

Subscription

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

JAMADA ALTHANI 6, 1437 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

No ban on hiring Filipino helpers by expatriates

4



Top cop Ali sent to retirement, promoted

4



Egypt devalues currency to record low against dollar

21



New Jersey fencer to wear hijab at Rio Olympics

16



150 FILS

NO: 16814

40 PAGES

CABINET APPROVES RAFT OF FINANCIAL REFORMS

PROFITS TO BE TAXED 10% • SOME SERVICES RE-PRICED • SOME OIL FACILITIES TO BE PRIVATIZED



Min 18°

Max 25°

High Tide

04:42 & 15:53

Low Tide

10:20 & 23:16

PUTIN WITHDRAWS FORCES FROM SYRIA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday ordered the defense ministry to begin the withdrawal of Russian forces from Syria from today. "The task that was set before our defense ministry and armed forces has as a whole been completed and so I order the defense ministry to from tomorrow start the withdrawal of the main part of our military contingents from the Syrian Arab Republic," Putin told Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in televised comments.



Vladimir Putin

The Kremlin announced that Putin had called President Bashar Al-Assad to inform Moscow's long-standing ally of the surprise move that appears to end the main part of its intervention in Syria's conflict that began in September. "The leaders noted that the actions of the Russian air force allowed to radically change the situation in the fight against terrorism, to disorganize the fighters' infrastructure and inflict significant damage on them," the Kremlin said in a statement.

"Taking that into account, the President of Russia stated that the main tasks set before the armed forces of Russia in Syria had been completed.

Continued on Page 13

AMIR FETES POLICE GRADUATES



KUWAIT: HH the Amir and Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends a ceremony at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences to celebrate the graduation of police officers yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh yesterday announced that the Cabinet has approved a six-point financial and economic reform plan prepared by the Cabinet's economic affairs committee. Speaking at a press conference alongside Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Planning Hind Al-Subaih and the Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali, Saleh said the plan includes a 10 percent tax on profits of companies. The Cabinet also approved re-pricing some commodities and public services, he said without elaborating.

Saleh added the government would seek to privatize some state-owned projects, including airports, ports and some facilities of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), though not the main oil sector. Corporate taxes are currently levied at different rates for local and foreign companies, although most Kuwaiti companies do not presently pay taxes on income. Other charges are levied though - some firms must pay an employment tax and make mandatory contributions for zakat, or Islamic alms, and for a scientific research foundation.

Saleh, who is also the acting oil minister, told the press conference that the country welcomed coordination between OPEC and non-OPEC countries, but insisted priority was a consensus.



Anas Al-Saleh

Continued on Page 13

Try Our Monster Size Shrimps



NEW



KD 3.500



Fisherman Junior Combo
10 pcs Fried Monster Shrimps, Fries, Tartar Sauce, Bread, & Cola



@Shrimpykw

Home Delivery
1802 662

Order Online
www.shrimpy.com





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah separately received Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Sheikh Dr Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane attended both meetings, which took place at Bayan Palace yesterday. —KUNA

YEMENI PRESIDENT IN KUWAIT TODAY

KUWAIT: Yemeni President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi and his accompanying delegation are due to arrive to Kuwait today on a two-day official visit. The Yemeni President will hold official talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks with visiting UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday evening.

During the meeting Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled reaffirmed Kuwait's call for full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2216 on Yemen, the GCC initiative and its executive mechanisms, and the outcomes of the national comprehensive dialogue. He also renewed support to the efforts of the UN Envoy to resume the peace talks between the warring parties in Yemen.

The talks brought together Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, and assistants to the foreign minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran, Nasser Hejji Al-Mezyen, Aziz Rahim Al-Dihani and Ayham Abdullatif Al-Omar, as well as Ambassador to Yemen Fahad Allami'e and other senior officials of the Ministry. —KUNA



Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa

SIXTH INT'L ENERGY CONFERENCE OPENS

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa yesterday inaugurated the 6th International Conference on Energy Research and Development (ICERD-6) under the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In a keynote speech, the minister stressed the significance of energy as the secret of life and a source of power, welfare and scientific research. He added that the lion's share went to the countries which attached much attention to energy development and investment through state-of-the-art methods.

Essa also underlined the necessity of investing energy in a careful manner and opening up to the outside world, noting that this is already happening in Kuwait as many research institutions are partaking in the conference.

Kuwait University Director Dr Husein Al-Ansari said meanwhile that energy is a vital field that wields direct and indirect influence on the contemporary world, pointing to modern energy advancements. He touted the three-day conference as a good opportunity for engineers, technicians and specialists from Kuwait and other GCC countries to get familiar with the latest technological uses in the field of energy. Ansari emphasized that there is no doubt that energy is an essential component of sustainable development.

Organized by Kuwait University (KU), the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Ministry of Electricity and Water, the 6th International Conference on Energy Research and Development (ICERD-6) takes place between March 14-16. The conference builds upon the five previous conferences which have attracted the international energy research and development community.

The theme of the conference is "Advances in Energy Research and Development". Special emphasis will be on emerging energy conversion technologies, conservation and management strategies. The objective is to optimize the utilization of basic energy resources in the major energy consuming sectors in the arid region of the Arabian Peninsula.

The conference aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and practicing experts to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all advancements in energy applied systems. —KUNA

AMIR CONDEMNS ANKARA BOMBING

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to extend condolences over the powerful bombing attack in the Turkish capital which left scores dead.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere sympathy with victims' families and wished the injured quick recovery. His Highness the Amir also strongly condemned the terrorist attack that targeted innocent people and the stability and security of a friendly country.

In this regard, His Highness the Amir

reiterated Kuwait's firm rejection to all forms of terrorism and its solidarity with the international community to eradicate it and dry up its resources. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent similar cables to the Turkish President.

Meanwhile, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Kuwait's Ambassador to Turkey Abdullah Al-Thuwaikh said that all Kuwaitis in Ankara were safe after the

explosion, which killed 37 people. The embassy has not received any reports that any Kuwaiti was harmed, ambassador Thuwaikh said, urging his compatriots to be cautious and keep away from the site of the explosion.

Thuwaikh said that the embassy established an operating room to receive contacts from Kuwaitis in case of emergency. He offered his condolences to the Turkish people over the victims of the Kizilay blast, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery.

In the meantime, a senior official at the

Foreign Ministry has expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the terrorist attack that targeted a bust stop in Ankara Sunday evening. In a press statement, the official emphasized Kuwait's full support to all Turkish measures to maintain security and stability in the country.

The official reiterated Kuwait's firm stance against all forms terrorism and whatever its source. The official extended condolences to families of the victims to the Turkish people and government and wished injured people quick recovery. —KUNA



SAMSUNG

Enjoy your Galaxy S7
Starting at KD 21 Monthly

Galaxy S7 edge | S7



Rethink what a phone can do



Galaxy Entertainer

Enjoy exclusive entertainer benefits by activating the pre-installed Galaxy Entertainer app.

Micro SD Card with every purchase of a Galaxy S7 edge or S7

Get the device and enjoy these benefits



500 local minutes



50 GB LTE-A Internet



Unlimited SMS



FREE Zain Wi-Fi

Terms and conditions apply

www.kw.zain.com

A Wonderful World



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 Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court, President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Yousef Al-Muta'waa attend a police officers' graduation ceremony at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences. —Photos by Amiri Diwan and Yasser Al-Zayyat



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrives to attend the ceremony.



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



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

AMIR PATRONIZES POLICE GRADUATION AT SAAD AL-ABDULLAH ACADEMY

KUWAIT: Under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Amir, Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a ceremony was held yesterday at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences to celebrate graduation of police officers. His Highness the Amir patronized the graduation of the 42nd batch of non-commissioned officers, 27th batch of specialized officers of the Police Academy and 8th group of women specialized officers from the Women Police Academy.

He was received at the Academy by Deputy

Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Fahad Al-Fahad, Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary of Education and Training Affairs Major General Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Minister's assistant undersecretaries, and the Director General of Saad Al Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, Brigadier Nasser Bourisly, besides senior Ministry officers.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly 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, Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court, President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Muta'waa, First Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Acting Oil Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, besides senior state officials, relatives of the graduated officers and citizens.

The ceremony commenced by playing the National Anthem, followed by Holy Qur'an recitation, a speech given by Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary of Education and Training Affairs, Major General Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Ceremony for handing of the Academy's flag from the 42nd batch to the 43rd batch took place; then Bourisly recited graduates' final

results. The parade took permission from His Highness the Amir to launch a military show, before graduates took oath recited by Kuwaiti Police College Colonel Ali Jassem Al-Whaib.

His Highness the Amir distributed prizes and certificates to the honored graduates, then His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince were handed the Academy's Shield. The Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary of Education delivered his speech welcoming His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince for their patronization of the ceremony.—KUNA



Newly graduated policemen participate in a parade at the ceremony.



Newly graduated policewomen participate in a parade at the ceremony.



A policeman celebrates his graduation with his family.

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff convey their
deepest condolences to

Osama Abdallah
General Manager of Pride media

on the sad demise of his

Mother

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her

CABINET COMMENDS NORTH THUNDER DRILLS

KUWAIT: During its customary weekly meeting headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet reviewed the outcomes of the recent military drills 'North Thunder' in Saudi Arabia, which reflected integration and unity in face of challenges threatening regional security, peace and stability.

The cabinet voiced much satisfaction with the exercises that brought together forces from several Arab and Muslim countries for training in fighting terrorist groups in the region, appreciating the Saudi role in promoting regional peace and stability. The cabinet welcomed a visit to be paid by Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to Kuwait today, wishing him a pleasant stay in the country.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah apprised the cabinet on the outcomes of the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC members, Morocco and Jordan in Riyadh.

The also cabinet congratulated former Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abul-Gheit on having been chosen as new Secretary-General of the Arab League, hailing his capabilities and experience, and thanked outgoing Secretary-General Nabil Al-Araby for his efforts to promote Arab issues.

Meanwhile, the cabinet denounced a recent bomb explosion that hit Kisilay district in downtown Ankara, billing it as a "terrorist act." The cabinet reiterated in a press release following its weekly meeting Kuwait's position rejecting all forms and types of terrorism which run counter with all religions, values and human norms.

It also offered heartfelt condolences to the Turkish government and people over the victims



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

of the bombing, and wished swift recovery to those injured in the attack. On Sunday, a powerful car bombing hit Kisilay district in downtown Ankara, leaving at least 37 people killed and more than 100 others wounded.

Also yesterday, the cabinet deplored a recent attack in Tunisia's southern Ben Guerdane City, terming it as a "terrorist act." The cabinet reiterated Kuwait's support for all measures and moves taken by the Tunisian government in order to

ensure its security and stability, urging Tunisians to get united in face of threats their nation is facing. On March 7th, a bomb explosion hit Ben Guerdane City on the border with Libya, leaving at least 55 people dead, including 36 militants, 12 policemen and seven civilians. Immediately following the attack, Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi had announced the closure of borders with Libya and a night-time curfew in Ben Guerdane and Djerba. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Philippine Labor Attache Cesar Chavez (left) speaks to Kuwait Times yesterday, in presence of Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

NO BAN ON HIRING FILIPINO HELPERS BY EXPATRIATES

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: There is no discrimination with regards to employing Filipino domestic helpers by expats, Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa told reporters yesterday, but he added the rules have been tightened to prevent human trafficking. The envoy was responding after Kuwait Times and a local Arabic daily reported that expats could be barred from hiring Filipino domestic helpers. Kuwait Times reported in February that recruitment agencies were refusing to hire out Filipino staff to expatriates living in Kuwait. Several agencies told Kuwait Times that they had been advised by the Philippines Embassy of this, though some agencies disregarded the policy.

"No, that is incorrect," Ambassador Villa said. "The embassy was taken out of context. We don't discriminate against anyone or any nationality. We see to it that the employers of our household service workers are in good hands and that the employers are capable of paying the salaries of the workers and paying compensation in the event of a transfer. Recently, we found evidence of human trafficking because many employers take our housemaids to other countries for long periods," he explained. Villa specifically noted that "expats are taking our maids to their [home] countries without the knowledge of the Philippine Embassy, so a new regulation was necessary".

New Rules

Philippine Labor Attache Cesar Chavez explained the new policy. "What was published in the newspapers is not true. It was taken out of context. What we want to do is strictly enforce the existing policy of the embassy. If employers decide to take Filipino domestic helpers overseas, we have to issue an undertaking that they will bring to the airport to show to immigration officers," Chavez explained.

The undertaking, according to Chavez, will be signed by the sponsor and will include a letter of consent from the worker and a letter of request by the employer addressed to the embassy. "This way, it is of mutual benefits to both parties - the workers and employers. The workers are protected from being trafficked and taken outside Kuwait, and will be suitably compensated. For example, if the employer decides to take the housemaid to Britain, she must be compensated according to the salary rates in that particular country - likewise for the US. This fact will be added in the amended contracts. If workers abscond in the countries where the sponsors take them, employers can ask the embassy to help them," he said.

"We want to make sure that employers who are hiring Filipina domestic help are capable of paying the workers. Our

benchmark is that employers should have a combined income of not less than KD 1,000, so they can pay their workers - this applies to Kuwaiti employers and expats. We are not restricting the rights of the employers to hire domestic helpers, but we are documenting and protecting the rights of not just the workers but the employers too, to avoid workers being trapped in human trafficking," Chavez said.

Letter of approval

The embassy has advised other embassies here to accept only those workers who will accompany their employers who have a prior letter of approval from the Philippine Embassy. "An employer wanted to take a domestic Filipina worker to Germany, but the German Embassy asked the employer to get an approval letter from our post," he said.

"We started this program a few months back, but from April 1, we will be releasing templates of the one-page undertaking document, saying whenever the employers take workers out of Kuwait, we want them to come to the embassy and submit the letter of request and the letter of consent from the workers willing to accompany their employers. If there should be amendments of contracts, we will do it if necessary," Chavez added.

The contract approved by the Kuwaiti government says that the place of work should be Kuwait only if workers are employed in Kuwait, and employers cannot take their workers outside Kuwait, so the undertaking and letters are necessary. "They have to get the approval of the workers, the Philippine Embassy and the Kuwait government in order to allow them to take workers outside Kuwait. Nowadays, the immigration department is requiring employers to show documents from the embassy and where they will take the workers from Kuwait," he said.

400 runaways

The Philippine Embassy has about 400 runaway household service workers divided in two shelters. "What is alarming is the fact that many of our runaway workers have petty salary problems - some ran away from employers after only two months of non-payment of salaries, or after minor quarrels with employers or co-workers. We try to negotiate, fix the problem and reconcile," Chavez noted.

Chavez said around 2,500 Filipinos arrive in Kuwait monthly, and domestic helpers account about 60 percent of the 200,000 Filipino workers in the country. There are an estimated 660,000 domestic helpers in Kuwait, and a vast majority is brought in by recruitment agencies, which charge fees between KD 500 to KD 1,500. Local recruitment agencies charge the highest for Filipino domestic helpers.



KUWAIT: This photo provided by the Interior Ministry shows members of a gang arrested for money laundry yesterday.

TWELVE-MEMBER MONEY LAUNDRY GANG BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Twelve people were arrested yesterday for money laundering, said security sources. They noted that the gang specialized in stealing credit card numbers and using special equipment they imported to forge other credit cards with the names of dead people to deposit funds illegally. The sources explained that once they made the fake cards, gang members used them to liquidate the funds through transactions they made locally in

return for a commission after they transferred the funds abroad.

"The gang issued more than 100 fake credit cards with over one million dollars in deposits," added the sources. They further indicated that the suspects arrested included two citizens, two Jordanians, two Nigerians, a Syrian, four Egyptians and a GCC national, adding that a Nigerian is at large and an Egyptian has left the country. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

No injuries in fires

A fire broke out in a building on Amman Street in Salmiya, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene to find that the fire had started in some debris on the sixth floor. The building had to be evacuated while fighting the fire and controlling it. No casualties were reported. Separately, a fire broke out in a vehicle in Fahd Al-Ahmad, said security sources, noting that Mangaf firemen rushed to the scene and controlled it. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the blaze.

ABDUL FATTAH AL-ALI REFERRED TO RETIREMENT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah referred Major General Abdul Fattah Al-Ali to retirement and promoted him to Lieutenant General. No decision has been made so far to name a replacement for Ali as the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for General Security. Before being appointed to his most recent post, Ali served as the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs.

Police killer remanded

A local court yesterday remanded in custody citizen Abdul Aziz Waleed Al-Shamlan, who is accused of ramming his vehicle into a checkpoint near Dasman Palace, killing a policeman and injuring others.

Fintas Group

The criminal court yesterday adjourned hearing the 'Fintas Group' state security case in which 13 people including a ruling family member, lawyers and bloggers are involved, till March 28. Notably, the judge warned the defendants' lawyer that this would be the last postponement and that any further requests would be denied. The defendants are facing charges of slandering HH the Amir and endangering Kuwait's security through spreading rumors and misleading information.

'Masked civilian'

Lawyer Humoud Al-Hajri said that the public

prosecution had referred a complaint filed by former MP Musallam Al-Barrak about a 'masked civilian' who searched his cell for further investigations.



Abdul Fattah Al-Ali

Telecom towers

The Municipal Council's legal and financial committee agreed to amend some articles in the telecom towers' charter that had been languishing in drawers for long because of technical and administrative disputes, as the committee had banned building such towers in residential areas and hospitals. Moreover, committee chairman Mane Al-Ajmi said that the committee also referred a project on processing solid waste and utilizing it to the legal department and discussed several other topics in its meeting.

Patients' allowances

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's (MSAL) Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs Hassan Kazem stressed that the ministry was awaiting the Ministry of Health's (MoH) decision on allowances for patients receiving treatment overseas. He added that MSAL seeks to prevent double payment if patients were already paid allowances for companions.

Prices at co-ops

The Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) price follow up committee yesterday made a sudden inspection visit to Adailiya Co-op where three citations of violating UCCS' pricing list were issued, for selling some items at lower prices in a sale promotion without permission from the ministry of commerce. Chairman Sami Munaikh stressed that the tour is part of the committee's efforts to make sure all co-ops fully respect UCCS' unified prices.

Fourth Ring Road

Speaking at MP Faisal Al-Shaye's diwaniya in Rawda, Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering Ahmed Al-Hessan at the Ministry of Public Aorks (MPW) stressed that MPW was keen on developing various roads, especially inner ones in densely populated areas, to avoid congestions during rush hours, including Rawda. Hessan added that MPW was currently studying two projects to develop the Fourth Ring Road to increase its capacity and reduce traffic accidents.

NEW HOTEL FOR HAWALLY

KUWAIT: A new four star hotel will be built in Hawally on the corner of Al-Mutasim and 110 street. The new complex will include a 31 floor tower with 122 hotel rooms, basement parking, a lobby, restaurants, gym, meeting rooms as well as shopping and children's play area. SSH, a leading master planning and

building design firm in Kuwait, has been awarded the contract for the hotel by Tamouh National General Trading & Contracting. SSH will be the lead consultant for all the design phases and permitting, starting from data collection and concept design phase through to tender documents and services for the high-rise project.

JABER STADIUM, CAUSEWAY REFERRED TO PROSECUTION

KUWAIT: The parliament's public funds protection committee recommended referring four files to the Public Prosecution in order to investigate money squandering suspicions based on State Audit Bureau reports. The panel discussed the bureau's reports yesterday and found out that there are suspicions of wasting public funds in the Jaber Stadium's construction project, the Jaber Causeway's tender, the contract between Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Shell, and a deal in which the Ministry of Defense purchased two cargo aircrafts, Chairman MP Dr Abdullah Al-Turajji said.

In other news, the parliament's educational committee discussed yesterday a draft law pertaining with private education, as

well as private school fees. The panel agreed to suspend all increases to private school fees until it finishes putting together standards pertaining with the private education system, rapporteur MP Humoud Al-Hamdan told reporters after the meeting, which was also attended by the Ministry of Education's Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari.

An agreement was also reached to provide the committee with a draft for the standards so that its members can discuss it with private school owners and parents, Hamdan said. This would be followed by a meeting that includes government representatives and concerned parties in order to agree on clear bases for the fees' increasing criteria, Hamdan added. — KUNA

MINISTERIAL LAW NUMBER 4 FOR THE YEAR 2016: THE LIST OF ORGANIZING PRIVATE MUSEUMS

Article (1)

In implementing the rules of this list, the following words and terms will have the meaning explained next to them, unless the text sequence indicates otherwise:

- Council: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters.
- Chairman: Chairman of the Board of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters.
- Administration: Antiquities and museums administration.
- Committee: Private museums committee.
- Private Museum: Place where archeological, heritage, historic, scientific, cultural, natural, art and other collections are displayed with the intention of study, research, serving the public and developing the society's culture.
- License: Approval issued by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters.
- License: Any natural or judicial person who receives the license.
- Categorization: Determining the museum category according to the level of its displays and variety of its activities.

Article (2)

Museums are categorized in the following categories: (A), (B), (C).

Article (3)

- Category (A) within the museums' categorizations will be the highest, followed by (B), then (C).

Article (4)

- Museum categorization will be according to the categories mentioned in the above two articles according to the following:
 - 1- Museum building:
 - Extent of independence (separate, part of a house or another building), condition of the building (excellent, good, or accepted).
 - Availability of supporting buildings (warehouses, stores, toilets).
 - Location (main street, in the middle of a neighborhood, away from the city).
 - 2- Proportionality of the building area with the displays.
 - 3- Introduction of the museum (direction signs, printed matter, website).
 - 4- Museum groups (number of pieces, their artistic and historical value, the way they are displayed, documented and introduced).
 - 5- Museum display:
 - Environmental conditions of the display (air conditioning, ventilation, lighting).
 - Display cabinets (type, quality, adequacy)
 - 6- Maintenance and restoration of museum pieces:
 - Availability of a place to maintain and restore pieces with necessary maintenance material (the way they are stored, validity, education for the prevention of danger).
 - 7- Museum cleanliness (of corridors, halls, yards; hygiene of toilets and stores).
 - 8- Protection of the museum and its contents (quality of doors and windows, surveillance cameras, lack of what hinders protection).
 - 9- Availability of safety means (emergency exits, clarity of the ways to them, signs leading to emergency exits).
 - 10- Records (artifacts' inventory record, indexing them, scientific content, record of entry and exit of pieces, record of raw materials, restoration, maintenance, financial and administrative registers, workers' register, visitors' register, media reports).

10- Administrative structure (administration, maintenance and restoration specialists, supporting services' laborers).

11- Museum's mission (holding activities, lectures)

12- Development and planning (extent of a museum's planning to develop its activities, and the agreement of a museum's activities with its mission and goals).

13- Use of techniques (audiovisual).

Article (5)

A private museum can have the following work:

1. Administer the collections and develop hem through a certain policy in the collection and administration process.
2. Maintaining archeological and heritage pieces with the use of modern technology.
3. Documenting and searching for collections through gathering enough data about them through scientific research, and use of collections as research means in order to develop knowledge.
4. Build cooperation bridges with international museums and foreign establishments through official channels, in coordination with concerned government departments, through exchange of data and organizing joint exhibitions to introduce national collections of each country.
5. Facilitate the delivery of information to visitors and place description labels on them.
6. Display of collections for study and education purposes, and execute cultural and educational activities that are related to the exhibition's purposes such as seminars, workshops and others.

Article (6)

Any natural or judicial person can administer a private museum, or use it after obtaining a license for it from the council.

Article (7)

- The applicant for a license to administer or use a private museum must meet the following conditions:
 1. Must be a fully-qualified Kuwaiti national.
 2. Must be of good repute, not previously convicted for a felony or misdemeanor that is related to honor or honesty, unless his status is restored to him.
 3. Must have a minimum of general secondary certificate or equivalent, and the council can exempt those who have enough experience in the museum and antiquities fields.
 4. Must own or use a suitable location.

The license applicant can be an existing Kuwaiti company according to the rules of law (1) of 2016 of the companies law.

Article (8)

- The application for a license to administer or use a private museum on the designated form, attached to it a receipt of KD 50 paid to the council treasury as licensing fee. Applications must include the following data:
 - 1- Name of the private museum (can be a common name, also can be in the name of a certain person).
 - 2- Indicate the location on which the museum is built, sources of financing and sources of the collections. The antiquities and museums department must submit the application to the committee mentioned in article 22 of

this list, accompanied with a report that includes its opinion, its initial approval or rejection of the application.

Article (9)

- Chairman of the council issues an initial decision within 60 days from the application's data to approve or reject the license application, and if the period passes without a decision, the application will be considered rejected.
- The applicant will be informed by a confirmed reception letter sent to the address mentioned on the application, and the applicant will be considered informed of the decision as soon as he receives the said letter.

Article (10)

The applicant must present to the administration within six months from informing him the initial approval of the following:

- 1- An engineering draft explaining the location and specifications of the proposed building stating the rooms' and facilities' dimensions.
- 2- An integrated list of collections that will be displayed in the museum, with full data and the historic periods it belongs to.
- 3- Approval documents from concerned authorities (commerce and industry, interior and health ministries and the Environment Public Authority). If the applicant does not meet any of the commitments mentioned in the previous items during the designated period, the initial approval will be considered cancelled without the need of any other action. The chairman of the council can extend the date for a maximum of two months if the applicant presents an accepted excuse.

Article (11)

The license period is three renewable years after paying the fee mentioned in article 8.

Article (12)

The applicant must comply with following:

1. Register all displayed antiquities in the museum in special registers, sealed with the council's seal while keeping a copy of it.
2. Provide total protection for all displays.
3. Report any transfer of ownership of any of the displays without the council's approval.
4. Present annual activities and programs including seminars, exhibitions, workshops and guide training programs.
5. Facilitate arrival at the museum without hassle or hardship, and that all requirements such as adequate lighting, security and safety in a way that guarantees visitor safety.
6. Not encroach on the country's general directions or religious beliefs.

Article (13)

The licensee cannot do the following without the approval of the council:

- 1- Sell or carry out any action on antiquities or take them out of the country.
- 2- Accept financial aid or material gifts from any source from inside or outside Kuwait.
- 3- Move the museum from one place to another, or carry out deep-rooted changes on the building or displays, or close it for more than three continuous months.
- 4- Use the museum for purposes other than that designated.

- 5- Display any unregistered artifact, be it through purchase, gift, grant or exchange.
- 6- Invest in the name of the museum or use it for purposes other than designated ones.

Article (14)

The licensee cannot give up the license until after the council's approval and based on a written request on the form prepared for this purpose according to the following rules:

1. The recipient must meet the conditions mentioned in this list.
2. The application must be attached with all documents related to the recipient, and mentioned in this list.

Article (15)

The private museum's administration will be considered null and void under the following circumstances:

1. If the licensee asks for cancellation.
2. If the licensee loses one of the conditions mentioned in article 7.

3. Death of the licensee without a legal heir who meets the licensing conditions, or if none of the heirs come forward for the transfer of the license within two months from death.
4. Violating any of the prohibitions mentioned in article 13 of this list.

Article (16)

The council supervises all private museums administratively and technically through the antiquities and museums department, and for that purpose can do the following:

1. Make inspection visits to private museums and examine displays in it.
2. Register the antiquities and heritage pieces displayed in the private museums in the antiquities and heritage register at the council.
3. What it deems necessary by other measures that fulfill supervision and follow-up.

Article (17)

- The museums open their doors for the public from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Article (18)

- It is allowed to set an entrance fee to the museum or the location on which temporary exhibitions are made after the council's approval, with a decision from the chairman according to the instructions organizing this.
 - When the fee is decided, it should be reasonable and commensurate with the museum's categorization, costs of its construction and operation, or with the level of location, and it should encourage the largest numbers of the public to enter the museum or location, while at the same time encourage investors in this sector.

Article (19)

- The museum can benefit from the council's expertise, and get its scientific support in the display fields, preserving displays, their maintenance and restoration, as well as operation and administration, and get international expertise in these joint fields within the framework of joint cooperation between the council and international museums.

Article (20)

- The council can give financial support to the private museum and support it by government financing sources to get aid and loans that are used to develop the museum.
 - If the required support from the council is financial, its presentation depends on what is available in the form of financial reasons.

Article (21)

- When the council supports any of the private museums at any of the government or private financing sources to get a loan, it does not give any guarantee for this purpose.

Article (22)

The chairman of the council forms a committee for private museums chaired by the council's secretary general and membership of:

- Assistant secretary general for the antiquities sector.
- Director of museums and antiquities department.
- Senior legal specialist.
- Sufficient number of specialists.

Article (23)

The committee mentioned in the previous article will be concerned with the following:

- 1- Follow up the implementation of the general policy put forth by the council to the museums.
- 2- Propose suitable mechanisms and procedures to develop private museums and encourage the private sector to invest in the cultural sector.
- 3- Study the licensing applications and submit them to the chairman of the council.
- 4- Approve the displays.
- 5- Look into violating private museums and take suitable measures towards them.
- 6- Study the applications to get support and cancellation of licenses presented by private museums and submit them to the chairman along with an opinion.
- 7- Any other duties the chairman asks it to do.

Article (24)

The council can take the following measures if the licensee violates any of the rules in this list:

1. Written warnings.
 2. Close the private museum for up to one year.
 3. Revoke the private museum's license.
- The revocation decision is issued by the council's chairman after the presentation of the committee mentioned in article 22 and those concerned will be informed of the decision with the same procedures mentioned in the last paragraph of article 9.

Article (25)

The council's administration has the right to interpret or amend this list, and the chairman can issue the necessary decision to implement it.

GOVERNMENT TO LICENSE, OVERSEE PRIVATE MUSEUMS

KUWAIT: Under a ministerial decree, the government will now assume oversight of all private museums in Kuwait. Information Minister Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday underscored the necessity of regulating private museums, which constitute an inseparable part of Kuwait national heritage and history. Sheikh Salman, who doubles as the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), called for renovating these museums and render them more attractive and accommodating for visitors and heritage aficionados.



Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

The official gazette published, on Sunday, laws regulating these museums' activities, tasking the Council with administrating them and setting some terms. Some of the terms include that the private museums will now be required to obtain licensing from the NCCAL and also they will have to seek budget support from the arts council and will be forbidden from accepting private donations. The new regulations will also set the private museums' timings and provide a range of other terms

and conditions for their continued operation.

Kuwait is rich in private museums, estimated at more than 50. They include Bait Al-Othman Museum, Tareq Rajab Museum, Dickson House, the House of Mirrors and the ancient Mubarak Kiosk among others.

KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION
March 10th Till April 14th, 2016

Organized By
Kuwait Times

Sponsored By
JW MARRIOTT KUWAIT CITY
ZAIN
AL-BATEL

HELLO ARTISTS...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting. *Good luck to you, our young artists.*

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) and (15 - 17) and Special needs
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- **The competition will start on March 10th and will continue till April 14th 2016.**
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the competition will receive an appreciation plaque.
- Any school or individual interested to participate in this competition is welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheets.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be allowed.
- You can use any kind of color pencils, paint brushes or crayons.

Participation Form

If you are interested to participate fill the form and send it to Kuwait Times.

From: _____

We would like to confirm our participation in the above mentioned activity with the total number of participating student's so the corresponding number of drawing sheets can be delivered to our school.

School: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____

Total number of interested students are
6 - 8 years ☐ 9 - 11 years ☐ 12 - 14 years ☐ 15 - 17 years ☐ Special need ☐

Name: _____ Signature: _____

For more information contact Kuwait Times
Tel: 24835616/7 Fax 24835620/1 or send an email to: ads@kuwaittimes.net

IELTS Study Abroad Roadshow
Meet 39 leading universities from Australia, UK, USA and Canada coming to your city

Australia
• Monash University
• Bond University
• Curtin University
• Griffith University
• La Trobe University
• Macquarie University
• RMIT University
• University of Technology, Sydney - Insearch

United Kingdom
• Birmingham City University
• Cardiff University
• INTO
• Liverpool John Moores University
• NAVITAS UK
• Northumbria University
• Queen Mary, University of London
• Staffordshire University
• The University of Nottingham
• University of Birmingham
• University of Bradford
• University of Glasgow
• University of Reading
• University of Strathclyde

United States
• Adelphi University
• American University
• Auburn University
• University of Kansas
• Florida International University
• Green River College
• Louisiana State University
• University of Central Florida
• University of Missouri-St. Louis
• University of South Carolina
• Western Michigan University

Canada
• Simon Fraser University
• University of Manitoba
• Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
• Thompson Rivers University

IELTS Masterclass
300 pm - 4:30 pm

Kuwait
Tuesday, March 15th
Marina Hotel
5pm - 9pm

Tel.: 22288094 / 95/ 96
info.kuwait@idp.com

www.idp.com/middleeast
www.idp.ielts.me

• IDP Middle East

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

FAREWELL, MY DAUGHTER!

By Yousif Al-Jassem

At 40 years of age, our bride spent almost half of these years attached to life-support medical equipment without seeing sunlight or breathing fresh air. For the past 12 years, she lived at the Sabah Hospital ICU receiving attentive care from the angels of mercy who accompanied her in days and nights of agony amongst various medical equipment readings with occasional hope as well as alarms that made them run to her bed to save her from imminent fatal dangers.

Twenty-three years of complete silence passed during which the parents never stopped whispering good mornings and good evenings to her ears - 23 years during which she exchanged silent love with them by expressing it through inhaling and exhaling through automatic breathing apparatuses. She did hear their whispers but was never able to respond nor was she able to express pain when she felt it, which intensified our sorrow for her and accumulated her rewards with almighty Allah.

She was only 17 and full of energy and hope when she had a terrible accident in 1993 that got her into hospital gowns until she turned forty - 23 years she spent in a journey fluctuating between hope, despair and anticipation. Twenty-three years full of clinging to hope whenever attacked by a seizure of despair, and each time the Creator responded to our prayers. We never gave up hope with every new morning that her fatigued body would recover.

Families of hundreds of her neighboring patients and injured young men and women prayed for her recovery while she lay in bed without being able to sit once while we repeatedly witnessed Allah's miracles when many of them recovered and were discharged, and were shocked for those who passed away. We used to exchange remarks of congratulations on recovery and words of condolences on death with people along that silent corridor on a daily basis amidst the beeping of life support machines in that tiny world known as ICU, which seems to be the final line separating someone's end from going on living. And so the circle went on endlessly and was filled with patience and asking for Allah's mercy.

An just when her lovely long black hair started to be invaded by several grey ones, she met Allah's fate just before sunset on March 6, 2016, and thus ended her agony. Gentle spring wind finally touched her soft lifeless cheeks for the first time in twelve years while carried on a stretcher on an ambulance followed by everyone's tears to her final resting place in eternity.

On March 7, 2016, she was wrapped in white burial shrouds and perfumed with incense just like a bride would be seen off to her marriage house on her wedding day - instead, she was carried to her grave, which is Allah's will and one cannot but accept it. Kenda left as a gorgeous bride of heaven and we hope she would be forgiven after what she had been through.

Kenda's mother was the one who supervised preparing her for her eternal journey just the way she used to do with her young bride before her chronic fatal injury. The poor mother bid her daughter farewell with deep sorrow. "Who else am I going to visit every morning, Kenda, after I used to cling to your hospital bed for the past 23 years?!" the mother said.

Please forgive us, dear daughter, if we ever did you wrong. We could only spread love and hope around you during your misery, but our only consolation is that everybody prayed for your salvation and Allah's mercy. We were consoled by the crowds of people condoling us at your funeral including friends, family and loved ones. Please forgive me, Kenda...I will stop here. I can write no more because I can no longer see the lines my dear, as this is the first time I ever write with tears in my eyes. Farewell, dear daughter!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

Filipina stabbed in the eye

KUWAIT: A Filipina woman was stabbed in her eye by her husband, a citizen, who was reportedly under the influence of drugs. The woman was rushed to hospital while her husband escaped. A call came to police from a house in Mahboula from neighbors about the attack against the woman. Police and paramedics went to the building and rushed the woman to hospital. Police are investigating.

Fake mobile phones

The Commercial supervision department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry uncovered a fake goods operation in mobile phones. The action was under direct supervision by Assistant Undersecretary for Supervision and Consumer Protection Affairs Eid Al-Rashidi. More than 72 smart phones were confiscated along with hundreds of stickers, and all phones are Chinese made, but the stickers are replaced to show they were made in Korea to sell them for a higher price. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

CRACKDOWN ON PART-TIME DOMESTIC HELPERS SOON

KUWAIT: Director of the Domestic Labor Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) Mohammed Al-Ajmi announced his department's intention to launch various inspection campaigns before the month of Ramadan to pursue 'part-time' domestic helpers working for expats and citizens for limited hours. Ajmi added that very strict measures would be followed with both helpers and those who hire them, in addition to any fake domestic labor offices involved. "Arrested helpers will be deported and those hiring them will be punished," stressed Ajmi, noting that ads offering such services have been prevailing on social media. Ajmi explained that many complaints had been filed by citizens conned by fake labor offices offering domestic helpers for KD 150-200 each, which is a very low price compared to the usual rate, and after paying the sum and working for a fortnight or so, the helper usually fled the house. — Al-Anbaa



AWQAF TERMINATES 1,500 EXPATS

KUWAIT: Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane recently laid off 1,500 expatriates working for the ministry, granting them a two-month notice to adjust their legal statuses. Sane issued ministerial decision number 123/2016 pertaining stopping employment on a commission system effective on May 11, 2016, exempting Kuwaitis and bedoons (stateless) hired on this system.

Informed sources said that the decision involves around 1,500 expats and exempts



Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane

around 600 expats upon recommendations made by a special committee Sane formed four months earlier to decide who was really needed and who could be laid off.

The sources wondered what the ministry would do after laying off such a large number of people and whether it would contract a special company to recruit workers the way other ministries did to avoid the remarks made by the Audit Bureau about the large number of expat employees. — Al-Rai



OOREDOO GIVES DIAMOND SPONSORSHIP TO THE 18TH CAREER FAIR OF GUST

HELPING YOUNG GRADUATES CARVE A BRIGHT FUTURE

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, participated in the Gulf University of Science and Technology 17th Career Fair as platinum sponsor. The fair was inaugurated by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah, and received visitors for two days. Ooredoo was available at the event and was headed by Chief of Human Resources and Administration Services Saleh Al-Houti.

Driven by its social responsibility, Ooredoo is keen to take part in such occasions as it is always willing to support youth and help them reach their potential and shape their career paths.

In a statement to the press, Ooredoo Chief of Human Resources and Administration Services said: "Youth have a major part in our corporate social responsibility program. We strongly believe in the role they play in creating a better future. We especially believe in talented Kuwaiti youth, who can be partners in our success as a telecom service provider operating in Kuwait." Ooredoo Kuwait's Human Resources representatives were present at the Ooredoo's booth and briefed thousands of students about



the benefits of working for Ooredoo and the different career growth opportunities provided by the company, as well as internship opportunities.

This is not the first time that Ooredoo has taken part in a job fair; it has successfully participated in several job fairs in the past. The company's aim is to open new horizons for the ambitious youth by giving them an opportunity to apply their educational

knowledge to the professional world.

Ooredoo is known for its dynamic and fresh corporate culture where new ideas are nurtured and everyone is given a fair chance to grow and maximize their potential. Ooredoo employees are always given opportunities to develop their skills and enhance their knowledge through extensive training programs along with new challenges to develop their interests.

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

UNTIL WHEN?

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

"When" is a word that comes in two cases - either as a question mark about time in the past or future, while in the other case, it is a conditional tool, and this is what concerns my column. The human being must realize what happened yesterday and what will happen tomorrow, rather the nature of our world, compels he who has the truth to declare the future of the world.

In a minute, or it may be a second, we hear and read about contradicting news, and we do not know where the truth lies among it, as if we are a ball being exchanged by tennis racquets, as the players with each hit we receive think that this is reality, and regretfully with these hits, people fly in the air without knowing the truth until we reach the other racquet and get hit with another slap without knowing about yesterday, today and tomorrow.

My lines do not belong to symbolism, and its alphabets did not come from any sect that fragments and analyzes its words - my column today comes from one noun "when". With the advance of technology, presence of transparency and respect of freedoms, it is imperative for everyone who has decision-making powers in our world to stand and tell the world what happened yesterday and what will happen tomorrow.

Yesterday, it was the Brotherhood and Syria's decisions, and what it bears in the form of division, canceling the truth and economic crises. Today and tomorrow the crises escalate in a blink, and find another event over Hezbollah and Lebanon, and where are we? When it happened? We do not know.

I may not be among the skilled politicians, and I am not an economist, but I belong to this world and belong to these societies, and when I hear and see what happens in the form of events, I only find these lines which I write to those who have answers to the words "until when".

Until when will our mothers keep crying over the death of their children?

Until when will ignorance and poverty remain in our societies?

Until when will our children remain without fathers, and our women without men?

Until when will our homelands continue to be divided into parties and groups?

In conclusion: Until when, you who have secrets of when!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

NO PROPOSAL TO DEPORT EXPATS: TRAFFIC CHIEF

KUWAIT: Assistant Interior Ministry Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna said the proposal to raise the value of traffic fines is with the fatwa and legislation department, and hoped it would be approved soon. He said the proposal to increase fees for traffic services is still being studied. Muhanna denied that the traffic sector presented a cars crushing project, adding that the traffic department did not and will not present such a project because it violates the law, as the vehicle is private property and it needs a court verdict, other than this will be a violation of the law. Muhanna said "there is no proposal with regards to deporting expatriates for some violations". He said the word "deportation" is not said to frighten expats, and it is not up to personal opinion, but it is according to procedures, and it is only for driving without a license and transporting passengers illegally. — Al-Rai



Abdullah Al-Muhanna

KFH SPONSORS GCC TRAFFIC WEEK 2016

KUWAIT: "Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is keen on supporting the official authorities' efforts and participating in the society-oriented activities as part of its corporate social responsibility and pioneering role in serving the society," said Public Relations Manager Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh. He added in a press release on the occasion of sponsoring the GCC Unified Traffic Week 2016, that KFH spares no efforts in taking part in the activities of the GCC unified week that aim at increasing the awareness and achieving safety and security for the residents and citizens of the GCC countries. He indicated that safety and security traffic is important factor in achieving development and prosperity in any country.

Ruwaieh explained that KFH has been participating in this annual event for the seventh year in a row, emanating from its firm belief in the importance of synergy and concerted efforts of both private and public sectors for the sake of urging drivers and pedestrians to adhere to traffic rules and respect the law, which highlights the country's civilized face.

Moreover, he hailed the strong ties between KFH and the Ministry of Interior, underscoring the key role of policemen in minimizing traffic congestions and achieving the highest levels of traffic security. He said that all GCC countries celebrate the GCC traffic week, revealing that it is filled with activities that encompass workshops, seminars, distributing leaflets and awareness brochures for road users in collaboration and coordination with ministries and official bodies.



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh



KUWAIT: Kuwait Journalists Association's (KJA) ordinary general assembly meeting unanimously approved the board of directors' financial and administrative reports for the year 2015. The meeting took place at the KJA building in Shuwaikh, with attendance of KJA board members as well as representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) and Al-Buzai auditing office.





Qaeda claims deadly attack in Ivory Coast



ANKARA: Police forensic officials work at the explosion site in Ankara, Turkey yesterday. A senior government official said that authorities believe the attack was carried out by two bombers, one of them a woman, and was the work of Kurdish militants. It was the second deadly attack blamed on Kurdish militants in the capital in the past month. — AP

TURKEY POUNDS PKK AFTER ANKARA BOMBING

DEATH TOLL HITS 37; ONE OF THE BOMBERS ‘FEMALE PKK MILITANT’

WHAT WOULD US FOREIGN POLICY LOOK LIKE UNDER DONALD TRUMP?

WASHINGTON: By his own admission, Donald Trump has no foreign policy advisors. But that hasn't stopped the billionaire real estate developer from making outrageous declarations on his foreign policy plans if elected president. So far, the Republican frontrunner has said he would force Mexico to build a border wall to keep illegal immigrants out of the US. He wants to deport 11 million illegal immigrants, ban Muslims from entering the country and suggested wiping out the Islamic State extremist group with a massive military operation. "I think Islam hates us," he declared about the world's second-largest religion with 1.6 billion followers. Trump threatens trade war with China, Japan and Mexico if they don't "behave," and wants a closer relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom he admires.

No team

There's no clarity on who will guide his foreign policy or whom he would consider tapping as his Secretary of State. Asked by MSNBC who will be the "giants" on his foreign policy team, the Republican candidate said Tuesday: "Yes, there is a team," before immediately backtracking. "Well, there's not a team," he acknowledged. "I have met with far more than three people, and I will be forming a team at the appropriate time." The businessman with no political experience boasted of the support of a Republican senator from Alabama, Jeff Sessions, and noted his "great respect" for Richard Haass, a former diplomat and head of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations. Haass acknowledged meeting Trump in August, but made clear in a Twitter post he does not endorse candidates but has briefed several, both Democrats and Republicans. US media reported that 110 Republican foreign policy veterans have signed a letter saying Trump's views on foreign policy would undermine US security. Privately, US diplomats say their foreign counterparts are concerned about the effects of a Trump presidency on the country's relationships with the rest of the world.

The wall

From the very beginning of his campaign, Trump has accused Mexico of sending drug dealers, criminals and rapists across the border into the United States. To stop illegal immigration, Trump has proposed not only building a giant wall along the southern US border but also forcing Mexico to pay for the project estimated to cost \$8 billion. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has made clear "there is no

scenario" in which his country would pay for a wall. He also criticized Trump's "strident rhetoric," comparing it to the rise of dictators Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

'Islam hates us'

Trump said in November he had seen pictures of Muslims in the United States celebrating after the terror attacks on September 11, 2001 — an urban legend that has been debunked. But Trump has called for a ban on Muslims entering the country, to keep out would-be jihadists. On Wednesday, he went even further, telling CNN: "I think Islam hates us." He repeated the assertion the following evening during a debate with his Republican rivals, saying "many" of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims "hate" America.

No rules

Washington has been pounding Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria with an air campaign. Trump has proposed a solution to the threat posted by the extremist group: "Cut the head of ISIS and take their oil." He has also promoted torturing terrorists and targeting their family members. Trump then changed his tune and said that if elected, he would amend the laws of the country. Later, he again reversed his position, announcing what he would do is amend the law banning torture, a necessary step because "we are playing by the rules, but they have no rules."

'Powerful leader' Putin

While relations between Washington and Moscow have been strained for years, Trump often defends Putin, calling the Russian president "a powerful leader" and saying he would "get along very well" with him. Putin has returned flattering comments, hailing the "tremendous" Trump as "talented without any doubt."

Trade wars

Like Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, Trump denounces free trade agreements, saying current deals have done nothing good for the country. "It's not good when you don't have the right people representing you," he said, promising better negotiated deals in the future and protectionist measures or trade wars against China, Japan and Mexico. He also accused China and Japan of currency manipulation. "There is a serious threat from Trump of a real protectionist backlash imposing new tariffs on imports," said Edward Alden of the Council on Foreign Relations. — AFP

ANKARA: Turkish warplanes pounded Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq yesterday, the day after a suicide car bomb tore through downtown Ankara killing at least 36 people, the third attack on the capital in five months. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest carnage, which reduced cars and buses to charred hulks on a busy road in the heart of the city, wounding more than 120 people.

But Ankara believes one of the bombers was a woman with ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, a Turkish official said yesterday. Hours after the attack, Turkish F-16 and F-4 fighter bombers hit arms depots and shelters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in mountainous northern Iraq, the army said, quoted by the state-run Anatolia news agency. The strikes came as the government announced three more deaths overnight from Sunday's huge explosion at a bus stop near a busy square in central Ankara.

"As of this morning... we lost three more citizens in hospital," Health Minister Mehmet Muezzinoglu said. He gave an overall toll of 37, but said this included at least one attacker and possibly two. By yesterday morning, the area was locked down under heavy security, with armed police standing guard and forensic experts picking through the scene. The military said the PKK targets were hit "with precision", with a spokesman for the rebels confirming the strikes and saying that so far, there was no clear picture of the damage caused. Sunday's attack bore similarities to

another suicide car bombing in Ankara on February 17 which targeted military personnel and killed 29 people. That attack was claimed by the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK), linked to the PKK, which said it was revenge for operations by the Turkish military in the southeast of the country.

'Didn't warn anyone'

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkey had "concrete information" on the group behind Sunday's attack, saying results from inquiry would be made public soon. "One attacker is believed to be a woman with links to the PKK," a Turkish official said yesterday, without giving further details. Officials say Sunday's attackers deliberately targeted the bus stop close to Kizilay square, a bustling commercial and transport hub near the parliament, prime minister's office and foreign embassies. The fact that extremists were able to strike again in the heart of the Turkish capital, so close to so many sensitive buildings and so soon after February's attack will raise questions about the country's ability to deal with the twin threat of Kurdish rebels and the Islamic State (IS) group. Turkey has been hit by a string of major attacks since the middle of last year, most of them blamed on the IS group. Three of them have targeted Ankara, including a double suicide bombing in October that left 103 people dead. As recently as Friday, the US embassy issued a warning about a possible plot to attack central Ankara, advising American citizens to avoid the area. Nihat Gorgulu, the uncle of one of the

victims, lashed out at the authorities for failing to prevent Sunday's carnage. "People have been talking about another bomb attack coming for more than a week but the government took no precautions and didn't warn anyone," he said. "We are very afraid because the government doesn't care about the people of this country."

'Red flame'

One man caught up in the bombing said he escaped death by flinging himself out of his car. "It exploded, there was a red flame that came out," he said, saying the force of the blast pushed his car backwards. "I threw myself out and then I can't remember anything else." The timing of Sunday's attack is awkward for Ankara, coming as it seeks to persuade the European Union to speed up its application to join the bloc. Since December, Turkish security forces have been waging a major campaign against the PKK following the collapse of a ceasefire in the middle of last year.

Ankara has vowed to wipe out the PKK, classed as a terrorist organization by Turkey and its Western allies. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said late Sunday that the government would "never abandon its right to legitimate defense against the terrorist menace". Erdogan has rejected the TAK claim of February's attack, insisting it was the work of the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara regards as a branch of the PKK. The issue has driven a wedge between Ankara and its ally Washington, which works with the YPG as the only effective force combating IS in Syria. — AFP

LEBANON 'YOU STINK' PROTESTERS SLOW TRAFFIC

BEIRUT: Lebanese protesters slowed rush hour traffic on several highways leading towards Beirut yesterday after authorities said they would reopen a landfill to ease an eight-month rubbish crisis. One activist braved rain and laid down on the highway leading north from the capital, an activist from the "You Stink" movement said, adding that she was then detained.

The AFP journalist saw dozens of activists on a highway southeast of Beirut, standing in the middle of the thoroughfare to block traffic for several minutes before being pushed back by security forces. "Today we are sending a message to the government, these were symbolic actions," said activist Assad Thebian. "We are in discussion with unions and organizations to step up our action for next time." While traffic on two of the three highways where activists had gathered was flowing normally again by mid-morning, protesters



BEIRUT: A Lebanese demonstrator lies holding her national flag blocking the Dawra road, a major highway leading towards Beirut - slowing down rush hour traffic, in protest after authorities said they would reopen a landfill to ease an eight-month rubbish crisis. — AFP

stayed put on the Dawra highway, north of Beirut, Thebian said. Rubbish has piled up on beaches,

in mountain forests and river beds across Lebanon since the closure in July of the country's largest landfill at

Naameh, just south of Beirut. On Saturday, the government said it would temporarily reopen a landfill, but "You Stink" and other civil society movements that oppose the plan pledged to block roads and called for a general strike. The activists' demands include a transfer of waste management to municipalities and a boosting of the country's rubbish recycling capabilities. Some 3,000 protesters marched to central Beirut on Saturday, demanding a permanent solution to the crisis, with some carrying banners calling for the "fall of the government".

In past demonstrations, protesters have repeatedly rejected the reopening of the Naameh landfill, calling for a comprehensive and long-term solution to the crisis. Naameh was set up in the early 1990s as a temporary measure. Earlier this month "You Stink" posted on its Facebook page a jarring video of mountains of trash festering across Lebanon. —AFP

RISE OF JIHADISTS IN YEMEN MAY BE UNSTOPPABLE

ADEN: Rivals Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group are cementing their presence in south Yemen in the absence of state authority and little opposition from pro-government Arab coalition forces, experts say. For the first time since its campaign against Iran-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen began almost a year ago, warplanes from the Sunni Saudi-led coalition this weekend targeted jihadists in Aden.

Analysts fear such action may be short-lived, however, and that the growing jihadist power in the south may be unstoppable. In three months, 150 people have been killed in clashes in Yemen's second city and temporary capital Aden, where jihadists control some districts in defiance of the authorities and the coalition. Critics of the government hold officials responsible for the rise of the jihadists, accusing some of collaborating with militants and sometimes even arming them.

But one Western military expert said the relationship between jihadist groups and the recently reestablished state in south Yemen "is no alliance". "There is a de facto cohabitation," the expert said. The state's grip collapsed when Houthis rebels overran the capital Sanaa unopposed in September 2014. Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia scrambled to mount an Arab air campaign last March after the Houthis advanced on the south where President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi had taken refuge. Hadi's administration has failed to establish its authority fully in five southern provinces,

including Aden, which were recaptured from the rebels last summer.

War's 'main beneficiaries'

And now jihadists from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and IS are exploiting this to broaden their influence. "AQAP and IS are arguably the war's principal beneficiaries," an International Crisis Group report said last month. The two Sunni militant groups, "ideological enemies" of Shiite Houthis that also dismiss Hadi's government as apostate, have "moved their fighters into the space vacated by the two sides," the ICG added. "Weapons and resources directed to the anti-Houthi opposition have seeped into AQAP/IS hands, a trend likely to continue if the Houthis retreat further," it said. Weakened loyalist forces have relied on support from local Popular Resistance militiamen in their fight against the Houthis and allied troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. But Popular Resistance recruits were drawn from Islamist Salafists as well as southern separatists and jihadists, according to Zeid Al-Sallami, a Yemeni expert on Islamist groups.

After recapturing the southern provinces, Hadi ordered the militiamen to be integrated in the army and police. But this process was hampered by a "lack of financial means and the absence of a clear mechanism to make it work", said Ali Al-Ahmadi, a former Popular Resistance chief. "Frustrated, numbers of resistance fighters ended up joining Al-Qaeda and IS," said Ahmadi, adding that



RADA: An Al-Qaeda militant sits with his gun in the city of Rada, 130km (85 miles) southeast of the Yemeni capital Sanaa. Rivals Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group are cementing their presence in south Yemen in the absence of state authority and little opposition from pro-government Arab coalition forces, experts say. — AFP

Al-Qaeda benefited most. "Thanks to their financial means, Al-Qaeda and IS attracted hundreds of ignored resistance fighters and bought weapons stocked in Aden and the rest of the south," he said.

AQAP 'more powerful'

Al-Qaeda has been active in Yemen for more than 20 years and is well entrenched. Although many of its leaders have been killed in US drone strikes, AQAP is "today

more powerful than ever", according to US-based intelligence consultancy The Soufan Group.

"The Islamic State is nowhere near as strong as AQAP," it argued in a report on IS. The IS branch in Yemen was created by Al-Qaeda defectors in November 2014, and carried out its first attacks the following March, targeting Shiite mosques in Sanaa.

"What it lacks in numbers and support it makes up for in extreme violence and a determination to gain a lasting foothold in yet another collapsing state," The Soufan Group said.

AQAP ruled the southern province of Abyan for a year before being driven out in June 2012. But last April it seized Hadramawt's provincial capital Mukalla and nearby oil installations. From Mukalla, AQAP has moved to regain its foothold in southern provinces including Abyan last year and nearby Lahj and Shabwa.

"Every day, Al-Qaeda sets up a new checkpoint without mounting its flag," said Abdelbari Al-Marqashi, a resident of Zinjibar city in Abyan. As for IS, Hadi accuses his predecessor of using it for his own ends. The group is "manipulated by Ali Abdullah Saleh," he said in an interview with Saudi daily Okaz. Jihadists are implementing a "strategy of expanding their territories", a diplomat warned. "There is a risk of ending up with a substitution caliphate (Islamic regime) in Yemen if they (Islamists) are defeated in Iraq and Syria." — AFP

BORDER ATTACK FEEDING TUNISIA'S FEARS OF LIBYA JIHADIST SPILLOVER

TUNIS: The signal to attack came from the mosque, sending dozens of Islamist fighters storming through the Tunisian town of Ben Guerdan to hit army and police posts in street battles that lit the dawn sky with tracer bullets. Militants used a megaphone to chant "God is Great," and reassure residents they were Islamic State, there to save the town near the Libyan border from the "tyrant" army. Most were Tunisians themselves, with local accents, and even some familiar faces, officials and witnesses to Monday's attack said.

Hours later, 36 militants were dead, along with 12 soldiers and seven civilians, in an assault authorities described as an attempt by Islamic State to carve out terrain in Tunisia. Whether Islamic State aimed to hold territory as they have in Iraq, Syria and Libya, or intended only to dent Tunisia's already battered security, is unclear and the group has yet to officially claim the attack.

But as fuller details of the Ben Guerdan fighting emerge, the incident highlights the risk Tunisia faces from home-grown jihadists drawn to Iraq, Syria and Libya, and who have threatened to bring their war back home. Despite Tunisian forces' preparations to confront returning fighters, and their defeat of militants in Ben Guerdan, Monday's assault shows how the country is vulnerable to violence spilling over from Libya as Islamic State expands there.

Authorities are still investigating the Ben Guerdan attack. But most of the militants appear to have been already in the town, with a few brought in from Libya. Arms caches were deposited around the city before the assault. "Most of them were from

Ben Guerdan, we know their faces. They knew where to find the house of the counter-terrorist police chief," one witness, Sabri Ben Saleh said. "They were driving round in a car filled with weapons, my neighbors said they knew some of them." Troops have killed 14 more militants around Ben Guerdan since Monday. Others have been arrested and more weapons seized.

Islamic State

Officials say they are still determining if the militants had been in Libya before or had returned from fighting with Islamic State overseas. But that such a large number of militants and arms were in Tunisia is no surprise. After its revolt in 2011 to topple Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia has struggled with growing Islamic militancy. More than 3,000 Tunisians have left to fight with Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, according to government estimates. Tunisian security sources say many are with Islamic State in Libya. Gunmen trained in Libya were blamed for attacks on tourists at the Bardo Museum in Tunis a year ago and at a beach hotel in Sousse in June.

Tunisians also play a major role in Islamic State in Libya where they run training camps, according to Tunisian security sources. But the scale of Monday's attack was unprecedented. The militants were well-organized, handing out weapons to their fighters from a vehicle moving through the city, with knowledge of the town and its military barracks. "We came across a group of terrorists with their Kalashnikovs, and they told us: 'Don't worry we are not here to target you.' —Reuters



SERBIAN-HUNGARIAN BORDER: Bara'ah Alhammedi, 10, a Syrian migrant, is carried on the back of her father as they make their way along a railway track after crossing the Serbian-Hungarian border near Roszke, southern Hungary. — AP

SYRIAN WAR CREATES CHILD REFUGEES, CHILD SOLDIERS

'NO PLACE FOR CHILDREN'

BEIRUT: Syria's five-year-old conflict has created 2.4 million child refugees, killed many and led to the recruitment of children as fighters, some as young as seven, UN children's fund UNICEF said yesterday. Its report "No Place for Children" said more than 8 million children in Syria and neighboring countries needed humanitarian assistance, with the international response plan for Syria chronically underfunded.

"Twice as many people now live under siege or in hard-to-reach areas compared with 2013. At least two million of those cut off from assistance are children, including more than 200,000 in areas under siege," it said. The UN says more than 450,000 people are under siege. Cases of starvation have been reported this year in areas surrounded by government forces and their allies near Damascus, and by Islamic State in eastern Syria. Violence continues despite a fragile cessation of hostilities reached last month. UNICEF said 400 children were killed in 2015. A separate report on Friday by a number of aid

groups, including Oxfam, said UN figures showed at least 50,000 people had been killed since April 2014.

Child soldiers, no school

"A trend of particular concern is the increase in child recruitment," UNICEF said. "Children report being actively encouraged to join the war by parties to the conflict offering gifts and 'salaries' of up to \$400 a month." Since 2014, warring sides have recruited younger children, it said, some as young as seven. More than half of children recruited in cases UNICEF verified in 2015 were under 15. Children have been filmed executing prisoners in grisly propaganda videos by the Islamic State group.

Outside Syria, 306,000 Syrian children have been born as refugees, it said. UN refugee agency UNHCR says nearly 70,000 Syrian refugee children have been born in Lebanon alone. UNICEF said 3.7 million children had been born since the conflict began, a third of all Syrian chil-

dren. Some 2.8 million Syrian children in Syria or neighboring countries are not attending school. Dozens of schools and hospitals were attacked in 2015, according to aid groups. "Half of all medical staff have fled Syria and only one third of hospitals are functional. Each doctor used to look after the needs of around 600 people - now it's up to 4,000," UNICEF said.

Syria's neighbors host the vast majority of its 4.8 million refugees. Europe hosts an eighth of the number residing in those countries, it said. The separate joint aid agency report, "Fuelling the fire", criticized world powers including Russia, Britain, the United States, France, Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran, which had "intensified their military engagement in Syria". "To varying degrees, these states - which should play a key role in ending the suffering in Syria - are actively contributing to that very suffering," it said. UN-brokered peace talks open on Monday in Geneva to seek an end to a conflict that has killed more than 250,000 people. — Reuters



BENGHAZI: Damaged buildings and a burnt out car are seen in the Hawari area, south-west of the city of Benghazi. The leader of Islamic State group in Libya says the North African country has become a "destination" for jihadists, with the numbers of fighters having doubled in recent months, but added that his group has struggled to spread across Libya because of rivalries between militants. — AP

SYRIA WAR BEGINS 6TH YEAR AS US, RUSSIA PULL THE STRINGS

BEIRUT: The United States and Russia are pulling the strings in Syria's five-year war, experts say, pressuring opposing sides and leveraging rival regional powers to reach a settlement. As the conflict enters its sixth year, the embattled regime and fractured opposition are in Geneva for indirect peace talks hosted by United Nations peace envoy Staffan de Mistura. But the real solution, experts say, is in Russian and American hands. "The two great powers talk among themselves by phone or in meetings around the world. Then they inform their Syrian allies and de Mistura what they've decided," says veteran opposition figure Haytham Manaa.

"Then, Russia and the US give the regional powers the red lines they're not supposed to cross. The US bans the Turks from a ground incursion in Syria and asks the Saudis to stop sending arms. Russia does the same thing with Iran," Manaa said. Syria's conflict began on March 15, 2011 with a peaceful protest movement calling for President Bashar al-Assad to step down. But the uprising turned violent after the government launched a brutal crackdown on dissent, and its key players became the various armed forces-regime, opposition, jihadist, Kurdish-and their respective backers. Russia and the United States have exerted their influence over opposing sides

of the complex war to broker a landmark truce that has been holding since February 27.

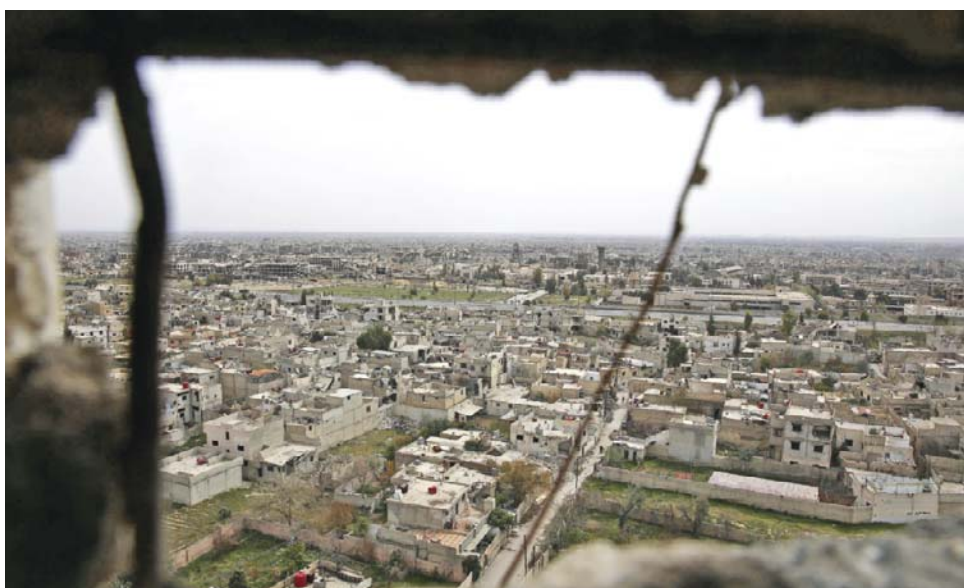
'Monopoly over Syria'

"The US and Russia have taken command of, and have a monopoly over, the Syrian issue," says Joseph Bahout, a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment in Washington. Bassel Salloukh, political science professor at the Lebanese American University of Beirut, agrees. "Indeed, what started as a non-violent movement demanding reforms metamorphosed into an overlapping domestic, regional, and international struggle over Syria," Salloukh says. He expects that "the strategic interests of Russia and the US will determine the shape of the settlement in Syria rather than the aspirations of its peoples." Both the US and Russia were hesitant to become involved in a conflict as complex and unpredictable as Syria.

"The notion that we could have... changed the equation on the ground there was never true," US President Barack Obama has told The Atlantic magazine reporter Jeffrey Goldberg. When the United States did finally get militarily involved in Syria in September 2014, it was as part of a bombing campaign against the Islamic State group. One year later, Russia launched its

own air war backing Assad after a devastating string of losses for the regime in the spring and summer of 2015. Moscow's intervention was a

major turning point for pro-Assad forces, shoring up their positions in the south, centre, and north. "Moscow long believed that the regime would



A general view taken from the Al-Qaboun rebel held northeastern suburb of the capital Damascus shows damaged buildings in the nearby Jobar neighborhood. — AFP

pull through on its own. It's Tehran, the regime's other ally, that sounded the alarm," a foreign diplomat in Damascus said. "Iranian officials went to Moscow to tell the Russians that if they didn't intervene immediately, the regime would collapse," the diplomat says.

'New world order'

"Asking the Syrian actors to agree has proven unsuccessful... because their ideological and territorial disagreements are so profound," says Joshua Landis, director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma. "But all actors are so entirely dependent on their sponsors that they must comply with the wishes of their armours." But Russian and American leverage over warring parties in Syria has its limits. About half of Syrian territory is controlled by either IS or Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, complicating the current truce deal and a future settlement. And Assad's regime has occasionally spoken out of turn. In an interview with AFP in February, Assad said he sought to regain control over all of Syria, spurring the Russian government to slap him down. "Russia has invested very seriously in this crisis, politically, diplomatically and now also militarily," Vitaly Churkin, Russia's envoy to the UN, said at the time. —AFP

TRUMP DRIVES WHITE HOUSE RACE DOWN UGLY ROAD

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's gladiator-style politics may have finally caught up with him, as the Republican's rivals accuse him of turning the White House race into a violent circus and analysts warn of more trouble ahead. Can the genie be put back in the bottle now that mounting tensions pitting Trump's angry, frustrated crowds against equally fired-up protesters have tipped over into violence? There is increasing doubt on the question, says Steffen Schmidt of Iowa State University who grimly predicts "tensions and violence at political events will increase sharply" on the long road to the November election.

In a campaign already marked by foul language and below-the-belt attacks in the Republican camp, the weekend of March 11-13 marked a shocking new low. First, Trump was forced to cancel a rally on Friday as ardent Trump supporters and opponents came to blows in chaotic scenes in Chicago. Then, early Saturday, a man tried to rush on stage in Ohio before Secret Service quickly stopped him and surrounded Trump. That same evening, police used pepper spray on anti-Trump protesters in Kansas City, Missouri, saying they had been infiltrated with "known anarchists, outside agitators."

The weekend violence came after dozens of campaign stops where Trump has encouraged the crowd to verbally and physically mistreat protesters. Rowdy standoffs between pro- and anti-Trump protesters—often with a racial edge to them—appear to

have become the norm at the billionaire real estate mogul's rallies. After accusing Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders of infiltrating his rallies with disruptive protesters, Trump vowed to send his own militants to the Vermont senator's gatherings. Sanders, speaking at a CNN townhall Sunday, had a simple response: "Donald Trump is a pathological liar."

Bloody noses, broken bones

Does this mean the clashes, insults and beefed-up security presence are now part and parcel of this White House race? Some fear it openly. "Trump has lit a fire. Can it be contained?" asked The Washington Post. Not likely, says Schmidt. "Trump supporters will now go to Sanders events and 'disrupt' them. Then Sanders supporters will hit back and there will be many bloody noses and broken bones at these and also other Trump events," he predicted. "Politics is not a polite game," he said. "Politics is a contact sport."

Trump has created many foes in what just nine months ago seemed no more than a quixotic endeavor, fanning the flames of hatred and emboldening his most ardent supporters along the way. By unleashing diatribes against Washington, insults against his rivals from "little" Marco Rubio to "liar" Ted Cruz—stigmatizing Muslims and Hispanics, Trump stands accused of fanning hatred and spurring his partisans to violence. The Republican frontrunner has openly spoken of wanting to "punch... in the face" or "knock the crap" out of oppo-

nents, and said he would consider paying the legal fees for a supporter who sucker-punched someone at a Trump rally.

Yet the bombastic billionaire refuses to admit any responsibility for violence, insisting his rallies are friendly, peaceful affairs even as he continuously pushes the boundaries of acceptability with his verbal provocations. "His rhetoric is inciting the thuggery spilling over at his rallies," a Post editorial read. Trump has justified violent outbursts by some of his supporters in the name of rightful "anger." In such a climate, it is little wonder his rallies have become a magnet for anti-racism activists, defenders of immigrants and minorities as well as libertarian and anarchist groups.

Genie out of bottle

"Trump has attracted these protester-types—they are not Bernie Sanders's... but fringe-types and fringe-personalities and hard-core activists who want to engage," Duke University associate professor Pope "Mac" McCorkle said. "It might have some short-term gains in driving even more of his committed people to the polls, but as a long-term it's a loser. 'It's a bit like the genie out of the bottle: I think these demonstrators are going to keep on appearing at his rallies and I don't know how you put it back into the bottle.' It was already common for one or a handful of protesters to disrupt Trump's speeches, only to be thrown out of the room. But in Chicago on Friday, there were thousands.

Trump called them professional "thugs" and agitators behind a "planned attack."

The incidents earned Trump a sharp rebuke from President Barack Obama, who urged the candidates vying to replace him to reject "insults and schoolyard taunts" and "violence against other Americans." Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton bluntly accused Trump of "political arson." Trump's three remaining rivals for the nomination,

seizing a chance to bring the frontrunner down a notch, have also been unanimous in condemning the rally chaos. "I think it is going to be a rocky road out there for a while," McCorkle said. If Trump and Clinton win their party nominations, Schmidt predicted, "the campaign after this summer is going to be one of the nastiest presidential campaigns since Thomas Jefferson," in the early 19th century. —AFP



FLORIDA: Audience members cheer at a Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump campaign rally in Boca Raton, Fla. —AP



MANAUS: Thousands of demonstrators protest against Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, the federal government, ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and the corruption cases being reported and currently investigated in Manaus, Amazonas, northern Brazil. Some three million Brazilians enraged at corruption, recession and demanding the removal of leftist President Dilma Rousseff demonstrated across Latin America's biggest nation Sunday. —AFP

RECORD BRAZIL PROTESTS PUT ROUSSEFF'S FUTURE IN DOUBT

RALLIES MAY QUICKEN IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

SAO PAULO: Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians flooded the streets on Sunday in the biggest ever protests calling for President Dilma Rousseff's removal, reflecting rising popular anger that could encourage Congress to impeach the leftist leader. The demonstrations were the latest in a wave of anti-government rallies that lost momentum late last year but have regained strength as a sweeping corruption investigation nears Rousseff's inner circle.

From the Amazon jungle city of Manaus to the business hub of Sao Paulo and the capital Brasilia, protesters marched in a nationwide call for Rousseff to step down, raising pressure on lawmakers to back ongoing impeachment proceedings against her that just a few weeks ago appeared to be doomed. Police estimates from more than 150 cities compiled by news website G1 showed around 3 million Brazilians participated in the demonstrations. Some police estimates of previous protests have proved to be exaggerated.

Polling firm Datafolha estimated 500,000 demonstrators in Sao Paulo, the biggest rally in the city's history and more than twice the size of a major protest a year ago. The military police put the figure at 1.4 million at the height of the demonstration. Government sources contacted by Reuters acknowledged the demonstrations were bigger than anti-government rallies in March 2015, which gathered as many as 1 million people.

In the skyscraper-lined Avenue Paulista in Sao Paulo, a sea of protesters wearing Brazil's yellow-

and-green national colors chanted "Dilma out" and waved banners that read "Stop the corruption" while music blared from nearby trucks. "The country is at a standstill and we are fighting to keep our company afloat," said small business owner Monica Giana Micheletti, 49, at the Sao Paulo demonstration. "We have reached rock bottom." Many blame Rousseff for sinking the economy into its worst recession in at least 25 years. Opinion polls show that more than half of Brazilians favor the impeachment of the president, re-elected for a second four-year term in 2014.

Rousseff, who insists she will not quit, is the latest leftist leader in Latin America to face upheaval as a decade-long commodities boom that fueled breakneck growth and social spending comes to an abrupt end. Ahead of the demonstrations, tensions were high after Sao Paulo state prosecutors requested on Thursday the arrest of Rousseff's predecessor and political mentor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, on money-laundering charges. A judge still has to decide on the request, which can be rejected.

As in previous protests, Sunday's rallies were led by middle-class Brazilians angry over growing allegations of corruption in Rousseff's administration. No violence was reported. Poor Brazilians, who form the base of the ruling Workers' Party support, have not turned out in great numbers in recent protests. But their support for Rousseff has faded as unemployment rises and inflation climbs. "This government helped many people buy homes, cars and elec-

tronics, but we still don't have health, education and basic sanitation," said Paulo Santos, a waiter who stopped at the demonstration which packed the beach-front avenue in Rio de Janeiro before heading to work.

Anti-political establishment

Many protesters voiced support for Sergio Moro, the judge overseeing the two-year-old investigation into a network of political kickbacks and bribes centered on state oil company Petrobras. Some held banners that read "We are all Moro" after the judge's uncompromising tactics have been criticized by the government. The demonstrators took aim at politicians from across the spectrum, including Rousseff's opponents, as they vented their frustration with a ruling class that has been widely exposed in the graft probe, known as 'Operation Carwash'.

Dozens of companies and senior business executives have also been implicated. The head of the opposition PSDB party, Aécio Neves, and several of his colleagues were insulted by protesters when they took part in the demonstration in Sao Paulo, local media reported. "Brazil needs to find a new and virtuous path and we will help the country find that path," said Neves, who narrowly lost the 2014 election to Rousseff and has called for new polls. In Brasilia, protesters inflated a giant doll of Lula wearing a striped prison uniform and chained to a ball that read "Operation Carwash". Police estimated about 100,000 protesters took part, but that figure could not be independently confirmed.

TROUBLE REMAINS AFTER REVIVAL OF FAILED FOR-PROFIT US SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON: Significant problems remain at a formerly for-profit college that the Obama administration rescued from near collapse, an Associated Press review has found, despite new federal oversight and pledges of a turnaround by the schools' current nonprofit owner. Everest University was once the flagship brand of Corinthian Colleges Inc, a for-profit school chain. Allegations of fraud and mismanagement nearly felled the school before the Education Department

percent and shuttered some of its worst performing programs. More changes are planned, although an AP review found Everest is still operating largely according to Corinthian's for-profit business model.

Debt and jobs

Zenith still recruits students through large-scale telemarketing. Major changes to its curriculum have not yet occurred. It has retained senior

"I graduated in April at the top of my class, with honors," said Shane Satterfield, a roofer in Georgia who now owes more than \$30,000 in debt for the associate's degree in computer science he completed last year. "And I can't get a job paying over \$8.50 an hour." Zenith chairman David Hawn said many graduates are not yet coming out of the school with important career credentials. He said the schools were on the right track and would revamp their curriculum to focus on marketable skills. "To suggest that any program that we have today isn't creating value is grossly overstated," he said. Zenith is investing more per-pupil in academic instruction, he said, losing \$100 million in its first year.

Education Department Undersecretary Ted Mitchell said the schools' transformation is incomplete. He said Everest's operations have improved and he expects continued progress. "If Zenith is not doing right by its students, we won't hesitate to act," he said. Despite Zenith's acknowledgement of Corinthian's past misconduct, many senior Corinthian academic, financial aid and legal officials have stayed on. After the AP asked Zenith why it had retained Diana Scherer - a deputy general counsel who had highlighted her regulatory and compliance work for Corinthian on LinkedIn - her profile was edited to remove references to such work.

Student outcomes

Hawn defended the former Corinthian employees' integrity and said any holdover employees reported to newly installed managers. The AP's review found that Everest continues to advertise programs it had eliminated due to poor student outcomes. Recruiters then seek to direct interested prospective students to other programs. Hawn said the errors were inadvertent. Hawn has said Zenith would differentiate itself from its past as a for-profit company, but it maintains some practices at odds with virtually all non-profit schools. —AP



CALIFORNIA: Students wait outside Everest College in Industry, Calif hoping to get their transcriptions and information on loan forgiveness and transferring credits to other schools. —AP

helped transfer Everest and a sister institution to Zenith Education Group, a non-profit affiliate of a student-loan debt collection firm.

Zenith pledged to transform Everest, ending the school's habit of admitting "anyone with a pulse" and churning out unprepared graduates deeply in debt. But a year after Zenith formally took control of Corinthian's flagship Everest brand and its smaller sibling, WyoTech, revolutionary change is hard to find. Everest has shrunk to about 15,000 students from 70,000 at the time of Corinthian's failure, lowered tuition by 20

Corinthian executives in key posts. It continues to recruit students using some of the very same ads that Corinthian ran during the same daytime TV talk shows. Recent graduates told the AP they are struggling to find work that would allow them to pay back their student loans, raising the prospect that the government is seeing a new crop of loan defaults. The average post-graduation employment rate among Everest's online programs - for which data is most readily available - was less than 46 percent in the academic year ended last June.

Free Arabic Courses

3 Levels

Beginners
Intermediate
Advanced

Morning and evening
Ladies only

Tel : 99677166 or 22980800

Email: ipd.gmosque@gmail.com



المسجد الكبير
The Grand Mosque

LEGAL HURDLES TO EU-TURKEY MIGRANT DEAL

BRUSSELS: Leaders of the European Union and Turkey aim to finalize a broad agreement at a Brussels summit next Thursday and Friday to pave the way to an end to Europe's migration crisis. First, however, a number of legal obstacles must either be cleared or sidestepped. Following are the three main issues complicating a deal by which Turkey would take back all refugees and migrants reaching Greek islands in return for cash to help Syrians in Turkey, the resettlement of some Syrians from Turkey to the EU, revived talks on Turkey joining the EU and easier EU visas for Turks:

EU visa liberalization for Turks

The EU wants to waive visa requirements for Turks only once the Ankara government fulfils 72 conditions. A European Commission report of March 4 found 19 of those were already met and most of the others were met in part. Three notably need to be implemented: sign a pact with EU police agency Europol; adopt EU data protection rules; and waive visa requirements for all EU citizens whatever their nationality. While nationals of nine EU member states need visas to visit Turkey, it is citizens of Cyprus

whose status may be toughest for Ankara to change. At present, to enter Turkey, sponsor of the breakaway state in northern Cyprus since 1974, EU citizens from Cyprus must accept being registered as subjects of the "Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus". Differences with Cyprus have long hampered EU-Turkish relations, although hopes have risen for a UN-brokered peace settlement to reunite the island. Any agreement on visa waivers requires endorsement by the European Parliament, where many lawmakers are uneasy about the risk of Turks abusing short-stay rules or seeming to reward Turkey while accusing its leaders of turning more authoritarian.

Turkey as a safe third country

For Greek and EU authorities to deport people arriving on Greek islands back to Turkey without processing their claims for asylum, it is necessary to consider Turkey a "safe third country"-ie neither the country of arrival nor the migrant's home country-where they will be treated as refugees under the Geneva Convention. Such determinations are made not at EU but at national level and the plan is to carry



LESBOS: A Syrian refugee woman and child are wrapped with thermal blankets to shelter from the cold after arriving on a dinghy from the Turkish coast to the northeastern Greek island of Lesbos. — AP

ry out such expulsions under a bilateral "readmission" pact between Greece and Turkey. But Greek officials have said it has as yet no list of safe third countries. And lawyers note that, although Turkey treats

Deportation and resettlement

The United Nations top human rights official says the plan to send back to Turkey everyone, even Syrians, who lands without the right papers on Greek islands, risks consisting of illegal "collective and arbitrary expulsions".

Under EU law, all those who claim asylum have a right to have their individual case considered, and to have an ability to appeal-a process incompatible with swift mass deportations from remote islands.

The legal underpinning of any final accord on expulsions from Greece, as well as for the return to Turkey of migrants picked up at sea by NATO warships, may well come down to an EU or Greek declaration that Turkey is a safe third country capable of handling the relevant asylum claims.

Further clarification is also needed on how, and by whom, Syrians will be selected for resettlement directly from Turkey to the EU.

Europeans would take one Syrian for every one sent back from Greece to Turkey-although EU officials say those who have gone to Greece will go to the "back of the queue". — Reuters



BERLIN: German Chancellor and head of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Angela Merkel (right) gestures next to Rhineland-Palatinate's state election candidate Julia Klöckner at a press conference at the CDU's headquarters in Berlin yesterday - a day after election in three regional states. — AFP

ELECTION SETBACK A 'WAKE-UP CALL' FOR GERMAN CHANCELLOR

BERLIN: Critics of Chancellor Angela Merkel's liberal refugee policies called on her to change course after voters in three regional elections punished her conservatives and flocked to a new anti-immigration party that wants German borders closed. Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) lost support in all three states - the industrial state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the wine-growing region of Rhineland-Palatinate and the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt - in the first elections that gave voters a chance to react to Merkel's migrant policy. The right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD), which takes a hard line on immigration, took around a quarter of the vote in Saxony-Anhalt, becoming the second biggest party there, and also made strong gains in the other two states.

"The wake-up call" ran the headline on the front page of yesterday's Handelsblatt newspaper above a cartoon picture of Merkel in track suit struggling to hold up weights representing her conservatives and the Social Democrats (SPD), her junior coalition partner at the federal level. "Simply continuing on the same path is not an option," the business daily said in an editorial, referring to the refugee crisis, integration concerns and a lack of convincing answers from the CDU and SPD to other issues such as digitalization.

Germany took in 1.1 million migrants fleeing the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere last year and is expecting hundreds of thousands more to arrive this year. That has stoked concerns among some Germans that their country is being overrun by migrants with cultures that are vastly different to their own. Horst Seehofer, leader of

Bavaria's Christian Social Union (CSU), sister party to Merkel's CDU, blamed Merkel's refugee policy for the conservatives' weak showing in the elections, "We should tell people that we get it and that we will draw the consequences from this election result," he was quoted as saying by newspaper websites.

Crushing defeat

Andreas Scheuer, general secretary of the CSU, said Germany needed quick and effective solutions to limit the influx. Merkel, whose popularity has taken a hit as concerns mount about integration and security, has already said the numbers of migrants coming needs to be reduced. Mario Ohoven, president of the BVMW Mittelstand association, said the AfD's success should trigger government policy changes, adding that if Merkel stuck to her current refugee stance, the right-wing populist movement would keep growing.

Erika Steinbach, a CDU member of parliament who has been critical of Merkel's stance, suggested on Twitter the government was acting like a "dictatorship" with its refugee policy. But others saw little reason for Merkel, who has led Europe's biggest economy for a decade, to change tack. In an editorial mass-selling daily Bild said Merkel had experienced a "crushing defeat on this super torturous election Sunday" but would likely stick to her political course and said the price for this would be a deeply divided conservative group. "That's where the real danger for Merkel lies. No chancellor in Germany has ever been able to rule against his or her own party for long," it said. — Reuters

VATICAN BRACES FOR FRESH CONTROVERSY

VATICAN CITY: A controversial Vatican trial of journalists and alleged whistleblowers resumes yesterday, in the latest installment of an image-bruising legal saga. The spicy courtroom drama has already served up claims of sexually charged scheming, blackmail and computer hacking behind the fortified walls of the secretive city state. From Monday, lawyers on both sides of a case increasingly seen as a public relations own goal will be able to put some of Pope Francis's closest aides on the stand.

The trial has been adjourned for three months to enable computer experts to recover deleted email, text and WhatsApp messages between some of the accused, one of whom is basing her defence on a claim that she was working on the pope's behalf. Francesca Chaoqui, a pregnant former PR adviser to the Vatican, is one of five people accused of leaking classified documents that revealed out-of-control spending at the top of the Catholic Church and some top clerics' love of luxury.

She has been granted the right to call as witnesses Vatican number two Cardinal Pietro Parolin and two Francis confidantes, charity supremo Archbishop

Konrad Krajewski and Cardinal Santo Abril y Castello, who heads a panel overseeing the scandal-hit Vatican bank. Chaoqui is accused of conspiring with Spanish priest Lucio Vallejo Balda and his assistant Nicola Maio to leak secret documents they had access to as members of a commission appointed by Francis to spearhead a financial clean-up shortly after his election in 2013.

The two journalists on trial, Gianluigi Nuzzi and Emiliano Fittipaldi, have published books based on the documents at the heart of the trial. All five accused have been prosecuted under draconian anti-leaks legislation, which could see them receive prison terms of between four and eight years. The law was rushed onto the Vatican statute book in 2013 as a result of the fallout from the first Vatileaks scandal, which centered on secrets divulged by the butler of now-retired Pope Benedict XVI.

The Vatican has been criticized by press freedom groups for pursuing the prosecution of the two journalists, who say they were only doing their jobs by revealing problems that believers and the broader public have a right to know about. — AFP

BEATEN AND DISCARDED, CONGOLESE STREET CHILDREN ARE STRANGERS TO MINING BOOM

POVERTY, OVERPOPULATION BLAMED FOR RISE IN NUMBERS

KINSHASA: Kevin Lusongo has been on the streets since he was 11. He sleeps on a piece of cardboard in an unlit parking lot in a poor neighborhood of Kinshasa, behind trucks he hopes can shield him from view. Some nights he's unlucky. Recently police came looking for a stolen handbag and beat him up when they didn't find it, said the boy, who's now 14. Then there are the older children. "Often when you sleep, the others come and burn your feet with (flaming) plastic bags," he said. "The oldest will see you and take your money. If you complain, they beat you severely."

Kevin has the gaunt frame of a boy unused to nutritious meals since he was turned out by his family. He works odd jobs, begs and picks through trash to survive. He is one of 25,000 street children in Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, a number that has nearly doubled in a decade, according to 2014 figures from the UN children's agency, with thousands more in the country's other cities. Congo is Africa's top producer of copper and a mining boom has fuelled annual economic growth of 8 percent for five years, one of the highest rates in the world, according to the International Monetary Fund.

But like many commodity-dependent African countries such as Angola and Nigeria, it has struggled to translate export-driven growth into broader social gains. It is still suffering the after-effects of a civil war in the east that ended in 2003 but left disease, displacement and inter-community violence in its wake. Kinshasa to the west is groaning under one of the world's fastest-growing urban populations. Outside the well-heeled city centre, there is little sign of prosperity, with most of its 11 million people crammed into rundown neighborhoods where rubbish is piled in alleyways. None are more vulnerable than the street children, who are known as "shegues".

Denis Mabwa, who works for REEJER, a coalition of groups assisting street children, said charities like his find homes for about 3,000 children each year, while around 6,000 new children move in the opposite direction. "There has been a reconstruction of large infrastructure. There is a stabilization of the currency," said Jean-Pierre Godding, director of the Ndako Ya Biso centre that works to reunite street children with their families. "But in the big working-class neighborhoods, no investment has yet been made to improve the infrastructure," said Godding, citing routine flooding and frequent power blackouts. "The popular neighborhoods have really been neglected."

The statistics on poverty paint a confusing picture. The government says economic growth has helped the whole of society but that it wants more rapid progress. At a news conference in January, Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo said 50,000 jobs were created in 2015 and poverty was declining. The percentage of the population living below the national poverty line has dropped to 63 percent from over 70 percent since a civil war ended in 2003 and more children are completing primary school, the government says.

But the IMF says the annual rate of poverty reduction has hardly budged since the 1990s, when Congo - then called Zaire - was registering negative economic growth. Among so-called world megacities of 10 million or more people, Kinshasa is expected to record the second-highest annual growth rate between 2014 and 2030 at 3.67 percent, according to a UN report, and residents say lack of government social provision is pushing many families towards financial ruin.

Ruth Tumba-Maseu, 15, said she fled her uncle's house in 2014 after he beat her. She slept on the streets before being directed by a friend to a centre for girls affiliated with Ndako Ya Biso where she is now able to live full-time. She said girls sleeping rough were often beaten and sexually abused. "Life in the street isn't good for girls. The boys think that you are there for the taking." According to Unicef, girls comprised 26 percent of the population of street children in 2006 but now account for about 44 percent. "The conditions are deteriorating," said REEJER's Mabwa. "You see terrible overcrowding. The children really can't stay (at home)."

Child rights advocates fear street children could be used as pawns in street protests and get caught up in violence ahead of a presidential election due in November to choose a successor to President Joseph Kabila. Groups that help street children say they get no consistent government support. The minister of gender, family and children, Lucie Kipele, told Reuters the government was very concerned by the issue of street children and was creating a committee to study it. However, she said she was not familiar with numbers showing the problem worsening and that funding of children's groups was handled by multiple ministries.

Education

The war in eastern Congo that ended in 2003 killed millions of people, and since then armed groups have fought over mineral supplies. There

was almost no fighting in Kinshasa, but many people fled west to the capital. Mobutu Sese Seko ruled the country for decades until 1997 and provided only minimal social services to the population. Many citizens now view the government with suspicion and doubt its ability to improve their lives. Norbert Toe, head of an IMF mission to Congo, said the mining boom had contributed little to overall welfare. "Capital comes in, (the companies) exploit the natural resource, take it out as exports, and the profits get repatriated," he said on the IMF website.

Relatively low taxes on the mining sector compared with countries such as Zambia constrain Congo's annual spending to less than \$5 billion, limiting the government's ability to spend on social sectors, he said.

Some international donors including Britain and the United States have also questioned the government's spending priorities. In unusually pointed remarks in Dec 2015, British ambassador Graham Zebedee criticized the government for spending as much on the presidency, parliament and the prime minister's office budgets as on primary, secondary and technical education.

The government allocated just 3.4 percent of its 2015 budget to the health sector, roughly the same amount it spent on parliament, according to the donors. In response to written questions, Congo's Budget Minister Michel Bongongo said that close to 30 percent of the government's spending in 2014 went toward "improving the living conditions of the population", including on health, education, electricity, drinking water and communal transport. He said that government action, including urban infrastructure development, has benefited working-class neighborhoods outside city centers. "Whether its infrastructure for schools or hospitals that are rehabilitated or constructed, or even roads, many are located in outlying areas," he said.

Back on the streets, Kevin told how he started living rough more than three years ago when he was kicked out of his uncle's house, where his mother was living, for lack of space. For the past year he has spent his days at Ndako Ya Biso, which is funded by donors - where he receives schooling, food and medical care - before returning to the street at night. He still dreams of being reunited with his mother. "They'll be talking to my mother," he says, describing the imaginary scene at the centre. "I won't know that they are speaking about it but then they'll take me to the house." — Reuters

QAEDA CLAIMS DEADLY ATTACK AT IVORY COAST BEACH RESORT

GRAND-BASSAM: Gunmen killed 16 people at an Ivory Coast resort Sunday leaving bodies strewn on the beach, in an attack claimed by an Al-Qaeda affiliate as fears grow of a mounting jihadist threat in west Africa. Armed with grenades and assault rifles, the attackers stormed three hotels in the sleepy resort of Grand-Bassam, popular with expats, around 40 kilometers east of the commercial hub Abidjan. Witnesses described panic as the gunmen sprayed bullets across the beach, and one said they heard an assailant shouting "Allahu Akbar"-Arabic for "God is greatest".

"I saw one of the attackers from far away," says Abbas El-Roz, a Lebanese salesman, who was in the pool of a hotel when the attackers struck. "He had a Kalashnikov and a grenade belt. He was looking for people." Fourteen civilians and two special forces troops were killed in the shooting spree, along with six assailants, according to Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara. "The toll is heavy," he said as he arrived in Grand-Bassam, describing the killings as a "terrorist" attack. One French and one German national were among the dead, according to Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko.

The US and former colonial master France offered to help the Ivorian government find the perpetrators, with French President Francois Hollande condemning the "cowardly attack". The US-based SITE Intelligence Group said Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the terror group's North African affiliate, had claimed responsibility for the attack. AQIM said in a statement three of its fighters had been killed.

'I thought this was it'

West African nations have scrambled to boost security in the wake of jihadist attacks on tourist hotspots in the capitals of Mali and Burkina Faso, which were also claimed by the group. Sunday's attack also bore grim similarities to the Islamist gun



GRAND-BASSAM: People gather around the body of a man reported by witnesses as a jihadist after attackers stormed three hotels in the weekend resort of Grand-Bassam, a short 40-kilometre drive from the commercial capital Abidjan. — AFP

and grenade assault on a Tunisian beach resort last June, which left 38 foreign holidaymakers dead. The assailants, who were "heavily armed and wearing balaclavas, fired at guests at the L'Etoile du Sud, a large hotel which was full of expats in the current heatwave," a witness told AFP. Inside the hotel, an AFP journalist saw a bullet lodged in the glass front of the bar's refrigerator and a large pool of blood on the floor. Carine Boa, a Belgian-Ivorian national who teaches at an international high school in Abidjan, was at one of the beach bars with her two

sons when the gunmen arrived. "We were really scared. We thought of the people at the Bataclan," she said, referring to the concert venue attacked by gunmen during the November's terror attacks in the French capital when 130 people were killed. "I thought this was it for us. You always tell yourselves that these things can't happen." The army was tightly controlling access to the area after the attack, and an AFP journalist saw around a dozen people, including an injured Western woman, being evacuated in a military truck. — AFP

Quality Control Technical Inspector

Vectrus - Kuwait

You will be responsible for performing a full range of both field and sustainment-level initial, verification and final inspections in support of Army Field Support Command Operations under the APS-5 contract, as well as, performing initial, verification and final inspections on various types of combat, tactical, engineer and power generation equipment and other ancillary support stock.

Apply Now **JB50108885**

Construction Engineer

Amec Foster Wheeler
Kuwait

You will be responsible for maintaining a good working relationship with the clients and sub-contractors engineering representatives, site engineering activities, providing technical assistance to the construction supervision team, primary contact with project office to ensure site is in receipt of latest drawing, specifications and information and assisting in the resolution of technical queries.

Apply Now **JB50108506**

Social Media Marketing Mgr

Adler Al Ahlia General Trading and Contracting Co. - Kuwait

You will be responsible for managing the social media marketing strategy, focusing on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Google+, YouTube, SlideShare, as well as, executing all social media activities (i.e. tweeting, sharing, engaging, liking, increasing social reach, doing the heavy lifting, etc) for our clients, communicating in a professional, but unique social media "voice" for each client.

Apply Now **JB3459738**

Sales Associate

BESIDE
Kuwait

You will be responsible for achieving the personal, store and KPI targets in order to meet the overall organizational objectives, providing excellent customer service at all times by following policies, providing product information and adopting a friendly and courteous attitude towards customers, as well as, maintaining up-to-date product knowledge.

Apply Now **JB3459644**

Safety Engineer

KMC Holding
Kuwait

You will be responsible for ensuring the well-being of people and property, developing policies to ensure safety of an environment, inspecting equipment, environments and buildings to identify areas that can potentially cause health and safety hazards, as well as, staying abreast of new laws and regulations regarding health and safety.

Apply Now **JB3459669**

Web Developer

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) - Kuwait

You will be responsible for designing and developing web-based applications/ systems ensuring strong optimization and functionality, creating web pages in a combination of codes such as PHP, HTML, JavaScript and JQuery, as Drupal and Process Maker, as well as, ability to learn and work on developing a workflow in Process Maker.

Apply Now **JB3459661**

Financial Crime Compliance Officer

HSBC - Kuwait

You will be responsible for assisting the Country Head of Anti Money Laundering and Sanctions in their responsibility for complying with all relevant laws, rules, regulations and group policies related to AML/sanctions and anti-bribery and corruption rules, as well as, evaluating and monitoring existing procedures.

Apply Now **JB50108393**

Quality Manager

Vectrus
Kuwait

You will be responsible for providing expert knowledge and experience in running a comprehensive Quality Management system for the program, possessing the technical ability to develop executive Corrective Action Plan in response to third party nonconformance reports (NCR), as well as, coordinating the correction of minor problems.

Apply Now **JB50108883**

Key Account Sales Manager

Medaad Food Co LTD
KSA

You will be responsible for proposing and establishing the Strategy for Category Management in Top Accounts, developing specific Category projects in Key Accounts, promoting and facilitating partnership with main customers to maximize return on investment through top line performance, as well as, proposing the yearly investment plan.

Apply Now **JB3436036**

Sales Executive

Jacko Gases company
KSA

You will be responsible for visiting customers to collect inquiries/ requests for quotations on a regular basis, forwarding the inquiries/ requests for quotations to the sales coordinator, promoting the products, forwarding invoices and other documents to the clients, as well as, collecting invoice payments from clients.

Apply Now **JB3460934**

Manager Transaction Real Estate Advisory Services

EY - KSA

You will be responsible for participating in and helping manage modelling engagements, including financial aspects, setting and agreeing budgets, producing project plans and progress reports, keeping senior staff on the assignment informed of status, as well as, managing client expectations in relation to fees.

Apply Now **JB50109058**

Corporate Channel Sales Representative - Saferoad

Information Tech. Co. Ltd - KSA

You will be responsible for identifying and recruiting new channel partners within assigned territory, managing sales activities of partners to generate revenue, as well as, coordinating with partners to create and execute business plans to meet sales goals and analyzing market trends and accordingly developing sales plans to increase brand awareness.

Apply Now **JB3460463**

Manager Technical Maintenance

Precise Trading L.L.C. - UAE

You will be responsible for observing & monitoring the work scheduled for servicing handling customer queries related to the products, troubleshooting & maintaining laser machines, leading the technical support team and resolving the technical issues on time, as well as, providing adequate support to the retail outlet for the technical product issues.

Apply Now **JB3460769**

Database Manager Exhibitions Co. - Sumansa Exhibitions LLC - UAE

You will be responsible for managing big chunks of data and formulating a plan to export any given part of data at any given time, planning, organizing, controlling and evaluating IT and electronic data operations, designing, developing, implementing and coordinating systems, policies and procedures, as well as, ensuring security of data.

Apply Now **JB3460931**

Area Manager

Green Solution Group
UAE

You will be responsible for driving Organization's internal hiring process, collecting data for recruitment, short listing the resumes, arrangement of interviews, selecting candidates - offer letter, joining formalities, exiting interview, full & final settlement, as well as, coordinating an effective communication between employer and employee.

Apply Now **JB3460954**

Quality Inspector

Neelkamal Plastics
UAE

You will be responsible for ensuring quality products delivered to customers to study & monitor the inspection reports, advising correction and taking remedial actions whenever required, checking the timely calibration of all equipment, communicating with customers regarding technical query and complaints, as well as, informing management on quality issues.

Apply Now **JB3458346**

Restaurant Manager New Restaurant Opening

COREcruitment - Qatar

You will be responsible for providing high quality service at all times, to a premium standard, leading the management team and maintaining high standards, as well as, recruiting, training and developing your own management team and staff for the business, and you will be required to have knowledge of the Mediterranean cuisines and menus.

Apply Now **JB50109104**

Senior Document Controller

AECOM
Qatar

You will be responsible for managing a team of document controllers on site, maintaining a uniform filing system and document, operating document control system to ensure that general program administrative and individual project documents are properly recorded and maintained, requests for information are transmitted and responded to, and approvals or denial of approvals are recorded and communicated.

Apply Now **JB50109126**

Manager Ramp Operations - Qatar Aviation Services

Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for managing and directing ramp activities by providing a safe, quality product covering a range of ramp handling services, managing and supervising Airside Ramp Service activities including loading, unloading of aircrafts and GSE Operations, as well as, promoting a QAS safety culture.

Apply Now **JB50108846**

Senior Structural Engineer

Worley Parsons
Qatar

You will be responsible for forecasting requirement for structural engineering resources, and allocating those resources, designing integrity of work scope and maintenance of standards, identifying structural software necessary to enable structural group to function effectively, as well as, preparing structural discipline man hour estimates to perform project tasks.

Apply Now **JB3458590**

www.bayt.com

Register > Upload your CV > Apply

INDIAN STUDENT HACKED TO DEATH FOR INTERCASTE MARRIAGE

NEW DELHI: An Indian student from the lowest Dalit caste was hacked to death and his wife critically injured in southern India in a suspected “honor killing” by relatives angered by their marriage, police said yesterday. Three men armed with sickles and sharp weapons attacked the 22-year-old student and his wife, who is from a higher caste, on a crowded street in Tamil Nadu state on Sunday. Local police commissioner

N Manjunatha said the 19-year-old woman's relatives were angered by the couple's marriage. “They married some eight months ago and the woman's family was unhappy. She is an upper Thevar Hindu caste and the man was a Dalit,” Manjunatha said. The woman is recovering at a local hospital and police are searching for her uncle in connection with the attack, he said. CCTV footage of the incident broad-

cast on Indian television showed the couple walking along the street when three men on a motorbike stop and attack them. Thevars are a dominant community in Tamil Nadu while Dalits, formerly known as untouchables, are a historically marginalized community. India has long witnessed so-called honor killings, where couples are targeted because their families or communities disapprove of their relationships over

caste or religion. Most occur in rural pockets of the north. They are carried out by relatives or caste groups to protect what is seen as the family's reputation and pride. There are no India-specific figures available, but United Nations statistics say 1,000 out of the 5,000 such killings every year are in India. India's Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that those involved in honor killings should face the death penalty.— AFP



BUSAN: Nuclear-powered aircraft supercarrier USS John C Stennis heads to join the Key Resolve military exercise between the United States and South Korea, at Busan port in Busan, South Korea. —AP

SINGAPORE BLOGGER TO PAY ‘LIBEL DAMAGES’ TO PM LEE

SINGAPORE: An activist blogger ordered to pay Sg\$150,000 (\$109,000) in libel damages to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will make payments in installments over the next 17 years, his lawyer said yesterday. Roy Ngerng, 34, a former government employee, was found guilty in November 2014 of defaming Lee after accusing him in a blog of misappropriating state pension funds. Ngerng's lawyer Eugene Thuraisingam told AFP that under an agreement with the prime minister, his client would pay Sg\$30,000 by Wednesday to cover the costs of an assessment hearing.

To pay the actual damages he would then fork out \$100 a month for the next five years before the amount increases to \$1,000 a month until the amount is paid, which would take a total of 17 years.

No interest will be collected but should Ngerng default on any payment, he would have to repay the full sum immediately, added Thuraisingam, who is representing Ngerng for free. A source familiar with the case told AFP that Ngerng had initially asked to be let off the remainder after paying Sg\$36,000. But this was rejected by the prime minister, who agreed to the payment in installments.

In a blogpost yesterday, Ngerng asked for donations to help pay off the amount he was due to hand over tomorrow, adding that he has been doing freelance photography and is searching for a job. “I hope to be able to find a job and make use of my work experience and skills,” he wrote. “I miss contributing effectively to make positive change.” Ngerng's guilty verdict was the first such ruling in Singapore over a purely online article. Singapore has consistently ranked highly in surveys as one of the world's least corrupt countries, but rights groups say its leaders have used financially ruinous defamation suits to silence critics and political opponents.

Singaporean leaders maintain that the lawsuits are necessary to protect their reputations from unfounded allegations. Ngerng initially offered Sg\$5,000 as compensation to Lee, who rejected the amount. After being sued by the prime minister in 2014, Ngerng was fired from his government hospital job for administrative reasons which he did not contest. He successfully raised more than Sg\$112,000 through crowdfunding but the cash ran out during his defense. The local media in Singapore is tightly controlled, leaving bloggers and other online commentators as the strongest critics of the long-ruling People's Action Party. —AFP

SRI LANKA DEPLOYS TROOPS AFTER WORST BLACKOUT IN 20 YEARS

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka deployed troops yesterday to guard electrical installations as authorities investigated whether sabotage was behind the island's worst blackout in 20 years. President Maithripala Sirisena ordered stepped-up security a day after outages plunged the entire country into darkness for at least seven hours. “The president has instructed that security forces be deployed to guard electricity installations,” power and energy ministry spokesman Pathum Pasqual said. “In the meantime, we are restoring supplies after yesterday's breakdown.”

Authorities are probing the cause of an explosion and fire at a main distribution centre outside the capital Colombo that caused the entire electricity grid to switch off automatically on Sunday afternoon. Power and Energy Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya said they had not ruled out sabotage. “We were investigating technical reasons for the previous breakdown, but now we have another blackout,” the minister told reporters. “This means we have to look at other possibilities too.”

The state-run Ceylon Electricity Board worked through the night to repair the centre and restore power to most of Sri Lanka, although several suburbs of Colombo were still in darkness yesterday morning.—AFP

RIGHTS ENVOY WANTS NORTH KOREAN LEADER PROSECUTED

POLITICAL PRISON CAMPS, SLAVE-LIKE CONDITIONS, TORTURE CITED

GENEVA: The United Nations human rights investigator for North Korea called yesterday for leader Kim Jong Un and senior officials in the country to be prosecuted for committing crimes against humanity. Marzuki Darusman told the UN Human Rights Council that North Korea is devoting huge resources to developing nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction while many of its citizens lack sufficient food and others work in “slave-like conditions”. “We are now at a crucial stage, therefore there is a fundamental need for countries to make that next step in ensuring accountability is undertaken,” he said.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) boycotted the session. The European Union, United States and Japan supported Darusman's call for accountability, although they did not refer to Kim by name. Ambassador Robert King, UN envoy on North Korea, denounced the “egregious human rights violations committed by the DPRK” and said that the United States would work with other countries to

“seek ways to advance accountability for those most responsible”. China, Pyongyang's ally, took a more conciliatory tone, saying human rights issues should not be politicized and calling for a comprehensive approach to dealing with North Korea.

China also rejected Darusman's findings that North Koreans who flee across the border to China were being forced back to their homeland illegally. North Korea Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong, in a speech to the Geneva forum on March 1, said it would boycott any session that examined its record and would “never, ever” be bound by any such resolutions. Darusman, referring to a report he issued last month, said: “I would like to reiterate my appeal to the international community to move forward to ensure accountability of the senior leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including that of Mr Kim Jong Un.”

This could be via the International Criminal Court (ICC) but failing consensus among major powers, North Korea's leadership could be prosecuted in a third country, he said. He called

for the Council to set up a panel of three experts to look into “structure and methods of accountability”. Political prison camps, torture, “slave-like labor” and religious persecution remain features of the state apparatus, two years after a landmark UN investigation into crimes against humanity, Darusman said.

North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and launched a long-range missile the following month. “The denial of human rights to its citizens internally and this aggressive behavior externally are basically two sides of the same coin. The country is pouring a large amount of resources into developing weapons of mass destruction, while large parts of its population continue to suffer from food insecurity,” Darusman said. John Fisher of Human Rights Watch said that North Korea had “horrific” forced labor camps, public executions and a history of mass malnutrition and even “mass starvation”. “Generations of North Koreans have suffered at the hands of the Kim family and its elite,” Fisher said.—Reuters

AFGHAN STRONGMEN TAME TALEBAN’S BASTION WHERE US FORCES STRUGGLED

ZANGIABAD: A captured Taleban rifle dangling at his side, commander Sultan Mohammed swaggers through a bomb-cratered district that was once a hornet's nest of insurgents, symbolizing a rare Afghan military triumph where US forces failed. Panjwai was one of the centerpieces of US President Barack Obama's 2009 troop surge ambitiously aimed at crushing the Taleban, but the southern district soon became a poster child of the failed intervention.

Strongmen including Mohammed, the Panjwai police chief with a reputation for brutality, in recent years did what the Americans could not tame the insurgent haven that had come to be known as the “blood fountain”. The Taleban are now out of sight in the district in Kandahar, pomegranate orchards stand on fields once awash with landmines,

and poppy farms that boosted militant coffers are just a memory. “When US forces were here, the Taleban were within one kilometer of their bases. Now they aren't even within 100 kilometers,” Mohammed said, trailed by armed loyalists. “We did what American soldiers could not rid the area of the Taleban.”

To get a full measure of the turnaround, juxtapose Panjwai against the turmoil convulsing the wider region, increasingly drawing NATO troops back into the conflict a year after their combat mission ended. Neighboring opium-rich Helmand, Afghanistan's largest province, is teetering on the brink of collapse. Overstretched Afghan troops are retreating from volatile southern districts, ceding swathes of key areas to the Taleban. And conflict-induced displacement is edging towards a new record as the

Taleban now control more territory than in any year since 2001. Panjwai offers a striking contrast: children in schools learning algebra instead of a Taleban curriculum, grape farmers tending their vines even after sundown, and once-way visitors jaunting around on pheasant-hunting trips.

‘Don't bring enemy alive’

The transformation of Panjwai, birthplace of the Taleban movement, defies the common perception that Afghan security forces-bedeviled by high casualties and desertions-cannot stand alone without NATO backing. To its advantage, observers say Panjwai is not a messy froth of tribal and economic dynamics. And unlike neighboring districts gripped by violence, it does not fall on a major drug trafficking route. “Being a backwater has helped Panjwai achieve detente that has seen many local insurgent fighters return to farming,” a Kabul-based Western official said.

But the turnaround is also widely credited to anti-Taleban strongmen such as General Abdul Raziq, Kandahar's powerful police chief who controls the province with an iron hand and is accused of running secret torture chambers, an allegation he denies. “His brief to his men is simple: Don't bring the enemy alive,” an official close to Raziq said. Last week the interior ministry said it was probing a graphic video apparently showing Mohammed's men abusing an alleged suicide bomber.

His hands bound to a police vehicle, the video which went viral shows the man being dragged along the road before a mob turns on him and one officer tries to bite the flesh off his arm.— AFP



KANDAHAR: Afghan anti-Taleban militia commander Abdul Wadud (right) 63, walks with his soldiers during a patrol in the Panjwai district of Kandahar province. — AFP

News

in Brief

Torrential rains hit Pakistan, killing 42

ISLAMABAD: The death toll from torrential rain that has lashed Pakistan for the past five days has risen to 42, authorities said yesterday, with collapsed roofs blamed for the fatalities. Apart from the deaths, 70 injuries were reported and 75 houses damaged, said a statement by the National Disaster Management Authority. The rain began late Thursday across the country, with the southwestern province of Balochistan and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa worst hit. Poorly-built homes, particularly in rural areas, are most susceptible to collapse during heavy spring rains. The death toll from the collapse of a coal mine shaft in northwest Pakistan rose to seven, with 10 injured. Officials said the rescue at the mine in the far-flung mountainous Orakzai tribal district ended Monday morning after 16 people were saved.

Myanmar's army releases 46 underage recruits: UN

YANGON: Myanmar's military released 46 children and young people from service, United Nations said in a statement, in its first discharge of underage recruits this year. The army has released 745 underage recruits since signing up to a joint action plan with the UN in June 2012 to end the use of children in the military. Human rights groups have long accused Myanmar's military of abuses such as using child soldiers, forcibly recruiting conscripts and confiscating land. After handing power to a semi-civilian government in 2011, the military has taken some steps toward professionalizing its forces. That includes the release of soldiers recruited under the age of 18. “The children and young people discharged will benefit from reintegration programs to help them re-start their lives and seize new opportunities for their own development and participation in the life of the country,” UN said.

Govt-blocked Malaysian news portal shuts down

KUALA LUMPUR: A leading Malaysian news portal that was blocked by the government after it ran reports on a scandal linked to Prime Minister Najib Razak is shutting down after eight years, it announced yesterday. The Malaysian Insider has been a key player in the growth of plucky online news sites that have rapidly gained a following over the past decade by reporting on official malfeasance and corruption, filling a void left by pro-government traditional media. Last month, Malaysia's government began blocking access to the site after it published a story on corruption allegations swirling around Najib. The website's owner, The Edge Media Group, said in a statement that it had been in negotiations to sell the loss-making portal but that talks broke down in the wake of the government block.

Iraq medics screen 800 after chemical attack

TAZA: Health authorities in Iraq's Kirkuk region have screened a total of 800 people since a chemical attack carried out by the Islamic State group last week, officials said yesterday. “The number of people who have sought treatment and been checked by the hospitals in Daquq and Kirkuk has topped 800,” said Hussein Adil Abbas, the mayor of Taza. IS last week fired a salvo of rockets armed with suspected chemical agents on the town of Taza, around 220 kilometers north of Baghdad. The attack originated from the nearby village of Bashir, which is still controlled by the jihadists. “Among the people who have been checked, 61 are receiving treatment and undergoing further testing. Seven of them have been transferred to Baghdad,” Abbas said. Kirkuk health officials speaking on condition of anonymity have confirmed the figures.



HEBRON: Mourners stand near the bodies of Qassem Abu Ouda, Amir Juneidi and Yousef Taraya - three Palestinians who were shot dead following reported attacks on Israelis yesterday at the hospital morgue in the West Bank city of Hebron. — AFP

3 Palestinians shot dead after West Bank attacks

KIRYAT ARBA: Three Palestinians carried out back-to-back gun and car-ramming attacks on Israelis near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank yesterday and were shot dead by the army, it said. Two of the Palestinians, armed with a handgun and an improvised machine-pistol, were killed after opening fire at civilians and soldiers who were waiting at a bus stop outside Kiryat Arba settlement, the army said. One soldier was wounded. Minutes later, the third Palestinian rammed a car into an military vehicle at the scene and was shot, the army said. Two soldiers were hurt in the second incident, the army said, adding that two knives were found on the motorist's body. Since October, Palestinian street attacks have killed 28 Israelis and two US citizens. Israeli forces have killed at least 184 Palestinians, 124 of whom Israel says were assailants.

Chemical fire extinguisher leak kills eight in Thai bank

BANGKOK: Eight people died and seven were injured when they accidentally triggered a fire extinguisher system inside the vault of a major Thai bank, releasing a suffocating cloud of chemicals, officials said yesterday. The accident occurred late Sunday night in a basement security vault at the headquarters of the Siam Commercial Bank (SCB), one of the country's largest financial institutions. SCB blamed the accident on contractors who had been working to upgrade the building's chemical fire extinguishers but mistakenly set off the system, releasing a chemical retardant designed to starve any fire of oxygen. “The work may have triggered the Pyrogen aerosol which, once it works, will decrease oxygen, that could cause people's injuries and death,” the bank said in a statement.

BAHRAIN DEPORTS LEBANESE EXPATS FOR HEZBOLLAH LINKS

DUBAI: The Gulf kingdom of Bahrain has deported several Lebanese residents for links to the Shiite Hezbollah movement, classified by the Arab League as a terrorist group, the interior ministry said yesterday. "A number of Lebanese residents have been deported after it was confirmed that they belonged to and supported terrorist Hezbollah," the ministry said in a statement posted on its Twitter account. The ministry did not provide any further details, including on the number of people involved. Lebanese press reported last week that up to 10 families

had been ordered to leave Bahrain within 24 hours.

The move comes a day after Bahrain's neighbor Saudi Arabia warned that it will punish citizens and residents who "support or demonstrate belonging" to Hezbollah. The Arab League on Friday declared Iran ally Hezbollah a "terrorist" group, after Gulf monarchies did the same earlier this month over the movement's support for the regime in Syria's war. In January, Bahrain said it had dismantled a "terror" cell allegedly linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Hezbollah. — AFP

PUTIN WITHDRAWS FORCES FROM SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

It was agreed to carry out the withdrawal of the main part of Russia's air force contingent," the statement said. The two leaders, however, also agreed that Moscow would maintain an air force facility in Syria to help monitor the progress of a ceasefire in the war-torn country. "Assad noted the professionalism, courage and heroism of the officers of the Russian armed forces that took part in the military operations and expressed deep appreciation to Russia," the Kremlin statement said.

Russia began its bombing campaign in support of Assad's forces in September, a move that helped shore up the Syrian regime's crumbling forces and go on the offensive. A fresh round of talks to end Syria's civil war opened in Geneva yesterday, but hopes for a breakthrough remained remote with the sides locked in a bitter dispute over the future of Assad. A temporary ceasefire in the country introduced on Feb 27 has largely held, despite accusations of violations from both sides, allowing aid to reach some 150,000 people living under siege. — AFP

CABINET APPROVES RAFT OF FINANCIAL REFORMS

Continued from Page 1

He said he had not yet received an official invitation to any meeting in Moscow or Qatar. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said earlier yesterday that a global deal to freeze oil production could be signed in April and exclude Iran, which has the right to boost output after years of sanctions.

A final agreement on an output freeze to support oil prices, which have fallen 65 percent since peaking in June 2014 due to oversupply, is seen next month, possibly again in Doha, Novak said.

The six-point reform document Saleh presented to the Cabinet during its weekly meeting yesterday includes 41 short and medium-term programs, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting. It is mainly based on boosting non-oil revenues, cutting public spending in order to reduce the budget deficit, redraw the state's economic role so that it could gradually turn from production to organization and supervision over economic activities, and reactivating the private sector's economic role, the minister said.

It also includes allowing people to own privatized projects at a rate of 40 percent and public-private sector joint ventures at a rate of 50 percent, reforming the labor

market and civil service system with a view to ensuring justice among workers, improving job performance, boosting the public sector's efficiency by linking pay to production and maintaining stable living conditions, as well as launching administrative and institutional reforms by means of upgrading the efficiency of general and financial administration, Sheikh Mohammad said.

Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel briefed the cabinet on local economic challenges through four aspects involving economic, financial, monetary and bank conditions, the Central Bank's role, the state's sovereign credit rating and financial and economic reforms. He reassured that the current monetary and bank positions are "safe and solid", noting that the Kuwaiti dinar exchange policy which is based on pegging the dinar to a basket of main world currencies marks the main framework of the Central Bank's monetary policy.

He reiterated the bank's firm commitment to the dinar exchange policy in a way that ensures its stability and purchasing power, citing relevant positive reports by world agencies, primarily the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, the governor stressed the significance of stepping up efforts to put financial and economic reform programs in place. (Material from agencies used in this report)



ADEN: Yemeni boys carry what locals said are pieces of debris from an Emirati fighter jet that crashed at dawn yesterday in this southern port city. — AFP

UAE FIGHTER JET CRASHES IN YEMEN, PILOTS KILLED

RIYADH: Two Emirati pilots were killed when their fighter jet crashed yesterday in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iran-backed rebels, the alliance said. The Mirage jet crashed at dawn "due to a technical fault", said the coalition statement published by Saudi state news agency SPA, hours after the United Arab Emirates said one of its jets had gone missing. In a statement on the UAE's official WAM news agency, the Emirati armed forces had said the jet was "missing" without giving details.

It is the first known case of an Emirati jet from the coalition crashing since the Saudi-led campaign against the Iran-backed rebels began in March last year. Coalition warplanes turned their crosshairs on Yemen's second city Aden, home to a growing jihadist presence, for the first time last week. Security officials and witnesses in Aden told AFP that a jet had crashed into a nearby mountain as coalition warplanes operated in the vicinity after clashes erupted between Yemeni forces and jihadists. Footage from the foot of a hill near Aden showed locals pointing to debris strewn in the area and saying it belonged to the crashed jet.

Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group have taken advantage of the conflict between Iran-backed insurgents and pro-government forces to reinforce their presence in the south, including in Aden. A government official told AFP that a coalition jet had carried out an air raid against the home of a local IS commander at dawn, killing his 18-year-old son near the plane crash site.

Apache helicopters were also taking part in the fighting yesterday, security officials said. "We saw Apache helicopters fire rockets and open machinegun fire at Al-Qaeda militants" in Aden's Mansura district, one witness said. Security sources estimate that around 300 heavily armed Al-Qaeda fighters are entrenched in Mansura. The UAE jet is the third coalition warplane to go down since March 2015. In December, a Bahraini F-16 crashed in Saudi Arabia due to a "technical error". The pilot was saved and the plane's wreckage was found. In May, a Moroccan jet crashed in Yemen. Its pilot was later found dead and his body was returned home.

The coalition said at the time that the crash had been caused by a technical fault or human error, denying rebel claims that they had downed the plane. Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which play key roles in the coalition, have suffered the alliance's heaviest losses in Yemen, with dozens of soldiers killed. In Yemen itself, more than 6,100 people have died - half of them civilians - since the coalition launched its campaign, according to the United Nations.

Saudi Arabia mounted an Arab air campaign against the rebels after they closed in on President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi in his refuge in Aden, forcing him to flee to Riyadh. Hadi and senior officials spend most of their time in Riyadh as security situation in Aden continues to worsen. The Huthi rebels overran capital Sanaa unopposed in Sept 2014 and went on to expand their control across the south Arabian Peninsula country. — AFP

SENIOR SAUDI ROYAL CRITICIZES OBAMA

RIYADH: A senior Saudi royal has criticized US President Barack Obama for comments accusing the longtime US ally of feeding Middle East conflicts. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, has long been a major ally of the United States but the relationship has deteriorated under Obama. Riyadh has been especially concerned by US support for Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, fearing its regional rival will be emboldened.

In an opinion piece published in Saudi newspapers, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, the kingdom's former intelligence chief and envoy to Washington, lashed out at Obama's recent comments to The Atlantic magazine, where he described Saudi Arabia as a "free rider" on American foreign policy, and criticized what he saw as Riyadh's funding of religious intolerance and refusal to come to an accommodation with Iran. "No, Mr Obama. We are not 'free riders,'" Prince Turki wrote in the open letter.

"You accuse us of fomenting sectarian strife in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. You add insult to injury by telling us to share our world with Iran, a country that you describe as a supporter of terrorism," he wrote. Faisal questioned whether Obama has

"pivoted to Iran so much that you equate the kingdom's 80 years of constant friendship with America to an Iranian leadership that continues to describe America as the biggest enemy, that continues to arm, fund and support sectarian militias in the Arab and Muslim world".

Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia has repeatedly accused Shiite Iran of interference in Arab affairs, particularly in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Bahrain. The Atlantic quoted Obama as reproaching the Saudis for trying to influence other Muslim countries, particularly Indonesia, by exporting its fundamentalist version of Islam. He also said the Saudis need to "share" the Middle East with their Iranian foes. "The competition between the Saudis and the Iranians - which has helped to feed proxy wars and chaos in Syria and Iraq and Yemen - requires us to say to our friends as well as to the Iranians that they need to find an effective way to share the neighborhood and institute some sort of cold peace," Obama said. As the Obama administration enters its final months, Faisal said that Saudi Arabia "will continue to hold the American people as our ally... Mr Obama, that is who we are." — Agencies



A man walks along a street at sunset in Nice on the French Riviera yesterday. — AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:

+965 248 35 616 / 617

E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Spring Offers

iPhone 5s

16GB

94 KD .900

iPhone 6 Plus

5.5" inches

128GB

219 KD .900

iPhone 6

4.7 inches

128GB

189 KD .900

SAMSUNG

GALAXY Note Edge

N915

32GB 5.6"

139 KD .900

best AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Staff from SKD - up to 48 month - interest approved

1809 809

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

Kuwait Times
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

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

Issues

AFD SUCCESS SMASHES RIGHTWING POPULISM TABOO IN GERMANY

By Yacine Le Forestier

Traumatized by its Nazi past, post-war Germany has carefully relegated right-wing populist movements to the fringes of politics, but the anti-migrant AfD may have muscled its way in from the cold. With discontent growing in Germany over Chancellor Angela Merkel's liberal refugee policy, the populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) on Sunday captured seats in the regional parliaments of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Rhineland Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt.

It garnered as many as close to one in four votes in Saxony-Anhalt while in the other two states, support reached between 12.5 and 15 percent, projections based on partial results showed. Andreas Roedder, contemporary history professor at Mainz University, told AFP that due to the migrant crisis, "we are seeing a normalisation of right-wing populist movements in Germany just like elsewhere in Europe, even if here, it takes on a special form because we can't ignore Germany's past."

This is not the first time that Germany has experienced such a surge in populism since 1945. Neither is it the first time that such rightwing parties have been able to capture seats in regional parliaments. In the 1960s, the NPD, and in the late 1980s and early 1990s the Republikaner - a splinter party from the CSU, the Bavarian sister party of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) - both managed to send deputies to regional parliaments.

But each time, they have proved to be no more than passing fads. The Christian conservative alliance of the CDU and CSU has thus far been able to occupy the right of the political spectrum, preventing any party from having any lasting claim further right. That has until now made German politics unique, compared to Austria, Switzerland or France, where far-right parties have traditionally had a stronger presence in the political arena. Much of the reason boils down to war guilt that has made Germans determined to never give the so-called "brown shirts" a chance to rule the nation again.

'Shame for Germany'

But AfD has arrived on the political scene at a fortuitous moment. After a record 1.1 million asylum seekers arrived in Germany in 2015 alone, many Germans are unsettled by what this sudden surge in newcomers mean for their homeland - a fear that AfD has capitalized on. First founded in 2013 on an anti-euro platform, it found its first supporters through its claims to defend Germans against free-spending southern EU nations. Since then it has morphed into a party that has even suggested that police may have to shoot at migrants to stop them from entering the country.

While its first successes were concentrated in the former communist east, which has been lagging the west in terms of jobs and opportunities, it is now gaining ground also in prosperous western states. "AfD has become a national German party," said the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Opinion polls suggest that AfD might even capture seats in the lower house of parliament in elections in 2017 in what would be an unprecedented success for such a movement.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble, known for being a straight-talker, simply described AfD as a "shame for Germany." "Until now, rightwing populist or extreme-right parties are considered taboo, considered like aliens in the political sphere," said German political analyst Wolfgang Merkel in an interview with Tagesspiegel daily. Mainstream parties have stridently refused any sort of television debate with AfD members.

But the analyst believes that the taboo surrounding such right-wing populism could be soon shattered. "In which case, we would have to live with AfD like France does with the National Front and Switzerland with the SVP (Swiss People's Party), and be confronted daily with xenophobia in political discourse," he said. Some believe that the chancellor herself is to blame for pushing a middle ground politics that tries to be all things to all people. Although her strategy has led her party to win over some from the centre-left Social Democrats, it has left its right flank exposed.

"With the 'social democratisation' and therefore a shift left of the CDU under the chancellor's mandate, it's more difficult for the Christian Democrats to cover all bases on the right," said Bernhard Wessels, political analyst at Berlin's Humboldt University. Die Welt daily went as far as to say that "AfD is Merkel's child" because the CDU has "ditched its identity." —AFP

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



OBAMA'S PRISONER CLEMENCY PLAN FALTERING

By Julia Edwards

In April 2014, the administration of President Barack Obama announced the most ambitious clemency program in 40 years, inviting thousands of jailed drug offenders and other convicts to seek early release and urging lawyers across the country to take on their cases. Nearly two years later the program is struggling under a deluge of unprocessed cases, sparking concern within the administration and among justice reform advocates over the fate of what was meant to be legacy-defining achievement for Obama.

More than 8,000 cases out of more than 44,000 federal inmates who applied have yet to make it to the US Department of Justice (DOJ) for review, lawyers involved in the program told Reuters. That is in addition to about 9,000 cases that are still pending at the DOJ, according to the department's own figures. Only 187 inmates have had their sentences commuted, far below the thousands expected by justice reform advocates and a tiny fraction of the 2.2 million people behind bars in the United States, which has the world's highest incarceration rate.

The administration said it wanted to decide on all the applications before Obama's term ends next January, when the program will automatically expire. A senior DOJ official told Reuters it is calling on the lawyers' group - Clemency Project 2014 - to simply hand over the outstanding cases without further vetting, saying it is not working fast enough. So far, the group estimates it has handed over around 200 cases.

But criminal justice experts say the administration itself should bear much of the blame. The idea to tap pro-bono attorneys to help vet the cases originated with the DOJ, and critics say it should have prepared its own staff to handle the large volume of applications. "It's unfair to criticize the volunteer group that you asked to help," said Rachel Barkow, a criminal law professor at New York University who has studied clemency in US prisons. She estimates that about 1,500 prisoners should be eligible for commutation, saying the 187 grant-

ed so far does not "fulfill the promise of the program." The DOJ declined to comment when asked for its response to such criticism.

The delays have left prisoners like Linda Byrnes, 69, in limbo. "I thought clemency was for people like me," Byrnes told Reuters through an electronic messaging system from a federal prison in Alderson, West Virginia. Byrnes, who has spent 20 years in prison for distributing marijuana and has two years left on her sentence, was recently diagnosed with mouth cancer and has yet to hear whether she has been assigned a lawyer after submitting her application to Clemency Project in August 2014.

Obama, who has commuted more sentences than the past five presidents combined, has been a stern critic of harsh US sentencing policies that he says have disproportionately burdened minorities. Federal life sentences have fallen since Obama took office, from 280 in fiscal year 2009 to 153 in 2013, according to the US Sentencing Commission. About three quarters of the sentences were given to minorities and most were for non-violent offences, the report said. Clemency Project 2014 said it does not comment publicly on the individuals it represents.

'Critical Role'

The group vets the applications, writes the petitions and sends them to the Justice Department's Office of the Pardon Attorney, which oversees all pardons and sentence commutations and makes recommendations to the president's approval. So far, 25,000 of 34,000 applications received by Clemency Project have been rejected for failing to meet the basic criteria - no record of violence, no significant ties to a gang or drug cartel, good behavior in prison and completion of at least 10 years of sentence. About 10,000 inmates did not go through the Clemency Project and either applied directly to DOJ or through a paid attorney.

"It really would be a sad state of affairs if individuals who had asked for a lawyer weren't considered in time because their petitions never reached the pardon attorney's office," a DOJ official told

Reuters on the condition of anonymity.

A large number of mostly unqualified applications, a shortage of lawyers and the complexity of the cases have slowed progress, said Cynthia Roseberry, project manager for Clemency Project 2014. "There are a lot of gray areas," said Roseberry, who estimates it takes 30 days for one lawyer to review one case on average. "We've got to unpack each of these applicants to see specifically what factors affect them...and so that takes a little more time."

This includes finding pre-sentencing reports for each case, determining if the person would have received a shorter sentence under current law and reviewing prison behavior records. Roseberry said the group was unaware of any request from the Justice Department to hand over the pending applications. Roseberry said the group's initially slow pace has picked up in recent months. The Justice Department declined to elaborate on its private communication with the lawyers. The Pardon Attorney's office has brought in personnel from other parts of the department to help to speed up reviews of petitions, the DOJ official said. Roseberry said about 3,000 applicants still need to be assigned to a lawyer, and that it was not certain whether the group will be able to submit all of the applications it has received before Obama leaves office. The group has more than 570 law firms and 30 law schools contributing to the effort. Some rejected prisoners and those who have yet to hear a decision say they believe they would have had a better chance if they had sent their clemency petition directly to the government.

Josie Ledezma was sentenced to life for conspiracy to transport cocaine and applied for clemency through Clemency Project 2014. She said she did not hear from them for six months and later learned that her assigned lawyer had shut down her legal practice. In January, nearly one year after applying, she was told Clemency Project 2014 could not help her and encouraged her to apply directly. "I wrote back and asked what was it that made me not qualify, but never got a response," Ledezma told Reuters through an electronic messaging service for federal prisoners. —Reuters

INSIDE KASICH'S LONG-SHOT STRATEGY

By Tim Reid

Microphone in hand, Republican John Kasich promised the crowd inside a high-tech Ohio factory Saturday that he'll never be beholden to Washington insiders if he wins the White House in November. But as he zigzags across the state before Ohio's GOP primary on Tuesday - emboldened by polls showing him edging ahead of rival Donald Trump - Kasich may soon need all the Washington insiders he can get. Behind the scenes, strategists for Kasich, the Ohio governor, are studying arcane party rules that they believe could offer a path to the Republican nomination if he wins his home state, his aides said.

It is a long-shot strategy, both for Kasich and the anti-Trump forces inside the party. But if fellow GOP candidate Marco Rubio loses his own state of Florida on Tuesday - as polls predict - a surge by Kasich may be the only viable strategy for Republicans looking to stop Trump from getting the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination. A loss by Rubio, a senator, will almost certainly end his struggling candidacy. If Trump wins both Ohio and Florida, the New York real estate mogul's march to the nomination will be all but assured.

The Kasich camp sees a Rubio loss in Florida opening up a different possibility - the first contested convention held by either party since 1952. "The plan is to win Ohio, and some other states, and if that happens, nobody is going to have enough delegates to win the nomination on the first ballot," said John Weaver, Kasich's chief campaign strategist, who also worked on Republican Senator John McCain's losing presidential campaigns in 2000 and 2008.

Kasich supporters are betting that an Ohio win will give his candidacy its first real momentum, attracting donors and endorsements. From there, he could score more victories in upcoming primaries in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Wisconsin, Connecticut and California, states where Kasich polls favorably. He has almost no hope of winning enough delegates to secure the nomination outright.

But if he can succeed in blocking Trump from getting a majority, Kasich can make a case to convention delegates that he is more electable than Trump or Ted Cruz, the conservative evangelical from Texas and, to date, Trump's most successful Republican rival.

To become the nominee who faces Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders - the two leading Democrat candidates - a Republican needs to win a majority of the 2,472 Republican delegates. Trump is leading, with 460, followed by Cruz with 370, Rubio at 163 and Kasich at 63.

at the convention without enough delegates to win. Willkie - a businessman and former Democrat who had never before run for public office - opposed the Republican Party's isolationists and was a supporter of Great Britain's war efforts. His cause gained momentum after the Nazi blitzkrieg in Europe in May 1940.

An Outsider with Insider Help

At the convention, after six ballots, delegates in Pennsylvania, New York and



Republican presidential candidate Ohio Gov John Kasich, answers questions during a town hall meeting at Brilex Industries in Youngstown, Ohio yesterday. —AP

If no candidate reaches that threshold by the close of the last primary on June 7, then the convention will almost certainly be contested - a historical rarity that would signal deep party rifts.

1940 Convention

Kasich's aides are looking to history as a guide, particularly Wendell Willkie's path to 1940 Republican nomination. That year, three leading candidates - Robert Taft, Thomas Dewey and Arthur Vandenberg - each arrived

Michigan deserted other candidates and switched to Willkie, giving him victory. Trump, Cruz and Kasich could face the same scenario this year, which would force them to lobby delegates on the convention floor until one emerged with a majority. The Kasich campaign and Republican elites - many of whom have a distaste for both Trump and Cruz - are planning for just such a scenario, Weaver said. But because it has been more than a half-century since the last brokered convention, he said, "Nobody knows exactly how this works."

Despite 18 years as a Republican congressman, and now six as Ohio governor, Kasich has cast himself as a Washington outsider in hopes of tapping the anti-establishment mood that has fueled Trump's once-improbable front-runner status. "Guess what? The establishment is afraid of me because I don't take orders from anybody over there," Kasich said in a recent television interview. At other times, he appears to revel in his Washington experience. "I took on Washington and I won. I actually got the budget balanced when I was a member of the Congress," he said in a March 11 debate.

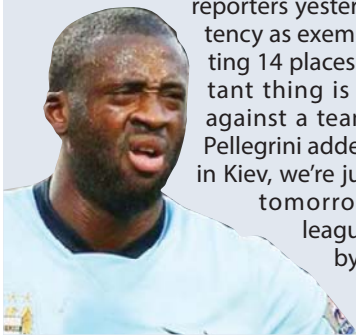
The Republican establishment is watching Kasich and Ohio's Tuesday primary closely, said Charlie Black, a Republican strategist and a former adviser to Mitt Romney, the Republican 2012 presidential nominee, who recently blasted Trump's campaign. "A lot of people who do not want Trump have been sitting back to see how Kasich and Rubio do in their home states on Tuesday," he said. "If Kasich wins, I think he'll see a pick-up in donors, and in help from members of the party."

Ford O'Connell, a Republican strategist not affiliated with any presidential candidate, expects Kasich to face a tough battle even if he wins Ohio. "But for some of these anti-Trump voters, if they can get Kasich to a contested convention, they see that as their best hope of blocking Trump." Until now, the relationship between Kasich and party elites has been prickly. On Feb 21, the Rubio campaign had released a memo calling for Kasich to quit the race, while a string of party insiders endorsed Rubio as the "establishment" candidate most likely to defeat Trump.

That's changing. After the Republican presidential debate in Florida last week, Kasich flew on Friday morning to Lima, Ohio, for an event with voters. As he landed, he and aides switched on their phones and saw emails telling them that Rubio adviser Alex Conant had just publicly urged voters in Ohio who wanted to stop Trump to vote for Kasich instead of Rubio, according to several aides. "We were not expecting them to do that," said a Kasich campaign spokesman, Chris Schrimpf. —Reuters

TOURE FIT FOR KIEV GAME: PELLEGRINI

NORWICH CITY: Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure is fit to face Dynamo Kiev in today's Champions League last-16 second-leg clash at the Etihad Stadium after missing Saturday's 0-0 Premier League draw with Norwich City. City are in prime position to reach the quarter-finals for the first time after winning the first leg in Kiev 3-1, but manager Manuel Pellegrini warned his side not to falter against opponents who have never won a game on English soil. "Yaya is fit to play tomorrow. He has no problems," the Chilean told reporters yesterday. City's season has been marred by inconsistency as exemplified by their failure to beat a Norwich side sitting 14 places below them in the standings. "The most important thing is to know we have not yet qualified. We play against a team who know how to play this type of game," Pellegrini added. We're not going to play with the score we got in Kiev, we're just going to say it's 0-0 and try to win the game tomorrow." The manager refused to give up on the league title, although City trail leaders Leicester City by nine points with both sides having nine games to play. —Reuters

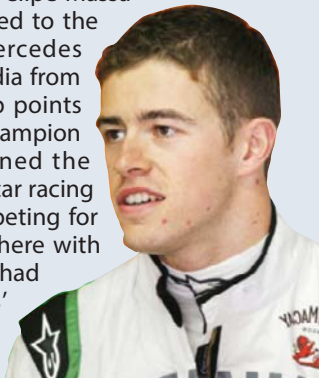


UDINESE SACK COLANTUONO

MILAN: Udinese coach Stefano Colantuono has been sacked a day after fans clashed with players during a 2-1 defeat to Roma. The northerners' 15th defeat of the campaign left them in 16th place in Serie A, four points above the drop zone. A statement by the Serie A club said: "Udinese announces that Stefano Colantuono and his staff have been relieved of their first team coaching duties. "We would like to thank the coach and his staff for the commitment and professionalism shown during these past months and wish him all the best for his professional career." Udinese were being led 2-0 at their newly-refurbished Friuli Stadium on Sunday when a group of hardline fans behind the goal angrily took several Udinese players to task. It caused a brief interruption although club officials were quick to drag the players back to the pitch. Udinese forward Bruno Fernandes hit a late consolation for the hosts, but it was not enough to stop them from succumbing to a second consecutive defeat having ended an eight-game winless streak with victory over Verona two weeks ago. —AFP

RESTA JOINS WILLIAMS AS RESERVE DRIVER

PARIS: British driver Paul Di Resta said yesterday he will join the Williams team as reserve driver for the Formula One season which gets under way in Melbourne this weekend. "I am delighted to be joining Williams as reserve driver and look forward to the 2016 season," the 29-year-old former Force India driver told williamsf1.com yesterday. The Scot takes on the role behind drivers Valtteri Bottas of Finland and Brazilian Felipe Massa and initially will spend time getting accustomed to the controls and procedures of the Williams Mercedes FW38. Di Resta spent three seasons at Force India from 2011-2013, amassing 121 world championship points from 58 starts. The 2006 European Formula 3 champion lost his seat the following season so re-joined the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters (DTM) touring car racing series, where he raced early in his career, competing for Mercedes, and he hopes to combine his role there with the new one at Williams. The British team have had two third-place finishes in the constructors' standings over the past two seasons. —AFP



Emil Khneisser.

NISSAN TO POWER ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE FOR 13TH YEAR

DUBAI: Nissan Middle East has pledged once again to back the Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE in its continued drive to raise the profile of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge on the world stage.

The 2016 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge powered by Nissan sees the Patrol, the "Hero of All terrain in Life", positioned for the 13th year as the official vehicle of the event.

Running from 3-7 April, the rally will form the second round of this year's FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies.

Samir Cherfan, Managing Director, Nissan Middle East, said: "The Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge is one of the most prominent desert rallies in the world and we are proud to be named the title sponsor of an event with such global prestige.

"Nissan Patrols plays a key role in the desert challenge, not only being used by the organisers to scout out the course and as support vehicles, but as strong competitors. Last year Nissan Patrol drivers secured all top four positions in T2.1 Class and Third and Fourth place in T1.1. This year we can confirm

we will again be sponsoring Emil Khneisser, reigning Emirates Desert Championship T2 champion."

Taking place under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ruler's Representative in the Western Region, the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge is also the first round of the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship for bikes and quads.

Each year the Nissan Patrol plays a crucial role in the planning and staging of the event. Over the past years, the Nissan Patrol has carried the route planning team deep into the UAE's Western Region of Al Garbia, crossing a sea of giant dunes to carve out the competitive stages, which will test competitors and their rally machinery to the limit next month.

Throughout the event, a fleet of Nissan Patrols will be at the disposal of the organisers to ensure the event runs smoothly to its conclusion.

"Nissan has become an invaluable partner in our work to promote and develop the Desert Challenge, and I'm pleased to extend

this relationship for the next three years so that we can increase the event's exposure in the future," said Mohammed Ben Sulayem, President of the ATCUAE, the rally organizers, and President of Emirates Motor Sports Federation.

"Nissan Middle East shares our enthusiasm for the Desert Challenge, as well as our commitment to its long-term success, and I'm confident this partnership will guarantee that the event continues to set the standard in the FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies."

The Nissan Special Stage, taking place on Wednesday, April 6, will be arguably the rally's toughest section, stretching across some 258.10 kms of the most testing rallying terrain available.

More than 150 competitors from around the world will tackle the 25th Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge. The action begins on April 2 with a spectator stage at Al Forsan Off-Road Race of Champions Circuit in Abu Dhabi, which is also the finishing point for the rally on April 7, following five days of cross country rallying at its best.



Samir Cherfan Managing Director Nissan Middle East signs the new agreement with Mohammed Ben Sulayem President of the ATCUAE.

GAWKER SWINGS BACK IN HULK HOGAN SEX TRIAL

ST PETERSBURG: The former Gawker editor who posted a sex tape of celebrity wrestler Hulk Hogan will stand witness in a Florida courtroom this week, as the website argues it exercised its press freedom in the 2012 release of excerpts of the secretly recorded video.

A.J. Daulerio, Gawker editor at the time, has emerged as the face of the former professional wrestler's contention that the company had few limits in using sexual content to encourage web traffic. Gawker, which begins presenting its defense in the \$100 million lawsuit Monday, has said Daulerio is expected to testify.

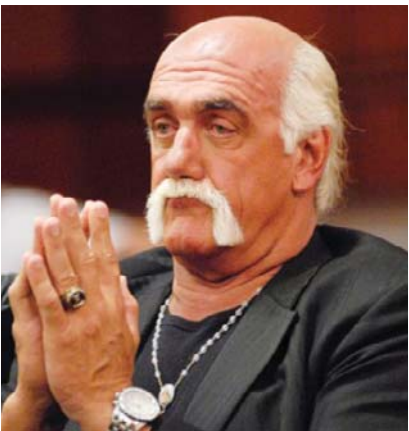
The one-minute, 41-second edited sex clip features Hogan having sex with the wife of his then-best friend, radio "shock jock" personality Bubba the Love Sponge.

Hogan, 62, said he did not know the consensual encounter, which took place five years earlier in Bubba's home, had been recorded.

The celebrity, one of the wrestling world's lead figures in the 1980s and '90s, is asking for damages in the privacy-invasion suit that could financially destroy New York-based Gawker, known for pushing the role of the media in the digital era.

The website has argued that Hogan made his sex life a public matter and its post was protected under the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

Gawker's high-profile founder, Nick



Hulk Hogan

Denton, is also likely to testify in the civil trial in St. Petersburg, Florida, near the wrestler's home. Hogan, whose legal name is Terry Bollea, took the stand last week in his signature black bandana, to tell jurors he was still suffering from humiliation following the tape's release.

His appearance kicked off a case that so far has addressed topics from journalism ethics and website analytics to Hogan's statements about his penis size.

Daulerio has received some of the most searing scrutiny from Hogan's attorneys. During a videotaped deposition, he called celebrity sex tapes newsworthy unless they involved a child. When pressed on an age, he drew the line at under four, which Gawker later called a "flip" reference. — Reuters

FEUDING ROSSI, MARQUEZ FIRED UP FOR 2016

PARIS: Valentino Rossi and Marc Marquez renew their bitter rivalry as the 2016 world motorcycling championship gets underway in Qatar yesterday with accusations of betrayal and intimidation still dominating the paddock. Nine-time world champion Rossi was within touching distance of a 10th title on his Yamaha last season only for an ill-judged kick at Honda rival Marquez at the penultimate race in Malaysia.

He was punished by being forced to start the title-decider in Valencia at the back of the grid, a penalty which allowed his Yamaha teammate Jorge Lorenzo to take the championship by just five points.

Rossi finished fourth but accused Marquez of deliberately helping fellow Spaniard Lorenzo to the finish line at his expense by acting effectively as a bodyguard.

"I allowed myself to be tricked by Marquez. He really betrayed me. He said he was a fan but it was all lies, bullshit," said Rossi on the eve of his 21st season as a professional rider. The Italian added: "It would be hypocritical to say that it's over and shake his hand, because it's not true. Our relationship can never be recovered. I like to do real things, not to pretend."

Rossi and Lorenzo will be teammates again in 2016 but they are far from friends, a factor which adds to Yamaha's conundrum at the end of the year when both men will be out of contract.

"What happened (last year) took a toll, so whatever happens, it seems tricky to consider keeping Lorenzo and Rossi at Yamaha in 2017," Yamaha Tech 3 boss Herve Poncharal told motorsport.com. "If Lorenzo stays, I don't know if Rossi will want to stay, and vice versa." The public disputes between Rossi, triple

MotoGP champion Lorenzo and Marquez, a two-time winner of the elite title, have also attracted the attention of legendary 15-time champion Giacomo Agostini.

"I would like to see a bit more respect between them because for me this is the most important thing," Agostini told motogp.com, reflecting on the Rossi-Marquez spat. "I don't think that true friendship can exist between rivals in our sport, but the important thing is to have respect for each other as that leads to great racing and this is what I hope we will see."

Marquez, the 2013 and 2014 champion, saw his hopes of a third successive triumph undone midseason when he fractured a finger in a dirt bike accident. The 23-year-old again sees Lorenzo, Rossi and Honda teammate Dani Pedrosa as being the major title rivals. "The strength of Lorenzo is his speed; the guy is fast and once he's far ahead on track it's very hard to beat him. Valentino has a lot of experience and Dani's comprehensive understanding of a situation is his strong point," he summarised.

"But you never know who else could surprise you, especially seeing how the Ducati team are getting stronger with a lot of technical improvements." The 2016 championship starts under the lights in Qatar on Sunday and ends in Valencia in November with 21 riders-nine of whom are Spanish-battling over 18 races. Rossi won in Qatar 12 months ago but endured mixed fortunes in pre-season testing at the desert track, twice coming off his machine.

The championship also has a different tyre supplier with Bridgestone giving way to Michelin while a new control electronics system has also been introduced. — AFP

THOMAS DEVELOPING INTO NEXT TEAM SKY GRAND TOUR RIDER

PARIS: Geraint Thomas secured his biggest road victory in the Paris-Nice race on Sunday but there could be much more to come for the Briton who is developing into another Team Sky-shaped grand tour champion.

The Welshman, who like Bradley Wiggins made his name on the track, showed his improving climbing ability at last year's Tour when he finished 15th overall after riding mainly to help team leader Chris Froome.

In the week-long Paris-Nice race, he beat seven-times grand tour winner Alberto Contador by four seconds after surviving the Spaniard's onslaught in the final highly stage, showing great composure and resilience.

He still has a lot to learn to become the third Briton to win the world's greatest race, however, after Wiggins in 2012 and Froome in 2013 and 2015.

"One step at a time," said Thomas, who also won the week-long Tour of Algarve last month. "This year is all about one-week races. I think riding with Froome, living (on the French Riviera) near him, I learnt a hell of a lot. His record speaks for itself." Thomas has been following a path similar to Wiggins's, starting his career on the track, with both men clinching the team pursuit Olympic title in Beijing in 2008. He finished his first Tour de France in 2007 in 140th position-out of 141 finishers. But Team Sky, which he joined in 2010, started his transformation into a one-day classic rider although several coaches and sports directors lauded his 'huge engine', hinting he had the qualities to become a grand tour rider. The development started last season when Thomas lost considerable weight-at least eight kilos-and the all-rounder now believes he could mount a Tour challenge in two years, just before Froome's contract with Team Sky comes to an end. —Reuters

CHELTENHAM AWAITS NEW CHAMPIONS, PENDLETON SWOPS SADDLES

CHELTENHAM: This week's Cheltenham Festival will crown two new champions, hails the return of a superstar, and sees cycling queen Victoria Pendleton competing at National Hunt's Olympics months after learning to ride.

With injury depriving the brilliant Faugheen from defending his Champion Hurdle crown Tuesday's opening day showcase is there for the taking.

But such is the strength in depth of Faugheen's trainer Willie Mullins the Irish training phenomenon still saddles two of the top three in the betting.

Heading the market is his gutsy mare Annie Power, generally on offer at 2-1. She was supplemented after advertising her well being in a Punchestown prep.

A winner of 13 of her 15 races Annie Power was primed to win at last year's Festival only to come a cropper at the final flight in the mares hurdle. Mullins, who sent out a record eight Festival win-

ners in 2015, also saddles Nichols Canyon, who had second favourite Identity Thief two lengths back when winning at Leopardstown in December.

British hopes are carried chiefly by The New One. Trainer Nigel Twiston-Davis is hoping it's a case of third time lucky. Wednesday sees equine greatness grace Prestbury Park in the shape of returning hero Sprinter Sacre. Nicky Henderson's imposing charge routed his rivals to land the 2013 Champion Chase.

MULLINS' GOBSMACKED

An irregular heart beat put his career in jeopardy for a season. He made a comeback last year, only to disappoint when pulling up behind Dodging Bullets.

This term though, on the evidence of two emphatic victories, the old swagger is back. He is a best-priced third favourite behind Mullins' odds-on shot

Un De Sceaux, who stamped his claim when trouncing former champion Sire De Grugy at Ascot in January.

Thursday's World Hurdle looks at the mercy of Thistlecrack but whatever his fate trainer Colin Tizzard's heart will be pumping quicker than the milk machines back at his West Country dairy farm 24 hours later.

The popular farmer-cum-trainer sends out Cue Card - one of the aces in a Gold Cup field robbed of injured defending champion Coneegree.

Cue Card cemented his standing as one of the top chasers in the business in the King George VI Chase at Kempton.

He is in line for a £1 million (\$1.44m) bonus should he scale the chasing tree after wins at Kempton and Haydock.

Among those out to stop him is Mullins' Vautour, a brilliant Festival winner 12 months ago but for whom stamina is a question mark after Cue Card

pping him in the shadow of the post in the King George over a shorter distance.

Mullins, who has never won a Gold Cup, also has Don Poli, like Vautour chasing a Festival hat-trick and Djakadam, runner-up to Coneegree last year.

Assessing the quality of his Festival raiding party Mullins said: "I'm as gobs-macked and our team at home is as gobs-macked as you guys (by the strength and depth of his Cheltenham team).

"We don't take it for granted, we look at it and we think it's unbelievable. We don't think it's a God-given right or anything, we appreciate the fact that we have some beautiful horses."

The Gordon Elliott-trained Don Cossack, travelling ominously well when a penultimate-fence faller in the King George, is another with a huge chance.

Half an hour after the Gold Cup, double London 2012 Olympic cycling gold medallist Pendleton, who had never sat

on a horse this time last year, aims to add a remarkable chapter to her career by lining up in the amateur Gold Cup - the Foxhunters Chase.

She told London's Evening Standard that her motivation for accepting the challenge was not money, but a fresh challenge.

"Post 2012, I tried winding down for almost two years - we've got a lovely veg patch at home - but, when you have been part of something so big and successful, and then suddenly you're not, it's a lot to deal with.

"The past fades into history fairly quickly in the sporting world. I didn't want to sit looking back for the rest of my life at what I used to be because that makes you feel really sad." In stark contrast to conditions Pendleton experienced at the 2012 Lee Valley VeloPark, the going at Cheltenham is forecast as soft in places. —AFP



LAUSANNE: David Howman, from New Zealand, Director General of the WADA, British Craig Reddie, President of the World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA, and Swiss Olivier Niggli, designated Director General of the World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA, from left, speak during a press conference during the WADA Symposium for Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs), in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

IOC RETESTS BEIJING DRUG SAMPLES AHEAD OF RIO

LONDON: Armed with enhanced techniques, the IOC is retesting hundreds of doping samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympics to weed out drug cheats before they can compete in this year's Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

In an interview with The Associated Press, IOC medical director Dr. Richard Budgett said athletes who competed in Beijing and are likely to be selected for Rio are having their stored samples reanalyzed to catch any violators who evaded detection eight years ago.

"We want to protect the clean athletes who are going to be competing in Rio," Budgett said. "We are making sure that athletes who cheated back in 2008 don't get to compete in Rio in 2016."

The International Olympic Committee stores blood and urine samples from each games so they can be reanalyzed years later with improved testing methods. Any positive tests can lead to retroactive sanctions, disqualifications and loss of medals.

The statute of limitations for retesting was extended in 2015 from eight to 10 years, meaning the Beijing samples remain valid through 2018. "Many of the athletes who are likely to be selected for Rio will have their samples retested a couple of years earlier than we need to," Budgett told AP on the sidelines of the Tackling Doping in Sport conference in London. "There are some new analyses that are available. The samples are in the process of being retested. It's in the hundreds." "We've cooperated very closely with the international federations, finding out which athletes are still competing, finding out which athletes are likely to be selected for Rio," he added. "If we've got samples for them from Beijing, we're doing that testing."

Budgett said the process should be completed in the next few weeks. "If we have any adverse analytical findings, there will be a sanctioning process and those athletes will be very unlikely to compete in Rio," he said. Noting that scientific techniques will continue to improve in the next two years, the IOC is keeping the other Beijing samples for retesting closer to the 2018 deadline, Budgett said.

500 DOPING SAMPLES RETESTED

It's not the first time that samples from

Beijing have been retested. A few months after those games, the IOC reanalyzed nearly 1,000 of the total of 4,000 samples with a new test for the blood-boosting drug CERA. Five athletes were caught, including 1,500-meter gold medalist Rashid Ramzi of Bahrain.

Budgett said some samples from the 2012 London Olympics are also being retested now on a targeted basis ahead of the Rio Games, although most are being saved for later reanalysis. "We want to reserve samples for the expected advances that will happen over the next six years," he said.

Nearly 500 doping samples from the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin have already been retested. The IOC has not disclosed whether those retests had produced any positive cases. Five athletes were caught in retests of samples from the 2004 Athens Olympics, including men's shot put winner Yuriy Bilonog of Ukraine.

On a separate issue, Budgett said he is confident that Brazil's national anti-doping agency will comply with World Anti-Doping Agency rules by next week's deadline to prevent Rio's drug-testing laboratory from being ruled ineligible for the Olympics.

The Brazilian agency has until March 18 to meet WADA's guidelines. If it fails, the Rio lab would be declared non-compliant, meaning thousands of doping samples during the games would have to be sent out of Brazil for testing, posing major logistical and financial issues.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff is scheduled to sign a decree on March 15 that would bring the agency into compliance.

"We're very hopeful that it finally will be resolved," Budgett said. "The laboratory itself is performing well and really is state-of-the-art. We always have a Plan B. Anything can happen. That's there in case, but I do not expect to be using it." Budgett said the IOC plans to carry out a "similar number" of tests in Rio as the 5,000 conducted in London. An intelligence unit created by WADA is targeting athletes for testing in the lead-up to the games. "We're not talking about the numbers any more, we're talking about the quality," Budgett said. — AP

NOVES FRUSTRATED BY FRENCH FUMBLING

EDINBURGH: France coach Guy Noves was left shaking his head and deriding his players for their stumbling Six Nations performance Sunday in the 29-18 loss to Scotland at Murrayfield. The defeat was the first for France against Scotland in 10 years and it shattered any hopes they had of denying unbeaten England the title when the two sides play the tournament finale in Paris in six days' time. "On a purely technical level we were very poor in this match," the former Toulouse chief said.

"We made far too many faults-between the handling errors and the number of penalties that we gave away. "Under these conditions we were not able to apply any pressure on the Scottish team for any length of time. "Periodically we played some quality rugby and scored two tries. But we made too many silly mistakes.

"It's a big let down for us, but in some way it reassures me because we did not

play at the level we can produce." The defeat at Murrayfield comes hard on the heels of the loss to Wales in Cardiff two weeks ago and it underlines the task facing Noves at a troubled time for French rugby still smarting from the humiliation at the hands of the All Blacks in the World Cup quarter-finals in October. Long seen as a potential French national coach after his years of success at Toulouse, Noves has made the jump from club to country late in his career and not everyone is convinced that at 62 he is the right man for the job, with the next World Cup still over three years away.

Noves, however, insists that patience is the key. "They are a squad of young players who are trying to compete at a very high level," he said.

"But we can still make progress because they are young and because they can move forward together. —AFP

POUND: RUSSIA 'DITHERING AND PROCRASTINATING' ON DOPING

LONDON: The man who headed the doping investigation that led to Russia's suspension from global track and field sees little evidence that the country is doing enough to win reinstatement in time for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Former World Anti-Doping Agency president Dick Pound told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Russia is running out of time to clean up its drug-testing program in order for its athletes to be able to compete at the games in August.

"There has been a lot of bluster and blanket denial and saying, 'You are picking on Russia,' that sort of thing," Pound said. "I can't tell for sure whether they are taking this really seriously or they assume the problem will go away."

The Russian track federation was suspended in November after a report by Pound's independent WADA commission detailed systematic corruption and doping cover-ups in Russia. The International Association of Athletics Federations has laid down a series of criteria for the Russians to meet before they can be eligible for readmission.

"We thought at the time when we released the report that if they dropped everything and went

full speed ahead on genuine reform they could probably get enough done to get back into Rio, but they have been dithering and procrastinating and I think that time is really shrinking," Pound said in an interview on the sidelines of the Tackling Doping in Sport conference at Twickenham Stadium.

The IAAF's governing council holds a two-day meeting beginning Thursday in Monaco, where officials will examine Russia's efforts to reform. In addition, WADA still needs to declare Russia's national anti-doping agency and anti-doping lab compliant with its rules before the country can return to the international fold.

"They're aware of the amount of work that is necessary," WADA president Craig Reddie said. "A big priority for us is the appointment of two independent experts to be in Moscow to help build the new RUSADA, and they are also aware of the timelines."

Pound also cast doubt on Russia's commitment in his speech to the conference. "I don't think they are devoting all their time and energy to getting where they ought to be," he said.



MONACO: International Association of Athletic Federations President Sebastian Coe arrives to meet the media after attending a two-day council meeting in Monaco, Friday. Russia's track and field federation has not yet done enough to reform its anti-doping program in order to have its athletes reinstated to global competition, the IAAF said. —AP

"There seems to be some evidence of changing the deck chairs on the Titanic."

"It's not just showing intent to change that's going to get them readmitted," Pound added. "There's going to have to be verified action. It's a considerable hurdle. If they haven't put enough into it, and the IAAF and WADA are not satisfied, my guess is they may not make it back for Rio." Pound said the IAAF and WADA "are not going to risk their reputations any further by rolling over and playing dead."

Reddie, meanwhile, said he was personally pushing for Russian 800-meter runner Yulia Stepanova - a whistleblower who helped expose the Russian doping scandal - to be allowed to compete in the Rio Games.

Stepanova and her husband, a former anti-doping official, left Russia in 2014 after providing undercover footage of apparent doping violations to German TV channel ARD.

Stepanova, who served a doping ban

between 2013 and 2015, has applied to compete in Rio "in a capacity other than as a Russian athlete." Reddie said he raised her case directly with IOC President Thomas Bach in December.

"I understand she does have a qualifying time," Reddie said. "It's now up to the IAAF and the IOC." Pound also reiterated his backing for Sebastian Coe, who became IAAF president in August.

Coe has been under scrutiny because he served as a vice president under former president Lamine Diack, who is under criminal investigation in France on corruption charges related to doping cover-ups.

"I never thought it was fair to blame one person on the IAAF council for that," Pound said, referring to Coe. "I think he's had a very rough ride, mostly from (the media in) this country. That's fair enough. The press is entitled to do that. I can think of nobody likely to do a better job in the present difficult circumstances." — AP

US FENCER IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD TO MAKE HISTORY FOR MUSLIMS

LOS ANGELES: Ibtihaj Muhammad stood beaming on the podium in Budapest in 2013, flashing a bright smile, a world championship bronze medal and the red, white and blue hijab that perfectly encapsulated who she is as an athlete and a person.

Muhammad, a New Jersey-born fencer, is a proud Muslim and an equally proud American. And this summer at the Rio Olympics, Muhammed will seek to stand up for her community by fighting for a country that hasn't always fought for those who share her faith.

Muhammad, the middle daughter of a retired detective and special education teacher, will become the first US athlete to compete in the Olympics while wearing a hijab, the head scarf required of Muslim women.

Those circumstances have put Muhammad, 30, on a platform well beyond sports. She's hoping her presence as an Olympian can help counter the recent wave of anti-Islamic sentiment in the US, triggered in part by Donald Trump's comments about banning Muslims from the US.

"I feel like I've been blessed to be in this position, to be given this platform. When I think of my predecessors, and people who've spoken out against bigotry and hate, I feel like I owe it not just to myself but to my community to try to fight it," said Muhammad, who is ranked seventh in the world in the women's saber. "There are people who don't feel safe going to work every day, that don't feel safe being themselves. I think that's a problem." The irony of Muhammad's rise to international fencing success is that it was about as American as one might imagine.

WELL, ALMOST

Muhammad tried nearly every sport as a kid, from softball and track to tennis. But the constant modifications Muhammad would have to make to her uniform - like adding sleeves or wearing pants when her teammates had on shorts - were growing tiresome.

Then one day while in the car with her mother, a 12-year-old Muhammad noticed a fencing practice through the windows of a local high school. Since fencers are covered from head to toe for protection, Muhammad knew right away she had found

her calling - and perhaps even a way to help pay for college. Muhammad soon hooked up with the Westbrook Foundation, an organization run by former Olympian Peter Westbrook to teach fencing to underserved communities in metro New York. She later earned a scholarship from Duke, where she was a three-time All-American.

"Don't be fooled by that pretty face. She has something in her that it takes in real champions, that unbelievable will to win," said Westbrook, who in 1984 became the first African-American to win an Olympic medal. "She is able to dig five stories deep to pull something out. And when she loses? Oh my God."

Still, Muhammad put fencing largely aside after college, turning to teaching while she considered applying to law school. But she was still curious enough about her fencing to turn to a new coach, Akhi Spencer-El, who is also connected with the Westbrook Foundation.

ABILITIES

Muhammad was Spencer-El's first protégé. Muhammad said she found in him someone who believed in her abilities as much as she did. That was enough to give Muhammad the push she needed to rededicate herself to the sport.

"I noticed she was something different. There was so much competitiveness," Spencer-El said. "I knew I could get her to be on a level with the best in the world."

It took a while, but Muhammad got there. Muhammad made her first world championship in 2010, and she helped the Americans win a team bronze a year later. Two years ago, Muhammad was part of her first gold medal-winning senior world team. Athletes have had to fight for the right to wear religious head coverings in sports like basketball and soccer, where FIFA changed its rules to allow hijabs in 2012.

But Muhammad has never had to downplay her faith in competition or in life. She often sports multicolored hijabs on and off the strip and has even started a clothing website with her siblings, Louella.com, for Muslim women seeking more colorful options while still adhering to their religion. Muhammad has suffered her share of backlash, though. On Saturday at the South by Southwest

festival in Austin, Texas, Muhammad was asked by a volunteer to remove her hijab for a security photo and later tweeted that she couldn't "make this stuff up." But Muhammad is intent on using her time in the spotlight to show the U.S. and the rest of the world that Muslim-Americans should be embraced, not shunned. "I've never questioned myself as an American and my position here," Muhammad said. "This is my home. This is who I am. My family has always been here. We're American by birth, and it's a part of who I am and this is all that I know.—AP



CALIFORNIA: In this March 8, 2016, file photo, Fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad poses for photos at the 2016 Olympic Team USA media summit in Beverly Hills, Calif. Muhammad would be the first American to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab. — AP



Kuwait Times

ICC WORLD TWENTY20

WILLIAMSON WARY OF SPIN CHALLENGE AT WORLD TWENTY20

NAGPUR: New Zealand is wary of the threat Indian spinners could pose for its batsmen in the World Twenty20 Super 10 opener, captain Kane Williamson said yesterday.

"The pitch will be on the slow side and perhaps take a little turn," Williamson said. "In Indian conditions we can expect spin to play a big part and it's important that we adjust our game accordingly."

The pitch used here for a test match against South Africa last year had been rated as poor by the International Cricket Council with the game ending inside three days.

The World T20 qualifying games also saw the ball turn. That could magnify the challenge in batting against

India's Ravichandran Ashwin-led spin attack that also boasts allrounders Yuvraj Singh and Ravindra Jadeja, part-timer Suresh Raina and the back-up of Harbhajan Singh.

New Zealand has the added challenge of adjusting quickly to the format as its last engagement was a test series against Australia, but Williamson played down this concern.

"In international games you get to change formats consistently," Williamson said. Host India is the favorite to win the tournament but starts its campaign against an opposition it has never beaten in four previous meetings, including in the 2007 edition which India won in South Africa. "I don't think our previous

record has any meaning. We go into the match tomorrow with a clean slate. India is a strong side and Twenty20 cricket is fickle in nature," said Williamson, who has match-winners of his own, such as batsmen Ross Taylor and Martin Guptill and all-rounder Corey Anderson.

India's in-form batsman Virat Kohli said the team's fine recent run gave it a lot of confidence.

"We're pretty confident after winning 10 of 11 games and hope to take that momentum into the

World Twenty20," Kohli said. "This is going to be far more challenging. This is a big event and the whole feeling, vibe is different." India's recent successes include winning the Asia Cup in

Bangladesh as well as a 3-0 series victory in Australia. Kohli led the way, scoring 352 runs in eight T20 games at a strike-rate of 134 and an average of 117.33, with openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan also among the runs. "The middle-order has not got too much of an opportunity in recent games. So it becomes our responsibility to get the runs at the top of the order," Kohli said. "I come in at No. 3 so have a better chance of getting runs than batsmen to follow. We all understand that."

India and New Zealand are with Australia, Pakistan and Bangladesh in Group 2. Group 1 consists of West Indies, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. — AP



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson

KEY PLAYERS IN WORLD T20 1

NEW DELHI: As the group stages of cricket's World T20 begin this week, AFP takes a look at some of the players who are expected to light up the tournament. The following is a list of potential match-winners from the five teams competing in Group 1, which features the West Indies, South Africa, England, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan:

Group 2

Chris Gayle (West Indies): It's been a while since Gayle played Test cricket but his appetite for T20s appears undimmed. While the biggest headlines from his recent stint in Australia's Big Bash League revolved around his bid to chat up a TV reporter, he also bludgeoned a stunning 12-ball 50. Gayle racked up the highest ever score in T20s while playing for the Bangalore Royal Challengers in the Indian Premier League three years ago, hitting an unbeaten 175 off 66 balls. And he lit up the first World T20 in 2007 by notching up the format's first international century. It could be the last chance for glory for a player, now aged 36, that captain Darren Sammy describes as "the most destructive" in T20 cricket.

Imran Tahir (South Africa): With paceman Dale Steyn struggling with injury, the hopes of South Africa's bowling attack will rest largely on the shoulders of leg-spinner Imran Tahir. The 36-year-old has been in the form of his life in 2016 and was the stand-out bowler in the recent T20 series against Australia and England. Born in Pakistan, Tahir broke into the Proteas' side at a relatively late age because of issues over his eligibility, but quickly became a fans' favourite due to his ability to turn matches. The stylish spinner wears his heart on his sleeve and is a natural entertainer, famed for his often dramatic appeals for a wicket.

Joe Root (England): He may have the appearance of a choirboy but the chirpy Yorkshireman is a steely competitor who gets up the noses of opponents. Widely seen as a captain-in-waiting, Root has excelled at all forms of the game and appears to relish the more aggressive style of cricket that England have pursued in the last year. Still only 25, he has already scored more than 6,000 international runs since making his debut in India four years ago. Not only is he now the most prized English wicket, but he is also a handy offbreak bowler.

Angelo Mathews (Sri Lanka): The batting all-rounder has been handed the unenviable task of ensuring the struggling islanders at least make a decent fist of trying to defend the World T20 title they won in 2014. Sri Lanka have been on the decline since their triumph in Bangladesh, slumping to eighth in the world rankings, and come into this edition hot on the heels of a torturous Asia Cup campaign. Mathews, 28, was appointed captain in place of the injured Lasith Malinga just hours before the squad were due to leave for India. Progressing to the semis is seen as a tall order, so if Sri Lanka succeed, then their new skipper will regard it as a job well done.

Mohammad Shahzad (Afghanistan): A self-proclaimed fan of Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Shahzad has not only copied his idol's 'helicopter shot' but possesses a similar never-say-die attitude. The portly opener has been in the form of his life and is the main reason Afghanistan made the Super 10 cut. With scores of 61, 41 and 40 in the qualifiers, Shahzad is sure to make any opposition bowler wary of his presence. Apart from his range of colourful shots, the 31-year-old Shahzad is regarded as the team's chief motivator thanks to his chirpy presence behind the stumps.

Group 2

Players to watch from Group 2 of the World Twenty20, featuring India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Australia and Bangladesh, as the tournament's main draw gets underway today:

Ravichandran Ashwin (India): With question marks over India's pace attack, Ashwin will be the team's go-to man in home conditions. The off-spinner comes into the tournament as the top-ranked T20 bowler in the absence of the West Indies' Sunil Narine. With many variations including the 'carrom ball' up his sleeve, Ashwin is feared on Indian wickets and he's also handy with the bat lower down the order.

Colin Munro (New Zealand): Forget Kane Williamson, Martin Guptill and Corey Anderson, New Zealand suddenly has another big-hitter in the form of Munro, 29. The unheralded left-hander has been in sensational form this year and starred in the Black Caps' 74-run thrashing of Sri Lanka in Thursday's warm-up match in Mumbai. Munro smashed 67, including seven sixes, off 34 balls, leading Anderson to call him "one hell of a player". His form is timely for New Zealand, after the retirement of their swashbuckling captain Brendon McCullum.

David Warner (Australia): Arguably the most brutal opener in Test cricket, Warner has been handed a new role in the middle order of Australia's T20 side. A blistering 77 off just 40 balls against South Africa last weekend showed how quickly he has adapted to the change and he says he is relishing the opportunity to face more spin bowling. Warner made his debut for Australia's T20 team even before he played first-class cricket but is now an automatic pick in all formats. His in-your-face approach has landed him in trouble, including his infamous 2013 ban for punching England's Joe Root in a bar. But as vice-captain in what is a relatively inexperienced squad, much responsibility now rests on the 29-year-old's shoulders.

Shoaib Malik (Pakistan): The middle-order batsman made his international debut back in 1999 when still a teenager, beginning a rollercoaster ride which seems to be drawing to a close. Still only 34, he dropped a bombshell last November by announcing his retirement from Test cricket, only three matches after a five-year exile. But he remains a key member of Pakistan's one-day and T20 squads and a calming influence in a crisis situation. After Pakistan's disastrous performance in the recent Asia Cup in Bangladesh, skipper Shahid Afridi will be looking to Malik to mentor the side's young batsmen. Husband of Indian tennis star Sania Mirza, Malik was at the crease when Pakistan lifted the T20 crown in 2009 and would love to repeat the victory in Kolkata on April 3.

Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh): Widely regarded as the best cricketer Bangladesh has produced, Shakib is a canny left-arm spinner and a power middle-order batsman with a wide array of strokes. Shakib is also Bangladesh's most experienced T20 campaigner and has played in domestic leagues in four different countries. Previously ranked as the world's number one all-rounder, he has been the main factor behind the team's sharp improvement in one-day cricket in the last two years. But the brash 28-year-old has also made headlines for the wrong reasons and he was slapped with a six-month ban in 2014 by the Bangladeshi board for a "severe attitude problem" after he tried to play in the Caribbean Premier League without permission. He was also suspended briefly last year for a foul-mouthed outburst at an umpire in Bangladesh's domestic T20 tournament.—AFP



NAGPUR: India's Virat Kohli prepares for the training session at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday. India plays against New Zealand in the World T20 cricket tournament today in Nagpur. — AFP

KOHLI URGES CALM AS INDIA BEGIN CAMPAIGN

NAGPUR: Star batsman Virat Kohli urged his team-mates to stay calm yesterday amid growing fervour about India's prospects in the World Twenty20, ahead of the host's tricky tournament opener against New Zealand.

After winning 10 of their last 11 T20 internationals, India are red-hot favourites for the World T20 and former batsman Virender Sehwag said last week he was "99 percent certain" they would become the first team to win the trophy for a second time. But Kohli, who is sometimes regarded as something of a firebrand, tried to put a dampener on expectations in a press conference on the eve of the match in Nagpur and said it was important not to get carried away.

"I think the key is to learn from the past where calmness is required in big tournaments like the ICC (International Cricket Council) events because you can get sort of carried away or over anxious or over excited," said Kohli, who is India's Test captain. "Both those feelings are not great for any side going into a big tournament. "What we've learned from playing in big tournaments in the past is that we have to stay as calm as possible and focus on the skills that need to be executed on the field."

India have a woeful track record against the Black Caps in World T20 tournaments, losing four out of their five previous encounters while the other match was rained off.

BIG-HITTING BLACK CAPS

And although New Zealand have been undermined by inspirational skipper Brendon McCullum's retirement on the eve of the tournament, their performance in warm-up matches shows they are not lacking for firepower.

They thrashed the holders Sri Lanka last Thursday when Colin Munro, Corey Anderson and Grant Elliott all posted half-centuries in rapid time. Skipper Kane Williamson then smashed an entertaining 63 when New Zealand narrowly lost to England in their final warm-up match on Saturday.

India also suffered a rare defeat in what was an unofficial T20 international on Saturday when they lost by four runs to South Africa in another high-scoring match.

With their powerful openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma hitting a purple patch, and the veteran Yuvraj Singh also in good nick, India will expect to post a big total on a batsman-friendly pitch in Nagpur.

Kohli, in top form himself, said rookie Indian bowlers Jaspreet Bumrah and Hardik Pandya would also be crucial to the outcome, saying they had showed few signs of nerves in their fledgling international careers.

"Players like Hardik and Bumrah they have more confidence than when we started out," he said. "They have performed in different situations and they have brought that confidence

with them into the side.

"They have backed their skills and I think this is what has been the x-factor for us." Like many of his fellow skippers, Williamson believes that India are the team to beat but says his side—which is still to win a world cup—do not lack in belief. "No doubt India will be possibly the favourites for this tournament but I think all the teams will come here thinking they can win it," he said last week.

Teams

India (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni

WORLD T20 SQUADS

NEW DELHI: Squads for the group stages sixth edition of the International Cricket Council's World Twenty20, which starts today:

Group 1

ENGLAND

Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Liam Dawson, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, James Vince, David Willey

SOUTH AFRICA

Faf du Plessis (captain), Kyle Abbott, Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Imran Tahir, Chris Morris, David Miller, Aaron Phangiso, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Dale Steyn, David Wiese.

SRI LANKA

Angelo Mathews (captain), Lasith Malinga, Dushmantha Chameera, Dinesh Chandimal, Niroshan Dickwella, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Rangana Herath, Shehan Jayasuriya, Chamara Kapugedera, Nuwan Kulasekara, Thisara Perera, Sachithra Senanayake, Dasun Shanaka, Milinda Siriwardana, Jeffrey Vandersay

WEST INDIES

Darren Sammy (captain), Samuel Badree, Sulieman Benn, Carlos Brathwaite, Dwayne Bravo, Johnson Charles, Andre Fletcher, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels, Jerome Taylor

BANGLADESH

Mashrafe Mortaza (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Abu Hider, Al-Amin Hossain, Arafat Sunny, Mahmudullah, Mohammad Mithun, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mustafizur Rahman, Nasir Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Sabbir Rahman, Soumya Sarkar, Tamim Iqbal, Taskin Ahmed

Group 2

AUSTRALIA

Steven Smith (captain), David Warner, Ashton Agar, Nathan Coulter-Nile, James Faulkner, Aaron Finch, John Hastings, Josh Hazlewood, Usman Khawaja, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Peter Nwora, Andrew Tye, Shane Watson, Adam Zampa

INDIA

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Shikhar Dhawan, Harbhajan Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami, Pawan Negi, Ashish Nehra, Rohit Pandya, Ajinkya Rahane, Suresh Raina, Hardik Sharma, Yuvraj Singh.

NEW ZEALAND

Kane Williamson (captain), Corey Anderson, Trent Boult, Martin Guptill, Grant Elliott, Colin Munro, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Adam Milne, Henry Nicholls, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor .

PAKISTAN

Shahid Afridi (captain), Anwar Ali, Imad Wasim, Khalid Latif, Khurram Manzoor, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Irfan, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Sami, Sarfraz Ahmed, Shoaib Malik, Sharjeel Khan, Umar Akmal, Wahab Riaz.

AFGHANISTAN

Asghar Stanikzai (captain), Amir Hamza, Dawlat Zadran, Gulbadin Naib, Hamid Hassan, Karim Sadiq, Mohammad Nabi, Mohammad Shahzad, Najibullah Zadran, Noor Ali Zadran, Rashid Khan, Samiullah Shenwari, Shafiqullah Shafiq, Shapoor Zadran, Usman Ghani. —AFP

DJOKOVIC MOVES ON AT INDIAN WELLS

INDIAN WELLS: World number one Novak Djokovic had to dig deep at Indian Wells on Sunday to fend off a pair of unheralded but spirited opponent. Djokovic dropped the first set before coming from behind to book his third-round spot in the ATP and WTA hardcourt tournament with a 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory over 149th-ranked qualifier Bjorn Fratangelo. In the evening session, reigning champion Simona Halep steam-rolled Ekaterina Makarova 6-2, 6-4 to get her title defence off to a flying start.

“Just trying to fight.” The defending two-time men’s champ Djokovic has now won 12 consecutive matches in Indian Wells and is seeking to become the first player in tournament history to claim five titles.

Djokovic won 78 percent of his first serve points, made three double faults and had his serve broken three times including twice in the first three games. He returned the favour in the deciding third set by breaking Fratangelo in games one, five and seven.

“All in all, it was just not a great performance,” Djokovic said. “But you have to deal with it, accept it. A win is a win. Hopefully the next one will be better.”

After the victory in difficult, windy conditions, Djokovic next faces German Philipp

Kohlschreiber who swept past Denis Kudla 6-0, 6-1. “Today is one of those days where you don’t feel the ball well,” Djokovic said. “You know, swirly conditions.”

NISHIKORI WINS

Japanese star Kei Nishikori eased into the third round with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Kazakhstan’s Mikhail Kukushkin.

The 26-year-old Nishikori, seeded fifth in his eighth appearance in Indian Wells, has never made it past the fourth round in the California desert. “It is not easy playing the first match of any tournament,” Nishikori said. “But I felt comfortable today. So I hope I can go further than the last couple of years.”

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated French compatriot Vincent Millot 7-5, 6-1; Dominic Thiem beat Jozef Kovalik 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3); and Sam Querrey stopped Thiemo de Bakker 7-6 (7/5), 6-4.

Elsewhere in women’s action, world number three Agnieszka Radwanska breezed past Romania’s Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-1 to reach the fourth round.

Last year’s runner-up Jelena Jankovic crushed CoCo Vandeweghe 6-0, 6-1 and Czech Petra Kvitova defeated Swede Johanna Larsson 6-3, 4-6, 7-5. —AFP



INDIAN WELLS: Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot against Bjorn Fratangelo during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on Sunday at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California. — AFP

SHORT-HANDED PENGUINS SURGE PAST RANGERS 5-3

NEW YORK: With one of their top players out for several weeks, the Pittsburgh Penguins are going to need some help to make the playoffs. Conor Sheary did his part on Sunday. Sheary scored twice and Matt Cullen had the go-ahead goal in the third period as the short-handed Penguins beat the New York Rangers 5-3. The Penguins were missing star Evgeni Malkin, who is out six to eight weeks after suffering an upper-body injury in Friday’s win over Columbus. He is second on the team with 27 goals and 31 assists in 57 games.

“It’s a good opportunity for a lot of guys to get some secondary scoring to get some more minutes when a top guy like that goes down,” Sheary said. “Obviously, it’s unfortunate for the team as whole, losing a player like that, but it’s good for younger guys and guys who don’t get that many minutes.” Patric Hornqvist also scored for the Penguins and Marc-Andre Fleury made 24 saves for the Penguins. Sidney Crosby added an empty-netter for his 29th of the season. Derick Brassard scored his team-leading 25th goal for the Rangers. Ryan McDonagh and Chris Kreider also scored and Derek Stepan had two assists. Jonathan Bernier made 38 saves in his 12th career shutout to lead the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 1-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings. It marked the Maple Leafs’ second

shutout of the Red Wings in the last 30 years. The last time was Curtis Joseph’s 3-0 victory on Dec. 6, 2000, in Detroit. “I felt great from the get-go,” Bernier said. “We felt we dominated this game from the start and we wanted it.” Toronto’s Michael Grabner came in on a breakaway and was hauled down by Danny DeKeyser with 29.5 seconds left in the second. Petr Mrazek made the save, but as Grabner slid into the crease, the puck went into the net.

LIGHTNING 4, BLUE JACKETS 0

Steven Stamkos scored twice - giving him 31 goals on the season - and the Tampa Bay Lightning cruised to a 4-0 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Sunday in Nationwide Arena. Lightning goaltender Ben Bishop was booed every time he touched the puck, but got the last word on Blue Jackets’ fans with a 33-save shutout, the 16th shutout of his career.

MAPLE LEAFS 1, RED WINGS 0

Jonathan Bernier made 38 saves for his 12th career shutout and third of the season and the Toronto Maple Leafs defeated the Detroit Red Wings 1-0 Sunday night at Joe Louis Arena. Michael Grabner scored for Toronto, which recorded its first regulation win since Feb. 25. Petr Mrazek made 26 saves for Detroit. — Reuters

NHL Results/Standings

Pittsburgh 5, NY Rangers 3; Tampa Bay 4, Columbus 0.

Western Conference											
Central Division											
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS					
Dallas	41	20	9	227	203	91	Florida	38	21	9	192 167 85
St. Louis	41	20	9	183	172	91	Tampa Bay	40	24	5	190 163 85
Chicago	41	22	6	195	168	88	Detroit	34	24	11	173 182 79
Nashville	34	22	13	189	177	81	Ottawa	32	30	8	202 218 72
Minnesota	32	27	10	182	172	74	Montreal	32	31	6	187 194 70
Colorado	35	31	4	188	198	74	Buffalo	28	33	9	167 190 65
Winnipeg	28	35	5	176	203	61	Toronto	23	34	11	160 201 57
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division					
Los Angeles	40	22	5	180	154	85	Washington	49	14	5	219 160 103
Anaheim	37	21	9	167	159	83	NY Rangers	39	23	7	197 181 85
San Jose	38	24	6	203	179	82	NY Islanders	37	21	8	190 166 82
Arizona	30	32	7	185	211	67	Pittsburgh	36	24	8	188 173 80
Vancouver	27	28	12	164	192	66	Philadelphia	32	23	12	174 180 76
Calgary	28	35	5	182	213	61	Carolina	31	26	12	170 186 74
Edmonton	27	37	7	169	209	61	New Jersey	33	29	7	153 171 73
Eastern Conference											
Atlantic Division											
Boston	39	23	8	213	188	86	Columbus	28	33	8	180 215 64

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).



DETROIT: Nasem Kadri #43 of the Toronto Maple Leafs controls the puck while playing at Joe Louis Arena yesterday in Detroit, Michigan. Toronto won the game 1-0. —AFP



INDIAN WELLS: Serena Williams returns a shot against Yulia Putinseva of Kazakhstan during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on March 11 at Indian Wells Tennis Garden on Sunday. —AFP

SERENA FINDS INNER TIGER TO ADVANCE

INDIAN WELLS: World number one Serena Williams stepped up her bid for her first Indian Wells title in 15 years with a straight set victory over Yulia Putintseva 7-6 (7/2), 6-0 on Sunday.

The two-time Indian Wells champion Williams had a difficult time with Putintseva in the opening set but then steamrolled through the second to wrap up the win in one hour, 15 minutes.

“The first set was a little tricky, then I had to find my inner tiger, and roar,” Williams said.

Williams moves on to the fourth round of the hardcourt tournament where she will face Kateryna Bondarenko who defeated Lesia Tsurenko 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) earlier on Sunday.

Williams has a chance to become the first three-time winner in women’s singles at Indian Wells, a feat she failed to achieve last year when she was forced to withdraw from her semi-final match with a knee injury.

Williams, who won the event in 1999 and 2001, returned to the tournament last year, ending a 14-year boycott which began after she beat Kim Clijsters in the 2001 final.

That year spectators at Indian Wells booed Serena during the final and jeered her sister and father Richard Williams in the stands.

As the top seed and a 21 Grand Slam title winner, she’s the clear favourite this week. Her quest was boosted Saturday with the elimination of two of the top five seeds in the women’s

draw, Angelique Kerber and Garbine Muguruza.

Although Williams got off to another slow start Sunday but she closed out in style with an ace on match point.

She needed a tiebreaker to win the first set, taking the final three points, including the last two on her serve.

“I was just trying to find my rhythm out there. Trying my best to not get off to a slow start,” she said. “I was just trying to fight and do what I could.” World No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska breezed past Romania’s Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-1 to reach the fourth round.

The third seed from Poland needed just 87 minutes to eliminate Niculescu following a tough two-hour, 41-minute second round contest which she won 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 over Slovak Dominika Cibulkova.

“I knew I would have to be patient,” Radwanska said of playing Niculescu.

“I am just very happy to win that match in those two quick sets.” Radwanska is hoping to get back to the Indian Wells final for the first time since losing the championship match to Flavia Pennetta two years ago.

In men’s action, Japanese star Kei Nishikori eased through his second round match by beating Kazakhstan’s Mikhail Kukushkin 6-3, 6-3.

The 26-year-old Nishikori, seeded fifth in his eighth appearance in Indian Wells, has never

made it past the fourth round in the California desert.

‘FELT COMFORTABLE’

“It is not easy playing the first match of any tournament,” Nishikori said.

“But I felt comfortable today. So I hope I can go further than the last couple of years.”

Nishikori, who has been ranked as high as fourth in the world to become the highest ranked Asian player in ATP history, moves on to the third round where he will face either American Steve Johnson or Australia’s John Millman. Nishikori won 71 percent of his first serve points and broke Kukushkin’s serve four times in the 70-minute match.

“The first couple of games are the most important,” he said.

“I try not to hit too many crazy shots and get a good rhythm and if I feel good then go for shots and hit the ball a little harder,” added Nishikori, who last month defended his ATP title at Memphis for the fourth consecutive year, extending his win streak at the event to 17 matches.

In other matches Sunday, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated French compatriot Vincent Millot 7-5, 6-1, Dominic Thiem beat Jozef Kovalik 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) and Sam Querrey stopped Thiemo de Bakker 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. — AFP

NADAL PLANS TO SUE FRANCE’S EX-SPORTS MINISTER

INDIAN WELLS: Rafael Nadal stepped up his attack Sunday on those who label him a drugs cheat, threatening to sue the French ex-sports minister who said the Spanish tennis star failed a drug test.

Nadal said he is seeking “justice” and will have his day in court to silence critics like former French minister Roselyne Bachelot.

“I gonna sue her, and I gonna sue everyone who gonna comment something similar in the future, because I am tired of that,” Nadal said Sunday night at the Indian Wells hardcourt tournament.

Bachelot, who served as sports minister between 2007 and 2010, has said that Nadal faked an injury in 2012, when he missed the final six months of the season due to knee problems, in order to hide a positive drug test.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion first told AFP on Saturday night that he was going to seek “justice” and use the courts to put a stop to speculation he ever used performance-enhancing drugs.

“I am tired about these things. I let it go a few times in the past. No more,” Nadal said, adding that he expected better of person who was “minister of a big country and a great country like France.”

Nadal has never failed a drug test in his many years on the ATP Tour and has always vehemently denied ever using a banned substance.

Nadal said he had been reluctant to take people who accused him of using illegal drugs to court in the past, but has now changed his mind.

Nadal, the world number five, beat Gilles Muller 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 in the second round at Indian Wells on Sunday.

Nadal, the former three-time Indian Wells champion, moves on to face fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in the hardcourt tournament, one of the biggest events on the ATP Tour calendar outside of the four Grand Slams.

The draw sets up a possible semi-final showdown between world number one Novak Djokovic and Nadal. They’re nearly even in their 47 head-to-head meetings, with Djokovic owning a 24-23 edge. — AFP

RADWANSKA ADVANCES

INDIAN WELLS: World No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska breezed past Romania’s Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-1 to reach the fourth round of the WTA and ATP Tour’s Indian Wells tournament on Sunday.

The third seed from Poland needed just 87 minutes to eliminate Niculescu following a tough two-hour, 41-minute second round contest which she won 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 over Slovak Dominika Cibulkova.

“I knew I would have to be patient,” Radwanska said of playing Niculescu.

“I think that’s the most important thing in that kind of match. “And really try to play my game. She can be really tough. I am just very happy to win that match in those two quick sets.” Radwanska is hoping to get back to the Indian Wells final for the first time since losing the championship match to Flavia Pennetta two years ago. She moves on to face the winner of a match between Serb Jelena Jankovic and CoCo Vandeweghe of the USA. Radwanska blasted four aces to none for Niculescu, had no double faults to three and broke Niculescu’s serve five times. In other early matches Sunday, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated French compatriot Vincent Millot 7-5, 6-1, Alexander Zverev beat Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, and Adrian Mannarino defeated Benoit Paire 6-1, 6-3. —AFP



Rafael Nadal

FIFA BANS 3 S AFRICANS OVER PRE-WORLD CUP MATCH-FIXING

ZURICH: FIFA banned three more former South African Football Association officials yesterday over match-fixing in friendly games ahead of the country's hosting of the 2010 World Cup.

Former SAFA chief executive Leslie Sedibe was banned for five years and fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$20,200). The governing body also banned Steve Goddard and Adeel Carelse, both former officials at SAFA's referees department, for two years each.

Last year, Lindile Kika, SAFA's head of national teams in 2010, was banned from all soccer activities for six years.

FIFA believes that at least one of the

South African national team's friendly games in the weeks ahead of the continent's first World Cup was fixed by the referee. SAFA officials were under investigation for allowing a company controlled by Singaporean match-fixer Wilson Raj Perumal to appoint the referees for the games.

FIFA hasn't identified the game or games in question, but South Africa's 2-1 win over Colombia and 5-0 win over Guatemala a couple of weeks before the opening of the World Cup are under suspicion. All three goals in the South Africa-Colombia game came through penalty kicks. There was a collection of

bizarre refereeing decisions in the South Africa-Guatemala game.

South Africa-Guatemala was refereed by Niger official Ibrahim Chaibou, who is being sought for involvement in other allegedly fixed games. South Africa's game with Colombia, and an earlier 4-0 win over Thailand in another pre-World Cup friendly, were both refereed by Langat Kipngetch of Kenya.

It is believed that some SAFA officials eventually suspected what was happening and prevented Perumal-controlled referees from taking control of later World Cup warm-up games.

The South African officials banned

Monday by FIFA were all found guilty of misconduct and breaching rules relating to reporting wrongdoing and cooperating with investigations.

Sedibe, a high-profile figure in South Africa, is now the chief executive of Proudly South African, a company which promotes South African goods and services. The fixing in the pre-World Cup friendlies has long been ignored by South African authorities, with no meaningful investigation into the allegations despite promises made four years ago. Then, a series of SAFA officials, including the president at the time, were suspended pending a probe but no results have

been announced. The fixing bans further overshadow Africa's first World Cup, which was undermined more recently by allegations of bribery in the bidding process that won the tournament for South Africa. US investigators looking at widespread corruption at FIFA believe that South Africa used \$10 million of its World Cup preparations budget to pay off now-disgraced former FIFA executives for voting for it to be the host.

Two unnamed but "senior" South African soccer officials have been implicated in the US Department of Justice's indictment for allegedly organizing the bribes. —AP



SAO PAULO: Former AC Milan striker Alexandre Pato poses wearing a Corinthians jersey during his presentation as Corinthians' new soccer player in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Putting all the blame on Jose Mourinho for Chelsea's rapid downfall is easy — but wrong. After all, Mourinho isn't the manager who signed Alexandre Pato, the forward who seems no closer to making his debut after more than six weeks with the club. — AP

CRISIS FOR COACH MIHAJLOVIC AS MILAN SEE EUROPE SLIPPING AWAY

MILAN: AC Milan coach Sinisa Mihajlovic could be resigned to a possible summer departure after reportedly claiming he can't "do any more" with the struggling Serie A giants.

Milan's hopes of battling their way to a top three finish and a possible return to the Champions League after a two-year absence were virtually ended by a scoreless draw at Chievo on Saturday.

It left the seven-time European champions stuck in sixth place at 11 points behind Roma, who occupy the third and last spot to qualify for Europe's premier club competition.

Mihajlovic, who starred for Lazio, Sampdoria and Inter Milan during his Serie A playing days, was reportedly told last month by club owner Silvio Berlusconi he would have to win every game in the run-in to clinch a place in the top three and save his job.

The former Serbia international was serving a one-match suspension on Saturday and although not scheduled to speak to the media, Mediaset reported he complained: "With this squad it's impossible for me to do any more."

Mihajlovic and Milan later played down the report, but the reality for one of the biggest sides in European football over the past 20 years is stark.

Milan, Italy's most successful club in

European competition, have not contended the Champions League since losing 5-1 on aggregate to Atletico Madrid in the last 16 in 2014.

Unless Roma and their fellow rivals for the league's last Champions League qualifying spot, in this case Inter Milan and Fiorentina, suffer a dramatic collapse, Milan will miss out again.

Worse, if the Rossoneri fail to finish in at least fifth spot, and suffer defeat to Juventus in the Italian Cup final—the winners of which are given a Europa League spot—they will miss out on Europe altogether.

Veteran goalkeeper Christian Abbiati, who made a rare appearance at the weekend after teenaged star Gianluigi Donnarumma suffered injury in the opening minutes, said there's only one way to respond.

"There's still a long way to go this season, and we have to give it everything and try and catch up with the sides above us in the table," said Abbiati.

"I am not happy with the past two results and they are hard to take. We are Milan and when you come here you have to prove yourself. We need to find our focus again." Milan host Lazio next weekend and after a trip to Atalanta, travel to Turin to face league and Cup champions Juventus. —AFP



MAJADAHONDA: Atletico Madrid's French forward Antoine Griezmann controls the ball during a training session at Wanda Training Complex in Majadahonda, near Madrid, yesterday on the eve of their Champions League Round of 16 second leg football match against PSV Eindhoven. — AFP

ARSENE WENGER BRACES FOR BARCELONA AFTER FA CUP EXIT

LONDON: Arsene Wenger admitted that he faces a tough job lifting his Arsenal players for this week's trip to Barcelona following his side's FA Cup elimination at the hands of Watford.

Saturday's 2-1 home loss to Quique Sanchez Flores's side in the quarter-finals ended Arsenal's two-year hold on the competition and they will now focus on attempting to overturn a 2-0 deficit when they visit Camp Nou for Wednesday's Champions League last 16 second-leg match.

The odds suggest Arsenal will return from Barcelona having exited another competition, adding to the pressure building ahead of this weekend's Premier League visit to Everton, when they will attempt to maintain their slender title hopes.

The loss to Watford has done nothing to strengthen belief and Wenger said: "It's always difficult after a defeat, but it is our job to prepare for the next game. "Our long run in the FA Cup has come to an end in a very sad way because I don't think we deserve to lose this game."

He added: "We have shown we can respond always. I think this team has a great spirit, a very strong attitude.

"They play at the moment with the idea we cannot afford any result, you know. We have an opportunity to show on Wednesday night we are up to it.

"We won't rest players. We want to make the

impossible possible and we know we play against a very strong, strong side and it's important we go there and focus and show a very good response."

Second-half goals from Odion Ighalo and Adlene Guedioura set Watford on course for the semi-finals and Danny Welbeck's 88th-minute reply came too late to spark an Arsenal comeback.

'AMAZING FOR WATFORD'

It could have been worse for the home side had referee Andre Marriner taken a different view of Gabriel's studs-up challenge on Watford captain Troy Deeney, for which the Brazilian escaped without a caution.

"I have to see it again," Wenger said. "He won the ball. I think Deeney as well (had his feet off the ground).

"They both went for the same ball and Gabriel was first to the ball. That's how it looked. Maybe if his feet were off the ground, maybe I will have to look at it again."

Watford manager Flores hailed the success as one of the high spots of a career that includes a Europa League success with Atletico Madrid.

"We have confirmed we will play in the semi-finals in Wembley and it's amazing for the people of Watford, the fans, the club, the players," he said.

"It's an impetus for the last part of the season.



RENNES: Lyon's French forward Alexandre Lacazette (R) vies with Rennes' Cape Verdean midfielder Gelson Fernandes during the French L1 football match between Rennes and Lyon at Roazhon Park Stadium in Rennes, western France, Sunday. — AFP

AFRICAN GOALS END ARSENAL FA CUP REIGN

PARIS: Nigerian Odion Ighalo and Algerian Adlene Guedioura scored the weekend goals for Watford that ended the two-year reign of Arsenal as FA Cup title-holders.

Striker Ighalo struck with a close-range shot and winger Guedioura with an unstoppable one as Watford pulled off a shock 2-1 quarter-final triumph at the Emirates Stadium.

Democratic Republic of Congo striker Cedric Bakambu bagged a brace for La Liga outfit Villarreal-taking his debut season tally to 16 — but could not prevent a 4-2 loss to Sevilla.

ENGLAND

ADLENE GUEDIOURA (Watford)

Guedioura scored a jaw-dropping goal as Watford stunned Arsenal 2-1 and reached the semi-finals for the first time since 2007. With Watford 1-0 up in the 63rd minute, Troy Deeney rolled a pass into Guedioura's path and from the right-hand corner of the box he unleashed an unstoppable first-time shot that zipped into the top-right corner.

ODION IGHALO (Watford)

Prolific Ighalo had set Watford on their way to victory by opening the scoring in the 50th minute. Deeney flicked on a long throw from the left and Ighalo collected the ball, held off Arsenal centre-back Gabriel and steered a low shot past goalkeeper David Ospina.

MAX GRADEL (Bournemouth)

Back in the Bournemouth team after six months out with a serious knee injury, Gradel scored his first goal of the season and created another to inspire a 3-2 win over Swansea City that lifted Eddie Howe's men to within touching

distance of Premier League survival. The Ivory Coast international opened the scoring in the 37th minute, slamming home right-footed after Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski palmed Adam Smith's cross into his path, and teed up a goal for Josh King five minutes into the second half with an astute pass.

MODOU BARROW (Swansea City)

Barrow became the first Gambian to score in the Premier League by netting in his side's defeat at Bournemouth. The 23-year-old cancelled out Gradel's opener with a fine goal in the 39th minute, cutting in from the right, bamboozling Charlie Daniels with a double step-over and steering a low shot inside the left-hand post. He also cracked a goal for Gylfi Sigurdsson with a cut-back.

SADIO MANE (Southampton)

Senegal forward Mane was contentiously sent off during his side's 2-1 victory at European qualification rivals Stoke City in the Premier League. A 75th-minute replacement for Dusan Tadic at the Britannia Stadium, Mane was shown a straight red card in stoppage time after colliding with Erik Pieters in an innocuous-looking aerial challenge.

ITALY

GODFRED DONSAH (Bologna)

Donsah probably didn't realise it at the time, but missing an early half-chance, then a much better opportunity against Inter Milan turned the game in the Nerazzurri's favour. The San Siro clash was scoreless when Donsah narrowly missed a ball yards from goal after a cross. Minutes later, the Ghanaian went on a promising run down the right only to fire well

wide from 20 yards. Inter won 2-1.

MOHAMED SALAH (Roma)

Flying Egyptian Salah didn't score in a 2-1 win at Udinese, but his omnipresence in attack gave the hosts plenty of food for thought during an outing that saw Roma clinch their eighth victory on the trot. Salah's influence was felt from the outset, the 23-year-old setting up Edin Dzeko with a deft touch for the opener on 15 minutes.

SPAIN

CEDRIC BAKAMBU (Villarreal)

Bakambu continued his fine form with a double, but couldn't prevent Villarreal losing 4-2 to Sevilla. Bakambu's second, in particular, was a stunning effort as he volleyed Adrian Lopez's scooped pass into the far corner.

FRANCE

MAJEED WARIS (Lorient)

The 24-year-old Ghana striker struck the opener on 34 minutes for Lorient against Marseille in a 1-1 draw after Walib Mesloub slipped the ball to him to steer it beyond goalkeeper Steve Mandanda for his fourth goal in three games. It was also Waris's eighth league goal of the season.

GERMANY

MARVIN MATIP (Ingolstadt)

The Cameroon defender and Ingolstadt captain gave away the late penalty which saw VfB Stuttgart equalise in a thrilling 3-3 draw. With his side 3-2 up, Matip brought down Stuttgart midfielder Filip Kostic on 84 minutes and Daniel Didavi netted the spot-kick. — AFP



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Man City v FC Dynamo Kyiv 22:45

beIN SPORTS 1 HD

Atletico v PSV Eindhoven 22:45

beIN SPORTS 2 HD

Sports

Kohli urges calm
as India begin
campaign



Serena finds
inner tiger
to advance



TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

NISSAN TO POWER ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE FOR 13TH YEAR



ATLANTA: Atlanta Hawks' Mike Scott, center, reaches for a rebound against Indiana Pacers' Solomon Hill, right, as teammate Lavoy Allen watches in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, in Atlanta. —AP

CAVALIERS BURY CLIPPERS BEHIND 3-POINTERS

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James scored 27 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers buried the Los Angeles Clippers with 3-pointers in a 114-90 victory Sunday, tying their season high with 18 from long range. J.R. Smith and Kyrie Irving added 17 points each and Channing Frye had 15 on a season-high-tying five 3-pointers for the Eastern Conference leaders. The Cavaliers won their third straight and improved to 7-2 against the Clippers at Staples Center since the 2006-07 season. Cleveland is 20-6 against the West, including 10-4 on the road. J.J. Redick scored 19 points, and Chris Paul added 17 points and 10 assists for the Clippers. They outscored the Cavs 17-7 to start the game but James tied it on a 3-pointer and Tristan Thompson's hook gave the Cavs the lead for good by the end of the quarter.

KNICKS 90, LAKERS 87

Jose Calderon hit a 3-pointer with two-tenths of a second left to lift New York past Los Angeles. Carmelo Anthony scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for New York. He shot 10 for 20 and had 12 rebounds. Kobe Bryant had 14 points in

his 29th and final head-to-head matchup in the regular season with Anthony. The Lakers had a combined 16-13 record in those games against the Knicks and Denver Nuggets.

BUCKS 109, NETS 100

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds, nearly getting his fourth triple-double in the last 11 games by halftime as Milwaukee beat Brooklyn. Antetokounmpo already had 12 points, nine assists and eight rebounds by the half on his way to becoming the first Bucks player with four triple-doubles in a season. All of them have come since Feb. 22. Jabari Parker added 23 points, and Khris Middleton had 19 points to help the Bucks win their third straight game. Brook Lopez scored 20 points for the Nets.

HAWKS 104, PACERS 75

Al Horford and Paul Millsap each scored 18 points and Kyle Korver added 14 as Atlanta used a blistering third quarter to rout Indiana. The Hawks went on a 20-0 run and finished the third period

with seven 3s, the last coming by reserve forward Kris Humphries to make it a 34-point lead. Atlanta has won five of its last six. Indiana rookie Myles Turner, who scored a team-high 19 points, was the only starter for either team to play in the fourth. All-Star starting forward Paul George finished with just seven points for the Pacers, almost 19 below his team-leading average, on 3-for-15 shooting.

JAZZ 108, KINGS 99

Derrick Favors had 28 points and 14 rebounds and Gordon Hayward scored 27 points in Utah's victory over Sacramento. The Jazz won their second straight game by setting the tone early, coming out with energy against the lethargic Kings and leading by 18 points after one quarter. The lead remained in double figures for much of the game before the Kings made it somewhat close in the fourth. DeMarcus Cousins had 31 points and 10 rebounds for Sacramento in his return from being suspended for one game by the team. Cousins was disciplined following a tirade directed at coach George Karl Thursday night during and after a loss to Cleveland. — AP

NBA results/standings

Cleveland 114, LA Clippers 90; Atlanta 104, Indiana 75; Utah 108, Sacramento 99; Milwaukee 109, Brooklyn 100; NY Knicks 90, LA Lakers 87.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	44	20	.688	-	Oklahoma City	44	22	.667	-
Boston	39	27	.591	6	Portland	35	32	.522	9.5
NY Knicks	28	40	.412	18	Utah	31	35	.470	13
Brooklyn	18	48	.273	27	Denver	28	38	.424	16
Philadelphia	9	57	.136	36	Minnesota	21	45	.318	23
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	47	18	.723	-	Golden State	59	6	.908	-
Indiana	35	31	.530	12.5	LA Clippers	42	23	.646	17
Detroit	34	32	.515	13.5	Sacramento	25	40	.385	34
Chicago	32	32	.500	14.5	Phoenix	17	49	.258	42.5
Milwaukee	29	38	.433	19	LA Lakers	14	53	.209	46
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Miami	38	28	.576	-	San Antonio	56	10	.848	-
Charlotte	37	28	.569	0.5	Memphis	39	27	.591	17
Atlanta	38	29	.567	0.5	Houston	33	33	.500	23
Washington	30	35	.462	7.5	Dallas	33	33	.500	23
Orlando	28	37	.431	9.5	New Orleans	24	41	.369	31.5

IBRA HINTS AT DEPARTURE

PARIS: Zlatan Ibrahimovic hit four goals to help seal a fourth straight French title for Paris Saint-Germain and then cast doubt on his future at the club. "For the moment I am not at PSG next year," the 34-year-old Swedish striker said in comments that will set off alarm bells from the English Premier League to China's big-paying clubs.

Ibrahimovic was top scorer in a 9-0 trouncing of Troyes on Sunday that sealed the French title in record time with eight games still to go. But celebrations were tainted by Ibrahimovic's statement after. "I still have a month and a half of competition left. What happens next year, for the moment, I don't know about it," he told BeIN Sports. Ibrahimovic, who arrived in Paris in July 2012 from AC Milan and has been linked with a move to Manchester United, added: "If they replace the Eiffel Tower with a statue of me, I will stay at PSG."

"I CAN PROMISE THAT!"

PSG's Qatari president Nasser Al-Khelaifi insisted that he wants Ibrahimovic to stay at the club. "Zlatan is magical," said Al-Khelaifi. "He is a great player. We are going to talk to him and see what he wants to do. We want him to stay." On top of contract talks, Paris Saint-Germain are also still in the Champions League and progress in the tournament could also influence Ibrahimovic.

Paris are still in contention for a four-trophy haul with the Champions League, French Cup and French League Cup still to be decided. "The Champions League is our biggest dream," said the PSG president. Unlike last season when Paris waited until late March to take over top spot, the capital club have set the pace uninterrupted since beating Gazelec Ajaccio 2-0 in their second game of the campaign. "We've worked well. Everyone is to be congratulated, first of all the players, the coaching staff, the medical team, etc," said coach Laurent Blanc. "But the season isn't finished and we're going to have to get ourselves back in competition mode because there are some important dates coming up in April and hopefully May."

Three goals in six early first-half minutes by Uruguayan Edinson Cavani, Javier Pastore and Adrien

Rabiot set PSG on the road to victory at Troyes who seem certain to be relegated.

'LUCKY' IBRA'

Ibrahimovic took centre stage in 10 magical second half minutes. The towering Swede made it 4-0 just seconds into the second-half after Cavani intercepted a clearance. Ibrahimovic drilled the ball low into the left-hand corner. Ibrahimovic's second goal, a mid-air volley from an inch-perfect Angel di Maria cross, was his 100th in Ligue 1 action.

For his third the Swede met a Layvin Kurzawa cross at full speed and unleashed a blinding right-footed shot that swerved into the far corner of the net. Matthieu Saunier compounded Troyes' woes with an own goal, while Lossemy Karaboue saw red for hauling Cavani down in the box with 16 minutes to play. Goalkeeper Matthieu Dreyer did well to save Cavani's penalty, but the striker tapped in at the second bite.

Ibrahimovic wrapped up the rout, riding through a tackle to unleash an unstoppable shot from a Pastore through-ball, to bring his total to 102 goals scored in 115 Ligue 1 matches.

"I'm very lucky to play with good players," Ibrahimovic said, walking off with the ball wedged under his arm. "The referee gave it to me!" The Ligue 1 title was the fourth time Blanc has won it as a manager having also guided Bordeaux to the 2008-09 title.

The gulf in class between Paris and the rest has never been more apparent since Qatar Sports Investments purchased PSG in 2011. With a budget of close to 500 million euros (\$558 million), PSG's financial supremacy has enabled them to spring well clear of the rest of the competition. PSG have set records tumbling this term and surpassed Nantes' 32-game unbeaten run set during the 1994-95 campaign. They were finally beaten 2-1 at Lyon last month to end their sequence at 36 matches. They play in the League Cup final on April 23, four days after facing Lorient for a place in the French Cup final.

The draw for the Champions League is this week. PSG, having beaten Chelsea for the second season running will be hoping to avoid a second straight meeting with Barcelona in the final eight. —AFP

BAYERN, JUVENTUS CLASH IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BERLIN: The last four Champions League quarterfinal spots are up for grabs this week with Barcelona and Manchester City both well-placed, while a European heavyweight will head for the exit after Bayern Munich plays Juventus. Five-time champion Bayern was looking certain to advance from the Round of 16 with a two-goal lead during the first leg in Turin, only for late goals from Paulo Dybala and Stefano Sturaro to earn Juventus a 2-2 draw and revive the Italian league leader's hopes for tomorrow's second leg in Munich. Spanish league leader Barcelona holds a 2-0 lead over Arsenal, which needs to get over the disappointment of Sunday's FA Cup exit to Watford, the 2-1 defeat at home ending its bid to win the trophy for a third straight year.

Barcelona hasn't lost in a total of 37 games straight across all competitions, a Spanish record, and can count on home support tomorrow. Manchester City is in a similarly comfortable position ahead after beating Dynamo Kiev 3-1 away in their last-16 first leg, while Atletico Madrid and PSV Eindhoven are scoreless ahead of Tuesday's other game. Here are some things to know ahead of the last Round of 16 games:

BAYERN MUNICH-JUVENTUS

Bayern hopes to finish the job at home after conceding late goals to Juventus and allowing the two-time champion back in the tie. Bayern has won its last three games at home against Italian sides, and has looked unstoppable this season in Munich, winning its three group games against Dinamo Zagreb, Arsenal and Olympiakos by an aggregate score of 14-1.

Pep Guardiola's side warmed up for Juve's visit with a 5-0 win over Werder Bremen on Saturday, when Arjen Robben had a rest and Mario Goetze made his comeback after five months out with a thigh injury. "I believe we showed today that we're in quite good form," Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said. "I'd say we're looking with optimism at Wednesday."

Juve defeated Sassuolo 1-0 at home on Friday, the side's 10th consecutive league game without conceding.

BARCELONA-ARSENAL

Barcelona is bidding for its 10th straight win at home in the Champions League tomorrow. Even a draw at the Camp Nou, where it hasn't lost in more than a year, will be enough to keep

the Catalan club on track to become the first side to defend the Champions League since the old European Cup was given a shake-up in 1992-93.

"It won't be an easy game at all," said Belgian defender Thomas Vermaelen, a former Arsenal player. "Although we have a small lead, you can never say that they are out. They have very quick players and that makes them dangerous. We'll need to concentrate." Barcelona's last home defeat was against Malaga in February 2015.

MANCHESTER CITY-DYNAMO KIEV

Manchester City is on the brink of qualifying for the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time, in a season when its domestic form is starting to go off the rails.

Nine points off the lead in the Premier League, it appears the rest of this season boils down to success in the Champions League. City produced one of its best displays of the season to beat Dynamo 3-1 in the first leg, making the English team a heavy favorite to advance - especially since Dynamo has never won in England. The last time Dynamo reached the quarterfinals was in 1999, when Sergei Rebrov - the team's current coach - was leading its attack. — AP

ATLETICO MADRID-PSV EINDHOVEN

Atletico is bidding to reach the quarterfinals for the third straight season and is coming off a scoring streak of nine goals in its last three games. Following the scoreless first leg in Eindhoven, however, a score draw also would be enough to send PSV through. Recent history is against Phillip Cocu's team. PSV failed to win any of its three away matches so far this Champions League campaign, losing at CSKA Moscow and Wolfsburg and securing a goalless draw at Manchester United.

Today's game comes days before what is likely to be the decisive match in the Dutch Eredivisie next weekend, between PSV and Ajax. "We have shown in the past we can play well in big matches," De Jong said. "We have to do it again in these two games." — AP



AIR ARABIA SHAREHOLDERS OK 9% CASH DIVIDEND AT AGM



PARIS: French Prime Minister Manuel Valls holds talks with unions and workers' representatives about the government's contested labor market reforms at the Hotel Matignon in Paris yesterday. Valls unveiled a revised labor reform bill that makes concessions to trade unions following mass protests against the measures. — AFP

US FIRMS ADD JOBS IN 30 STATES IN JAN, CUT IN 20 WITH NO RATE HIKE SEEN, FED'S OUTLOOK ON ECONOMY IS AWAITED

WASHINGTON: Employers stepped up hiring in 30 states in January, led by big gains in Florida, Texas and North Carolina, while 20 states shed jobs.

THE NUMBERS: The unemployment rate fell in 28 states, rose in 8 and was unchanged in 14. The unemployment rate doesn't always decline even when more hiring occurs, because more Americans may start job hunting and push up the rate even as others are hired. Florida added the most jobs of any state, gaining 32,200. That was followed by Texas with 31,400 and North Carolina with 23,200. Florida's biggest employment gains occurred in restaurants, hotels and amusement parks.

Pennsylvania lost 16,100 jobs, the most of any state. New Jersey shed 14,100, and in South Carolina, total jobs fell 10,100.

BIG PICTURE: Fewer states gained jobs in January as hiring slowed a bit nationwide. Overall, employers added 172,000 jobs in January, below the average pace of hiring last year. Hiring nationally picked up in February, to 242,000, and the unemployment rate remained at an eight-year low of 4.9 percent.

The nation's job market is generally improving, though many Americans are no longer working or looking for work, and wage growth remains tepid.

THE TAKEAWAY: Slower growth overseas and the strong

dollar may have lowered hiring in January. The financial markets also fell sharply that month as fears of a global recession intensified.

The US economy, however, has remained healthy despite those challenges. Consumer spending rose at the fastest pace in eight months in January, as more Americans have paychecks to spend. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta forecasts the economy will expand at a modest 2.2 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter, up from a sluggish 1 percent increase in the final three months of last year.

Fed outlook

The financial world is awaiting the Federal Reserve's response to a critical question: How stable are the world's economies and financial markets? Whatever picture the Fed sketches will help shape expectations of when it will resume the interest rate increases it began in December. That's when the Fed raised its key rate from record lows to reflect an economy finally strong enough 61/2 years after the Great Recession ended to withstand higher loan rates.

Yet in the ensuing weeks, stocks and oil prices tumbled and China struggled to manage a sharp slowdown. Now, with

investors having regained some of their losses, with the U.S. job market improving and major overseas economies still-weak but stable, the Fed may be inching closer to raising rates again.

Just not yet. Most Fed watchers think the central bank wants more time to assess the financial landscape. Resuming its rate hikes too soon could slow growth or rattle investors again. In a policy statement and a news conference Chair Janet Yellen will give after its latest meeting ends Wednesday, the Fed will likely nod to improvements since it met in January but also stress uncertainties that still loom.

"Financial markets have stabilized a bit, but the situation abroad still looks worse than in the United States," said Diane Swonk, chief economist of DS Economics. "The Fed will give some signals that they feel better about where things are now compared to January but also signal that they don't have an itchy trigger finger in terms of raising rates."

The Fed has two mandates: To maximize employment and keep prices stable. It has essentially met just one: In February, the United States added a robust 242,000 jobs - roughly the monthly average for the past six months. And the unemployment rate is a low 4.9 percent, close to the rate the Fed associates with full employment.

But inflation has been stuck below the Fed's 2 percent target rate for nearly four years. Too-low inflation tends to lead people to postpone purchases, which slows consumer spending, the economy's main fuel. Subpar inflation also makes the inflation-adjusted cost of loans more expensive.

Before further raising rates, the Fed wants to see more evidence that inflation is picking up. Its preferred inflation gauge did rise in January to a 12-month increase of 1.3 percent, faster than the scant 0.7 rise over the 12-month period that ended in December. But that's still well below the Fed's target. Recent comments from Fed officials indicate that they differ on how to interpret inflation prospects. Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer said last week that the Fed may "be seeing the first stirrings of an increase in the inflation rate - something that we would like to see."

Fischer suggested that two factors that have been depressing inflation - lower oil prices and a strong dollar, which reduces import prices - may be starting to wane.

But another Fed board member, Lael Brainard, said last week that she saw "troubling indications" that inflation could dip again. She also said she worried that weakness in China, Japan and other places could slow the US economy. — AP

EGYPT JUMPS AFTER CURRENCY DEVALUED

DUBAI: Cairo's main stock index soared 6.7 percent yesterday, its biggest jump since Islamist president Mohamed Mursi was toppled in July 2013, after the central bank devalued the currency, raising hopes that Egypt's foreign exchange shortage might finally be resolved. The central bank said it had devalued the Egyptian pound to 8.85 per US dollar at a special foreign exchange auction. It had previously set the average bid price at its regular and exceptional auctions at 7.73. The Cairo index rocketed to 7,004 points, near technical resistance on this year's peak of 7,114 points, in the heaviest trade since at least 2009. It had already risen 7.8 percent last week on signs authorities were moving to ease a foreign exchange shortage that has plagued the economy for years.

"Markets are rallying quickly to reprise Egyptian assets after the devaluation," said Simon Kitchen, head of regional strategy at Cairo's EFG Hermes. A lower Egyptian pound, and a sense that the currency is no longer overvalued, could attract fresh capital flows into the country from Egyptians abroad as well as foreign investors. For years, the risk of a devaluation deterred foreigners from putting money into Egypt.

"When the rate differential between the spot foreign exchange market and the black market narrows, this entices foreign buyers to return to the stock market," said Ashraf el-Ansary, chief investment officer at London-based Exante Capital. There are still plenty of risks for the stock market, so some traders said it might soon fall back. Many analysts think the central bank will hike interest rates to fight inflation fuelled by the devaluation. But the devaluation may not be over; JPMorgan predicted that after yesterday's 13 percent devaluation, the central bank would gradually weaken the currency further, bringing the total drop to 35 percent by the end of 2016.

Investors focused yesterday on the positives. One big gainer was Commercial International Bank, the largest listed bank, which surged 7.1 percent;

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

JPMorgan said the bank's management had previously indicated that a devaluation would have a net positive impact on its bottom line, with a neutral impact on its foreign exchange asset-liability balance.

Real estate developer Talaat Mostafa surged 9.8 percent; a cheaper currency could lure some regional investors to buy real estate, and Egyptians to put mon-



CAIRO: A man counts US dollars at an exchange office in Cairo yesterday. — AP (See Page 22)

ey into the sector as a store of value. Exporters and tourism companies may also benefit from the devaluation if Egypt can reassure foreign tourists on the issue of security. Arabia Cotton Ginning, which exports textiles and other products, jumped 5.2 percent and Egyptian Resorts added 6.9 percent.

Brokerage Pioneers Holding soared 10 percent after reporting a 73 percent jump in net profit for 2015. JPMorgan said it expected Egypt to agree with the International Monetary Fund on a loan program before the end of the fiscal year in June.

This would be a politically difficult step for the government; for this reason, Egypt has not committed itself to an IMF program in the last several years. But the devaluation may have satisfied a key policy condition demanded by the IMF, and an IMF loan would be welcomed by foreign investors.

GULF

In the Gulf, Riyadh's index fell 1.3 percent as Brent dropped back below \$40 a barrel, prompting a sell-off in the petrochemical sector. The sector's sub-index dropped 2.7 percent. The insurance sector, favoured by local individual speculators, was also hit, with many shares falling more than 3 percent.

Dubai's index dropped 1.5 percent as traders booked profits, with Dubai Parks losing 5.6 percent, erasing some of its 14.3 percent gain on Sunday. Arabtec fell 2.9 percent and Emaar Properties dropped 1.4 percent. But Abu Dhabi's largest listed stock by market value, Etisalat, jumped 3.1 percent in the heaviest trade since November, helping lift the index 0.8 percent. Etisalat had been falling sharply since Thursday, when it said chief executive Ahmad Jufar had resigned and that it would restructure by the end of June. International index compiler FTSE Russell has said it will add Etisalat to its All-World and other indexes after the close of business on March 18, so investors may now be positioning for that. — Reuters

SAUDI CB GOVERNOR VOWS TO KEEP CURRENCY PEG

DUBAI: Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Governor Fahad Al-Mubarak said he was committed to maintaining monetary policy to keep the kingdom's decades-long currency peg of 3.75 riyals per dollar in comments published on the central bank website yesterday. Currency speculators have put pressure on the riyal in recent months because of the impact of lower oil prices on Saudi Arabia's fiscal balance, causing a projected large deficit this year. "I would like to assure that the monetary agency will continue to manage its monetary policies to achieve the goal of stabilising the value of the riyal at the exchange rate of 3.75 riyals to the dollar," Mubarak said in a speech published on the website.

While Mubarak has previously pledged to maintain the riyal's dollar peg, unbroken since 1986, SAMA did in January intervene by warning local commercial banks to avoid betting on a currency devaluation. In order to pay the government's bills as its oil revenues shrink, SAMA has been drawing down its overseas assets at an annual rate of more than \$100 billion, although it still has enough to support the riyal for several years.

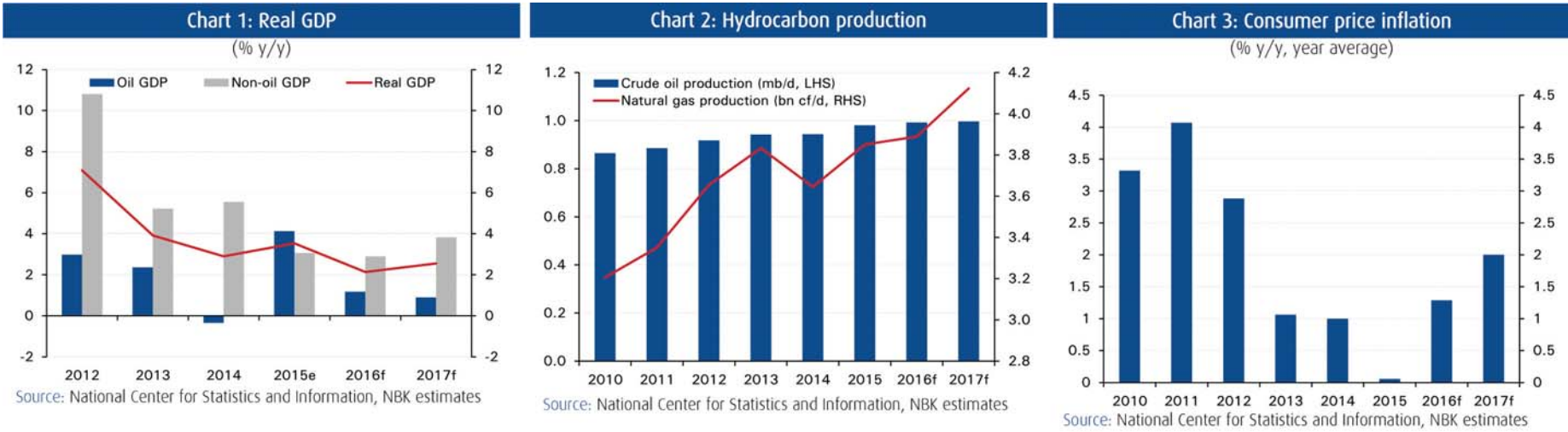
In February, Societe Generale said it estimated there was at least a 25 percent chance of a near-term devaluation of the riyal, rising to 40 percent if oil prices stayed at current levels throughout the year. Other institutions said they expected Riyadh to maintain its currency peg. Oil output steady

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia kept its crude oil production steady in February, pumping

10.22 million barrels per day (bpd), an industry source told Reuters yesterday, after the top oil exporter struck a preliminary deal with other producers to freeze output. OPEC leader Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC member Russia, the world's two largest oil exporters, along with Qatar and Venezuela said last month they would freeze output at January levels to prop up prices if other oil-producing nations agreed to join the first global oil pact in 15 years. Saudi Arabia produced 10.23 million bpd of crude in January, close to a record high. Crude supplied to the market in February was around 10.4 million bpd, the source said. "It is an indication that demand is still growing strongly.

There is no sign of weakening demand growth," the source said. Supply to the market, domestically and for export, may differ from production depending on the movement of oil in and out of storage.

Kuwait produced 3 million bpd of oil in February, unchanged from January, while the United Arab Emirates pumped 2.78 million bpd, separate industry sources said. In January, the UAE's output was 3.13 million bpd, according to data from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Gulf OPEC members Kuwait and the UAE said they welcomed the deal to freeze output and would commit to it if other major producers took part. But OPEC's third-largest producer, Iran, plans to raise production after international sanctions against the country were lifted in January and has called the deal laughable. — Reuters



OMAN GROWTH EXPECTED TO HAVE MODERATED TO 3.5% IN 2015

NBK overview and outlook

KUWAIT: The persistence of low oil prices has exposed the vulnerability of Oman's economy. With one of the highest breakeven oil prices in the GCC, Oman is likely to see its fiscal deficit widen in 2016. Despite this, Oman expects to avoid deep cuts in spending in the near term, choosing instead to maintain a supportive fiscal stance, with savings targeting current expenditures, as per its 2016 budget. The government can comfortably finance its deficits in the near term, but will have to overcome rising domestic liquidity constraints and weakening international investor confidence. Real GDP growth expectations for 2015 through 2017 were revised downwards to 3.5 percent, 2.0 percent, and 2.5 percent, respectively, on the back of a weaker non-oil sector. A drop in the number of new car registrations, down 24 percent year-on-year (y/y) in November 2015, and a sustained drop in consumer confidence revealed growing weakness in household consumption during 2015, which is expected to persist through 2016. Increased trade prospects with a sanctions-free Iran and the award of some development plan projects may provide a boost to the non-oil sector in 2017. With lower oil prices highlighting the need to diversify the economy, authorities are keen to stick to their ambitious projects pipeline. Oman's next five-year plan (2016-2020) aims to increase the role of the private sector in helping develop its logistics, manufacturing, and tourism sectors, supported by new investment laws. Indeed, of the OMR 41 million to be spent on the plan, the private sector is set to account for more than half. This will be facilitated by the introduction of new legislation on public private partnership (PPP) and FDI, a privatization program, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. As a result, project spending is expected to remain supportive of non-oil growth in the near term.

Fiscal pressures to widen deficit

With Oman set to exceed its deficit target in 2015, it is likely to see its financing gap grow further in 2016, as lower oil prices offset gains from expected reforms. The deficit may narrow later in 2017, on the expectation of a recovery in oil prices. Preliminary official data shows Oman's deficit exceeded its 2015 target. A deficit of OMR 4.1 billion was reported through November 2015, 64 percent above the 2015 full year target of OMR 2.5 billion. Our expectations are for a deficit closer to OMR 5 billion, or 20 percent of GDP, in 2015. We expect the deficit to widen to 22 percent in 2016 on weaker oil prices. In 2017, the deficit will begin to narrow as spending cuts and revenues measures are implemented; a small recovery in oil prices and a potential increase in gas production will also help.

Oman is well equipped to handle the strain on its budget and is capable of financing the fiscal shortfall.

Government debt is still relatively low, estimated at 10 percent of GDP in 2015, and the sovereign enjoys a good credit rating. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) successfully tapped debt markets on behalf of the treasury in 2015, raising OMR 1.0 billion. To finance the 2016 deficit, the CBO plans to borrow more from international markets in addition to drawing on reserves and utilizing donor grants. Increased concern over Oman's fiscal sustainability, reflected in credit rating downgrades by some rating agencies, may dampen the international appetite for new Omani debt. Oil and gas revenue, which accounts on average for around 85 percent of total revenue, remains the main drag on the budget, down 47 percent as of November 2015. The price of Omani crude averaged \$55 per barrel for 2015, almost half its value from a year ago. This is well below our estimated budget breakeven price of \$93. With oil prices expected to remain under pressure in the near term, we expect the price of Omani crude oil to average around \$45 per barrel in 2016 before improving in 2017 to \$60. In an effort to reduce the fiscal pressures, the government is looking to privatize some public sector companies in the oil sector and to increase the corporate income tax rate. Oman is also mulling a value added tax (VAT) in conjunction with other GCC countries.

Current expenditures, which include wages and subsidies, were down 4 percent in the first 11 months of the year, primarily on the back of subsidy cuts, reflecting the difficulty of cutting popular spending items such as wages and salaries or household transfers. Still, the government is planning to slash current spending by 20 percent in 2016, with wages and subsidies being the most affected. Efforts to protect the jobs of nationals at foreign owned oil companies, coupled with a slowdown in Omani hires in the private sector, will challenge the government's resolve in curbing its wage bill. Wages have seen rapid growth following popular unrest in 2011, accounting for a lion's share of current expenditures. Meanwhile, planned subsidy cuts will focus on energy, goods, and services. Some energy price reforms have already been implemented in 2015 and 2016. By contrast, government capital expenditures have increased, expanding by 6.8 percent y/y through November 2015 on a pickup in non-oil development spending. At the same time, investment expenditures in the oil sector continued to decline as projects were streamlined and authorities sought to shift oil development financing to international markets. Capital expenditures are expected to begin to decline but to remain supportive. Indeed, the government projects investment spending to decline by 2.3 percent in 2016. In the medium term, the government aims to make further cuts in capital spending once the new PPP law takes effect.

Following recent forward FX pressures, the rise of both

the US federal funds rate and the US dollar, and the persistence of low oil prices, speculative talk of Oman abandoning its peg to the US dollar has surfaced as an alternative for fiscal relief. We believe that such a scenario is unlikely, with Oman preferring to keep its commitment to the dollar in order to maintain macroeconomic and financial stability.

Oil production picks up

To offset the drop in oil prices, the government has ramped up oil production, pushing its output to record levels. Given this pick-up, we have revised our oil sector growth expectations upwards, to 4.1 percent for 2015, followed by moderation to 1.2 percent in 2016, and 0.9 percent in 2017. Oil output averaged 981,000 barrels per day in 2015, largely hitting the production target for that year. July and December also saw Oman top its monthly crude oil production at a record average of 1 million barrels per day, an extraction rate it hopes to maintain in the short term. Petroleum Development Oman, the state's largest producer, is expected to shoulder the bulk of the production growth. However, a long-term lull in oil prices may hinder such efforts, since complex geology and aging wells have seen Oman's extraction costs rise, though they remain low by international standards, ranging between \$7 and \$12 per barrel. Gas production has also been picking up. Output averaged 109 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) in 2015, up 5.8 percent from a year ago as domestic demand continues to grow strongly. In fact, some gas export commitments had to be rescheduled to meet strong domestic demand. Gas exports are nearly all committed to Japan and South Korea. Supply should see a boost once the BP Khazan tight gas project comes into operation late in 2017. A gas pipeline with Iran will also help meet growing domestic demand, with imports set to flow in 2018. There is also talk of jointly developing oil and gas fields with Iran.

Liquidity strain

Low oil prices have had a mild impact on Oman's banking system so far. Weaker non-oil prospects could see credit growth slow, while delinquencies may rise as individuals and companies adapt to the weaker growth. Meanwhile, banks may face funding challenges as domestic liquidity gets strained. Private credit growth remains resilient maintaining healthy growth of 10.2 percent in 2015. Meanwhile, government deposits continued to see weakening growth following the tumble in oil prices, down 2 percent in 2015. Government deposits account for 30 percent of total deposits. Pressures on liquidity have started to materialize, with rates on 3-month treasury bills increasing by 64 basis points between March 2015 and

January 2016. Primarily deposit funded, Omani banks may increasingly rely on market funding. Oman's financial sector is well prepared for any slowdown. According to the CBO's latest quarterly report (Sep 2015), credit risk remains low in Oman with nonperforming loans (NPL) at 2.0 percent of gross loans. Capitalization was also high, with a capital adequacy ratio of 15.8 percent in 3Q15 and a tier-1 capital ratio of 13 percent at the end of 2014.

Lower global inflation

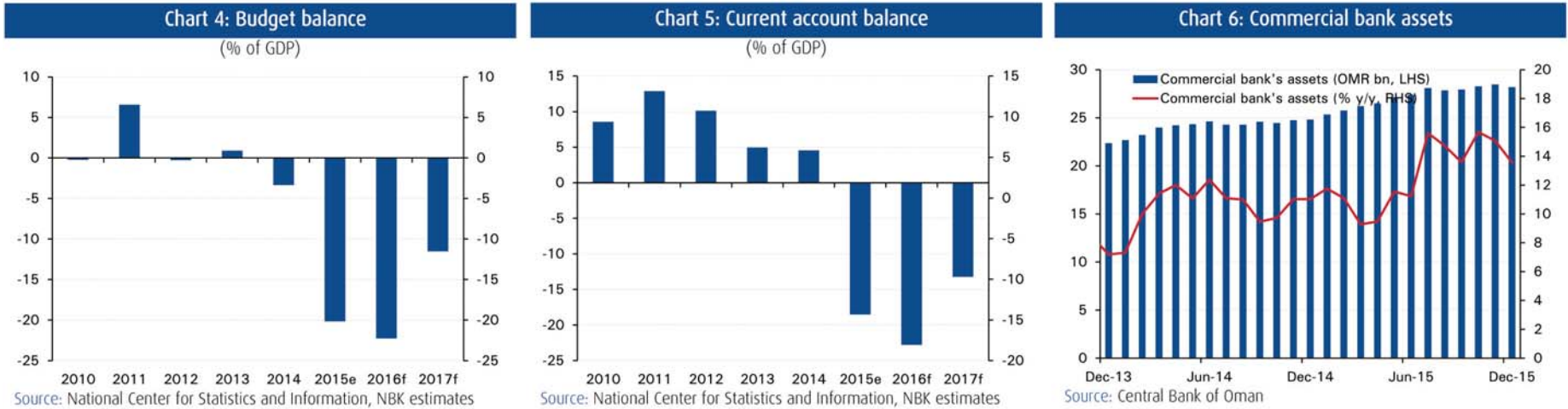
Oman's consumer prices have been subdued by declining global food and energy prices. This has led us to revise our inflation expectations downwards to 1.3 percent for 2016 and 2.0 percent for 2017. Oman's consumer price index registered at 0.1 percent y/y in 2015. The index has been pressured by reduced food and clothing prices and nearly flat transportation prices. Meanwhile, mild inflation was witnessed in housing, utilities, and furnishing prices, boosted by strong growth in Oman's real estate market, which in turn has been driven by rapid population growth. Price growth is expected to remain modest, pressured by global factors, but will be supported by domestic forces as real estate demand remains solid and subsidy reforms are implemented.

Current account to shift

The current account balance is projected to shift into deficit in 2015 following the sharp drop in oil prices, and remain there in 2016 and 2017. Weaker oil prices will more than offset the decline in import prices, driving the trade balance into deficit. The removal of international trade sanctions on Iran is expected to provide some support to the trade balance, however. The services deficit will continue to expand, albeit at a slower pace as projects aimed at boosting tourism and transport come to fruition. Meanwhile, further growth in the expatriate population will see remittances grow, thus widening the transfers deficit. As of December 2015, Oman's foreign reserves stood at OMR 6.7 billion or an estimated 5.6 months of imports.

Stock market vulnerable

Omani stocks, along with equities across the GCC, continue to be heavily affected by the decline in global oil prices. The perceived slowdown of the Chinese economy, Oman's largest energy importer, affected investor confidence, as did concerns about the sustainability of the government's fiscal situation. The MSM 30 declined by 14 percent in 2015, with foreign investors exiting the market. The market fell further in January 2016, before recovering in February, on the back of favorable banking profits and a recovery in oil prices. Market volatility could see some IPOs delayed in 2016, robbing the market of much needed catalysts.



EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.647	
Indian Rupees	4.516	
Pakistani Rupees	2.880	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.079	
Nepali Rupees	2.820	
Singapore Dollar	220.480	
Hongkong Dollar	38.848	
Bangladesh Taka	3.844	
Philippine Peso	6.498	
Thai Baht	8.608	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.443	
Qatari Riyal	82.864	
Omani Riyal	783.524	
Bahraini Dinar	801.120	
UAE Dirham	82.130	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	35.500	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.571	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.408	
Tunisian Dinar	149.850	
Jordanian Dinar	425.160	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.010	
Syrian Lira	2.150	
Morocco Dirham	31.244	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	301.500	
Euro	337.980	
Sterling Pound	435.370	
Canadian dollar	229.020	
Turkish lira	105.420	
Swiss Franc	308.280	
Australian Dollar	230.040	
US Dollar Buying	300.300	

GOLD

20 Gram	252.010
10 Gram	128.930
5 Gram	65.310

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	201.91
Canadian Dollar	219.82
Swiss Franc	306.95
Euro	336.85
US Dollar	299.90
Sterling Pound	431.04
Japanese Yen	2.67
Bangladesh Taka	3.817
Indian Rupee	4.375
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.083
Nepali Rupee	2.732
Pakistani Rupee	2.860
UAE Dirhams	0.08161
Bahraini Dinar	0.7970
Egyptian Pound	0.03819
Jordanian Dinar	0.4265
Omani Riyal	0.7788
Qatari Riyal	0.08269
Saudi Riyal	0.07994

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.750
Canadian Dollar	230.390
Sterling Pound	434.930
Euro	337.490
Swiss Frank	297.590
Bahrain Dinar	798.280
UAE Dirhams	82.395
Qatari Riyals	83.605

Saudi Riyals	81.145
Jordanian Dinar	425.070
Egyptian Pound	38.425
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.081
Indian Rupees	4.500
Pakistani Rupees	2.877
Bangladesh Taka	3.838
Philippines Peso	6.487
Cyprus pound	574.735
Japanese Yen	3.645
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.805
Malaysian Ringgit	74.895
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.845
Thai Bhat	9.585
Turkish Lira	105.295

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.426671	0.435671
Czech Korune	0.004433	0.016433
Danish Krone	0.041056	0.046056
Euro	0.330783	0.338783
Norwegian Krone	0.031831	0.037031
Romanian Leu	0.086486	0.086486
Slovakia	0.008965	0.018965
Swedish Krona	0.032125	0.037125
Swiss Franc	0.299691	0.309891
Turkish Lira	0.099559	0.109859
Australia		
Australian Dollar	0.220307	0.231807
New Zealand Dollar	0.197010	0.206510
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.222637	0.231137
US Dollars	0.2977400	0.301900

News

in brief

US dollar firms against Kuwaiti dinar

KUWAIT: US dollar stabilized against Kuwaiti dinar, trading at 0.300 yesterday, as well as the euro, KD 0.335, compared to Sunday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. Sterling pound steadied, trading at KD 0.432, followed by the Swiss franc, KD 0.305. Meanwhile, the Japanese yen firmed at KD 0.002.

Bahrain's bourse sets up REITs market

DUBAI: Bahrain's stock exchange has established a market for real estate investment trusts (REITs), it said yesterday. Under the plan, REITs licensed by the central bank can be listed and traded by investors in the secondary market. The details of the market and the trading mechanism of REITs will be announced later, the statement said. While REITs are common in many markets, they are relatively new to the Middle East. Emirates REIT becoming the region's first in April 2014. Saudi Arabia's Capital Market Authority (CMA) is studying plans to introduce rules governing the listing of REITs, sources aware of the matter told Reuters in May last year.

Dubai Holding unit says declines bond buyback

DUBAI: Dubai Holding Commercial Operations Group (DHCOG) did not buy back any of its £500 million 6 percent 2017 notes from investors as holders demanded a premium over the price it was willing to buy at, it said in a bourse filing yesterday. The unit of Dubai Holding, the investment vehicle of the emirate's ruler, on Mar 3 invited holders to tender their notes for buyback through an auction process, saying it would buy up to £250 million at a minimum price of 99.00 percent. However, in the filing on the Nasdaq Dubai exchange, DHCOG said that while bonds worth £319.55 million were tendered by the deadline of Mar. 11, almost all the tendered notes demanded purchase prices that were significantly greater than the minimum purchase price. As a result, DHCOG decided against repurchasing any of the bonds.

EGYPT DEVALUES POUND, MOVES TO FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE RATE POLICY

CAIRO: Egypt's central bank devalued the pound yesterday and said it would move to a more flexible exchange rate policy in an effort to rebalance markets and ease a foreign exchange shortage that had stifled business activity and hit confidence. Egypt devalued the pound to 8.85 per dollar from 7.73 and simultaneously pumped nearly \$200 million into the dollar-starved banking system in a surprise sale.

"The Central Bank of Egypt has decided to follow a more flexible policy with regard to the exchange rate, aiming to resolve imbalances in the exchange rate system and restore the circulation of foreign currency inside the banking system in an orderly way," it said in an extensive statement.

It did not explain how the new approach would work but said it expected to rebuild foreign currency reserves to \$25 billion by year-end from about \$16.5 billion now.

Economists said the moves would encourage foreign investment in Egyptian stocks and treasuries, which have seen an exodus of foreign money in recent years. "This is great news. You've made my day," said Hany Genena, head of equity research at Beltone Financial, who had long predicted a shift to a more flexible exchange rate.

Cairo's main stock index was up 5.4 percent by 0937 GMT. Egypt, heavily dependent on imports, has been short of foreign currency since a 2011 uprising ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule, scaring off foreign investors and tourists. Since then, reserves have more than halved, weighing on the pound.

But with tens of millions living in poverty, the central bank had been reluctant to devalue for fear of sparking inflation. A black market in dollars boomed, which then-central bank governor Hisham Ramez tried to stifle in February 2015, by restricting deposits and withdrawals of foreign currency.

But the move only exacerbated the dollar shortage, making it hard for firms to clear imports, which piled up at ports, while factory output was disrupted by a lack of imported components.—Reuters

US Dollars Mint	0.297900	0.301900
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003425	0.003999
Chinese Yuan	0.044920	0.048420
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036800	0.039550
Indian Rupee	0.004287	0.004677
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002568	0.002748
Kenyan Shilling	0.003016	0.003016
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069816	0.075816
Nepalese Rupee	0.002858	0.003028
Pakistan Rupee	0.002703	0.002983
Philippine Peso	0.006372	0.006652
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.216638	0.222338
South African Rand	0.013852	0.022352
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001704	0.002284
Taiwan	0.009076	0.009256
Thai Baht	0.008278	0.008828
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.793061	0.801061
Egyptian Pound	0.032999	0.037335
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000194	0.000254
Jordanian Dinar	0.421234	0.428734
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020519	0.044519
Nigerian Naira	0.001241	0.001876
Omani Riyal	0.776697	0.782377
Qatari Riyal	0.082103	0.083316
Saudi Riyal	0.079513	0.080463
Syrian Pound	0.001277	0.001497
Tunisian Dinar	0.146537	0.154537
Turkish Lira	0.099559	0.109859
UAE Dirhams	0.081106	0.082255
Yemeni Riyal	0.001362	0.001442

LINCOLN MKX: THE INSIDE STORY

DUBAI: Sliding into the soft embrace of a new luxury vehicle for the first time can often be a sensory overload. The illuminating welcome elements, the rich aroma of the leather wrapped around a 22-way seat, an array of buttons entreating to be pressed, the delicate wood finishes that cry out to be stroked, the evocation of a sense that this is a unique place, unlike any other.

That enhanced feeling of wellbeing that washes over you as you close the door of your 2016 Lincoln MKX with a satisfying clunk and separate yourself from the outside world while cocooning yourself in a vehicle that becomes an extension of you, that is known as haptic perception.

To get a better understanding of materials close at hand, shutting one's eyes allows the sense of touch to be become more intense, more able to determine minuscule changes in the materials surface. This is because the seemingly simple process of touch, (also called tactile perception) considered one of the five traditional senses, is in actuality a complex series of modalities that include pressure, skin stretch, vibration and temperature, that feedback information from receptors via sensory nerves, through tracts in the spinal cord and finally into the brain. This complex procedure includes haptic perception which can be best described as active exploration of the world adjacent to one's body.

But why does it feel more intense when we close our eyes? The reduction of another sense is the obvious answer, but the somatosensory system (the mechanism our brain uses to evaluate touch) is different to the other senses - the receptors for these are clustered in the head, the touch receptors are

scattered throughout the skin and muscle tissue conveying their message through the spinal cord.

As much as we perceive things visually or acoustically, if we want to learn about something tactilely, there is an urge to reach out and stroke the cat's fur, rub the material, or the satisfying feeling of pushing a button. Touch is the sense that brings control, we can push, stroke, swipe, block, manoeuvre, grab, shake - it is the most powerful of our senses.

So where does one start when ensconced in the plush surroundings of a Lincoln? Touching the soft, supple leather? What constitutes this fine accoutrement making it so rewarding to touch? Where does it come from and how is it selected? One of the leathers used in MKX comes from the west coast of Scotland. From a town outside Glasgow called Bridge of Weir, the company's namesake.

The Scottish based manufacturer of leather hides' highly sought after products are regarded as one of the most environmentally low-carbon leathers, Bridge of Weir uses a unique organic tanning method that is free of chromium. This creates a product that is recyclable at the end of its lifecycle and by-products that are environmentally sustainable through the tanning operations and is free of artificial embossing - which highlights the natural grain inherent in every hide.

Bridge of Weir has developed leather specifically for Lincoln, using specific colours, grains and finishes and created a unique portfolio of four trend groups: Abstract, Dream, Minimalism and Principles.

But what separates the leather used in Lincoln from its competitors? The creation of the perfect leather is a complex and time

consuming process that can be broken down into the 13 following stages.

1. Liming - After being soaked, the hair and epidermis is removed by treating hides with a mixture of sodium sulphide and lime solutions.
2. Fleshing - Removal of any fat still adher-



ing to the back of the hide.

3. Splitting - The hide is split into two layers. The grain layer (top) is used in the manufacture of Bridge of Weir Leather
4. Tanning - After de-liming and pickling to make the hide more receptive, the hides are tanned to stabilise the collagen fibres and prevent its decay.
5. Selection - The tanned hides undergo a mechanical process called sammying to remove excess water.

6. Shaving - The hides are mechanically shaved to give a uniform substance.
7. Dyeing - Hides are dyed in stainless steel drums. Fine oil emulsions are also added at this stage to lubricate the fibres and influence the leather's softness.
8. Drying - After the addition of natural oil

emulsions to lubricate and soften the leather, the hides are either stretched on large frames or vacuum dried.

9. Surface coating - Once trimmed, dependent on customer requirements, the initial application of surface pigment is applied by machine roller coating.
10. Finishes and Patina - Different textures designed to enhance the leather's grain surface can be applied by engraved rollers.

11. Milling - After surface finishing, the hides are softened by tumbling them for several hours in rotating drums.

12. Final Inspection - Each hide is individually checked for quality after processing. If approved, the area is measured electronically prior to dispatch.

13. Cutting - Leather cutting is a highly skilled job. As leather is a natural material, the aim is to keep wastage to a minimum while preserving all the natural character of the hide in the piece being made.

This final stage is the most critical. Cutting leather is therefore a highly skilled job. The cutter must appreciate what characteristics of the leather are desired in each panel and must therefore consider where each panel fits into the final design of the chair, seat or sofa, in order to make the final product. As no two hides are exactly the same.

Characteristic marks of the hides' natural origin are healed scars, neck growth marks, veins, abrasions and areas of different fibre density or hair pore structure will impact immediately on which hides will and won't be initially selected for the following stages. These occur in all hides, however their numbers and severity differ from hide to hide. Like the grain in timber every hide is unique, not faults but the signatures of one of the most desirable aspiration materials the world over.

The leather is then subjected to many quality tests before being sent to fit in the interior of your Lincoln. So next time you take your place in the driver's seat, take a moment, close your eyes and touch the soft leather seats and appreciate the level of detail that's at your fingertips, brought to you by Lincoln.



JAKARTA: An Indonesian man (R) pedals a low-cost amusement ride for children locally called "odong-odong" in Jakarta on March 14, 2016, as he earns a livelihood of around \$2-6 a day. —AFP

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD SAVING PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on March 09, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: ABDULLAH TURKY AL-HAJRI.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Shamlan Yousef Al-Roomi , Lateefah Jassem Al Dabbous, Yaser Mohd Yousef, Nabeehah Abdulqader Mohammad,

Mohammed Mahmoud Al Darawsha , Alghala Mohammad Abdulaziz Al Duaij , Hanaa Abdulla Ali al Terki, Noriyah Ghali Nafel, Ahrar Abdullah Abdulwahab, Dhedan Mefarah Al Enizi, Ali Ghuloom Malek, Mnira Muneer Al Nouri, Khaled Kassem Fandi , Luis Francisco Fernandes, Ahmad Saleh al Daaij, Alice Thomas Yusuf, Ahmed Saleh Mulla, Hameed Ahmed Al-Shehabi , Ali Jassim Al Saegh, Jawad Sshoor Al-Setrawi Shaha Ali Nasser, Asma Jasim Mohamed, Liberata Agnes Rodrigues, Ali Ibrahim Hassan, Thuraya Ali Alamar.

The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/-in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

CHINA'S ANBANG LEADS \$12.8BN OFFER FOR STARWOOD HOTELS

NEW YORK: A consortium led by China's Anbang Insurance Group has offered \$12.8 billion to buy Starwood Hotels & Resorts, pressuring Starwood's merger agreement with Marriott International.

Starwood said yesterday it had received the \$76 per share offer on March 10 from the consortium, topping Marriott's \$63.74 per share cash-and-stock offer that Starwood accepted last November.

"Starwood's Board of Directors has not changed its recommendation in support of Starwood's merger with Marriott," Starwood said in a statement. The Stamford, Connecticut-base company said that it "will carefully consider the outcome of its discussions with the consortium in order to determine the course of action."

Marriott said it "reaffirmed its com-

mitment to acquire Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. to create the world's largest hotel company," Marriott said it had been notified by Starwood of the unsolicited bid from a group led by Anbang on March 11.

Marriott noted the Anbang offer was "highly conditional and non-binding," while it had sufficient cash resources for its own bid and there was no financing contingency in the deal. Marriott shareholders were scheduled to meet March 28 to vote on the Starwood acquisition. Anbang, which once specialized in car insurance, stormed onto the international property market last year by acquiring New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel for nearly \$2 billion.

Starwood shares jumped 7.9 percent to \$75.96 in pre-market trade, and Marriott was up 2.5 percent at \$70.58. —AFP

EU BACKS MILK PRODUCTION CUTS TO TACKLE LOW PRICES

BID TO REVERSE PLUNGE IN PRICES

BRUSSELS: The European Union voiced support yesterday for temporary cuts in milk production by farmers in member states in a bid to reverse the plunge in prices that has shaken the dairy industry.

The European Commission, the executive of the 28-nation bloc, said it would soon send member states the proposal which is required as an emergency exception to rules guaranteeing economic competition. Overproduction of milk since EU quotas were abolished in April 2015 triggered a collapse in prices that have not recovered despite a 500-million-euro (\$556 million) aid package announced in September. "I am prepared to propose the application of such rules whereby the Commission... would decide to permit on a temporary basis such voluntary agreements for the dairy sector," EU agriculture commissioner Phil Hogan told a crisis meeting of agriculture ministers in Brussels greeted by scores of protesting farmers.

A combination of factors, including changing dietary habits, slowing Chinese demand and a Russian embargo on Western products in response to sanctions over the Ukraine conflict, has pushed down prices for beef, pork and milk. Hogan, a former Irish environment minister, acknowledged "the depth and duration of the crisis" when he joined the emergency ministerial meeting, the second in six months.

François Lejeune, a farmer from Belgium's southeastern region of Liege and a union leader, told AFP that liberal European farm policy was weakening and even bankrupting farm businesses.

"We are working at a loss in many sectors and it is not sustainable," Lejeune said during a protest of about 100 people where farmers brought a couple of cows, a few piglets, goats and lambs.

"We need price increases and for the EU to buy back excess produce," he said. "We must fight the invisible hand of the market." The commissioner said he would fully consider backing other measures that have broad support like allowing member states to help individual farmers

by up to 15,000 euros per year.

No 'magic bullet'

Hogan also called for more funds to promote EU farm products while saying the commission will work with the European Investment Bank in a bid to develop financial instruments to help farmers and processors become more competitive. Hogan also said he would consider extending for another year a multi-million-euro aid package to help European fruit and vegetable grow-

ers hit by Russian sanctions that is due to expire June 30.

Stung by an EU decision to impose damaging economic sector sanctions after the shooting down of a Malaysia Airlines plane over eastern Ukraine in July 2014, Moscow retaliated with a ban on a wide range of agricultural imports.

"This package of measures is not intended as a magic bullet but I believe that we should give it a chance to succeed," Hogan said. —AFP



BRUSSELS: People eat and visit a farm created by farmers beside the European Union Commission to protest against falling food prices in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

CHINA'S SUPPLY-SIDE SLOGAN MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE

BEIJING: To some it means upgrading China's ubiquitous hole-in-the-wall noodle shops, to others it is manufacturing high-tech toilet seats. "Supply-side reform" is the buzz phrase at China's annual parliament in Beijing, picking up on an expression introduced by President Xi Jinping in speeches late last year. Analysts say it refers to the scaling back of the role of government in business to allow market forces greater room to flourish, such as through the restructuring of state-owned companies. But its exact meaning has been left vague, giving room for the thousands of delegates at parliament to come up with their own interpretations, raising the risk of wasteful spending by provincial governments and underlining the difficult task Beijing has in clearly communicating its policies to local governments across the country.

"I think that's always been an issue in China. It's such a big country with so many layers of government - it's a challenge to push the message forward to a local level and make sure implementation is done properly," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist at Capital Economics in Singapore. So-called supply-side reform in the impoverished province of Gansu in northwestern China means officials are pushing hole-in-the-wall vendors of the province's famous Lanzhou beef noodles to invest more in interior design and "connect to the internet" so they can charge more, the official news agency Xinhua reported last week.

The noodle shops can become "like KFC and other western fast foods," Xinhua said. Many officials at soporific delegate meetings said one version of supply-side reform should be getting Chinese manufacturers to reproduce the popular high-tech toilets that

Chinese consumers are snapping up in Japan.

Yet others say it as a license for companies to go on an overseas acquisition spree. "What is supply-side reform? Currently the global economy is struggling, lots of European brands are struggling, why don't we buy them?" Yang Haiyang, an economics professor at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, said at an alumni event in the southwestern metropolis of Chongqing in January.

"If Chinese people buy these brands, they turn into Chinese brands. Chanel, LV, Adidas, Nike - let's buy them all." Similarly, Lei Jun, chief executive of Xiaomi, China's second-biggest smartphone vendor, told reporters on the sidelines of the opening of China's parliament last Saturday that supply-side reform meant getting Chinese companies to make products that can compete with imported goods.

Others have interpreted the term - which originated from an English phrase pioneered by former US President Ronald Reagan to refer to deregulation and tax cuts - as approval for price controls. Li Li, the head of the Health and Family Planning Commission of Jiangxi province, said controlling how quickly medical fees rise was a classic example of "supply-side reform."

GOOD INTENTIONS

"That's not really the sort of supply-side reforms the central leadership are talking about in the key reports they've put out," said Evans-Pritchard, noting Beijing is more focused on cutting back the role of government in business and greasing the wheels of capitalism.

Every year around 3,000 delegates from across

China, representing more than 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, meet in Beijing for the National People's Congress, which lasts around 12 days. It is the one time of the year that the central government has all members of parliament together, so it is an important time for leaders to get their messages out. This would not be the first time a central government initiative intended to reform and upgrade the Chinese economy turned into over investment by local officials. China has been battling a glut in solar panels and wind turbines ever since businesses rushed in to take advantage of government subsidies and cheap bank loans after Beijing decided it wanted to be the global leader in renewable energy.

China's government has said it will eliminate entrenched industrial overcapacity, make sure new industries get the capital they need and give freer rein to market forces.

But the government has also said it will prevent mass layoffs, have a controlling hand in state-owned enterprises and continue its accommodative monetary policy. The country aims to lay off 5-6 million state workers over the next two to three years as part of efforts to curb industrial overcapacity and pollution, sources have told Reuters. Nobody at the annual parliament meeting however, used "supply-side reform" to refer to the need to lay off millions of workers in sunset industries. The breadth and vagueness of the term may also be seen by delegates, who are chosen for their loyalty to the party and their willingness to publicly praise government policy at the rubber stamp parliament, as a chance for them to showcase their own plans. —Reuters

STOCKS HIGHER AHEAD OF KEY CENTRAL BANK MEETINGS

LONDON: European stock markets rose yesterday, with Frankfurt back above 10,000 points, following a strong start to the week across Asia as traders looked ahead to more central bank action.

The Bank of Japan started a two-day meeting yesterday, while the Federal Reserve and Bank of England also gather this week to decide over the direction for interest rates and stimulus. Markets are keen to see if Japanese policymakers unleash fresh stimulus, after launching a widely-panned negative interest rate policy in January, while the Fed talks will be watched for

clues about a possible timeline for more rate hikes.

The Bank of England is expected to leave its main lending rate at 0.50 percent following a gathering later in the week. Ahead of Thursday's decision, Britain presents its annual budget tomorrow. The monetary policy meetings meanwhile come after the European Central Bank last week cut rates and boosted its bond-buying in a bid to kickstart the tepid eurozone economy, in turn helping Frankfurt's DAX 30 shares index to rally in recent days.

Yesterday, the DAX went above 10,000 for the

first time since January 13, hitting an intra-day high of 10,039.61 points. "Asian stocks headed higher... following the lead from stocks on Wall Street on Friday and giving European markets a healthy shot in the arm first thing," said James Hughes, chief market analyst at trading group GKFX. European indices won a boost from strong showing across Asia, after the new head of China's new market regulator hinted at more action to support volatile mainland bourses.

Hong Kong closed up 1.2 percent and Shanghai tacked on 1.8 percent, despite more evidence of a slowdown in China's economy-the

world's second-largest and a key driver of global growth.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index finished 1.7-percent higher. "Equity markets are making a solid start to the week, continuing with their post-ECB bounce," said Mike van Dulken, head of research at Accendo Markets. "Poor China data over the weekend has stoked the fires of stimulus hopes," helping to lift commodity prices and mining groups' shares.

In the first two months of the year, output at China's factories, workshops and mines was the weakest since the global financial crisis, official figures showed Saturday.

But Chinese shares got a lift yesterday after the new head of China's stock-market regulator said at the weekend that the state would intervene "if the market is not working properly at all or continues to fall". "It will be too early to talk about withdrawing" state support for stocks "for rather a long time into the future", said Liu Shiyu, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission. In China, the blue-chip CSI300 index rose 1.9 percent, while the Shanghai Composite Index .SSEC gained 2 percent, after both had lost more than 2 percent last week. Mainland investors were encouraged by a regulator's assurance that it was premature to consider withdrawing government bailout funds from the market, and comments that dispelled fears of a flood of initial public offerings.

On Friday, the S&P 500 ended at its highest level of the year as oil prices extended gains and investors reassessed

stimulus steps taken by the European Central Bank last week.

"I don't think investors are expecting anything drastic from the BOJ, especially given the fact that they are meeting before the FOMC and will be reticent about making a big aggressive gamble ahead of a Fed meeting," said Stefan Worrall, director of Japan equity sales at Credit Suisse.

China data on Saturday showed further weakness in much of the economy, but also contained a few bright spots. Manufacturing output in January and February grew at its weakest pace since 2008, while retail sales rose at their slowest rate since May 2015.

But fixed-asset investment, a crucial driver of the economy, gained 10.2 percent in the first two months compared with the same period a year earlier, while property sales and home mortgages climbed sharply.

"Chinese data showed further weakening across the board, but it is clear that government spending and a recovery in the real estate market are helping hold up growth," Angus Nicholson, market analyst at IG Markets, said in a note to clients.

"China looks to be returning to a very familiar investment and real estate-driven growth pattern, somewhat at odds with their claims of economic rebalancing," he said.

People's Bank of China (PBOC) Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said over the weekend that central bank won't resort to excessive stimulus to bolster growth but will keep a flexible stance in the event of an economic shock. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report



Monday 14 March 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -48.35	5,240.19	5,288.54	5,290.37	5,235.69
Weighted Index	▼ -4.04	362.49	366.53	365.83	361.94
KSX 15	▼ -11.41	857.43	868.84	867.35	856.52

Volume	171,608,280
Value (KWD)	14,158,367
Number of Trades	4,041

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	— 0.0
IKARUS	82	77	3,000	244	2	77	▼ -5.0
IPG	315	300	68,713	20,620	11	300	— 0.0
NAPESCO	710	700	21,641	15,185	2	710	▲ 60.0
ENERGYH	33.5	30.0	93,500	3,056	12	33.0	▲ 1.5
GPI	41.0	40.5	3,310,212	134,209	50	40.5	▼ -0.5
ARAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			3,497,066	173,313	77	778.04	▲ 15.96

KFOUC	204	204	10,000	2,040	2	204	▼ -8.0
DFCC	455	445	185,815	84,424	20	455	▲ 5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	192	190	51,258	9,747	12	190	— 0.0
Basic Materials			247,073	96,211	34	917.61	▼ -6.48
KCEM	375	370	10,204	3,826	4	375	▼ -5.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	— 0.0
CABLE	330	330	252,074	83,184	23	330	▼ -25.0
SHIP	144	144	36,000	5,184	2	144	▼ -2.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,040	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	— 0.0
ACICO	270	270	1,500	405	1	270	— 0.0
GGMC	450	450	182	82	1	450	▼ -25.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	— 0.0
KPAK	320	310	24,318	7,639	3	310	▼ -10.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0
NICBM	228	228	1,000	228	1	228	▼ -10.0
EQUIPMENT	52	51	268,053	13,672	12	52	▲ 1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALDOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	— 0.0
AGLTY	450	440	476,182	213,496	20	445	▼ -10.0
EDU	200	200	120	24	1	200	▼ -10.0

CLEANING	38.5	38.5	511,300	19,685	12	38.5	— 0.0
CITYSGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	— 0.0
KGL	45.0	44.5	175,000	7,793	8	44.5	▼ -1.5
KGPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	— 0.0
HUMANSOFT	750	750	1,000	750	1	750	▼ -20.0
NAFAIS	144	144	20,000	2,880	2	144	— 0.0
SAFVAN	260	255	30,000	7,750	7	260	▼ -10.0
GFC	29.0	29.0	6,500	189	2	29.0	▼ -2.5
MAYADEEN	19.0	18.0	4,867,559	90,089	41	18.5	▼ -0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	— 0.0
MITCC	82	76	6,216,196	496,186	149	80	▲ 3.0
UPAC	730	710	48,164	34,289	13	710	▼ -20.0
ALAFCO	192	188	6,100	1,149	4	192	— 0.0
MUBARRAD	64	63	924,103	58,674	27	63	▼ -2.0
LOGISTICS	66	63	764,321	48,497	29	66	▲ 1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	— 0.0
GCEM	78	78	38	3	1	78	▼ -4.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	— 0.0
FCEM	73	72	169,885	13,672	5	72	▼ -2.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	— 0.0
SPEC	80	80	50	4	1	80	▲ 5.0
Industrials			14,819,809	1,108,349	370	976.78	▼ -13.47

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	— 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
CATTL	132	130	459,158	60,202	13	132	— 0.0
DANAH	72	70	122,900	8,725	6	72	— 0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.0
FOOD	2,460	2,460	20,176	49,633	8	2,460	▼ -60.0
Consumer Goods			602,234	118,660	27	1068.19	▼ -8.62
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0
YIACO	198	180	130,550	25,328	7	198	▲ 8
Health Care			130,550	25,328	7	961.39	▼ -2.65

KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,000	— 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0
SULTAN	67	67	245,043	16,418	5	67	— 0
CABLETV	28.0	25.0	8,000	205	3	25.0	▼ -2
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0
QULAFUEL	114	112	79,161	9,017	12	114	▲ 2
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	— 0
JAZEERA	890	860	100,566	86,976	8	890	▲ 20
SOOR	114	112	59,823	6,791	13	114	▼ -2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	— 0
ALNAVADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	— 0
ALRAI	142	138	42,119	5,973	6	142	▼ -6
UFIAH	69	66	5,883,610	392,991	240	66	▼ -5
ZIMAG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	— 0
Mezzan	1,060	1,040	169,442	178,583	11	1,060	▼ -20
Consumer Services			6,507,764	696,953	290	945.75	▼ -5.91

ZAIN	380	375	3,299,369	1,237,695	96	375	— 0
QOORDOO	1,200	1,200	12,514	15,017	4	1,200	— 0
HITSTELEC	29.0	28.5	1,934,500	55,900	26	28.5	▼ -1
VIVA	1,020	1,000	87,087	87,114	60	1,000	— 0
Telecommunications			5,333,470	1,395,726	206	618.37	▼ -2.38

NBK	750	740	1,012,547	750,634	25	740	▼ -2
GBK	212	212	806,900	171,063	15	212	▼ -2
CDK	510	510	5,500	2,805	3	510	▲ 10
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0
ALMUTAHED	430	425	250,010	106,254	5	430	— 0
KIB	198	194	353,079	69,239	16	194	▼ -4
BURG	340	335	157,599	53,581	5	340	— 0
KFIN	510	496	7,125,799	3,560,031	151	496	▼ -15
BOUBRYAN	410	405	862,810	352,984	26	410	— 0
AUD	202	200	4,974,500	997,369	78	200	▼ -2
ITHMR	35.5	34.5	5,658,300	197,673	61	35.5	▼ -1
WARABANK	176	174	550,150	96,224	81	174	▼ -7.2
Banks			21,757,194	6,358,767	466	816.88	▼ -7.23

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	— 0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475	— 0.0
WINS	114	112	40,600	4,547	5	112	▲ 2.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0
WETHAQ	33.5	33.0	196,901	6,589	8	33.5	▲ 2.5
DKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			237,501	11,136	13	1069.31	▲ 13.96

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	35.5	33.5	4777241	163,077	110	33.5	▼ -2.5
KRE	51	50	2,049,224	102,761	52	50	▼ -1.0
URC	91	91	56,673	5,157	1	91	— 0.0
NRE	100	99	1,443,386	142,899	38	99	▼ -1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	— 0.0
MASGALCH	51	51	1,000	51	1	51	— 0.0
ARABREC	28.5	28.5	788,316	22,487	14	28.5	▼ -0.5
ERESCO	54	52	719,998	37,510	21	52	▼ -2.0
MADANEC	870	870	40,481	35,218	2	870	— 0.0
INJAZZAT	80	80	2,100	168	2	80	▼ -2.0
INVESTORS	21.0	20.0	5,279,329	106,116	69	20.0	▼ -1.0
IRC	29.0	26.5	3,028,776	83,277	90	27.0	▲ 0.5



NAG UNVEILS 4TH GENERATION SPORTAGE

NEW DESIGN, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND ENHANCED INTERIOR FOR STUNNING NEW COMPACT SUV

KUWAIT: National Agencies Group, a subsidiary of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies and authorized distributor of KIA Motors in Kuwait, has unveiled the all-new KIA Sportage - the fourth-generation of KIA's ever-popular compact SUV.

The new KIA Sportage compact SUV builds comprehensively on the success of the outgoing model, offering an innovative and sophisticated package to buyers in an increasingly competitive market. The new-look bold exterior comes together with an innovative interior which features high quality materials and design integrity, as well as greater practicality and a range of technologies to improve comfort, convenience, connectivity and safety. A range of new and updated engines and transmissions will result in

studio in Frankfurt, Germany, with input from the brand's Namyang, Korea and Irvine, California design centers. The all-new model creates visual harmony out of the tension and contrast between its sharp, defined feature lines and smooth surfacing.

Modern layout and greater refinement for high quality new cabin

The Sportage boasts an all-new interior, representing one of the most significant improvements over the third-generation car. The focus for the design team behind the new interior was to create a cabin which offered a wide, driver-oriented dashboard, with a simple, modern design. The interior blends metalwork with soft-touch materials and clearly defined horizontal lines,

soundproofing in the doors.

Safety, as always, is a top priority for KIA, and the all-new KIA Sportage builds on the brand's reputation for offering the highest standards in occupant and pedestrian crash safety, with a maximum possible five-star safety rating in the Euro NCAP crash performance tests.

The safety improvements are seen in an even stronger body shell, a wide array of passive safety equipment and the latest active safety and autonomous hazard avoidance technologies. The structure of the new Sportage is significantly stronger, thanks in large part to the extensive use of advanced high-strength steel (AHSS) to improve joint stiffness and introduce more effective impact load paths throughout the body. By dramatically strengthening the core structure of the new Sportage, torsional rigidity has been improved by 33 percent from one generation to the next.

The new Sportage performed strongly in the Euro NCAP's important Safety Assist category, which analyses the latest driver assistance technologies and their effectiveness in avoiding accidents and mitigating injuries. KIA's Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) system, fitted as standard to the fourth-generation car, helps ensure stability under braking and cornering through careful management of the vehicle's Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and electric motor-driven power steering. Both systems come into play as soon as the model's many sensors detect a loss of traction, helping the driver to remain safely in control of the vehicle.

New Sportage comes with 3 different engines:

1. 1.6 L GDI 4 Cylinder Engine which drives 132 HP
2. 2.0 L MPI 4 Cylinder Engine which drives 157 HP
3. 2.4 L GDI 4 Cylinder Engine which drives 184 HP

And exhibits the following new features:

- * Premium JBL Clari-Fi sound system with 8-speakers, an external amplifier, a subwoofer and a tweeter to provide absolutely incredible sound quality.
- * The Cluster Ionizer removes unpleasant odors for a fresh interior cabin space.
- * Wireless smartphone charging, something we all can appreciate.
- * The Smart Power Tailgate automatically opens when an individual holding the smart key stays within 50-100cm of the rear for more than 3 seconds.



enhanced efficiency and performance, while ride, handling and refinement are all improved.

"The KIA Sportage has played a special role in catapulting KIA into its current success both in Kuwait and abroad. We are confident that the 4th generation Sportage will reinforce our position among market leaders thanks to its refined innovation, distinctive design and high quality materials," explained Omar Gabr, KIA Kuwait Brand Manager.

Bold new design for 2016 KIA Sportage

The fourth-generation KIA Sportage features a bold new look, with the vehicle's designers creating a sense of sporty and powerful energy from every angle. The design of the new Sportage has been led by KIA's European design

portraying a high level of mechanical precision. NVH(Noise, Vibration, Harshness): All-round improvements to refinement

Significant changes over the outgoing model render the Sportage one of the quietest and comfortable in its class. The improvements to engine NVH are a result of extensive extra dashboard insulation, as well as new acoustic shields fitted to engine to ensure greater suppression of NVH. Road noise is further reduced with the adoption of new bushings in the rear suspension to isolate road noise at source, and more sound-absorbent materials throughout the Sportage's wheel arches. Wind noise is also reduced as a result of thicker front side glass, a new dual lip seal for the panoramic sunroof and additional



ARGENTINA FACES BROKEN ECONOMY WITHOUT DEBT DEALS: MACRI

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina will be headed

toward aggressive spending cuts or hyperinflation if Congress fails to support debt deals brokered with creditors holding its defaulted bonds, President Mauricio Macri warned. In an interview on America TV late on Sunday, Macri said the South American country would remain a financial pariah shunned by global credit markets if it failed to resolve the 14-year battle with creditors.

Macri's center-right government, which took office three months ago, recently reached deals with creditors who had balked at the previous government's settlement terms in the wake of the country's 2002 default on \$100 billion in bonds. Macri needs lawmakers to pass those deals to access billions of dollars in new financing and persuade wary foreign businesses that Argentina is a safe investment destination. But loyalists of former leader Cristina Fernandez, a Peronist, say he is caving into the greed of Wall Street. Asked what would be the consequence of a defeat in Congress, Macri said: "austerity or hyperinflation. There is no alternative."

Macri's comments came 24 hours after his finance minister said he would be "forced to implement tremendous cuts" to

plug a fiscal deficit that widened to 5.3 percent of gross domestic product in 2015 from 2.8 percent a year earlier.

The lower house in Congress is due on Tuesday to vote on the bill containing the debt deals, including a \$4.65 billion cash payment to the lead holdout creditors suing Argentina in a US court.

Macri's "Let's Change" alliance is the largest party in Congress's lower chamber, but it needs to secure pacts with opposition lawmakers to push the bill through. Macri allies have been lobbying moderate Peronist legislators who opposed Fernandez's headline refusal to negotiate a settlement.

Yet in a sign Macri's camp has more last-minute work to do, state-run news agency Telam reported Macri officials will be meeting again on Monday with lawmakers aligned with defeated presidential candidate Sergio Massa and a group of Peronist parliamentarians who split with Fernandez in February. Treasury officials will be seeking to allay any concerns over the decision by a US appeals court on Friday to put on hold the lifting of the injunctions that restrict Argentina from servicing its restructured debt, Telam said. — Reuters

OIL SHRUGS OFF GOLDMAN WARNING ABOUT PREMATURE RALLY

LONDON: "International crude oil prices have recovered remarkably in recent weeks," the International Energy Agency (IEA) wrote in this month's oil market assessment, which struck a note of cautious optimism. "This should not, however, be taken as a definitive sign that the worst is necessarily over. Even so, there are signs that prices might have bottomed out," the agency concluded ("Oil Market Report", IEA, March 11).

Goldman Sachs, perhaps the world's most influential commodity bank, stuck to a more bearish view. In a note to clients, the bank's commodity research team warned an early rally could prove "premature" ("New oil order: the good, the bad and the ugly", Goldman Sachs, March 11). "Sustained low prices are necessary in our view to maintain a sufficient level of financial stress" to finish a rebalancing that has only just started, the team wrote. "An early rally

in prices ... would prove self-defeating," the bank warned. And there is still a risk the United States will run out of storage space in the next few weeks, pushing prices sharply lower.

In reality, the differences between oil bulls and bears at the moment are narrower than is often supposed. The IEA tilted its commentary "Light at the end of the tunnel?"

Goldman, in a separate note issued by its equity team, said "we are beginning to see a line of sight to improved oil prices in 2017" ("Rocky road to new oil order recovery: signs of clearing in the distance", March 11).

In most cases, the gap between bulls and bears boils down to a difference of a few months over when prices should start to rise. Goldman believes prices need to remain low in the short term to generate a drawdown in inventories that would support a modest rally in the second half of 2016. —Reuters

CHINESE COALMINERS STRIKE OVER WAGES AND LAYOFFS

BEIJING: Thousands of miners in China's coal-rich northeast have gone on strike over months of unpaid wages, amid fears of mass layoffs as the government seeks to restructure lumbering state-owned industries. Social unrest is anathema to China's Communist leaders, making the threat of worker discontent a disincentive to the hard choices analysts see as necessary to reform the world's second-largest economy. Video seen by AFP Monday showed protesters marching through the streets of

Shuangyashan city in Heilongjiang province, venting their frustration at Longmay Mining Holding Group, the biggest coal firm in northeast China. Pictures showed enormous crowds filling the streets. "I'm on my knees, my family can't eat," an elderly woman pleaded with a man who appeared to be a government official.

"Tell me, how can we live?" she shouted, before collapsing and being rushed away by fellow protesters. The situation in Heilongjiang exemplifies the dilemma faced by Chinese authorities, who say they want to change the economic model to one driven by consumer demand rather than infrastructure investment and exports. China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are plagued by overcapacity and many are unviable, but the government has been loath to kill off such "zombie" companies, fearing unemployment could lead to instability. Nevertheless, it plans to lay off about 1.8 million workers in the steel and coal industries, a human resources and social security ministry official said last month.

In the video footage from Heilongjiang, dozens of police cars, lights flashing, lined the streets, and protesters complained of violence by authorities as tensions mounted.

"Traffic in the centre of Shuangyashan city was halted," a witness told AFP, adding "some people were hurt". Pictures from the scene showed what appeared to be police tussling with protesters, with one woman apparently thrown to the ground. Striking miners held large banners demanding back pay. "Their main request is to get the delayed incomes from the past several months," the witness said.

The miners' anger spilled into street action after Heilongjiang's governor Lu Hao said the company owed employees no back pay. At the weekend the provincial government admitted that workers' compensation was in "arrears" following "many years of accumulated problems".

As a result, "not a few workers have encountered difficulties in their lives", it said.

'Heavy losses'

The statement blamed the company's financial woes on inefficiency, saying that it "uses three times as much labour as the national average to produce 10,000 tonnes of coal", resulting in "heavy losses and diminished cash flow".

The firm was "resolutely battling" to implement reforms, it said. Late last year, 21 miners died in a fire at a mine operated by the company. Northeast China, a hub for heavy industry, has been particularly hard hit as the country's growth slows, as has the coal industry nationwide. Consumption of the heavily polluting fuel fell 3.7 percent last year, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics, after a 2.9 percent decrease in 2014. Coal use is slowing globally and with China's massive production volumes leading a glut in supply, prices have plummeted, falling by more than 50 percent since 2012.

Earlier this month Premier Li Keqiang again pledged to encourage "structural adjustments" in his opening speech to the annual session of China's Communist-controlled parliament.

The country saw at least 1,050 strikes and protests by workers-around 90 percent of them related to unpaid wages-in the 10 weeks to the start of the Lunar New Year in February, according to China Labour Bulletin, an overseas campaign group. "There have been a steadily increasing number of wage arrears protests by coal miners all over China over the last couple of years as the industry contracts and coal prices fall," said its spokesman Geoff Crothall, adding that Longmay miners in another Heilongjiang city protested over the same issue last year.

In Shuangyashan city officials held an emergency meeting on Monday, according to news site Sohu, calling for calm and assuring protesters that the company would "work with all its might to provide workers' wages in a timely fashion". — AFP



PUDONG: A man walks by the Bund near the Huangpu river across the Pudong New Financial district in Shanghai yesterday. China's leaders are meeting this week for the annual rubber-stamp National People's Congress, where Premier Li Keqiang set a growth target of 6.5-7.0 percent for this year. —AFP



LEXUS - AMAZING IN MOTION

MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER & SONS CELEBRATES RECORD PERFORMANCE OF LEXUS FOR 2015

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer held an exclusive celebration event for Lexus in recognition of its record performance for the year 2015 in Kuwait. The event which was held at the Radisson BLU hotel was attended by distinguished delegates Bader Musaed Al-Sayer Deputy Business Director, Philip Burrluck Deputy General Manager Vehicle Sales, Bader Faisal Al-Sayer Deputy Marketing Manager, members from Lexus sales team and representatives from Group Marketing Department.

For Lexus, 2015 was the year of several important launch events including LX - iconic luxury SUV, RX - pioneering cross-over SUV, ES - luxury emboldened sedan, NX - first premi-



um compact crossover SUV.

According to Simon Frith Business Director Lexus Kuwait "Lexus is once again in the spotlight. Success of key launches has driven the overall record performance leading to excellent sales results. We have strengthened this competitive edge in 2016 with the recent launch of GS F - under the "F range" setting new benchmark for the Middle East high performance car segment."

Crediting the team for this remark-

able achievement Bader Musaed Al-Sayer Deputy Business Director Lexus Kuwait said "Our customer service and advertising efforts have won top recognition and awards helping to build a strong foundation to accomplish such record milestone."

Earlier in 2015 Lexus in Kuwait had won prestigious award for excellence in public relations and customer service under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Furthermore our stand-out commercial 'Live The Lexus Life' in cooperation with advertising agency Litmus won the Best Creativity Award."

Lexus continues to evolve with an increased emphasis on design, performance, art, fashion and digital communications and aims to highest level of product quality, and an experience beyond compare in any industry.

Philip Burrluck Deputy General Manager Lexus Sales briefed on the achievements and events during 2015 and appreciated outstanding efforts of Lexus sales team. Presenting the main objectives of 2016 he encouraged all Lexus staffs to aim high and achieve even better results.



AIR ARABIA SHAREHOLDERS OK 9% CASH DIVIDEND AT AGM

SHARJAH: Air Arabia shareholders yesterday approved the distribution of a nine percent cash dividend for the 2015 financial year at the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sharjah. The dividend, which is equivalent to 9 fils per share, reflects another year of healthy growth and strong profitability for the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost airline.

During the AGM, the assembly approved the report of the company's auditors for the financial year ending December 31, 2015, as well as the balance sheet and profit and loss accounts for the same period. The Board of Directors and auditors of the company were also discharged from liability for the financial year ending December 31, 2015, while auditors for the next fiscal year were appointed and their remuneration fixed. The assembly also granted approval to amend Air Arabia's articles of association in line with Federal Law No 2 of 2015 concerning commercial companies.

"Following another year of solid growth and achievement, Air Arabia is delighted to return profit to our shareholders in the form of a healthy nine percent cash dividend," said Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammad Al-Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia. "Despite ongoing concerns in the global economy and continued pressure on yields in the aviation industry, with innovation and operational efficiency at the heart of our

business, Air Arabia remains well positioned for growth in 2016."

For the full year ending December 31, 2015, Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 531 million while turnover reached AED 3.8 billion in 2015 with passenger numbers increasing by 12 per cent to more than 7.6 million.

2015 was a year of significant route expansion with 23 routes added to the Air Arabia network, including the notable achievement of becoming the region's first low-cost airline to enter the Chinese market with the launch of services to the city of Urumqi. The airline also added a fifth international hub with the formation of "Air Arabia Jordan" and the opening of a fixed-based operation at Amman Queen Alia International Airport.

2015 was also an award-winning year as Air Arabia took home accolades including "World Travel Leaders Award" at the World Travel Market 2015 in the United Kingdom, "Best Low-cost Airline in the Middle East" at the Skytrax World Airline Awards in France, "Best Low-Cost Carrier" at the 2015 World Tourism Forum Awards in Turkey, "Airline of Year" at the Aviation Business Awards, and "Award for Customer Innovation" at the first Aviation Achievement Awards. Data from Google also revealed that Air Arabia was the most searched for airline by UAE users in 2015, reflecting the strength of its online presence and product offering.

WARBA BANK WINS THE 'ISLAMIC FINANCE NEWS' AWARD FOR PERFORMANCE IN 2015

'BEST STRUCTURED FINANCE' AND 'KUWAIT AWARD'

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, the fastest-growing Bank in Kuwait which offers a range of banking and investment services compatible with Islamic Sharia on local and international level, won two annual awards from the magazine "Islamic Finance News" (IFN).

The first prize is the "Best 2015 structural funding" which resulted from the acquisition of a portfolio with Al Mulla global company of a deal totaling KD20 million, equivalent of \$66 million. The deal reflected the extraordinary commitment of the Bank to providing innovative financial solutions and compatible with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia as studies met with strategic expansion plan approved by the World Bank at the local and regional levels. The second prize earned by Warba Bank is the "Best Deal in Kuwait for 2015", for its participation along with other local, regional and int'l banks and financing institutes, in the huge financing deal for the National Industries Group with the value of KD 105 million for a 3 years' period.

Through an intensive evaluation process according to a set of principles and financial indicators; Warba Bank has been selected for the second prize by IFN's judging panel that groups a number of experts in the Islamic banking industry. IFN is a well renowned institution in the Islamic banking industry which publishes various studies and article around the banking sector. Shaheen Al-Ghanim, Executive Vice President for Treasury and Investment at Warba Bank commented about the award saying, "As a Bank, we are honored to have two valuable awards for the year 2015 despite the fact that the bank is relatively new. This proves the bank's effectiveness of growth and expansion strategy, which supports our efforts in cooperation with local companies in various sectors consisting Islamic Sharia principles as part of our communication with our customers/partners in order to succeed. Our efforts to meet the financing needs and then develop them will always rank as prime to us".



Al-Ghanim assured that the Bank's operations performed last year, granted the bank a leading position in the Islamic banking sector in Kuwait; Warba bank keens to play a key role in supporting the local economy and local companies while simultaneously providing topnotch products compliant with Islamic Shariah.

Warba Bank's activities and achievements spread locally, but are also reaching international horizons. Whereas, Warba Bank lately acquired a leasing portfolio of equipment from ATEL Capital Group, which is an independent equipment leasing company in the USA, to become the first Kuwaiti establishment investing in this Group with a total value of 25 million dollars. This acquisition is in line with the Bank's strategy and portfolio in attracting investment, and seize opportunities to comply with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia in regional and global markets, while

diversifying the Bank's asset base on a global scale. As part of the deal, Warba bank investment reached initially 8.2 million dollars in a diversified portfolio of operating leases for equipment of high quality, limited technology and a long operational life to perform difficult tasks, which is leased to the companies at the United States. Worth to mention that Warba bank was granted Baa2 rating from Moody's in 2015 with a stable vision Since its inception in 2010 in the Kuwaiti market, Warba Bank has been enriching the Islamic banking industry with different type of products and services that were catalysts to boost the sector. The Bank doesn't hesitate to explore feasible investment's opportunities both in the local or global market in order to diversify options for its customers in accordance of Islamic Sharia. Based on this criteria, the bank is qualified to harvest more regional and global awards in the near future.

S7 ARRIVES FULLY-LOADED WITH GALAXY ENTERTAINER APP

OVER 1,000 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE OFFERS AVAILABLE TO GALAXY S7 CUSTOMERS FREE OF CHARGE

KUWAIT: Samsung has announced the launch of the Galaxy Entertainer application in conjunction with the launch of the flagship Galaxy S7 and S7 edge smartphones. The application that is preloaded on to the new smartphones includes over 1,000 buy 1 get 1 free offers that provides unparalleled access to global hotspots including restaurants, luxury hotels, cafes, premium spas, leisure attractions, golf clubs and much more. The combined value of the benefits (inclusive of international locations) is estimated to be over 31,000 KWT worth of savings.

Developed in collaboration with the

Entertainer, leading provider of incentive offers in the Middle East, the application's buy 1 get 1 free offers are redeemable at around 670 merchants (two offers per merchant and one offer per hotel), including a wide selection of premium outlets in Kuwait. Speaking of the launch of the dedicated application, Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile Division, Samsung Gulf Electronics said, "In addition to maximizing the user experience, the latest Galaxy S7 has been developed to redefine what a phone can do. Adding all these sensory experiences to the smartphones is an extension of our belief that our



devices are the ultimate digital companions; probably the only pieces of technology one would need even in the ultimate realms of tranquility and luxury."



SAMSUNG

Donna Benton, founder and CEO of the Entertainer, added, "With the pre-installation of the Samsung Entertainer app on the latest Galaxy S7 devices we are proud to bring cus-

tomers in the Middle East a variety of buy one get one free offers from fantastic dining, leisure, beauty and hotel brands on a global basis. The savings from redeeming even a few of the offers will go a long way in offsetting the initial cost associated with the phone. We are excited to collaborate with a technology partner on a milestone launch and are looking to expand to other models in the lineup in the future." In addition to local outlets, the offers are redeemable in several global locations including Oman, Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar, London, Hong Kong, Singapore and Cape Town.



BAIKONUR: A Russian Proton-M rocket carrying the ExoMars 2016 spacecraft blasts off from the launch pad at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome yesterday. — AFP

RUSSIAN ROCKET BLASTS OFF ON MISSION SEEKING LIFE ON MARS

BAIKONUR: Two robotic spacecraft yesterday began a seven-month journey to Mars as part of a European-Russian unmanned space mission to sniff out leads to life on the Red Planet. Russia's Proton rocket carrying the spacecraft launched into an overcast sky at the Russian-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in the Kazakh steppe at 0931 GMT according to plan, the Russian space agency Roscosmos and the European Space Agency (ESA) said.

Roscosmos said the launch had taken place "successfully." ExoMars 2016, a collaboration between ESA and Roscosmos, is the first part of a two-phase exploration aiming to answer questions about the existence of life on Mars.

The ESA has said the aim was to determine "whether Mars is alive". With its suite of high-tech instruments, the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO), is expected to arrive at the Red Planet in October after a journey of 496 million kilometres (308 million miles). TGO will photograph the Red Planet and analyse its air, splitting off from the Mars lander dubbed Schiaparelli days before entering its atmosphere. The second phase, a Mars rover due for launch in 2018, seems likely to be delayed over financial concerns. One key goal is to analyse methane, a gas which on Earth is created in large part by living microbes, and traces of which were observed by previous Mars missions.

'Nose in space'

"TGO will be like a big nose in space," said Jorge Vago, ExoMars project scientist. Methane, the ESA said, is normally destroyed by ultraviolet radiation within a few hundred years, which implied that in Mars' case "it must still be produced today". TGO will analyse Mars' methane in more detail than any previous mission, said ESA, in order to try to determine its likely origin.

One component of TGO, a neuron detector called FREND, can help provide improved mapping of water distribution on Mars, amid growing evidence the planet once had as much if more

water than earth. A better understanding of water on Mars, the fourth planet from the sun, could aid scientists' understanding of how the Earth might cope in conditions of increased drought. Schiaparelli, in turn, will spend several days measuring climatic conditions including seasonal dust storms on the Red planet while serving as a test lander ahead of the rover's anticipated arrival. The module takes its name from 19th century Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli whose discovery of "canals" on Mars caused people to believe, for a while, that there was intelligent life on our neighboring planet.

'Need more money'

As for the next phase of ExoMars, ESA director general Jan Woerner has mooted a possible two-year delay, saying in January: "We need some more money" due to cost increases. The rover scheduled for 2018 has been designed to drill up to two metres (around seven feet) into the Red Planet in search of organic matter, a key indicator of life past or present. ESA said the rover landing "remains a significant challenge" however. Although TGO's main science mission is scheduled to last until December 2017, it has enough fuel to continue operations for years after, if all goes well. Thomas Reiter, director of human spaceflight at ESA, said in televised remarks ahead of the launch he believed a manned mission to Mars would take place "maybe in 20 years or 30 years".

Russian-American duo Mikhail Kornienko and Scott Kelly earlier this month returned from a year-long mission at the International Space Station seen as a vital precursor to such a mission. The ExoMars mission derives its name from the scientific term for the search for life beyond Earth-exobiology. Space has been one of the few areas of cooperation between Moscow and the West that has not been damaged by ongoing geopolitical tensions stemming from the crises in Ukraine and Syria. — AFP



BAIKONUR: Members of the main crew of the expedition to the International Space Station (ISS), (L-R) Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinnikov and Oleg Skripochka and US astronaut Jeffrey Williams visit an assembling department at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome yesterday. — AFP

CISCO CLOUD INDEX PROJECTS THAT CLOUD TRAFFIC IN MEA WILL QUADRUPLE BY 2019

KUWAIT: The fifth annual Cisco Global Cloud Index (2014-2019), released recently, forecasts that Middle East and Africa cloud traffic will more than quadruple by the end of 2019. Additionally, by 2019, 83 percent of all MEA data center traffic will come from the cloud.

From a regional perspective, the report found that MEA is expected to have the highest cloud traffic growth rate at 41 percent by 2019. Several factors are driving cloud traffic's accelerating growth and the transition to cloud services, including the personal cloud demands of an increasing number of mobile devices; the rapid growth in popularity of public cloud services for business, and the increased degree of virtualisation in private clouds which is increasing the density of those workloads. The growth of machine-to-machine (M2M) connections also has the potential to drive more cloud traffic in the future.

"The Cisco Cloud Index highlights the fact that cloud is moving well beyond a regional trend to becoming a mainstream solution, with cloud traffic expected to grow more than 30 percent in every worldwide region over the next five years.

Middle East enterprise and government organisations are moving from test cloud environments to trusting clouds with their mission-critical workloads. At the same time, consumers continue to expect on-demand, anytime access to their content and services nearly everywhere. This creates a tremendous opportunity for cloud operators, which will play an increasingly relevant role in the communications industry ecosystem," Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East.

In addition to the rapid growth of cloud traffic, Cisco predicts that the Internet of Everything (IoE)-the connection of people, processes, data and things-will have a significant impact on data center and cloud traffic growth. Today, only a small portion of this content is stored in data centers, but that could change as the application demand and uses of big data analytics evolves (ie analysing collected data to make tactical and strategic decisions). New technologies such as SDN and NFV are also expected to streamline data center traffic flows, such that the traffic vol-



**Mike Weston,
Vice President - Cisco Middle East**

umes reaching the highest tier (core) of the data center may fall below 10.4 ZB per year and lower data center tiers could carry over 40 ZB of traffic per year. To help put things in perspective, 10.4 ZB is equivalent to:

- * 144 trillion hours of streaming music: Equivalent to about 26 months of continuous music streaming for the world's population* in 2019
- * 26 trillion hours of business web conferencing with a webcam: Equivalent to about 21 hours of daily web conferencing for the world's workforce in 2019
- * 6.8 trillion of high-definition (HD) movies viewed online: Equivalent to about 2.4 hours of daily streamed HD movies for the world's population in 2019
- * 1.2 trillion hours of ultra-high definition (UHD) video streaming: Equivalent to about 25 minutes

NEW VIRTUAL REALITY APP TIMELOOPER TAKES YOU BACK IN HISTORY

LONDON: Imagine watching frantic shopkeepers busily extinguish the Great Fire of London, or sheltering from Nazi bombing raids during the Blitz. Now, thanks to a new virtual reality app, you can travel back in time to be immersed in these events.

The TimeLooper app allows users to experience key moments in London history with just a smartphone and a cardboard headset. For example, when TimeLooper cofounder Andrew Feinberg visits the Tower of London, a historic castle on the banks of London's Thames River, he doesn't queue up with hordes of tourists to catch a glimpse of the royal family's crown jewels. Instead, he uses TimeLooper's time travel tourism app to experience the tower over 750 years ago, in 1255.

Instead of seeing a busy London tourist site, Feinberg sees a medieval marketplace, a formidable fortress, even an elephant being led down a path.

"We actually overlay the current infrastructure with what the infrastructure of the tower and the surrounding environment was like in 13th century London," explained Feinberg. "So for example, now you see a Starbucks and now you see the tower as it looks today with the moat drained. When we take you back in time, you actually see the historically accurate representation of the tower in its heyday."

Not far away at St. Paul's Cathedral, TimeLooper users travel back to the Great Fire of London 350 years ago, in 1666. The fire burned for four days, destroying over 13,000 houses.

The smartphone's built-in motion detection allows time travelers wearing a cardboard headset to move their gaze around the virtual world, seemingly exploring London centuries ago. The videos are location-based, meaning visitors must

visit the sites to unlock the historical experiences. Feinberg and his cofounder, Yigit Yigiter, were frustrated with current tourism technology, which they say hasn't evolved much since the introduction of audio guides. In 2014, Yigiter's wife brought home a Google cardboard VR headset, and he began thinking about an immersive virtual reality tourism experience. By September 2015, he'd quit his job in private equity and moved to the British capital to begin work on the first incarnation of the app. The first version was launched in July 2015 and featured three sites.

Historical perspective

While TimeLooper uses VR to offer a unique historical perspective, the technology has been exploding in many directions throughout the tourism industry. Carnival Cruise Line uses it to market cruises, the Dollywood theme park in Tennessee uses it to show off a new rollercoaster, and the Seattle Space Needle uses it to help visitors appreciate the view from its sky-high observatory.

The Dali Museum in Florida created a virtual reality experience that lets visitors walk through a landscape painting by the Surrealist master Salvador Dali. And a company called YouVisit has created over 300 VR experiences for destinations from Vatican City to Mexico.

TimeLooper is a member of the Travel Tech Lab, an incubator space for travel technology start-ups, partly created by London & Partners, the city's official promotional company. Following the launch last year, Feinberg and Yigiter were contacted by destinations from China to Spain. "Nothing replaces the experience of being on site, but you don't always know what the stories are about those sights," Yigiter

said. TimeLooper's travel app is also used by those working in London's booming tourism industry.

Blue Badge tourist guide Ruth Polling pulls her cardboard headset out as she escorts visitors to Trafalgar Square and lets them see what happened on Sept. 23, 1940, when a bomb dropped by Nazi Germany exploded near Nelson's Column, a famous landmark and iconic part of the victory celebrations held five years later to mark the end of the war in Europe.

"My job is a storyteller," Polling said. "I'm here to conjure up what things are like and this just gives me something else I can use, particularly with small children, getting them really engaged."

London landmarks are also finding TimeLooper's VR experience useful in giving a new-age twist to a decades-old attraction. The Thames River's 120-year-old Tower Bridge is set to launch its own TimeLooper experience in April, taking visitors back to 1666, before the bridge was even built. Instead, headset wearers view the raging Great Fire of London from a boat's crow's nest as it sails down the river.

"When you're here at the bridge, you are told a story of how things were but you can't physically see that," says Chris Earlie, the head of Tower Bridge. The app also helps immerse international visitors into the story without "translating endless amount of text."

TimeLooper plans to launch in New York City this April, allowing tourists to witness the famous kiss that was photographed in Times Square in August 1945 on VJ Day, the day World War II officially ended with the surrender of Japan, and to see the iconic picture of workers eating lunch atop a skyscraper during construction of the Rockefeller Center in 1932. — AP

YEAR-IN-SPACE ASTRONAUT HANGS UP HIS SPACESUIT, RETIRES

WASHINGTON: After spending nearly a year in space, astronaut Scott Kelly is hanging up his spacesuit. NASA announced Kelly's retirement on Friday, less than two weeks after he returned to Earth.

He leaves the space agency on April 1. The 52-year-old Kelly spent a US-record 340 days in orbit on the International Space Station to see how the human body holds up for long periods of time in space. His results are being compared to those on the ground from his twin brother, Mark, who is a retired astronaut. Scott Kelly also holds the American record for most time in space: 520 days over four missions.

"I look forward to continuing my 30 years of public service in a new role," Kelly, who joined

the Navy in 1987, said in a Facebook post. "To continue toward any journey, we must always challenge ourselves to take the next step."

During his one-year trip, Kelly posted hundreds of images, mostly of Earth from orbit, on social media. But he also engaged in a little fun, donning a gorilla suit that was a gag gift from his brother and chasing fellow astronauts through the space station in a video.

"This year-in-space mission was a profound challenge for all involved, and it gave me a unique perspective and a lot of time to reflect on what my next step should be on our continued journey to help further our capabilities in space and on Earth," Kelly said in a statement issued by NASA. No specific plans for what's next were announced. But Kelly will

continue to undergo periodic medical tests as part of his year-in-space mission, NASA said.

"Adjusting in space is easier than adjusting to Earth for me," Kelly said in his first postflight news conference a week ago. Even then he gave a hint of what was to come, saying he doubted he'd fly again for NASA but adding, "I'll never be done with space. I will always be involved."

Kelly's departure means the space agency is losing its biggest star, said John Logsdon, a retired space policy professor. "I'm willing to bet that no one could name another NASA astronaut, anyone not close to the program," Logsdon said. "It clears the way for the next generation of space fliers. There are a few veteran fliers left, but not many."

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, a retired astronaut himself, said the space agency and science in general is grateful to Kelly, who he added deserves "meals that don't come in a bag, a cold beer, hot showers, cool autumn breezes, the sounds of birds chirping, the ability to lay his head on an actual pillow and so much more of the pleasures of life."

Astronauts who eventually will land on Mars "will be following in the footsteps of one of the finest astronauts in the history of the space program, my friend, Commander Scott Kelly," Bolden said in a statement.

Kelly returned from the space station on March 2, landing in Kazakhstan with Russia's Mikhail Kornienko, his partner for the one-

year mission. The usual space station stint is six months.

His re-entry into land living was good and bad. Home in Houston, he dove into his backyard pool still in his blue flight suit, going underwater for the first time in nearly a year. But clothing was a problem. In space, his clothes floated around him and didn't touch his skin.

"It's very, very sensitive," he told reporters last week. "It's almost like a burning feeling wherever I like sit or lie or walk." Before leaving orbit, Kelly tweeted: "The journey isn't over. Follow me as I rediscover #Earth!" His Twitter followers have since read about his first steak, first dental appointment, first rain and that dip in the pool. —AP

ALASKA SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SEABIRD DEATH MYSTERY

ANCHORAGE: The common murre on Sarah Schoen's examination table lived a short, hungry life. Measurements of its beak and leg indicated it hatched in June. Its stomach and breast showed how it died. The 3-inch-long stomach was empty, and the pectoral muscles that powered its wings, allowing it to "fly" underwater after forage fish, were emaciated. "As the bird starves, the body eats the muscle for energy," Schoen said. "The muscle becomes more and more concave." Schoen, a wildlife biologist for the US Geological Survey, and Rob Kaler, a biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, on Friday performed necropsies on common mures, part of an effort by dozens of scientists to explain the massive die-off of common mures that began one year ago.

Common mures are one of the northern hemisphere's most common seabirds. The Alaska population is estimated at 2.8 million out of a world population of 13 to 20.7 million birds. Awkward on land, common mures can dive to 600 feet hunting fish or krill. Die-offs have occurred before but not on this magnitude. Common mures routinely live 20-25 years but have a metabolism rate so high that they can use up fat reserves and drop to a critical threshold for starvation, 65 percent of normal body

rate, in three days of not eating.

Abnormal numbers of carcasses, all showing signs of starvation, began washing ashore on Alaska beaches in March 2015. Numbers spiked to alarming levels in early winter. The confirmed carcass count is now up to 36,000, Schoen said. That's far higher than previous common murre die-offs and many beaches have not been surveyed. New common murre carcasses continue to be recorded, most recently on Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula communities and the Pribilof Islands. "The ravens and eagles make it easy to see that birds are continuing to die and get washed up," Kaler said. The scavengers eat the dead mures.

No one is offering an estimate of the total deaths. In previous die-off, researchers estimated that only about 15 percent of carcasses reach shores, which means the total may be in the hundreds of thousands. The USGS's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, is testing mures for signs of disease or parasites. Though the mures appear to have starved, researchers wonder if something caused them to quit eating or to be less successful finding food. Schoen and Kaler were looking for broad, general information about body conditions.

They extracted samples of liver, which can indicate what the bird ate a week before it died,



ALASKA: Wildlife biologist Rob Kaler of the US Fish and Wildlife Service examines the empty stomach of a common murre during a necropsy in Anchorage, Alaska. Kaler is among scientists attempting to find out the reason for a massive common murre die-off in the North Pacific that began one year ago. — AP

and muscle, which can indicate what it ate in the last month. They took feather samples for isotope analysis regarding diet. Sudden diet changes could be telling. If they were eating at one level of the food web, and a regular food source became unavailable, it could provide insight into the deaths, Schoen said. Some details are emerging. Schoen in January necropsied 61 birds found in Prince William Sound. Most were birds under 2 years old and 77 percent were female. Female deaths are significant because of the possible effect on the overall population.

The sampled birds also were heavier than birds sampled in a 1993 die-off, Schoen said. "So it doesn't look like just starvation is killing them," Schoen said. "It looks like there's something else that could be tipping them over the edge." That reason could be a toxin birds ingested from tainted algae. The reason could be severe winter storms that kept weakened birds from feeding. Or it could be something unknown. Federal agencies don't have dedicated funding to solve the common murre mystery but will continue investigating as time allows. Schoen and Kaler said they hope to continue the sampling work with carcasses collected from other areas of Alaska. — AP



A polar bear has a bucket on his head, while cub polar bear swims nearby in the cooling waters of Moscow Zoo. Climate science has progressed so much that experts can accurately detect global warming's fingerprints on certain extreme weather events, such as a heat wave, concluded a high-level scientific advisory panel. — AP

FINDING CLIMATE FINGERPRINTS IN WILD WEATHER 'IS VALID': PANEL

WASHINGTON: Climate science has progressed so much that experts can accurately detect global warming's fingerprints on certain extreme weather events, such as a heat wave, according to a high-level scientific advisory panel. For years scientists have given almost a rote response to the question of whether an instance of weird weather was from global warming, insisting that they can't attribute any single event to climate change. But "the science has advanced to the point that this is no longer true as an unqualified blanket statement," the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine reported.

Starting in 2004, dozens of complex peer-reviewed studies found the odds of some extreme events - but by no means all - were goosed by man-made climate change. This new field of finding global warming fingerprints is scientifically valid, the academies said in a 163-page report released Friday. The private non-profit has advised the government on complex, science-oriented issues since the days of President Abraham Lincoln.

When it comes to heat waves, droughts, heavy rain and some other events, scientists who do rigorous research can say whether they were more likely or more severe because of man-made global warming, said academies report chairman David Titley, a Pennsylvania State University meteorology professor. And that matters. "While we plan for climate, we live in weather," Titley, a retired Navy admiral, said in an interview. "These extremes are making climate real when in fact they are attributable to climate change."

Not all weird weather can be blamed with any degree of certainty on global warming, according to the report. "For a certain class and type of event there is a human fingerprint," said report co-author Marshall Shepherd, a University of Georgia meteorology professor. The report says there is "high confidence" in studies looking for climate change connections between extreme hot and cold temperatures, such as the Russian heat wave of 2010. There's medium confidence in efforts trying to attribute droughts and extreme rainfall.

Hurricanes and other tropical cyclones, wildfires and severe thunderstorms are on the low end of the confidence range, the report found. In some cases heat and lack of rain combine and the studies find a viable

connection to global warming, such as in the recent four-year California drought and the drought that hit Syria and neighbors, Titley said. "The fog of uncertainty that obscured the human role in individual events is finally lifting," said Princeton University professor Michael Oppenheimer. He wasn't part of the study, but is on the board of Climate Central, which manages a large climate attribution project.

Good attribution studies are based on what Titley calls a "three-legged stool" of observational records of decades of past events, detailed understanding of the physics that cause the weird weather itself, and sophisticated computer models that simulate the chances of the extreme event if there were no man-made, heat-trapping gases warming the atmosphere. "It's just like an autopsy," said Martin Hoerling, a National Oceanic Atmospheric and Administration research meteorologist who has conducted several attribution studies, finding a climate change connection in some events and not finding a link in others. "We're following the data wherever it goes."

Titley said attribution studies are "based in physical science and statistics that don't value Republicans or Democrats. The ice just melts. This has nothing to do with politics." These studies don't say an event was 100 percent caused by climate change. They usually say chances were increased by a certain fraction. Katharine Hayhoe, a Texas Tech climate scientist who wasn't part of the study, praised the work: It is "very important to clarify to people how no event is black or white: No individual weather event can be said to be 'solely' human nor 'solely' natural any more. They are somewhere on the sliding scale between."

But other scientists don't like the idea of looking at single events. Climate change caused by man "has fingerprints in every weather event we experience today," wrote Oklahoma University meteorology professor Jason Furtado, who wasn't part of the study. "Disentangling the contribution of climate change with natural variability for a single event is not fruitful or currently possible in my opinion." Eventually, Titley hopes, the science of climate change fingerprint detecting will advance so that meteorologists can make testable forecasts of a certain number of extreme events in a season. — AP

MALAWI AUTHORITIES BURN 2.6 TONS OF IVORY SMUGGLED FROM TANZANIA

MZUZU: Malawi yesterday burned 2.6 tons of ivory smuggled from Tanzania after a cross-border dispute over whether the elephant tusks should be saved as legal evidence against poachers. Tanzania had succeeded in delaying the burning since September, but a court in Malawi this month ordered wildlife authorities to publicly destroy the 781 pieces of ivory-valued at nearly \$3 million (2.7 million euros). "This is a milestone for Malawi. We will not allow the country to be exploited as a market of this illegal trade," Bright Kumchedwa, director of Malawi's parks and wildlife department said. "We want demonstrate to the

world that the country is committed to eradicating wildlife crime."

The stockpile was set alight outside a nature sanctuary in the small northern city of Mzuzu, 480 kilometers from the administrative capital Lilongwe. Watched by police and court and wildlife officials, the fire sent a billow of smoke into the sky. Two Malawian siblings were last year fined \$5,500 for their part in trafficking the tusks, which were intercepted by Malawian customs officials in 2013. Tanzania had won a three-month court order to postpone the burning, but did not apply for a further delay, Kumchedwa said. —AFP

ARCTIC FORUM TO SHINE LIGHT ON CLIMATE, ENERGY, MAINE

CLIMATE CHIEF EXPECTS 80-100 SIGNATURES ON LANDMARK TREATY

PORTLAND: A forum about Arctic diplomacy slated to take place in Maine's largest city will focus on issues like climate change and shipping, and put a spotlight on its host, organizers said. The Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials meeting will take place in Portland from Oct 4-6. Officials from the council's eight member nations, including the United States, and a host of non-governmental organizations will assemble for the midweek event.

The event will also likely focus on the Arctic's indigenous groups and energy issues, said US Ambassador for Oceans and Fisheries David Balton, who will lead the meeting. Balton said the event is the first time the council has held such a meeting on US soil outside Alaska or Washington DC. It's a big moment for Maine, Balton said. It reflects that US is sending a message that it is an Arctic nation whose interests extend outside far outside of Alaska, and that Maine is a big piece of the puzzle, he said. "In the state of Maine, it's a way to demonstrate that our issues in the Arctic could very well affect your state," Balton said.

The State Department selected Portland to host the forum. There isn't a formal agenda, but climate change is sure to be a key focus, Balton said. Leaders of the eight nations will discuss what the countries can do to implement pieces of the Paris Agreement, a global-warming accord adopted by consensus last year, he said. Dana Eidsness, director of the Maine North Atlantic Development Office, said holding the council meeting in Maine illustrates the state's "long history with the Arctic and our contributions in climate science and ocean ecosystem studies" through entities like Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and the University of Maine. The other member nations of the Arctic Council are Canada, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Denmark. Each country appoints a senior arctic official to the council.

80-100 signatures

Meanwhile, the official in charge of global climate negotiations says between 80 and 100 countries are expected to sign the landmark agreement to tackle climate change reached in Paris in December at a ceremony at UN headquarters on April 22. Segolene Royal, French environment minister and newly-appointed president of UN-led climate negotiations, said Friday that more than 30 heads of state and government have already said they will attend signing event. She said invita-



MANILA: Children swim at the sea near houses constructed on the breakwater at Manila Bay. Families living beside the shore are vulnerable to storm surges during a typhoon. Former US vice-president Al Gore, who is visiting the Philippines as part of his crusade against climate change, has warned that storms will hit the Philippines with more strength and frequency due to the rising temperature of the atmosphere, leaving the archipelagic nation as one of the most vulnerable to typhoon-spawned waves and rising water levels. — AFP

tions signed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, French President Francois Hollande, and herself are also being sent again to all world leaders. "I will, of course, work very hard so that we get these 80 to 100," Royal told reporters after meeting Ban. "We might have more which would be fantastic."

Royal said every country has developed a plan to fight climate change and on April 22 they will be explaining what they have done so far. The Paris Agreement must be ratified by at least 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions to enter into force. It sets a collective goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature rise to 1.5

degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

The pact requires all countries to submit plans for climate action and to update them every five years, though such plans are not legally binding. Royal said the signing ceremony is one of a series of events designed to keep up the momentum created in Paris when the agreement was reached. US President Barack Obama was a key figure, along with China's president, in spurring support for the climate deal. Royal sidestepped a question asking whether she was concerned that the United States might pull out of the agreement if one of the Republicans who oppose the accord makes it to the White House. She said support from the Obama administration and U.S. involvement has been very important. — Agencies

VERMONT LEGISLATURE ON TRACK TO BE THE FIRST TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

MONTPELIER: Liberal-leaning Vermont could become the first US state to legalize recreational marijuana use through legislation, rather than by voter initiative, in a move that advocates for the drug say could speed its acceptance across the nation. State representatives this month are set to take up a bill passed by the state Senate in February that would allow adults over 21 to purchase and smoke the drug beginning in 2018. The move follows a year of hearings in the Senate that lawmakers say allowed them to closely consider appropriate limits to place on the drug's use. The current proposal would prohibit users from growing plants at home and ban the sale of edible products containing marijuana extracts.

But lawmakers must act before the end of May, when the current session ends, a deadline that may prove difficult to meet. It is uncertain whether it has enough support in the Democratic-controlled House to pass. The law would impose a 25 percent tax on sales of the drug, which would fund drug law enforcement and drug education programs. "It makes for a much more thoughtful and measured approach," said State Senator Jeanette White, a sponsor of the senate bill. "We got to work out the details, we got to ask the questions first and put the whole infrastructure in place before it happens."

Four states, Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska, as well as the District of Columbia, have legalized marijuana through ballot initia-

tives, and voters in four more states, including neighboring Massachusetts, are to vote on legalization in November. The drug remains illegal under federal law. Advocates contend the push for marijuana legalization across the nation will be boosted if the legislation is passed by the Democratic-controlled legislature of Vermont, the home of US Senator Bernie Sanders, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination. Bills have been submitted in 16 other states, according to advocates, but none have advanced as far.

"It sends an important message that legislatures don't have to be afraid of this, it's not a third rail anymore," said Jeff Laughlin, a 37-year-old software programmer from Barre, who supports the measure. Laughlin is far from alone. A February poll of 895 state residents by Vermont Public Radio found that 55 percent of Vermonters supported legalization, with 32 percent opposed. More telling, a 2015 Rand Corp study commissioned by the state found that one in eight residents already use the drug illegally, with one in three people aged 18 to 25 doing so. The report estimated that users spent between \$125 million and \$225 million on the drug in 2014.

Reality check

The high prevalence of marijuana use in the state has some lawmakers and even law-enforcement officials contending it's time for the rules to catch up with reality. "If it's one in eight, to me that tells me that we need to

change, that society for the most part is accepting it," said Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark. "If 12 or 13 percent of the population is not being open with law enforcement when we're out trying to investigate serious crimes, then that is holding us back from working with our communities."

Supporters acknowledge that the bill will have a harder path to approval in the state's House of Representatives, where many Republicans are wary of legalizing the drug. "Many of our members are opposed to this proposal and I don't know that it can be changed enough for them to change their minds," said Representative Donald Turner, the House Republican leader. "I don't feel there is a good argument for legalizing it at this point."

Governor Peter Shumlin, a Democrat in his final year in office, asked lawmakers to pass the measure during this year's legislative session, which ends in May. Debby Haskins, executive director of opposition group Smart Alternatives for Marijuana-Vermont, noted that Vermont, like many US states, is coping with a surge in addiction to opioid drugs, ranging from prescription painkillers to heroin. She said she believed health officials needed to solve that problem before legalizing a new drug. "The questions that keep coming up for me is, how will this make Vermont healthier and how will this improve the quality of life? I don't think this bill does it," Haskins said. "It's the wrong direction for us to be heading." — Reuters

SINGAPORE TO BAN CIGARETTE DISPLAYS IN STORES

SINGAPORE: Singapore's parliament yesterday voted to ban the display of cigarettes in a bid to further curb the habit in a nation which already has one of the world's lowest smoking rates. From 2017, merchants must keep tobacco out of sight and not display any advertisement of it, according to the

new regulations. Singapore joins countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK in banning cigarette displays in stores. Legislators also voted to ban all forms of cigarette advertising, including online ads. Electronic-cigarettes, as well as vapers, are also not allowed to be displayed,

said Amy Khor, the city-state's Senior Minister of State for Health who moved the tobacco bill in parliament.

"Though we are fortunate that smoking prevalence in Singapore has remained relatively low compared to many other countries, we must not be complacent," she said.

"We also know the industry aggressively markets their products to young people, so as to hook them from an early age. As such, we must step up our efforts to protect the public from the advertising effects of tobacco." She noted that the smoking rate was brought to an all-time low of 12.6 percent in

2004, but that it slowly crept up to 13.3 percent in 2013. Singapore has some of the lowest smoking rates in the world due to a combination of measures, including high nicotine taxes, a ban on print and broadcast advertising and strict laws prohibiting lighting up in most parts of the city. — AFP



CAPE COD BAY: In this file photo, a ballet of three North Atlantic right whale tails break the surface in Cape Cod Bay near Provincetown, Mass. The endangered whales increasingly are frequenting the bay, enticed by the fine dining possibilities of its plankton-rich waters. — AP

EXTREMELY RARE WHALES MAKE BIG SHOWING IN CAPE COD BAY

BOURNE: Cape Cod is seeing a lot more of some singularly welcome tourists: endangered right whales enticed by the fine dining possibilities of its plankton-rich bay. Experts tracking the majestic marine mammals - among the rarest creatures on the planet - say nearly half the estimated global population of 500 or so animals has been spotted in Cape Cod Bay over the past few springs. They're back again in what looks like record numbers, thrilling amateur photographers and scientists still anguishing over their future. "It's rather extraordinary and somewhat mind-blowing," said Charles "Stormy" Mayo, a senior scientist and director of right whale ecology at the federally-funded Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown.

North Atlantic right whales have foraged for centuries in Cape Cod Bay, where their numbers were decimated by whalers who hunted them for their oil and plastic-like baleen bone. But until recently, they were seldom spotted in the bay. For a stretch in the late 1990s, fewer than 30 whales were sighted each year, said Mayo, who's been surveying them and their ecosystem since 1984 by boat and plane. "There has been a huge pulse in numbers in the past few years," said Amy Knowlton, a scientist with the New England Aquarium's Right Whale Research Project. "Right whales are probably scouting for food all the time. Maybe when one of them finds it, they call their friends," she said.

Each whale has a unique marking on its head, and researchers use those to identify and catalog individuals. The Aquarium, which also closely monitors the population, gives specific animals amusing names such as Kleenex, Snotnose and Wart. Right whales

spend most of their time in the western Atlantic, and many are believed to congregate in the Gulf of Maine. They're rarely seen north of the entrance to the Gulf of St Lawrence in Canada's Maritime Provinces. A few venture as far south as coastal Florida and Georgia, mainly females giving birth to calves - something scientists say doesn't happen often enough. Their increasing presence in Cape Cod Bay has caught scientists by surprise. Mayo theorizes that shifting ocean currents - possibly due to global climate change - are pumping more plankton into the bay, even as the whales' traditional feeding grounds off the Maine coast falter. "They're a little like cows in a field. They go away from places that are not good and go to places that are good," he said. Although some right whales arrive in the bay in early December and linger as late as mid-May, their presence generally builds in March and peaks in mid-April, when plankton concentrations are at their highest.

The busy waters hold clear and present dangers: a risk of being struck by commercial ships and recreational boats or becoming entangled in nets. Researchers out spotting whales report their whereabouts to state and federal authorities, who in turn alert nearby vessels. Federal law forbids getting within 500 yards of a right whale and requires ships to slow to 10 knots - roughly 11.5 miles per hour. Whale-watch tours steer clear, focusing instead on humpbacks and other comparatively plentiful species.

"It's always heartening every time we see individuals and know they're still alive," Knowlton said. "It's only through seeing them and their scars that we can really understand what's going on with them." — AP

FRANCE'S PROSECUTOR SEEKS 8 YEARS FOR 'DENTIST OF HORROR'

DUTCHMAN ACCUSED OF MUTILATING PATIENTS

NEVERS: A French prosecutor yesterday requested an eight-year prison sentence for a Dutchman dubbed "the dentist of horror" who is accused of causing severe injuries to the mouths of dozens of patients. Jacobus van Nierop, 51, is on trial for ripping out healthy teeth and leaving patients with injuries including broken jaws, recurrent abscesses and septicaemia in the small central town of Chateau-Chinon.

In this case, "we see nothing but greed, indifference to others, even pleasure at causing pain," said prosecutor Lucile Jaillon-Bru. She told the trial in Nevers that Van Nierop had carried out "useless and painful procedures" on about 100 patients with the aim of having them reimbursed by medical insurance schemes. Jaillon-Bru described him as "a man who doesn't take responsibility for anything". Van Nierop, who called himself Mark, was hired by a head-hunter and was initially welcomed by locals into an area which was lacking in medical services. Giving evidence in court, a neighbor recalled the arrival of a smiley, larger-than-life character, with a "big 4x4, a big dog, a big cigar".

But by 2011, the authorities were starting to question some of his accounting practices, and patients were starting to compare notes on his dentistry. The court heard nightmarish tales, including one from Sylviane Boulesteix, 65, who saw Van Nierop in March 2012 to have braces fitted. "He gave me seven or eight injections, and pulled out eight teeth in one go. I was gushing blood for three days," she said. Around 120 former



AMSTERDAM: This court sketch shows Mark van Nierop, a Dutch dentist suspected of mutilating patients, in a court in Amsterdam. — AFP

patients joined a victims' group set up in early 2013. The trial has heard conflicting expert opinion about Van Nierop's psychological state. One psychiatrist found he had "narcissistic tendencies" and was therefore incapable of making a moral judgment of his own actions. But another found he was "perfectly aware of what he was doing".

Although he is not required to offer a plea under French law, Van Nierop has sought to

deflect responsibility, saying he suffers from "psychological problems" including gender identity issues and suicidal tendencies. Van Nierop himself said: "I was not in the right state to put myself in my patients' position." He was arrested in June 2013, but fled France while awaiting trial. He was later tracked down to a small town in Canada, arrested and extradited first to the Netherlands and then to France. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم



Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM





Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT HOLD THEIR ANNUAL ASSOCIATES PARTY

The JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait and the prestigious Arraya Ballroom held their annual associates gathering last month at the elegant "Al-Jahra Ballroom" at the JW Marriott Kuwait. The special event was organized to bring the associates together to celebrate their individual and company's outstanding achievements throughout 2015.

The celebration was kicked off by a speech given by the Cluster General Manager of

Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, George Aoun, in which he thanked all the associates for the hard work, dedication and loyalty to Marriott Hotels. In addition, he also acknowledged the efforts that everyone has contributed to ensure that Kuwait Marriott Hotels remain the preferred choice for guests within and outside of Kuwait.

In an effort to commend the employees for their years of hard work and commitment, Aoun, handed out a wide range of awards,

medals and certificates such as Associate of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, Manager of the Year and Department of the Year. The Sales and Marketing department was announced the best department of 2015.

Moreover, a grand raffle draw was conducted and hundreds of exciting and valuable prizes were distributed to the associates, while a world-class buffet was served by the Marriott's team of expert chefs.

Through the amazing efforts of the

Associate Relations Committee (ARC) and the management team, the event was a huge success and was met with acclaim from all.

"The annual associate celebrations are held to recognize the associates' continuous efforts and uphold the company's enduring principle that 'taking care of its associates' first, will undoubtedly reflect in their world-class hospitality towards guests". Said George Aoun, Cluster General Manager of Marriott Hotels in Kuwait.

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE EMBASSY OF INDIA IN KUWAIT

The Government of India has decided to extend the date for submission of the application for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder by the erstwhile Persons of Indian Origin cardholders till 30 June 2016.



KSNA KUWAIT HOLDS DRAMA FEST 'KELI 2016'

Kerala Sangeetha Naataka Akademi, Kuwait chapter organized a 2-day drama competition as part of the Akademi's amateur drama competition for the Gulf expats. The fest, titled Keli 2016, was staged at Indian Community School (Senior), Salmiya on February 25 and 26 in front of a huge audience of drama lovers. The festival was inaugurated by Shubashis Goldar, Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of India to Kuwait and the meeting was presided by KSNA Kuwait Chapter chairman Kalasree K P Balakrishnan. KSNA Kuwait chapter Coordinator Dilip Naderi delivered welcome speech and program convener Suresh KP gave vote of thanks. Film-serial actor Yavanika Gopalakrishnan, judges of the drama

fest P Balachandran, Chandradasan, former chairman KSNA Kuwait Chapter and Hon Secretary of ICSK Vijay Karayil gave felicitation speeches.

KSNA Kuwait chapter honored Kalasree awardee Ashraf Kalathode by giving a memento by Kalasree Babu Chakkola. The presence of famous film director Adoor Gopalakrishnan also gave an added glitter to the program.

As a token of appreciation KSNA mementos were presented to Goldar, P Balachandran, Chandrasan (KSNA Juries), Yavanika Gopalakrishnan (Guest of Honor) by K P Balakrishnan, Chessil Ramapuram, Iqbal Kuttamangalam and Abu Baker (KSNA Adhoc Committee members) respectively. The souvenir

of Keli 2016 was released by the chief guest and received by Jayan TV (Souvenir Convenor)

Among the 5 plays contested in two days, first day, Kuwait Natakappadam presented 'Laaj Een', written and directed by Sunil Cherian. The play reflected the global migrant crisis through the sufferings of an expat family in Kuwait. The second play was 'Prathiroopangal' presented by Sruthi Communication. The play, written by Chandra Mohan Kannur and directed by IV Sunesh, tells the helplessness of a society that has lost the ability to react.

There were three plays staged on the second day. 'Kaayantharanam' by Future Eye Theater was written and

directed by KK Shemeijkumar. The play is an adaptation of the celebrated story Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka and unexpected change in the material status of an individual leading to total isolation from the society and life. 'Chutala', another play presented by Kazhcha Kuwait, written by Eldose Matamana and directed by Wilson Chirayath, brings to light the story of a society that is mixed with manipulators and at the same time the importance of writers who can cure the evils of the society. The last play 'Murikku' also tells the story of a writer who stands as a leading light in the society that is sickened by fascism. The play written by Dilip Naderi and directed by Suresh Tholambra, was presented by Nirbhaya Theaters, Kuwait.



ADIEU TO CLASS VI STUDENTS FROM ICSK JUNIOR

In a special assembly on Thursday March 3, 2016, class V students of the Indian Community School Kuwait Junior accorded a grand farewell to the outgoing students of class 6, 2015-16 batch that will be relocating to ICSK Amman School for Intermediate and Secondary studies. A group

song, motivating and thanksgiving speeches and a dance performance were the highlights of the assembly. Sensational group song 'Sayonara Sayonara.....' saw the students getting misty eyes. The Vice-President of the School Senate Jesslyn, on behalf of her fellow students, extended a sensa-

tional thanksgiving to students of class VI for their precious contribution in school in the bygone years and further wished each of them a bright future. The President of the School Senate Master Jeremiah Mathew responded effectively to the farewell address with enormous emotions and

gratitude. This was followed by handing over the flame of knowledge by the President to the Vice-President of the school Senate. An official solemn 'Ashirwaad' ceremony ensued.

Principal in-charge Sherly Dennis and Vice-Principal Murthy, in their addresses, motivated stu-

dents to prepare themselves for life outside school and retain the rich values infused in them in their formative years. To make a difference in the year 2016, every child of class VI was called on stage and given a handmade memoir with special personalized message.



JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA CELEBRATES HACCP SUCCESS

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa has been awarded the stringent food safety system HACCP. The achievement recognizes the hotel's compliance with the highest international industry standards in food safety, quality and nutrition. Executive Chef and Program Leader Christopher Curtis, said: "I wish to congratulate the team for their efforts in undertaking this important project. We are proud of our colleagues at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and

Spa in achieving this hard-earned certification and for making HACCP a central part of our food production." Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a food safety management system that controls the safe production of food. The procedure comprises various parts from the arrival of food in the kitchen to the time it is served to guests. Many departments worked together to ensure all requirements were completed successfully.



BUMPER-TO-BUMPER HONORS EMPLOYEES IN 2016 ANNUAL APPRECIATION EVENT

Bumper-to-Bumper (BTB), the brand name for quick service for all car makes in Kuwait, held its Annual Appreciation Event on March 3rd, 2016, at the Safir International Hotel, bringing together its employees and the company's key top management members in a festively social environment. The aim of the gathering was to award the employees for their exceptional performance in 2015 and to motivate their morale and level of commitment for the rest of 2016.

More than 300 employees attended the event, and about 40 individuals had been awarded for their distinction and contribution for the amazing success the company had last year. Youssef Behbehani, Senior General Manager of the Automotive Support Businesses, and Sleiman Hassan, Bumper-to-Bumper General Manager, conducted the ceremony by awarding certificates of appreciation to the honored employees, which was followed by a thankful speech by Hassan, who acknowledged the employees' outstanding performance across all channels and levels and how they have had remarkably set new standards in achieving excellence. The event closed on high notes as the band provided entertainment for the rest of the evening, thereby assuring that everyone had an enjoyable, memorable time.

Founded in 1980, BTB started as quick-service shops that specialized in replacing and repairing exhaust systems. Five years later, in 1985, the brand BTB was created as a unique

concept in the Kuwaiti market. Today, BTB's clear mission is to exceed expectations by offering the best in car maintenance and spare-parts services, for both individual customers and corporate owners. But what makes BTB truly stand out is the highly trained crew of technicians and professionals, who collectively provide high quality of service through state-of-the-art equipment and auto maintenance knowledge at affordable prices.

Total convenience

As one of the strongest local brands in the country, with more than 150,000 vehicles serviced each year, in one of 150 service platforms in 8 service centers throughout the country, Bumper to Bumper provides customers with total convenience and peace of mind, dealing with all makes and models of cars. At Bumper to Bumper, the customer comes first and each center is designed with the customer's comfort in mind, including free wireless access, a spacious lounge area, a café, a playroom and much more.

Indeed, choosing Bumper-to-Bumper service centers means turning over your car to a crew of specialized technicians that operates the most advanced equipment and analyzing tools to produce a highly detailed report and an accurate estimate of total cost of repair. To top it off, Bumper-to-Bumper service centers offer genuine spare parts for all car models, as well as warranties for parts and labor. BTB service centers also offer easy finance solutions such as installments and other payment



plans. BTB service centers are strategically located throughout Kuwait including Sharq, Fahaheel, Shuwaikh and Jahra, and are also

integrated in Alfa Petrol Stations in Shaab, Agaila, Shuwaikh and South Surra. For more inquiries about services, cam-

paigns and locations, customers may contact Bumper to Bumper at 24969821 / 885 or visit their website www.bumpertobumper.me

BRITISH AMBASSADOR GOES THE EXTRA MILE FOR CHARITY

Ambassador Matthew Lodge, supported by staff from the British Embassy, kick-started the Sport Relief Mile on Saturday morning with over 100 people taking part in a sponsored walk to raise money for Sport Relief. Sport Relief harnesses the power and passion of sport to change lives for the better. This fun event saw participants of all ages and abilities, some in fancy dress wearing tutus, one running backwards, one in high heels and a team of runners carrying a huge paddle board! Sport Relief was launched in 2002 by Comic Relief UK, a charity which sup-

ports poor and disadvantaged people in the UK and across the world's poorest countries. Over the past decade, a staggering £1 billion has been raised in the UK through Sport Relief and a lot of lives have been transformed as a result. Sport Relief has teamed up with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to organize Sport Relief Miles all around the world, to raise money to help vulnerable people living incredibly tough lives. The Sport Relief Mile was the first of several fund raising events organized by the British Embassy in Kuwait taking place during the month of March.



BSK STUDENTS TAKE PART IN 'LET'S STAY HEALTHY TODAY' PROGRAM AT DASMAN DIABETES INSTITUTE

Sixth Form students from the British School of Kuwait visited the Dasman Diabetes Institute to take part in the "Let's Stay Healthy Today, Kuwait" program. This program is sponsored by the US - Middle East Partnership Initiative and is aimed at raising the awareness of diabetes in Kuwait through educating its younger population. As many as one in four of the population may suffer from type 2 diabetes and the number seems to be growing, with those affected being diagnosed at a younger age than before. The students attended a series of workshops aimed at increasing their knowledge about this growing public health problem. The workshops dealt with topics as the science of diabetes, exercise physiology, nutrition and metabolism and the more advanced workshop on how scientific research in genomics, proteomics and other "omics" fields are helping to understand this disease. The visit concluded with question and answer session with a panel of experts from various fields in the institute. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit and will put what they learned into use as they go on to take part in designing a civic project that could be put into use in their schools, communities or families, to promote awareness of the importance of both diabetes and a healthier culture here in Kuwait.



ABK SPONSORS TASTE OF Q8 FOOD FESTIVAL FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced that it will be sponsoring "Taste of Q8", for the second consecutive year. The event will be held at the Marina Crescent on 17, 18 and 19 March, 2016.

The event celebrates Kuwait's great culinary diversity and offers visitors the opportunity to experience many different cuisines from local restaurants, bakers and gourmet grocers, as well as seeing live cooking demonstrations presented by renowned celebrity chefs such as Chef Sulaiman Al-Qassar, Chef Reza Mohammad, Chef Ian Kittichai and many more. The event also features live enter-

tainment, activities for kids and VIP lounges. ABK will be giving away five ABK Emirates Visa Gold Prepaid Travel cards worth KD 100 each, in a draw which will be held during the event. The Bank is keen to take part and encourage local initiatives that bring the Kuwaiti community together and present them with new experiences while also supporting local chefs. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com or contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or by contacting a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



Adam Sandler



Happy Gilmore

He doesn't play golf...
He destroys it.

01:20	Once Upon a Time in America	14:30	Disco	15:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:00	1950s Rock & Roll	14:40	News Update	14:40	Almost Got Away With It
03:10	1950s Rock & Roll	14:50	Disco	14:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:20	1950s Rock & Roll	15:00	News Update	15:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:30	1950s Rock & Roll	15:10	Disco	15:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:40	1950s Rock & Roll	15:20	News Update	15:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:50	1950s Rock & Roll	15:30	Disco	15:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:00	1950s Rock & Roll	15:40	News Update	15:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:10	1950s Rock & Roll	15:50	Disco	15:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:20	1950s Rock & Roll	16:00	News Update	16:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:30	1950s Rock & Roll	16:10	Disco	16:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:40	1950s Rock & Roll	16:20	News Update	16:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:50	1950s Rock & Roll	16:30	Disco	16:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:00	1950s Rock & Roll	16:40	News Update	16:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:10	1950s Rock & Roll	16:50	Disco	16:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:20	1950s Rock & Roll	17:00	News Update	17:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:30	1950s Rock & Roll	17:10	Disco	17:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:40	1950s Rock & Roll	17:20	News Update	17:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:50	1950s Rock & Roll	17:30	Disco	17:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:00	1950s Rock & Roll	17:40	News Update	17:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:10	1950s Rock & Roll	17:50	Disco	17:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:20	1950s Rock & Roll	18:00	News Update	18:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:30	1950s Rock & Roll	18:10	Disco	18:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:40	1950s Rock & Roll	18:20	News Update	18:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:50	1950s Rock & Roll	18:30	Disco	18:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:00	1950s Rock & Roll	18:40	News Update	18:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:10	1950s Rock & Roll	18:50	Disco	18:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:20	1950s Rock & Roll	19:00	News Update	19:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:30	1950s Rock & Roll	19:10	Disco	19:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:40	1950s Rock & Roll	19:20	News Update	19:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:50	1950s Rock & Roll	19:30	Disco	19:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:00	1950s Rock & Roll	19:40	News Update	19:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:10	1950s Rock & Roll	19:50	Disco	19:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:20	1950s Rock & Roll	20:00	News Update	20:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:30	1950s Rock & Roll	20:10	Disco	20:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:40	1950s Rock & Roll	20:20	News Update	20:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:50	1950s Rock & Roll	20:30	Disco	20:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:00	1950s Rock & Roll	20:40	News Update	20:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:10	1950s Rock & Roll	20:50	Disco	20:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:20	1950s Rock & Roll	21:00	News Update	21:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:30	1950s Rock & Roll	21:10	Disco	21:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:40	1950s Rock & Roll	21:20	News Update	21:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:50	1950s Rock & Roll	21:30	Disco	21:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
10:00	1950s Rock & Roll	21:40	News Update	21:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
10:10	1950s Rock & Roll	21:50	Disco	21:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
10:20	1950s Rock & Roll	22:00	News Update	22:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
10:30	1950s Rock & Roll	22:10	Disco	22:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
10:40	1950s Rock & Roll	22:20	News Update	22:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
10:50	1950s Rock & Roll	22:30	Disco	22:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
11:00	1950s Rock & Roll	22:40	News Update	22:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
11:10	1950s Rock & Roll	22:50	Disco	22:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
11:20	1950s Rock & Roll	23:00	News Update	23:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
11:30	1950s Rock & Roll	23:10	Disco	23:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
11:40	1950s Rock & Roll	23:20	News Update	23:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
11:50	1950s Rock & Roll	23:30	Disco	23:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
12:00	1950s Rock & Roll	23:40	News Update	23:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
12:10	1950s Rock & Roll	23:50	Disco	23:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
12:20	1950s Rock & Roll	00:00	News Update	00:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
12:30	1950s Rock & Roll	00:10	Disco	00:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
12:40	1950s Rock & Roll	00:20	News Update	00:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
12:50	1950s Rock & Roll	00:30	Disco	00:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
13:00	1950s Rock & Roll	00:40	News Update	00:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
13:10	1950s Rock & Roll	00:50	Disco	00:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
13:20	1950s Rock & Roll	01:00	News Update	01:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
13:30	1950s Rock & Roll	01:10	Disco	01:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
13:40	1950s Rock & Roll	01:20	News Update	01:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
13:50	1950s Rock & Roll	01:30	Disco	01:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
14:00	1950s Rock & Roll	01:40	News Update	01:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
14:10	1950s Rock & Roll	01:50	Disco	01:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
14:20	1950s Rock & Roll	02:00	News Update	02:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
14:30	1950s Rock & Roll	02:10	Disco	02:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
14:40	1950s Rock & Roll	02:20	News Update	02:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
14:50	1950s Rock & Roll	02:30	Disco	02:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
15:00	1950s Rock & Roll	02:40	News Update	02:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
15:10	1950s Rock & Roll	02:50	Disco	02:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
15:20	1950s Rock & Roll	03:00	News Update	03:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
15:30	1950s Rock & Roll	03:10	Disco	03:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
15:40	1950s Rock & Roll	03:20	News Update	03:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
15:50	1950s Rock & Roll	03:30	Disco	03:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
16:00	1950s Rock & Roll	03:40	News Update	03:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
16:10	1950s Rock & Roll	03:50	Disco	03:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
16:20	1950s Rock & Roll	04:00	News Update	04:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
16:30	1950s Rock & Roll	04:10	Disco	04:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
16:40	1950s Rock & Roll	04:20	News Update	04:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
16:50	1950s Rock & Roll	04:30	Disco	04:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
17:00	1950s Rock & Roll	04:40	News Update	04:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
17:10	1950s Rock & Roll	04:50	Disco	04:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
17:20	1950s Rock & Roll	05:00	News Update	05:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
17:30	1950s Rock & Roll	05:10	Disco	05:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
17:40	1950s Rock & Roll	05:20	News Update	05:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
17:50	1950s Rock & Roll	05:30	Disco	05:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
18:00	1950s Rock & Roll	05:40	News Update	05:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
18:10	1950s Rock & Roll	05:50	Disco	05:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
18:20	1950s Rock & Roll	06:00	News Update	06:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
18:30	1950s Rock & Roll	06:10	Disco	06:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
18:40	1950s Rock & Roll	06:20	News Update	06:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
18:50	1950s Rock & Roll	06:30	Disco	06:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
19:00	1950s Rock & Roll	06:40	News Update	06:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
19:10	1950s Rock & Roll	06:50	Disco	06:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
19:20	1950s Rock & Roll	07:00	News Update	07:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
19:30	1950s Rock & Roll	07:10	Disco	07:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
19:40	1950s Rock & Roll	07:20	News Update	07:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
19:50	1950s Rock & Roll	07:30	Disco	07:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
20:00	1950s Rock & Roll	07:40	News Update	07:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
20:10	1950s Rock & Roll	07:50	Disco	07:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
20:20	1950s Rock & Roll	08:00	News Update	08:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
20:30	1950s Rock & Roll	08:10	Disco	08:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
20:40	1950s Rock & Roll	08:20	News Update	08:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
20:50	1950s Rock & Roll	08:30	Disco	08:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
21:00	1950s Rock & Roll	08:40	News Update	08:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
21:10	1950s Rock & Roll	08:50	Disco	08:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
21:20	1950s Rock & Roll	09:00	News Update	09:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
21:30	1950s Rock & Roll	09:10	Disco	09:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
21:40	1950s Rock & Roll	09:20	News Update	09:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
21:50	1950s Rock & Roll	09:30	Disco	09:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
22:00	1950s Rock & Roll	09:40	News Update	09:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
22:10	1950s Rock & Roll	09:50	Disco	09:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
22:20	1950s Rock & Roll	10:00	News Update	10:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
22:30	1950s Rock & Roll	10:10	Disco	10:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
22:40	1950s Rock & Roll	10:20	News Update	10:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
22:50	1950s Rock & Roll	10:30	Disco	10:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
23:00	1950s Rock & Roll	10:40	News Update	10:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
23:10	1950s Rock & Roll	10:50	Disco	10:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
23:20	1950s Rock & Roll	11:00	News Update	11:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
23:30	1950s Rock & Roll	11:10	Disco	11:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
23:40	1950s Rock & Roll	11:20	News Update	11:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
23:50	1950s Rock & Roll	11:30	Disco	11:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
00:00	1950s Rock & Roll	11:40	News Update	11:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
00:10	1950s Rock & Roll	11:50	Disco	11:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
00:20	1950s Rock & Roll	12:00	News Update	12:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
00:30	1950s Rock & Roll	12:10	Disco	12:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
00:40	1950s Rock & Roll	12:20	News Update	12:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
00:50	1950s Rock & Roll	12:30	Disco	12:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
01:00	1950s Rock & Roll	12:40	News Update	12:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
01:10	1950s Rock & Roll	12:50	Disco	12:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
01:20	1950s Rock & Roll	13:00	News Update	13:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
01:30	1950s Rock & Roll	13:10	Disco	13:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
01:40	1950s Rock & Roll	13:20	News Update	13:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
01:50	1950s Rock & Roll	13:30	Disco	13:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
02:00	1950s Rock & Roll	13:40	News Update	13:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
02:10	1950s Rock & Roll	13:50	Disco	13:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
02:20	1950s Rock & Roll	14:00	News Update	14:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
02:30	1950s Rock & Roll	14:10	Disco	14:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
02:40	1950s Rock & Roll	14:20	News Update	14:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
02:50	1950s Rock & Roll	14:30	Disco	14:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:00	1950s Rock & Roll	14:40	News Update	14:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:10	1950s Rock & Roll	14:50	Disco	14:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:20	1950s Rock & Roll	15:00	News Update	15:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:30	1950s Rock & Roll	15:10	Disco	15:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:40	1950s Rock & Roll	15:20	News Update	15:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
03:50	1950s Rock & Roll	15:30	Disco	15:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:00	1950s Rock & Roll	15:40	News Update	15:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:10	1950s Rock & Roll	15:50	Disco	15:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:20	1950s Rock & Roll	16:00	News Update	16:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:30	1950s Rock & Roll	16:10	Disco	16:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:40	1950s Rock & Roll	16:20	News Update	16:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
04:50	1950s Rock & Roll	16:30	Disco	16:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:00	1950s Rock & Roll	16:40	News Update	16:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:10	1950s Rock & Roll	16:50	Disco	16:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:20	1950s Rock & Roll	17:00	News Update	17:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:30	1950s Rock & Roll	17:10	Disco	17:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:40	1950s Rock & Roll	17:20	News Update	17:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
05:50	1950s Rock & Roll	17:30	Disco	17:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:00	1950s Rock & Roll	17:40	News Update	17:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:10	1950s Rock & Roll	17:50	Disco	17:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:20	1950s Rock & Roll	18:00	News Update	18:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:30	1950s Rock & Roll	18:10	Disco	18:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:40	1950s Rock & Roll	18:20	News Update	18:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
06:50	1950s Rock & Roll	18:30	Disco	18:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:00	1950s Rock & Roll	18:40	News Update	18:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:10	1950s Rock & Roll	18:50	Disco	18:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:20	1950s Rock & Roll	19:00	News Update	19:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:30	1950s Rock & Roll	19:10	Disco	19:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:40	1950s Rock & Roll	19:20	News Update	19:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
07:50	1950s Rock & Roll	19:30	Disco	19:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:00	1950s Rock & Roll	19:40	News Update	19:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:10	1950s Rock & Roll	19:50	Disco	19:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:20	1950s Rock & Roll	20:00	News Update	20:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:30	1950s Rock & Roll	20:10	Disco	20:10	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:40	1950s Rock & Roll	20:20	News Update	20:20	1 Almost Got Away With It
08:50	1950s Rock & Roll	20:30	Disco	20:30	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:00	1950s Rock & Roll	20:40	News Update	20:40	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:10	1950s Rock & Roll	20:50	Disco	20:50	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:20	1950s Rock & Roll	21:00	News Update	21:00	1 Almost Got Away With It
09:30	1950s Rock & Roll	21:10	Disco	21:10	1 Almost Got

Ad

april

HAPPY GILMO

12:00 Mescalito Takes Off
Ludwig & Cat Noir
12:45 Top Holes
13:00 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:25 Austin & Ally
13:40 Descendants: Wicked World
14:00 Austin & Ally
14:15 Dog With A Blog
14:40 Mescalito Takes Off
Ludwig & Cat Noir
15:10 Top Holes
17:00 The Nae Nae
17:25 Austin & Ally
17:50 Dog With A Blog
18:05 Mescalito Takes Off
Ludwig & Cat Noir
18:10 Top Holes
20:20 The Nae Nae
20:45 Dog With A Blog
21:10 Dog With A Blog
21:30 HOS
20:20 Biny And The Ghost
22:25 Sisters Secret Of A
Terapage Witch
22:50 Sisters Secret Of A
Terapage Witch
23:10 The Nae Nae

Disney

00:05 Harry Huggenmonster
00:20 Cat Noir
00:30 Ludwig
01:05 AtRisk
01:30 Harry Huggenmonster
01:45 Cat Noir
01:55 Ludwig
02:15 Ludwig
02:30 Cat Noir
02:45 Harry Huggenmonster
03:00 AtRisk
03:20 Ludwig
03:30 Cat Noir
03:45 AtRisk
04:10 Harry Huggenmonster
04:25 Cat Noir
04:45 Ludwig
05:00 AtRisk
05:25 Harry Huggenmonster
05:40 Cat Noir
05:50 Ludwig
06:10 AtRisk
06:30 Harry Huggenmonster
06:50 Cat Noir
07:00 Ludwig
07:15 Cat Noir
07:30 Ludwig
07:45 Cat Noir
08:00 Ludwig
08:15 Cat Noir
08:30 Ludwig
08:45 Cat Noir
09:00 Ludwig
09:15 Cat Noir
09:30 Cat Noir
09:45 Ludwig
09:55 Cat Noir
10:00 Ludwig
10:15 Cat Noir
10:30 Ludwig
10:45 Cat Noir
11:00 Ludwig
11:15 Cat Noir
11:30 Ludwig
11:45 Cat Noir
12:00 Ludwig
12:15 Cat Noir
12:30 Ludwig
12:45 Cat Noir
13:00 Ludwig
13:15 Cat Noir
13:30 Ludwig
13:45 Cat Noir
14:00 Ludwig
14:15 Cat Noir
14:30 Ludwig
14:45 Cat Noir
15:00 Ludwig
15:15 Cat Noir
15:30 Ludwig
15:45 Cat Noir
16:00 Ludwig
16:15 Cat Noir
16:30 Ludwig
16:45 Cat Noir
17:00 Ludwig
17:15 Cat Noir
17:30 Ludwig
17:45 Cat Noir
18:00 Ludwig
18:15 Cat Noir
18:30 Ludwig
18:45 Cat Noir
19:00 Ludwig
19:15 Cat Noir
19:30 Ludwig
19:45 Cat Noir
20:00 Ludwig
20:15 Cat Noir
20:30 Ludwig
20:45 Cat Noir
21:00 Ludwig
21:15 Cat Noir
21:30 Ludwig
21:45 Cat Noir
22:00 Ludwig
22:15 Cat Noir
22:30 Ludwig
22:45 Cat Noir
23:00 Ludwig
23:15 Cat Noir
23:30 Ludwig
23:45 Cat Noir
24:00 Ludwig
24:15 Cat Noir
24:30 Ludwig
24:45 Cat Noir
25:00 Ludwig
25:15 Cat Noir
25:30 Ludwig
25:45 Cat Noir
26:00 Ludwig
26:15 Cat Noir
26:30 Ludwig
26:45 Cat Noir
27:00 Ludwig
27:15 Cat Noir
27:30 Ludwig
27:45 Cat Noir
28:00 Ludwig
28:15 Cat Noir
28:30 Ludwig
28:45 Cat Noir
29:00 Ludwig
29:15 Cat Noir
29:30 Ludwig
29:45 Cat Noir
30:00 Ludwig
30:15 Cat Noir
30:30 Ludwig
30:45 Cat Noir
31:00 Ludwig
31:15 Cat Noir
31:30 Ludwig
31:45 Cat Noir
32:00 Ludwig
32:15 Cat Noir
32:30 Ludwig
32:45 Cat Noir
33:00 Ludwig
33:15 Cat Noir
33:30 Ludwig
33:45 Cat Noir
34:00 Ludwig
34:15 Cat Noir
34:30 Ludwig
34:45 Cat Noir
35:00 Ludwig
35:15 Cat Noir
35:30 Ludwig
35:45 Cat Noir
36:00 Ludwig
36:15 Cat Noir
36:30 Ludwig
36:45 Cat Noir
37:00 Ludwig
37:15 Cat Noir
37:30 Ludwig
37:45 Cat Noir
38:00 Ludwig
38:15 Cat Noir
38:30 Ludwig
38:45 Cat Noir
39:00 Ludwig
39:15 Cat Noir
39:30 Ludwig
39:45 Cat Noir
40:00 Ludwig
40:15 Cat Noir
40:30 Ludwig
40:45 Cat Noir
41:00 Ludwig
41:15 Cat Noir
41:30 Ludwig
41:45 Cat Noir
42:00 Ludwig
42:15 Cat Noir
42:30 Ludwig
42:45 Cat Noir
43:00 Ludwig
43:15 Cat Noir
43:30 Ludwig
43:45 Cat Noir
44:00 Ludwig
44:15 Cat Noir
44:30 Ludwig
44:45 Cat Noir
45:00 Ludwig
45:15 Cat Noir
45:30 Ludwig
45:45 Cat Noir
46:00 Ludwig
46:15 Cat Noir
46:30 Ludwig
46:45 Cat Noir
47:00 Ludwig
47:15 Cat Noir
47:30 Ludwig
47:45 Cat Noir
48:00 Ludwig
48:15 Cat Noir
48:30 Ludwig
48:45 Cat Noir
49:00 Ludwig
49:15 Cat Noir
49:30 Ludwig
49:45 Cat Noir
50:00 Ludwig
50:15 Cat Noir
50:30 Ludwig
50:45 Cat Noir
51:00 Ludwig
51:15 Cat Noir
51:30 Ludwig
51:45 Cat Noir
52:00 Ludwig
52:15 Cat Noir
52:30 Ludwig
52:45 Cat Noir
53:00 Ludwig
53:15 Cat Noir
53:30 Ludwig
53:45 Cat Noir
54:00 Ludwig
54:15 Cat Noir
54:30 Ludwig
54:45 Cat Noir
55:00 Ludwig
55:15 Cat Noir
55:30 Ludwig
55:45 Cat Noir
56:00 Ludwig
56:15 Cat Noir
56:30 Ludwig
56:45 Cat Noir
57:00 Ludwig
57:15 Cat Noir
57:30 Ludwig
57:45 Cat Noir
58:00 Ludwig
58:15 Cat Noir
58:30 Ludwig
58:45 Cat Noir
59:00 Ludwig
59:15 Cat Noir
59:30 Ludwig
59:45 Cat Noir
60:00 Ludwig
60:15 Cat Noir
60:30 Ludwig
60:45 Cat Noir
61:00 Ludwig
61:15 Cat Noir
61:30 Ludwig
61:45 Cat Noir
62:00 Ludwig
62:15 Cat Noir
62:30 Ludwig
62:45 Cat Noir
63:00 Ludwig
63:15 Cat Noir
63:30 Ludwig
63:45 Cat Noir
64:00 Ludwig
64:15 Cat Noir
64:30 Ludwig
64:45 Cat Noir
65:00 Ludwig
65:15 Cat Noir
65:30 Ludwig
65:45 Cat Noir
66:00 Ludwig
66:15 Cat Noir
66:30 Ludwig
66:45 Cat Noir
67:00 Ludwig
67:15 Cat Noir
67:30 Ludwig
67:45 Cat Noir
68:00 Ludwig
68:15 Cat Noir
68:30 Ludwig
68:45 Cat Noir
69:00 Ludwig
69:15 Cat Noir
69:30 Ludwig
69:45 Cat Noir
70:00 Ludwig
70:15 Cat Noir
70:30 Ludwig
70:45 Cat Noir
71:00 Ludwig
71:15 Cat Noir
71:30 Ludwig
71:45 Cat Noir
72:00 Ludwig
72:15 Cat Noir
72:30 Ludwig
72:45 Cat Noir
73:00 Ludwig
73:15 Cat Noir
73:30 Ludwig
73:45 Cat Noir
74:00 Ludwig
74:15 Cat Noir
74:30 Ludwig
74:45 Cat Noir
75:00 Ludwig
75:15 Cat Noir
75:30 Ludwig
75:45 Cat Noir
76:00 Ludwig
76:15 Cat Noir
76:30 Ludwig
76:45 Cat Noir
77:00 Ludwig
77:15 Cat Noir
77:30 Ludwig
77:45 Cat Noir
78:00 Ludwig
78:15 Cat Noir
78:30 Ludwig
78:45 Cat Noir
79:00 Ludwig
79:15 Cat Noir
79:30 Ludwig
79:45 Cat Noir
80:00 Ludwig
80:15 Cat Noir
80:30 Ludwig
80:45 Cat Noir
81:00 Ludwig
81:15 Cat Noir
81:30 Ludwig
81:45 Cat Noir
82:00 Ludwig
82:15 Cat Noir
82:30 Ludwig
82:45 Cat Noir
83:00 Ludwig
83:15 Cat Noir
83:30 Ludwig
83:45 Cat Noir
84:00 Ludwig
84:15 Cat Noir
84:30 Ludwig
84:45 Cat Noir
85:00 Ludwig
85:15 Cat Noir
85:30 Ludwig
85:45 Cat Noir
86:00 Ludwig
86:15 Cat Noir
86:30 Ludwig
86:45 Cat Noir
87:00 Ludwig
87:15 Cat Noir
87:30 Ludwig
87:45 Cat Noir
88:00 Ludwig
88:15 Cat Noir
88:30 Ludwig
88:45 Cat Noir
89:00 Ludwig
89:15 Cat Noir
89:30 Ludwig
89:45 Cat Noir
90:00 Ludwig
90:15 Cat Noir
90:30 Ludwig
90:45 Cat Noir
91:00 Ludwig
91:15 Cat Noir
91:30 Ludwig
91:45 Cat Noir
92:00 Ludwig
92:15 Cat Noir
92:30 Ludwig
92:45 Cat Noir
93:00 Ludwig
93:15 Cat Noir
93:30 Ludwig
93:45 Cat Noir
94:00 Ludwig
94:15 Cat Noir
94:30 Ludwig
94:45 Cat Noir
95:00 Ludwig
95:15 Cat Noir
95:30 Ludwig
95:45 Cat Noir
96:00 Ludwig
96:15 Cat Noir
96:30 Ludwig
96:45 Cat Noir
97:00 Ludwig
97:15 Cat Noir
97:30 Ludwig
97:45 Cat Noir
98:00 Ludwig
98:15 Cat Noir
98:30 Ludwig
98:45 Cat Noir
99:00 Ludwig
99:15 Cat Noir
99:30 Ludwig
99:45 Cat Noir
100:00 Ludwig
100:15 Cat Noir
100:30 Ludwig
100:45 Cat Noir
101:00 Ludwig
101:15 Cat Noir
101:30 Ludwig
101:45 Cat Noir
102:00 Ludwig
102:15 Cat Noir
102:30 Ludwig
102:45 Cat Noir
103:00 Ludwig
103:15 Cat Noir
103:30 Ludwig
103:45 Cat Noir
104:00 Ludwig
104:15 Cat Noir
104:30 Ludwig
104:45 Cat Noir
105:00 Ludwig
105:15 Cat Noir
105:30 Ludwig
105:45 Cat Noir
106:00 Ludwig
106:15 Cat Noir
106:30 Ludwig
106:45 Cat Noir
107:00 Ludwig
107:15 Cat Noir
107:30 Ludwig
107:45 Cat Noir
108:00 Ludwig
108:15 Cat Noir
108:30 Ludwig
108:45 Cat Noir
109:

m Sandle

Film

It doesn't play golf...
He destroys it.

HERE ON OSN MOVIES HD



OSN KIDS

00:00 **Programmes Start At**

07:00 **Star Wars The Forces Of Evil**

07:25 **K. Undercover**

08:00 **Space Shimas**

08:15 **Animaparc**

08:40 **Lab Rats**

09:00 **Kitty Bunners**

09:25 **Warner Over Yonder**

09:50 **Rocket Monkeys**

10:25 **Ultimate Spider Man**

10:50 **Boys Of**

12:00 **Boyster**

14:00 **Four Of Kings**

15:10 **Lab Rats**

15:30 **Phineas And Furb**

15:55 **Phineas And Furb**

16:20 **Kicker E**

16:45 **Heroes Of The Galaxy**

17:15 **Rocket Monkeys**

17:40 **Warner Over Yonder**

18:10 **Star Wars The Forces Of Evil**

18:35 **Ultimate Spider Man**

19:00 **Boys Of**

19:25 **Games Guide To Phutty**

19:50 **Kitty Bunners**

20:20 **K. Undercover**

20:45 **Lab Rats**

21:10 **Space Shimas**

21:35 **Phineas And Furb**

22:00 **Super Munk**

22:25 **Super Munk**

22:50 **Boyster**

OSN HD

00:00 **Hollywood Medium With**

00:15 **the Gracia Heddy Show**

00:30 **Keeping Up With The**

00:45 **Jeffersons**

01:00 **Hollywood City**

01:15 **The Elva Hollywood Special**

01:30 **Elva Entertainment Special**

01:45 **Kourtney And Kim Take**

02:00 **Kourtney And Kim Take**

02:15 **Style Star**

02:30 **Style Star**

02:45 **Gianna & Bill**

03:00 **Gianna & Bill**

03:15 **PRPGKOS Of Beverly Hills**

03:30 **PRPGKOS Of Beverly Hills**

03:45 **News 2TV**

04:00 **Fashion Rogues**

04:15 **Entertainment Special**

04:30 **Keeping Up With The**

04:45 **Jeffersons**

05:00 **Keeping Up With The**

05:15 **Jeffersons**

05:30 **Gianna & Bill**

05:45 **Fashion Rogues**

06:00 **WACIS**

06:15 **Princess Man Turned Up**

06:30 **Keeping Up With The**

06:45 **Jeffersons**

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

14:00

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

20:00

21:00

22:00

23:00

00:00

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:0

[illegible][illegible]

ST 3 HD

ing America
engers Show
nners Show
rs Street
ngers Show
ing America
nners Show
OIES HD
al
ON
ator
g
Vailing Pass
Of Future Past
With The Ion Falls
OIES HD
EDY
with
ster
t
rt
Factory
OIVES
NAL
May Come
ow Sun
Loves A
May Come
ow Loves A
ow Go To Do With
The Punch
An Ayum
Ayum
Games:
2. Garmey's
Planet Of The
TS 1 HD
ean Tour
og
ights
ort
t
Rugby Sevens
nners' World
ean Tour
ights
TS 2 HD
y
WWE
nce
ean Tour
WWE
TS 3 HD
ean Tour
to
ing Show
Relationship
ights
and
ook
Rugby Sevens
ean Tour
WWE
TS 4 HD
m Line
7 Cup Middle
Series
European Tour
Relationship
America's Cup
Series
Championship
Johnson
Series

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/03/2016 TO 16/03/2016)

SHARQIA-1 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ZOOTOPIA THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		11:45 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	FANAR-3 TRIPLE 9 TRIPLE 9 TRIPLE 9 TRIPLE 9 TRIPLE 9 TRIPLE 9		11:45 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:30 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		2:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
SHARQIA-2 LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN		12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM	FANAR-4 LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN		12:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM	360°-1 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-3 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	FANAR-5 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT LONDON HAS FALLEN THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT LONDON HAS FALLEN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		1:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:30 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		1:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:30 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	360°-2 ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA NO SAT ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		1:15 PM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:15 PM
MUHALAB-1 ZOOTOPIA THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:15 PM 11:45 PM	MARINA-1 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		11:45 AM 1:45 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:45 AM 1:45 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM	360°-3 LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN		12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM
MUHALAB-2 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	MARINA-2 LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN		12:15 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:15 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.1 LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN		12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-3 LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN LONDON HAS FALLEN		12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	MARINA-3 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.2 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		11:30 AM 1:45 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-1 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-1 ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA ZOOTOPIA THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR		11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.3 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-2 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM	AVENUES-2 THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:45 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT		11:45 AM			

FOR SALE

Mitsubishi Pajero, dark blue, 2006 model, owner driven 1,00,000 kms, 5x CD changer, new tyres, new battery, registration up to Dec 2016. Please call 99218172. **(C 5143)**

Expatriate leaving Kuwait, household appliances and furniture for sale, please call 99218172. **(C 5143)**
10-3-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hatim holder of Indian Passport No: K8514434, Sadar Bazar, VIL - Partapur, Bedwa, Teh - Garhi, Banswara, Rajasthan, hereby changed my name to Hatim Mansur Najmi. **(C 5146)**
14-3-2016

I, Gregory Joao Gomes, (old name) holder of Indian Passport No. Z2111063, son of late Joao Gomes from Borim - Goa, hereby change my name to Anselmo Gregorio Gomes, (new name) as per my birth certificate. **(C 5145)**

I, Ligorio Dsouza, holder of Indian Passport No. N1868736, Agosso Loliem Canacona Goa, south Goa 403728, hereby change my name to Ligorio De Sousa, H.N. 355, Agas Loliem Canacona Goa. **(C 5144)**

I, Betty Juliet D Souza, holder of Indian Passport No. 9397340, H.N. 64 Comba Margao Salcete, Goa, India, hereby change my name Betty Juliet Pires. **(C 5144)**
12-3-2016

FOR RENT IN BAYAN

New villa, good for an embassy large flats system. Each flat has saloon, 4 rooms, 5 baths, maid's room, laundry room, outdoor parking and in basement
(no middle men please)

67000813

EIG
BUSINESS IN OMAN
We Are Providing
Visas, Registration,
Local Sponsor,
Business Partner,
Decoument Clearing.
Contact Us: 00968-98457638
Email: Info@Eigllcoman.Com

FOR RENT

New flat in Jabriya
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, kitchen

Contact:
97414191

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:40
Shorook	05:59
Duhr:	11:57
Asr:	15:22
Maghrib:	17:56
Isha:	19:13



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

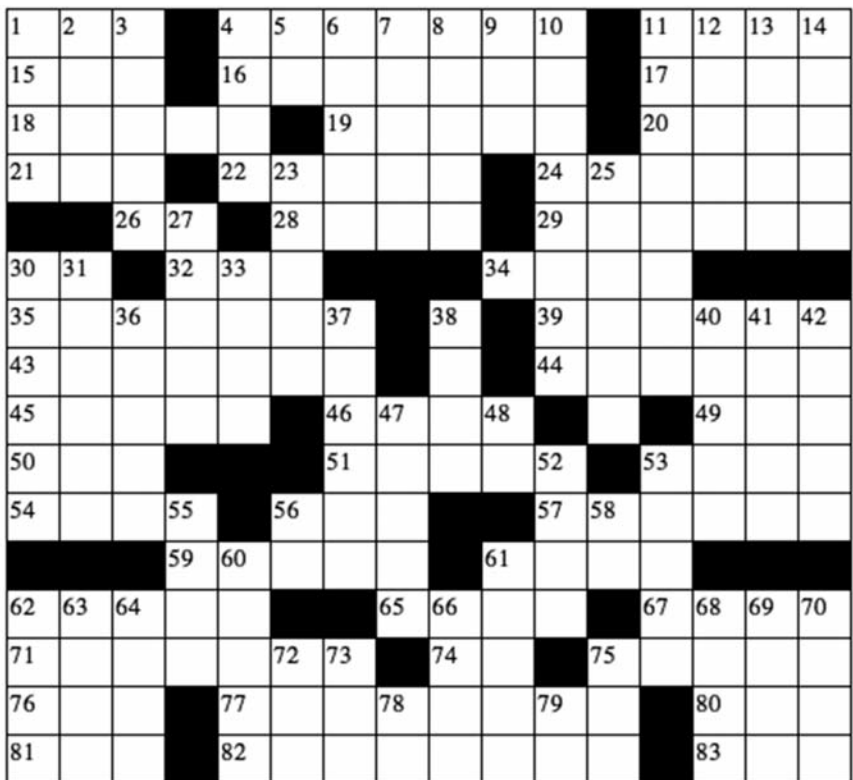
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats



Arrival Flights on Tuesday 15/3/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 15/3/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:35
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	RJA	645	Amman	07:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	BAW	156	London	08:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	513	Tehran	09:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KAC	101	London/New York	09:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	KAC	561	Amman	10:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	FDB	671	Dubai	10:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRC	6508	Shiraz	11:30
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	IRA	674	Lar	11:40
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	RBG	554	Alexandria	11:55
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	NIA	152	Cairo	12:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	679	Muscat	13:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	406	Alexandria	13:30
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:40	JZR	172	Dubai	13:45
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1196



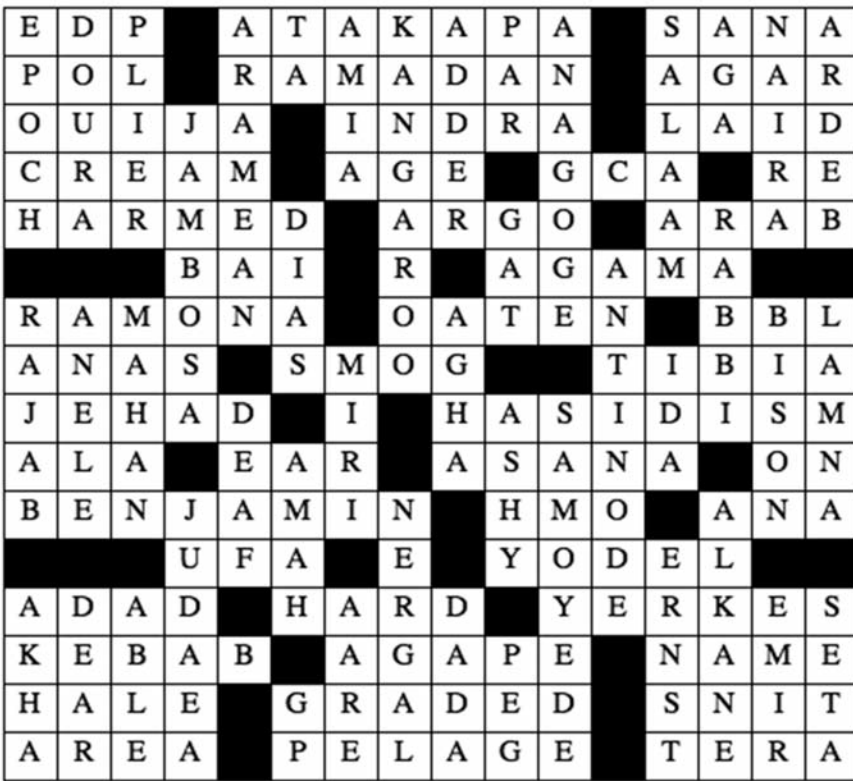
ACROSS

1. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
4. A word or phrase spelled by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase.
11. (military) Signal to turn the lights out.
15. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
16. A motley assortment of things.
17. Rounded like an egg.
18. A heavy wooden pole (such as the trunk of a young fir) tossed as a test of strength (in the Highlands of Scotland).
19. Being in competition.
20. An agenda of things to do.
21. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
22. Talk pompously.
24. Come into existence.
26. Before noon.
28. A former communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia.
29. A Swiss house.
30. The eleventh month of the civil year.
32. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
34. (computer science) A graphic symbol (usually a simple picture) that denotes a program or a command or a data file or a concept in a graphical user interface.
35. Lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike.
39. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
43. Web-footed diving seabirds of northern seas.
44. A clear liquid secreted into the mouth by the salivary glands and mucous glands of the mouth.
45. The state prevailing during the absence of war.
46. A flat device with narrow pointed teeth on one edge.
49. The airforce of Great Britain.
50. Not in good physical or mental health.
51. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
54. Colored or impregnated with dye.
57. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus *Acacia*.
59. (sometimes followed by 'of') Having or showing realization or perception.
62. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
65. A quantity of no importance.
67. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
71. Small Asian deer with small antlers and a cry like a bark.
74. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
76. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
77. (of fabrics and paper) Grown dark in color over time.
80. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
81. Made warm or hot.
82. City in central Iran.
83. The cry made by sheep.

DOWN

1. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
2. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
3. The inner and thicker of the two bones of the human leg between the knee and ankle.
4. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
5. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
6. A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.
7. Coarsely ground hulled corn boiled as a breakfast dish in the southern United States.
8. Someone who rants and raves.
9. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
10. A group of island in eastern Indonesia between Celebes and New Guinea.
11. A tricyclic antidepressant (trade names Imavate and Tofranil) used to treat clinical depression.
12. A means of serving.
13. Analyze syntactically by assigning a constituent structure to (a sentence).
14. Partially melted snow (or a mixture of rain and snow).
23. Type genus of the Rubiaceae.
25. Type genus of the family Pholadiidae.
27. Any of several Old World herbs of the genus *Medicago* having small flowers and trifoliate compound leaves.
31. In a vile manner.
33. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
36. An ordered reference standard.
37. A river in Germany.
38. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
40. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
41. A genus of Indrididae.
42. Little known Kamarupan languages.
47. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
48. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
52. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
53. An artistic form of nonverbal communication.
55. A small narrow pointed missile that is thrown or shot.
56. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
58. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
60. Polish filmmaker (born in 1929).
61. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
63. Cylindrical green fruit with thin green rind and white flesh eaten as a vegetable.
64. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
66. Advanced in years.
68. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
69. The capital and chief port of Qatar.
70. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
72. An associate degree in applied science.
73. A byproduct of inflammation.
75. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
78. Unknown god.
79. Half the width of an em.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may feel that you are in some sort of time warp where it seems difficult to keep from talking or making yourself known in some way. Like elementary school, the attitude just now is that rules are made to be broken. Your physical well-being may be struggling for some reason and if you take a look at what you have been doing lately or eating lately, you will want to make adjustments; this is all temporary. Your focus returns and you will have all the passion you need to complete the tasks for which you are responsible. A bit of gossip may catch your attention later this afternoon; you will be wise to walk away. What you can do for now is to make sure you follow through on each of your tasks. By this evening you will feel more like a little walk.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You will have a great deal of support from your co-workers and family and friends for whatever you set out to accomplish. Last year you concentrated on discovering and developing a self-image and now you will be working on perfecting and enjoying the person you have become. There is an enhancement of your physical fervor now and you can keep this motivation constant by remaining in the habit of regular exercise. You move in all the right directions and although you may feel the financial side is a bit thin, you will exert much willpower in controlling excessive spending. Your efforts in financial control will pay off soon. Your domestic life is beginning to look more positive and pleasurable. There are lovely, warm feelings this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You want to accomplish your true earning power quickly-however, this is just not practical in most cases. You will develop managerial and organizational skills in time-be patient with yourself and keep moving forward. Some part-time work is a positive and you are learning to operate at your best. This is an excellent day for decision making. A customer may help you connect with new customers and you might consider rewards for the additional effort that they give. This afternoon you may consider inviting a friend to join you in some group activity. This may be a shower for someone you and your friend know. A wedding or a first night performance of a show, a baby shower, etc. Little children that attend the event are a joy.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Recognition on the job with a possible bonus could be part of your day-the energies are certainly in your favor for receiving rewards. No matter what type of job or profession you hold, you always like to keep up with the most modern or up-to-date ideas possible. You may be preparing to take a course of study or attend a lecture. Local and everyday matters have come to your attention. You may decide to volunteer for some citizens' committee this evening. There are many gifts to receive and you are already beginning to receive a few of them. However, you need to be able to understand these gifts and particularly to appreciate the value of what is being given. Meditation is important. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There may have been changes in the friends that are with you now. Changes in friends or groups need not be disturbing. Realize that as you move along on your life path you change and so do others . . . There will be many people to learn from and to teach and to add to your friends list. You may find only two or three people stay with you and become long-term friends. You will be more self-assertive and independent this month and may have more responsibilities than usual-get plenty of rest. Other people will adapt to your actions this whole month. If there is a new project, method, new rule that you might want to instigate or change, this may be the month in which it will be more likely to happen. Save for the future; it will be worth your time and effort.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your wonderful ability to fit in anywhere keeps you, and those around you, from many a dull or awkward moment. People may even depend on you to motivate others. Chores that come with your job routine are completed quickly today. You find the answers you need and do your work well. Later today, you could be looking for easy answers to better investments or better working conditions for yourself and others. What other people think you should be doing may be different from where you really need to be and where you are happiest working or living. You should be aware of tendencies to believe too quickly or too deeply, or to become dependent on things or people that seem to offer quick and easy answers to life's deepest yearnings.

WORD SEARCH

More 1950's Songs

Find and circle all of the 1950's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional 1950's song.



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ALL SHOOK UP | FLAMINGO | LUCILLE | SOUL ON FIRE |
| ALMOST GROWN AT THE HOP | GET A JOB | MAYBE | STAGGER LEE |
| BIRD DOG | GODNIGHT IRENE | MONEY HONEY | THE BELLS |
| BLUE MONDAY | I'M A MAN | MR SANDMAN | THE WIND |
| CHANCES ARE | I'M WALKIN' | PERSONALITY | TIPTINA |
| CHANTILLY LACE | JIM DANDY | REBEL ROUSER | TOM DOOLEY |
| CRY | JUKE | ROLLIN' STONE | TRY ME |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | LITTLE DARLIN' | SEA CRUISE | WHITE LIGHTNING |
| EL PASO | LOVELY AVENUE | SINCERELY | YOUNG BLOOD |
| | LOUIE LOUIE | SO WHAT | |



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This march may be a turning point for you in some decision-making process and it is all positive. You display a pride in your work that helps you to be recognized by co-workers. Since some of your accomplishments are in competition with others, it might be wise not to push for attention in your professional field-recognition will come naturally. Make sure your progress is noted when it comes time for your six-month or yearly review. You will be able to enjoy good relationships with your family this evening. You will also be receiving unasked for money, perhaps from a relative. Cooperate and compromise with the elder members of your family, particularly. Your actions



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You cannot go wrong if you concentrate and work hard-there are rewards soon. Most of your opportunities come from the ideas you have expressed as well as the insights and drive to achieve. What is so nice here is that there are no political actions to control your success. In the past, people depended on a friend or family member to help them get a job or move to a higher level in the corporation. You are in a position to use your very own personal ideas and expertise to show your skills and rise to the top. This is a good time to commit to more education or to teach those that want more education. You are strong and dedicated to your future. You back anyone that feels the same way about his or her future and will go that extra mile to help others.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You will receive respect with others as you avoid power plays. You will find that your mind and thoughts are more constructive than destructive and you are able to convince others to be on the construction team with a little sense of humor. Destruction is only allowed for a breakdown. Later today you can concentrate on the methods that help you stay in a positive place. There could be a lot of pressure to make decisions and you may feel that you have to hurry more than usual. Try to keep each part of your life in balance with the other by paying attention to how much time is spent in these different areas. With days like today, the other parts of your life will balance the load, particularly with your positive outlook. Tonight, relax.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a day for playing everything low-key. Sometimes it is not imperative to be the one to have the answers first. Let others be the first to talk. Complete one project before moving on to the other and remain passive throughout the day; you will be glad you did. This seems to be a time when there is a fox in the hen house, so to speak. This puzzling factor will pass but not until almost quitting time. You will be pleased with your own status and sense of direction by quitting time. Whew! Are you ready for springa good stress relief for the afternoon would be in planning your spring garden. As long as you have a little netting to cover the vegetables this could be a fun and productive project. A hobby has perked your interest this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your co-workers may find different ways in which to show their appreciation to you for your recent contributions. There could be plans developing for a get-together after work. Investments are a curiosity to you and when you have money, you are willing to share it with those less fortunate. Occasionally, you may need to hold back with your giving as a few of the people need to learn how to be independent and creative for themselves; you can teach. There is a fine line here and you would be well to study this puzzle of giving. An older person could have excellent advice on your investments-your decision in the end, will be the right one for you. After the twenty-fifth, you will find ways to get out from under any debts of the past.

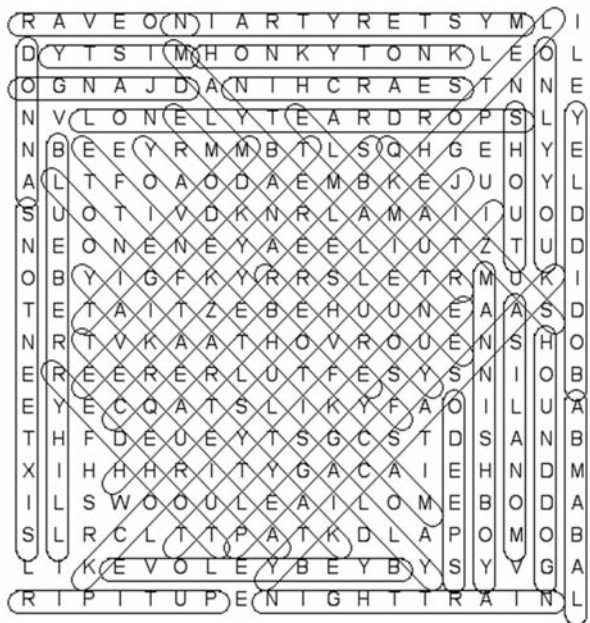


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A new week and a new you just overflow with adventure, praise, plans, resolutions and rewards. You are ready to dive into your week. You are a mentor to many and may not even realize the people that follow in your footsteps. Keep your observations under your hat until you have had a chance to process them. This is a good day . . . You feel good and everyone around you feels good. This is the start of your new birth year cycle. Reserve some time to celebrate and enjoy yourself. There could be a window in time that opens now, making insights possible-take a look. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are enjoyed. Being appreciated and admired is quite a confidence builder; enjoy the praise.

Yesterday Solution

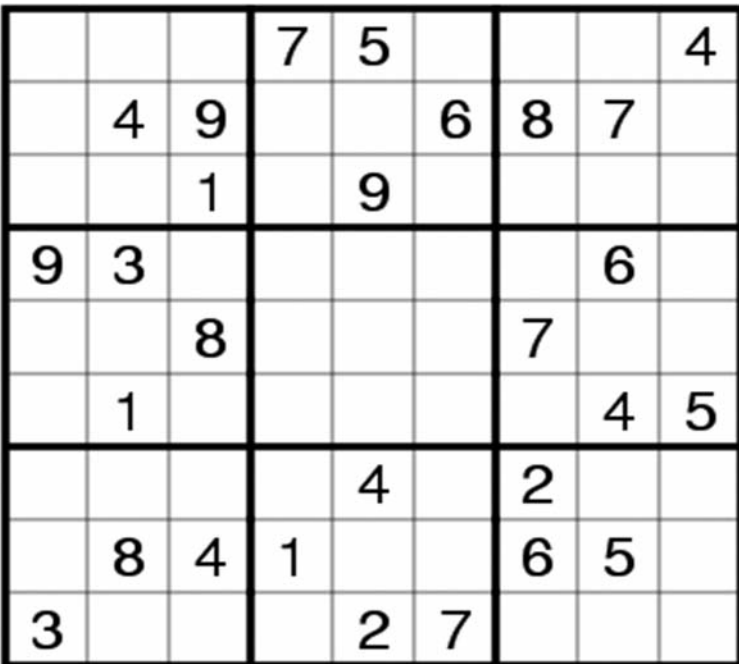
1950's Songs



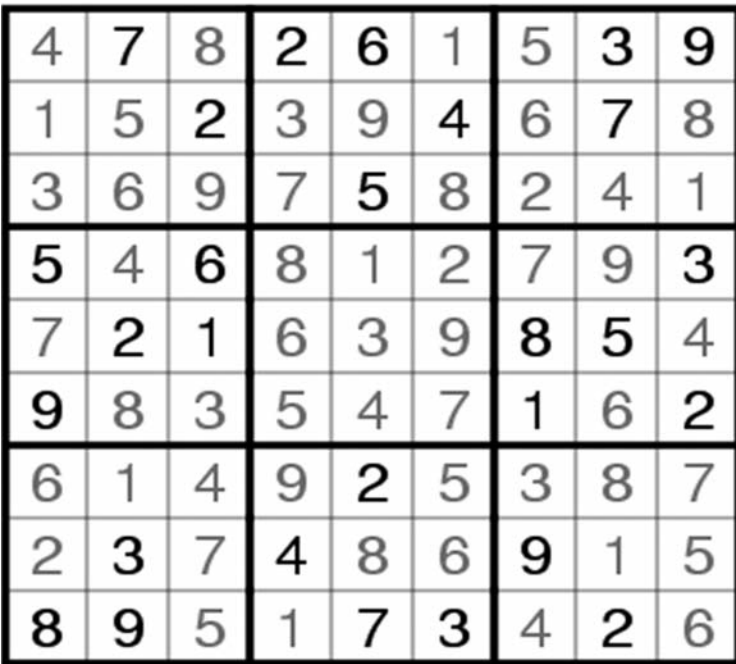
- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| BLUEBERRY HILL | HOUND DOG | MONA LISA | SEARCHIN' |
| BO DIDDLEY | JAILHOUSE ROCK | MOVE IT | SHOUT |
| BYE BYE LOVE | KANSAS CITY | MYSTERY TRAIN | SIXTEEN TONS |
| CRAZY ARMS | LA Bamba | NIGHT TRAIN | SPEEDO |
| DJANGO | LONELY TEARDROPS | ONLY YOU | SUZIE Q |
| DONNA | LONG TALL SALLY | PEGGY SUE | TAKE FIVE |
| EVERYDAY | MACK THE KNIFE | RAVE ON | TEQUILA |
| FEVER | MANNISH BOY | RED HOT | TUTTI FRUTTI |
| HEARTBREAK HOTEL | MAYBELLENE | RIIP IT UP | YAKETY YAK |
| HONKY TONK | MISTY | RUMBLE | YOU SEND ME |

The hidden sentence is: I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS WORLD ALIVE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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
Khaldiya	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 Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



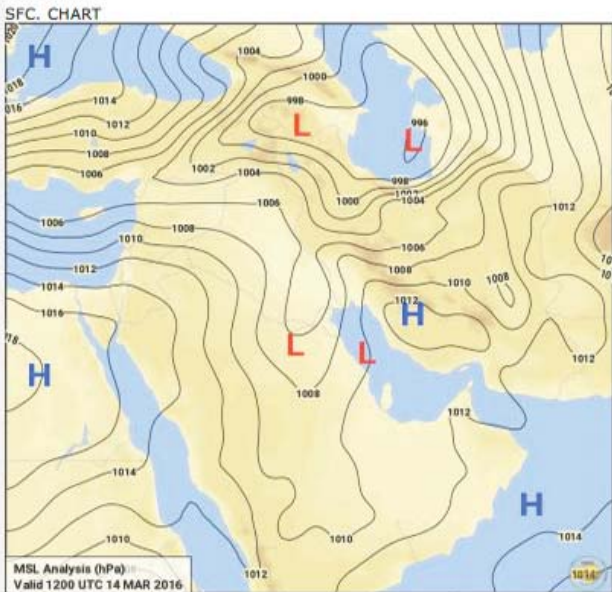
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 14/03/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 18 °C

By Night :Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times

By Day : Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually at times south easterly changing to north westerly wind later on, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy+scattered rain might be thundery at times	sunny	sunny	sunny
Min Temp °C	18	15	14	13
Max Temp °C	25	28	27	27
Wind Direction	south easterly changing to north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	08 - 28	08 - 30	10 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings

Thunder Rain

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	20	29
KUWAIT AIRPORT	18	27
ABDALY	18	31
BUBYAN	19	25
JAHRA	20	28
FAILAKA ISLAND	19	24
SALMIYAH	20	27
AHMADI	21	27
JAL ALIYAH	20	28
QAROH ISLAND	19	23
UMM AL-MARADEM	19	23
NUWAISIB	18	24
WAFRA	19	24
MANAGISH	19	24
SALMY	18	25
MUTRIBA	19	29

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	29
Min Temp (°C)	14
Max Rel Hum (%)	70
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	21 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:59
Sunset	17:56

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:40
Sunrise	05:59
Zuhr	11:57
Asr	15:22
Sunset	17:56
Isha	19:12

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
Azerbaijan	00994	Martinique	00596
Bahamas	001242	Mauritania	00222
Bahrain	00973	Mauritius	00230
Bangladesh	00880	Mayotte	00269
Barbados	001246	Mexico	0052
Belarus	00375	Micronesia	00691
Belgium	0032	Moldova	00373
Belize	00501	Monaco	00377
Benin	00229	Mongolia	00976
Bermuda	001441	Montserrat	001664
Bhutan	00975	Morocco	00212
Bolivia	00591	Mozambique	00258
Bosnia	00387	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Botswana	00267	Namibia	00264
Brazil	0055	Nepal	00977
Brunei	00673	Netherlands	0031
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burkina	00226	New Caledonia	00687
Burundi	00257	New Zealand	0064
Cambodia	00855	Nicaragua	00505
Cameroon	00237	Nigar	00227
Canada	001	Nigeria	00234
Cape Verde	00238	Niue	00683
Cayman Islands	001345	Norfolk Island	00672
Central African	00236	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chad	00235	North Korea	00850
Chile	0056	Norway	0047
China	0086	Oman	00968
Colombia	0057	Pakistan	0092
Comoros	00269	Palau	00680
Congo	00242	Panama	00507
Cook Islands	00682	Papua New Guinea	00675
Costa Rica	00506	Paraguay	00595
Croatia	00385	Peru	0051
Cuba	0053	Philippines	0063
Cyprus	00357	Poland	0048
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Portugal	00351
Czech Republic	00420	Puerto Rico	001787
Denmark	0045	Qatar	00974
Diego Garcia	00246	Romania	0040
Djibouti	00253	Russian Federation	007
Dominica	001767	Rwanda	00250
Dominican Republic	001809	Saint Helena	00290
Ecuador	00593	Saint Kitts	001869
Egypt	0020	Saint Lucia	001758
El Salvador	00503	Saint Pierre	00508
England (UK)	0044	Saint Vincent	001784
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Samoa US	00684
Eritrea	00291	Samoa West	00685
Estonia	00372	San Marino	00378
Ethiopia	00251	Sao Tome	00239
Falkland Islands	00500	Saudi Arabia	00966
Faroe Islands	00298	Scotland (UK)	0044
Fiji	00679	Senegal	00221
Finland	00358	Seychelles	00284
France	0033	Sierra Leone	00232
French Guiana	00594	Singapore	0065
French Polynesia	00689	Slovakia	00421
Gabon	00241	Slovenia	00386
Gambia	00220	Solomon Islands	00677
Georgia	00995	Somalia	00252
Germany	0049	South Africa	0027
Ghana	00233	South Korea	0082
Gibraltar	00350	Spain	0034
Greece	0030	Sri Lanka	0094
Greenland	00299	Sudan	00249
Grenada	001473	Suriname	00597
Guadeloupe	00590	Swaziland	00268
Guam	001671	Sweden	0046
Guatemala	00502	Switzerland	0041
Guinea	00224	Syria	00963
Guyana	00592	Serbia	00381
Haiti	00509	Taiwan	00886
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Tanzania	00255
Honduras	00504	Thailand	0066
Hong Kong	00852	Togo	00228
Hungary	0036	Tonga	00676
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tokelau	00690
Iceland	00354	Trinidad	001868
India	0091	Tunisia	00216
Indian Ocean	00873	Turkey	0090
Indonesia	0062	Tuvalu	00688
Iran	0098	Uganda	00256
Iraq	00964	Ukraine	00380
Ireland	00353	United Arab Emirates	00976
Italy	0039	United Kingdom	0044
Ivory Coast	00225	Uruguay	00598
Jamaica	001876	USA	001
Japan	0081	Uzbekistan	00998
Jordan	00962	Vanuatu	00678
Kazakhstan	007	Venezuela	00582
Kenya	00254	Vietnam	0084
Kiribati	00686	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands US	001340
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Wales (UK)	0044
Laos	00856	Yemen	00967
Latvia	00371	Yugoslavia	00381
Lebanon	00961	Zambia	00260
Liberia	00231	Zimbabwe	00263
Libya	00218		
Lesotho	0026		
Lithuania	00370		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
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
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mubarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center Tel: 2575077 Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists
/Psychotherapists

Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center
25716707

Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Jacob Tremblay

wins Best Actor at the Canadian Screen Awards



Jacob Tremblay speaks after winning Best Actor in a film for 'Room' at the Canadian Screen Awards in Toronto on Sunday. — AP photos

Martin Short accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Eugene Levy, left, and his son Dan Levy accept the Best Comedy Series Award for 'Schitt's Creek'.



Donald Sutherland, left, and his son Rossif Sutherland present the Best Drama Series award to '19-2'.



Christopher Plummer receives a standing ovation before presenting the Best Film Award.



Jacob Tremblay, left, meets Norm Macdonald before announcing the winner of the Best Actor in a Drama Series.

Winners

- Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role**
Jacob Tremblay
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role**
Brie Larson
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role**
Nick Serino
- Best Achievement in Direction**
Lenny Abrahamson, Room
- Best Achievement in Cinematography**
Yves Bélanger, Brooklyn
- Best Achievement in Costume Design**
Joanne Hansen, Beeba Boys
- Best Achievement in Editing**
Nathan Nugent, Room
- Talent Fund Discovery Award**
Andrew Korogyi, Yosef Baraki, & Asef Baraki for Mina Walking
- Award for Original Screenplay**
Benjamin August, Remember
- Canadian Screen Lifetime Achievement Award**
Martin Short
- Digital Media Trailblazing Award**
Ana Serrano
- Canadian Screen Humanitarian Award**
PAL Canada Foundation
- Margaret Collier Award**
Karen Walton
- Academy Icon Award**
This Hour Has 22 Minutes
- Gordon Sinclair Award For Broadcast Journalism** Mark Starowicz
- Academy Board of Directors' Tribute (Posthumously)**
Ivan Fecan
- Outstanding Technical Achievement**
Much

At just nine years old he's taken the world of cinema by storm. And Jacob Tremblay won his highest honor to date on Sunday night at the Canadian Screen Awards in Toronto. The child star picked up the gong for Best Actor for his breakthrough performance in Room. Jacob beat out acting legend Christopher Plummer, 86, for the honor. 'Christopher Plummer, you're a legend; the little boy said once he got onstage, but only after his hugged his mom and dad, according to TheStar.com. He then went on to thank the academy 'for giving me this wonderful Candy... I feel like I won real Canadian gold.'

His Room co-star Brie Larson also won for Best Actress, but she was absent due to her filming schedule. Room also took home the award for Best Direction, a high honor for Lenny Abrahamson. Meanwhile, as a nine-year-old actor, he has to get chaperoned to work by his understanding parents. So last week Jacob decided to return the favor and accompany his dad to his job for a change. The Critic's Choice winner spent a day hanging out with his 'hot cop' dad Jason at his precinct in the Vancouver Police Department. The Room star posted a montage on his Instagram account showing him riding in his police car and enjoying doughnuts with the team at the local haunt. 'I always bring my Dad to my work, but today I went to his!!! @vancouverpd @timhortons #vpdcaptures #timhortons #bestdoughnutsever @vanpolicefnd #kopsshadesforkids #vpd/ he wrote. The youngster wore his own

VPD baseball cap throughout the day, and looked even cuter than normal as he and his dad donned matching Aviator shades. Hours earlier he posted another just as impressive montage: his 'award season super selfie collage'. In it he tagged just some of the famous faces he met during his circuit of the awards, including Bryce Dallas Howard, Samuel L Jackson, Amy Adams, Paul Dano, Rooney Mara, The Weekend, Elizabeth Banks, Saoirse Ronan and Jason Segel.

It can be hard to remember such an accomplished actor is still just a child, but Jacob himself certainly hasn't forgotten, as he shared another picture of himself scaling a jungle gym at a playground. 'I'm the king of the playground!!!' he captioned the silhouetted shot, giving a nod to his fellow SAG nominee Leonardo DiCaprio's Titanic. Following his breakout and critically acclaimed roll in the Oscar-winning Room, the Canadian has a busy year ahead of him. He currently has five films scheduled for release this year, including the Funny Or Die parody Donald Trump's The Art of the Deal: The Movie.

— www.dailymail.co.uk



Emma Donoghue accepts her Screen Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for 'Room'.



Aunjanue Ellis, centre, wears a dress with a slogan printed on it as a protest against the presence of the Confederate Flag on Capitol Hill, as she stands on the red carpet with cast members from the television show 'Book of Negroes' at the 2016 Canadian Screen Awards.



The cast of Schitt's Creek pose for photos as they arrive on the red carpet.

Surprise Kendrick Lamar album debuts at number one

A surprise new album by Kendrick Lamar opened Sunday at number one on the US chart in the latest triumph for the critically acclaimed rapper. The album—the fourth by the 28-year-old, entitled “untitled unmastered” sold 178,000 copies or the equivalent in streaming in the United States in the week through Thursday, Nielsen Music said. Lamar released “untitled unmastered,” without previous notice on March 4 in the wake of the Grammys, where he was the music industry gala’s biggest winner with five awards.

He characterized the album as a series of rough works from the studio, although the songs take on heavy themes including an opening track that mixes images of the biblical apocalypse and contemporary social ills. Lamar also went to number one in 2015 with “To Pimp a Butterfly,” a reflective look at the state of black America that experimented with jazz elements, which are also apparent on “untitled unmastered.” The latest album hit number one despite the lack of a physical release. A CD came out on Friday, seven days after the digital version and too late to be considered for the first-week chart.

Discrepancies between digital and physical release

dates, which once enraged record stores, have become increasingly commonplace as the popularity of streaming transforms the music industry. Rap superstar Kanye West has said he has no plans to release a physical version of his latest work, “The Life of Pablo,” and vowed to stream three new albums per year. — AFP



Anderson, Grammy-nominated Jazz singer, dies at 87

Jazz vocalist Ernestine Anderson, who was nominated for four Grammys over her career, died Thursday, reports the Associated Press. She was 87. The King County Medical Examiner's Office told the AP on Sunday that she died of “natural causes” at a nursing home in Shoreline, Wash. Over her six-decade career, Anderson performed at events around the world, including at the first Monterey Jazz Festival in 1958, as well as at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, according to the Seattle Times. Her voice was once described as “honey at desk” by friend and producer Quincy Jones. The singer performed at Dwight D Eisenhower's presidential inauguration, and often played with bands led by Lionel Hampton and Johnny Otis. Anderson was born in Houston and won a talent contest when she was 12. She moved with her family to Seattle in 1944, where she attended the Garfield High School. There, she sang with the Bumps Blackwell Junior Band, which featured Jones.

She began touring when she was 18, going on the road with Otis' band. Her first single, “KC, Lover/Good Lovin' Babe,” was recorded in 1948. While she was in New York, Anderson toured Rolf Ericson to tour Europe. There, she recorded her critically acclaimed album “Hot Cargo,” which was released by Mercury Records in 1958. Anderson would go on to release six albums with Mercury Records until she quit singing in the '60s. She revived her career in the '70s and released “Hello, Like Before” in 1977, and continued to record for years after. While she frequently moved across the United States, Anderson often returned to Seattle, where she became a jazz staple. The city's Bumbershoot Arts Festival awarded her with its Golden Umbrella honor in 2002. Anderson is survived by three children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. — Reuters



Zahed Sultan during the sessions.



Perfect timing (Sandunes & Jiver) during the sessions.



Musical instruments experimented during the workshops.

The second Red Bull Music Academy session Kuwait: A great success!

Music unites. This is not just a common say, rather, it is what happened for two days at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya in Yarmouk. Red Bull Music Academy has brought together artists from different parts of the world to Kuwait in order to share their passion and participate in the second Red Bull Music Academy Session Kuwait. The academy gathered musicians, composers, producers and vocalists from Kuwait and gave them the opportunity to be part of workshops, talks and share their experience with some of the most talented international and regional musicians.

The two-day sessions hosted by Kuwaiti artist Zahed Sultan and moderated by Lauren Martin gathered 25 participants in a series of educational workshops, jams and live demos. The first day of the academy was concluded with live shows at the Red Bull Music Academy's Kuwait Rising music festival which took place at the new DIA location in Yarmouk, at which the International and regional guests performed in an electric show.

Original material

"It was an interesting experience bringing the academy to Kuwait for the second time as an attempt to bridge the gap between all the different artists, put them under one roof and see what the outcome is. Bringing it back in 2016 and somehow introducing the live act and slightly more electronic live side. We are trying to show the diversity of music and sound," said Zahed Sultan, host of RBMA Kuwait. He added: "The idea of hosting the academy and the live performance is to be inspired by people who are really giving their all to their original material, so that they can go back home and dig a little deeper to find their own voice rather than to mimic a voice that appeals to people".

Perfect Timing band members of two, Sandunes & Jiver, were very content about their live performance experience. "It was my first time in the Middle East and I was super excited, the audience is so great.. Really special! The interaction with the audience is amazing," said Jiver. "There was so much energy!" said Sandnes. The performers were HVOB from Austria, Perfect Timing (a collaboration between Sandunes and Jiver), Bosaina from Egypt and Etyen from Lebanon.

The remarkable story of HVOB began in April 2012. With the idea of making an entirely new kind of electronic music: intelligent, sophisticated, emotive and melodic. This idea led to four snippets which were uploaded to Soundcloud-causing an immediate sensation in Europe. Their first EP "Dogs" was released in summer 2012. Then came the debut album in spring 2013 "HVOB", glowing reviews by critics all over Europe, Top 15 in the US Billboard Charts "Next Big Sound" category, several number one chart entries on iTunes, and number three in the Beatport charts. The two musicians behind HVOB are Anna M,ller and Paul Wallner. Anna M,ller composes, produces and also provides the captivating, hypnotic vocals. Final production of the tracks is done in collaboration with Paul Wallner in his Vienna studio. Together they are responsible for creating the unique sound of HVOB.

Experimental electronica

Two of the most cutting-edge musicians in India, Sanaya Ardesheir, AKA Sandunes, and Jivraj Singh, AKA Jiver, have just launched a brand new, collaborative project, Perfect Timing. Having first met and worked together as part of the three-piece Dualist Inquiry Band and on various projects subsequently, including the Sandunes Ensemble,



Bosaina while performing at the concert.

the two have contemplated collaborating with each other for a long time. Their sound covers a range of music that has influenced them both over the years, so expect everything from jazz and hip-hop to noise and unusual experimental electronica.

Bosaina is a well-travelled soul, so it is fitting that her inspiration for making music came from a subway train in a foreign land. Bosaina stopped briefly in New York on her way back to Egypt when she heard the looped click-clacking of metal on metal in the city's Broadway district, and decided to remain in the Big Apple to learn Ableton and make corrugated, hand-finished jazz.

The Egyptian-born artist, who also lived in London for several years, sculpts her ambient pieces from soft and hard materials: her shimmering notes and dew-eyed melodies are bathed in the echoes of the city-noisy traffic jams, pungent delis, rain-drenched sidewalks and, of course, those shuttling trains. Shot through a deeply singular jazz strain, Bosaina's music has a fibrous, textural quality to it that feels as if it draws from Actress as much as it does from Miles Davis. Etyen started producing electronic music in 2011. He was previously living in London doing what he loves most, while working freelance jobs on the side. Now that he is back in Beirut, he is working as a full time water engineer, and producing his music on the side. He says he hopes to ditch his day job one day and make a living out of his music. His new EP, "Happy New Year," was released in March 2014.

By Nawara Fattahova

The Kuwait Rising Alternative Music Festival held on Friday was accompanied by a workshop on Saturday, where artistes from various countries participated. Kuwait Times interviewed two of the artistes who performed in Kuwait for the first time.

"This event was very special, as it brought together a lot of musicians to Kuwait, and especially since such events are not something that happen quite often here. The level of excitement and responsiveness of people at the concert was very beautiful. It was one of the most genuine shows I ever performed at. The audience were carefully listening and watching, while in Lebanon people take it for granted. The crowd here was genuine, and this motivated me to keep going," Etyen, a 26-year-old artiste from Lebanon, told Kuwait Times. "I play on various instruments including the guitar and sing too. At the concert, I was doing live electronics with synthesizers," he added.

He started performing professionally three years ago. "Before that, I was playing in a band as a guitarist. Then I was recording by myself and then producing, and realized I was good at it and thought this is what I want to do. So I went to London and I took some sound engineering and mixing courses. When I returned to Beirut, I released my first EP and started playing live. I studied the technical part of production and not music composition. I was seven when I started playing the piano, which was my base. My father is a musician and his family as well," he explained.

This wasn't his first performance with Red Bull Music Academy (RBMA). "A month ago, I was performing in Dubai and it was a nice event. I have participated in many other RBMA events in Lebanon. During the past six months, I have done many events with them. Also last year, I par-

ticipated in their two-day event in Beirut and I met Zahed Sultan there, and this is how I came here," he stated.

"Nature inspires me a lot. For instance, last year I went on a musical residency in the middle of a mountain in California along with other musicians. This was the most inspiring time of my life. Music is part of nature, as everything makes sounds, including trees, wind, water and others. Unfortunately, our nature in Beirut is getting ruined, as the government doesn't appreciate arts, culture and nature, which is really sad. The other thing that inspires me is heartbreak, or any human experience exchanged with someone else like love, friendship, etc - it all inspires me. Some people have also inspired me," concluded Etyen.

Bosaina from Egypt also participated in this event. "I was one of the RBMA graduates from the academy session in Tokyo in 2014. They hold it once a year in different cities - next year it will be in Montreal. I was invited here for being a graduate of the academy to give a talk to musicians participating in this event about my experiences with the academy and of being a musician from Cairo. I also performed at the concert," she noted.

"I'm an electronic music producer, so I play on many instruments. I compose pieces using samples that I record from orchestra or traditional instruments, that are manipulated in an experimental way to create instrumental pieces," Bosaina pointed out. "It was my first time in Kuwait and I loved it. The event was wonderful as there are many talented musicians here and it's good for them to have the experience of RBMA in a weekend session, so they know how it would be if they joined a real academy," she added.

Interview



Actor and Top Gear presenter Matt LeBlanc, left, waves, as he sits with rally driver Ken Block during filming of BBC Top Gear in Westminster, London. — AP

BBC's 'Top Gear' sorry for filming near war memorial

A host of BBC car show "Top Gear" has apologized "unreservedly" for filming stunt driving near Britain's best-known war memorial. Chris Evans says program-makers were "unwise" to film close to the Cenotaph, a stone monument to Britain's war dead near Parliament in central

London. Some bystanders complained after co-host Matt LeBlanc and a professional driver were seen performing "doughnuts" in the street nearby.

Col Richard Kemp, a retired army officer, called the stunt "gravely disrespectful." The BBC said photos made the car appear closer to the monument

than it really was, but Evans said he understood why some people were angry. He said yesterday that "on behalf of the Top Gear team and Matt, I would like to apologize unreservedly for what these images seem to portray." — AP



Models display creations by Japanese designer Tsukasa Mikami at the 2016 autumn/winter collection show in Tokyo yesterday, during Tokyo Fashion Week. — AP/AFP photos

Boys in pink: ‘Genderless’ fashion goes big in Japan

No stranger to barrettes, bows and beauty products, Japanese Instagram icon and model Genking is a proud flag bearer for “genderless” fashion in which young men adopt unequivocally feminine styles and challenge traditional norms. Although women around the world have taken to menswear in droves—sporting trousers since the 1930s when French fashion legend Coco Chanel put her equestrian clients in pants—the sight of a man in a skirt still raises eyebrows in the West.

In much of Asia, however, unisex clothing—whether in the form of a traditional shalwar kameez, sarong or kimono—boasts a long history, while popular theatrical traditions regularly feature gender bending performances. Genking’s long bleached blond locks, curled eyelashes and fondness for both womenswear and menswear testify to a self-professed identity as a “genderless” person. Born Genki Tanaka, Genking fell in love with fashion at an early age, dreaming of Chanel purses and pastel pink accessories. “My mother was pretty tolerant.... But in those days, I still didn’t want to admit my feminine side and I was kind of trying to hide it,” Genking said. “When I turned 20, I quit pretending.” Genking set up an Instagram account where selfies showcase a style that has attracted nearly 850,000 followers, kicking off a television career and culminating in a catwalk appearance at the packed Tokyo Girls Collection show last year.

In Japan, men play every role during traditional kabuki—all-male theatre performances, while the century-old Takarazuka Revue—an all-female musical theatre troupe—sees women slick back their hair and don tuxedos to the delight of adoring female fans. “Gender role play through fashion

and performance has always been a big part of Japanese culture,” said Tokyo-based style blogger and TV host, Misha Janette. Local retailers have long catered to a fashion-hungry menswear market with slick tailoring, leather clutches and luxury skincare products. Few young men, however, would have made the leap from watching male actors play women on stage to adopting “girly” accessories and wearing makeup themselves, were it not for the overwhelming influence of Korean pop music and Japanese anime movies.

“When K-pop became big in Japan, many young men adopted that style, trying to copy the effeminate facial features of male band members,” Janette told AFP. Meanwhile, as anime’s popularity rose, young boys turned to makeup in a bid to resemble their favorite cartoon characters. “Genderless” trailblazers like singer Yohji Kondo and style star Ryuchuru regularly don schoolgirl braids, swipe on blush and dress in pink fluffy sweaters, adopting “kawaii,” or cute, styles usually reserved for young women.

‘Genderless’ future

But while Japanese fashion seeks to overturn convention, commentators say it will take more than men dressed in skirts to transform traditional gender dynamics in the conservative country. “The genderless trend is really a fashion moment, it’s not necessarily about sexuality or any social agenda.... I don’t think a trend like this changes anything for women, it’s not empowering (for them),” said TV host Janette. Japanese activists have staged a long battle to scrap sexist, discriminatory laws

while female participation rates in the workforce and political sphere are among the lowest in developed nations.

Nevertheless, proponents of “genderless” fashion are optimistic, pointing to the rising visibility of LGBT icons like Caitlyn Jenner, the transgender Olympic champion formerly known as Bruce. Designer Tsukasa Mikami opened Tokyo fashion week Monday with a show featuring male and female models in floral silkscreen-printed garments and combat boots. Mikami, whose previous collections have showcased men and women wearing the same garments, said creating unisex clothing came naturally. “I don’t make any distinction between the sexes,” he told AFP.

Hot new unisex label “ilk” offers a selection of dresses and belted tunics aimed at “customers of all ages, genders and sexualities,” according to designer Koji Ota. Meanwhile, in a nod to the trend’s growing reach, retail giant Zara last week launched a unisex line of sweatshirts, tank tops and sneakers called “Ungendered”. “(The LGBT movement) is a global movement that we cannot separate from fashion... I think this free way of thinking is suited to modern society and (its) fashion,” said Ota. For “genderless” fashionista Genking, the playful style heralds the dawn of a new age. “The gender boundary is disappearing... Japan is still conservative, but I think we will see more men open up to genderless culture,” Genking told AFP. “How you dress is how you live.” — AFP



Models display creations designed by ha-ha design team.



Jaden Smith: Gender specific clothes don't exist

Jaden Smith doesn't think gender specific clothes exist. The 17-year-old actor regularly wears a long skirt over his skin-tight trousers and is very free with his fashion choices. And Jaden - who has just been selected by Karl Lagerfeld to be a new Chanel ambassador - doesn't understand why people feel they have to conform when it comes to clothes and insists everyone should experiment with all styles. Speaking in GQ Style magazine, he said: "I feel like people are kind of confused about gender norms. "I feel like people don't really get it. I'm not saying that I get it, I'm just saying that I've never seen any distinction. "I don't see man clothes and woman clothes, I just see scared people and comfortable people."

Jaden's "fearless" attitude to living life his own way is something his famous father Will Smith and mother Jada Pinkett Smith are

extremely proud of. Hollywood superstar Will previously said: "There's a really powerful internal quality as an artist that as parents we encourage. You gotta get out on the edge, you have to try things, you have to be comfortable doing things that people don't agree with, and you have to be comfortable doing things that you could fail. "And Jaden is 100 per cent fearless, he will do anything. So as a parent it's scary, it's really terrifying - but he is completely willing to live and die by his own artistic decisions and he just doesn't concern himself with what people think."

— Bang Showbiz



Pakistan Fashion Week



Models showcase creations by Pakistani designer Khaadi Khaas.

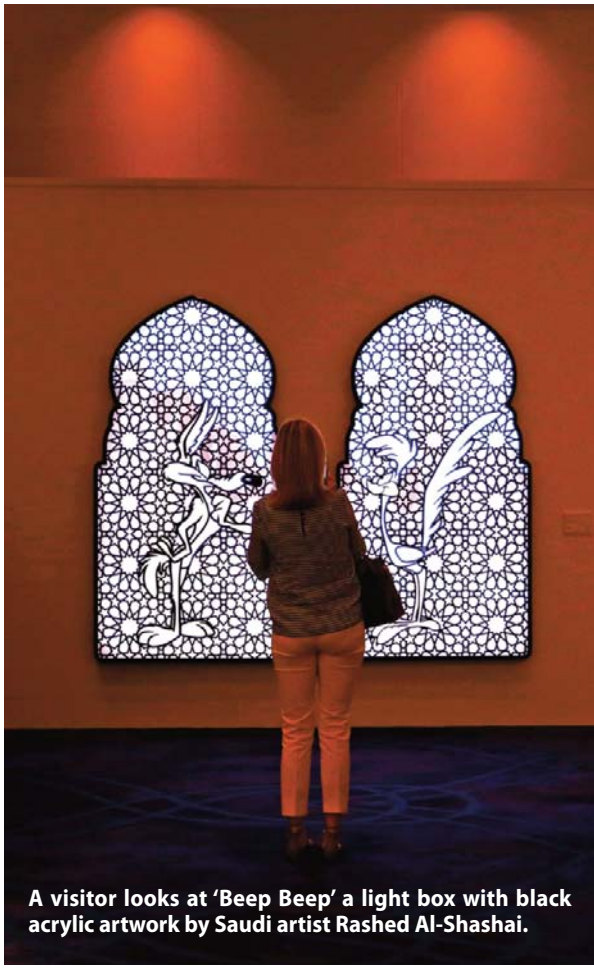


Models showcase creations by Pakistani designer Hassan Sheheryar Yasin (HSY) on the last day of Pakistan Fashion Design Council (PFDC) week in Lahore. — AP/AFP photos





Visitors stand in front of 'Sarajevo' by Egyptian artist Omar Al-Nagdi.



A visitor looks at 'Beep Beep' a light box with black acrylic artwork by Saudi artist Rashed Al-Shashai.

Christie's Dubai celebrates 10th anniversary with four auctions

Christie's Dubai announced the opening of its 20th sale season, celebrating the company's 10th anniversary hosting auctions in the Middle East. At a pre-sale press briefing, Christie's Global President, Jussi Pylkkanen, stated: "Back in 2006, I was asked by a journalist about how long I estimated that Christie's would continue selling artworks in the Middle East-I said that Christie's had been selling art for 240 years in London and Europe- extending to the US in 1976 and to Asia in 1985 and anticipate a similarly long-term view of our sales in Dubai."

"The art market is always about culture, people- they really understand what Christie's is about and build cultural bridges across different countries, interests and people. From the collectors who have supported the works of over 690 emerging artists to some of the most established artists in the region finding new audiences, Christie's sales in the Middle East have played a key role alongside the art fairs, museum projects and other initiatives driving the region's cultural development."

Managing Director and Deputy Chairman of

Christie's Middle East, Michael Jeha, added further context to the company's 10th anniversary in the region and milestones achieved: "By establishing and committing to providing a platform to promote nearly 700 Middle Eastern artists to a global audience, by offering more than 2,857 works of art, Christie's is delighted to have played our part in nurturing this now well established market. Furthermore, we offered over the same period of time more than 2,000 watches and pieces of jewelry, attracting buyers from all over the world - buyers from up to 30 different countries are participating in our sales. Christie's is proud of our 70% market share for Middle Eastern Art and has played a leadership role in the market for a decade."



The works of Saudi, Iranian, Turkish, Egyptian and Lebanese artists are exhibited.



A visitor looks at 'Camouflage' by Saudi artist Abdul Nasser Gharem.



A visitor looks at 'Black Tube 1' by Algerian-French artist Kader Attia.



A visitor walks past 'from the Storeys' by Syrian artist Tammam Azzam.

Rare Ming dynasty Buddhas sold at French auction for over 6 mln euros

A set of three Buddha sculptures from the 15th-century Ming dynasty went under the hammer in France on Saturday for more than 6.2 million euros, over 10 times the estimated sale price, the auction house said, in a flourishing market for Chinese art. An Asian collector snapped up the three gilded bronze pieces, which had initially been expected to fetch between 400,000 and 600,000 euros.

The three seated Buddhas were offered for sale along with other pieces from a private collection originating in China and Tibet between 1910 and 1925, the auction house in Bordeaux, southwest-

ern France, said. "These works of great rarity aroused much interest from... international collectors including many Chinese," it said.

"They were acquired for a sum of 6,292,000 euros (\$6.9 million) by an Asian collector who was present at the auction," it added. In June 2015, an 18th-century Chinese scroll attributed to the painter Gu Quan sold for 5.5 million euros at Christie's in Paris. In April 2013, a 17th-century painting on Chinese silk was sold by Briscadiou for 3.3 million euros. — AFP

Five Bacon paintings reported stolen in Madrid

Five paintings by British artist Francis Bacon worth an estimated 30 million euros have been stolen from the Madrid home of their owner, El Pais reported Sunday. Sources close to the investigation said the theft appeared to have been a highly-professional operation which took place while the owner was away, with the perpetrators disabling the alarm system. The thieves, who left no trace of their handiwork, had tracked the owner's movements to ensure he did not return to his apartment to catch them red-handed, they said.

El Pais quoted the sources as saying the artwork, comprising portraits and landscapes, was stolen last June. It was not

immediately clear why news of the theft was not made public until now. It was also unclear exactly which paintings were involved but one contemporary art specialist told the paper they would be extremely difficult to sell.

"It is not at all easy to sell a Francis Bacon, large or small without that getting to the ears of those who pore over such a rarified sector," said the expert, speaking on condition of anonymity. El Pais said police from a specialist arts and antiques unit had opened an investigation into the heist. The owner of the paintings was a close friend of Bacon, the paper said. A police spokesman contacted by AFP Sunday was unable to confirm the

story. Irish-born Bacon died in Madrid in 1992 aged 82 and his expressionist-surrealist works, which are often raw and emotional, remain hugely sought after.

Bacon's death only enhanced his reputation and the 2013 sale of his 1969 work "Three Studies of Lucien Freud" fetched \$142,405,000 at auction, a world record at the time. Art market information leader Artprice lists Bacon as one of 10 frontline modern artists alongside the likes of Picasso and Andy Warhol Warhol whose works comprise 18 percent of global sales. — AFP