AFP



This image released by Disney shows a scene from the animated film, 'Zootopia.' — AP



INDIAN DESIGNERS FEEL THE LOVE AT PARIS FASHION WEEK



The Indians are not just coming—they have arrived. Paris fashion week is more Indian than ever, with two designers from the subcontinent cementing their place at style's top table. Rahul Mishra confirmed his reputation as one of fashion's rising stars with an autumn winter women wear collection of great restraint and purity. In contrast, the never less-than-spectacular Manish Arora bathed in the glory of being awarded one of France's highest honors by filling his catwalk with celebrity models that included the artist Sophie Calle.

The two designers could not be more different, yet both were as far from the subcontinental clichés of saris and sequins as you can imagine. Arora, a Paris favorite who formerly headed the Paco Rabanne label, drew on Americana and Africa rather than India for his Wild West themed "Hell's Belles" show that he called "mad". But its "Twin Peaks on Haribo" look went down a storm with his fans, who particularly loved the zany way he rebooted humble denim jackets and skirts with tribal embroidery and African wax print fabrics.

With his newly awarded Legion d'Honneur—a kind of French knighthood—in his pocket, the Mumbai-born designer cut loose with day-glo coolers and prairie skirt combinations that were made to party. "I am the first Indian creative to be rewarded for fashion and arts in France," he told reporters after the show. "It's exceptional, it took a long time to sink in. Trust the French to find you and tell you that you deserve it."

'Slow things down'

The younger Mishra has also been feeling the love, even though his restrained palette never strayed much further than royal blue, black and cream, with a little bit of pale yellow creeping in at the end. The 37-year-old designer, who won the prestigious International Woolmark Prize two years ago, told AFP that his new line was inspired by the unconditional love of his five-month-old daughter. And you could feel a warm glow in the room as models walked out at the Palais de Tokyo modern art gallery.

The style bible Vogue loved it, praising the collection as "a new level of accomplishment" and the most "streetwise... fresh and contemporary of Mishra's designs". Vogue's legendary style guru Suzy Menkes had already pronounced herself a fan, saying "the delicacy of the knits, which were so fine that they could barely be identified as wool on the runway, was breathtaking." Mishra—who often quotes Gandhi—has been praised for the way he has melded modern methods with India's amazing craft traditions. He imports Merino wool from Australia

which is then transformed by rural workers in remote corners of the country.

"The entire approach we follow is craft-based, village-based and sustainable, which can be credited to my humble upbringing," the science graduate from rural Uttar Pradesh told AFP. "There is such craftsmanship, money cannot make people work like that, it is done for the love of creating things like this," said Mishra, who called his show, "It Felt Love". He said for him the magic is in the hidden artistry which the eye cannot see, picking up a sari T-shirt which was concealed by a dress to show the "hand embroidery and stitching done in the villages".

"When the world is ruled by machines we need to slow down things and create something with love and ideas. We need to soak into techniques," he added. Mishra said he was trying to put poetry back into people's lives. The collection's signature white and royal blue colors came from Chinese porcelain, he said, with some of the skirts cut from material normally used for elegant table cloths. "It's all about things which touch the heart," he said. "We love sipping coffee or tea from a beautiful china cup. And it is the same for clothes. We don't create them just for functionality."— AFP



Models present creations by Rahul Mishra during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection.



Givenchy and Galliano look back at history, while Celine keeps it simple



Star-power met with conquistadors at Sunday as Kanye West, Ciara and Chris Brown held center stage at Paris Fashion Week's Givenchy's show that channeled the Spanish adventurers who sailed in search of the Cities of Gold. Meanwhile, former Destiny's Child singer Kelly Rowland posed with Formula One racing driver Lewis Hamilton at John Galliano's front row, as Celine unveiled its latest fall-winter 2016 collection.

Givenchy's conquistador

Givenchy's Riccardo Tisci is often inspired by combat. In Sunday's complex and accomplished show the Italian-born designer expressed this - with subtlety - by channeling the Spanish conquistador of the 1500s, who went to South America as a colonizer in search of new land and adventure.

Native Central American patterning - large eyes and Inca or Mayan-style geometric shapes - appeared in slim-fitting dresses and tops in dark, cream and yellow, on models with eyeliner that elongated the eye. Ominous, large gold coin pendants meanwhile adorned dark, gothic bombers.

The conquistador was represented by militaristic jackets in red, black and brown, sometimes with luxuriant fur arms. This collection was very much about the cultural fusion that came about when the Spanish colonizer came to Latin America and discovered the native traditions.

As ever with Tisci, the complex reference in this collection were deftly handled - creating a focused and harmonious fashion display. Snake skin boots evoked the fauna of the conquistador's new found terrain, and a series of leopard and jaguar-print looks, perfectly evoked the Native Central American tribes' admiration for wild cats.



Models wear creations for Givenchy's Fall-winter 2016-2017 ready to wear collection presented in Paris, France, Sunday. — AP/AFP



Fashion



Galliano's historical musing
 Designer Bill Gaytten led spectators through small vignettes of history with his rich, encyclopedic show for John Galliano on Sunday. The 33-looks riffed off the Romance of 19th century Russian "War and Peace" military wear alongside Regency London, Neo-Classicism and the dapper styles of the 1930s. A long black military coat opened the show, with a high-collared shirt and off-white mid-calf pantaloons. The historical dreaming translated

with flair into the garments throughout the show. A cobalt blue embroidered military jacket had a great diagonal movement in the lapel, and was paired with a sheer black silk under dress that sensually exposed the tummy and leg.

Elsewhere, Gaytten channeled the effervescence of the 1930s with a crisscross silver pattern on an off-white tulle gown, and conjured up a decorative classic Empire-line dress with pretty puff sleeve.

Models present creations for John Galliano during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection.



Celine's simplicity

It was a beautiful, if fairly straight-forward, collection at the normally thought-provoking Celine Sunday.

Silhouettes were on the whole loose, and relied on voluminous lengths in the pants to produce the effect of swirling and layering. Designer Phoebe Philo seemed to have interwoven nautical styles into the mix this season - with utilitarian details like pockets, tassels and rope. Stylish crisscross belt embroideries followed a beautiful oversize

beige jacket that looked ready for a yachting trip and a large sleeveless over jacket in soft brown. Colors were soft - peach, dusty pink, biscuit tan - but the standout pieces had a flash of color like cadmium yellow or an enviable bright cobalt blue cross-over leather coat with a triangular pocket hanging off the hip in a nice touch.

It was perhaps Philo's most saleable - and conventional - collection to date.—AP



Models present creations for Celine during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection.

Lifestyle

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

Indian designers feel the love at Paris fashion week

37



A hot air balloon is silhouetted against the evening sky as the sun sets north of Phoenix. — AP

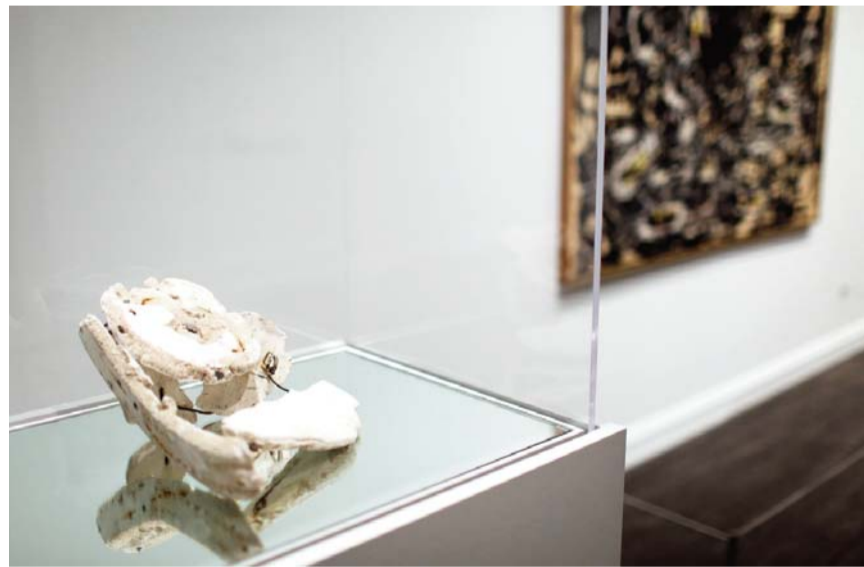
Shakespeare's curse-protected grave gets radar survey

Documentary film makers have radar scanned William Shakespeare's grave this year as Britain celebrates the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death, Channel 4 said and the Daily Telegraph reported yesterday. The grave in the Holy Trinity Church in Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford upon Avon is a place of pilgrimage for fans and has an inscription on it with a curse against anyone planning to tamper with it. "Blest be the man that spares these stones, And curst be he that moves my bones," the inscription reads.

The survey could help researchers learn more about Shakespeare's life and family, helping to detect unmarked or previously unknown graves and items buried within the coffins, the Telegraph reported. "We can confirm a scan has been completed. The results of the scan will be

revealed as part of a Channel 4 documentary later in the spring," a spokesman for the church was quoted as saying. A Channel 4 spokeswoman confirmed the report to AFP. Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway and daughter Suzanna as well as other members of his extended family are buried in graves around his own.

The pre-eminent British writer, who lived between 1564 and 1616, is believed to have written around 38 plays—although the precise authorship of some works has been disputed—and 154 sonnets. Britain is marking the anniversary of his death on April 23 with a series of performances and academic workshops as well as a planned candlelit vigil in the Holy Trinity Church itself on the day. — AFP



This March 1, 2016 photo provided by The Dallas Museum of Art shows a 1956 untitled Jackson Pollock sculpture made of plaster, sand, gauze, and wire. — AP

Dallas museum acquires rare Jackson Pollock sculpture

The Dallas Museum of Art has acquired a sculpture by Jackson Pollock, one of only six still in existence. The museum announced the acquisition Friday, as its exhibition focusing on Pollock's lesser-known "black paintings" enters its final weeks. The abstract sculpture is currently on display as part of the exhibit, titled "Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots." The exhibit opened in November. It's on view through March 20.

Primarily known for his "drip" paintings, Pollock produced more than a dozen sculptures, but many were later lost or destroyed by the artist. The sculpture acquired by the Dallas museum was created in 1956, just weeks before Pollock died at age 44. With the acquisition, the museum now has four works by Pollock, including the painting "Cathedral." — AP

Germany Beard Contest



Participant Norbert Topf shows off his beard during the International German Beard Championships in Schoenberg, Germany, Saturday.



Participant Wolfgang Fuehrs shows off his beard.



Participant Juergen Burkhardt shows off his beard. — AP photos