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THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016

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13th Arab Media Forum kicks off with series of discussions



Protesters quit Green Zone after unprecedented breach



'Obama out': President gets in final laughs with US media



Martial strikes as Manchester United make Leicester wait

150 FILS
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40 PAGES

YEMEN TALKS SUSPENDED AFTER HOUTHIS SEIZE BASE

GOVT ACCUSES REBELS OF 'TORPEDOING' PEACE TALKS



Min 21°
Max 39°
High Tide 07:00 & 18:02
Low Tide 12:32

NOD TO BEDOONS' EMPLOYMENT IN GOVERNMENT JOBS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday approved a proposal to allow the employment of stateless people or bedoons in government jobs, rapporteur of the panel said. MP Mohammad Al-Jabri said that the proposal gives the priority of jobs to children of Kuwaiti women married to bedoons and those counted in the 1965 census. The lawmaker said the proposal applies to bedoons holding high degrees.

The government appoints bedoons under extremely exceptional cases like teachers and nurses, but their appointment is not permitted. Bedoons are people who or their ancestors were born in Kuwait decades ago and claim they have no other nationality documents. The government insists the bedoons have discarded their identification documents in a bid to get Kuwaiti citizenship with its benefits. There are around 110,000 bedoons in Kuwait. Head of the financial affairs panel MP Faisal Al-Shayeh meanwhile said the committee completed the approval in principle of the key public tenders law which included new controls on the awarding of tenders.

Continued on Page 13



ADEN: Yemeni security forces inspect the site of a car bombing in Aden's Mansura district yesterday. The bomb-laden car exploded as General Shallal Shayae's convoy passed, damaging military vehicles and prompting clashes between his guards and Al-Qaeda suspects in the area, officials said, adding that four Yemeni guards were killed in the bombing that targeted the convoy of Aden's police chief, the second such attack on him this week. — AFP

KUWAIT: Yemen's government temporarily suspended yesterday its participation in talks with Iran-backed rebels in protest at their takeover of a military base and continued ceasefire violations, officials said. "The delegation of the republic of Yemen has suspended its participation in Kuwait talks because of the continued violations by rebels and their takeover of Al-Amaliqa base," foreign minister and head of delegation Abdulmalek Al-Mikhlafi said on Twitter. He said the suspension will last "until guarantees for compliance were provided", without providing details.

A spokesman for Mikhlafi told AFP that the government delegation has suspended its participation in both "direct and indirect" talks taking place in Kuwait. "The suspension will continue until guarantees are provided that the rebels will stop their ceasefire violations and withdraw from the base," Mane Al-Matari told AFP.

A statement by the government delegation called on the UN envoy, Kuwait and other Gulf states and countries backing the peace process "to apply pressure on the other side to comply with peace requirements". The United Nations said it was informed by the government delegation that it will not attend a round of talks scheduled for later yesterday.

UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said he made contacts with members of both delegations and that he had received assurances that they would continue to try to resolve their differences but without face-to-face meetings. Houthi rebel spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam however criticized the Yemeni government's decision. "Those who don't want peace ... are the ones who create false justifications and reasons to obstruct," the talks, Abdulsalam wrote on Twitter.

Continued on Page 13



JEDDAH: In this May 8, 2014 file photo, a man works on construction of the Kingdom Tower, a planned 252-storey building which aims to become the world's tallest skyscraper when complete. — AP

BINLADIN EMPLOYEES SET BUSES ABLAZE IN PROTEST

RIYADH: Employees at the Saudi Binladin Group, a construction giant, have set fire to more than seven company buses in the latest protest by disgruntled staff over not being paid salaries for months and a large round of reported layoffs. Maj Nayef Al-Sharif, the spokesman for the Civil Defense in the city of Makkah, said late Saturday that firefighters put out the blaze without any injuries reported.

The Binladin Group has not issued any statements about the reported layoffs or the unrest. Calls and an email request for comment to the company were not immediately returned. For several weeks,

thousands of the firm's employees have been staging rare protests in Makkah and the Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah, with some saying they have not been paid for six months.

The attack on the company's buses comes a day after the Saudi Al-Watan newspaper quoted an unnamed source as saying the company has terminated employment for 50,000 foreign workers and issued them exit visas. Many of those workers are apparently refusing to leave without being paid their late wages, the newspaper reported. Also Friday, local newspapers reported that five construction workers

Continued on Page 13

TEAR GAS, TENSIONS ON MAY DAY

QAEDA DOWN BUT FAR FROM OUT FIVE YEARS AFTER LADEN

DUBAI: Five years after the killing of Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, the network he founded is far from dead even if it has suffered a series of setbacks. Replaced as the preeminent global jihadist power by the Islamic State group, Al-Qaeda nonetheless remains a potent force and dangerous threat, experts say. With last year's Charlie Hebdo massacre in Paris and a wave of shootings in West Africa, Al-Qaeda has shown it can still carry out its trademark spectacular attacks.

And in Syria and Yemen its militants have seized on chaos to take control of significant territory, even presenting themselves as an alternative to the brutality of IS rule. By the time US special forces killed bin Laden in Pakistan on May 2, 2011, the group he founded in the late 1980s had been badly damaged, with many of its militants and leaders killed or captured in the US "War on Terror".

Dissent grew in the jihadist ranks as new Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri struggled in bin Laden's place, until one of its branches, originally Al-Qaeda in Iraq, broke away to form the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). After seizing large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014, the group declared an Islamic "caliphate" in areas under its control, calling itself simply the Islamic State. IS has since eclipsed its former partner, drawing thousands of jihadists to its cause and claiming responsibility for attacks that have left hundreds dead in Brussels, Paris, Tunisia, Turkey, Lebanon, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and on a Russian airliner over Egypt. Its self-declared "emir" Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi has won pledges of

Continued on Page 13

PARIS: French and Turkish police fired tear gas at protesters as tensions erupted in both countries during May Day rallies yesterday, while thousands marched across the globe for the annual celebration of worker's rights. From Moscow to Madrid, workers chanted demands for higher wages, better conditions and more job security as many countries battle economic uncertainty and high unemployment.

Thick clouds of tear gas hung above the Place de la Nation square in Paris where youths in balaclavas and ski masks lobbed cobblestones and bottles at black-clad riot troops shouting: "Everyone hates the police." Police estimated some 17,000 protesters marched throughout

the French capital for a rally riding a wave of anger against planned labor reforms set to come before parliament tomorrow. Ten people were arrested, while one demonstrator and one officer were lightly injured in the scuffles, police said.

The May Day rally was the second protest against the reforms in a week to descend into violence led by troublemakers known as "casseurs" (breakers) who actively seek confrontation with security forces. "We will respond with the greatest of determination to these troublemakers... the attacks and violence against security forces are unacceptable," said French Prime Minister Manuel Valls on Sunday.

Continued on Page 13



PARIS: Police stand in formation as they clash with protesters at a traditional May Day demonstration yesterday. — AFP



Veterinary staff check a camel at the Tharb camel hospital in the Qatari desert on Dec 13, 2015. — AFP

QATAR RACING CAMELS BRED FOR SUCCESS

DOHA: Deep in the Qatari desert, Musharif spends his afternoons "swimming" in a large pool that doubles as a jacuzzi, just one of the perks of being a racing camel. "It's for his muscles, it's good for the speed," shouts one of Musharif's handlers pointing at the water as the calm three-year-old animal is led by a rope along the length of the pool at Tharb camel hospital. The pool stands next to the hospital, in what looks like a huge agricultural shed with slipways in and out of the water. The hospital is the only such facility in Qatar.

Situated almost as far west as it is possible to go in Qatar, the hospital is around an hour's drive and a world away from the ultra-modern capital, Doha. It is found long after the city's skyscrapers have vanished from sight and Doha's sprawling suburbs give way to desert, and only then with some good map-reading skills. The only clue to its existence are the

increasing number of pens filled with resting camels dotted along the dusty highway close to the hospital.

But there is a reason for its remoteness - it is not only a hospital, but also a breeding centre for camels through embryo transfer and artificial insemination and it needs to be isolated to protect its valuable "crops." "You want a centre like this to be far enough yet accessible to the potential users," said Ahmed Tibary, a professor of veterinary medicine and a consultant at Tharb. "Far enough because the intent of breeding and producing by embryo transfer, you have to have a little bit of isolation. Because eventually this is an institution that will house the top-level camels, so if you are developing embryo transfers you want the top racing camels or the top genetics isolated so it's protected."

In a region where camel racing is big busi-

ness, Tharb's work is increasingly important, and the first camels bred at the center are already racing in Qatar. Tibary admitted that research into breeding camels had "lagged behind" similar work with other animals, but no longer. "I think it's the future just like we have seen in other species," he said. Artificial breeding means owners of camels being sent to stud can command increasingly high prices. The current big star in the sport is a six-year-old known as "Al-Jazeera", who would be "priceless" at stud, agree camel owners gathered at the hub for camel racing in Qatar - the Al-Shahaniya track. "He has more fans than (football's) Messi," jokes another.

Professional camel racing started in 1972 in Qatar and the season usually runs from September through to around March. More than 5,000 locals attend and there are some

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Australia's Governor General Peter John Cosgrove, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a book on Kuwait's humanitarian role, presented by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

AMIR HOLDS OFFICIAL TALKS WITH AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNOR GENERAL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace the visiting Australia's Governor General Peter John Cosgrove and his accompanying delegation. Official talks convened between the two sides headed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials, whereas Governor General Peter John Cosgrove represented the Australian side.

Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said the two sides delved during their friendly talks into bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields. The talks were dominated by a cordial and friendly atmosphere reflecting on the deep-rooted ties

between the two countries. Later, His Highness the Amir held a luncheon in honor of the visiting Australian Governor and his delegation. Also yesterday, the Australian official met separately with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, as well as His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Humanitarian leadership

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled attended the meeting.

UN's High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi handed His Highness the Amir a special book titled 'Kuwait's response' about Kuwait's humanitarian

role. Grandi expressed his honor for meeting His Highness the Amir, adding that the purpose of his visit is to thank His Highness for his humanitarian leadership.

He also extended his thanks to Kuwaiti people for "supporting refugees in many parts of the world and particularly Syrian refugees." "We have had important meetings with the minister of foreign affairs and with the Director General of Kuwait Fund for development, and I think there is potential for further cooperation," Grandi added.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled meanwhile commended the UN refugee agency's humanitarian contributions to help people in need worldwide. He made his remarks during a separate meeting with Grandi held on Saturday, and emphasized international humanitarian action was an integral part of Kuwait's foreign policy.

Grandi praised Kuwait's efforts to

spreading humanitarian principles around the world, driven by its quest to help the others and UN's naming of His Highness the Amir as Humanitarian Leader, and Kuwait as Humanitarian Center. He said Kuwait has always supported people in need worldwide specially the Syrian people, manifested in hosting three conferences to support the Syrian people and co-chairing a fourth meeting in London.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's office Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Dhari Al-Ajran and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hain.

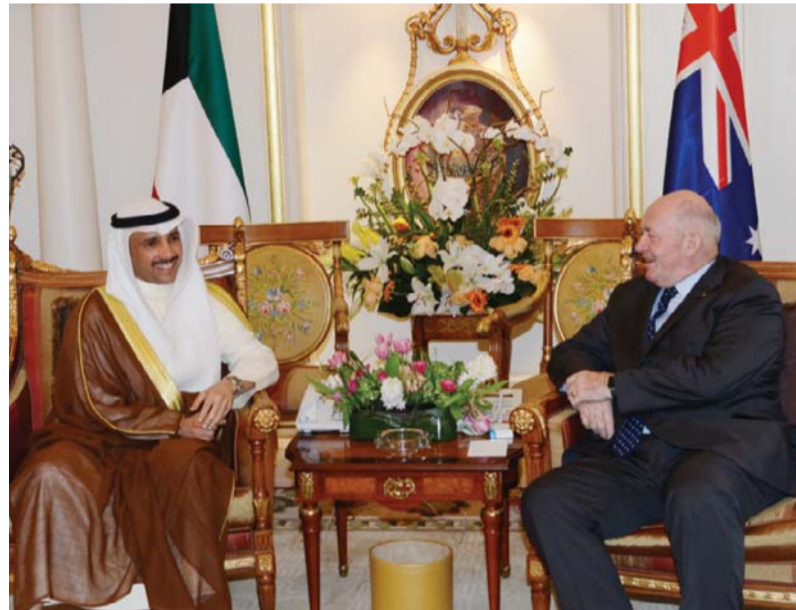
State officials

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-

Ahmad, Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. He also received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak after his return from the United States, where he represented His Highness the Amir in the signing ceremony of a new global agreement on climate which took place at the United Nations' Headquarters. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.— KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Australia's Governor General Peter John Cosgrove.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Australia's Governor General Peter John Cosgrove.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Australia's Governor General Peter John Cosgrove.

JUSTICE MINISTER OPENS NEW KIJS BUILDING

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (KIJS) has a high status among Arab counterparts and has come to be a lofty seat of training, Minister of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane said. This prominent place KIJS came to realize was thanks to concerted and hard efforts by officials in charge of it since the institute was established by a decree 37/1994, the minister told yesterday after he opened the KIJS's building. Visiting Armenia's Minister of Justice Arpine Hovhannisyann attended the opening ceremony.

The opening of the new premises crowns a punch of legislations achieved by the Ministry of Justice, in addition to a series of procedures taken to promote justice-organizing mechanisms, the minister said. Sane referred to the Family Court Law as the most significant of these.

According to this law, approved in March, the ministry would start distributing family courts in the state's six governorates over the coming two months, the minister said. He pointed to the electronic process system. The minister referred to the new law on cyber-crime as a "quantum achievement," quashing claims that it harms freedoms.

KIJS director Justice Adel Al-Essa said meanwhile that the institute started its training and qualifying role as of January 1995. Eassa commended former chiefs of the KIJS who lavished hard efforts to promote it so that it can play due role.

Legal cooperation

Meanwhile, Kuwait and Armenia have signed a memo of understanding for promoting and developing bilateral cooperation in legal and judicial domains. Speaking to reporters after signing the agreement, minister Sane said Kuwait is willing to bolster and strengthen cooperative relations with Armenia in legal and judicial fields. He said the agreement reflected a strong belief that this pattern of internationally stimulated bilateral cooperation is a core pillar for taking effective measures in the fight against crimes and relative supportive acts.

The Kuwaiti minister added that the signing of the deal came following his recent visit to Armenia, which, according to him, marked a model for developing bilateral relations in various areas, mainly legal and judicial ones. He noted that political challenges bearing on basic issues that concern international security and stability necessitate unifying visions and efforts to find necessary mechanisms for continuing cooperation between both nations.

Minister Hovhannisyann, who signed the agreement on the Armenian side, said meanwhile that her country and Kuwait enjoy deep and firm relations, and are willing to promote them in various realms, particularly legal and judicial areas. She added that her visit to Kuwait mainly aimed at promoting and consolidating aspects of cooperation between both friendly countries.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah's Director General Sheikha Hussah Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah guides Australian Governor-General Peter Cosgrove during his tour of the Amricani Cultural Centre. — Amiri Diwan photos



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL VISITS AMRICANI CULTURAL CENTRE

KUWAIT: Australian Governor-General Peter Cosgrove and his wife yesterday visited Amricani Cultural Centre, an affiliate of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah (DAI). Cosgrove was received by DAI's Director

General and co-founder Sheikha Hussah Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. He toured DAI's two exhibitions: "Splendors of the Ancient East: Antiquities from the al-Sabah Collection" and "Story of Amricani."

The Australian Governor-General was accompanied by head of the honorary mission Advisor at Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abdullah Abu-Alhassan and his wife.— KUNA



Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane and Armenian Minister of Justice Arpine Hovhannisyann sign a cooperation agreement between the two countries.





KUWAIT: Muhra Al-Yaqoubi, Director of the training program at Sky News (left), Sheikh Hala bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa, member of the board of trustees of the Khalifiya (second from left) and Naser Al-Arfaj, Public Relations and Media Manager at the Ministry of Youth (third from left) attend the first session of the 13th Arab Media Forum yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh and Yasser Al-Zayyat

13TH ARAB MEDIA FORUM UNDERWAY

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The sessions and workshops of the 13th Arab Media Forum kicked off yesterday morning at the Kuwait Regency Hotel. The two-day forum this year is titled 'Media, Challenges and Elements' and is being held under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The first discussion session was on media and community issues and three speakers participated. Bahrain's Sheikh Hala bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa, member of the board of trustees of the Khalifiya spoke about the charity foundation that was founded in 2011. "It is a non-profit organization focusing on voluntary work and teaching youth. The foundation also works on developing volunteering ideology and encouraging this work. The media plays great role in supporting voluntary organizations, which affects the public and spreads the idea. Our foundation also depends on social media to attract youth and correct the wrong meaning of volunteering," stressed Sheikh Hala.

Community issues

United Arab Emirates' Muhra Al-Yaqoubi, Director of the training program at Sky News, discussed the impact of the methods used by media in dealing with community issues. "Twenty-five years ago, our media was dealing with all issues and problems in the community in a positive way, although these issues are in fact negative. A popular example of this is the media personality Mohammed Al-Sanousi, and all the problems that he highlighted in a positive way helped people to understand them and work on solving them," she noted.

According to her, youth need rehabilitation and training in this field. "Educational institutions play a key role in cooperation with the media in supporting youth abilities. Sky News has a challenging program for training and rehabilitating youth and has trained over 80 students who are now working in various institutions," added Yaqoubi. Naser Al-Arfaj, Public Relations



Ghanim Al-Miftah attends the second session of the 13th Arab Media Forum.

and Media Manager at the Ministry of Youth, said that this ministry is a new one, and is keen to be strongly present in the community. "We focused on social media to reach young people. We have also communications with them and we apply their ideas in practical life, as we realized many projects proposed by youth. We have also sponsored over 20 enterprises in the media field," he pointed out.

Special Experience

The second session was titled 'Special Experience' and presented by Ghanim Al-Miftah, a young boy from Qatar. He spoke about the challenges and obstacles he faced due to his disability, as he was born with only half a body. "I have small body but a big heart. God blessed me with many blessings, so I should smile. Satisfaction of what God gave me is one of the best expressions of positivity, so people should accept what God has given them so they see the world positively. I accepted my disability and live happily and peacefully with it, although I was suffering from the way kids were looking at me.

But this doesn't bother me, as I know that those looking at me do thank God for the blessings they live in, so I'm the reason behind mentioning God," he explained.

"My mother supported me and encouraged me to face the community. She always advised me to talk nicely to people, otherwise I would stay lonely. My mother also printed books about me and distributed them in schools and other institutions in order to change the way people look at disabled persons. This raised my self-confidence in dealing with others," added Miftah.

He also has dreams like other people. "I dream to become an orthopedic doctor to help patients who cannot afford medical treatment. I also wish to become prime minister one day. I practice various sports such as swimming, shooting and mountain climbing," concluded Miftah, who is the youngest Arab businessman as he owns an ice cream company with six branches in Qatar. He is also in charge of various charity activities including a wheelchair campaign for people in need, collecting a million riyals for Palestinians in Lebanon, and others.

ASAR LEGAL COUNSEL TO CLEAN FUELS PROJECT'S FINANCIERS

LARGEST FINANCING IN KUWAITI DINAR IN HISTORY OF KUWAIT

KUWAIT: ASAR - Al-Ruwayeh and Partners (ASAR), Kuwait's leading and most prominent corporate law firm, and one of the region's top tier firms, has acted as legal counsel of National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Finance House and other financial institutions in respect of the conventional and Islamic financing of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) clean fuels project. The project includes the upgrade and integration of the two largest existing refineries in the country, ie, Mina Abdulla and Mina Al-Ahmadi refineries. The project will increase the combined capacity of the refineries from the existing 736,000 barrels per day to 800,000 barrels per day, and will lower the

sulfur content of petroleum products to 5 percent. The overall cost of the project is KD 3.4 billion (\$11.35 billion), and is part of the Kuwait's KD 30 billion (\$100 billion) economic development plan. The importance of this financing comes from the fact that it is the first financing to be obtained by KNPC and it is the largest financing transaction in Kuwaiti dinar in the history of Kuwait and amounts to KD 1.2 Billion (around \$ 4 Billion).

Rob Little, Counsel at ASAR said: "Our involvement in a transaction of this magnitude is a testament to the solid development of Kuwait based companies. This latest deal highlights ASAR's capabilities in servicing Kuwait's top tier companies and financial insti-

tutions in the Kuwaiti market." Ibrahim Sattout, Partner at ASAR said: "We have been honored to work with and represent the lenders in this high profile transaction and we appreciate the confidence and trust that the lenders have put in our firm. We look forward to continuing to assist our clients in reaching their business and strategic objectives." John Cunha, Partner at ASAR said: "Despite challenging economic times, this transaction underlines the interest of the economic players in the oil sector and its development. This deal affirms ASAR's trusted involvement with prominent organizations in numerous landmark projects that are part of the country's development plan."

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with comprehensive legal advice and support for their business activities in Kuwait, across the GCC and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and commercial law firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the Chambers Global Guide, International Financial Law Review (IFLR) and the Legal 500. In 2015, ASAR was awarded with the IFLR National Law Firm of the Year Award; an award which ASAR has been delighted to receive for the 7th consecutive year. The firm also won the "Best Restructuring Deal in the Middle East" award by IFLR in 2014. Further, the firm won the prestigious "2014 Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year" and the "2014 Best Banking and Finance Legal Team -Kuwait" awards from Acquisition International Magazine in 2014. ASAR lawyers have also received multiple awards under different categories in the Fourth Edition of 'Best Lawyers' in Kuwait.



JAHRA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

'PROUD TO BE JAHRA'S FIRST COLLEGE'

KUWAIT: Algonquin College, Kuwait's first Canadian College, collaborated with local high schools from all around Al-Jahra district to introduce their soon to be graduates to the College. Tours were conducted around campus to show the students the different classrooms, state-of-the-art labs and modern facilities that the College has to offer. At the end of the tour, the students attended a short presentation introducing the college's different programs and curriculum. The session was headed by the Dean, Admissions and Student Services, Kawthar Abu Ghazaleh, who welcomed the students to the College and stated: "At Algonquin College - Kuwait we are not only focused on providing the highest level of education to prepare you for success, but we also use the latest technologies and techniques to engage you and enable you to reach your highest potential. To complete your overall academics, we encourage students to bring their own devices to use as part of the learning tool and to upload their e-books, in an aim to equip you with the skills needed to succeed in today's high-tech work environments."

Concluding the presentation, Abu Ghazaleh said: "The Algonquin College in Kuwait is a branch campus and not an affiliate, thus ensuring the deliverance of world class education that is provided in Canada and other branches of the College internationally. The campus is the newest addition

to Kuwait's higher education, providing the most in demand academics in today's professional world".

Algonquin College is offering new diploma programs this upcoming Fall 2016/2017 which are: Business - Accounting Diploma, Internet Applications and Web Development Diploma, and Interactive Media Design Diploma in addition to the Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Business Marketing and Computer Programmer Diplomas that were offered during Fall 2015. Registration for the upcoming semester (Fall 2016/2017) will begin on May 1st 2016 on campus.

Algonquin College is one of Canada's largest and most respected post-secondary colleges. It is based in Ottawa, Ontario, the Capital of Canada, and in 2017, it will celebrate its 50th year of operation. In Canada, Algonquin College is recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities and it offers over 270 programs and registers over 50,000 students per year. It is well known for offering first class IT and Business Management Diplomas.

Internationally, Algonquin College operates branch campuses in China, India, Montenegro, Saudia Arabia, Kuwait and soon in the UAE. As a branch campus, when you study in AC-Kuwait you benefit from Algonquin College's international expertise, excellent reputation, skilled faculty and quality programs.



TWO DAYS TO REGISTER FOR 'WOMEN IN CORPORATE WORLD' CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: There are only two days left to register online for the long awaited "Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling" conference, which will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. This important non-profit conference is a joint initiative between Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank, and with support from the KIPCO Group. Register online at: www.womeninthecorporate-world.com.

During the conference the results of a new Kuwait survey on key motivating factors and challenges for women in Kuwait's workforce will be released to help enrich understanding the drivers that incentivize women to work. Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank have conducted the nationwide research to better understand the key motivating factors for women in Kuwait workforce. The survey targeted both students and professional women in Kuwait, and analyzed over 2,000 responses.

The conference will bring together key influential international, regional, and local leaders, to discuss the important issue of gender diversity in the workplace, where keynote speakers including international entrepreneur Randi Zuckerberg, Undersecretary at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, and Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Kuwait Energy, Sara Akbar, and panel discussions which will highlight two main subjects 'The Work/Life Balance' and 'The Role Identity'. The conference is also intended to create a networking platform for business women to exchange ideas and provide assistance in achieving success in the corporate environment. To keep updated about the "Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling" conference, please visit the website: www.womeninthecorporate-world.com and follow Instagram account: @GDC2016 For inquiries and opportunities, please contact events@alghanim.com.

GCC CONDEMNS ALEPPO BOMBARDMENT

RIYADH/CAIRO: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) condemned that Syrian regime and its allies' "continued barbaric bombardment" of the northern Syrian city of Aleppo which left hundreds of civilians either dead or injured. "The GCC member states denounce the heinous crimes committed against unarmed civilians of Aleppo," GCC Secretary General Abdulatif Al-Zayani said.

"These are crimes against humanity," He added that the GCC states are urging the United Nations Security Council and the countries brokering the recent ceasefire in Syria to take action to stop such escalation. Zayani blamed the Syrian regime and its supporters for the brutal attacks and airstrikes on civilian targets in Aleppo.

Meanwhile, Arab League's permanent representatives will hold an extraordinary meet-

ing on Wednesday, at the request of Qatar, to discuss military operations against the Syrian city of Aleppo.

Member countries have agreed to convene an urgent meeting on Wednesday, the league said in a statement. Qatar requested an urgent meeting to discuss the Syrian regime and its allies' bombardment of Aleppo which left hundreds of civilians either dead or injured. — KUNA

WOMEN IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

"BEYOND THE GLASS CEILING"

JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL | 4 MAY 2016 | 4 PM

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Local Spotlight

LETTERS TO MUNA

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Dear Muna,
Thanks for the article on hotels. This is so true and laws really need to be looked at by the government to encourage people to visit our beautiful Kuwait. Let's hope this is made a major issue.

Adeeb

Dear Muna,
I work with the American University's School of International of Service. Our online masters in international relations program just published a new data visualization that analyzes which countries have donated the most to support Syrian refugees. While Kuwait comes in second in total dollars contributed, its generosity far outweighs any other country (when you divide the total dollar amount by GDP).

Adam

Dear Muna,
With regards to your article about citizenship, why isn't the law being passed for granting citizenship to the children of Kuwaiti mothers? False promises were made by MPs during the election three years ago and till date nothing has been done. Please highlight this issue, as we are approaching another election next year.

Taimur

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CHIEF, CLUB CHARGED WITH SQUANDER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) yesterday referred Al-Jahra Sports Club to the public prosecution over charges of squandering KD 74,000 in public funds. Similarly, PAS also referred the chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee Talal Al-Fahd and the committee's secretary Obaid Al-Enezi to the public prosecution over charges of embezzling and squandering public funds.

Storming case adjourned

The court of appeal yesterday adjourned the case of storming the parliament's building, in which 70 citizens including 11 former MPs face charges. Most of the defendants, including nine former MPs, did not attend the hearing, sources said, adding that some lawyers requested postponing the hearing while others called certain witnesses for testimony. Notably, the comprehensive court had acquitted all defendants but the public prosecution contested the ruling and took the case to the court of appeal.

Lack of evidence

For lack of evidence against them, security forces yesterday released the relatives of a juvenile accused of stabbing a citizen in Sabah Al-Nasser and referred him to the central prison, said security sources.



KUWAIT: A cell phone photo that shows what appears to be former MP Musallam Al-Barrak waiving to attendees during a court hearing for the parliament's storming case yesterday.

Legalese

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Sexual harassment is still an issue in a lot of countries and has been a focus of the United Nations for the past few decades. Sexual harassment is a very serious act that can happen to any woman (or man), in any country, from any background, in any situation.

But what is the situation in Kuwait? How common is sexual harassment? And do people report such issues?

There is no solid research that answers the questions above, but from my experience as a woman, I would say that sexual harassment does happen in Kuwait (just like it happens in any other country). I have had men follow me (sometimes dangerously) and say things to me to try to get me to take their number. In fact it happens often, but at least I can say that I am blessed to know what my rights are and what I can do in such situations, which is why I want to share them with you today. Thankfully, the law in Kuwait is very strict against sexual harassment from men towards woman.

Uncomfortable

Question: One of my colleagues at work keeps making me feel uncomfortable but I do not think what he does is enough for me to consider it sexual harassment. For example, he winks at me, or puts his hands on my thighs when talking to me. I really do not know what to do about it and if there is anything I can do legally.

Fajer: Well, there is no right and wrong answer to this question. Many lawyers might even say that I have no right answering whether or not you should seek legal action and instead focus on how to seek legal action, but to me that is not practical. I think when you are seeking advice from someone, you should be able to speak to them about the whole situation, so my advice is as follows:

Weigh it out, if it is traumatizing you or if you feel like you cannot have a healthy working relationship, then yes, you need to do something about it. But your response does not have to be legal action. You can talk to your colleague about it, file a complaint at work (speak to your HR), and so on. If the behavior persists, then yes, you can seek legal action, even if it is just a wink. But remember you will need sufficient evidence, otherwise it is a waste of your time and money.

It is also important to mention that you should not seek legal action because of spite, or revenge or any other negative thought, you should seek it before you feel the need to.

Punishments

Question: I would like to know for my own information what are the punishments by law for those who sexually harass?

Fajer: The answers differs to the extent of the act of sexual harassment and the circumstances surrounding it. Here are a few examples: If the act is done through hate, threatening or deceiving shall be punished with up to 15 years of imprisonment. If the act is done by a guardian, any guardian and not necessarily a legal guardian, such as a parent, uncle, teacher, caretaker and so, then the punishment will be up to life imprisonment.

It also depends on the state of the victim. If the victim is under the legal age, not mentally stable, is not mentally capable of understanding the nature of the act, then the punishment will be up to life imprisonment.

If the act of sexual harassment is done without hate, threatening or deceiving, then the punishment shall be up to 10 years of imprisonment.

'Virtual' harassment

Question: If someone is bothering me virtually and in person, as in sending me emails with sexual content, is there anything I can do about it?

Fajer: As I mentioned in the first question, this depends on how you feel and how badly it is affecting you. You have to weigh it out. If you think that it is affecting your day-to-day life then you need to take action, and Kuwaiti law does protect you. In fact the new Cyber Crime law specifically discusses situations that can affect victims online and there is a department under the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior specialized in such cases.

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

KRCS OFFERS AID TO 3,000 SYRIAN FAMILIES IN JORDAN

AMMAN: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday concluded a campaign for distributing relief aid on up to 3,000 Syrian refugee families in different parts of Jordan. The KRCS was keen that the humanitarian aid distributed over three days cover several parts of the Kingdom, including the capital Amman and the governorates of Mafrq and Irbid, KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said. He added that the relief campaigns and the humanitarian launched by the society and partners aim to improve the living conditions of the Syrian refugees and alleviate their sufferings.

Hasawi underlined the significance of donations from by Kuwaiti benefactors for the continuation of the aid since the eruption of the Syrian crisis more than five years ago. Distribution of the aid is based on surveys conducted by teams from KRCS and the Jordan Red Crescent (JRC) to identify the areas where refugees are found. Hasawi emphasized the fact that the KRCS's relief efforts are based on directives from the country's political leadership, with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on top.

Meanwhile, JRC director in Al-Mafrq Ali Al-Shudifat stressed Kuwait's humanitarian distinguished and leading role, through



the country's charity organizations, offering continuous relief aid since the crisis erupted. A KRCS delegation, led by Chairman Hilal Al-Sayer, in the first session of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO) that wrapped up its meetings last Thursday. — KUNA



AMMAN: KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi distributes aid to refugees in Jordan. — KUNA



INTERIOR READY FOR SUMMER, TRAVEL SEASON

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director General of the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said that all Interior Ministry sectors completed their preparations for the summer and travel season.



Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash

Hashash said the department began implementing its media awareness plans that are necessary for this occasion through all available media. Furthermore, he added that there is total coordination with the sea security sector to carry out the media campaign throughout the summer, and provide guidance to citizens and expatriates who go to the sea.

Hashash said that boats and jet skis must be registered at the sea affairs department at the transportation sector of the Ministry of Communications according to the law. Those riding boats and jet skis must be at least 18 years of age, can swim and use the life vest, he said.

Hashash appealed to sea goers to comply with the territorial borders, call Coast Guard operations and inform them about their whereabouts, in addition to making sure they have enough fuel.

KUWAIT CHARITIES SEND EMERGENCY RELIEF AID TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN SOMALIA

KHARTOUM: The Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and Kuwaiti Balsam Voluntary Team have launched an emergency relief program to offer desperately-needed food aid to drought-ravaged Somali people.

The program includes the distribution of 5,500 food parcels to affected families in northern, southern and eastern provinces, Head of Relief Department at IICO and Member of the delegation dispatched to

Somalia Mohammad Al-Najjar said in a press statement. He added that the IICO and Balsam would also organize to medical convoys to treat people in the northern province, the hardest hit by the drought, and distribute 510 sheep and goats to 170 families to eke out a living.

The food parcels, which weigh 70 kg each and contain diet staples, such as rice, sugar, flour, dates, and milk powder, will assist recipients to endure the hardships caused by the drought that has plagued

their land and harmed farms and livestock.

"This is a generous donation from Kuwaiti people to Somali brethren" Member of Balsam Team Dr. Ahmad Khodhr said. He added that program is launched in response to the recent UN appeal to offer emergency aid to Somalia.

Over one million Somalis are suffering from malnutrition and thousands of lives are in danger due to the severe drought, he warned. Millions of people across the Horn of Africa have been hit by El Nino-

related drought. Some 1.7 million people, 40 percent of the population of northern Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland and Somaliland regions, need emergency aid, the UN has said recently. "Another 1.3 million are on the brink of slipping into a deeper crisis if rains continue to fail and aid is too slow to come," it said. The UN cautioned that the drought may worsen as predictions for Somalia's main 'Gu' rainy season, from March to June, are poor. — KUNA



In Brief

GCC ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE CONVENES

RIYADH: A joint committee of GCC agencies responsible for protecting integrity and fighting corruption held its seventh meeting in Riyadh yesterday. During the meeting, the conferees addressed a host of key issues and subjects pertinent to anti-corruption plans in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, primarily guide procedures for implementing two UN and Arab anti-corruption agreements. They also discussed a feasibility study for creating a Gulf anti-corruption index and necessary executive mechanisms for organizing awareness promotion activities. — KUNA



SIRENS TO BE TESTED TOMORROW

KUWAIT: Sirens will be tested out in the country at 10:00 am tomorrow by the civil defense department. The sirens will be blasted in three different tones (intermittent, wavy and continuous) that will last one minute each, followed by a voice explanation for each code, the Ministry of Interior's security media department said in a press statement. E-messages on highways will also be displayed 24-hour prior to operating the sirens, it added. — KUNA



KUNA CHIEF MEETS JORDANIAN MINISTER

KUWAIT: Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah received yesterday Jordanian Information Minister and official government spokesman Dr Mohammad Al-Moumni, who is on a visit to the country to partake in an Arab media forum. The two sides discussed regional and international political developments, with emphasis placed on the role of media in shaping up these events. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Tools used in the art of Arabic calligraphy. — KUNA photo

MINISTRY TO HOST 29 WORLD RENOWNED PHYSICIANS IN MAY

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health announced that it invited 29 senior physicians and consultants in various specialties to visit Kuwaiti hospitals, conduct rare surgeries and delivers lectures to medical symposia this May.

These visits fall in the framework of the Ministry's monthly program for enabling the medical staff of hospitals to share experience with foreign consultants, said director of the Ministry's Information and Public Relations

Department Faisal Al-Dousary.

"The agenda of the visits includes conducting surgeries in such areas as cosmetics, cardiology, dermatology, otolaryngology, neoplasm, neurology, radiology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, urology, chemotherapy and naturopathy as well as post-surgery rehabilitation," he revealed. "The consultants invited are from the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Malaysia, India, South Africa, Turkey and

Egypt," Dousary pointed out. He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to pursuing the monthly visit programs around the year with a view to enabling the Kuwaiti medical cadres to keep abreast with the latest developments in the profession. "To host world-renowned physicians and consultant surgeons spares the patients in Kuwait the trouble of travel given the fact that the Kuwaiti hospitals have the latest medical equipment," he added. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Ismail Al-Ghanem (third from left) speaks during the press conference. — KUNA

SAB: OIL SECTOR IN NEED OF ADEPT WORKFORCE

KUWAIT: The oil sector is in need of an adept and competent workforce, Undersecretary of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Ismail Al-Ghanem said yesterday, describing the sector as the lifeblood of the Gulf economy.

Ghanem made the remarks at the onset of a training course on the oil sector, collectively organized by state audit bureaus of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. The training course, which runs for five days, provides an opportunity to acquire much needed expertise in the oil

sector, Ghanem noted. Moreover, Ghanem said that he expected the program would yield positive results that would further develop the oil sector in GCC countries. Director of International Organizations at SAB Faisal Al-Ansari said that the training course is the product of cooperation between GCC state audit bureaus.

Representative of the GCC General Secretariat Fahad Al-Swailam and Assistant Undersecretary of Administrative and Financial Affairs at SAB Essam Al-Mutairi were in attendance at the start of the course. — KUNA



A group photo of the participants in the training course.

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القلم

Al-Qabas

HADAS BETWEEN PARTICIPATING AND BOYCOTTING

By Mubarak Fahad Al-Duwaila

The general conference of the Islamic Constitutional Movement (Hadas) will be held next week to discuss whether to continue the boycott of parliamentary elections or end the boycott and start preparing for them. I think that if we swear in front of the nation that we did not take a certain stand towards this issue so far, some will not believe what we are saying, because they do not want to believe. Rather their stand towards the movement's credibility will not change.

That is why we do not care about the opinion of this type of people in us. Also, some people went ahead and claimed that Hadas has decided to participate, and the truth that we confirm, that today and until the conference is held, we do not know what the decision will be, because all options are possible, especially since many of conference members are new and recently elected, and we do not know their directions.

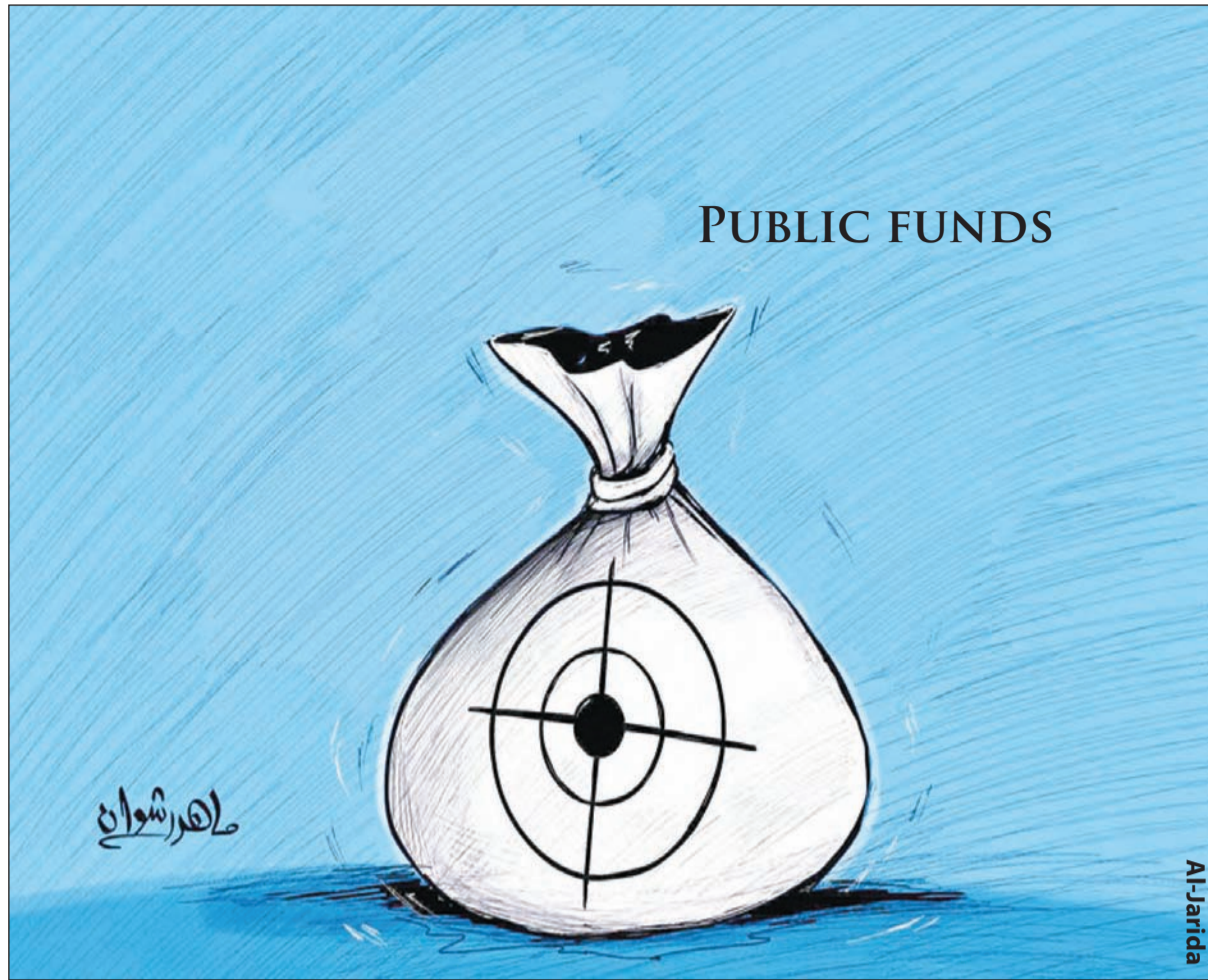
Although Hadas is the most affected from the boycott, it is the most committed to attend the meetings of political powers, especially the annulled majority, and participate in political activities, despite being few lately.

The movement's people are dealing with two opinions today - one calling to continue the boycott so not to legitimize the current situation that is immersed in corruption, and not to be false witnesses on the march of an Assembly which has no job other than approving the government's programs and its iniquitous projects towards the people and the country, and not to be partners in failure in all fields that is being led by the government under the patronage of the Assembly. This is a strong opinion with us.

Another opinion that surfaced lately within the movement is that it is necessary to participate and end the boycott, even if only a minority from the opposition wins. And their justification is that the presence of a strong voice of the other opinion inside the chamber will cause the delay of corruption and halt it, and may move stagnant waters, and may, along with other voices in the society, embarrass the corrupt and those using the people's cause and their children's livelihoods.

Participation will also contribute to directing the government's decision and expose its disadvantages, if they exist. In fact participation becomes more necessary if it was found that most of the political opposition spectrum in the country will participate the elections. Anyway, the dialogue is still going on in the movement, and we would like to explain to the public that we will clearly declare if we decide to participate or continue the boycott, and we wish that the movement's stands be taken directly from it only.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



PUBLIC FUNDS

النبا

Al-Anbaa

AN EXPERT WITH A TOWEL!

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

Abu Foutah' (the one with a towel) is the local name of a type of domestic pigeon. I personally do not know why people use such a name because I have never seen any of these pigeons flying with a towel it used to dry sweat or wear it around its neck as a scarf. However, like many others, I do know the 'expert with the towel'.

In the comic play named 'Ala Haman Ya Fer'oun' we saw an example of such an expert and ever since, the 'expert' title has become common and we now have hundreds of them in finance, politics and law. Everybody demands to be introduced as an 'expert' nowadays while they do not even deserve such a title. After all, they are not titles used with pigeons, you know!

We only had one very well-known expert in combating drugs who had been internationally acknowledged by the UN and the Arab League. He is

Dr Ayed Ali Al-Humaidan, who earned the title after conducting an endless number of studies on drugs. The funny thing is that there is a strange link between the international expert Dr Humaidan and the expert with the towel. We recently learnt that the latter asked for a towel to use in drying his sweat after checking some account books. So, I advise Humaidan to ask for one, as well, to dry the sweat he wasted in making studies that nobody ever benefited from.

We are now more like chicken and fish. Whenever a chicken lays one single egg, it tells the world with its crowing, while a fish lays millions of eggs without hearing a single sound from it. Some people purchase a degree and the 'Dr' prefix from musical instrument stores without even knowing the difference between the musical scale and other scales.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

MGRP PRAISES KFH'S EFFORTS IN TRAINING, EMPLOYING NATIONALS

KUWAIT: Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) praised the practices and efforts of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in employing and training the national manpower, indicating that this endeavor is an important and strategic added value to the efforts of the private sector in raising the bar of national manpower.

A delegation from KFH visited the Headquarters of the MGRP where they met Secretary General of Manpower and Government

Restructuring Program (MGRP) Fawzi Al-Majdali, MGRP Assistant Secretary General for Manpower Affairs Bandar Fahad Al-Rashed and the head of MGRP's Training Department, Iman Al-Ansari who discussed with KFH the opportunities for cooperation while demonstrating the training and development programs in accordance with the mutual strategies and objectives of both sides. They stressed the importance and the pivotal role of honing the skills of the national manpower, whilst paving the way for

promising future leaders.

KFH works closely with the MGRP to maximize employment opportunities for nationals. During the meeting KFH showcased the number of training courses it held to raise the bar of national manpower and fresh graduates. It is worth noting that the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program - MGRP has honored KFH many times in recognition of its excellence in offering the training and development programs for its employees.



KFH delegation with the MGRP

MUHANNA DENIES INTENTION TO RAISE TRAFFIC FINES 500-FOLD

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's (MOI) Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna strongly denied reports about intentions to increase traffic fines by 500 percent. "This is completely illogical. The percentages suggested by the traffic sector vary between 70-100 percent," he underlined, noting that the parliament would have to pass the study, amend or reject it once it was finished.

Muhanna added that increasing traffic fine values positively helps adjust motorists' conduct and law abidance. "Statistics showed that two months of imposing strict traffic rules and tougher fines helped reduce speeding tickets by 62 percent, reckless driving by 20 percent, driving through red lights by 25 percent and driving on the opposite side of the road by 55 percent," he explained, pointing out that the aim of increasing the fines was to deter traffic law violators.

Responding to a question about traffic jams, Muhanna stressed that he was optimistic that the problem would be solved once the road grid development projects were concluded and many bridges were built, in addition to expanding many of the existing roads. Commenting on the rules followed on granting expatriates driving licenses, Muhanna stressed that the traffic department fully respected the ministerial decision issued in this regard. "One would be wrong to think that the aim of the law is to prevent expats from getting driving licenses," he remarked, pointing out that the amendments made to



Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna

the law currently in effect helped overcome some problems in the previous law and included more categories of expats to those eligible to get driving licenses.

Muhanna would not respond to a question whether getting a driving license in Kuwait was the hardest worldwide, but stressed that some GCC states had asked to review the rules Kuwait follows on granting expats driving licenses in order to apply whatever fits in each respective state, especially since the law helped control the process in view of how easy it was to own a vehicle in all

GCC states.

Notably, expats wishing to get a driving license in Kuwait must have a valid residency visa for a minimum of two years, hold a university degree and get a minimum monthly salary of KD 600. However, traffic laws exempted a few categories from the above general conditions including Kuwaiti citizens' wives, widows or divorcees who have Kuwaiti children, Kuwaiti women's expat husbands and children, illegal residents (bedoons) holding valid security cards, expats' undergraduate students studying in Kuwait, members of the diplomatic corps, professional athletes playing in Kuwait, drivers, representatives (mandoubs) who already have valid driving licenses, domestic workers working for the same sponsor for at least five years (provided they change profession to drivers), oil sector technicians, pilots, co-pilots, captains, assistant

captains, nurses, physiotherapists, medical technicians, washers of dead bodies and housewives and mothers married to judges and members of the public prosecution, experts and advisors, academic teaching staff members, doctors, pharmacists and general managers and their assistants.

The law also exempted judges, members of the prosecution, experts, advisors, academic teaching staff members, journalists, doctors, pharmacists, researchers, translators, librarians, imams working for the government, teachers, social workers, engineers and sports coaches from the residency and salary conditions provided they hold a university degree. Moreover, the law also exempts executives and general managers, accountants and mandoubs from the residency condition provided they get at least KD 600 monthly salaries and hold university degrees. — Al-Anbaa

SALAFISTS TO RUN IN 2017 ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Preparations for the 2017 parliamentary elections seem to have started early with political blocs that are already represented in the current parliament or previous ones who had been boycotting the elections, said parliamentary sources, adding that there was an agreement amongst most blocs to announce their intention to run for the coming elections under any voting sys-

tem, including the one-vote electoral system that is expected to be still in use in view of it becoming political acceptable.

The sources added that the Islamic Salafist Alliance met recently and decided running in the coming parliamentary elections in all electoral constituencies, but deferred announcing the names of its nominees until after the holy month of Ramadan. — Al-Anbaa

Crime

Report

Human remains found in Bayan

KUWAIT: Detectives are working on a case of human skull and bones found in the sewer of a citizen's home in Bayan area. A security source said a citizen asked workers to clean his sewers and while cleaning the ground they were surprised to find human remains. They became scared and called the owner who in turn called the authorities.

Thief steals goods and car

A salesman of a company sought the help of Meidan Hawally police when a thief drove off with his company's car with goods worth KD 8,000. A security source said the salesman told police that he left the car running and went into a supermarket to get some invoices and when he returned the car was missing. Detectives are investigating.

Heroin found with driver

A 20 year old citizen who was driving erratically in Salhiya area was stopped by police who found four heroin envelopes and paraphernalia him. He was arrested and sent to Drugs Control General Department (DCGD).

Man arrested

An Iraqi man was arrested in Salmiya on charges of sexual violation. He was sent to criminal detectives for further action.

Smuggler caught at Abdaly

Abdaly border customs officers foiled the attempt of a truck driver to smuggle 14,000 Captagon tablets into the country. The driver hid the tablets in one of the truck's spare parts. He was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD). — Al-Rai

INTERIOR MINISTRY COMMENTS ON AIRPORT OFFICERS' BEHAVIOR

KUWAIT: Director of the Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry Brig Adel Al-Hashash said the airport is the country's 'face' and the Interior Ministry is keen on making sure workers there are highly informed and experienced, besides following up and holding those who are not performing well to account, because this has to do with the country's reputation.

Commenting on statements of MP Yousuf Al-Zalzal about the poor performance of counter employees at the airport, he said "we welcome all comments and complaints, and we deal with them instantly in a way that guarantees overcoming them." He added bad behavior of one or two employees cannot harm the efforts of hundreds of employees there who are serving the country honorably. — Al-Rai

KD 519 MILLION SPENT ON STUDIES

KUWAIT: The cost of research, studies and consultations paid for by the government during the past five years reached around KD 519 million, distributed as follows: KD 42 million in 2011/2012; KD 134 million in 2012/2013; KD 102 million in 2013/2014; KD 107 million in 2014/2015 and KD 74 million in 2015/2016.

The above-mentioned years agree with the five-year development plan, so the numbers or costs may seem logical compared with the amount of expenditure that was allocated for that plan, yet the result was to the contrary despite the awarding of several projects, major, medium or small. Sources said nearly half of the projects were postponed, which means that some studies need to be updated and what was paid for them is squandering.

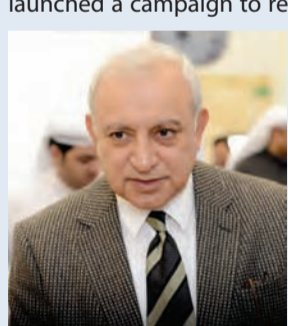
They said some of the consultation fees have some profiteering, as a ministry undersecretary said that each minister comes with a team of advisors who we do not know a thing about, and all we know is the numbers paid to them, only to discover that there are some friends among them. A banking source said some studies do not have anything to do with Kuwait, and done by foreign bodies who do not care about our particulars, get their fees and do not ask what is implemented and what is not. — Al-Qabas

NO UNIVERSITY FOR SOCIAL REFORM SOCIETY

KUWAIT: Education Minister Badr Al-Essa put an end to the ambitions of the Social Reform Society to establish a private university when he confirmed that conditions and requirements for such an act do not apply to this society. He answered a parliamentary question that he did not receive any application from the society to get a permit. Meanwhile, Social Affairs and Labor and Planning Minister Hind Al-Subaihi said the NGO law does not allow the Social Reform Society to establish commercial companies, adding it has not applied for establishing a company.

Buildings taken back

In other news, Well-informed sources said that the Ministry of Education (MoE) has currently launched a campaign to retrieve ministry buildings



Education Minister Badr Al-Essa

rented to others, be they schools or other bodies or organizations because the ministry is in dire need of these buildings. In this regard, MoE's assistant undersecretary for educational facilities and planning Khaled Al-Rasheed said that the private education directorate had demanded evacuating the building used by the Philippines School in Jleeb after the ministry won a case. Rasheed added that the ministry also demanded retrieving the Ibn Khaldoun School building used by the Social Reform Society in Shamiya and that a case was still being heard by court in this regard.

Graduates

In other news, recent statistics indicate that the number of employees the state needs currently does not match the number of graduates available to take the available jobs in the central employment system at the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The government needs 9,536 employees in various specialties, while there are 4,709 graduates from arts colleges who do not find a job in the marketplace out of 16,000 unemployed people. Al-Qabas went into the graduate issue and marketplace for the past five years in order to identify the defects and deal with any of them in directing students to study the required specialties.

Statistics show the number of graduates is 56,000, 23,000 of whom are university graduates including 125 dentists, while health centers are in need of 1,770 medical specialists this year. Meanwhile, it is noted the number of graduates from applied education reached 33,000, and biggest share was of educators.

While Dean of Commercial Studies at Applied Education Dr Asaad Al-Zaid said education is weak in Kuwait, director of the budget department director at CSC Bader Al-Hamad said the commission asked for the halt of theoretical majors that are not needed. — Al-Jarida, Al-Anbaa, Al-Qabas



Rare IS bombings in southern Iraq kill 33

MUSLIM KHAN FAVORITE TO BECOME LONDON MAYOR



BAGHDAD: Iraqis demonstrate in the parade grounds outside the parliament in Baghdad's heavily fortified "Green Zone" yesterday, the day after supporters of Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr broke into the area after lawmakers again failed to approve new ministers. Thousands of wide-eyed Iraqis marvelled at the fountains, flowers and perfect lawns in the capital's Green Zone, a day after protesters breached the walls of the fortified area. — AFP

PROTESTERS QUIT BAGHDAD GREEN ZONE

IRAQI PM ORDERS ARREST OF ATTACKERS, VANDALS

BAGHDAD: Protesters were withdrawing from Baghdad's Green Zone yesterday after breaking into the fortified area and storming Iraq's parliament in an unprecedented security breach the day before. The move, which lessens the pressure on politicians in Baghdad, came as rare bombings in the south killed 33 people and wounded dozens. "The protest organizing committee announces the withdrawal of the demonstrators from the Green Zone," it said in a statement, citing respect for a major Shiite pilgrimage as the reason for their departure.

The statement was distributed by the office of Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, whose supporters make up the vast majority of the demonstrators. Demonstrator Hussein Al-Ali said that the announcement was made at the square where protesters had gathered, and that they accepted it and complied. Protesters pulled down or scaled slabs of heavy concrete blast wall on Saturday to enter the Green Zone, where Iraq's main government institutions are located, the culmination of weeks of political turmoil and inaction by parliament.

Some remained overnight, and hundreds of people combined a festive demonstration with sight-seeing in the previously off-limits area yesterday. Protesters waving flags clapped and

chanted slogans in front of a grandstand from which Saddam Hussein once delivered addresses, in a square bordered by giant statues of twin crossed swords held in hands said to have been modelled on Saddam's own. The Green Zone breach allowed Iraqis access to places they have rarely if ever been able to enter before.

Parallel World

"This is the first time I've been here since I came with my school under Saddam," said 32-year-old Yusef Al-Assadi, who took a "selfie" in front of the monument to the unknown soldier. Assadi said it was striking "how rich this place is. Here, there is air conditioning and electricity everywhere, but the people of Iraq suffer from power cuts all the time." Many Iraqi politicians live in luxury, while most average citizens make do with abysmal services that include only a few hours of government-provided electricity per day at the height of summer.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's office said he had ordered the pursuit of people involved in attacks or vandalism, but security forces were not taking action against protesters inside the Green Zone yesterday. Protesters on Saturday attacked at least one MP as well as cars they believed belonged to lawmakers, and broke into offices in parliament.

But others sought to contain the destruction, and many were content to take photographs of themselves in parliament, with some sitting in seats usually occupied by lawmakers. The fact that security forces may fear the repercussions of crossing Sadr will likely hamper Abadi's directive. The protesters broke into the Green Zone on Saturday afternoon after MPs again failed to approve new ministers to replace the current party-affiliated cabinet. Both Abadi and Sadr have called for the change, but powerful political parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds have opposed the move. "Even the most sectarian of Iraqis are seeing the failure of their leaders and their system," said Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer who is now with The Soufan Group consultancy. "The question might not be 'why now' as it relates to the anger, but 'why it took so long.' Their system is not working," he said.

Parliament approved some of Abadi's nominees earlier in the week, but "they were replacing figures who were easy to replace," said Kirk Sowell a Jordan-based political risk analyst who is the publisher of Inside Iraqi Politics. "Abadi just looks more and more impotent... He is just very weak. He will not be impeached. But he is being made less relevant by the day," Sowell said. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: This photo taken on April 8, 2016 shows US President Barack Obama and daughter Malia make their way to board Air Force One before departing from Los Angeles International Airport. — AFP

MALIA OBAMA HEADED TO HARVARD AFTER GAP YEAR

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama's eldest daughter Malia will attend Harvard University in the fall of 2017 after taking a year off from studies following her high school graduation this spring, the White House said yesterday. "Malia will take a gap year before beginning school," a White House statement said, breaking a months-long silence about Malia's college search. Both her parents attended Harvard Law School.

Malia, 17, will concentrate on finishing her high school final exams before considering how to spend her gap year, an official who had been briefed on Malia's decision told Reuters. She has shown interest in film and television, having worked two summer internships in the industry. Last summer, she worked in Brooklyn, New York, on the set of the HBO series "Girls". In 2014 she worked on the set of CBS science fiction series "Extant",

starring Halle Berry. The now-cancelled series was produced by Steven Spielberg, a prominent donor to Obama's presidential campaigns.

Harvard College, the university's undergraduate division, said on its admissions website that it encouraged admitted students to defer enrollment for one year to travel, pursue a project or work. About 80 to 110 students did so each year, it said. — Reuters

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100 MISSING IN TWO MEDITERRANEAN SHIPWRECKS

ROME: Fifteen migrants are missing after their boat sank on Friday, the second shipwreck that day in the Mediterranean, bringing the number of lives lost to almost 100, the UN said yesterday. A boat carrying around 120 people had sunk early Friday, four hours after leaving Libya for Italy, UN refugee agency (UNHCR) spokeswoman Carlotta Sami told AFP, adding that "some 15 persons went missing". Among the missing were four Nigerians, two people from the Ivory Coast, three from Guinea, two from Sudan and one from Mali, she said.

Survivors were being disembarked in Pozzallo, Sicily, she said, adding that eight people had been taken straight to hospital "due to their serious health conditions," and that two bodies had also been disembarked. The news came a day after the International Organization for Migration said that only 26 people were rescued from an inflatable boat

carrying around 110 migrants when it sank off Libya in a separate shipwreck Friday. Sami said yesterday that 27 people, including four women, were rescued from that boat sinking.

Survivors had provided harrowing accounts of the tragedy, both UNHCR and IOM said. "Due to the very bad conditions of the sea, some two hours after the departure the small boat started to take on water," just a few miles off shore, Sami said in an email.

Boat Broke in Two

IOM spokesman in Italy, Flavio Di Giacomo, told AFP Saturday that the vessel had been "in a very bad state, was taking on water and many people fell into the water and drowned". The boat in the end broke into two parts throwing all the passengers into the waves, Sami said. Rough seas and waves topping two metres (seven feet) hampered attempts to find any

other survivors. Sami said the health conditions of several of the survivors were "reportedly serious". "Survivors say they lost relatives and friends during the shipwreck," she said.

The first hint of the tragedy came early Saturday, when Italy's coastguard said an Italian cargo ship had rescued 26 migrants from a flimsy boat sinking off the coast of Libya but voiced fears that dozens more could be missing. The coastguard received a call from a satellite phone late Friday that helped locate the stricken inflatable and called on the merchant ship to make a detour to the area about seven kilometres off the Libyan coast near Sabratha.

The migrants rescued were transferred to two coastguard vessels and taken to the Italian island of Lampedusa. Images released by the coastguard showed two women wrapped in shawls and blankets stepping off one of their vessels. Giacomo said five

unaccompanied minors aged between 16 and 17 were among those rescued. More than 350,000 people fleeing conflict and poverty have reached Italy on boats from Libya since the start of 2014, as Europe struggles to manage its biggest migration crisis since World War II.

The Red Cross also voiced alarm at Friday's tragic boat sinkings, warning that more were likely to come. "As warmer weather and calmer seas approach, we can expect more people to attempt this crossing," said Simon Missiri, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies regional director for Europe. "We must work together to focus on providing safe routes for people fleeing their homes and seeking sanctuary," he said in a statement. More than 1,260 people have already died or gone missing trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe this year, according to UNHCR numbers. — AFP



SAMAWAH, Iraq: Iraqi women walk past a damaged car following a twin suicide bombing attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group in this southern Iraqi city yesterday. — AFP

RARE IS BOMBINGS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ KILL 33

50 WOUNDED IN TWIN BLASTS

NAJAF: The Islamic State group carried out rare attacks in Iraq's deep Shiite south yesterday, killing at least 33 people with twin suicide car bomb blasts in the city of Samawa. "The hospitals have received 33 dead," a senior official in the Muthanna health department, which covers Samawa, told AFP. An officer in Muthanna Operations Command confirmed the toll. They said at least 50 people were also wounded in the blasts in Samawa, 230 km south of Baghdad. "Two car bombs went off in town. The first one was at around midday near a bus station in the city centre," a senior police officer in Muthanna province said. "The other exploded about five minutes later, 400 metres from the spot of the first explosion," he said.

IS issued a statement later on social media claiming two suicide attackers detonated their car bombs against members of the security forces. It named the bombers as Abu Dayyar

Al-Qurashi and Abu Zubayr Al-Zaidi, saying that the second blew up his car bomb as security forces rushed to the scene of the first blast. Samawa is the capital of Muthanna and lies deep in Iraq's Shiite heartland and such attacks there are rare. Muthanna also borders Saudi Arabia and a vast Iraqi desert that connects the troubled province of Anbar with the south.

A car bomb just outside Baghdad on Saturday killed at least 23 people, according to security and medical sources. That attack targeted Shiite faithful walking to the northern Baghdad shrine of Imam Musa Kadhim, the seventh of 12 imams revered in Shiite Islam. The Iraqi capital remains on high security alert for a whole week as the faithful walk from all over the country to commemorate Imam Kadhim.

The Islamic State jihadist group, which considers Shiites heretics, almost systematically attempts to target pilgrims marching to holy

sites during Iraq's many religious commemorations. But there was no immediate indication that the attacks in Samawa specifically targeted Shiite pilgrims. IS has carried out several large and very deadly bomb attacks south of Baghdad in recent weeks. At least 61 people were killed when a massive truck bomb exploded at a checkpoint at one of the entrances to the city of Hilla on March 6. A suicide bomber blew himself up on March 26 during a trophy ceremony after a local football tournament near Iskandariyah, killing more than 30 people, many of them teenagers and children.

The jihadist group has been losing territory steadily in Iraq for almost a year. Observers have warned that, as their self-proclaimed "caliphate" shrinks, IS fighters are likely to revert to their old guerrilla tactics and ramp up suicide attacks on civilian targets. — AFP

RUSSIA, US IN BIDS TO HALT ALEPPO FIGHTING

ALEPPO: Russia said yesterday it was working to freeze fighting in Syria's Aleppo as US Secretary of State John Kerry was due in Geneva in a bid to restore a nationwide ceasefire. More than a week of fighting in Syria's second city has killed hundreds of civilians and left a UN-backed peace process hanging by a thread. Concern has been growing that the fighting in Aleppo will lead to the complete collapse of a landmark ceasefire between President Bashar al-Assad's regime and non-jihadist rebels that was brokered by Moscow and Washington.

On Saturday, Russia said it would not urge Assad's forces to halt air raids on the war-ravaged city as they were targeting jihadist groups not covered by the ceasefire, which took effect in late February. But yesterday, after Washington called on Russia to push its Syrian ally to end the strikes, the head of Moscow's coordination centre in Syria said talks on a freeze had begun.

"Currently active negotiations are underway to establish a 'regime of silence' in Aleppo province," Lieutenant General Sergei Kuralenko was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies. He said that a freeze in fighting in Eastern Ghouta, a suburb of Damascus, had been extended by another 24 hours to the end of Sunday and that another freeze was holding in northern Latakia province.

More than 250 Civilians Dead

"We are calling on all sides interested in establishing peace in Syria to support the Russian-American initiative and not to allow a regime of silence to be disrupted," Kuralenko said, speaking from Russia's Hmeimim air base in Syria. Kerry was due in Geneva later on Sunday for talks with UN envoy Staffan de

Mistura and the Saudi and Jordanian foreign ministers on reviving the ceasefire. In calls to De Mistura and the lead Syrian opposition negotiator on Saturday, Kerry expressed "deep concern" about Aleppo, which has suffered some of the worst fighting in a war that has killed more than 270,000 people and displaced millions.

Kerry made clear that ending the violence in Aleppo and returning ultimately to a durable, nationwide ceasefire was a top priority, spokesman John Kirby said. At least 253 civilians - including 49 children - have died in shelling, rocket fire and air strikes in both sides of the divided city since April 22, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group. Early yesterday, the provincial capital's rebel-held east was eerily quiet after days of bombing, an AFP correspondent said, with the last air strike there at around 1:00 am (2200 GMT Saturday) local time. There were no reports of fighting in the city's regime-controlled west, the Observatory said. Air strikes did hit several rebel areas on Aleppo's northwestern outskirts, after rebel shelling of the west and regime bombing north of the city in the night, the Observatory said.

More rockets were fired from rebel-held areas into the west yesterday but without causing any casualties, it said. The regime also dropped barrel bombs on the so-called Castello road, the only route in and out of rebel-held parts of Aleppo, the Observatory said. The road is used both to bring supplies including food and medicine into rebel-held areas and as an escape route for civilians. The Syrian army said Sunday it was extending the freeze in fighting in Damascus and Eastern Ghouta to 1:00 am today (2200 GMT Sunday). The same "freeze" was set to hold until 1:00 am Tuesday in Latakia, a regime stronghold. — AFP



BEIRUT: Protesters hold a giant Syrian revolution flag during a protest in front of the United Nations headquarters yesterday against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's military operations in areas held by insurgents around the country, mostly in the northern city of Aleppo that has been the main point of violence. — AP

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT VISITS IRAN TO BOOST TIES

TEHRAN: South Korea's president arrived in Tehran yesterday for the first summit between the two countries since they established diplomatic ties in 1962. President Park Geun-hye's office said ahead of the three-day visit that she would hold talks with her Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani on the Korean Peninsula and ways to promote bilateral ties. Iran's state news agency IRNA says Rouhani will hold a welcoming ceremony today. IRNA says over 230 business executives are accompanying Park.

Iran has been seeking to integrate into the global financial system and improve ties with other countries since nuclear-related sanctions were lifted in January under a landmark deal with world powers. Energy-hungry South Korea, the world's fifth largest importer of crude, used to be one of the biggest buyers of Iranian oil, but imports plummeted as a result of sanctions. IRNA said trade between the two countries is currently at \$6.1 billion, and that Tehran would like to boost that to \$17.4 billion, a level last reached in 2011, before the nuclear-related sanctions were imposed.

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh says Iran has raised its oil and gas condensate exports to South Korea to 400,000 barrels per day, a four-fold increase since the nuclear deal was implemented in January. South Korea and Iran established diplomatic ties in 1962 but their heads of states have never had bilateral talks, according to Park's office. Iran and North Korea, which forged diplomatic relations in 1973, have long been suspected of being close partners in weapons technologies. North Korea was slapped with tougher UN sanctions for its fourth nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year. Iran has denied ever seeking atomic weapons, insisting its nuclear program is for purely civilian purposes like power generation and medical research. — AP



TEHRAN: South Korean President Park Geun-hye arrives at Mehrabad Airport yesterday. — AP

CAR BOMB KILLS TWO TURKISH POLICE

ISTANBUL: A car bomb yesterday struck the Turkish city of Gaziantep, a major refugee hub near the Syrian border, killing at least two policemen and wounding 22 people as the country reels from a succession of militant attacks. On a day of violence dubbed "Black Sunday" by local media, three Turkish soldiers died in a separate attack in the province of Mardin to the east, in an ambush by Kurdish militants who have killed hundreds of security forces in a renewed insurgency since last year.

With Turkey on high alert for May Day celebrations, four suspected jihadists were detained in Ankara on suspicion of planning attacks and other May 1 events were cancelled elsewhere over security fears. One policeman was killed when the car bomb went off out-

side the police headquarters in Gaziantep and 23 people were wounded, including 19 police, the office of Gaziantep regional governor Ali Yerlikaya said in a statement. One more police officer later died of his wounds in hospital. The governor's office statement did not say which group could be to blame.

'Link to IS Jihadists'

Turkish news reports said the investigation was focusing on the possibility the attack was carried out by Islamic State (IS) jihadists who still control territory in Syria on the other side of the border. Police arrested the father of a known IS member in the city, named as Ismail G, and were carrying out DNA tests to ascertain if the son was the perpetrator, the

Hurriyet daily said. One of the main cities of Turkey's southeast, Gaziantep has a population of around 1.5 million and is an important centre for refugees who have fled the war in neighboring Syria.

The bombing comes with Turkey on edge after two deadly attacks in Istanbul this year blamed on IS jihadists and a pair of attacks in Ankara that were claimed by Kurdish militants and killed dozens. The latest attack in the heart of one of the country's main urban centres is likely to further raise alarm about security in Turkey, which has seen tourism fall sharply since the start of the year. A top flight Turkish basketball league match between Fenerbahce of Istanbul and Gaziantep due to be played in the city Sunday afternoon was

postponed after the attack.

Three Soldiers Killed by PKK

Meanwhile three Turkish soldiers were killed and 14 others wounded in the attack in Kurdish-dominated Mardin province to the east of Gaziantep carried out by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants, the army said. The attack took place in the Nusaybin district of Mardin, where the army has been conducting a military operation backed by a curfew against the PKK, it said. The Dogan news agency said the PKK opened fire with rockets on an army bomb disposal team.

The PKK - which has fought an insurgency against the Turkish state for more than three decades - has killed hundreds of members of the security forces in the southeast since a truce collapsed last summer. With Turkey on edge, a female suicide bomber on Wednesday blew herself up in the usually peaceful former Ottoman capital of Bursa, south of Istanbul. The Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) - a radical splinter group of the better-known PKK - yesterday claimed the Bursa attack, saying the female suicide bomber had detonated her charge before reaching the intended target.

New IS Rocket Strike on Kills

Also on Sunday, four people were wounded in the Turkish town of Kilis, just south of Gaziantep, by rockets fired from an IS-controlled area of Syria, Anatolia said. Eighteen people, including Syrian refugees, have been killed in Kilis by IS rocket attacks since January, prompting anxiety and anger among local residents. Following reconnaissance by drones after the latest strikes, Turkish artillery hit IS positions in Syria yesterday, Anatolia said, adding that nine jihadists were killed. — AFP



GAZIANTEP, Turkey: Security officers and firefighters work moments after an explosion outside the police headquarters yesterday. — AP

SIXTH BODY FOUND AFTER TEXAS FLASH FLOODS

FORT WORTH, Texas: Lisa Asberry Davis said on Saturday that she and her three children waded to safety through water

up to their chins after torrential rains in East Texas swamped a cul-de-sac of homes during the night and forced

some residents onto rooftops. Firefighters lifted them out of the water at a rescue point but Davis' cousin and the woman's four great-grandchildren who lived down the street in Palestine, Texas, didn't make it.

The bodies of Davis' cousin, 64-year-old Lenda Asberry, and her great-grandchildren, 6-year-old Jamonicka Johnson; 7-year-old Von Anthony Johnson Jr.; 8-year-old Devonte Asberry and 9-year-old Venetia Asberry were found in the receding water. The bodies of two of the children were in the front yard of a residence near the street. Asberry and the two other children were found behind the neighborhood, Palestine Police Spokesman Nate Smith said.

Authorities found a sixth body later on Saturday, identified as 30-year-old Giovanni Olivias of Palestine, who was swept under the flood waters. Autopsies were being performed on all six victims and results will be known Monday, Smith said. "The water got up here extraordinarily quickly. The individuals

tried to get out, however, the water was already on the roof of the home," Palestine Police Department Capt. James Muniz said.

Merta White was waiting to be rescued from the roof of her house when she saw a bump in the water, the Palestine Herald-Press reported. "I thought it was a mailbox, but then I realized what it really was, and I started screaming," she said of seeing the body. In less than an hour, more than 7 inches of rain had accumulated at the city's water treatment plant.

City officials used a dump truck to rescue a man from the roof of a home, Muniz said. One neighbor told authorities that he saw the family who were killed but lost sight of them as he waded through water. "The water came down the hill," Muniz said. "The street was full of mud, so the water just came up. With the enormous amount of rain we had, we had people tell us that within minutes, the water was waist deep."

The Red Cross set up a makeshift

shelter in Palestine, which is about 100 miles southeast of Dallas and home to about 18,000 residents. Between 20 and 30 people were displaced by the floods, according to Red Cross spokeswoman Anita Foster. One person, a 30-year-old man, remained missing in rural Anderson County, Smith said. Palestine Mayor Bob Herrington signed an emergency declaration on Saturday, saying that he had not seen so much water rise so fast in the 59 years he'd lived there.

About 35 homes sustained major damage, businesses in the low-lying areas were flooded, and a railroad track was washed out, Smith said. When Davis spoke to AP, she was trying to salvage items from her damp, muddied home, and console her children, who went to the same school as Asberry's great-grandchildren. The two families attended church together. Davis said Asberry had relocated to Palestine from Dallas several years ago. "She was just looking for a nice place to raise her kids," she said. — AP



PALESTINE, Texas: Friends, staff and volunteers work to clean up the Shelton Gin in after a flash flood on Friday. — AP

DID WOMAN SWAY BOY TO KILL HIS DAD? COURT RAISES DOUBTS

TOLEDO, Ohio: The paramedics who looked at Robert Breininger's lifeless body in his twin bed suspected right away that whatever happened didn't match the story being told by his 10-year-old son. There was no way, they thought, his father was awake when the boy told them the gun accidentally went off. And it certainly appeared it was fired inches away from his head, not from the other side of the room.

Still, the shooting in rural northwestern Ohio was ruled an accident and stayed that way for nearly a decade until the boy told a former teacher, and then investigators, that Breininger's wife, who had adopted the boy, persuaded him to kill his father because he was dying and to make it look like an accident. A jury convicted her of aggravated murder and insurance fraud in 2013.

Now, a court ruling is raising questions once again about what took place, ordering a new trial for Judith Hawkey, who's serving a life sentence in a shooting that has been surrounded by mystery from almost from the moment it happened. State appeals court judges decided the second trial is warranted because testimony shouldn't have been allowed from three witnesses: A child abuse pediatrician, a clinical psychologist and the teacher in whom the boy confided years after the shooting.

While the ruling in late March said there was enough evidence for a conviction, it also called the case against Hawkey not overwhelming - saying everything originated from her adopted son, Corey Breininger. "All of the conclusions reached by the professionals and the authorities were based upon what Corey told them," the ruling said. Prosecutors, who have asked the appeals court to reconsider its decision, called the ruling contradictory and confusing. They also criticized the court for how it interpreted testimony in the case and making a decision "that appears to substitute its own opinion for that of the jury."

What isn't in dispute is that Corey, now 23, came home from school in autumn 2003 and fired the shot that killed his father after Hawkey had left their house outside Defiance, near the Indiana state line. Corey told first responders he was talking with his dad when the gun went off. He said he tried CPR, but paramedics saw no blood on him. One of the first responders said he remembered the boy, who

was inconsolable, saying, "It feels like it's my fault."

New Story

Investigators didn't question his story despite what they saw, one said according to a court document, because of how devastated Corey appeared to be afterward. Nine years later, Corey, told the same investigator a new story. Hawkey had told him, he said, that his 34-year-old father had been diagnosed with a brain tumor and wanted to be killed so the family would have money. Corey said she told him where to find the gun and how to call 911 when it was over.

Corey also told the investigator that Hawkey had beaten him for years, that she had tried to kill him several times and that she was trying to poison the man she married after Breininger's death. Authorities concluded that Hawkey used the boy to kill her husband and collect a \$500,000 insurance payout, noting later that she had started the paperwork the day after the shooting.

By the time Corey accused Hawkey of orchestrating the shooting, he already had moved out of the house and was estranged from his family. He testified he didn't say anything earlier because he was afraid she would kill him. Friends and neighbors gave conflicting accounts of the relationship between Corey and Hawkey. One neighbor said she rarely showed affection toward the boy, while another said she had been excited to adopt her new husband's son.

Prosecutors described Hawkey as controlling and abusive. The judge said at sentencing that how she manipulated Corey was "evil beyond description". Hawkey's defense attorney, Clayton Crates, said that a social worker who visited the house before the shooting saw no signs of abuse and that medical records did not back up those claims. "I don't know if it's Corey lying, or if living with the guilt of shooting his father transformed his mind and caused him to shift some blame," Crates said.

Repeated calls to a listing for Corey Breininger were not answered over the past few days. Before Hawkey was sentenced, she said Corey shot his father because they had decided to send him to a military school and he didn't want to go. "He made up the whole story," she said at the hearing. "I will be back for another time because I did not do this." — AP

TRUMP GETS OUTSIDE HELP FOR POTENTIAL CONVENTION BATTLE

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has a Plan B if he's faced with a contested convention, and it involves the sort of outside groups that he's called "corrupt". While the billionaire businessman might lock up the Republican presidential nomination in the next five weeks of voting, he and his allies are simultaneously undertaking a parallel effort in case he falls short. Outside groups, including one led by longtime Trump political ally Roger Stone, and a loose collection of colorful supporters such as "Bikers for Trump" are organizing ahead of the July convention in Cleveland.

They're soliciting money to pay for their transportation and housing, and they're already trying to influence the mood of the convention with a social media campaign saying that anything short of a Trump nomination would be "stealing". "Our principle focus right now is Cleveland," Stone said of his group, called Stop the Steal. "We want to bring as large a contingent as possible to demonstrate the breadth of Trump's appeal so that the party can see graphically what they're going to lose if they hijack the nomination from him."

Stop the Steal and other groups are gaining steam even though Trump has insisted he wants no donor help for his bid and is beholden to no one. Super political action committees "are a disaster, by the way, folks," Trump said at a Republican debate in March. "Very corrupt." Stop the Steal is not technically a super PAC, but it operates under very similar rules. This past week, Trump's lawyers sent the Federal Election Commission a letter renewing the campaign's disavowal of groups using his "name, image, likeness, or slogans in connection with soliciting contributions". All the groups planning Cleveland activities repeatedly use his name in their literature.

Trump set the stage for what the outside groups are doing by making provocative comments about the complex way Republicans pick a nominee - "rigged", he calls it. Voters weigh in, but each state has its own rules about what delegates go to the convention and how they must vote on a presidential candidate while they're there. Stop the Steal and other Trump fans are pushing a similar message on social media and websites. "The big steal is in full swing," one online letter says, calling unfriendly delegates "stooges."

The Stone-led Cleveland coalition includes We Will Walk, Bikers for Trump, Citizens for Trump and Women for Trump. Stone said the goal is to bring thousands of people to march peacefully in the streets. "We are prepared to bring the Republican Party down if they mess with Trump and try to take it away from him by doing the dirty tricks," said Paul Nagy, a New Hampshire Republican. He runs We Will Walk, a group that has collected more than 41,000 online signatures of people who say Trump



BURLINGAME, California: This photo taken on April 29, 2016 shows US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addressing the California Republican Party 2016 Convention. — AFP

deserves the nomination.

Public Relations Offensive

The public relations offensive is a counterpart to GOP rival Ted Cruz's carefully crafted, labor-intensive strategy of recruiting friendly delegates in hopes he can win if Trump falls short on the first ballot of voting. This weekend in Arizona, Cruz won another strategic victory over Trump, getting more than two dozen friendly delegates elected to head to Cleveland while the Trump backers were shut out. Those delegates are required to first vote for Trump at the convention because he won the state, but they could later switch their votes to Cruz.

While Cruz is playing within the party's rules, Trump's claim that what Cruz is doing amounts to "stealing" resonates with voters. In mid-April, after Cruz swept Colorado's elected delegates, stay-at-home mom Erin Behrens said she felt sick about what was happening to her candidate. So Stop the Steal helped her organize protests in the state. Stone and an ally, Greg Lewis, flew in to help Behrens answer email and arrange a rally. At the April 15 event in Denver, about 200 demonstrators waved banners that read "Banana Republicans" and chanted "Stop the Steal!"

Behrens said in an interview last week that she's continuing to organize Trump supporters in Colorado. "If there's funny business and they make it clear they're going to not give it to Trump, Stop the Steal Cleveland will be one thing," she said. "But we will have protests,

events across the United States. Count on it."

A good chunk of what the outside groups are doing now is fundraising. "Bottom line we need to raise \$262,000 in the next two weeks," Stop the Steal's website says. "If you can't make it to Cleveland will you help those who can? Will you send \$500, \$200 or even \$100 to this crucial effort?" A different pro-Trump group, Great America PAC, also is raising money for a Cleveland effort. This one is led by William Doddridge, chief executive officer of the Jewelry Exchange. Its commercials warn that "party elites" will try to seize the nomination from Trump at the convention and suggest that people stop that from happening by calling an 800 number and giving money.

It needs the help. The group's latest fundraising report, covering through the end of March, shows it is more than \$600,000 in debt. The super PAC can take unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations and unions. Trump's lawyers have specifically asked it to cease operations. Stop the Steal isn't a super PAC, the category of outside group that attracts the most ire from Trump, Stone said. But it's a distinction without a difference.

It is organized as a political nonprofit "527" group that files periodic disclosure reports about its donors and spending with the Internal Revenue Service rather than the Federal Election Commission. Like an FEC-monitored super PAC, a 527 can take unlimited amounts of money from individuals, corporations and unions. — AP

HOMECOMING OF SORTS FOR FIORINA AT CALIF CONVENTION

BURLINGAME, California: When Carly Fiorina spoke at the California Republican Party convention at a hotel outside San Francisco airport Saturday night, it was a brief homecoming of sorts for the newly minted vice presidential candidate. Fiorina grew up in the Bay Area and became chief executive officer of Hewlett Packard there before plunging into politics with an unsuccessful run against Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer in 2010. But this is no usual Republican presidential primary, and Fiorina's appearance won't quite be the return of a favorite daughter.

She's running on a ticket with Sen Ted Cruz, who's mathematically eliminated from becoming the GOP presidential nominee unless the Republican National Convention is contested. Fiorina left California for Virginia shortly after losing her Senate race and didn't pay several California operatives for years, until she was running for president herself this winter.

Even Fiorina's return was basically a touch. She flew in after a day of stumping in must-win Indiana, gave a brief speech punctuated with digs at Trump then rushed out to fly back to Indiana. But she brought the crowd to its feet after a series of zingers aimed at the front-runner, mocking his insistence the previous day that he essentially had the nomination sewn up.

"The 30-yard-line ain't a touchdown. The

20-yard-line ain't a touchdown. The 5-yard-line ain't a touchdown. It ain't a touchdown until it's a touchdown," Fiorina said, adding: "I'm sorry, you cannot just throw an 'R' on your jersey and say you believe what our party stands for."

Fiorina's former home state is assuming outsized importance this primary season. Normally an afterthought in the presidential nominating contest, California's 172 delegates that are up for grabs on June 7 may decide whether Donald Trump becomes the party's nominee or if Cruz still has a shot to take the title on a second ballot at the Republican National Convention in July. Vice presidential selections rarely move votes in a general election, but Trump opponents are hopeful Fiorina can help Cruz in the Golden State's primary.

"She campaigned in this state very well, she won with these voters," said Rob Stutzman, a GOP operative helping with efforts to defeat Trump in the primary, referring to the base GOP voters who backed Fiorina in 2010. "She was a good Republican candidate here. She's the perfect surrogate for Cruz."

Fiorina won a bruising Republican primary in 2010, outflanking her opponents from the right to become the party's nominee to take on Boxer, a liberal who was viewed as vulnerable in the 2010 Republican wave. But Fiorina was trounced in the general election, losing by 1 million votes after being hammered for her

stewardship of Hewlett Packard and role in outsourcing jobs overseas. Still, she won more votes in this overwhelmingly Democratic state than other Republican candidates for statewide office that year and displayed a hard-charging campaign style that endeared her to many Republicans.

State party chairman Jim Brulte said Fiorina was the first presidential candidate to respond to his invitation to appear at the state party convention that he issued to the entire presidential field in January, when she was still a contender for the top office. "That's probably because I sent it to her personal email account," he said.

Cruz spoke to the convention Saturday afternoon and highlighted his running mate, saying she'd be the first Californian on a national ticket since Reagan, although she lives in Virginia, home to many national political aspirants. Still, his references drew cheers and when he asked attendees if they knew why he picked Fiorina, one shouted, "Because she's good!"

Still, Fiorina disappointed some Republicans in California. GOP strategist Matt Rexroad was leaning toward Cruz but said the selection of Fiorina makes him question whether he'll support the Texan senator. Rexroad allowed that Fiorina will be popular among the party faithful at the



IRVINE, California: In this Nov 2, 2010 file photo, then-California Republican Senate candidate Carly Fiorina talks to volunteers and supporters at California GOP election night headquarters. — AP

convention. But that group is a tiny minority of Republicans who'll vote on June 7. "That isn't necessarily reflective of the electorate," he said.

Even the Fiorina faithful may not be won over to Cruz's side by her selection. Phyllis Stout, 75, from San Luis Obispo in Central

California, was thrilled that Fiorina was speaking to the convention. "I loved her," she said of Fiorina's 2010 Senate bid. "She knew her stuff. She was a very intelligent lady." But she's not going to vote for Cruz - there's just something about the Texas senator that Stout doesn't like. Instead, she's leaning toward Trump. — AP

MUSLIM FAVORITE KHAN TO RUN FOR LONDON MAYOR

LONDON: Sadiq Khan, a Muslim lawmaker from Britain's opposition Labour Party, is the strong favourite to win London's mayoral election on Thursday after a bitter contest marked by religious tensions and accusations of racism. Polls show Khan, the son of a bus driver, is as much as 20 percentage points ahead of rival Conservative Zac Goldsmith in the race to run one of the world's top financial centres. If he wins, he will succeed current Conservative mayor Boris Johnson to become the first Muslim to head a major western capital.

London's population of 8.6 million is among the most cosmopolitan in the world and it is rare for identity politics to enter British campaigning. Yet Goldsmith, with the support of Prime Minister David Cameron, has for weeks focused on Khan's faith and past appearances alongside radical Muslim speakers, accusing him of giving "platform, oxygen and cover" to extremists.

Former human rights lawyer Khan says he has fought extremism all his life and regrets sharing a stage with speakers who held "abhorrent" views. He has accused Goldsmith, the elite-educated son of a billionaire financier, of using Donald Trump-

style tactics to divide Londoners along faith lines, as well as being part of an out-of-touch wealthy elite. "There's a chance that there are people who are almost subconsciously put off (voting for Khan) by the dog-whistle racism ... people who wouldn't like to say 'I'm not going to vote for Sadiq Khan', but will have a wobble at the ballot box," said Anthony Wells, director of political and social opinion polling at YouGov.

But he added the impact was unlikely to be enough to allow Goldsmith to pull off a surprise victory. "The only effect of the Zac Goldsmith campaigning is probably just to entrench all those long-standing issues the Conservative Party have got with appealing to ethnic minority voters," he said.

Last week there was a new twist as Khan's party was accused of failing to stamp out anti-Semitism in its ranks amid a row over comments by another lawmaker on her Facebook account arguing that Israel should be moved to the United States. Khan condemned the comment and distanced himself from former London mayor Ken Livingstone, who on Thursday was suspended from the Labour party for supporting the party member at the centre of the controversy.

The left wing of the party-and notably its current leader Jeremy Corbyn-have long been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and it is not the first time Labour has faced accusations that this had led to actual anti-Semitism. Labour figures acknowledge the dispute is distracting the party ahead of the London vote and local elections across the country on the same day, with Corbyn likely to face new questions over his future if the party does poorly.

SOFT POWER

The two mayoral hopefuls also have opposing stances on one of Britain's most important strategic decisions: whether to remain a member of the European Union. Goldsmith wants to leave, Khan wants to stay. But even with a June 23 referendum on that issue looming- at which a vote to leave would create serious question marks over London's role as a global financial centre-the Brexit issue has barely featured in the campaign. Both candidates have been eager not to alienate voters who disagree with them on Brexit, saying they will fight for the capital's interests whichever way the country votes. — Reuters



LONDON: A combination of pictures created on Saturday shows British Conservative Party London mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith (left) and opposition Labor party candidate for Mayor of London Sadiq Khan. — AFP



JOLO: In this photo provided by the Office of Sulu Governor, freed Indonesian tugboat crewmen sit inside a house in Jolo, Sulu province, southern Philippines yesterday. — AP

MILITANTS FREE 10 INDONESIAN HOSTAGES IN SOUTH PHILIPPINES

FOUR STILL REMAIN CAPTIVE BY ABU SAYYAF MEN

MANILA: Abu Sayyaf militants have freed 10 Indonesian crewmen who were seized at sea in March in the first of three attacks on tugboats that have sparked a regional maritime security alarm, officials said yesterday.

The Indonesians appeared to be in good health when they were dropped off yesterday afternoon in front of the house of Sulu province's governor in the town of Jolo, said the town's police chief, Junpikar Sutin. The 10 men were then brought to a Philippine military camp and arrangements were underway to turn them over to Indonesian officials. A photo seen by The Associated Press shows the sunburned men in fresh shirts eating rice and chicken with Sulu's governor on a veranda beside a Japanese-style garden in his house. In another photo, some of the men are puffing cigarettes and enjoying coffee while resting on chairs.

Jolo's mayor, Hussin Amin, welcomed the release of the Indonesians, but said he did not know whether a ransom had been paid. "If this big release came in exchange for money, those who paid are supporting the Abu Sayyaf," he said. "This money will be used to buy more firearms and will be utilized as mobilization funds by these criminals."

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo thanked the Philippines and the "many parties" in Indonesia who cooperated to secure the release of the hostages. At a televised news conference at a presidential palace in the West Java province city of Bogor, Jokowi said the government was continuing to work for the release of four other Indonesians who were taken hostage

by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants in a separate incident last month. A Philippine army officer who has been helping to deal with kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf said a rebel commander from the Moro National Liberation Front, which has signed a peace deal with the Philippine government, helped negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of the 10 Indonesians.

The hostages were escorted down from a jungle encampment in Sulu and left outside the home of the governor, Abdusakur Tan II, the army officer said by phone on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. After the Indonesians were kidnapped at sea in March, suspected Abu Sayyaf militants separately attacked two other tugboats and snatched four Indonesians and four Malaysians who are believed to have also been brought by speedboats to the militants' jungle bases in Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province about 950 kilometers (590 miles) south of Manila.

Alarmed by the successive attacks, Indonesia's Jokowi said last week that his government would host talks with Malaysia and the Philippines to boost security in waters bordering the three countries. He said the meeting of foreign ministers and military chiefs would discuss joint patrols to protect shipping. A Malaysian diplomat said one proposal is to harness satellite technology to keep an eye on the vast stretch of water and allow faster reaction by naval and maritime police forces.

When asked whether ransom was paid for the Indonesians' release, the army officer said he

was unaware of any payment, but noted that the Abu Sayyaf traditionally has released captives only after money has been paid. Abu Sayyaf gunmen beheaded a Canadian hostage in Sulu last Monday after they failed to receive a huge ransom by a deadline they had set.

Philippine troops launched an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf after the beheading, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to help the Philippines bring the killers to justice.

More than a dozen foreign and local hostages remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, including another Canadian and a Norwegian who were kidnapped last September, and a Dutch bird watcher who was kidnapped more than three years ago.

An unusual surge in kidnappings, including the tugboat attacks, along with recent beheadings by the Abu Sayyaf and a few small extremist groups that have emerged in the southern Philippines may be an effort by the militants to show off their capability and brutality and associate themselves with the Islamic State group in the Middle East, terrorism analysts say.

The Abu Sayyaf emerged as an extremist offshoot of the decades-long Muslim secessionist conflict in the southern Philippines and has carved its name in blood, carrying out mass kidnappings, beheadings and bombings. The brutal group, which is estimated to have about 400 armed fighters split into a few factions, has been blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization. — AP

GERMANY'S RIGHT-WING AfD ADOPT ANTI-ISLAM MANIFESTO

STUTTGART, Germany: Germany's right-wing populist AfD yesterday adopted an anti-Islam policy in a manifesto that also demands curbs to immigration, as a poll showed it is now the country's third strongest party. Formed only three years ago on a eurosceptic platform, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) has gained strength as the loudest protest voice against Chancellor Angela Merkel's welcome to refugees that brought over one million asylum seekers last year.

With the migrant influx sharply down in recent months, the AfD has shifted focus to the signature issue of the xenophobic Pegida street movement, whose full name is Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident. "Islam is not part of Germany" ran a headline in the AfD policy paper agreed in a vote by some 2,400 members at the party congress in the western city of Stuttgart.

The paper demanded bans on minarets on mosques, the call to prayer, full-face veils for women and female headscarves in schools. A proposal for a more nuanced formulation-to "stop Islamism but seek dialogue with Islam"-was rejected with boos in the mostly-male gathering, which was held in a hall decorated with banners that read "Courage. Truth. Germany."

"Islam is in itself political," retorted one speaker, while another linked the religion with "sharia, suicide bombings and forced marriages". More broadly, the AfD is presenting itself as a nationalistic conservative force that also questions climate change, promotes traditional gender roles and "family values", would reintroduce military conscription and take Germany out of the euro.

Co-leader Joerg Meuthen said the AfD stood for a "modern conservatism" and a "healthy patriotism" while it rejected "the Germany of 1968, infected by the (socialist and environmentalist) red-green left".

'Germany watching us'

Having entered half of Germany's 16 state parliaments, the AfD-seen as the country's answer to France's National Front and Austria's Freedom Party-has now firmly set its sights on national elections next year. "In the summer of

2015, they gave us up for dead," a triumphant AfD co-chair Frauke Petry told the delegates, declaring that the party does not intend to settle for the role of opposition group or junior coalition partner. Instead, its new program should allow the AfD "to win majorities", she told the weekend meeting. Support for the AfD stood at 13 percent, narrowly beating the ecologist Greens as Germany's third strongest party, according to an Emnid institute survey for the newspaper Bild am Sonntag.

The party has been at pains to distance itself from the hardcore far-right and neo-Nazi movements, which are a stubbornly persistent but fringe phenomenon in a country where collective shame over the Nazi era and the Holocaust run deep. Alexander Gauland, leader of the party in Brandenburg state in the former communist East, cautioned delegates to generally temper their statements and "keep in mind that all of Germany is watching us".

To drive home that message, the congress voted with 52 percent support to dissolve the Saarland regional party chapter because of its deep links with right-wing extremists groups.

To its many critics, however, the AfD represents xenophobia and a backward-looking isolationism. On Saturday hundreds of anti-fascist demonstrators rallied outside the convention centre, with some burning tyres and hurling firecrackers.

Riot police used tear gas and temporarily detained 500 of them as officers escorted AfD members into the congress hall. In another act of harassment, a left-wing media site overnight published the names, addresses and telephone numbers of some 2,000 party members. AfD co-leader Joerg Meuthen pledged to file criminal charges against the unknown hackers behind the data leak.

Aside from drawing the anger of far-left groups, the AfD has also attracted near-universal condemnation from Germany's major parties. The general secretary of Merkel's Christian Democrats, Peter Tauber, told the Bild am Sonntag newspaper: "The debates at the party congress show that the AfD wants to return to a Germany that never existed in that form."

"That isn't conservative, it's reactionary." — AFP

TAIWAN SENDS PATROL SHIPS AFTER BOAT SEIZED BY JAPAN

TAIPEI: Taiwan yesterday sent two patrol ships to waters surrounding a Japanese atoll amid a dispute over the seizure of one of the island's fishing boats there.

The detention of the "Tung Sheng Chi 16" near Okinotori-shima last week angered Taiwanese officials, who say Tokyo has no authority over the area. A Taiwanese coast guard ship and another from the Council of Agriculture departed from the southern port of Kaoshiung yesterday. "Japan has no right to ban our fishing boats from the area," Taiwan's coast guard administration said in a statement.

"The government will resolutely defend the rights and freedom of our fishermen in international waters." The mission will last for one to three months. Between 100-200 Taiwanese boats fish in the waters around Okinotori-shima each year. Japan say it has exclusive rights in

the 200 nautical mile area surrounding the uninhabited atoll in the Philippine Sea. But in addition to Taiwan, China and South Korea also reject the Japanese claim.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it also plans to deploy warships to "appropriate waters" but spokesman David Lo declined to elaborate. The maritime row is straining normally friendly relations between Taipei and Tokyo.

It follows a stand-off more than three years ago over a chain of islands in the East China Sea, when coastguard vessels from both sides attacked each other with water cannons. The islands-known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese-are controlled by Japan but claimed by both China and Taiwan.

But in 2013 Japan and Taiwan forged a fisheries agreement covering the waters off the island chain. — AFP

MALAYSIA DEPORTS 32 TAIWANESE TO CHINA

BEIJING: Taiwanese officials have protested Malaysia's deportation of 32 of the self-ruled island's nationals to China this weekend to face wire fraud charges, the latest in a series of disputes that has raised new friction between China and Taiwan.

The deportation follows the sending of nearly four dozen Taiwanese from Kenya to China last month, a case some experts and observers see as an attempt by Beijing to bully the island that it claims as its own territory. Chinese authorities have said they need to crack down on perpetrators of phone scams that have resulted in an estimated 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) of losses each year. Scammers posing as officials from the police, government, banks or insurance companies convince their victims to transfer funds or provide personal information that can be used to steal from them.

Taiwanese Cabinet spokesman Sun Lih-chyun said yesterday that China had invited a delegation from the island to come to

the mainland for talks on the Taiwanese detained in the investigation. Sun welcomed China's move, according to Taiwanese media. In a statement late Saturday, the Cabinet said that China had pressured Malaysia to deport the Taiwanese suspects to the mainland against Taiwan's wishes.

The island's foreign ministry lodged a protest with Malaysia for taking that action despite Taiwanese officials' efforts to negotiate, and said the deportations would hurt relations. In April, Malaysia sent 20 Taiwanese wire fraud suspects back to Taiwan despite Beijing's request that they be sent to China.

China claims jurisdiction in these cases because it says the victims of the alleged fraud were residents of mainland China. The Taiwanese were part of a group of 97 phone fraud suspects Malaysia deported to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou on Saturday night. The other 65 among them were mainland Chinese

citizens, Chinese state media reported. Malaysian government officials confirmed yesterday that the Taiwanese were sent to mainland China.

A Malaysian official, who declined to be named because he isn't authorized to speak to the media, said the decision came after Beijing made further appeals to the Malaysian government after the earlier group of Taiwanese suspects were repatriated to Taiwan. China's official Xinhua News Agency said all the suspects arrived in Guangzhou bound by shackles and wearing black hoods.

Officials and state media have complained that Taiwan doesn't punish such crimes harshly enough, encouraging others to try their luck at such relatively low-risk, low-overhead scams that can potentially lead to massive payouts. Taiwan says Beijing violated a tacit understanding under which both sides agreed not to interfere in the legal affairs of their citizens abroad. — AP



BEIJING: Chinese suspects involved in wire fraud are escorted off a plane upon arriving at the Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing yesterday. — AP

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AFGHAN FORCES BATTLE TO PUSH TALEBAN FROM SOUTH

KANDAHAR: Afghan security forces have been battling to push back Taliban fighters seeking to cut off the capital of the southern province of Uruzgan, officials said yesterday as army units worked to clear roadside bombs from the main highway into the town. The insurgents have in the past month stepped up their offensive aimed at taking control of Uruzgan, which straddles one of Afghanistan's main opium and gun-smuggling routes. NATO commanders view the rural province as a key battleground as, if it fell, the Taliban could use it as a springboard to launch attacks on Helmand and Kandahar further to the south.

The Taliban is seeking to isolate the provincial capital Tarin Kowt from outlying districts and over the past week has been fighting Afghan forces for control of the road between the town and Shawali Kot in Kandahar province. The battle has added to the pressure on stretched security forces engaged in heavy fighting from Helmand in the south to Kunduz in the far north.

A spokesman for the Afghan army's 205th



JALALABAD: Young Afghan children sort bricks at a traditional brick factory during International Labour Day on the outskirts of Jalalabad yesterday. — AFP

Corps said troops had reopened the route but the situation was still unstable and the road was threatened by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by the insurgents. "We launched a counter-attack that inflicted heavy casualties to the Taliban and

reopened to the highway but it is heavily mined and our engineers are working to clear IEDs off the road," army spokesman Mohammad Mohsen Sultani said.

Underlining the extent of the threat, General Abdul Raziq, the Kandahar police chief who gained a fearsome reputation fighting the insurgents in his home province, has joined the battle, according to Zia Durani, a spokesman for the head of Uruzgan's provincial police.

Brigadier General Charles Cleveland, spokesman for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Kabul, said the situation in the province was "serious" although there did not appear to be any immediate prospect of Taliban victory. "We're watching it closely and there is concern about Uruzgan," he said. "We don't think either the province of Uruzgan or the provincial capital Tarin Kowt is about to fall but we're watching it closely," he said.

'TALEBAN ARE EVERYWHERE'

Uruzgan neighbors the Taliban heart-

lands of Helmand and Kandahar and is among the least-developed areas of Afghanistan, with only 8 percent of the population having access to electricity. Its mix of flat and mountainous terrain has been fertile ground for insurgents who fought Australian, Dutch and US troops for years.

So far no additional foreign troops have been sent to bolster the defence, as they were in Helmand earlier this year, and coalition aircraft have not carried out air strikes in support of Afghan troops fighting the Taliban, Cleveland said.

But the fighting in Uruzgan underlines how difficult ensuring security in remote areas has been for the Western-backed government in Kabul, which is estimated to control only about two-thirds of the country. "The Taliban have not been defeated. They are everywhere," said provincial council chief Abdul Karim Khademzai. "Apart from one district, all roads from the district centres to the provincial capital have been cut off and the government only control the provincial capital," he said. — Reuters

THOUSANDS BATTLE DEADLY FOREST FIRES IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: Thousands of laborers backed by water-carrying helicopters were battling to control fires that have killed two people in India's northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, officials said yesterday.

Fires have swept through more than 1,900 hectares (4,700 acres) of forest but have so far not threatened towns in Uttarakhand which draws tens of thousands of tourists every year, officials and media reports said.

Environment and Forests Minister Prakash Javadekar said some 6,000 laborers were being deployed to help fight the fires. They started about one month ago but according to other officials have intensified in recent days. Javadekar told reporters the fires have broken out at 1,200 locations in the densely forested state, known for its remote valleys, over the last month.

"This can be compared with the worst fire of 2012 when fire took place in 1,300 places and (covered) more than 2,000 hectares," the minister said. Senior Uttarakhand disaster management official Piyooch Rautela said two people have been killed in recent days, although

local media reported six deaths since the state's fire season started at the beginning of February.

He said disaster relief experts were being deployed to help those already on the ground.

"They are all working with two Indian Air Force choppers which are spraying water over isolated forest areas in the state," Rautela, executive director of Uttarakhand's disaster management and mitigation centre, told AFP. "The forests are spread across our six districts but are all isolated and we are getting them under control," he added.

Uttarakhand, with its Himalayan mountains, rivers, treks and Hindu religious sites, is a popular destination for local tourists who flock there to escape India's harsh summer.

Officials said it was unclear what started the fires but some have linked the intensity of the blazes to the drought gripping India. India is suffering its worst water crisis in years, with the government saying that about 330 million people, or a quarter of the population, are suffering from drought after the last two monsoons failed. — AFP



TIKAMGARH, Madhya Pradesh: A young Indian child swims in a water reservoir in Tikamgarh in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. Armed men have been securing the Barighat dam for months against water thefts by desperate farmers from neighboring state to ensure supply of potable water to thousands of residents of Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh state. — AFP

ARMED GUARDS AT INDIA DAMS AS DROUGHT RAVAGES FARMERS

330 MILLION SUFFER FROM UNPRECEDENTED HEAT WAVE

TIKAMGARH, India: As young boys plunge into a murky dam to escape the blistering afternoon sun, guards armed with guns stand vigil at one of the few remaining water bodies in a state hit hard by India's crippling drought.

Desperate farmers from a neighboring state regularly attempt to steal water from the Barighat dam, forcing authorities in central Madhya Pradesh to protect it with armed guards to ensure supplies. India is officially in the grip of its worst water crisis in years, with the government saying that about 330 million people, or a quarter of the population, are suffering from drought after the last two monsoons failed.

"Water is more precious than gold in this area," Purshotam Sirohi, who was hired by the local municipality to protect the stop-dam, located in Tikamgarh district, told AFP. "We are protecting the dam round the clock." But the security measures cannot stop the drought from ravaging the dam in the parched Bundelkhand region, with officials saying it holds just one month of reserves. Four reservoirs in Madhya Pradesh have already dried up, leaving more than a million people with inadequate water and forcing authorities to truck in supplies.

Almost a hundred thousand residents in Tikamgarh get piped water for just two hours every fourth day, while municipal authorities have ordered new bore wells to be dug to meet demand. But it may not be enough, with officials saying the groundwater level has receded more than 100 feet (30 metres) owing to less than half the average annual rainfall in the past few years.

"The situation is really critical, but we are trying

to provide water to everyone," Laxmi Giri Goswami, chairwoman of Tikamgarh municipality, said. "We pray to rain gods for mercy," she said.

In the nearby village of Dargai Khurd, only one of 17 wells has water. With temperatures hovering around 45 degrees Celsius, its 850 residents fear they may soon be left thirsty. "If it dries up, we won't have a drop of water to drink," Santosh Kumar, a local villager told AFP.

Farmers hard-hit

Farmers across India rely on the monsoon-a four-month rainy season which starts in June to cultivate their crops, as the country lacks a robust irrigation system. Two weak monsoons have resulted in severe water shortages and crop losses in as many as 10 states, prompting extreme measures including curfews near water sources and water trains sent to the worst-affected regions.

Many dejected farmers are now moving to cities and towns to work as daily wage laborers to overcome their financial losses and support their families. At a scruffy, makeshift camp in north Mumbai, in one of the worst-affected states, dozens of migrants who have fled their drought-stricken villages queue to fill plastic containers with water.

Migrants from rural areas usually come to the city in January or February to get jobs on construction sites, but in March and April the number of arrivals kept increasing. "There are some 300-350 families here. That's a total of more than 1,000 people," said Sudhir Rane, a volunteer running the camp in Mumbai's Ghatkopar suburb.

"There is a drought and there is no water back

home so more families have come here this year," he told AFP. Babies cling to mothers lined up to register with officials. They are allocated a small space in the dusty wasteland, where wooden posts combine with tarpaulin sheets to make rickety tented homes. "We had no choice but to come here. There was no water, no grain, no work. There was nothing to eat and drink. What could we do?" 70-year-old Manubai Patole said.

"We starved for five days. At least here we are getting food."

'Better to break stones'

Weather forecasters in New Delhi this month predicted an above-average monsoon, offering a ray of hope for the country's millions of farmers and their families. But many, like Gassiram Meharwal from Bangayee village in Madhya Pradesh, are not optimistic as they struggle to cultivate their crops.

Meharwal's two-acre farm has suffered three wheat crop failures in as many years, leading him to lose an estimated 100,000 rupees (\$1,500). "Our fields are doomed, they have almost turned into concrete," he said. Thousands of acres of land in this village go uncultivated and fears are mounting for the cattle, which face a shortage of fodder.

Desperate for income, 32-year-old Meharwal, who supports eight members of his family including his children and younger brothers, left to work as a laborer in the city of Gwalior, four hours away.

"There is no guarantee that it will rain this year. Predictions are fine but no one comes to your help when the crops fail," he said. "It is better to use your energy breaking stones." — AFP

INDIA TO PROBE DEATHS OF DISABLED CHILDREN AT HOME

NEW DELHI: India announced an investigation yesterday into the deaths of 12 mainly mentally and physically disabled children at a government-run home amid fears they were given toxic water or food.

The children, many of them reportedly orphans, were raced to hospital in the last two weeks in the northern state of Rajasthan after going into septic shock at the home outside the tourist city of Jaipur.

Three other children are fighting for their lives in a critical condition, according to the Hindustan Times newspaper yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda said he dispatched a team to probe "the causes of water and food contamination" in a bid to "prevent such incidents in the future". Nadda said 12 had died at the home for disabled people, with doctors and other officials saying last week that almost all of them were children.

"The five-member team will include a senior paediatrician, epidemiologist and microbiologist and will reach Jaipur today," Nadda said in

Sunday's statement. "A detailed report in the incident is expected shortly," he added. According to the Hindustan Times, around 200 children, aged from six to 15, live at the Jamdoli government home, with about 10 to 15 sharing a bedroom each. India has a poor history of treating people including children with mental disabilities and illnesses, and reports of overcrowding and shoddy care in institutions and homes are not uncommon.

For every one million people in India, there are only three psychiatrists and even fewer psychologists, according to the WHO.

A doctor at the hospital in Jaipur, where some 15 children were initially admitted, said they were suffering from "septicaemia and septic shock". "These were mentally handicapped and physically disabled children. The immunity of such children is usually lower than their normal, healthy counterparts. Their bodies find it tough to cope," medical superintendent Ashok Gupta told reporters last week. — AFP

N KOREA PARTY CONGRESS TO SHOW UNITY AROUND KIM JONG UN

TOKYO: North Korea is preparing to hold a once-in-a-generation congress of its ruling party that is intended to rally the nation behind leader Kim Jong Un and could provide an important glimpse into Kim's plans for the country's economy and military.

The congress, set to begin on Friday, is the first in 36 years and follows a 70-day "loyalty drive" in which everyone from coal miners to restaurant workers were called upon to put in extra hours to increase productivity as a show of their devotion to Kim and the Workers' Party of Korea, which he leads. The congress comes as North Korea is facing international pressure over a nuclear test in January and a series of rocket and missile launches that have led many outside experts to believe Pyongyang is much closer to having a viable nuclear deterrent than previously thought.

The North, wary of its leader's security and always loath to release any more information to the outside world than it deems absolutely necessary, has disclosed few details of the congress' itinerary. Instead, it has presented the congress as a chance for the ruling party to boast its achievements and unity in the face of the "US imperialists." But North Korea's foreign

minister told The Associated Press in an April 23 interview that the congress would focus on demonstrating unity behind the country's leader and on finding ways to build the North's moribund economy even as global sanctions squeeze it ever tighter.

"One of the most important things through this party congress is to show to the entire world the union of our people," Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong told the AP while he was in New York for a United Nations conference on climate change. "I'm sure our country will be even more vibrant after the party congress to build up a more prosperous and powerful, economically sound nation."

The event will be an opportunity for Kim Jong Un to assume center stage before a world audience. Throngs of foreign journalists are being invited to cover it. That's all the more important because the enigmatic young leader, still in his early 30s, has yet to travel abroad or meet any other heads of state. In the last party congress, held in 1980, Kim's late father, Kim Jong Il, was awarded a slew of top jobs in a confirmation he was in line to succeed his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung.

Kim Il Sung died in 1994, so Kim Jong Il -

who rarely spoke in public and never held a congress after actually assuming power - had 14 years to prepare for power. Kim Jong Un, on the other hand, was virtually unknown outside of the Pyongyang inner circle until a few years before his own father's death in 2011. Still, there are no signs his position as the head of the world's only socialist dynasty is in question. The congress will give Kim, who seems to be more like his grandfather and less averse to addressing big crowds, a chance to further cement his authority by getting its stamp of approval on officials who are in his favor. He has conducted numerous shake-ups in the regime's top ranks - the most prominent being the execution of his powerful uncle in 2013 - to make sure he is surrounded by loyal lieutenants.

The congress is sure to praise Kim's nuclear policy, though it has triggered sanctions that have caused economic pain. Tensions on that front have deepened recently after North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch, which led to the UN slapping its toughest sanctions on Pyongyang in 20 years and South Korea and the United States upgrading their annual spring military

drills into the biggest they've ever held. Amid vows it will never be cowed by foreign pressure, the North just days ago test launched two midrange missiles - both of which appear to have failed - and speculation is growing that North Korea could perform a fifth nuclear test ahead of the congress to further burnish Kim's image as a strong leader.

"The DPRK proudly joined the ranks of advanced nuclear and space powers while demonstrating the might of the invincible politico-ideological, military and youth power and is now dashing ahead toward a socialist economic power and highly civilized nation," the party's official newspaper said in an editorial on Saturday, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Even so, Ri, the foreign minister, said the economy is still at the top of the congress' agenda. "The first thing is to advance the pace of economic building for a powerful nation," he said.

"The second is to improve the people's living standards and to find the best, optimum ways to improve the people's living standards under these circumstances. And the third, to strengthen our national defense capabilities." — AP

INDIAN TEEN TAKES SELFIE WITH GUN

NEW DELHI: An Indian teenager accidentally shot himself in the head with his father's gun while trying to take a "selfie" photograph, police said yesterday, the latest in a series of such accidents. The 15-year-old is being treated in hospital at Pathankot in Punjab state and is expected to survive, said the city's deputy police superintendent, Manoj Kumar. The accident happened on Friday evening when the schoolboy was playing at home with the licensed revolver which is normally kept in a wardrobe, Kumar told AFP.

"The boy's father and family said that he was trying to take a selfie with his gun," he said. "We will speak to the boy when he is declared medically fit. We think that part of the blame obviously goes to the father for not keeping his loaded gun under lock and key at their home."

A teenager was run over and killed in the southern Indian city of Chennai in February as he tried to take a selfie in front of an oncoming train. In January police in the western city of Mumbai moved to crack down on dangerous selfies after a man drowned trying to save a girl who fell into the sea while snapping one. Police identified 16 dangerous selfie spots in Mumbai and asked the local council to erect warning signs and deploy lifeguards.

A man was seriously injured in April by an elephant when he tried to snap a selfie with the chained animal at a festival in Kerala, according to the Hindustan Times yesterday. — AFP

QATAR RACING CAMELS BRED FOR SUCCESS

Continued from Page 1

22,000 camels raced in Qatar and more than 55,000 across the Gulf. Camels usually start racing around the age of two and generally go into stud at around six years old. Races are usually held over a distance of four kilometres, though for older animals that can reach a maximum of eight kilometres.

The races themselves are exuberant occasions and not for the faint-hearted. Qataris, usually in Land Cruisers, thunder alongside the sand track just a metre or two away from their camels, honking horns and shouting for their animals to run faster. Mixed in with the owners' vehicles are fans driving along to get close to the action. It's noisy, frenetic and crashes are common. Sitting on top of the camels are tiny robot jockeys, which

can be remotely-controlled to whip the racers.

In Qatar, there are three big races each season, with valuable prizes such as \$200,000 Mercedes Maybach cars. "If you win this competition... then you will be very famous, your camel will be very famous," Qatari camel owner Salem Al-Marri told AFP. Eighty per cent of the camels he races are from breeding, Marri said: "I'm not lucky in buying, I'm lucky in breeding." Like many sports though big rewards have brought problems, in this case doping fears in recent years. Now, all camels are registered online through an iTunes app, chipped and receive a blood test four days before every race. Marri says it's not just the big prizes which make the sport popular but also how it connects Qataris with their traditions. "Camel racing, the camel in general, is very important to the country, especially for the culture," he said. — AFP

QAEDA DOWN BUT FAR FROM OUT FIVE YEARS...

Continued from Page 1

allegiance from extremist groups across the Middle East and beyond, with especially powerful IS affiliates operating in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and in Libya. Jean-Pierre Filiu, a Paris-based expert on Islam and jihadist groups, said IS has been especially effective at using new technology to surpass its less tech-savvy rival. "Al-Qaeda propaganda has become invisible on social networks thanks to the media war machine that Daesh has managed to successfully create," Filiu said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "Al-Qaeda has lost everywhere to Daesh, except in the Sahel" desert region of northern Africa, he said.

William McCants, of the Brookings Institution in Washington, agreed that Al-Qaeda had lost some ground to IS, but said the organisation has recovered. "Al-Qaeda has a strong showing in Syria and in Yemen," he said. In Syria the group's local affiliate, Al-Nusra Front, is one of the strongest forces fighting President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, holding large parts of the northern province of Idlib.

The local branch in Yemen, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), has meanwhile seized significant territory in the south and southeast as the government struggles against Iran-backed Shiite insurgents who have taken the capital Sanaa and other areas. AQAP suffered a setback last week when Yemeni troops recaptured the key port city of Mukalla it occupied for more than a year.

But AQAP remains the key jihadist force in Yemen with thousands of members compared with only several hundred affiliated with IS, McCants said. AQAP, considered by Washington to be Al-Qaeda's most well-established and dangerous branch, has also claimed responsibility for one of the group's most important attacks abroad in recent years. In Jan 2015 gunmen stormed the Paris offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo with assault rifles and other weapons, killing 12 people in an attack claimed by AQAP.

Another branch, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

(AQIM), has carried out assaults on hotels and restaurants in Mali, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast since November that have left dozens dead, including many foreigners. The attacks in west Africa "have reasserted the regional presence of AQIM and shown its expanding reach," New York-based intelligence consultancy The Soufan Group said in March. "AQIM has used the attacks to challenge the influence of the Islamic State, to demonstrate and build its local support and to show that it is united after earlier damaging divisions," it said.

The International Crisis Group also argues that although IS has reshaped the jihadist landscape, Al-Qaeda "has evolved" and its branches in North Africa, Somalia, Syria and Yemen "remain potent, some stronger than ever". "Some have grafted themselves onto local insurrections, displaying a degree of pragmatism, caution about killing Muslims and sensitivity to local norms," said the Brussels-based think-tank. Al-Qaeda chiefs in Yemen and elsewhere have condemned IS for some of its actions, including bombings of Shiite mosques.

The United States clearly still sees Al-Qaeda as a key threat, pursuing a vigorous drone war against the group in Yemen. The strikes have killed many senior operatives, including Al-Qaeda's second-in-command Nasir Al-Wuhayshi in June 2015. In March a US strike on an AQAP training camp in Yemen killed at least 71 recruits. Writing for French news website Atlantico in early April, former intelligence officer Alain Rodier said that while IS may have stolen the spotlight, Al-Qaeda may be in a better long-term position.

By rushing to declare its caliphate and establish its rule, IS has made itself an easier target, with thousands of its supporters killed in air strikes launched by a US-led coalition and by Russia. Its harsh rule has also alienated potential supporters, while groups like Al-Nusra have instead sought to work with local forces in areas under their control. "The death of Al-Qaeda's founding father in no way meant the end of his progeny," Rodier wrote. "This jihad will last for decades." — AFP



A man looks at an art piece during the Oshtoora festival in an open desert in north Fayoum, Egypt on Saturday. The Oshtoora festival is held once a year in different locations within Egypt. The festival is based on expression of music, arts and cultures in an open natural environment. — AP

BINLADIN EMPLOYEES SET BUSES ABLAZE...

Continued from Page 1

were injured when an official from the Saudi Binladin Group hit them with his car after employees protesting salary delays rushed toward the vehicle. Police are investigating the incident. Gulf-based construction firms have been among the hardest-hit due to lower oil prices that have curbed and sometimes delayed government spending on major infrastructure projects. In February, the president of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Abdulrahman Al-Zamil, wrote an open letter to King Salman saying that construction firms were struggling under the weight of delayed payments for their work on government projects.

The Saudi Binladin Group is one of the world's largest construction firms. Founded in 1931 and headquartered in Jeddah, the firm has been behind some of Saudi Arabia's most important projects, including roads, tunnels, airports, universities and hotels. It has carried out expansion work throughout the holy city of Makkah to accommodate more Muslim pilgrims, including construction of a massive clock tower with luxury hotels. The multinational firm is also a main contractor for the Kingdom Tower in Jeddah, which will be the world's tallest skyscraper at a kilometer, or roughly 3,300 feet, high. The Binladin family has been close to Saudi Arabia's ruling family for decades. Al-Qaida's late leader Osama bin Laden was a renegade son of the construction firm's founder, Mohammed bin Laden, and was disowned by the family in the 1990s.

Despite the close family ties, the Saudi government barred the firm from acquiring new contracts after an initial govern-

ment probe found the company was partly responsible for a crane collapse in Makkah's Grand Mosque last year that killed 111 people days before the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage in September. The crane boom pierced the roof of the mosque housing Islam's holiest site, the Kaaba, bringing down slabs of reinforced concrete and leaving bodies of worshippers lying amid pools of blood on the mosque floors.

Saudi daily Arab News reported that the layoffs included engineers, foremen, steel fixers, carpenters and welders at the firm. The paper said employees were offered severance pay. The newspaper cited various possible reasons for the terminations, including government restrictions on the firm and changes to Saudi labor law that have made it more difficult for firms to hire expatriates over local Saudis. Other sectors have seen hundreds of layoffs as governments across the Gulf look to hire more of their own citizens and reduce public spending in the face of plunging revenues from lower oil prices. There have been layoffs in the United Arab Emirates' banking sector and at Qatar Petroleum and the Qatar-based news broadcaster Al-Jazeera, among others. In Kuwait, oil unions held a three-day strike against government cutbacks to their benefits and pay.

Masood Ahmed, director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department for the International Monetary Fund, told AP recently that one of the consequences of cutting back spending in the Gulf is that fewer people will be needed to work on government-backed projects. "This is part of a sensible strategy to try and balance their budgets over time to improve and further their fiscal resilience and to reflect the new reality in terms of oil revenues," he said. — AP

TEAR GAS, TENSIONS ON MAY DAY

Continued from Page 1

While the government hopes the reforms will reduce chronic unemployment of about 10 percent, critics believe they threaten hard-won workers' rights by making it easier to lay off people in lean times. The government has already watered down the bill but this has failed to calm the anger among students and workers. "Withdraw, withdraw the labor law. Not amendable, not negotiable," protesters chanted.

In Istanbul, police clamped down on unauthorized protests at a time of particular tension after a succession of deadly attacks this year in Turkey blamed on jihadists and Kurdish militants. Around 25,000 police were on duty, cordoning off the central Taksim Square and releasing volleys of teargas and water cannon on those trying to make their way to the protest hotspot, an AFP photographer said.

In the flashpoint area of Okmeydani, masked radical leftists threw Molotov cocktails and firecrackers at police and created burning barricades out of junk. The office of the Istanbul governor said that 207 people were detained around the city for trying to march on Taksim. It said that 40 Molotov cocktails, 17 hand grenades and dozens of fireworks were seized. In a separate incident, a man in his 50s was killed when he was run over by a police water cannon vehicle. Hundreds of labor and union activists took part in an officially-sanctioned rally elsewhere in the city.

Meanwhile, Turkish police detained four suspected Islamic State jihadists who were allegedly planning an attack on May Day celebrations in the capital Ankara, the state-run Anatolia news agency said. International

Workers' Day was started in Chicago in 1886 by a union demanding an eight-hour work day and is now celebrated around the world.

In Moscow around 100,000 workers joined a May Day parade on the city's Red Square, waving Russian flags and balloons near the Kremlin walls, police said. The carefully choreographed parade took place amid an economic crisis brought on by Western sanctions over Ukraine and low oil prices. Hundreds of thousands marched in Cuba at a rally condemning a campaign to "destabilize" leftist governments around Latin America.

"This May 1 is also a day to condemn the manoeuvres aimed at... reversing the gains achieved in social policy in our America and destabilizing the leftist and progressive governments in power," Ulises Guilarte, the secretary general of the Workers' Central Union of Cuba, told a massive crowd on Havana's Revolution Square.

Thousands marched in Madrid with banners proclaiming: "Against budget cuts and for retirees." In Austria, embattled Chancellor Werner Faymann faced jeering and boos as he addressed around 80,000 people in Vienna, a week after the government's disastrous defeat at the hands of the far-right in a presidential ballot.

In South Korea, planned labor reforms have also sparked anger among workers, and tens of thousands protested against the bill. Labour activists say the reforms being pushed by President Park Geun-Hye and her conservative Saenuri Party will make it easier for companies to sack workers. "Let's fight together against the evil bill!" activists and union members chanted during a protest in Seoul. — AFP

NOD TO BEDOONS' EMPLOYMENT...

Continued from Page 1

Shaye said the new draft law consists of 98 articles compared to just 50 articles in the present law, adding the new bill is more transparent and fair. Among the new additions to the law is that contractors having trouble completing current projects will not be awarded new projects until they resolve the problems.

The new law requires bidders to present separate technical and financial bids and the latter will not be opened unless the technical bid fulfills the requirements, he said. The bill also tackles the issue of winners withdrawing in favor of those in second place against a sum of money, and bans such a practice. The bill stipulates the formation of a petitions committee under the Cabinet instead of the Central Tenders

Committee handling such sensitive matters, Shaye said. He said the draft law will be referred to the Assembly for debate in the next session or the one after that.

Meanwhile, the legal and legislative committee yesterday rejected a proposal to advance the clock two hours in Kuwait in the summer months in a bid to reduce the impact of the scorching heat on workers. Under Kuwait law, laborers working under the direct sun are banned from working between noon and 4 pm in June, July and August.

Minister of Public Works Ali Al-Omair said the awarding of the airport expansion project will be decided by the Cabinet after a committee hears the views of the ministry and the Audit Bureau. The tender was awarded to a local and Turkish company but the ministry did not sign it because of financial objections.

YEMEN TALKS SUSPENDED AFTER HOUTHIS...

Continued from Page 1

On Saturday, Yemen's warring parties held their first face-to-face talks since the negotiations in Kuwait began on April 21. The UN envoy said these direct talks were "productive" and had touched on key issues. But later Saturday, the rebels and their allies overran Al-Amaliqa base in northern Yemen after hours of clashes, tribal and military sources said, adding that the fighting caused casualties.

The sources said the commanders of the 600-strong brigade at the base, located in the rebel stronghold province of Amran since 2014, had "chosen to remain neutral" as pro-government forces, backed a Saudi-led coalition, clashed with the insurgents across Yemen. "The attack

against Al-Amaliqa brigade torpedoed the peace consultations in Kuwait," Mikhlaifi has said on Twitter.

Yemen's warring parties have repeatedly traded blame for ceasefire violations. Government loyalists said they have recorded "3,694 ceasefire violations by the Houthis and their allies" - troops fighting in support of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. Meanwhile, the rebels accused government forces and the Saudi-led coalition backing them of 4,000 breaches.

The coalition in March 2015 began a military campaign against the rebels, who have seized the capital Sanaa among other parts of the country. The UN says that more than 6,400 people have been killed since then and around 2.8 million displaced. — AFP



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Focus

WITH ASSISTANCE,
AFRICA FIGHTS
BOKO HARAM

By Valerie Leroux

With US and European support, African states threatened by Boko Haram are out to smash the militant group terrorizing the region - but a coordinated response is required if they are to succeed. A regional offensive launched early last year against the group by Chad, and Nigeria under new President Muhammadu Buhari has seen Boko Haram driven out from numerous towns and villages that it controlled in northeastern Nigeria. Two weeks ago, Nigeria's military said it would raid the group's Sambisa Forest stronghold on the Cameroon border. The group also has hideouts within nearby Lake Chad's huge maze of small islands and swampland.

Despite losing some ground in recent months the insurgents retain the capacity to launch attacks almost at will, notably via suicide attacks which require few resources. British NGO Action on Armed Violence said earlier this week that Boko Haram attacks claimed three times as many victims last year as in 2014. The group started wreaking havoc in Nigeria in 2009 and according to World Bank estimates has killed around 20,000 people, also sowing chaos and fear inside neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

US and British troops will join the international coordination effort against the group, while Nigeria and France on Thursday signed an agreement on closer military cooperation, including intelligence sharing. Nigerian Defence Minister Mansur Dan Ali saluted the deal as evidence of a "growing partnership" between Abuja and Paris. An 8,500-strong multinational force has been drawn up to track the jihadists, but its deployment has been haphazard with little to indicate the extent of real progress.

Even so, the Nigerian general overseeing the force, Lamadi Adeosun, indicated Friday during a meeting with French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian that "much has been done and is still being done to win the battle and ultimately win the peace". The Nigerian army is expected to launch an offensive in the coming days so as "to deny Boko Haram its traditional Sambisa sanctuary", according to Chad military sources in the capital N'Djamena. Such an offensive has been in the offing ever since Buhari took office a year ago but has yet to materialize.

Imminent Action

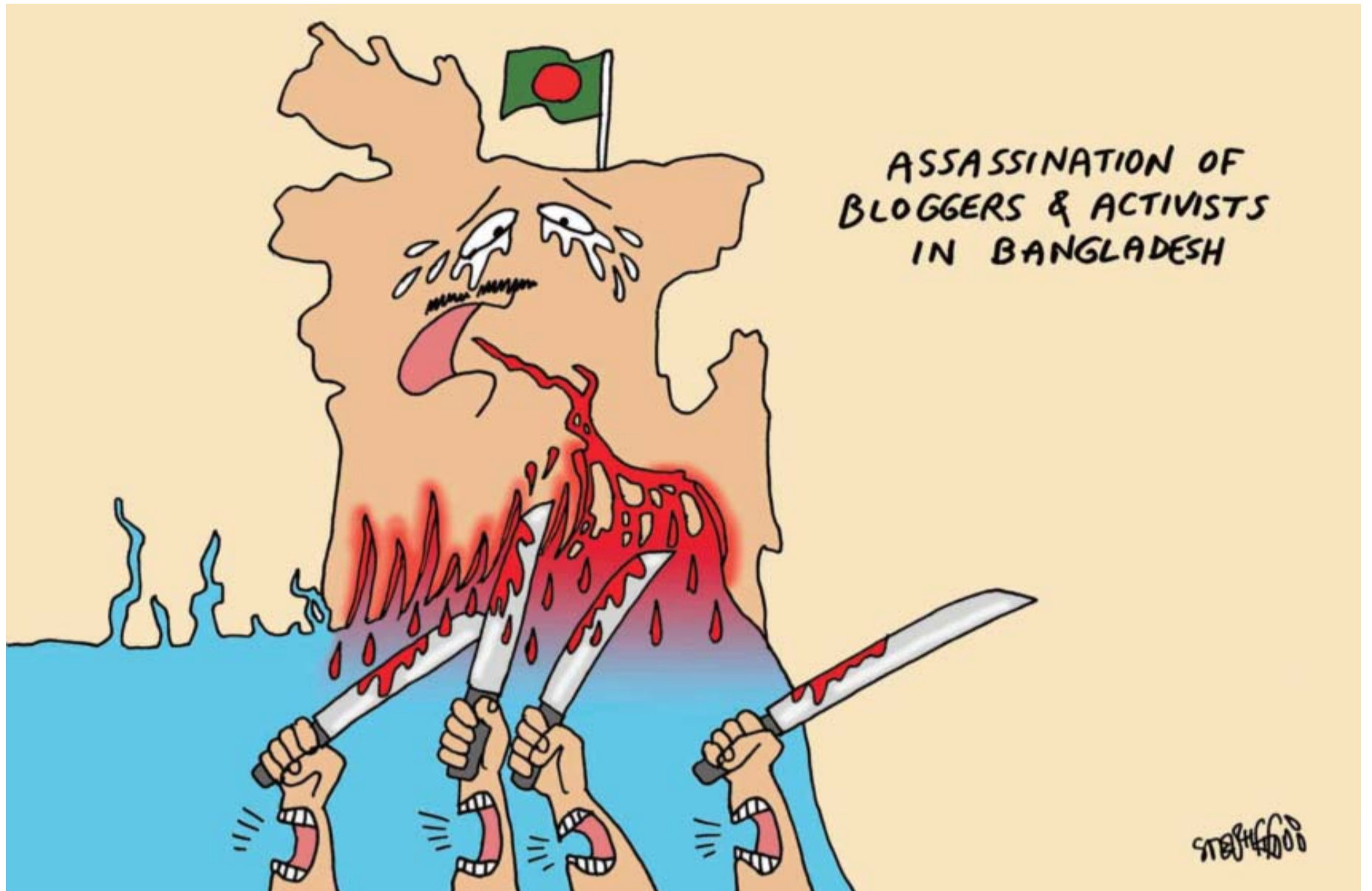
"The idea is to be able to announce at the next Abuja summit (on May 14) that this sanctuary no longer exists. That is a military and also a political imperative," says a source close to the president. The summit will bring together leaders of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria - allied neighbors in the fight against Boko Haram - as well as French President Francois Hollande and representatives from Britain and the United States.

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau appeared in a video late last month and "he still seems to be the leader and is hiding out in the Sambisa Forest", according to a French military source. The group is thought to number somewhere between 100,000 and 30,000. Its exact strength is hard to evaluate but the French source says that experienced fighters who have returned from Mali or Libya are no more than a small hard core. The multinational force is preparing its own offensive along the border with Cameroon, Chad and Niger but time is of the essence with the rainy season approaching.

IS Link?

The multinational force, whose HQ is at N'Djamena although each nation's contingent is under its own command, will have access to intelligence compiled by French and US drones and fighter planes - but communications, transport and logistics hardware are in short supply. Coordination is paramount. "If they are not coordinated they will never be able definitively to curtail Boko Haram," a French military source warned. General Adeosun says the international community should be doing more - red tape has held up \$50 million (\$55 million) of EU aid - and has asked for lifejackets and a consignment of flat-bottomed boats to take the fight to the enemy across the huge expanse of Lake Chad. There are concerns Boko Haram may have received weapons via Libya from Islamic State through individual go-betweens, though Le Drian says that "for now we do not have proof of close links" between the jihadists.—AFP

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FRANCE TO BUILD AUSSIE SUBS BUT US TO ARM THEM

By Martin Parry

Australia may have awarded France a bumper contract to build its next generation of submarines, but its highly secretive combat system will come from close ally the United States. French shipbuilder DCNS last week beat off Germany and Japan to secure the Aus\$50 billion (US\$39 billion) deal to design and build the 12 subs, a scaled down conventionally-powered version of its 4,700-tonne Barracuda, to be named Shortfin Barracuda. But it will have little to do with armaments and the complex combat system, which American defence giant Lockheed Martin - which is in the running to be involved - said was "essentially the eyes, ears and sword of the boat".

Australia has made clear it prefers the American AN/BYG-1 system, along with the joint Australian-US heavyweight Mark-48 torpedoes as its main weapon. A decision has yet to be made on which company will be responsible for integrating the system - essentially to detect, acquire and track targets - with US defence contractor Raytheon also said to be a contender. Given the close relationship and the fact that its technology will be used, Washington was always going to take a keen interest in Canberra's choice to build the boats.

Senior US officials were heavily involved in the competitive evaluation process and it was peer reviewed by retired US Navy Vice-Admiral Paul Sullivan and retired US Navy Rear Admiral Tom Eccles. Washington reportedly at first favored Tokyo over France or Germany for the

sub build because of its existing close ties to the US Navy, along with regional security issues at a time of a rising China.

Japan expressed "deep regret" at not being selected, but analysts said the decision largely boiled down to capability. France has extensive background in building submarines for others while Japan still lacks experience in exporting military hardware. "I genuinely think the decision was made on technical grounds," said Stephan Fruehling, deputy director of the Military Studies Program at the Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs.

He added that suggestions that the US had concerns about allowing its most advanced weapons systems to be installed on European-made subs made little sense. "The sensitive stuff in the combat system is the software and the French don't need to see that," he said. "They provide the big boxes and cabling but the integration of the software is done by the US." A breakdown on the cost of the combat system has not been provided, but analysts said it would be included in the Aus\$50 billion ballpark figure provided by Canberra, accounting for less than a third.

Intimate Relationship

Rory Medcalf, head of the National Security College at the Crawford School of Public Policy, agreed that France won on merit with strategic considerations secondary. "The Australian government has recognized France as the best option in terms of capability - the challenge now is to ensure that this is much more than

a commercial deal, that it is also a partnership of deep strategic trust," he said. He stressed Canberra must also now "take the initiative to assure the Japanese that a close strategic partnership is about more than submarines".

Australian submarines operate across huge areas, from the cold Southern Ocean to the tropics, and so require range and endurance to cope with wide-ranging geographic and oceanographic conditions. Besides matching the capabilities of the existing Collins-class which are due to be replaced, the new generation subs need to offer superior sensor performance and stealth capabilities.

David Shackleton, an Australian vice admiral and former chief of navy, said that while stealth and range was key, the combat system was as crucial and with the US helping refine the one used on the Collins-class, it made sense to deepen that relationship. "While there are other navies with which Australia's submarines will operate, it will take them a long time, if ever, to achieve the intimacy shared between the Royal Australian Navy and US Navy," he recently wrote for the Lowy Institute for International Policy.

He added that the two militaries enjoyed an "unprecedented degree of collaboration in research and development, tactical development and mutual training of an advanced nature". "When all of these factors are put together, acquisition of a US Navy combat system for Australia's future submarines does matter, and it makes a lot of sense." — AFP

BORIS POPULAR DESPITE POOR REPORT CARD

By Jessica Berthereau

Boris Johnson, the eccentric London mayor who dreams of Brexit and becoming Britain's next Conservative prime minister, has arguably achieved little in the post save making a name for himself. With a mop of blond hair, a bumbling demeanor and a fondness of drifting into Latin, the erudite 51-year-old has presided over the British capital since 2008. "His eight years as mayor are characterized by success as a celebrity figurehead and almost no mayoral achievements at all," wrote columnist Matthew Parris, formerly a Conservative lawmaker, in The Times newspaper.

Even the cycle hire system which bears his name - "Boris bikes" - was initiated by his Labour predecessor Ken Livingstone. Johnson's finest hour probably came when he hosted the London 2012 Olympics and he leaves the British capital with a new cross-city rail line well on track - both secured on Livingstone's watch. "I honestly struggle to think what his legacy is," said Steve Hilton, Prime Minister David Cameron's former strategy director, in a BBC television documentary on London's Johnson years.

"None of this is to criticize Johnson. The point I'm making is that with such limited powers, it's hard for any mayor of London to leave a legacy," he added, writing in The Guardian newspaper. The mayor's chief responsibilities are transport, policing, housing, and promoting economic development. Most public services in the city are delivered by the London boroughs, the 33 local authorities.

'London's the Best' Message

"The mayor of London is not as powerful as the mayor of Paris or the mayor of New York," Tony Travers, politics professor at the London School of Economics, told AFP. When Johnson beat Livingstone to become London mayor in 2008, eight years after the post was created, expectations for his mayoralty "were relatively low, and his record is much better than anybody would have expected", Travers added. "The city has continued to grow, its economy is very strong compared to the rest of the UK, public transport systems have improved."

As for London's housing crisis, in a city that grows by 100,000 people a year but only builds around a quarter of that number of new homes, "the mayor would have to share some of the responsibility for that but it's also partly the boroughs' responsibility. "The number of homes built now is higher than in many years; it's just not high enough," said Travers.

Regardless of his record of achievement, he has done a tireless job of promoting the capital. "He has had this beautiful and simple message that London is

the greatest city in the world. It's not really political," Johnson biographer Andrew Gimson told AFP. Johnson riffed on his unifying message in a 2011 book on the history of the city, entitled "Johnson's Life of London", where he told of his pride in a city that, he said, had shaped the world.

Boris and Dave

Such is his popularity that he is able to appeal beyond core Conservative voters and is typically better known by his first name than his surname. Londoners salute him as he cycles to work at City Hall, his unruly shock of hair poking out beneath his cycle helmet. Born in New York, Johnson was educated at the elite Eton College before reading Classics at Oxford University.

A journalist who became a member of parliament, the London mayorality has made Johnson a household name. He enjoys constructing elaborate, witty answers to duck questions over whether he wants to succeed the man he calls "Dave", his old Eton and Oxford contemporary Cameron. "My chances of being PM are about as good as the chances of finding Elvis on Mars, or my being reincarnated as an olive," Johnson once said. He is backing the "Leave" campaign in Britain's June 23 in-or-out referendum on its European Union membership, in opposition to Cameron, becoming its top figurehead. Many commentators believe the decision was another shrewd bit of positioning, leaving him in pole position for the top job if Britain votes to leave and Cameron falls. — AFP



This file photo taken on Aug 24, 2012 shows British Prime Minister David Cameron (right) and London Mayor Boris Johnson point at each other as the London 2012 Paralympic Cauldron is lit in London's Trafalgar Square. — AFP

I'LL BE AT MAN UTD SAYS VAN GAAL

LONDON: Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal has reiterated his belief that he will still be at the club next season, in comments published by several British newspapers yesterday. Van Gaal's position has been under scrutiny for several months and recent media reports have suggested that Jose Mourinho, the former Chelsea manager, has already agreed to take over at the end of the season. But Van Gaal, who has led United to the FA Cup final, is determined to see out the final year of his three-year contract, saying: "I knew it would be like this. That's why they hired me and we spoke about it. "We always knew that the process would take three years. I wanted to sign only for two years. The club wanted me to sign for three years, not me. I signed for three years, so next year you will see me again. "Every week for six months I have been 'sacked', and yet I am still here. But this has happened to me at every club I have been at." United welcome Leicester City to Old Trafford later yesterday, when victory for the visitors will give them the first top-flight title in their history. — AFP



HANOVER 96 PLAYER KILLED DAY AFTER RELEGATION

BERLIN: Having been relegated from the Bundesliga the day before, Hanover 96 were yesterday mourning their midfielder Niklas Feierabend after the 19-year-old was killed in a car crash. The youth team talent was only given a professional contract in February and had not made his debut in Germany's top flight. "This morning we received the terrible news that our 19-year-old forward lost his life after a car crash in the early hours of this morning," said the club in a statement on their website. According to police, Feierabend was one of three backseat passengers who received fatal injuries when the car they were in left the road and hit a tree at 0545 (0345 GMT) yesterday morning. He had played for Hanover 96's youth team in a game against RB Leipzig on Saturday and Hanover's reserve team game on Sunday was called off out of respect for Feierabend's family. Bottom side Hanover had their relegation from Germany's top flight confirmed on Saturday when they were beaten 3-1 at home by Schalke-their 22nd defeat in 32 league games. — AFP

RONALDO TRAINS AHEAD OF MAN CITY CLASH

MADRID: Real Madrid's hopes of Cristiano Ronaldo being fit for their Champions League semi-final, second leg with Manchester City today were boosted as the Portuguese returned to training yesterday. Ronaldo has missed Real's last three games due to a thigh injury, but may be risked against City with the tie finely balanced at 0-0. "Cristiano Ronaldo worked with the group for the first half of the session, before training individually out on the pitch during the second half," Madrid said in a statement. The three-time World Player of the Year has been in blistering form in the Champions League this season, scoring 16 goals in 10 appearances, including a hat-trick in the second leg of their quarter-final with Wolfsburg to overcome a 2-0 first leg deficit. French striker Karim Benzema's chances of recovering from a hamstring strain in the first leg look slimmer as he didn't train with the rest of his teammates yesterday. — AFP



KUWAIT SHOOTING SPORTS SEASON ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sports Club season came to a close with the conclusion of the tournament of the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah Cup, under the patronage of Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, who was present at the closing ceremony which was held Saturday evening in the presence of President of Asian Shooting Sports Federation Sheikh Ali bin Abdallah Al-Khalifa, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaj Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Secretary General of KSSF and ASF Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi, and KSSC board member Engineer Duaj Al-Otaibi said in his closing speech "Kuwait Shooting is proud to organize this dear championship as it bears the name of the father of the honorary



President of KSSC Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah who is the supporter of shooting sport. He thanked him for the support of the shooting sport who always contributed to the development of the Kuwait Shooting Sport unit it became one of the most notable sports activities at the Arab, Asian and Olympic levels Al-Otaibi said, this final tournament comes following successful participation at the 12th Arab Shooting tournament, held in Cairo lately. He said Kuwait shooters returned with six gold, three silver and two bronze medals, adding that we are confident or shooters will make more outstanding achievements in the name of their country, Kuwait. Meanwhile Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah thanked KSSC President Eng Duaj Kahalf Al-Otaibi and board

members for the efforts they are exerting and we ask them for more. He said Public Authority for Sports will not spare an effort in support of all productive sports federations. Meanwhile, results of the tournament are as follows: In the skeet men Nasser Al-Daihani was on top of his game and took first place following a tough competition from Saud Habib Al-Kandari while the seasoned shooter Abdallah Al-Rashidi was third. In the trap competition, Talal Abdallah Al-Rashidi made sure the gold medal in his as he won first place, despite tough resistance from hard fighting Khalid Al-Mudhaf who was second, while Abdelrahman Al-Faihan had to be satisfied with third. The double trap competition was also hard and competition very strong between world champions Ahmad Al-Afasi who won first



place defeating his brother Hamad Al-Afasi and third place went to Olympian Fuahid Al-Daihani. In the women's trap Sarah Al-Hawal took first place, while Asmaa Al-Qatami won second place and Hajer Fawzi won third. In the women's skeet Afrah Adel won first place, Sheikhha Ali Ak-Rashidi second and Eman Al-Shamma third. In trap men juniors Mohammad Al-Hamly first, Fares Al-Mutairi second and Nasser Al-Khalidi third. In skeet men juniors Hamad Al-Ablani first, Hamad Al-Azmi second and Nasser Al-Mutairi third. In the air pistol - men: Saad Al-Ajmi was first place, Hassan Al-Mulla second and Mideth Al-Sahli third. In the air rifle - men: Abdallah Al-Harby first, Mohammad

Abdelrahman second, Khalid Al-Subaie third. In the air pistol - women: Israa Bahman first, Huthama Al-Bashli second and Athari Qurban third. In the air rifle - women: Mariam Erzuouqi first, Heba Erzuouqi second, and Zahra Al-Saffar third. In air pistol - men juniors: Khalifa Al-Dhafiri first, Mohammad Al-Dhafiri second, Salem Buresli third. In air rifle - women juniors: Heba Erzuouqi first, Reem Al-Bughaili second and Shuroouq Al-Duwaisan third. In compared archery: Musallam Faisal first, Ahmad Al-Shatti second and Salem Al-Zaid third. In Olympic Archery: Abdallah Taha first, Faisal Al-Rashidi second and Abdallah Al-Harbi third.

BRONCOS BLOW CHANCE TO MOVE CLEAR IN NRL

SYDNEY: The Brisbane Broncos blew their chance to move clear at the top of the National Rugby League ladder yesterday when they narrowly lost 30-28 to Cronulla Sharks. A win would have made them outright leaders but after nine games played this season they share the glory with three others on 14 points-North Queensland Cowboys, Melbourne Storm and the Sharks. The Sharks led 28-6 at the break after dominating the first half, but the Broncos came storming back to draw within two points before the home side held out for a deserved win. The defending champion Cowboys had a convincing 34-18 romp over an injury-ravaged Manly Sea Eagles with Michael Morgan a standout. He scored a powerful solo try with a scorching right-edge run and was dominant throughout, illustrating why he has been called up for a Test debut by the Kangaroos. "He's got all the attributes of a really good footballer, defends really well, he's got speed, very powerful so he can no doubt be one of the Cowboys best," Cowboys captain Johnathan Thurston said. The Storm stayed in the chase at the top of the table with a 38-0 thrashing of the Gold Coast Titans. Fijian flyer Suliasi Vunivalu and Cooper

Cronk bagged two tries each at a wet Gold Coast, with the rampaging Storm now having racked up an 80-0 points differential in two games in six days. Manly's defeat leaves them languishing mid-table in ninth, with just eight points, alongside St George Illawarra Dragons. The Dragons unexpectedly crashed 26-10 to a new-look New Zealand Warriors who on Friday axed six players from their squad for "failing to meet team standards". Fairfax NZ reported they went on a boozy night out in the wake of last week's 42-0 humiliation by the Storm. The Warriors, playing at home, took the lead in the eighth minute when Shaun Johnson slotted home an easy penalty and they didn't relinquish it for the rest of the match. In other weekend games, the Penrith Panthers survived a nailbiter against Canberra Raiders with Peter Wallace drilling a difficult late kick to give his side victory, as they climbed to eighth. The hapless Newcastle Knights prop up the ladder after being hammered 38-0 by fellow strugglers the Sydney Roosters. Elsewhere, the Wests Tigers beat South Sydney Rabbitohs and the Paramatta Elms overcame Canterbury Bulldogs. —AFP



KDSS TO PARTICIPATE IN SHOOTING TOURNAMENT IN POLAND

KUWAIT: Kuwait Disabled Shooting Sport will participate in the World Cup shooting tournament in Poland, and in Germany. The tournaments started yesterday May 1 in Poland and will continue until May 5th, the second will be in Hanover, Germany from 6-16/5. Head of the Kuwait delegation, Deputy

Chairman of Kuwait Disabled Sports Club Nasser Al-Ajmi said shooter Atif Al-Dousary is totally ready for both tournaments, and determined to get good results in the name of Kuwait. He said the tournaments come in an opportune time to prepare the shooter for

the Olympics in Brazil next September. He said shooter Al-Dousary will have a training camp in Germany from 16-31 to prepare for the Olympic. He thanked Public Authority Board of Directors for removing all obstacles to allow the club to participate in international events.

MCLEOD SIZZLES IN DRAKE RELAYS RAIN

LOS ANGELES: Jamaica's Omar McLeod defied difficult, rainy conditions to clock a world-leading 13.08sec on Saturday to win the 110m hurdles at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. With the Rio Olympics approaching in August, McLeod moved atop the 2016 rankings, improving on the 13.33 posted by Jason

Richardson last week in Florida. McLeod, winner of the 60m hurdles gold at the indoor world championships in Portland in March, was a comfortable winner over former world champion David Oliver (13.31) and fellow Jamaican Hansle Parchment (13.42). "You always want to see where you're at for your first race,"

McLeod said. "That's good news and tells you that training is going right and you're staying on top of things." Reigning Olympic champion Aries Merritt finished fifth in 13.61 — in his first meeting since undergoing a kidney transplant in September. "My body felt really good," said Merritt, who received a new kidney

four days after winning world championship bronze last year. American Kendra Harrison won the women's 100m hurdles in 12.56sec, with compatriot Kristi Castlin second in 12.62.

Former world champion Brianna Rollins of the United States was third in 12.65. For Harrison, it was a valuable

chance to race against the women she'll be up against at the US Olympic trials in Eugene, Oregon, in June.

"As competitive as the 100 hurdlers are, it's anyone's race and you can't sleep on anybody," Harrison said. "The more I run against them, the more confident I get." — AFP

QATAR PROBES DEATH AT WORLD CUP SITE

DOHA: The organisers of Qatar's 2022 World Cup said yesterday they were investigating the death of an Indian labourer at one of its sites but denied it was caused by working conditions which the wealthy Gulf country is under pressure to improve.

Along with accusations of corruption during its World Cup bid, Qatar has long been under fire from rights groups for labour abuses. Last week, world soccer body FIFA urged Qatar to hasten improvements for builders on World Cup sites and said it would monitor conditions. Qatar, an energy exporter which has the highest income per capita in the world, is also under pressure from the United Nations to address workers' rights before World Cup construction peaks in 2017. Labourer Jaleshwar Prasad, 48, fell unconscious on Wednesday while performing steel work at Al Bayt stadium in Al Khor, 50 km (31 miles) north of Doha, a witness told Reuters.

Organisers said the death was not caused by working conditions.

"Al Khor Hospital reported the cause of death as cardiac arrest," the Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy of the 2022 World Cup said in a statement. "The family of Mr Prasad were informed of the tragedy immediately. A full investigation is underway."

Qatar's efforts to become the competition's first Arab host have been dampened by accusations including that workers were forced to live in squalor and to work without proper access to water and shelter in the blazing sun.

About 5,100 construction workers from Nepal, India and Bangladesh are building stadiums in the country.

Unions and labour protests are

banned and authorities penalise dissent with jail terms or immediate deportation.

Prasad is the third Indian employed on a World Cup site to die of a heart attack in the last six months, according to a February report by the Supreme Committee.

Qatar's Supreme Committee says there have been no work-related fatalities on World Cup sites, but law firm DLA Piper, in a review for the government in 2013, found evidence of dozens of work-related deaths across Qatar among migrant labourers from South Asia.

Qatar's government has also denied claims there are higher instances of heart attacks among construction workers and does not publish independently-verified statistics on worker-related injuries and fatalities. Autopsies and post-mortems on people who die sudden and unexpected deaths are forbidden by Qatari law unless a crime is suspected.

"Workers dying suddenly from heart attacks is something we hear about often, the causes are not always clear. But we're moving now into the hottest time of the year when the risk of fatality increases," said Amnesty Gulf researcher Mustafa Qadri. "When a worker dies, Qatar needs to get to the bottom of what happened. People's lives are in danger."

Amnesty reported on abuses at a World Cup stadium in a wide-ranging report three weeks ago based on the accounts of 132 workers.

DLA Piper recommended that Qatar launch an independent study into cardiac deaths among migrant workers. The head of Qatar's Supreme Committee has said Doha is working to reduce abuses he described as occurring on construction sites all over the world.—Reuters

KVYAT COLLISIONS DUMP VETTEL OUT OF RUSSIAN GP

SOCHI: Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel let rip with a blast of swear words after two first lap collisions with Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat dumped him out of the Russian's home race yesterday.

The two had traded barbs at the previous Chinese Grand Prix when Vettel took issue with an aggressive first lap overtake down the inside by the Russian that triggered a collision between the Ferraris. They lined up together on the fourth row of the grid in Sochi and chaos ensued. The Russian twice smashed into the rear of the Ferrari at successive corners, the second impact shunting the four times world champion-who won his titles with Red Bull-into the wall.

Vettel's reaction over team radio was mostly censored with bleeps for television audiences. "I'm out. Crashed. Somebody hit me in the ... rear at turn two, and then somebody hit me in the ... rear again in turn three," the German ranted. "Honestly, what the ... are we doing here?" exclaimed the German, who had called Kvyat a 'madman' in China and accused him of launching himself like a torpedo through the field. Stewards imposed a 10 second

stop/go penalty on Kvyat for causing the collisions. The Russian had said before the start that he would do nothing different. "You can never know how the start is going to go, it's all about instinct. you have to react on what is happening around you so I really don't know what the start will be like," he had told reporters.

Vettel, who won three races last season for Ferrari and finished second in China, got out after the impact and picked up the shattered front wing, trying to stuff it into the cockpit.

He then commandeered a scooter from a marshal, riding it back to the paddock with the official behind as a passenger, before seeking out Red Bull team principal Christian Horner on the pitwall. "It was not my fault - there was nothing I would do differently," the German told the BBC.

"I don't dislike him (Kvyat). I think he did a mistake two weeks ago and I think he did a mistake today." The race was Vettel's second blank in four this season, the German failing to start in Bahrain after his car's engine blew on the formation lap. He finished third in the Australian season-opener.—Reuters



SOCHI: Winner Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg (C) celebrates on the podium next to second placed Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) and third placed Scuderia Ferrari's Finnish driver Kimi Raikkonen (R) after the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit yesterday.—AFP

SEVEN-UP NICO ROSBERG ENJOYS STROLL IN SOCHI

SOCHI: Nico Rosberg became only the fourth driver in Formula One history to record seven successive wins when he cruised to victory ahead of Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in yesterday's incident-filled Russian Grand Prix.

The 30-year-old German started from pole and produced an imperious performance as he pulled clear of the field to take his fourth win of the 2016 season and the 18th of his career.

He won the final three races of 2015 and is now unbeaten since defending three time world champion Hamilton triumphed in last year's United States Grand Prix to secure the championship.

"It's been an awesome weekend for me and the car has been fantastic," he said.

"I am very, very happy. I really enjoyed it. I kept concentrating, pushing fast. If you slow down that is when you make mistakes.

"Lewis did a great job to come up to second so quickly from 10th and I know he is right on it and he will always be motivated and challenge and keep going.

"It is four races from 21 and Lewis is going to come back of course. We have an incredible car and all we want to do is win races."

The only three men to have reeled off seven straight wins were Italian Alberto Ascari and Germans Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel, whose race on Sunday was ended by a first lap accident.

Hamilton, who started 10th, avoided the carnage of a first lap multiple collision that eliminated Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari-hit again by Russian rival Daniil Kvyat of Red Bull, who twice rammed into his car - to sear through the field and, briefly, threaten a challenge for the lead.

His race, however, was stymied by further mechanical problems - he had suffered an engine failure in qualifying on Saturday - and he was forced to nurse his Mercedes home 25 seconds behind the rampant Rosberg.

It was the team's 30th one-two finish. Hamilton said: "It was not the easiest first corner, but so far all the races have been the same! "I'm really happy for the team and happy that I have some points.

"There was no doubt in my mind that I could win the race. I had the pace, but I had a problem again so I had to back off. I wasn't at full throttle after that, down the straights and that was it."

Finn Kimi Raikkonen finished third in the second Ferrari ahead of compatriot Valtteri Bottas and his Williams team-mate Felipe Massa. It was the Ferrari team's 700th podium finish and the Finn's 82nd. Fernando Alonso came home a much-improved sixth for McLaren ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Renault, Romain Grosjean for Haas, Sergio Perez of Force India and 2009 champion Jenson Button who was 10th in the second McLaren.

Rosberg's win increased his lead in the drivers' championship to 43 points, ahead of Hamilton, after four of this year's 21 races.

For Vettel, there was no disguising the German's anger at his first lap crash as he delivered an expletive-strewn tirade over the Ferrari team radio while around him cars slithered and crashed amid flying debris.

After he had cooled down he said when asked about Kvyat "I don't dislike him. I think he did a mistake two weeks ago and I think he did a mistake today... but it should not be like this. Will I speak to him? No, that is for someone else to do..." — AFP

HAMILTON ESCAPES GRID DROP AFTER PARTS FLOWN IN

SOCHI: Mercedes flew parts in by private jet from Britain overnight to keep Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton yesterday's Russian Grand Prix starting grid after engine problems in qualifying.

The Briton will start the race in 10th place, with championship-leading team mate Nico Rosberg on pole position and set for his seventh win in a row, but his predicament could have been much worse.

The team said Hamilton, who has not won since he took his third title in Texas last October, would have had to start from the pitlane if a new fuel system had not been flown to Sochi from the engine factory at Brixworth.

Drivers are allowed five power units per season, and are penalised for exceeding that amount, but they can swap out the six main components without sanction as long as they remain within their quota and the parts are of the same specification.

Hamilton's problem was that the unit in his car at Sochi had been upgraded since the previous race in China and the team did not have a spare fuel system in Russia of the same specification.

"We had to fly out a fuel system on a chartered jet yesterday evening, arriving here in the early hours, and the spare engine was then kitted with these parts during the night," a spokesman said.

The engine is not subject to strict post-qualifying 'parc ferme' rules which keep the car off limits to mechanics overnight.

"When the car came out of parc ferme this morning, the spare power unit was fitted and has now fired up successfully in the garage," said the spokesman.

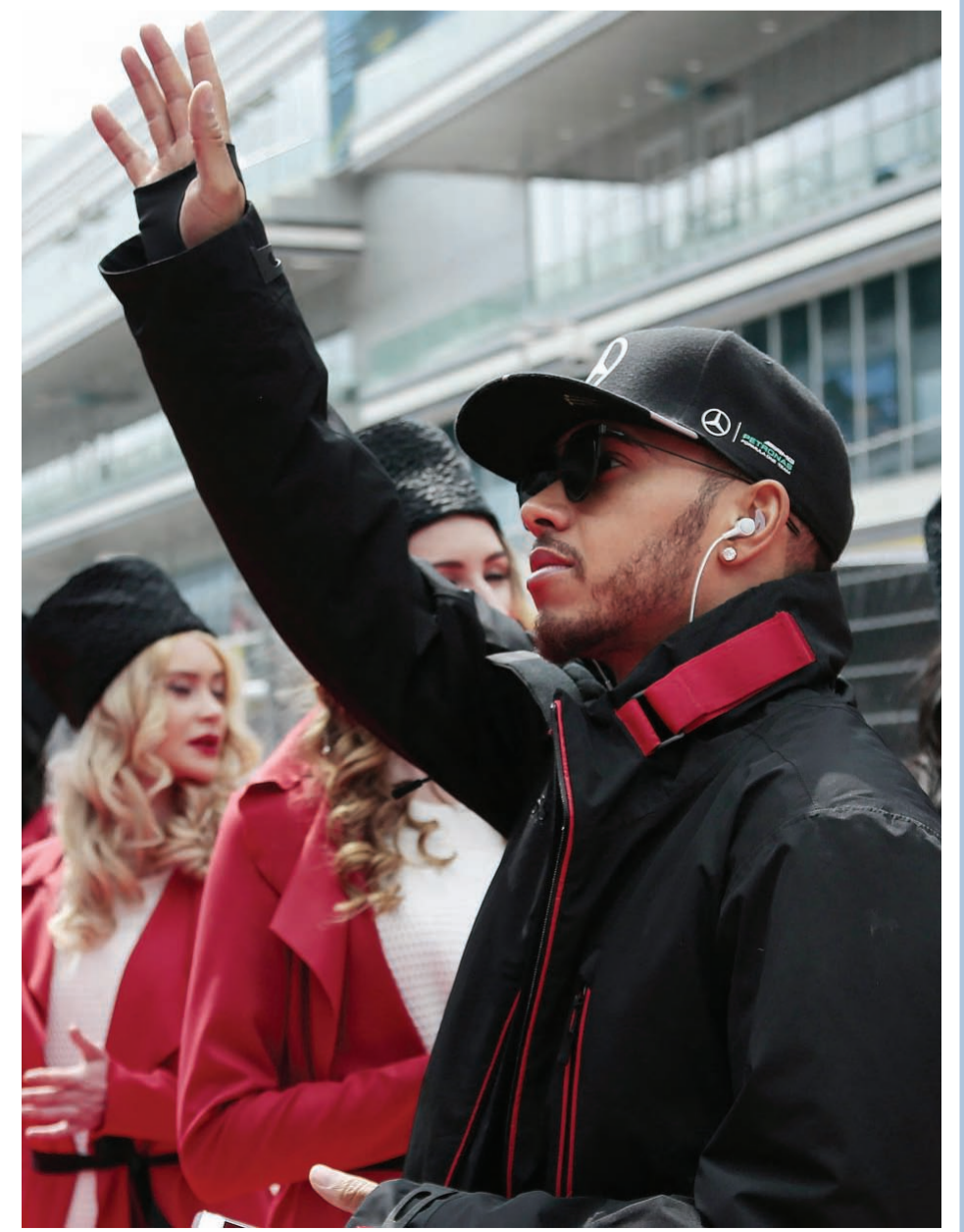
Hamilton has won the only two races held to date in Sochi, taking last year's after Rosberg started on pole position and then suffered a throttle failure.

The Briton had started from the back of the grid in China after failing to set a time in qualifying due to another power unit failure.

Mercedes said they had re-fitted the unit Hamilton used in the Australian season-opener in Melbourne, which was the spare for Sochi. The control electronics and energy store were replaced to eliminate them as a potential source of the problem but the unit that failed will not be inspected until the return to the factory.—Reuters



SOCHI: Scuderia Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel steers his car during the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit.—AFP



SOCHI: British Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton waves to supporters ahead of the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom racetrack in Sochi, Russia, yesterday.—AP

GERINA PILLER TAKES 2-STROKE LEAD IN HOME EVENT IN TEXAS

IRVING: Gerina Piller took a two-stroke lead Saturday in the LPGA Tour's Volunteers of America Texas Shootout, putting her in position for a breakthrough victory in her home event.

Winless in 123 career starts, the 31-year-old Piller shot a bogey-free 4-under 67 to reach 14-under 199 at Las Colinas Country Club.

The long-hitting U.S. Solheim Cup hero lives in Plano, about 20 miles from Las Colinas. She grew up in Roswell, New Mexico, and played at the University of Texas-El Paso. Piller is married to PGA Tour player Martin Piller. He watched her play Saturday after missing the cut in the Zurich Classic in Louisiana. Piller hit to 4 feet to set up a birdie on the par-4 sec-

ond, then birdied three straight par 5s - two putting No. 3 and making a 5-footer on No. 7 and a 10-footer on No. 10. She parred the final eight holes.

Piller has hit 52 of 54 greens in regulation, with the two misses coming in the first round Thursday.

South Korean players held the next four spots on the leaderboard. Amy Yang

(65) and Mi Jung Hur (66) were tied for second at 12 under, and Jenny Shin (65) and Sei Young Kim (68) were 10 under. Hur lives in the area in McKinney.

Fifth-ranked Brooke Henderson had a 73 to drop into a tie for 19th at 3 under. The 18-year-old Canadian has eight straight top-10 finishes.

Amateurs Cheyenne Knight and

Karah Sanford were among the 53 players to advance to the final round in the event that features two cuts.

Knight, a 19-year-old University of Alabama freshman from nearby Aledo, was tied for 26th at 2 under after a 72. The 14-year-old Sanford, a high school freshman from San Diego, was tied for 46th at even par after a 71. — AP

JETS DRAFT BURRIS IN 4TH ROUND, TRADE INTO 5TH TO GET SHELL

FLORHAM PARK: The New York Jets added depth to their secondary and offensive line - and also got themselves a punter - on the final day of the NFL draft.

They selected North Carolina State cornerback Justin Burris with their fourth-round pick, and then traded into the fifth to take South Carolina offensive tackle Brandon Shell, the great nephew of Hall of Famer Art Shell.

With their final two selections, both in the seventh round, the Jets selected Sam Houston State punter Lachlan Edwards, an Australian, at No. 235, and Clemson wide receiver Charone Peake six picks later. New York gave up its fourth-rounder in next year's draft to get Washington's fifth-rounder this year, No. 158 overall.

"He was a player we considered taking in the fourth round when we actually took Justin Burris," general manager Mike Maccagnan said of Shell. Burris was a three-year starter with the Wolfpack and is considered a strong, physical player with good hands. "I played in the nickel package, but I was also the outside corner," Burris said during a conference call. "We had a couple other guys who are now in the NFL that went inside. I was mostly an outside corner. I didn't really play inside much, unless it was a matchup thing."

Burris will likely compete for a backup spot behind projected starters Darrelle Revis and Buster Skrine, and also play on special teams. Burris also played safety early in his college career, but is expected to play cornerback.

Coach Todd Bowles is impressed with Burris' eyes, ball skills and long arms that can help at the line of scrimmage in the Jets' press man-to-man coverage.

"It's not mandatory, but when you can get a guy like that, who has those type of skills, it's very helpful for our team," Bowles said. "We see him as a press corner. He can do other things as well." Burris said he's "well-versed" in disrupting quarterbacks' timing and receivers' routes in press coverage. "That was our scheme at NC State and that's what we modeled our game after," he said. "I think you see on the tape how I'm pretty good at press-man coverage."

Shell is a 6-foot-5, 324-pound lineman who was a right tackle for three seasons before shifting to the left side last year as a redshirt senior. He was a four-year starter who started the last 47 straight games and opened some eyes at the East-West Shrine game with his run-blocking ability.

Shell also has terrific bloodlines, of course. Art Shell played offensive tackle for 15 seasons in the NFL, winning two Super Bowls and making eight Pro Bowls with the Raiders before becoming the first

black head coach in the league's modern era when he took over for the franchise he spent his entire playing career in 1989.

GOOD RELATIONSHIP

"We have a pretty good relationship," the younger Shell said during a conference call. "He's been a real big help to me through this process."

The selection came one spot after where the Jets were originally supposed to pick, which they traded to Denver on April 9 to acquire left tackle Ryan Clady.

Edwards was the first punter drafted by the Jets since they took Craig Hentrich in the eighth round in 1993. New York had a need at the position after allowing not tendering an offer to restricted free agent Ryan Quigley, who signed with Philadelphia. The 6-5, 205-pound Edwards averaged 42.8 yards in four seasons at Sam Houston after playing Australian Rules football and rugby in his home country.

Peake is a speedy receiver who tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in 2013 and his left meniscus the following year before rebounding with his best college season last season, catching 50 passes for 716 yards and five TDs.

After going with Ohio State linebacker Darron Lee as the team's first-round selection with the 20th overall pick Thursday night, the Jets surprised some by drafting Penn State quarterback Christian Hackenberg in the second round Friday night. It appeared New York might try to add a pass rusher at that spot, which they did in the third round with Georgia's Jordan Jenkins. While Ryan Fitzpatrick remains a free agent and in a contract stalemate, the Jets took Hackenberg, who set the school marks for career passing yards, completions and touchdowns.

Maccagnan reiterated that the selection of Hackenberg doesn't affect the team's plans to try to re-sign Fitzpatrick. The GM also denied a published report that the Jets were trying to swing a deal to acquire Nick Foles from the Rams.

"I would say, simply, to dispel anything, we're not at this point in time in discussions with any other teams for any other quarterbacks," Maccagnan said. "At least I can put that to bed at this point in time."

Bowles also said it's not necessary to have Fitzpatrick back until training camp, and that there's no sense of urgency to get him into the facility.

"With Ryan, probably not so much because he understands the system," Bowles said. "It's good to get a guy here just to have chemistry, but it's not mandatory right now." — AP



TAMPA: Andrej Sustr #62 of the Tampa Bay Lightning keeps Matt Martin #17 of the New York Islanders from getting position in front of the net during the first period in Game Two of the Eastern Conference Second Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Amalie Arena on Saturday in Tampa, Florida. — AFP

PITTSBURGH BEAT WASHINGTON, TAMPA DOWN ISLANDERS 4-1

WASHINGTON: Eric Fehr scored the winning goal against his former team to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a 2-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Saturday night to tie the Eastern Conference second-round playoff series at a game apiece while Tyler Johnson had two goals and an assist as Tampa Bay Lightning beat the New York Islanders 4-1 to level their series.

Already down a game, Kris Letang and the Pittsburgh Penguins suddenly were down a man, too, when Olli Maatta was leveled by a high hit from Washington's Brooks Orpik less than five minutes in.

So the Penguins simply did what they've been doing for weeks and weeks now: They figured out a way to set aside a setback. Letang played more than 35 minutes to help make up for fellow defenseman Maatta's absence before Fehr scored the winner with about 4 1/2 minutes remaining.

The Penguins have not lost two consecutive games since mid-January, displaying the sort of resilience that teams hope to rely on at this time of year. "If you have that ability, you give yourself

a chance every night to win. ... You've got to bounce back, and we've done a good job of that all year," Penguins star Sidney Crosby said. "Hopefully, we continue to."

Even Capitals coach Barry Trotz noted: "I sensed that they had a heightened sense of desperation." The series shifts to Pittsburgh for Game 3 on Monday night. Carl Hagelin put Pittsburgh ahead in the second period before Marcus Johansson pulled Washington even on a power play with about 16 minutes to go in the third.

Without Maatta, Letang took on an increased role, spending more than 8 1/2 more minutes in the game than any other player on either team and helping silence Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin. In all, Pittsburgh dominated play for the first two periods, and 21-year-old rookie goalie Matt Murray finished with 23 saves.

Fehr helped, of course. He redirected a pass out of a corner from Evgeni Malkin, sending the puck off the right post and past goalie Braden Holtby. Fehr played parts of nine seasons in Washington across two stints before leaving as a

free agent last summer.

"It does feel a little bit different" than other big goals, Fehr said, adding: "Obviously, I had a lot of years here." Jonathan Drouin and Victor Hedman each had a goal and an assist for Tampa Bay while Johnson, who scored an NHL-leading 13 goals in helping the Lightning reach the Stanley Cup final last season, had his sixth career playoff multi-goal game, and second this season.

"This was one we absolutely needed," Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. "They came down here probably saying, 'Hey, if we can split it's all good for us,' and we're probably a little disappointed that we split. But if you look at us after losing Game 1, we're sitting there saying, 'We have to have Game 2,' and we got it."

Nikolay Kulemin scored for the Islanders while Lightning goalie Ben Bishop rebounded after being pulled in Game 1 to make 19 saves.

"I thought it was closer than it indicated," Islanders coach Jack Capuano said of the final score. "We've just got to bounce back. Guys have got to play a little better." Game 3 is Tuesday night in Brooklyn. — AP



WASHINGTON: James DeGale, right, throws a right at Rogelio Medina during a boxing match Saturday, in Washington. DeGale won by decision. — AP

JACK RETAINS WBC TITLE WITH MAJORITY DRAW

WASHINGTON: Although Badou Jack didn't get the decisive victory he was looking for Saturday night, he's still planning on a unification bout with James DeGale next.

Jack still holds his WBC super-middleweight belt after fighting to a majority draw against veteran Lucian Bute. DeGale defended his 168-pound IBF title earlier Saturday with a unanimous decision over Rogelio Medina at the DC Armory.

The idea for the dual Showtime card was to have the winners square off this summer or fall. Without that victory, Jack is still ready. "Of course I want DeGale," Jack said. "I'm ready in September, ready in August. I'm ready whenever."

Judge Stephen Rados scored the fight 117-111 for Jack (20-1-2). Omar Minton and Glen Crocker both scored it 114-114. Jack had won four fights in a row heading into his second title defense, and believed he should've won a fifth.

"It is what it is," Jack said. "Maybe I lost the last round. He's a great guy and a great champion, but I know I won the fight." Jack's promoter and former champion Floyd Mayweather also decried the decision. "We want to be treated fair," Mayweather said. "We need to get some

new judges, because this is not right for the sport of boxing." The Romanian-born Bute (32-3-1), a former 168-pound champion, had lost to the British DeGale in his previous bout and appeared to think he had suffered defeat here.

Bute opened the 12th round swinging, and did so again following a timeout with 55 seconds left to fix tape on Jack's right glove. As the final bell sounded, Jack raised his hands in anticipation of victory while Bute only turned and headed to his corner.

"Believe me, it was very close fight," the 36-year-old Bute insisted. "My last fight with DeGale was very close, tonight was a very close fight. I showed everyone I'm still at the top." After cautious opening exchanges, Jack came to life in the fifth, landing several blows clean, including a long, looping left hook with under 50 seconds left in the round.

A similar connection to start the 11th commenced on of the fight's liveliest rounds, one that ended with a section of Romanian fans chanting "Bu-tel, Bu-te!"

DeGale (23-1) survived Medina (36-7), ho out-punched him by an almost 2-1 margin despite connecting on fewer overall. — AP

MAYWEATHER HINTS AT CHANCE OF RING RETURN

WASHINGTON: Floyd Mayweather teasingly hinted Saturday that he might be tempted to return to the ring, but said only a "nine-figure" payday could lure him out of retirement. The 39-year-old Mayweather, who walked away from boxing eight months ago with a perfect 49-0 record, was on hand as a promoter of Badou Jack's majority draw with Lucian Bute in a super middleweight world title fight at the DC Armory in Washington.

He told Showtime television interviewer Jim Gray that he'd had talks with CBS and Showtime, and while he said he's happy in

retirement he also didn't entirely close the door on a return to the ring. Would that be for the money or a chance to take his record to a round 50-0, Gray asked. "Both," Mayweather said.

"Yes, I'm happy to be where I'm at," Mayweather said. "Everyone is asking, asking me, 'Is Floyd Mayweather coming back?' Right now, I'm happy on this side, but I've been talking with CBS and Showtime and you just never know. But for now, I'm happy on this side."

"If I came back, of course, it would have to be a nine-figure payday and probably a championship fight and a nine-figure payday," he

said. Gray didn't ask about a possible rematch with Manny Pacquiao, whom Mayweather beat last year in the most lucrative bout in boxing history. He walked away after out-pointing Andre Berto in September, and until Saturday had given no indication that he might change his mind. Pacquiao won the fight billed as his farewell, beating Timothy Bradley in Las Vegas earlier this month before turning his attention to his race to gain a seat in the Philippines Senate.

"I'm now a full-time politician," Pacquiao said this week. — AP



WASHINGTON: Badou Jack of Sweden talks to Floyd Mayweather (left) after a draw against Lucian Bute (not pictured) in their WBC super middleweight championship bout at the DC Armory on Saturday in Washington, DC. — AFP

ADELAIDE CROWNED A-LEAGUE CHAMPS

ADELAIDE: Adelaide United were crowned Australian A-League champions for the first time yesterday, holding off a never-say-die Western Sydney Wanderers 3-1 in a pulsating game.

Guillermo Amor's team had home advantage and made the most of it, with 50,000 fans packing Adelaide Oval to see strikes from Bruce Kamau and Isaias put them 2-0 ahead at half-time.

The Wanderers—the only A-League side to have lifted an AFC Champions League trophy—never gave up and a magnificent goal from Scott Neville in the 58th minute set up a thrilling finale.

But it proved all too late with substitute Pablo Sanchez netting a third for Adelaide in the 90th minute, sending the crowd into raptures. Spaniard Amor has had plenty of big game experience, having played more than 300 times for Barcelona, and he made it clear before the kick-off that emotions

must be kept in check. His team were focused from the outset, pressing for an early advantage that came when Kamau finished beautifully in the 22nd minute, meeting a perfect cross from Marcelo Carrusca. They doubled their lead 12 minutes later when Isaias, another Spaniard, curled a free kick into the top corner past Wanderers keeper Andrew Redmayne. But the Wanderers, who have now lost in all three grand finals they have contested, kept pressing in a tight second half.

When Brendon Santalab found Neville and his shot hit the top left corner of the net, the Wanderers' travelling fans turned up the volume to urge their team on.

But they couldn't breach the solid Adelaide defence. In a frenetic final few minutes both sides had chances before Sanchez found time and space in the box to fire in a third to put the game beyond reach. — AFP



NEW YORK: San Francisco Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford, right, forces out New York Mets' Neil Walker (20) in a baseball game Saturday in New York. The Mets won 6-5. — AP

MITCHELL MARSH OUT OF IPL WITH SIDE STRAIN

NEW DELHI: Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of the rest of the Indian Premier League with a side strain, piling problems on his Rising Pune Supergiants side, Australia's cricket board said yesterday.

Marsh played only three of the first seven matches for Pune, which has already lost batsmen Kevin Pieteresen and South Africa's Faf du Plessis through injury.

Du Plessis was ruled out with a broken finger on Thursday, while Kevin Pieteresen, who injured his calf, returned to England one week earlier.

"Mitchell experienced some pain over his left abdominal area whilst batting at a

training session with his team Pune in the IPL a few days ago," Cricket Australia's sports science and sports medicine manager Alex Kountouris said in a statement.

"He missed his team's next game and the pain has not resolved," he said. Marsh, who took four wickets during the games and batted once making seven, will now return to Australia "for further assessment and treatment" ahead of a tri-nations tour of the West Indies in June involving South Africa.

"Once we have a better understanding of the extent of the injury we will be able to advise on his return to play timeframes," Kountouris said of the 24-year-old. — AFP



AMSTERDAM: Ajax Amsterdam players celebrate after scoring a goal during the Dutch first league football match against FC Twente in Amsterdam, yesterday. — AFP

MALAYSIAN LEE DEFEATS WORLD NO. 1 IN FINAL

BEIJING: Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei defeated his rival and world number one Chen Long of China yesterday in the final of the Asia Badminton Championships. The 33-year-old beat Chen 21-17, 15-21, 21-13 in the closely-fought final that lasted an hour and 22 minutes in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. It is his third title this year and his second badminton Asia championship, he last won it in 2006. Lee is currently ranked second in the world.

Chen won seven straight points in the first set before Lee finished off with six straight points for the win. Chen then

bounced back in the second set, but Lee won by a large margin in the third with 21-13. In the semi-final on Saturday, Lee easily defeated two-time Olympic gold medalist Lin Dan, while Chen crushed Tian Houwei of China in straight sets. In the women's singles, China's Wang Yihan defeated Li Xuerui of China 21-14, 13-21, 21-16 in an hour, clinching her third Asian title. It was an even match with both players having won nine games against each other before today's contest. The championship is worth \$500,000 in prize money, according to the organizer's website. — AFP



WUHAN: Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia poses with his gold medal after winning the men's singles final match against Chen Long of China at the 2016 Badminton Asia Championships in central China's Hubei province yesterday. — AFP

METS WIN 8TH STRAIGHT, CONFORTO AND FLORES HR TO BEAT GIANTS

NEW YORK: Michael Conforto and Wilmer Flores homered as the New York Mets won their eighth in a row, building an early lead for Jacob deGrom and holding off the San Francisco Giants 6-5 Saturday. San Francisco loaded the bases with no outs in the eighth inning and trimmed it to 6-5 with a pair of long sacrifice flies caught just in front of the outfield fence. Jeury's Familia closed for his eighth save in as many chances while Conforto tied a Mets record by hitting a double in his sixth straight game. He also singled and drove in three runs. Neil Walker hit a two-run single off Matt Cain (0-3), who has gone a career-worst 12 starts without a win, dating to his last victory July 22.

NATIONALS 6, CARDINALS 1

Jayson Werth's three-run homer capped a four-run first inning in Washington's victory over St. Louis. Joe Ross (3-0) allowed one run in six innings, raising his ERA to 0.79. He has given up only two runs in 22 2/3 innings and bounced back nicely after skipping a turn because of a blister on his middle finger. Werth added an RBI single in the eighth while Daniel Murphy had an RBI single off Jaime Garcia (1-2) in the first.

TIGERS 4, TWINS 1

Jordan Zimmermann won his fifth straight start since signing with Detroit while Justin Upton hit a three-run homer in the first inning to help the Tigers top Minnesota. Zimmermann (5-0) gave up one run with no walks and seven strikeouts over seven innings. His ERA actually rose to 0.55 as he became the first Tigers pitcher to win five games in April since Frank Tanana in 1988, according to STATS. Victor Martinez doubled twice for the Tigers, who have won five of six. Francisco Rodriguez earned his sixth save. The Twins lost their third straight and fell to 7-17 overall. Tyler Duffey (0-1) gave up just one earned run in 6 1/3 innings.

ATHLETICS 2, ASTROS 0

Jesse Hahn pitched into the seventh inning in his return to the majors and combined with two relievers on a four-hitter as Oakland held off Houston. The Astros loaded the bases in the ninth before Ryan Madson got Evan Gattis to ground into a game-ending double play for his eighth save, completing Oakland's first shutout this season. Billy Burns drove in the only runs with a two-out single in the second. Hahn (1-0) was called up from Triple-A Nashville before the game and pitched as well as he did for most of 2015 before missing the final three months with a right forearm strain that also delayed his debut in spring training this year. Chris Devenski (0-1) went five innings in his first major league start.

RAYS 4, BLUE JAYS 3

Curt Casali drove in the winning run with a single in the ninth inning as Tampa Bay beat Toronto. Brad Miller led off the ninth with a pinch-hit single off Brett Cecil (0-5). Miller beat first baseman Justin Smoak to the bag after a grounder. Kevin Kiermaier followed with a double before Casali's hit, the first game-ending hit of his career. Logan Forsythe tied it for the Rays with a home run in the seventh after Kevin Pillar's first homer of the season gave Toronto a 3-2 lead. Forsythe went 3 for 3 and walked. Evan Longoria also homered for the Rays and Xavier Cadenò (2-0) got the win. Jose Bautista's two-run homer off Chris Archer gave Toronto the lead in the third. That was the only hit Archer allowed in six innings.

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 0

Jackie Bradley Jr. and Mookie Betts had three RBIs apiece while David Ortiz homered again as Boston blanked New York. The Red Sox will look to sweep the three-game series Sunday night when David Price pitches for Boston in his first regular-season taste of the longtime rivalry. Rick Porcello (5-0) gave up five hits in seven innings to tie for the major league lead in wins. The right-hander has pitched at least six innings in each of his 13 starts since coming off the disabled list last August, the longest active streak in the majors. The Yankees have lost four straight and 12 of 16. In their last four losses the Yankees have been outscored 25-5.

PIRATES 5, REDS 1

Francisco Liriano won for the first time since opening day and John Jaso hit a leadoff homer as Pittsburgh won its sixth straight and handed Cincinnati its sixth consecutive loss. Liriano (2-1) allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings for his first win since April 3 against St. Louis. The left-hander held the Reds to five hits and struck out six while walking none. Jaso hit the first pitch from Alfredo Simon (0-3) for his first home run of the season and his fifth career leadoff homer. Sean Rodriguez added a two-run homer in the eighth. Simon lowered his ERA to 13.50 from 16.39 by allowing three runs in four-plus innings. Francisco Cervelli's RBI single in the fifth snapped a 1-all tie. Mark Melancon got one out for his seventh save. Cincinnati has scored just 10 runs during its losing streak.

WHITE SOX 8, ORIOLES 7

Jose Abreu hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning off reliever Vance Worley, lifting Chicago over Baltimore. After Todd Frazier hit a two-run homer off Darren O'Day in the eighth to give the White Sox a 7-5 lead, Chris Davis tied it in the bottom half with a two-run double off Zach Duke. Those runs were charged to Matt Albers, ending his streak of 30 consecutive scoreless appearances. Adam Eaton and Carlos Sanchez reached base with two outs in the ninth against Zach Britton (1-1). Nate Jones (2-0) got four outs for the win. Pedro Alvarez had three hits, including a homer, off Chicago starter Mat Latos, who is 5-0. Latos allowed four runs and a career-high 11 hits over five innings.

PHILLIES 4, INDIANS 3

Freddy Galvis homered and hit the go-ahead single to lead Philadelphia past Cleveland for its fifth straight victory. The Phillies (14-10) have won eight of nine. Jeanmar Gomez had Phillies fans on edge in the ninth before he earned his eighth save. With runners on second and third, Jason Kipnis lined one to right that forced Peter Bourjos to leap and snag the ball for the final out. Phillies reliever Colton Murray retired Juan Uribe on a deep fly to end the eighth that left runners stranded on second and third. Galvis' bloop single off Tommy Hunter (0-1) gave the Phillies a 4-3 lead in the seventh. Andrew Bailey (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

MARLINS 7, BREWERS 5

Adeiny Hechavarria had four hits, including one of four solo home runs that helped Miami beat Milwaukee. Giancarlo Stanton, Derek Dietrich and Marcell Ozuna also homered as the Marlins won their seventh consecutive game. Wei-Yin Chen (2-1) allowed three runs in 6 2/3 innings one night after the team took a combined no-hitter into the ninth. David Phelps got three outs for his first save. Brewers starter Chase Anderson (1-3) had his third consecutive subpar outing. Milwaukee has lost four straight and seven of eight.

RANGERS 7, ANGELS 2

Rouged Odor matched a Rangers record with

three doubles and Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer as Texas benefited from another replay challenge in a victory over Los Angeles. Odor's second double was part of the Rangers' six-run third inning. The play was initially ruled a foul ball, but manager Jeff Banister challenged the call. After a delay of about 3 1/2 minutes, the replay showed the ball kicked up a small bit of chalk and Odor was awarded a double. Nomar Mazara followed with a sacrifice fly off Matt Shoemaker (1-4) before the next six Rangers had hits, including Moreland's third homer for a 7-0 lead. Derek Holland (3-1) pitched six shutout innings, allowing four hits. The Angels were scoreless until Albert Pujols homered in the ninth.

ROCKIES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Trevor Story's two-run triple in the top of the ninth inning broke a tie as Colorado beat Arizona. Story, who homered in the four previous meetings between the teams this season, also doubled and drove in three runs for the Rockies, who have won four of five in Arizona this year. Carlos Gonzalez had three of the Rockies' 13 hits. Nolan Arenado drove in a third run in the ninth, all off closer Brad Ziegler (1-1). Chad Qualls (2-0) worked a scoreless inning and Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his fifth save. Diamondbacks ace Zack Greinke allowed two runs in seven innings. He struck out eight. Brandon Drury hit a two-run homer in the sixth, ending an 18-inning scoreless drought for Arizona.

PADRES 5, DODGERS 2

Melvin Upton Jr. hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the fifth inning as San Diego also got RBI doubles from Wil Myers and Matt Kemp. Colin Rea (2-1) allowed two runs and four hits over six innings in his Dodger Stadium debut, helping send the three-time defending NL West champions to their sixth straight loss. The 25-year-old right-hander's only mistake resulted in a two-run homer by Chase Utley in the third. Fernando Rodney got three outs for his fourth save in four chances while Ross Stripling (0-1) gave up five runs and seven hits through 4 2/3 innings, striking out six and walking two in his fifth big league start.

MARINERS 6, ROYALS 0

Wade Miley scattered five hits for his first career shutout and Kyle Seager hit a three-run homer to cap a four-run first inning as Seattle handed Kansas City its fifth consecutive loss. Miley (2-2) struck out four and walked none for his second complete game in 139 starts. His only other complete game was last September with Boston in a 9-2 victory over Philadelphia, when he allowed two runs and five hits. Seth Smith, whose homer accounted for the Mariners' only hit in a 1-0 victory Friday night, homered in the first inning, a one-out solo shot, his fourth. The Mariners capitalized on two walks in the first off Ventura (2-1), who allowed five runs, three hits with six walks in four-plus innings. With two outs in the first, Ventura walked Nelson Cruz and Adam Lind, and Seager followed with his fifth homer to make it 4-0. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

Detroit 4, Minnesota 1; Washington 6, St. Louis 1; Oakland 2, Houston 0; NY Mets 6, San Francisco 5; Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 3; Chicago White Sox 8, Baltimore 7; Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 1; Philadelphia 4, Cleveland 3; Miami 7, Milwaukee 5; Boston 8, NY Yankees 0; Texas 7, LA Angels 2; Colorado 5, Arizona 2.

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Baltimore	14	9	.609	-	Washington	16	7	.696
Boston	14	10	.583	0.5	NY Mets	15	7	.682
Tampa Bay	11	12	.478	3	Philadelphia	14	10	.583
Toronto	11	14	.440	4	Miami	12	11	.522
NY Yankees	8	14	.364	5.5	Atlanta	5	18	.217
Central Division				Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	17	8	.680	-	Chicago Cubs	17	5	.773
Detroit	13	10	.565	3	Pittsburgh	15	9	.625
Kansas City	12	11	.522	4	St. Louis	12	12	.500
Cleveland	10	11	.476	5	Cincinnati	9	15	.375
Minnesota	7	17	.292	9.5	Milwaukee	8	15	.348
Western Division				Western Division				
Texas	14	10	.583	-	LA Dodgers	12	13	.480
Seattle	13	10	.565	0.5	San Francisco	12	13	.480
Oakland	13	12	.520	1.5	Colorado	11	12	.478
LA Angels	11	13	.458	3	Arizona	12	14	.462
Houston	7	17	.292	7	San Diego	9	15	.375

SPURS STORM PAST THUNDER IN SERIES OPENER



SAN ANTONIO: San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) is fouled by Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (right) as he tries to score during the second half in Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series on Saturday. — AP

LOS ANGELES: LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 38 points in just three quarters on Saturday as the San Antonio Spurs stormed to a 124-92 victory over Oklahoma City in game one of their NBA playoffs second-round series. The Spurs built a 23-point lead in the first quarter - when they connected on 81.8 percent of their shots - and the rout was on in game one of the Western Conference semi-finals in San Antonio. Kawhi Leonard added 25 points, five rebounds and five assists for the Spurs, who never trailed and led by as many as 43.

With the luxury of resting their starters in the fourth quarter, San Antonio will try to build on their hot start when they host game two of the best of seven series today. Aldridge connected on 18 of 23 shots from the field and Leonard hit 10 of his 13 as the Spurs put on a shooting clinic. Danny Green added 18 points for San

Antonio and point guard Tony Parker handed out 12 assists - eight of them in the first half.

All 13 San Antonio players who took the floor scored. "It was one of those where we had a great night and (Oklahoma City) had one of their bad nights," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "The ball went in the basket a lot - not trying to be flip, but that's what happened." Serge Ibaka led the Thunder with 19 points. Kevin Durant scored 16 and Russell Westbrook added 14 points and nine assists for Oklahoma City.

But Ibaka, Durant and Westbrook were a combined 19 of 49 from the floor, the three combining to make one more shot Aldridge made by himself. "Shots were falling for me and my teammates were looking for me," Aldridge said. "I just tried to stay confident the whole game. I ended up making some plays that I probably won't make the next game, but it was

enough for me tonight. We try to start with defense and rebounding and go from there."

With the dominant win the Spurs picked up where they left off after sweeping the Memphis Grizzlies in four games in the first round. They led 73-40 at half-time - their highest scoring first half of the season. Oklahoma City out-scored the Spurs 11-6 in the first four minutes of the third period, but San Antonio responded to smother their attempt to rally. Aldridge hit his first three-pointer of the season, Leonard made a technical free throw and a basket and Tim Duncan drove the lane for a layup off another Parker assist as the Spurs remained in control. "We just need to move past this and get better," Durant said. "There were no crazy emotions - nobody was yelling in the locker room after the game because that's not going to make things better. We just have to go and play better." —AFP

English Premier League table

LONDON: English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Leicester	36	22	11	3	64	34	77	Watford	35	12	8	15	36	42	44
Tottenham	35	19	12	4	65	26	69	Swansea	36	11	10	15	37	50	43
Arsenal	36	19	10	7	59	34	67	West Brom	36	10	11	15	32	46	41
Man City	36	19	7	10	68	38	64	Bournemouth	36	11	8	17	43	63	41
Man Utd	35	17	9	9	43	31	60	Crystal Palace	36	10	9	17	36	46	39
West Ham	35	15	14	6	60	43	59	Newcastle	36	8	9	19	39	64	33
Southampton	36	16	9	11	53	39	57	Sunderland	35	7	11	17	40	58	32
Liverpool	35	15	10	10	59	48	55	Norwich	35	8	7	20	35	61	31
Stoke	36	13	9	14	38	52	48	Aston Villa	36	3	7	26	27	72	16
Chelsea	34	12	11	11	53	46	47								—relegated
Everton	35	10	14	11	55	49	44								

MARSEILLE END DROUGHT TO GUARANTEE SURVIVAL

PARIS: Marseille erased any lingering relegation fears yesterday with a 1-0 victory at Angers as the struggling French giants finally snapped a run of 11 matches without a win in Ligue 1. Michy Batshuayi scored his 16th goal of the season after 24 minutes at the Stade Jean Bouin to hand Marseille their first league win since the start of February. The nine-time French champions climbed up to 13th place, eight points above the drop zone with just two games of the season remaining.

Lyon beat Gazelec-Ajaccio 2-1 on Saturday to hold on to the coveted Ligue 1 runner-up spot and automatic entry to the Champions League. The former multiple French champions are in a tight battle with Monaco for second, with only goal difference splitting the teams. Monaco kept the pressure on Lyon with a 3-2 defeat of Guingamp to set up a winner-takes-all clash between the sides next weekend.

Lyon took an early lead when Rachid Ghezzal outfoxed the Gazelec defence, scoring directly from a corner. As the interval approached Maxwell Cornet scored into an open goal after smart work from Alexandre Lacazette and Rafael. Four minutes after the break the visitors pulled one back with Gregory Pujol conjuring up a superb lob after a counter-attack.

At Monaco, Andrea Raggi put the Principality club into a 17th minute lead against Guingamp, knocking in the rebound after his header hit the crossbar. As the first half drew to a close Nabil Dirar doubled their lead. Deep into the second half, Mevlut Erding's goal gave Guingamp hope, but seconds after the restart fine individual work from Bernardo Silva restored Monaco's two goal cushion. The

home side then had to endure a nervy final ten minutes after Benjamin Angoua scored Guingamp's second. "It was a deserved victory, now we are going to play 'the final' (at Lyon)," said Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim. "Monaco will be playing for second place in this game. We'll start preparing for this game from Monday, because tomorrow (Sunday) is a holiday for everyone."

Earlier, Nantes delivered a damaging blow to Nice's Champions League hopes as they inflicted a 1-0 defeat on Claude Puel's side. Adrien Thomasson fired home the only goal after 68 minutes at the Stade de la Beaujoire as Nice were punished for failing to properly clear a cross. Nice had ridden their luck until that point, with Nantes hitting the woodwork on three occasions - once through Emiliano Sala's first-half header before US international Alejandro Bedoya struck the post and then the bar in the space of five minutes.

Nice slipped to fifth, one point behind Saint-Etienne who drew 0-0 with Toulouse as Nantes snapped a run of five games without a win. For Toulouse this was a precious point in their battle to avoid relegation. And they had their goalkeeper Stephane Ruffier to thank after he saved a penalty and produced a series of other saves. Toulouse have 34 points, two adrift of Reims, who lost 3-2 to Montpellier.

On Friday, Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain thrashed Rennes 4-0 to equal their own Ligue 1 points record. Ibrahimovic increased his goals haul to 34 for the season with Maxwell and Edinson Cavani netting either side of the Swede's brace as PSG moved onto 89 points, matching their total from 2013-14, with three games still to play. —AFP



TURIN: Juventus' defender Leonardo Bonucci (second right) fights for the ball with Carpi's defender Simone Romagnoli during the Italian Serie A football match yesterday at the Juventus Stadium. —AFP

JUVE JUBILANT AS MILAN SEE EUROPA DREAM FADE

MILAN: Coach Massimiliano Allegri watched Juventus celebrate winning a fifth consecutive title in Turin as former club AC Milan slipped into the Serie A doldrums and further out of contention for a place in Europe. Brazilian midfielder Hernanes hit his maiden goal for Juve to give the hosts a half-time lead but it took until Simone Zaza's 80th minute strike, after he had replaced Alvaro Morata, for the title celebrations to really begin. Juventus, now 15 points ahead of second-placed Napoli before they host Atalanta today, had secured a record-equalling fifth consecutive Serie A crown last Monday when Roma defeated Napoli 1-0 in the capital.

After a week of celebrations, it was far from sterling stuff from the Turin giants but Allegri said: "It wasn't a great game but the tension had dropped off a little following our title celebrations last week. "But now it's important for us to keep our focus with a view on the Italian Cup final against Milan." Allegri now has three Serie A titles on his coaching CV having steered AC Milan to the 'scudetto' in 2011, only to be sacked by the seven-time European champions following a 4-3 defeat to Sassuolo in January 2014.

In hindsight, it was probably the best thing to have happened to the 48-year-old coach, who led the Old Lady to a first Champions League final in 12 years in 2015 and stands on the verge of a second consecutive league and Cup double. Milan host Juve in the Cup final on May 28, and going on Sunday's respective performances the Turin giants will be odds-on to defend their trophy.

Crisis-hit Milan hit a new low by dropping to seventh after fighting back from 3-1 down to

secure a 3-3 San Siro draw with Frosinone. Milan, who sacked coach Sinisa Mihajlovic three weeks ago and replaced the popular Serbian with youth team coach Cristian Brocchi, are now even further out of contention for a place in next season's Europa League - a short order for a team that once rubbed shoulders with the giants of European football.

After a dismal draw with relegation-haunted Carpi and a shock defeat to basement side Verona, Milan were looking to make amends. But frustrated Milan fans largely stayed at home amid reports club owner Silvio Berlusconi is on the verge of selling a majority stake to a Chinese consortium, and their decision was largely vindicated. Luca Paganini beat 'keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma from the edge of the box after two minutes and although Mario Balotelli and Brazilian defender Alex, whose header was fingertipped on to the post, came close to reducing arrears the visitors doubled their lead on the stroke of half-time when Oliver Kragl's free kick beat Donnarumma at the near post.

Hopes of a quick turnaround were dented just after the restart when Balotelli's penalty was parried by Francesco Bardi, a former teammate when the pair played in Inter Milan's youth team. Bardi then did well to palm Alex's piledriver from distance, but could not stop Milan reducing arrears on 50 minutes when Bacca slid in to meet Ignazio Abate's assist. But Milan's morale was hit again, Federico Dionisi pouncing on Alex's error to fire an angled drive across Donnarumma and into the far bottom corner.

Luca Antonelli came off the bench and, with his first touch, controlled with his chest to send

an overhead kick past Bardi on 74 minutes. But at the end of a desperate finale, the referee came to Milan's rescue when he pointed to the spot after Vasyly Prymya handled in the box. Bardi came close but failed to stop Jeremy Menez's drive from sneaking inside the base of the near post to secure a share of the spoils.

Elsewhere, goals by Franco Vazquez and an own goal from Nenad Krstic gave Palermo a precious 2-0 win over Sampdoria as they bid to beat the drop. In yesterday's late match, Lazio host Inter Milan. — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Chelsea v Tottenham		22:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD		
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Malaga v Levante		21:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD		
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
Werder Bremen v Stuttgart		21:15
beIN SPORTS 5 HD		
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Genoa CFC v AS Roma		20:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD		
SSC Napoli v Atalanta		22:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD		



ANGERS, France: Angers' Senegalese midfielder Cheikh N'Doye (left) vies with Marseille's Spanish defender Javier Manquillo during the French L1 football match yesterday at the Jean Bouin Stadium. — AFP

AJAX AND PSV TAKE DUTCH TITLE TO WIRE

THE HAGUE: With one match to play, Ajax lead PSV Eindhoven on goal difference in the Dutch title race after the pair won again yesterday to remain neck-and-neck on 81 points each. The Amsterdam outfit enjoy a goal difference of plus-6 over PSV after a 4-0 win over Twente and face 17th placed De Graafschap next week where they will seek to wrap up a 34th league title. Defending

champions PSV, who have 22 titles, enjoyed a 6-2 win Sunday over relegated Cambuur.

"I still believe," insisted Eindhoven coach Phillip Cocu. "My philosophy is to remain positive even when you are not in the best situation." Cocu takes his charges to seventh placed PEC Zwolle next weekend. The pair are 21 points clear of Feyenoord who beat Utrecht last week in the Dutch Cup. —AFP

BILBAO FIGHT BACK TO BEAT 10-MAN CELTA

BARCELONA: Aritz Aduriz and Raul Garcia led Athletic Bilbao's 2-1 fight-back over 10-man Celta Vigo, leapfrogging the visitors into fifth place in the Spanish league yesterday. Espanyol also got a much needed win to keep its distance from the relegation zone when Felipe Caicedo returned from injury to get the winner in a 1-0 victory over Sevilla. Fabian Orellana struck first for Celta in the 13th minute, but two rash fouls by Celta defender Gustavo Cabral in a span of four minutes swung the match in Bilbao's favor.

"Until the sending off we had the game completely under our control," said Celta goalkeeper Sergio Alvarez. "It's a pity that we are leaving with a loss." Aduriz equalized in the 38th from the penalty spot following Cabral's pull to bring him down in the area, taking his tally to 18 league goals this campaign. Cabral was sent off after a second clash shortly after, grazing Aduriz's face with his boot while the Spain striker was prone on the ground with play stopped. "(His) second card was for an absurd act. He

didn't have to hit my face ... so the referee did the right thing," Aduriz said.

Garcia put Bilbao ahead in the 72nd after he kicked the ball while on his back following a collision in the area. Bilbao moved one point above Celta and to within three points of fourth-place Villarreal, which visits Valencia later. Spain's top four finishers earn a berth in the Champions League. There will be two rounds remaining after this weekend. "We are going to fight to win the last two matches so we can finish as high in the standings as possible," said Aduriz.

In Barcelona, Caicedo finished off the rebound of a long strike by Marco Asensio in the 52nd. Asensio's shot struck the post and the back of goalkeeper Sergio Rico before falling to the Ecuador striker. Espanyol defender Alvaro Gonzalez wept while his teammates celebrated their first win in five rounds, which provisionally pushed them up into 14th place and five points from the drop zone. "I think we are close," said Espanyol midfielder Victor Sanchez. "It was very tough, hard fought, but we knew how

to get the win, which was what we needed. I hope it makes the difference." Sevilla, which hosts Shakhtar Donetsk in the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday after their 2-2 draw in Ukraine, stayed in seventh place despite remaining winless on the

road in the league this season through 18 away matches. On Saturday, all three title challengers won. Barcelona leads Atletico Madrid on head-to-head goal difference with Real Madrid one point behind in third place. — AP



SEVILLA: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring a goal during the Spanish league football match against Real Betis at the Benito Villamarin stadium on Saturday. — AFP

Sports

Kuwait shooting season ends on a high note



Spurs storm past Thunder in series opener



MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016

METS WIN 8TH STRAIGHT, CONFORTO AND FLORES HR TO BEAT GIANTS

Page 18



MANCHESTER: Leicester City's Wes Morgan (centre) scores his side's first goal of the game during the English Premier League match against Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday. — AP

MAN UTD MAKE LEICESTER WAIT



MANCHESTER: Claudio Ranieri's Leicester City must wait to complete their fairytale Premier League title quest after being held to a 1-1 draw by Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday. The Foxes needed three points to win the league for the first time, but with thousands of fans back in Leicester and millions of new converts around the world watching on television, they had to make do with one after Wes Morgan cancelled out Anthony Martial's opener for United.

Leicester, who lost Danny Drinkwater to a late red card, will be crowned champions unless second-place Tottenham Hotspur win at Chelsea today, but if Spurs do prevail, Ranieri's men will be left requiring two points from their final games, at home to Everton and away to Chelsea. "For us it was important to show our mentality. The beginning wasn't good, but after that I appreciated our performance," said Ranieri. "I'd like to watch the Tottenham match, but I'm on a flight back from Italy so I might not know the result until I land." It would still take a monumental collapse for Leicester not to claim the title, but their players, staff and anxious supporters must wait a few more hours, if not days, before their place in sporting history can be confirmed. While Leicester's destiny remains in their own hands, it was a damaging result for Louis van Gaal's United, who were left four points below the

Champions League places with three games to play. "I think we played one of our best matches of the season, but it was not enough," said Van Gaal. "When you don't win, of course it is tougher (to finish in the top four)." Leicester have turned winning with minimal possession into an art form this season, but United's early dominance here was to prove the precursor to a soft opener.

Simpson Survives

Antonio Valencia was allowed to cut inside Christian Fuchs and trundle a cross to the back post, where Martial exploited Danny Simpson's errant positioning to slot his 15th goal of the season past Kasper Schmeichel. Back at the ground where his father, Peter, made his name, Schmeichel then produced a sharp one-handed save to thwart Jesse Lingard. Shortly after Schmeichel's save, visiting captain Morgan out-

musled the floundering Marcos Rojo to meet Drinkwater's arcing free-kick with a headed 17th-minute equaliser.

The game was now an intense, robust encounter and United midfielder Marouane Fellaini was guilty of a wild elbow to Robert Huth's chin, after the German had provoked him by yanking his hair, that could earn the Belgian a retrospective ban. Asked for his reaction in a post-match television interview, Van Gaal grabbed the reporter's hair and said: "When you see what Huth is doing with Fellaini, is that not a penalty?"

Referee Michael Oliver did not spot Fellaini's infringement and he was also involved in two incidents prior to half-time that could have had major ramifications for either side. In the first, Lingard intercepted a pass from Simpson, a former United player, on halfway and raced towards goal, only to go to ground as Simpson leant into him.

It would have been a red card if Oliver had called it a foul, but he saw no wrongdoing and it was the same story moments later - albeit perhaps more contentiously - when Riyad Mahrez crashed to the turf after being caught by Rojo inside the United box. The teams continued to exchange chances in the second half, with Martial shooting over and Lingard curling straight at Schmeichel for United, while

Leonardo Ulloa, once again deputizing for the suspended Jamie Vardy, twice threatened for the visitors and Mahrez stung David de Gea's palms. The closing stages belonged to United, however, with Chris Smalling's header clipping the post before Drinkwater, another Old Trafford old boy, saw red after receiving a second yellow card for hauling back substitute Memphis Depay right on the edge of the box. The home fans wanted a penalty. Oliver, again, said no. — AFP

SWANSEA SAFE AS LIVERPOOL LOSE



SWANSEA: Andre Ayew's double ensured Swansea are safe from the threat of Premier League relegation as Liverpool's weakened team crashed to a 3-1 defeat at the Liberty Stadium yesterday. Ghana forward Ayew was on target either side of a wonderful strike from Jack Cork to move Swansea onto 43 points and guarantee they will be playing in the English top-flight next season.

It was a lacklustre effort from Liverpool, who saw Australian defender Brad Smith sent off in the closing stages as the Reds were left to lick their wounds ahead of their Europa League semi-final second leg against Villarreal. With Thursday's game in mind, Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp made eight changes from this week's 1-0 first leg defeat in Spain and the visitors paid the price. Only Philippe Coutinho, Nathaniel Clyne and Dejan Lovren survived and Klopp's starting lineup was the youngest Liverpool had ever sent out in the Premier League.

Pedro Chivirella, making his Liverpool league debut, and Kevin Stewart provided cover in front of the back four where Smith was employed at left back. Having been ticked off by referee Roger East for a late challenge on Wayne Routledge, Smith played his part in creating Liverpool's first chance of the game.

Unfortunately, when Jordan Ibe picked out Daniel Sturridge at the near post, the striker's volley was off target. Swansea's first opportunity fell to leading scorer Gylfi Sigurdsson. However, on this occasion, the Icelandic midfielder was denied by goalkeeper Danny Ward. Ayew was off target with a volley 90 seconds later, and though Liverpool posed a threat

going forward, their careless distribution was causing them all sorts of issues. Swansea broke the deadlock in the 20th minute when a sweeping move led to a corner on the left.

Teasing

Sigurdsson whipped in a teasing set-piece and Ayew rose to head home for his first goal since January. It could have been two, five minutes later, had it not been for Welsh goalkeeper Ward. Neil Taylor's precise cross was met by Cork, who saw his goalbound shot kicked away by the diving Ward. A minute later, Jordi Amat head Sigurdsson's corner over the top from four yards. There was nothing Ward or any one of the Liverpool defenders could do about Cork's 33rd minute strike from 25 yards.

The former Southampton midfielder curled the ball beyond Ward after dispossessing Coutinho. It was Swansea who continued to dominate after half-time, with Cork, Leon Britton and Sigurdsson setting the tempo. But Klopp had sent on Brazilian midfielder Lucas Leiva and Belgian striker Christian Benteke at half-time and the substitutes helped Liverpool regain some momentum. Their desire and ambition almost brought its reward on the hour when Nathaniel Clyne found himself inside the penalty area with only Lukasz Fabianski to beat.

The Swansea goalkeeper was equal to the threat and with the help of Taylor deflected the ball for a corner. Yet from the ensuing 65th corner, Liverpool were level. Sheyi Ojo's corner picked out Benteke, who dived to head past Fabianski from close-range. Liverpool's joy turned to despair two minutes later. Jefferson Montero was the catalyst with a surging run before finding Ayew in the penalty area. Ayew showed his strength to hold off Liverpool's defenders before finding the bottom corner with a cool finish from 12 yards. Any hopes of a Liverpool fightback were shattered 14 minutes from time when Smith was sent off for a second yellow card. — AFP

MANE TREBLE RUINS CITY'S WARM-UP



SOUTHAMPTON: Sadio Mane's hat-trick ensured Manchester City will face Real Madrid in the second leg of the Champions League semi-final on the back of a painful 4-2 defeat at Southampton yesterday. Already frustrated at being forced to play this game three days before the trip to the Bernabeu when his side will attempt to build on a scoreless first leg, City manager Manuel Pellegrini's mood will have only darkened from the moment Shane Long put Southampton on course for a resounding victory.

The loss leaves Pellegrini's men in fourth place, four points ahead of Manchester United who have a game in hand, and while City striker Kelechi Iheanacho scored twice, there were few positives for the visitors ahead of next week's decisive clash in Madrid. Pellegrini, who had contrasted the authorities' unwillingness to move the game forward with the approach taken in other countries, made eight changes to the side that faced Real at Eastlands last Tuesday, with only Joe Hart, Nicolas Otamendi and Fernandoinho starting both games.

And the evidence of the first half suggested City's thoughts were elsewhere, despite the need to secure their place in the top four. Iheanacho worked hard to maintain a threat up front and the youngster's efforts overshadowed those of Raheem Sterling and Wilfried Bony who offered little before the break. But Pellegrini's main concerns will be the performance of his back four, with the central defensive pairing of Otamendi and Elniaquim Mangala struggling to contain Long, while left-back Aleksandar Kolarov did little to suggest he should start in the Bernabeu. Long had already twice

exposed the City backline before the home side went ahead, first when he allowed Otamendi to make a covering tackle and then again when he fired into the side-netting after getting behind Mangala.

Superb Reaction

Long would not be denied a third time, however, when he got ahead of Otamendi to turn the ball home after being set up by Dusan Tadic in the 25th minute. Moments before that, Southampton keeper Fraser Forster had produced a superb reaction save to keep out Sterling's close-range effort after a rare moment of threat from the visitors. And that scare was quickly forgotten when Mane added a second three minutes after Long's opening goal.

City's left was once again exposed by Tadic with the Serb's clever reverse pass taking out Mangala and Kolarov and sending Mane clear to fire past Hart. The margin of Southampton's lead could have been even greater, but City clawed their way back into it a minute before the break when Iheanacho reacted well to head past Forster after Samir Nasri's low cross was deflected into the air.

However, there were few signs City could build on that goal after the break and Southampton asserted their dominance 12 minutes after the restart when Mane hooked the ball home after Virgil van Dijk had met Steve Davis's corner and headed against the bar. An awkward afternoon for Pellegrini's side, who looked incapable of staging a response.

So there was little surprise when Mane completed his hat-trick in the 68th minute with Tadic once again the provider after Van Dijk had dispossessed Iheanacho, releasing Mane to slide another right-footed finish beyond Hart. Iheanacho confirmed his status as City's most effective player when he reduced the deficit with an excellent curling shot from the edge of the area in the 78th minute, but it came too late to spark a fightback. — AFP



SOUTHAMPTON: Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart dives at the feet of Southampton's Sadio Mane (right) and Manchester City's Nicolas Otamendi during an English Premier League match at St Marys yesterday. — AP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016

China April factory activity expands at a slower pace

Page 23

Toyota scores 2 wins at Mideast 'Car of the Year Awards'

Page 25



'Nissan LEAF' special version visualizes EV driving excitement

Page 26

INDONESIA PUSHING TO BAN PALM OIL AFTER FOREST FIRES

Page 22



MANILA: Hundreds of protesters, mostly workers, march towards the Presidential Palace with an effigy of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to mark the International Labor Day yesterday in Manila. — AP

QATAR FUND USES MORE EXTERNAL MANAGERS

MORE FOCUS ON ASIA AND US, LESS ON EUROPE

DUBAI: Qatar's sovereign wealth fund is reducing its focus on investments in Europe and placing more of its money with external managers following an internal review, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. Qatar Investment Authority, estimated by industry tracker Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute to hold \$256 billion of assets, is known as an aggressive investor in high-profile European assets such as the Shard skyscraper and Harrods department store in London, as well as Credit Suisse and Volkswagen.

But its review, which follows sharp falls in the prices of some of the European assets and a plunge in oil and gas prices that slashed Qatar's export revenues, led to an understanding that QIA is "overcommitted" in Europe and should put less emphasis on direct investment, the sources said. Instead, the QIA is placing more money with external managers, who have been told that investments should be spread out globally but particularly in Asia

and the United States.

The sources, who are familiar with QIA because of close business links to the fund, declined to be named because of commercial sensitivities. A public relations agency representing QIA said the fund had no comment. The sources said one of the reasons for changing strategy was the poor performance of QIA's investments in German carmaker Volkswagen and London-listed commodities trading house Glencore.

Shares in Volkswagen, in which QIA is the third-largest shareholder with a 17 percent stake worth around \$13 billion at market prices, are down 52 percent from their March 2015 peak after the company was caught cheating on diesel emissions tests. QIA owns 9 percent of Glencore, a stake worth about \$3 billion at market prices, according to Thomson Reuters data. Glencore's shares are down 49 percent from their 2015 peak because of concern over its ability to cope with low global metals prices.

In the wake of these debates, "QIA's days of glitzy investments are numbered," said one of the sources. The sources said, however, that there was no indication that QIA would reduce its existing stakes in big European firms such as Volkswagen and Glencore.

The secretive fund does not disclose many details of its asset allocations around the world. Last September, it opened an investment office in New York and said it planned to invest \$35 billion in the United States over the next five years.

Two of the sources said QIA was keen to strengthen its involvement in "responsible investing," a style of asset management which emphasizes protecting the environment, consumers and human rights. Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's biggest, has been focusing on responsible investing; the Norwegian parliament decided last year that the fund would divest from firms that derived more than 30 percent of their turnover or activity from coal. — Reuters

DUBAI'S EMAAR PROPERTIES Q1 NET PROFIT RISES 17%

DUBAI: Dubai's Emaar Properties, builder of the world's tallest tower, shrugged off a weakening local market to report a 17 percent increase in first-quarter net profit yesterday as sales rose and its hospitality and retail units also prospered.

The developer, in which Dubai's government owns a minority stake, made a net profit of 1.21 billion dirhams (\$330 million) in the three months to March 31, it said in a statement. That compares with a profit of 1.03 billion dirhams in the year-earlier period. SICO Bahrain forecast Emaar's first-quarter profit would be 1.22 billion dirhams. Emaar's chairman this month said he had been "really scared" of market conditions coming into 2016, but these fears may have been allayed by a 70 percent rise in the value of Emaar's first-quarter property sales to 4.19 billion dirhams.

That increase was achieved despite the emirate's property prices in steady decline from a 2014 peak and with industry experts forecasting further drops this year. Emaar's

property unit generated 1.97 billion dirhams in first-quarter revenue, up 32 percent on a year ago. The company does not book immediately book property sales as revenue; it is steadily included in line with construction.

Emaar Malls, majority-owned by Emaar, last week reported a 22 percent rise in first-quarter net profit to 529 million dirhams. Its hospitality, commercial leasing and entertainment unit, which includes its hotel assets, generated quarterly revenue of 722 million dirhams, Emaar said. It did not provide a year earlier figure, but said its Address-branded hotels achieved 93 percent occupancy. This figure excludes Address Downtown hotel, which was ravaged by fire on New Year's Eve.

An Emaar executive last week said this hotel would not re-open this year, while the company in its 2016 earnings took a 301 million dirham writedown relating to the blaze. Emaar's first-quarter revenue was 3.53 billion dirhams, also up 17 percent from a year earlier. — Reuters



GULF MARKETS PULL BACK; BANKS WEIGH ON SAUDI

DUBAI: Gulf stocks were flat to lower yesterday as investors booked profits after recent gains, ignoring a further rise in oil prices. Brent oil futures settled at \$48.13 a barrel on Friday after reaching a 2016 peak at \$48.50. They rose 21.5 percent in April, the largest monthly advance since May 2009.

However, stocks have already been gaining for two or three months in response to the idea that oil prices have bottomed out. Investors are focusing now on the damage to corporate earnings from austerity policies in the region. "The real question is to assess if markets will hold these levels if oil prices drop again. It'll be the reality check for equity markets," said Sebastien Henin, head of asset management at Abu Dhabi's The National Investor.

Some retail investors have started to book profits before religious holiday of Ramadan, which is five weeks away, when activity usually declines. Saudi Arabia's stock index fell 0.8

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

percent as the banking sub-index dropped 1.4 percent. Heavyweight National Commercial Bank fell 2.7 percent and Samba Financial Group lost 2.6 percent.

But Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) jumped its 10 percent daily limit after the government reshuffled its board, appointing the chairman of state oil giant Saudi Aramco, Khalid Al-Falih, as the company's chairman. Developing the Saudi mining industry and making Aramco into a diversified industrial conglomerate are major plans of national economic reforms announced last week.

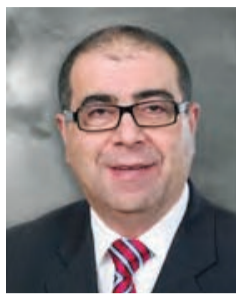
Abu Dhabi banks remained soft after disappointing first-quarter earnings last week. The market's main index fell 0.8 percent as First Gulf Bank dropped 1.5 percent and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank lost 2.3 percent.

Union National Bank closed 0.6 percent lower. The lender posted a 27 percent drop in first-quarter net profit attributable to equity holders to 447 million dirhams (\$121.76 million). Two analysts polled by Reuters had forecast 314.00 million dirhams and 454.30 million dirhams.

Dubai's index pulled back 1.3 percent as Emaar Properties, which was due to report quarterly earnings after the close, retreated 2.4 percent. Dubai Islamic Bank, which reported a drop in profits last week, lost 0.9 percent. But Gulf Navigation jumped 3.7 percent in unusually high trading volume; it has not yet reported its quarterly results. Qatar's index was almost flat as Qatar First Bank was again the most heavily traded stock, rising 2.7 percent to 14.12 riyals. It listed last Wednesday at a price of 15.00 riyals. Markets in Egypt and Bahrain were closed for public holidays. — Reuters

HOW TO BE A SMART INVESTOR

KUWAIT: It might be a surprise to people but majority of stock market investors are able to see and recognize value when they invest but unfortunately they fail to make money. A lot of investors are familiar with what I have just said. Investors need to learn a lot about the stock market before even thinking of actually investing money in the market. Those investors, who start losing money, suddenly become long-term investors i.e. they are literally stuck. My personal advice is before thinking of investing you should learn the rules of investment. Some of these rules you can learn by just reading about them, others you need to learn about the drivers of the stock market and fundamentals which make one stock perform better than another.



Hayder Tawfik

The minute you start investing your own money, you become a serious investor and taking risk with your own money. You should not treat investing as

passing time or a hobby unless you are a professional investor. Serious money managers spend most of their time reading, studying and searching for good investment opportunity. It is a full time job and once you are committed, then you become a serious investor. Every investment you make should be regarded as a serious investment and always ask yourself if it will make you money or not. If you think you got it wrong then you should cut your loss and start again. Never run losing positions.

Investors should do their work extensively before they start investing in the market. Research the stock and spend a lot of time on finding any research related to the stock. Read about the company's business. Find out how they make their money. Where the profit comes from? What is their business model? How long the management being together? Do they own shares in the company? What could go wrong? Lots of questions to be asked but they are important indeed and they are the best way to make the investor wait before investing in the stock. On top of all those the investor should study the fundamental valuation of the company. One important advice is to see if the company's business fits with the present economic and how many times it survived previous economic

cycles. For example do not invest in mining stocks if you think the economy is going into recession. You should invest as little as you can in every stock you choose so you have more money left for more investment.

If you carry on doing that then you will end up with a good portfolio of a well-diversified stocks with excellent fundamentals. Start monitoring your portfolio on daily basis and look for any news related to your stocks. Review the stocks very carefully and be ready to cut the position if you have to do so. Do not hesitate to take loss. Always run those positions that are making you money. Make sure you avoid the herd mentality and never invest with your emotions. Don't let market fluctuations affect your investment decisions. Totally avoid investing in highly volatile stocks because you never know if you buy them at the highs or the lows. If you can't time your entry to the market then start investing with little money till you feel comfortable and confident. If you are a beginner to the market try to avoid investing in any start-ups. Always remember only invest what you can afford to lose.

New comers to the stock market tend to trade more frequently which is something they should try to avoid completely. The more they trade the

more they give brokers in commissions. By trading more frequently investors might end up selling the stocks that would make them a lot of money and buying the ones that lose them money. Investors should avoid taking advice from friends or newspapers and should ignore any tips. By setting price target for every stock bought it helps you avoid unnecessary trading and save you lots of commissions. Also teach you how to become discipline. When you reach your price target do not sell your position completely. Try to reduce your investment gradually just in case you have a good winner.

Finally, I strongly advise that new investors should read a lot about stock market legends and understand how they made their fortunes. These legends have their own investment strategies and disciplines that are very important to understand before you start investing. All good investors have their own way of investing and by reading about them you will start forming your own method and you will gradually take your investment very seriously. My final advice is to start with some paper money and see how you do before putting real money into the market. Investing in the stock market should be a serious business and should not be taken as a hobby or just passing time. — Rasameel



SUKA DAME, Indonesia: A plantation worker harvesting fruits from oil palm trees at Suka Dame village in Deliserdang, Indonesia's North Sumatra province. — AFP

INDONESIA PUSHING TO BAN PALM OIL AFTER FOREST FIRES

JAKARTA: Indonesia is pushing to ban new palm oil operations after last year's haze-belching forest fires were partly blamed on the industry's expansion, but producers are warning the move could hit the economy and green groups are skeptical.

President Joko Widodo in April proposed a halt on granting new land for palm oil plantations in the world's top producer of the edible vegetable oil, a key ingredient in many everyday goods, from biscuits to shampoo and make-up.

In a statement, he said that "palm oil concessions available at the moment are already adequate" and urged producers to concentrate on using better seeds to increase their yields.

Plantations on Sumatra island and the Indonesian part of Borneo have expanded in recent years as demand for palm oil has skyrocketed, bringing huge profits to companies and healthy tax revenues to the government. But the rapid growth has been blamed for the destruction of tropical forests that are home to many endangered species, and forest fires that occur every year during the dry season due to illegal slash-and-burn clearance.

The 2015 blazes were the most serious for some years, worsened by dry weather caused by an El Nino phenomenon, and cloaked large stretches of Southeast Asia in toxic smog for weeks, causing hundreds of thousands to fall ill,

disrupting air travel and fuelling anger at Jakarta. The proposed moratorium on new concessions is the latest move by Widodo aimed at reducing environmental destruction caused by the industry and halting the annual smog outbreaks.

But the Indonesian Palm Oil Association warned that the ban could damage a mainstay of Southeast Asia's biggest economy that supports 24 million jobs, directly or indirectly.

"Palm oil is a strategic sector which contributed \$19 billion in exports in 2015," said Tofan Madji, a spokesman for the group, which represents some 650 companies. "It contributes to economic growth, especially in remote areas."

"Forest will keep burning" Activists were cautious about the proposal, with Greenpeace Indonesia warning it would not be effective unless the government introduces a tough regulation, rather than just a weaker "presidential instruction". The details of the proposed moratorium are still being discussed, and it is not yet clear when it will be adopted, the environment ministry said.

Kiki Taufik, Greenpeace Indonesia forest campaigner, also warned of implementation problems as various parts of government would need to work together for a ban to operate smoothly.

"This is probably one of the hardest parts. Lack of coordination among officials is common

and it often leads to bad implementation of regulations," Taufik said. Implementation of laws is also difficult due to heavily decentralisation of power across the archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, with rules set in Jakarta often flouted by local administrations.

A moratorium on new logging permits on primary forest and peatlands-defined as areas not logged in recent history-has been in place since 2011, but campaigners say it has sometimes been ignored when local governments grant concessions. The palm oil plan follows a 2015 ban on new development on all peatlands after swaths of carbon-rich peat were drained for use as plantations in recent years, creating highly flammable areas.

The government has also pledged to punish more than 50 companies accused over last year's forest fires. But it suffered a setback in December when a court rejected a \$565 million lawsuit against a pulp and paper company accused of failing to prevent the blazes.

Some believe that little can be done to stop the annual fires when there is still money to be made from palm oil. "The main cause of forest fires is greed," said Herry Purnomo, a scientist at the Indonesia-based Center for International Forestry Research. "As long as people want a quick return, quick money, the forest will keep burning." — AFP

VIVA BECOMES A MEMBER OF ITU

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced its accession to membership of International Telecommunication Union "ITU", a specialized agency of the United Nations, consists of experts and leaders in the telecom sector from around the world.

Commenting on this membership, VIVA stated that its contribution will focus on designing the future of telecom sector, and exchanging experiences and opinions with different parties, through its participation in scientific conferences that help evolving and improving the telecom sector in order to maintain the satisfaction of the customers.

ITU is an organization based on public-private partnership since its inception; ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and almost 800 private-sector enti-

ties and academic institutions. ITU's head-quarter based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has twelve regional and area offices around the world.

ITU membership represents a cross-section of the global ICT sector, from the world's largest manufacturers and telecoms carriers to small, innovative players working with new and emerging technologies, along with leading R&D institutions and academia.

Founded on the principle of international cooperation between governments (Member States) and the private sector (Sector Members, Associates and Academia), ITU is the premier global forum through which parties work towards consensus on a wide range of issues affecting the future direction of the ICT industry.

SENEGAL, MAURITANIA BET ON OIL AND GAS IN PERILOUS CLIMATE

DAKAR: While petro-states reel from plunging oil prices and gas producers brace for American exports to hit the market, two west African nations are forging ahead with potentially massive extraction projects others might fear to touch. Energy firms say Senegal and Mauritania's current oil and gas ventures will transform them into net exporters by 2020, betting on long-term demand and the eventual recovery of the slumped market, as well as their proximity to Europe.

Located off Africa's western extremity, three oil wells drilled by Scottish firm Cairn Energy have yielded a "significant resource base" in Senegalese waters, its chief executive Simon Thomson said in early April, confirming that work would begin on a fourth.

Meanwhile Texas-based Kosmos Energy has confirmed a single, very large pool of "high-quality gas" straddling the Senegalese-Mauritanian maritime border, and now plans to prospect for oil in the same area, the firm told AFP. "We have excellent working relationships with both governments," said Kosmos spokesman Thomas Golembeski, describing four years of work that have yielded a predicted 20 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The discovery of that "threshold" amount-considered the minimum for viable production-after digging just four wells was an encouraging sign in a business where dozens can be drilled and all found completely dry, Golembeski said.

'Why rush?'

The Senegalese government has stressed it

will take "every measure" to ensure the projects are carried out in the "best interests of all current and future generations," President Macky Sall said in a recent speech. Other nations such as Kenya and Tanzania are waiting for a better economic climate to exploit similar resources, said Nadine Kone of Oxfam International, a strategy she urged Senegal and Mauritania to heed.

"I don't see a clear vision for the use of this resource," Kone told AFP. Furthermore, "why rush with oil given where prices are now?" World Bank country manager for Mauritania Gaston Sorgho told the Financial Times last month the project was potentially risky if not properly handled, with the Chinguetti oil field discovered 15 years ago in Mauritania waters producing a fraction of what was hoped.

However, it offered a "huge opportunity" if the two governments were able to work together, Sorgho said. Much remains to be done before the outcome is set: Cairn and Kosmos are negotiating with production firms to get the product out of the ground and onto the market, and attracting finance for such billion-dollar projects is "the real hard part", according to Wood Mackenzie analyst David Thomson.

"These projects are massive and they're very capital intensive," Thomson said, adding that although it could take time in the current circumstances, he believed both firms would nonetheless secure the funding required. There was enough gas alone found so far to last for three decades, he added. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.721
Indian Rupees	4.570
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Srilankan Rupees	2.074
Nepali Rupees	2.847
Singapore Dollar	224.810
Hongkong Dollar	39.012
Bangladesh Taka	3.858
Philippine Peso	6.466
Thai Baht	8.627

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.736
Qatari Riyal	83.166
Omani Riyal	786.383
Bahraini Dinar	804.040
UAE Dirham	82.430

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.467
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215
Tunisian Dinar	150.920
Jordanian Dinar	426.440
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.158
Morocco Dirham	31.853

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.600
Euro	344.060
Sterling Pound	442.550

Canadian dollar	240.920
Turkish lira	107.690
Swiss Franc	312.930
Australian Dollar	232.250
US Dollar Buying	301.400

GOLD

20 Gram	248.350
10 Gram	127.090
5 Gram	64.390

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.550
Canadian Dollar	241.185
Sterling Pound	442.715
Euro	347.305
Swiss Frank	292.570
Bahrain Dinar	800.405
UAE Dirhams	82.615
Qatari Riyals	83.825
Saudi Riyals	81.360
Jordanian Dinar	426.200
Egyptian Pound	33.974
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.075
Indian Rupees	4.552
Pakistani Rupees	2.880
Bangladesh Taka	3.848
Philippines Peso	6.448
Cyprus pound	576.260
Japanese Yen	3.835
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.845

Malaysian Ringgit	78.125
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.110
Thai Bhat	9.635
Turkish Lira	108.200

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.430830	0.439830
Czech Korune	0.004660	0.016660
Danish Krone	0.041930	0.046930
Euro	0.0335428	0.0343428
Norwegian Krone	0.032989	0.038189
Romanian Leu	0.086889	0.086889
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Swedish Krona	0.033377	0.038377
Swiss Franc	0.303631	0.313831
Turkish Lira	0.100984	0.111284
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.225752	0.237252
New Zealand Dollar	0.201914	0.211414
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.234177	0.242677
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303300
US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303300
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003444	0.004018
Chinese Yuan	0.045208	0.048708
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036981	0.039731

Indian Rupee	0.004346	0.004736
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002686	0.002866
Kenyan Shilling	0.003115	0.003115
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073887	0.079887
Nepalese Rupee	0.002886	0.003056
Pakistan Rupee	0.002671	0.002951
Philippine Peso	0.006464	0.006744
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.221484	0.227484
South African Rand	0.015208	0.023708
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001698	0.002278
Taiwan	0.009256	0.009436
Thai Baht	0.008303	0.008853

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796879	0.804879
Egyptian Pound	0.030721	0.035839
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000192	0.000252
Jordanian Dinar	0.423217	0.430717
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020848	0.044848
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.082488	0.083701
Saudi Riyal	0.079887	0.080837
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.147242	0.155242
Turkish Lira	0.100984	0.111284
UAE Dirhams	0.081487	0.082636
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449

AUSTRALIA READIES KEY ELECTION BUDGET

SYDNEY: Australia's conservative government is pledging to drive economic and jobs growth when it hands down its budget tomorrow, with an eye firmly on upcoming national elections that are shaping up to be a tight race.

The budget is seen as a key test for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, a former investment banker who ousted his predecessor Tony Abbott in a party coup in September, ahead of the polls which are widely expected in July. Turnbull and Treasurer Scott Morrison face the tough task of balancing the need to stimulate a resources-heavy economy as it exits an unprecedented mining investment boom with calls to rein in the budget deficit and government debt.

"We must live within our means," Turnbull said in mid-April while stress-

ing the need to create jobs and invest in innovation to spur growth.

"The only way to ensure we have great jobs in the future, to ensure that we have the revenues that will enable us to deliver the great schools and great hospitals, is to have a strong and successful economy." Tumbling commodity prices, despite recent recoveries, and lower tax receipts are already hurting government revenue, with the nation's budget deficit ballooning to Aus\$37.4 billion (\$28.9 billion) last year.

Deloitte Access Economics partner Chris Richardson said he expected the budget position to deteriorate further, with total deficits over the next few years to 2018-19 to total Aus\$129 billion, Aus\$21 billion worse than official forecasts from December.

And although Australia is among only a handful of countries with triple-A credit ratings, Moody's this month warned the coveted status could come under pressure if government debt levels keep rising.

Voter-friendly budget

The looming election means some analysts' calls for the government to raise revenue by lifting taxes and cutting spending are unlikely to be heeded, as politicians woo voters with more pocket friendly policies. Some big ticket items, including an increase in the goods and services tax, changes to tax breaks for property investors and a capital gains tax discount have all been ruled out.

But other tweaks, such as cracking down on multinational tax avoidance,

lifting the tobacco excise and changes to the age pension have been mooted as likely. The budget would also contain a further Aus\$1 billion to refinance military deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, The Australian newspaper reported.

"We expect the budget to have little in the way of significant structural policy measures," ANZ economists said in a budget preview. "Rather, it will bank the recent good fortune of better-than-expected economic conditions and set the scene for the upcoming election campaign."

Improved economic conditions have included a 40 percent rise this year in the price of iron ore, Australia's largest export, after the key steel-making metal sank below \$40 per ton in December.

The country, which has successfully avoided falling into recession for almost 25 years, posted a better-than-expected GDP reading of 3.0 percent last year, while the jobless rate slipped to 5.7 percent in March—the lowest in two-and-a-half years. But Australia's economy still faces an uncertain period ahead as growth slows in its largest trading partner China.

A recently strengthening local dollar could also hurt non-mining sectors as the economy transitions away from its dependence on resources investment. The Reserve Bank of Australia, in the meantime, has kept interest rates at a record-low of 2.0 percent, with some economists flagging further cuts to stimulate the economy if inflation remains soft. — AFP



PARIS: People hold placards picturing (from L-R) French Economy and Industry minister Emmanuel Macron, French President Francois Hollande and head of French employers' association MEDEF Pierre Gattaz as they demonstrate in the streets of Marseille during the traditional May Day rally yesterday. — AFP

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Saqer Al-Manaie.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Radwan Al Sayed Ali Hassan — KD 7000,
Ali Ahmed Al Ali — KD 7000,
Abdulkareem Saleh Ibrahim Malak — KD 7000,
Zainab Ibrahim Hussain Kawyani — KD 7000,
Al-Sayed Mohamed Ibraheem Abo Jomaa — KD 7000.

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

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account

Daily draw to win KD 7000

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

1ST QUARTER — KD 100,000

2ND QUARTER — KD 150,000

3RD QUARTER — KD 200,000

4TH QUARTER — KD 250,000

With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

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

- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
- Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

CHINA APRIL FACTORY ACTIVITY EXPANDS AT A SLOWER PACE

MANUFACTURERS CONTINUE TO SHED JOBS AT FASTER PACE

BEIJING: Activity in China's manufacturing sector expanded for the second month in a row in April but only marginally, an official survey showed yesterday, raising doubts about the sustainability of a recent pick-up in the world's second-largest economy. The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was 50.1 in April, easing from March's 50.2 and barely above the 50-point mark that separates expansion in activity from contraction.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted the reading would improve to 50.4, after upbeat March data fueled hopes that the country's prolonged economic slowdown was easing.

The findings were "a little bit disappointing", Zhou Hao, senior emerging market economist at Commerzbank in Singapore, wrote in a note. "To some extent, this hints that recent China enthusiasm has been a bit overpriced and the data improvement in March is short-lived."

While production expanded modestly (52.2) and at nearly the same pace as in March, growth in domestic and export orders faded slightly, though remaining in positive territory.

In a sign of caution over the outlook, factories continued to draw down heavily on inventories of finished goods. Factories also

appeared to be stockpiling less raw materials, possibly due to recent skyrocketing price increases for products such as steel, which have been linked in part to a recovery in the property market.

Indeed, South Korea reported April demand from China was the worst in three months, with exports to its biggest market tumbling 18.4 percent on-year.

And China's factories continued to shed workers, with staff cuts quickening from the previous month. The official PMI survey, which tends to focus on larger, state firms, has shown persistent declines in employment for the last 3-1/2 years.

FALSE HOPE?

March data had spurred hopes that the long suffering manufacturing sector was bottoming out, with growth in industrial output and profits improving. That in turn had led economists to wonder if the government and central bank would begin to take a less aggressive policy approach after a more than one-year long blitz of fiscal, monetary and administrative stimulus measures.

To be sure, the property recovery appears to

have spurred demand for building materials from cement and glass to steel, and a recent rebound in commodity prices is bringing in more cashflow for some companies to service their mountains of debt. However, home sales are now tumbling in some big cities such as Shanghai as authorities try to curb rapid price rises, and sizzling steel and iron ore markets cooled last week after China's securities regulator ordered commodity futures exchanges to control speculative trading.

Analysts also worry that recent signs of improvement may be largely driven by companies and local governments taking on more debt, putting the chances of a stable recovery at risk.

China's Big Five banks reported last week that their bad loans had increased by 53.2 billion yuan (\$8.21 billion) in the first quarter. Activity in China's services industry, meanwhile, remained strong but grew at a slightly slower pace, with the official reading at 53.5 in April, compared with 53.8 in March. Beijing is banking on a stronger services sector to help offset the long slump in "old economy" sectors such as heavy industry and to provide jobs for laid-off factory workers. — Reuters



HONG KONG: A man walks before a residential building in Hong Kong. — AFP

CRISIS-HIT VENEZUELA PUSHES CLOCKS FORWARD TO SAVE POWER

CARACAS: With their country gripped by an economic crisis, Venezuelans lost half an hour of sleep early Sunday as their clocks were moved forward to save power on President Nicolas Maduro's order.

At 2:30 am local time, the oil-dependent South American nation shifted its time ahead by 30 minutes to four hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. The move, announced in mid-April, is part of a package of measures the OPEC member nation is pursuing to cope with a crippling electricity shortage.

Maduro's socialist government has also allowed rolling blackouts and reduced public sector work weeks to two days a week, and ordered schools to close on Fridays.

Maduro has blamed the El Nino weather phenomenon for the lack of rain that has reduced the lakes at Venezuela's hydroelectric dams to oversized puddles. The drought, the most severe in 40 years, has especially affected the El Guri dam, which provides 70 percent of Venezuela's electricity.

In announcing the time change, Science and Technology Minister Jorge Arreaza said the nighttime use of lighting and air conditioning was especially draining for the power grid.

"It'll be simple to move the clock forward a half hour—this will allow us to enjoy more daylight, and it won't get dark so early," he said. Maduro's late predecessor, Hugo Chavez, added the unusual half-hour time change in December 2007 also with the goal of saving power. Chavez died in 2013.

A May Day pay raise

Speaking in a national broadcast on the eve of International Workers' Day, Maduro decreed a 30 percent increase in the minimum wage. In the late Saturday presentation he also called on his followers to join May Day rallies in Caracas.

While the wage hike may seem substantial, given Venezuela's triple-digit inflation rate that brings the amount to the equivalent of \$40 a month at the official exchange rate, or just \$14 a month at the black market rate. The decree, which came into effect yesterday, includes pay raises for public workers, pensioners and members of the military. Once-booming Venezuela, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves, has plunged into economic chaos as global crude prices have collapsed. Its economy has been in recession since 2013.

Venezuelans face acute shortages of such basics as toilet paper thanks to the scarcity of dollars needed for imports. The government imposed currency controls in 2003 in an effort to crack down on a bustling black market in dollars.

With most of Venezuela's hard currency revenue coming from oil exports, the lower oil prices make dollars even harder to get than before the crisis.

Push to recall Maduro

Maduro blames the country's crisis on an "economic war" waged by capitalists, and has vowed to press on with the socialist "revolution" launched by



CARACAS: Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro greeting supporters upon his arrival to Bolivar Square to celebrate the 206th anniversary of the call for independence from Spain in Caracas. — AP

Chavez in 1999. But the president's political opposition - emboldened by strong electoral gains in January - says mismanagement is to blame for the power crisis as well as for shortage of food and basic household goods. — AFP

DOUBLE YOUR SALARY WITH ABK'S WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its new and exciting promotion that gives existing and new ABK customers the chance to double their salaries on a weekly basis. The promotion will run from 1 May to 30 September, 2016. New customers who transfer their salary to ABK will receive KD 100 and automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries and existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK will be entered into a separate draw.

Commenting on this promotion, Stewart Lockie, General Manager, Retail Banking at ABK said: "We are very excited to engage customers in this new promotion, rewarding both new and existing customers. Research highlighted that our customers want a simple promotion with a high frequency of draws and a

high probability of winning. The campaign is a direct response to this feedback. ABK continuously seeks to reward its customers with differentiated services and added value, and we will further enhance our products and services in line with our 'simpler banking' strategy.

ABK will be holding the draws on the following dates: 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 May; 7, 14, 21 and 28 June; 5, 12, 19 and 26 July; 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August and last but not least, the final draws will fall on 6, 13, 20 and 27 September.

Winners will all be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners names. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com or contact an ABK a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

US JOBS MAY OFFER SOLACE AFTER STALLED GROWTH

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEKAHEAD

BRUSSELS: After almost stalling in the first quarter, the US economy will show whether it has got back into gear in the coming week with the monthly report on the labor market that has so far shrugged off global concerns and the strong dollar. Gross domestic product increased in the first quarter at an annualized rate of just 0.5 per-

cent, implying quarterly growth of around just 0.12 percent, its weakest pace in two years. It was hit by soft consumer spending, businesses cutting inventories and investment and a strong dollar hurting exports. The labor market though remains robust, with average employment gains of 209,000 in the first quarter. A further 200,000

of non-farm payrolls are foreseen for April, data on which will be released on Friday. The Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged in the past week and kept the door open to a hike in June while showing little sign it was in a hurry to tighten monetary policy further given the economy's slowdown. It hiked rates in December for the first

time in nearly a decade. The core rate of PCE (personal consumption expenditure) inflation, the Fed's preferred gauge, remains below the central bank's 2 percent target in the first quarter, easing to 1.6 percent in the year through March, making rate hikes less likely. Wage growth was also muted.

However, strong labor market data could eventually be the trigger for Fed action. Harm Bandholz, chief US economist at UniCredit, believes the Fed will act in June, although this depends on how quickly employment gains impact household spending and cause the economy to rebound. "There's no loss of underlying momentum in the labor market," Bandholz said, adding that there could be fewer jobs gains because mild weather did not curb construction so much in previous months.

"Something like 175,000 or more should give the Fed confidence that things are going OK." Jobs apart, purchasing manager indexes (PMIs) from the Institute of Supply Management on Monday and Wednesday are also expected to show US manufacturing in a second straight month of growth in April and consistent expansion in the services sector.

deflation this month. Eurozone factory activity is growing at only a weak rate in April from March, according to expectations for Monday's manufacturing PMI index. The services PMI is also seen showing no real acceleration after a 13-month low in February. The euro zone's growth surge came less than a year after Greece was nearly ejected from the bloc.

The indebted nation will back on the agenda in the coming week as Athens and its international lenders close on a deal on a package of reforms and further contingency measures. The work is expected to conclude when eurozone finance ministers convene in Brussels on May 9.

The economic week though will start in China, where the official factory PMI will be released later. It is seen rising to 50.4 in April from 50.2 in March, according to a Reuters poll. This would be only just above the 50 mark dividing growth from contraction, but a level that would be its highest since October 2014 and adding to a view that the prolonged slowdown of the world's second-largest economy is easing.

Outside the G7, Australia's central bank will meet for a policy review on Tuesday and, although it is widely expected to keep its cash rate at a record low of 2.0 percent, some economist expect a cut.

Consumer prices fell unexpectedly last quarter and key measures of core inflation slowed to a record low and well below the Reserve Bank's 2-3 percent target range. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Sunday 01 May 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price Index	▲ 11.62	5,403.43	5,391.81	5,403.43	5,384.89					
Weighted Index	▼ -3.09	363.19	366.28	365.51	362.77					
KSX 15	▼ -12.70	850.63	863.33	860.37	850.63					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	100	100	250	25	1	100	▼ -4.0			
IKARUS	47.0	43.5	3,750,100	167,858	108	45.0	▲ 0.0			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0.0			
NAPESCO	730	730	5,000	3,650	1	730	▲ 10.0			
ENERGYH	45.5	43.0	215,000	9,705	20	45.5	▲ 2.5			
GPI	44.0	42.0	11,153,366	482,051	165	43.0	▲ 0.5			
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 3.0			
Oil & Gas			15,123,716	663,288	295	786.43	▲ 3.89			
KFOUC	194	192	61,004	11,724	11	194	▲ 4.0			
BPCC	520	510	61,019	31,136	7	510	▼ -10.0			
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0			
ALQURAIN	212	210	49,953	10,491	11	210	▼ -2.0			
Basic Materials			171,976	53,351	29	980.26	▼ -5.60			
KCEM	380	380	72,918	27,709	3	380	▲ 0.0			
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0			
CABLE	375	365	209,924	77,597	9	375	▲ 5.0			
SHIP	140	140	57,070	7,990	4	140	▼ 4.0			
PCEM	1,020	1,020	1,250	1,275	1	1,020	▲ 0.0			
PAPER	285	285	17,500	4,988	1	285	▼ -15.0			
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0			
ACICO	290	290	10,873	3,153	1	290	▲ 5.0			
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	▲ 0.0			
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	▲ 0.0			
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0			
NCBM	236	236	4,417	1,042	1	236	▼ -19.0			
EQUIPMENT	58	56	1,773,020	100,762	42	56	▼ 2.0			
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0			
GYPNUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0			
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0			
AGLTY	510	500	3,575,538	1,822,819	61	500	▼ -10.0			
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	▲ 0.0			
CLEANING	41.0	41.0	130,000	5,330	4	41.0	▼ -1.0			
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	▲ 0.0			
KDL	47.5	47.5	48,133	2,286	5	47.5	▲ 0.0			
KCPK	214	214	100	21	1	214	▲ 8.0			
HUMANSOFT	930	930	44,165	41,073	1	930	▲ 0.0			
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144	▲ 0.0			
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	▲ 0.0			
GFC	32.5	32.5	500	16	1	32.5	▲ 0.5			
MAYADEEN	24.0	23.0	1,824,172	42,806	34	23.5	▲ 0.5			
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	▲ 0.0			
MTCC	78	77	280,000	20,030	13	77	▲ 0.0			
UPAC	620	620	14,000	8,580	2	620	▼ -50.0			
ALAFCCO	210	208	270,050	56,710	7	210	▼ 2.0			
MUBARRAD	66	64	964,000	62,780	17	66	▲ 1.0			
LOGISTICS	79	78	1,794,407	138,877	44	79	▲ 2.0			
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	▲ 0.0			
GCEM	86	85	39,000	3,334	3	85	▲ 0.0			
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	68	▲ 0.0			
FCEM	76	75	408,535	30,715	7	76	▲ 1.0			
RKWC	93	93	523	49	1	93	▲ 1.0			
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▲ 0.0			
Industrials			11,520,095	2,460,023	263	1001.49	▼ -7.62			
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	▲ 0.0			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0			
PAPCO	100	100	1,500	150	1	100	▼ -2.0			
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	▲ 0.0			
DANAH	81	78	2,903,673	229,208	98	81	▲ 4.0			
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0			
FOOD	2,420	2,420	1,150	2,783	2	2,420	▲ 0.0			
Consumer Goods			2,906,323	232,141	101	1077.26	▲ 3.27			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0			
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	▲ 0.0			
Health Care			0	0	0	994.00	▲ 0.00			
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	990	▲ 0.0			
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0			
SULTAN	64	61	148,409	9,231	15	61	▼ -1			
CABLETV	29.5	28.0	10,593	297	7	29.5	▼ -1			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0			
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0			
OULAFUEL	108	108	6,144	954	9	108	▼ -2			
MUNTAZAHAT	81	81	50	4	1	81	▲ 1			
JAZEERA	890	880	36,000	31,780	3	880	▼ -10			
SOOR	110	108	38,095	4,040	12	106	▼ -2			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0			
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0			
ALRAI	142	140	90,000	12,736	7	140	▼ -2			
ZIMAH	45.0	42.5	3,008,103	131,625	101	43.0	▼ -2			
UFIO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0			
Mezzan	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,200	▲ 0.0			
Consumer Services			3,337,394	190,378	155	918.81	▼ -5.62			
ZAIN	355	345	939,804	329,118	44	345	▼ -5			
QORDOO	1,080	1,080	614	663	2	1,080	▼ -60			
HITSTELEC	38.0	37.0	4,032,750	150,581	52	38.0	▲ 2			
VIVA	1,020	1,000	56,252	56,294	54	1,000	▼ -20			
Telecommunications			5,029,420	536,656	152	621.18	▼ -10.02			
NBK	660	650	1,112,069	724,489	41	650	▼ -20			
GBK	242	240	1,382,010	333,065	69	240	▲ 0.0			
CBK	445	445	6,000	2,670	2	445	▲ 0.0			
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	▲ 0.0			
ALMUTAHED	425	415	14,944	8,222	8	425	▲ 5			
KIB	200	200	412,519	82,504	19	200	▲ 4			
BURG	335	335	646,022	216,417	32	335	▼ -10			
KFIN	490	485	1,977,782	959,245	56	485	▼ -5			
BOUBYAN	410	405	216,991	88,707	27	410	▼ -5			
AUB	184	182	297,722	54,186	13	184	▲ 2			
ITHMR	39.5	38.5	2,603,932	100,981	51	39.0	▲ 1			
WARBANK	176	174	411,838	72,377	66	176	▲ 0.0			
Banks			9,081,829	2,640,863	384	827.85	▼ -1.87			
KINS	290	290	5,000	1,450	1	290	▲ 0.0			
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	660	▲ 0.0			
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0			
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0			
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0			
FTI	46.0	46.0	1,000	46	1	46.0	▼ -2.0			
WETHAQ	35.5	35.5	117,700	4,178	6	35.5	▼ -2.5			
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0			
Insurance			123,700	5,674	8	1018.04	▼ -15.88			
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
SOKOUK	41.5	41.0	250,945	102,987	51	41.0	▲ 0.0			
KRE	54	53	472,379	25,398	11	54	▲ 2.0			
URC	92	88	108,120	9,575	11	91	▼ -2.0			
NRE	93	91	2,434,921	224,231	27	92	▲ 0.0			
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	▲ 0.0			
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	▲ 0.0			



TOYOTA SCORES 2 WINS AT MIDEAST 'CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS'

CAMRY RECOGNIZED AS 'BEST MIDSIZE SEDAN' • HILUX BAGS 'BEST MIDSIZE TRUCK' AWARD

KUWAIT: Toyota has once again achieved success in the 2016 Middle East Car of the Year (MECOTY) Awards, the premier annual award for the region's automotive industry, winning the award in the 'Best Midsize Sedan' category for its popular Camry model, while also securing the 'Best Midsize Truck' award for the Hilux. The awards were chosen by a jury of 12 independent motoring journalists from leading automotive publications throughout the Middle East.

Toyota raised the bar in the mid-size sedan segment with a bold redesign of the Toyota Camry to add a new chapter in the illustrious history of the world's most popular mid-size sedan. With a striking new design, new model grades and more dynamic handling, the new model puts the Camry in a league of its own which was illustrated by the decision of the judging panel to select it as the best in its category.

The introduction of the eighth generation of the Hilux in the Middle East adds to its stellar reputation over the years for its quality, durability and reliability (QDR). The new model is a complete redesign of one of the world's best-known and best-loved nameplates with numerous changes in response to customer demands and feedback to exceed all their expectations. The latest Hilux model while improving on the model's characteristic ruggedness and performance, also impressed the judges by being more occupant-focused and easier to drive than ever before.

Significant

Expressing his delight for this win, Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative of Middle East & North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "Winning both these awards is a significant achievement and reflects

the success of our approach in developing vehicles that have an emotional appeal while surpassing expectations on the rational element with better quality, durability and reliability. From the design to the overall driving experience both in terms of performance and comfort, we have managed to create a strong impact in terms of the Camry and the Hilux. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for their support and feedback, which have played an integral part in helping us create ever better vehicles."

Since its debut in 1982 and subsequent evolution over six generations, Camry has come to be embraced by people around the world for its excellent performance, ride quality and its high level of QDR.

The car has established an unshakeable presence in the standard mid-size sedan market - both in the Middle East and around the globe -

selling more than 15 million units worldwide.

The car features a new 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that produces 178 horsepower and 235 NM of torque coupled with a 6-speed automatic transmission, allowing it to deliver best-in-class engine performance and quietness. The new Toyota Camry blends an evolution of the car's values - such as comfort, efficiency, reliability and safety - with a more appealing design and engaging driving experience. The new, upscale interior features premium, soft-touch materials throughout the spacious cabin, and advanced instrumentation with intuitive controls helps keep the driver's eyes safely on the road ahead. With its striking hood lines and statement-making front grille, the car is designed for those who dare to be bold, and combines refinement and performance like never before.

The all-new Toyota Hilux features tougher

refreshed styling, a newly developed frame structure, an SUV-like interior and better core performance to deliver the best results in its class. It now features a 6-speed automatic transmission making it more efficient and more economical while boasting the lowest total cost of ownership in its segment. Available in single and double cabins, the all-new Hilux comes in 2-litre and a 2.7-litre petrol engines, or a 2.4-litre diesel engine, and in 4WD and 2WD choices. The new transmission translates into enhanced fuel economy figures of up to 15 per cent over the last generation Hilux - depending on the choice of petrol or diesel engines - while the redesigned tougher rear suspension makes for better reliability to support the Hilux's enhanced deck usability and towing capacity. It is also equipped with a vast array of safety features that highlight Toyota's focus on occupant and pedestrian protection.



DOLLAR DROPS OVER UNCERTAIN INTEREST RATES PATH

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: The Federal Reserve left interest rates close to zero and kept its forward guidance on rates unchanged. The Federal Open Market Committee omitted previous language that "global economic and financial developments continue to pose risks", instead officials stated they will "closely monitor" the world situation. Their removal of the line on risks might reflect increased comfort in the committee that global uncertainties appear more manageable.

In a statement that largely mirrored their last policy meeting in March, the US central bank's rate setting committee described an improving labor market but acknowledged that economic growth seemed to have slowed. They also said they were closely watching inflation and noted that global economic headwinds remained on the radar, though they made no mention of the risks they posed, as it had last month. After the FOMC, investors see a 15 percent probability that the Fed's overnight lending rate will rise in June, down from 21 percent prior to the decision.

On the foreign exchange side, the Euro opened the week at 1.1228 and managed to reach a high of 1.1459 after the Federal Reserve held interest rates steady for a third straight meeting. Moreover, the low expectations from the ECB to ease policy also supported the pair. The currency closed the week at 1.1451.

The Sterling Pound rallied against the US dollar reaching to a 10-week high after US President Barack Obama voiced his support for Britain to stay in the European Union. The "In" camp received a boost from Obama, who said that UK might have to wait a decade for a free trade deal with the United States if it votes to leave the EU. The lower Brexit odds are pushing sterling higher. The cable reached a high of 1.4664 and managed to close the week at 1.4612.

The Japanese yen opened the week at 111.54 and reached a high of 111.90 against US dollar ahead of the Bank of Japan meeting. Expectations had been building up for more monetary stimulus measures from the BoJ. Nevertheless, the yen remained broadly supported after the Bank of Japan surprised the market and kept the deposit rate at minus 0.1 percent and its asset purchases at ¥80 trillion per year. The currency reached a low of 106.28 after BoJ meeting and closed the week at 106.50.

On the commodities side, oil prices climbed to new 2016 highs on Friday, boosted by a weak dollar and falling production in the United States. Brent crude futures were trading at \$48.50 a barrel and US crude was up to \$46.60 a barrel, with both contracts hitting fresh 2016 highs. Brent and WTI have risen by almost a third from April troughs and are up over 75 percent above their 2016 lows, lifted by falling output and a weakening dollar, which has dropped

more than 6 percent against a basket of other leading currencies this year. The US Energy Information Administration reported however a 2 million barrel increase in crude oil supplies for the week ended April 22. The American Petroleum Institute had reported a 1.1 million barrel drop, though analysts expected an 800,000 barrel increase.

On the precious metals front, Gold prices rallied to 14-month highs, as a weaker US dollar and uncertainty caused by the Bank of Japan's decision to leave its monetary policy unchanged supported the precious metal. Gold managed to reach a high of \$1,296.85.

FOMC hold rates unchanged

FOMC held rates at 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent on the back of a slowdown in economic growth. The FOMC statement suggested that



despite the recent easing of financial conditions, a weaker dollar, and a rise in inflation breakeven, the Fed remains unconvinced that global economy is out of the woods. The Committee continues to "closely monitor inflation indicators and global economic and financial developments". Although this is a modest upgrade from the March language that referred more clearly to downside risks, the FOMC remains a long way away from seeing risks as balanced.

US loses confidence

US consumer confidence index dropped to 94.2 this month from a reading of 96.1 in March, whose figure was revised from a previously reported 96.2. Analysts estimated the index to inch down to 96.0 in April. On the other hand,

orders for US durable goods increased but it came less than forecasted in March as demand for capital equipment remained weak. It rose 0.8 percent last month, compared to expectations for an increase of 1.8 percent. Businesses continue to struggle with soft global sales and weak US consumer spending, which makes it difficult to justify expanding plans for capital expenses. Scope for a pickup will be limited until demand accelerates and companies feel more confident that their investments will pay off.

The US economy expanded in the first quarter at the slowest pace in two years as American consumers reined in spending and companies tightened their belts in response to weak global financial conditions and a plunge in oil prices. Gross domestic product rose at a 0.5 percent annualized rate after a 1.4 percent fourth-quarter advance. This reading missed market expecta-

which accounts for 70 percent of the economy.

US purchases of new homes fell in March for a third month, reflecting the weakest pace of demand in the West since July 2014. Total sales declined 1.5 percent to a 511,000 annualized pace, it came against market expectations of a gain to 520,000. In western states, demand slumped 23.6 percent. However, it is expected that as the labor market improves with cheaper borrowing costs, people will be more willing to take risks and invest in housing.

German IFO unexpectedly drops

German Business confidence surprisingly declined in the latest sign that Europe's largest economy is losing some of its pace. German Ifo Business dropped to 106.6 in April from 106.7 the previous month. The market expectations were for an increase to 107.1. Moreover, the Ifo Current Assessment sub-survey, indicated current conditions in the Euro Zone's most powerful economy, dropped to 113.2 points below last month's 113.8 in line with market expectations.

The UK economy slowed during the first quarter of 2016 after jumping a robust 0.6 percent in Q4 of last year. In line with market expectations, the first quarter GDP grew 0.4 percent overall. Services output was the star unsurprisingly with an increase of 0.6 percent. However, output in production dropped by 0.4 percent, construction output fell by 0.9 percent and agriculture dropped by 0.1 percent.

Additionally, 2015 fourth quarter growth was revised higher to 0.6 percent from 0.5 percent. Some analysts think that the slower growth is potentially due to worries about the upcoming referendum on UK membership in the European Union via the minutes of the latest Bank of England monetary policy meeting. The BoE has recently advised that a vote for Brexit might result in an extended period of uncertainty about the economic outlook, including about the prospects for export growth.

German unemployment

German unemployment extended its decline, underlining the strength of the labor market as Europe's largest economy seeks to absorb a wave of refugees. The number of people out of work dropped by a seasonally adjusted 16,000 to 2.706 million in April. That's the seventh consecutive fall, and compares with market forecasts for no change. The jobless rate remained at 6.2 percent, the lowest level since German reunification. The reading signals that German economic growth is strong enough to prompt companies to tap into a pool of potential workers that is rising after the country admitted more than 1 million migrants in 2015. The labor market has been a keystone of the nation's recovery, supporting

domestic demand as exports waver in the face of a global slowdown.

BoJ statement

The Bank of Japan unexpectedly held off on expanding monetary stimulus, as Governor Haruhiko Kuroda and his colleagues decided to take more time to assess the impact of negative interest rates. The move comes as a surprise to the slight majority of economists who had projected some action from the central bank in response to a strengthening in the yen that has cast a shadow over prospects for higher wages and investment. The currency rallied against the dollar immediately after the decision while stocks in Tokyo fell. Policy makers are betting that their success in bringing down borrowing costs since unveiling the negative-rate strategy in January will generate acceleration in lending later in the year.

The BoJ left three key easing tools unchanged, the 80 trillion yen (\$732 billion) target for expanding the monetary base, mostly through government-bond purchases, the 0.1 percent negative rate on a portion of the cash banks park at the BoJ and a program to buy riskier assets including stocks. Separately, they postponed their time frame for reaching a 2 percent inflation target, to sometime in fiscal 2017 marking the fourth delay in about a year.

Japan industrial production rose 3.6 percent on a monthly basis from a 5.2 percent drop the previous month against expectations of growth of 2.8 percent, the biggest month-on-month increase since June 2011. The yearly growth is at 0.1 percent from a 1.2 percent fall in February. It was the first positive reading since November beating forecasts for a 1.6 percent contraction. However, Japan's inflation index fell to -0.1 percent on a yearly basis from 0.3 percent in February compared to expectations that inflation would drop moderately to zero. This is the first deflation number in the headline since May 2013.

Australia's CPI readings fell 0.2 percent this quarter, compared with a rise of 0.4 percent last quarter. It rose 1.3 percent over the twelve-months to the first quarter of 2016, compared with a rise of 1.7 percent over the twelve-months to the fourth quarter of 2015. It was the first time since 2009 the inflation gauge fell to a negative level, raising speculation that the Reserve Bank of Australia may have to consider rate cuts in their next meeting. Boosted by bets for a May rate cut, the AUD dropped more than 2 percent after the release.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30075
The USDKID opened at 0.30075 yesterday morning.



'Nissan LEAF' special version visualizes EV driving excitement

Release of project movie set in a driving school

DUBAI: Nissan Motor Co, Ltd, to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the 100 percent electric vehicle (EV) "Nissan LEAF," has produced a movie featuring a special EV version that projects the driver's experience and thoughts behind the wheel. The film, entitled "THE ELECTRIC CARTOON! IN A DRIVING SCHOOL AT NIGHT", (https://youtu.be/ddWx_c184UM) features young drivers experiencing EVs for the first time. Their reactions, thoughts and feelings are reflected in real-time word animations projected around the on-road Nissan LEAF.

Project background

This project offers a visualization of drivers' experiences when handling the EV at night on a school course. The fun experienced by the driver is conveyed in eye-catching visuals, so that even those outside the car can share the excitement.

LEAF visualizes the EV driving experience

The car used in the "THE ELECTRIC CARTOON!" project features a driver's headset that reads and analyzes brainwaves produced while driving. There are 33 visual patterns used to express the drivers' various states of mind. Driver brainwaves and projected animations are automatically matched, and visualizations are in a cartoon-style with speech and thought bubbles. The car exterior also has a unique design, taking inspiration from Japanese animation, which is now popular across the world.

Read the brainwaves of 30 men and women driving the "Nissan LEAF"

In this project, the brainwaves of 30 men and women were measured while driving the Nissan LEAF in various situations. In brain science, alpha waves are emitted when the brain relaxes and concentrates, while beta waves are produced when the brain feels tension or is excited. In this project, alpha waves were defined as brainwaves emitted when the brain is in a comfortable state, and beta waves as those when the brain is in an excited state. As a result, about half of those taking part emitted beta waves when starting the EVs and more than 90 percent emitted a significant quantity of alpha waves when turning road corners. In this experiment, we confirmed that those taking part were in "a comfortable state" or "an excited state" while they were driving EVs.

Nissan Motor Co, Ltd, Japan's second-largest automotive company, is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan, and is part of the Renault-Nissan Alliance. Operating with more than 247,500 employees globally, Nissan sold 5.32 million vehicles and generated revenue of 11.38 trillion yen (\$103.6 billion) in fiscal year 2014. Nissan delivers a comprehensive range of more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. Nissan leads the world in zero-emission mobility, dominated by sales of the LEAF, the first mass-market, pure-electric vehicle. It is the best-selling EV in history with almost 50 percent share of the zero-emission vehicle segment.



GCC EQUITY MARKETS BUILD UPWARD MOMENTUM

KUWAIT: GCC equity markets continued on their upward trajectory during April-16, on the back of a number of factors ranging from optimism in the oil market before the OPEC oil meet that failed to reach a consensus on a production freeze, followed by overall positive trend in global equity markets. Saudi stock exchange saw the strongest gain during the month, building up for the announcement of the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 by the Kingdom's Deputy Crown Prince. The plan which includes an economic overhaul in Saudi Arabia, aims to drive the economy away from its dependence on oil revenues, although granular details of the plan along with short term targets would be available by next month.

Markets globally remained largely positive as they factored in no rate hikes in Fed's meeting that took place last week. In the meeting, the US Fed left interest rates unchanged clearly indicating that it is in no hurry to raise interest rates against a backdrop of a slowdown in US economy, although the committee highlighted an improving labor market. The meeting also highlighted continued uncertainty in the world economy that requires the Fed to have a cautious stance on rate hikes.

Meanwhile on the economic front, fiscal consolidation continues to progress in the GCC with Saudi Arabia planning to embark on its first international debt issuance in 25 years valued at \$10 billion, in addition to Abu Dhabi's first bond sale in seven years valued at \$5 billion. On the other hand, in terms of subsidy cuts Qatar, in line with the UAE, also announced market based pricing for gasoline and diesel, whereas Kuwait plans to raise the price of electricity and water.

In terms of Q1-16 earnings, a majority of the banks continue to report higher earnings, especially in Saudi Arabia (+5 percent) where banks have completed announcing results, thereby assuaging fears of an expected economic slowdown in the Kingdom.

Positive sentiments surrounding the oil market pushed the KSE Price index to its strongest monthly surge in almost 20 months during April-16. The index closed the month with a gain of 3.1 percent, whereas the KSE Weighted index closed the month with gain of 1.8 percent. The large cap KSE 15 index witnessed the smallest gain of 1.5 percent indicating higher trades in smaller stocks. The gains over the past three months has partly offset the steep decline witnessed in January-16 and lowered the YTD-16 decline to -4 percent for the three indices. The positive market performance was also reflected in the monthly performance of sectoral indices in which barring the Oil & Gas and Insurance indices, rest of the sectors witnessed positive performance during the month. The sectoral performance was topped by smaller sectors Healthcare and Technology, each with a monthly return of 7.2 percent followed by Basic Materials

KAMCO MONTHLY MARKETS REPORT

(+3.2 percent) and Industrials Index (+3.1 percent). This was also reflected in the trading activity which saw a volume decline of merely 1.3 percent to 3.9 Bn shares, whereas monthly value traded on the exchange dropped by 15.8 percent to KD 277 million.

The Banking index closed the month with a gain of 2.1 percent on the back of either positive or flat returns for each of the individual banks. Shares of Gulf Bank topped the sector with a monthly gain of 13.2 percent, followed by CBK with a gain of 7.2 percent. NBK shares remained flat despite the company reporting a drop in Q1-16 earnings that was primarily on the back of a one-time gain during the corresponding quarter in 2015. As a result of the decline in earnings of NBK, total earnings for the seven banks that reported for Q1-16 declined by 5.5 percent. Although preliminary, Q1-16 profits reported by the 27 companies so far has seen a marginal increase of 1 percent as compared to Q1-15.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by First Dubai for Real Estate (+45.2 percent) after the company posted a marginal profit growth of 1.1 percent for Q1-16. Yiacco Medical was second on the monthly gainers chart with a gain of 44.7 percent

although trades in the stock was only marginal during the month. Other top gainers during the month included Human Soft Holding with a surge of 40.9 percent followed by United Foodstuff Industries (+40.0 percent) and Munshaat Real Estate (+39.8 percent). On the decliners side, the list was topped by Ikarus Petroleum with a decline of 42.3 percent after the company's board approved its delisting plan from the KSE and put up the subject to be approved in the Company's AGM on 10-May-16. Other monthly decliners included Zima Holding (-15.1 percent), Future Kid Entertainment and Real Estate (-13.6 percent) and Mashaer Holding (-11.6 percent). In terms of monthly value traded, the chart was topped by KFH with KD 23.1 Mn of shares traded during the month followed by NBK and Agility with KD 21.5million and KD 11.9 million of worth of shares traded during the month.

Boursa Kuwait

The month also saw Boursa Kuwait assuming responsibility for the management of operations of Kuwait Stock Exchange under the guidance of Kuwait CMA. The new entity, which will now function as a private entity, will now focus on develop-

ing investment tools, increasing market competitiveness and liquidity and attract investments in order to do an IPO for Kuwaiti citizens.

Tadawul index

Saudi Arabian stock exchange witnessed the best monthly performance in the GCC during April-16, with the TASI recording highest monthly performance over the past 12 months. The index surged 9.4 percent during the month on the back of positive gains in all of the individual sectoral indices. A wave of optimism prevailed throughout the month initially on the back of hopes of production freeze by OPEC members during the OPEC meet followed by the expectation of significant policy changes and reforms in the Kingdom in the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 blueprint announced by the Deputy Crown Prince. The index generated a peak return of 10.4 percent till the day of the reforms announcement only to retreat 1.6 percent on the following day. Under the new plan, the Kingdom has proposed several key steps including transformation of Aramco into an industrial conglomerate from an oil-focused company by selling than 5 percent stake in the

company via an IPO as early as next year or 2018.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by Saudi Kayan that surged 39.3 percent especially after the announcement of the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 plan. On the decliners side, shares of Saudi Investment Bank tanked 10.7 percent topping the chart followed by Yanbu Cement (-8.7 percent) and Allianz Saudi Fransi Coop Insurance (-8.3 percent).

Abu Dhabi

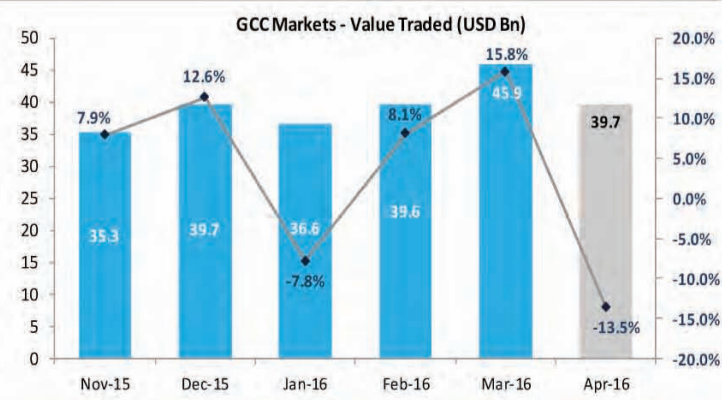
ADX General Index achieved positive returns during April-16, despite a decline in trading activity as compared to the previous month. On the sectoral front, the Energy index surged 13.4 percent during the month buoyed by oil prices which recovered and reached its highest levels YTD. The performance was mainly driven by Abu Dhabi National Energy which jumped by 28.6 percent m-o-m, while Dana Gas saw its share price move up by 9.6 percent for the month. Banks & Services indices also saw positive monthly returns of 4.9 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, for the month of April-16. Meanwhile, the Invest & Fin Services index remained the only index to decline from the previous month, as it lost ground by 3.2 percent m-o-m. Real Estate index remained range bound (+0.2 percent) m-o-m, as the dip in large cap Aldar Properties was offset by a 11.7 percent jump in the stock price of Eshraq Properties, which also pipped Aldar as the most actively traded stock in the index in terms of value traded.

DFM

After featuring amongst the top markets in the GCC over the last two months, the DFM General Index recorded the third-highest returns during April-16, at 4.1 percent, and remained the top performing market YTD in the region. All of the sectoral indices barring Insurance witnessed positive returns during the month led by the Industrials Index with a monthly return of 14.8 percent, followed by the Real Estate index and the Invest. & Fin. Services index as they recorded monthly returns of 8.1 percent and 4.6 percent respectively. The Insurance index was down marginally as it receded by 0.4 percent m-o-m.

In economic activity trends that were released during the month, activity in the UAE's non-oil economy, which largely reflects Dubai reportedly rose to a four-month high in March-16, and continued to recover from a four-year low hit in January-16. The latest monthly Purchasing Managers' Index, produced for Emirates NBD bank, showed that the index climbed to a four-month high of 54.5 in March, up from 53.1 in February. Further, UAE's minister of economy mentioned that the country aims to reduce its contribution from oil, which is currently pegged at 30 percent, to 20 percent in 2021.

GCC Equity Markets	Index Closing	MTD Chg%	YTD Chg%	M-Cap (USD Bn)	Monthly Value Traded (USD Mn)	P/E (x) TTM	P/B (x) TTM	Div. Yield
Kuwait - Weighted Index	366.3	1.8%	(4.0%)	82.8	915.9	15.4	1.1	4.1%
Kuwait - 15 Index	863.3	1.5%	(4.1%)					
Kuwait - Price Index	5,391.8	3.1%	(4.0%)					
Saudi Arabia	6,805.8	9.4%	(1.5%)	416.0	31,360.7	13.4	1.6	3.7%
Abu Dhabi	4,543.5	3.5%	5.5%	125.8	1,246.5	11.1	1.5	5.0%
Dubai	3,491.9	4.1%	10.8%	91.0	3,857.9	9.4	1.3	3.8%
Qatar	10,186.2	(1.8%)	(2.3%)	150.6	1,986.9	12.4	1.6	3.9%
Bahrain	1,110.5	(1.8%)	(8.7%)	17.4	12.2	8.8	0.8	5.8%
Oman	5,942.7	8.7%	9.9%	19.3	294.4	10.7	1.2	5.1%
Total GCC				903.0	39,674.6	12.3	1.5	3.9%



MAGIC LEAP'S NEWEST PROJECT IS HOLOLENS MEETS GOOGLE GLASS

WASHINGTON: Magic Leap, the Google-backed company that has big ideas for virtual and augmented reality, has revealed a new video today. Magic Leap, not to be confused with the folks that make Leap Motion, has unveiled a video of footage from the eyes of their new device. While there's no word on what the device is called or when we can expect it, what we do

see is pretty freaking cool. The video titled "A New Morning" shows a computing environment augmented onto the real world. You're right in thinking this is similar to what we've seen from Microsoft in the past with videos for HoloLens. Both Microsoft's headset and Magic Leap's unnamed device make use of augmented reality to put virtual objects onto the actual world.

Along with making you feel like Tony Stark or a character in Minority Report, AR has some uses that traditional desktops struggle with. Seeing an object in front of you on the table aids in helping you decide to purchase the item when online shopping or helping with troubleshooting a real world item. But the early nature of the unnamed Magic Leap gadget also

inspires comparisons to early videos we saw from Google with a different project: Google Glass. When the idea was first teased, a day in the life with Glass video pitted the search company's interface on top of the real world—allowing users to view Maps, see prices when real-world shopping and see detailed weather when looking out the window. The difference

here is that Magic Leap's video is actual footage from the device, not a concept video mockup, according to Magic Leap at least.

Magic Leap has yet to confirm a release date for their HoloLens-like, augmented reality device. But with actual footage of the device's interface in the wild, the AR computer developers' concept may become reality.

FIAT CHRYSLER, GOOGLE IN PARTNERSHIP TALKS

DETROIT: Fiat Chrysler and Google's self-driving car project are in advanced talks to form a technical partnership.

The talks were confirmed Thursday by a person familiar with the discussions. The person asked not to be named because the discussions are private. The partnership would be the first to match an automaker with Google's 7-year-old autonomous car project, which is now part of the so-called X lab at Alphabet Inc., Google's parent company. Details haven't been revealed. But Google has repeatedly said it doesn't intend to make self-driving cars and would prefer to license its technology to carmakers. Google has been testing versions of self-driving cars on highways since 2009 and on city streets since 2014. It has a fleet of Lexus SUVs specially outfitted with autonomous software as well as a pod-like prototype vehicle it designed.

"We want to partner to bring self-driving to all the vehicles in the world," Google co-founder and Alphabet President Sergey Brin told media at a self-driving car event last spring. Last fall, Google hired John Krafcik, an auto industry veteran and former executive at Ford Motor Co. and Hyundai Motor Co., to be the CEO of its

self-driving car project. Google said Thursday that the company doesn't comment on speculation.

Fiat Chrysler - which has lagged bigger, richer rivals like Volkswagen AG and General Motors Co. in the development of self-driving cars - might welcome the chance to test Google's technology. The Italian-American automaker also has manufacturing expertise and factories that Google lacks. Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne has been vocal about seeking a partner to share the cost of research and development. But other automakers, including GM, have so far rebuffed him. A tie-up with Google would help his company leapfrog competitors in the race to develop self-driving cars.

Google has set a goal of having self-driving cars in the public's hands by 2020.

Earlier this year at the Detroit auto show, Marchionne said, "Consolidation, in my view, is unavoidable, especially if you lend any credence at all to all this noise and buzz that has been created about the fact that we're really not into the car business anymore we're all transportation companies who are interested in connectivity and autonomous driving." —AP



RESEARCHERS ACCIDENTALLY MAKE BATTERIES LAST 400 TIMES LONGER

CALIFORNIA: The gel surrounding the gold nanowires with manganese oxide coating protects from corrosion, allowing the battery to last 400 times more cycles.

Smartphones, tablets, and most other electronics rely on rechargeable batteries, but after a few thousand uses the batteries start to lose their ability to hold a charge. The batteries of today are mainly lithium, and over time that lithium corrodes inside the battery.

Instead of lithium, researchers at UC Irvine have used gold nanowires to store electricity, and have found that their system is able to far outlast traditional lithium battery construction. The Irvine team's system cycled through 200,000 recharges without significant corrosion or decline. However, they don't exactly know why. The original idea of the experiment was to make a solid-state battery: one that uses an electrolyte gel, rather than liquid, to help hold charge. Liquid batteries, like the common lithium variety, are extremely combustible and sensitive to temperature. The Irvine team was experimenting by substituting a much thicker gel. "We started to cycle the devices, and then realized that they weren't going to die," said Reginald Penner, a lead author of the paper. "We don't understand the mechanism of that yet." Although you may have never cracked one open (we hope), most of the batteries in your gadgets contain liquid. Liquid is used in part because its conductivity allows flexible and partial charging and discharging. Finding highly conductive electrolyte gels has proven difficult.

Nanowires that were used without the electrolyte gel, left, corroded after 4,000 cycles. The wires in the gel, right, show little corrosion after 100,000 cycles.

The Irvine battery technology uses a gold nanowire, no thicker than a bacterium, coated in manganese oxide and then

protected by a layer of electrolyte gel. The gel interacts with the metal oxide coating to prevent corrosion. The longer the wire, the more surface area, and the more charge it can hold. Other researchers have been experimenting with nanowires for years, but the introduction of the protective gel separates UC Irvine's work from other research.

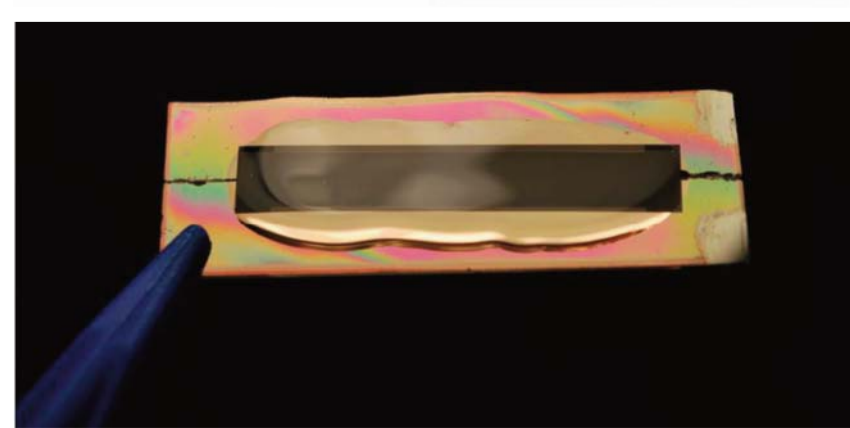
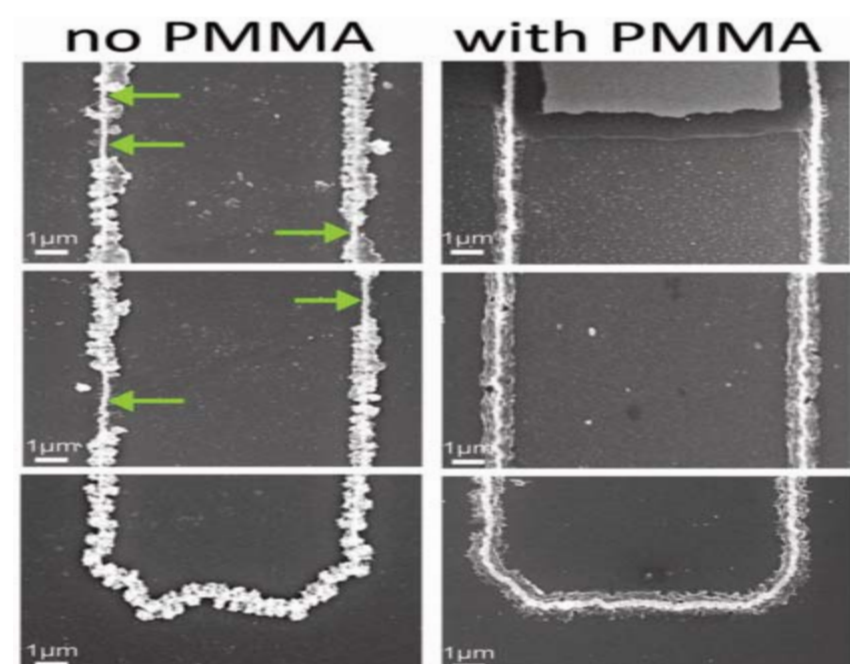
"[The gel] does more than just hold the wire together. It actually seems to make the metal oxide softer and more fracture-resistant. It increases the fracture toughness of this metal oxide that is doing the charge storage," Penner said.

While the technology promises consumer electronics that last 400 times longer, this initial test platform isn't a true battery. Batteries have an anode, which allows electricity into the system, and a cathode, which outputs electricity. Instead of having both, the researchers linked together two cathodes that alternate charging each other. The continuous cycling from cathode to cathode makes a perfect system to test repeated recharging.

Penner says that it's like pouring water back and forth between two cups. After a few hundred transfers from one cup to the other, some water will usually spill out, leaving less "charge." That's a normal battery. Penner's system transferred the "water" between the "cups" 200,000 times, only losing about 5 percent.

Even though minuscule amounts of gold are being used in this experiment, that would still make these batteries expensive to manufacture. Penner suggests that a more common metal, like nickel, could replace the gold if the technology catches on.

The lab's future work will entail actually building batteries with this technology, and further investigating why the process works.



SIEMENS CREATED SPIDER BOTS THAT 3D PRINT

FRANKFURT: SiSpis Or Siemens Spiders. I don't know why Siemens thinks "SiSpis" is a less-creepy name than "robot spider."

Shipbuilding is a community effort. For Siemens, that community in the future won't just be the engineers, designers, and workmen on a project: it will also include an army of small robot spiders, 3D printing and weaving together plastic to build that hull. Think of it like a normal shipbuilding facility, only with hundreds of tiny scurrying parts, all working together.

To accomplish this, the robots use onboard cameras as well as a laser scanner to interpret their immediate environment. Knowing the range of its 3D-printer arm, each robot autonomously works out which part of an area - regardless of whether the area is flat or curved - it can cover, while other robots use the same technique to cover adjacent areas. By dividing each area into vertical boxes, the robots can work collaboratively to cover even complex geometries in such a way that no box is missed. "No one else has attempted to do this using mobile manufacturing," says [project leader Hasan Sinan] Bank.

The robots even work in shifts — after two hours of work, a tired spider will transmit its data to a replacement, and then walk back and recharge itself. Right now, the technology is still young, so don't expect to see any spider-built vessels on the market just yet. Instead, keep an eye on this technology over the next ten years, as it goes from working prototypes to fascinating demonstrations and then finally to mundane, everyday robot swarm.



HOW TO WATCH BASEBALL LEAGUE ONLINE THIS YEAR

NEW YORK: It's a little easier to watch baseball online this year, though no one would call it safe at home quite yet. Major League Baseball has broadcast games over the Internet since 2002, but always with one huge catch: A blackout on all local team games - both home and away. That protects the league's lucrative television contracts, but can be a major bummer for fans, particularly since MLB's definition of "local" is awfully broad.

To watch Chicago Cubs games live on the league's online service, for instance, you need to be well outside the Chicago metropolitan region. Even Iowa is too close, because the state doesn't have its own team. In Las Vegas, all five California teams and the Arizona Diamondbacks are blacked out. The league is lifting some of those restrictions this year, provided you already subscribe to a traditional cable or satellite TV package - and don't mind announcers who are rooting against your home team. A few cable-like TV packages online might offer another alternative.

Here's what the playing field looks like from your phone or computer these days.

BASEBALL THE MLB WAY

If you're a die-hard fan who wants to follow the pennant race, you're best off with MLB's premium service, which costs \$110 for the season - \$20 less than last year - or \$25 a month. If the Yankees and the Red Sox are vying for the division's top spot, the instance, Yankees fans will need the full package to root against the Red Sox.

Also, for the first time, you can follow a single team throughout the season for \$85.

Either way, you still can't watch your

hometown team unless you have a separate TV subscription - at least not live. Blackouts lift for on-demand video about 90 minutes after a game ends.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE HOME GAME

You might be able to get local team games by subscribing to Sony's PlayStation Vue or Dish's Sling TV. These TV-over-the-Internet services offer dozens of channels, including some regional sports networks. But neither is comprehensive. For instance, neither offers SportsNet New York, which carries New York Mets games.

Sling TV is cheaper at \$20 a month, but it offers only Fox regional networks, including the Yankees' YES Network. (Be sure to sign up for the "multi-stream" version, which launched as a test service this month.) Sony's Vue offers Fox and Comcast sports networks as part of "core" packages that cost \$35 or \$45 a month, depending on the market. Vue requires a Sony PlayStation or an Amazon Fire TV device.

If you're already a cable customer, you might be able to sign onto your local sports network with your cable password. If that doesn't work, MLB's new "Follow Your Team" feature might do the trick when it launches later this year. This gets you games for local teams, free of blackouts - but you're stuck with feeds from the opposing team's market. Following your team this way will cost you a total of \$120 for the season, and you'll still need a cable password. Even then, some teams might not be included.

GOING OLD SCHOOL

You can listen to your team's radio broadcasts online without blackout restrictions. You need an At Bat Premium subscription, which costs \$20

for the season or \$3 a month. This is included with the full MLB TV package, but not the single-team option.

At Bat Premium also offers Gameday, a graphical depiction of every pitch and every swing almost in real time. You see where runners are on base, how fast each pitch is thrown and where it crosses the plate. It's a great way to follow games without cloistering yourself under headphones or blasting the play-by-play at others nearby. ESPN has a similar feature called Gamecast.

SCORES AND MORE

The free At Bat phone app offers notifications on score changes and player trades. It's great for casual fans who just want to know results. You can also set it up for rival teams in contention for the pennant.

Voice assistants such as Apple's Siri, Google Now, Microsoft's Cortana and Amazon's Alexa can also give you scores and standings on request. Teams also post regular updates on Twitter.

IN THE STADIUM

MLB's Ballpark app for iPhones or Android phones offers stadium maps showing concessions, ATMs and, most importantly, restrooms. Some stadiums even let you order food from the seats.

THE MINORS

There's a separate video package for minor leagues, MiLB.TV; it costs \$50 for the season or \$13 a month. Not every minor league team is available, though, and a few teams black out home games just like the big leagues. — AP



Dr. Elham Al-Hamdan and her team



Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi with a group of the speakers

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS SHED LIGHT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

KUWAIT: The Women's Research & Studies Center (WRSC), with the ongoing support of the UNDP and Kuwait University, recently held its sixth annual symposium, which focused on women's health in its latest edition. The two day symposium was organized by Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi, Kuwait University professor and Director of WRSC, and inaugurated by Dr. Hussein Al-Ansari, President of Kuwait University. The event brought together a number of local and international institutions and organizations, and addressed a number of key areas

including common health and mental issues faced by women, awareness and prevention, and the role culture plays.

In her opening remarks on the first day of the symposium, Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi emphasized the importance of shedding light on key issues affecting women's physical, mental and emotional well-being, saying: "Awareness and access to knowledge about women's health is of utmost importance for any healthy society. We reached out to a number of local and international experts to join

us on our mission to spread education on important topics affecting women both locally and internationally."

Dr. Elham Al-Hamdan, President & Medical Director of Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI), one of the many local institutes participating in the symposium, said: "Women constantly find themselves playing the role of caregiver, and as a result tend to neglect their own health and wellbeing. However, women face a multitude of complex health issues, and it is our responsibility

as Kuwaiti institutions to come together and help raise awareness about the very important subject of women's health."

During the first day of the symposium, FSRI's allied and medical health professionals participated in the panel on preventative strategies, discussing menopause and bone health. FSRI also conducted a workshop entitled "Early detection: Management of disabilities in children" presented by clinicians from their Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC).



Khalidah Al-Essa, owner of Blue Zone.



ENJOY HEALTHY DRINKS AT BLUE ZONE

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Lovers of healthy food can enjoy drinking freshly prepared smoothies and juices available at the Blue Zone located in Sultan Center Al Sha'ab. All drinks and small snacks are prepared using fresh and organic ingredients.

Khalidah Al-Essa, owner of Blue Zone spoke about the wide variety of products available at Blue Zone. "We aim to encourage adding more vegetables and minerals to our daily intake to increase immunity and energy and to decrease the possibilities of diseases developing. I launched this store or corner to transfer the information I learnt through my study to people who would like to benefit from it. Smoothies are our main product, and this is to complete the daily nutrition. For instance, we usually don't consume enough proteins or fibers, so we provide these in our drinks," she noted.

"We also try to avoid dairy products and sugar in our drinks. We use natural sugar and fresh materials, especially that we are located inside a supermarket. Our products are gluten free and dairy free. Most of my juices are organic," added Al-Essa.

She has added some new products since opening. "After some time the customer starts demanding little snacks to eat with the smoothie or juice, so I added some healthy sweets. I use coconut milk and almond milk instead of animal milk, which today is not same as it was in the past when we were kids. Today it's not healthy and many people suffer from health problems as a result of consuming this milk. Customers now got used to this milk," she explained.

When mentioning healthy food people think of bad taste. "In fact this is not true if we used the correct ingredients and we come up with tasty mix. Some people in the beginning think that drinking a vegetable juice is awful, thus after tast-



Blue Zone's staff.

ing it they change their mind and by time they get used to it and then they always drink healthy drinks," stressed Al-Essa.

In the beginning it wasn't easy to convince the children to drink healthy smoothies, but after they tried it they liked it and continued drinking it. I'm also now cooperating with a nutritionist to calculate the calories and values in each product as some customers, especially those following diet are asking about this information," she pointed out.

Al-Essa is happy with her achievement. "I have received many positive feedbacks and people are encouraging me to continue in this proj-

ect reminding me that the beginnings are always hard. This is my first branch and the only one till now, and I don't mind expanding in the future. Currently we open from 8:am - 8:00pm, and we may extend the working hours in the future," she stated.

"I have chosen the name 'Blue Zone' for my store after the blue zones in the world, which are the zones where people live over 100 years due to their healthy lifestyle which include nutrition, work, sleeping, practicing sports and social life. They have nine points, which improve their lives," concluded Al-Essa.



Blue Zone's products on display at the Sultan Center in Al Sha'ab.



INDIA TO PROBE DEATHS OF DISABLED CHILDREN AT HOME

NEW DELHI: Yesterday India announced an investigation into the deaths of 12 mainly mentally and physically disabled children at a government-run home amid fears they were given toxic water or food.

The children, many of them reportedly orphans, were raced to hospital in the last two weeks in the northern state of Rajasthan after going into septic shock at the home outside the tourist city of Jaipur. Three other children are fighting for their lives in a critical condition, according to the Hindustan Times newspaper yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda said he dispatched a team to probe "the causes of water and food contamination" in a bid to "prevent such incidents in the future". Nadda said 12 had died at the home for disabled people, with doctors and other officials saying last week that almost all of them were children.

"The five-member team will include a senior paediatrician, epidemiologist and microbiologist and will reach Jaipur today," Nadda said in yesterday's statement. "A

detailed report in the incident is expected shortly," he added.

According to the Hindustan Times, around 200 children, aged from six to 15, live at the Jamdoli government home, with about 10 to 15 sharing a bedroom each. India has a poor history of treating people including children with mental disabilities and illnesses, and reports of overcrowding and shoddy care in institutions and homes are not uncommon.

For every one million people in India, there are only three psychiatrists and even fewer psychologists, according to the WHO. A doctor at the hospital in Jaipur, where some 15 children were initially admitted, said they were suffering from "septicaemia and septic shock".

"These were mentally handicapped and physically disabled children. The immunity of such children is usually lower than their normal, healthy counterparts. Their bodies find it tough to cope," medical superintendent Ashok Gupta told reporters last week. — AFP

NOROVIRUS SICKENS SCORES ON FRED OLSEN CRUISE SHIP

NORFOLK, Virginia: An outbreak of the norovirus stomach bug has sickened 160 people aboard a Fred Olsen Cruise Lines ship docked at Norfolk, Virginia, US health officials and the company said on Friday. The norovirus outbreak took place aboard the Britain-based line's Balmoral during a transatlantic cruise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement.

The CDC said 153 passengers and six crew members had fallen ill from norovirus, whose symptoms include vomiting and diarrhea. The CDC said that the cruise line and the ship's crew had increased cleaning and disinfection and collected stool specimens. The company also sent a corporate sanitation manager to oversee handling of the outbreak. CDC health officers and an epidemi-

ologist plan to board the Balmoral when it arrives in Baltimore this weekend, the CDC said. Fred. Olsen said in a statement that the vessel had docked at Norfolk and seven passengers were in isolation. Most of the passengers were from Britain, it said.

Norovirus is the most common cause of US food-borne disease outbreaks. Infections usually occur in places such as hospitals, cruise ships and universities, where people eat and live in close quarters.

Two norovirus outbreaks were reported last year at the Massachusetts and California outlets of burrito chain operator Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. About 19 million to 21 million norovirus cases, with 570 to 800 related deaths, are reported in the United States each year, according to the CDC. — Reuters

RARE RALLIES IN VIETNAM OVER MYSTERIOUS MASS FISH DEATHS

HANOI: Hundreds of people demonstrated in Vietnam yesterday against a Taiwanese firm they accuse of causing mass fish deaths along the country's central coast, with some also blaming the government for a sluggish response to a major environmental disaster.

Though an official investigation has found no links between the fish deaths and a \$10.6 billion coastal steel plant run by a unit of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics, public anger against the company has not abated.

Hundreds gathered in Hanoi holding banners that said: "Formosa destroying the environment is a crime" and "Who poisoned the central region's waters?" Others said: "Formosa out of Vietnam!" and took aim at the government for being aloof in what it now describes as one of its worst environmental disasters.

Demonstrations are rare in Vietnam and uniformed and plain-clothes police are usually quick to suppress them. On Sunday they cleared traffic to allow demonstrators to do a lap of a big lake in the heart of Hanoi.

Huge numbers of dead fish have appeared at farms and on beaches since April 6, impacting 200 km of coastline in four provinces, with no known cause. The environment minister has demanded Hung

Nghiep Formosa Ha Tinh dig up its waste pipe at the steel project to enable government to monitor its discharge.

The government's initial probe said the cause could be "red tide", when algae blooms and produces toxins, or a release of toxic chemicals by humans. What has stoked public anger was a comment by a Formosa official who said Vietnam had to choose between catching fish and shrimp and building a modern steel industry. "Here is Vietnam's territory and there shall never be any case in which a Formosa steel plant has the right to tell the Vietnamese people to choose," protester Cao Vinh Thinh said.

Several hundred protesters marched in Ho Chi Minh City, the economic hub, according to multiple accounts on Facebook, which is used by 30 million Vietnamese.

State-controlled media has not reported any of the demonstrations. Social media and witnesses said protests also took place in central Quang Binh province on Friday, with fishermen throwing fish on the highway after failing to sell their catch. The accounts could not be verified by Reuters. The government on Saturday ordered the trade and agriculture ministries to help buy seafood caught during deep-sea fishing. — Reuters

RETURN VISITS TO THE ER MORE LIKELY FOR PATIENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH

NEW YORK: Patients in the emergency room who don't speak English well are slightly more likely to return within days, suggesting their care the first time was not as good as it could have been, researchers say.

In a study in one New York hospital, about 4 percent of English speakers made an unplanned return to the ER within three days, compared to 5 percent of people with limited English. Low use of professional translators may partly explain the disparity in care, the researchers report in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

"There's a necessary but not sufficient step to providing care for people with low English proficiency... having a good interpreter or healthcare provider who can speak to them in their language," said Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who was not part of the new study.

The study team, led by Dr. Ka Ming Ngai of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, analyzed 2012 data from the Mount Sinai emergency department. More than 32,000 adult patients and 45,000 ER visits were included. The study did not include patients with psychiatric or substance-related complaints, those who were

nonverbal or had altered mental status, and those with a history of frequent ER visits.

Almost 3,000 patients had limited English proficiency, and in about half of cases someone served as an interpreter. Usually, this was a family member or an ER staff member. Only 527 visits in this group, 24 percent, involved a professional interpreter. More than a quarter of patients were admitted to the hospital and 1,380 patients had an unplanned return to the ER within three days.

After accounting for age, sex, insurance, race, ethnicity, triage category and other health problems, having limited English proficiency was not tied to greater risk of being admitted to the hospital. But those with limited English proficiency were about 24 percent more likely to return to the ER unexpectedly.

Ngai told Reuters Health by email that he has been studying the problem of language barriers for the past six years and over time has seen some improvements. "New medical students are now routinely educated to use interpreter phones during their clinical simulation... however, there are still many barriers including access to interpreters and interpreter phones, time constraints, and (doc-

tors) trying to 'get by' with their own language skills," he said. Ngai said regulatory bodies require hospitals to make language services available. In New York State, for example, upon a request to the hospital administration by the patient, the patient's family or representative, or the provider of medical care, hospitals must provide translation services in inpatient and outpatient settings within 20 minutes and in emergency settings with 10 minutes.

Most New York Hospitals use an interpreter phone service, he said. Patients who struggle to speak the local language are "a really important population to study and think about how we can improve their care," Jacobs said.

A 5 percent rather than 4 percent rate of return to the ER is not a large difference, but that could be due to the large number of patients excluded from the study, and because there was no validated measure of English proficiency, Jacobs said. "That might be why we didn't see large differences, if some people considered low English proficiency actually spoke English well, or were getting good interpretive services," she said. "If you took them out, the difference might be larger."

Patients who do not speak English may struggle in other areas of the health system more than at the ER, she added. But even having an interpreter at the hospital won't help patients deal with insurance providers, she noted. "There are contextual issues that you may not be able to fully adequately address unless you can understand the nuances," Jacobs said. "When dealing with immigrant population, it is almost always more than 'just' language," Ngai agreed. There can be cultural issues, too.

In addition, people with low English proficiency may also be less able to take days off of work, and to agree to be admitted to the hospital when necessary, than others, Jacobs said. "We've made tremendous progress in assuring interpreters are more available," in person, over the phone or by video, Jacobs said.

But, she said, "we are very imperfect at getting patients the services they need. It's important for providers to be educated on these issues and to understand how to access these services." It would be ideal to try to match patients with providers by language and culture, but in the meantime, "language is a good start," Ngai said. — Reuters

SEAWEED FARMERS IN HOT WATER AS ZANZIBAR STRUGGLES

ZANZIBAR, Tanzania: Waist deep in sparkling blue water off the white beaches of the Indian Ocean spice island of Zanzibar, seaweed farmer Mtumwa Vuai Ameir gently ties seedlings to wood poles.

Seaweed farmed on the Tanzanian archipelago is one of Zanzibar's key exports—used for food, cosmetics and medicines in Asia, Europe and North America—but now the vital industry is struggling with warmer waters killing the crops. "We are desperate, and some farmers have been discouraged and abandoned the work," said Ameir, who has been a seaweed farmer for over 20 years.

She works alongside her daughter and husband in the small village of Muungoni, some 42 kilometers southwest of Zanzibar town. As crop yields decline, cheaper production and transport costs in Asia are also challenging Zanzibar's position as the world's third-biggest producer of spinosum seaweed.

Over 23,000 farmers grow and harvest the seaweed—around 80 percent of them women—according to government statistics. But tens of thousands more depend indirectly on an industry that provides a key income for families with few other means to earn a living.

Medicine, cosmetics, food

Seaweed from Zanzibar is exported to China, Korea, Vietnam, Denmark, Spain, France and the US. It is used as an ingredient base for cosmetics, lotions and toothpaste, as well as in medicines. It is also eaten as a vegetable.

Farmers say that reduction in demand from abroad and subsequent falling prices has made turning a profit a challenge. "Seaweed is now cheaper in Asia, compared to our price, therefore we must drop prices to maintain our buyers," said Arif Mazrui, who runs Zanque Aqua Farms, a seaweed business, blaming price fluctuation in the world market. "We have no control over the price, we have to adjust our prices to keep our buyers. It is unfortunate that while we adjust our prices to compete with Indonesia and the Philippines, the farmers are the great losers."

In recent years, Zanzibar has exported some 16,000 tonnes of seaweed a year, according to government statistics. But levels are declining—in the first three months of 2016, levels were less than half the amount produced during the same period a year earlier.

Prices too are falling: the price of spinosum seaweed was previously around 700

Tanzanian shillings (\$0.31/0.28 Euros) per kilogram but is now less than half, selling for 300 shillings. The price for cottonii, another type, has tumbled from around 1100 shillings to 700 shillings. But the plants also face a threat from disease as well as poor weather, which have both caused production levels to drop in Zanzibar. Warmer waters—due to climate change or other causes — is a major factor in the decline in seaweed growth.

Hotter water, lower yields

Narriman Jidawi, from the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Dar es Salaam, said research into the production decline was under way. "When it is too hot... seaweed (does) not grow very well, so a lot of women have stopped actually cultivating," Jidawi said.

The university's marine scientists and environmentalists are encouraging seaweed farmers to try and grow their crop in deeper, cooler waters in a bid to minimize infection, after tests showed the seaweed fared better there. Farming in deeper water, however, is harder to do. Seaweed grows best in water temperatures of around 25 to 30 Celsius (77-86 Fahrenheit), but temperatures are now rising above 31 C (88 F), which is unfavorable for seaweed growth.

"The seaweed business is now a challenge—both farmers and exporters are frustrated," Mazrui said. "But we are encouraging them to continue production with hope that the price will rise again in the near future."

The government is worried, and trying to find solutions. Zanzibar's President Ali Mohamed Shein—who won a second term in office in March after a controversial re-run of elections the opposition claimed it had won—used his inaugural speech to parliament to address the seaweed issue.

Improving seaweed production was among his priorities, he said, promising to improve equipment for farmers and to work to boost the market.

Hashim Moumin, head of aquaculture at the ministry of livestock and fisheries, said they were promoting "seaweed processing light industries" as an alternative to relying on exports of raw material.

"We invite investors to establish industries that will use seaweed as material," Moumin said. For the farmers, they must struggle on with little choice. "Despite low prices and poor production, I am still reluctant to quit this hard job, because I need to earn money," said Ameir. — AFP



MONROVIA: A health worker injects a woman with an Ebola vaccine during a trial on February 2, 2015. — AFP

STUDY OF LIBERIA EBOLA FLARE-UP SHOWS NEED FOR LONGER VIGILANCE

LIBERIA: A study of a cluster of Ebola cases that appeared in Liberia last year, months after the country was declared Ebola-free, has found that the virus re-emerged after lying dormant in a female survivor.

The results suggest Liberia and the other African countries at the center of the outbreak should maintain high levels of vigilance for longer than thought to contain any future flare-ups of the deadly haemorrhagic fever.

The analysis, by an international team of scientists who looked at genetic data from samples taken directly from infected patients, was not able to establish how the virus was spread by the woman or which bodily fluids may have been involved.

World Health Organization data show West Africa's Ebola epidemic killed more than 11,300 people and infected some 28,600 as it swept through Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia from

2013 in the world's worst outbreak of the disease. Each of the three countries has experienced brief flare-ups since being declared Ebola free, including three isolated clusters of Ebola cases in Liberia. The second flare-up, which included seven confirmed cases, centered on a village in Margibi County, a rural area near the capital Monrovia. To find out more about what triggered it, researchers led by David Blackley of the US Centers for Diseases Prevention and Control isolated and sequenced viral genomes from infected patients.

They found a striking amount of genetic similarity with other Ebola sequences from West Africa, indicating the flare-up "was a continuation of the outbreak that began in 2013, and was not caused by an additional spillover event from an unknown, non-human reservoir".

Further analysis suggested this cluster was sparked by "a persistent, sub-clinical infection" in

a woman who had previously had Ebola infection with clear symptoms, but and appeared to recover. "It remains unclear... how Ebola virus is able to lay dormant in an infected host, but... the virus may replicate more slowly and persist in immune-privileged sites, such as the eye and testes, long after the acute, symptomatic phase of disease has occurred," the researchers wrote.

Ben Neuman, a virologist at Britain's Reading University, said the study was "a solid piece of molecular epidemiology detective work". Derek Gatherer, an Ebola expert at Lancaster University said it showed that the potential for the virus to become dormant in survivors and then be transmitted to others "may be a rare but important factor in prolonging outbreaks". Any small resurgences of Ebola infection "could seed a fresh widespread epidemic", requiring intense public health efforts to contain and understand them, he added. — Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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 د. فهد علي المخيزيم
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LULU HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA 2016

Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched its 'Best of South Africa 2016' promotion on 28 April, with Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait Mzolisela Bona inaugurating

the festival at the hypermarket's Salmiya outlet. A special attraction at the inaugural event was a large statue of former South African President and anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela. The promotion, which is

running from 27 April - 07 May at all Lulu Hypermarket outlets in the country, is attracting a large crowd of shoppers eager to buy the best of South African food products. The promotion features a wide range

of well-known South African food brands, such as Nandos Sauce, Bakers' Biscuit, Carmien and Willow Creek among others, at very special prices. The 'Best of South Africa 2016' promotion

once again confirms Lulu Hypermarket's commitment to presenting consumers with the best the world has to offer, at affordable prices and in a unique shopping environment.



MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT PARTICIPATED IN WALKATHON TO CELEBRATE AUTISM DAY

Every year, different autism organizations around the world celebrate the International Autism Day throughout the month of April with a wide range of fundraising and awareness raising activities. The day often features educational events for parents, health care workers and teachers, as well as exhibitions showcasing work created by children with autism. To celebrate this special occasion, a passionate team of associates from JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait, Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait and the prestigious Arraya Ballroom, joined hundreds of Kuwait residents in the Walkathon event held in Marina side during the month

of April, to prove that every step counts in raising awareness of Autism. The successful event was the culmination of a huge awareness campaign organized by Autism Partnership Kuwait. George Aoun, Cluster General Manager of Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, said "I am extremely happy that Marriott Hotels in Kuwait made a significant contribution by participating in the walkathon event to raise awareness about Autism in the country." "Marriott Hotels are actively involved in various CSR activities throughout the year, and committed to support the local community and make a difference in people's lives," Aoun added

A CELEBRATION OF ART, CREATIVITY HOSTED BY AMERICAN UNITED SCHOOL

As part of its innovative and meaningful educational activities whose purpose is developing their students' technical and creative skills, the American United School of Kuwait (AUS) has for the third year in a row hosted its annual artist and creative festival for students of the school from pre-kindergarten to ninth grade. This was situated in the courtyard within the school campus on last Wednesday 27th April from 4pm until 7pm in the evening. The gala came this year under the theme 'Arts in the Park.' The idea was inspired by the artistic and creative activities that are done by people in the iconic Central Park, in New York City, America.

The gala this year included students participating in many diverse visual and performing artistic activities that demonstrated their creative skills in painting, drawing, sculpting, graphic arts, digital art, media presentation and creativity, acting, poetry recital, singing and playing music. The gala also included activities in non-traditional exhibitions of student art, an interactive hall of art, designated places to eat and drink foods that are symbols of New York City, and a hall of theatrical performances.

Students comprised of every grade level from pre-kindergarten to ninth grade took part in the evening's festivities. All the events and activities took place within the school campus' outdoor courtyard and the school's Performing Arts Center. The gala was well attended by a large number of guests and media, as well as the parents of the students and their families.

AUS is overjoyed to be the pioneers of such an innovative event in Kuwait. The school's administrators shared the goal behind this groundbreaking initiative was for its' students to raise their skill level, enhance their self-confidence, stimulate their creative and social skills, and to enhance the level of development of their cognitive and intellectual thinking during the school year through participation in various events away from the atmosphere of traditional curriculum and studying.

The audience and parents praised the unique strategy of education, and the integrated education system adopted by the American United School of Kuwait. AUS has a sophisticated and different vision of education from many of the other schools in Kuwait, because the school relies on an educational system, curriculum and academic principles adopted in the United States of America, and the school is committed to teach Arabic and Islamic studies in order to provide a complete curriculum for its students.



Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea So Chang Sik hosted a reception on the occasion of the 104th birth anniversary of the President Kim Il Sung at the embassy. Officials and media person attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

IWG HOSTS MONTHLY MEETING



The International Women Group (IWG) hosted their monthly meeting yesterday, during which the spouse of the Ambassador of Peru to Kuwait gave a demonstration about her country's culture and traditions.



CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
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www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

Kuwait CINEMA

SHARQIA-1	12:00 PM	FANAR-1	12:30 PM
THE TRUST	2:00 PM	THE TRUST	2:30 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL	4:00 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	4:30 PM
THE TRUST	6:15 PM	THE TRUST	6:30 PM
THE TRUST	8:15 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	8:30 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL	10:15 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:30 PM
THE TRUST	12:30 AM	THE TRUST	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2	1:00 PM	FANAR-2	11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:15 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:45 PM	BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi	6:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	9:30 PM
NO WED		THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	12:15 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	12:15 AM	NO WED	
SHARQIA-3	1:15 PM	FANAR-3	12:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY	1:30 PM	GREEN ROOM	2:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ		MIDNIGHT SPECIAL	4:15 PM
FRI		GREEN ROOM	6:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	3:30 PM	MIDNIGHT SPECIAL	8:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY	5:30 PM	GREEN ROOM	10:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	7:45 PM	GREEN ROOM	12:45 AM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:45 PM		
MOTHER'S DAY	12:05 AM	FANAR-4	12:15 PM
MUHALAB-1	1:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	2:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY	1:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	4:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	3:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:00 PM
FRI		THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:15 PM
NO WED		NO WED	
MOTHER'S DAY	3:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	11:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	5:45 PM	NO WED	
MOTHER'S DAY	7:45 PM	FANAR-5	12:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:00 PM	MOTHER'S DAY	3:15 PM
MOTHER'S DAY	12:05 AM	MOTHER'S DAY	5:30 PM
MUHALAB-2	12:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:45 PM
THE TRUST	2:15 PM	MOTHER'S DAY	10:00 PM
THE TRUST	4:15 PM	NO WED	
BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi	6:15 PM	MOTHER'S DAY	12:15 AM
THE TRUST	9:00 PM	NO WED	
THE TRUST	11:00 PM	MARINA-1	1:00 PM
THE TRUST	1:00 AM	MOTHER'S DAY	3:15 PM
MUHALAB-3	11:30 AM	MOTHER'S DAY	5:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	1:30 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	7:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:45 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:00 PM	MOTHER'S DAY	11:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	8:15 PM	MARINA-2	11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:30 PM	THE TRUST	1:45 PM
NO WED		THE JUNGLE BOOK	4:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	12:45 AM		
NO WED			

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (28/04/2016 TO 04/05/2016)

THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:30 PM	AVENUES-1	11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	8:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	1:45 PM
THE TRUST	11:00 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	4:00 PM
THE TRUST	1:00 AM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	6:15 PM
MARINA-3	12:15 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	8:30 PM
I AM WRATH	2:15 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:45 PM
I AM WRATH	4:15 PM	NO WED	
I AM WRATH	6:15 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	1:00 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	8:30 PM	NO WED	
NO WED		AVENUES-3	11:30 AM
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	2:00 PM
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	4:30 PM
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	7:00 PM
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	9:30 PM
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	12:05 AM
AVENUES-4	11:45 AM	AVENUES-5	12:45 PM
FAN- Hindi	2:45 PM	MOTHER'S DAY	3:15 PM
THE TRUST	5:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:30 PM
FAN- Hindi	8:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:30 PM
THE TRUST	11:00 PM	NO WED	
NO WED		"THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR"	5:30 PM
NO WED		WED	7:45 PM
THE TRUST	1:15 AM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	12:30 AM
NO WED		NO WED	
NO WED		MOTHER'S DAY	12:30 AM

ACCOMMODATION

Immediate sharing accommodation available for decent Indian Christian family or bachelor near Salmiya Garden, block 10. Contact 66884273, after 2 pm. (C 5168) 2-5-2016

SITUATION WANTED

M.Com sixteen years experience in independently handling accounts of medium sized companies upto finalization, familiar with accounting systems, at present working in hospital, seeking suitable position. Mobile: 66019422. (C 5161) 28-4-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

Kanagamani Packirisamy son of Packirisamy and Saroja bearing an Indian Passport No. Z2443141 and having address A2K Vilavanapadugai, Kalam Pulivalam, Thiruvavur Dt, Tamil Nadu, India had embraced Islam and changed the name as Kamaludeen. (C 5167) 25-4-2016

Balveni Dadala daughter of Dadala Pullaiah and Dadala Nagaratamma bearing an Indian Passport No. G0613666 and having an address D.No 2-13-3, Plot No. 10/2 Reddy buildings Venkat Nagar Kakinada, east Godavari Dt, Andhra Pradesh, India, had embraced Islam and changed the name as Ayesha. (C 5167) 25-4-2016

REQUIRED

A LEADING KUWAITI COMPANY HAS THE VACANCY FOR THE LIGHT VEHICLE DRIVER (INDIAN) WITH VALID KUWAITI DRIVING LICENCE TO DRIVE PICK-UP FOR THE DELIVERY OF ROCK BITS TO THE OIL RIGS. INTERESTED CANDIDATES WITH TRANSFERABLE RESIDENCE 18 ONLY. SEND YOUR C.V. BY FAX NOS. 22409219 OR 22428868 E-MAIL: thuwainy@qualitynet.net E-MAIL: thuwainy@kems.net

NEW SCHOOL

We are looking for a Principal Assistant Principal, and teaching staff for an American School. With the following requirements:
Principal and assistant Principal
 • Must have higher education degree
 • Possesses high leadership potential strong interpersonal and managerial skills
 • Computer literate
 • Minimum 4 years experience
Teaching staff (All subjects) Nurse
 • Bachelor's Degree in Education
 • Licenses
We Offer:
 • Medical insurance
 • Transportation to and from school
 • Applicants should provide CV, Educational degree certificate, and experience documents.
 • You may send your applications to the following:
Gal-muhanna@hotmail.com
 The school is located in Al-Ahmadi and the school is under construction

NOW HIRING

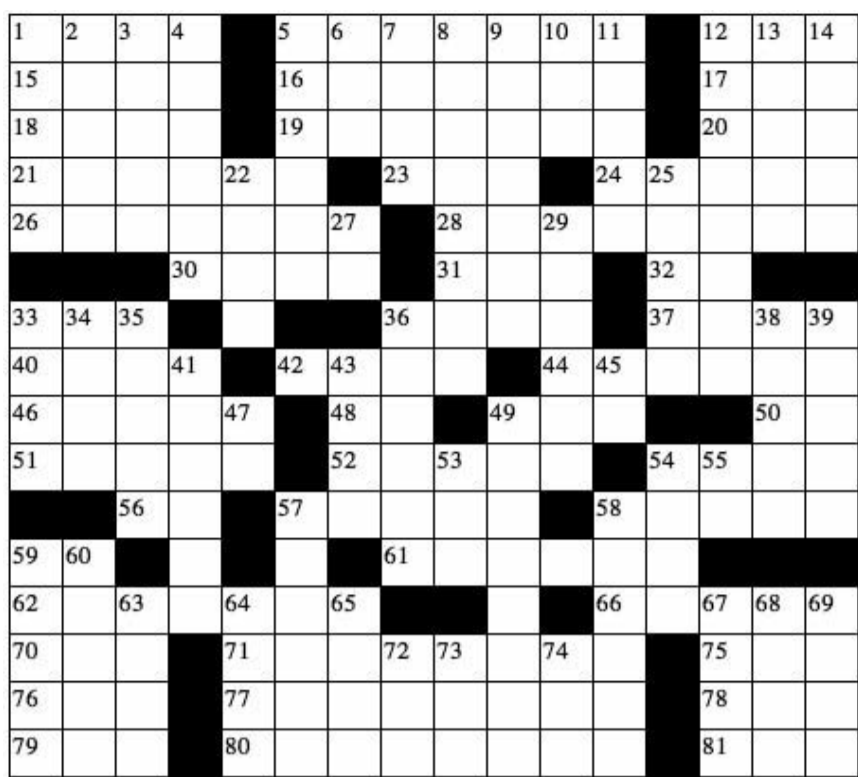
Creative individuals who have a talent for physical fitness instruction and love working with kids.
Skills:
 Fluent in English - Good memory skills, Microsoft program knowledge and background in arts, child development and/or gymnastics are a plus. Must be open to coaching.
 Please send your CV to:
mygymkuwait@yahoo.com

Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Arrival Flights on Monday 2/5/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 2/5/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	04:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
JZR	553	Alexandria	05:50	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	103	London	12:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
RJA	640	Amman	16:00	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	118	New York	16:30	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	562	Amman	16:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
SYR	341	Damascus	18:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
MSR	620	Cairo	18:20	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	502	Beirut	18:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	618	Doha	18:55	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	104	London	19:00	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
UAE	875						

CROSSWORD 1244



ACROSS

1. Tiny leafy-stemmed flowerless plants.
5. The capital and largest city of Cyprus.
12. A proportion multiplied by 100.
15. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
16. Ostentatiously lofty in style.
17. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
18. Being nothing more than specified.
19. An Iranian language spoken in Pakistan and Iran and Afghanistan and Russia and the Persian Gulf.
20. Towards the side away from the wind.
21. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
23. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
24. A sharp hooked claw especially on a bird of prey.
26. Capable of being added or added to.
28. Inclined to a healthy reddish color often associated with outdoor life.
30. Be teeming, be abuzz.
31. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
32. One thousand periods per second.
33. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
37. A genus of Mustelidae.
40. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
42. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
44. Necessary for relief or supply.
46. A genus of Pyralidae.
48. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
50. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
51. A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
52. A state of extreme confusion and disorder.
56. A state in southeastern United States.
59. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
61. Presently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible.
62. Edible agaric that is pale lilac when young.
66. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
70. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
71. The lean flesh of a saltwater fish found in warm waters (especially Hawaii).
75. An associate degree in applied science.
76. Estrangement from god.
77. Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
78. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
79. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
80. A great raja.
81. The month following March and preceding May.

DOWN

1. Arboreal snake of central and southern Africa whose bite is often fatal.
2. (Greek mythology) One of the mountain

3. Flesh of young Atlantic cod weighing up to 2 pounds.
4. The fifth month of the civil year.
5. Deprive of by deceit.
6. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
7. Large genus of African trees bearing kola nuts.
8. Discharge from the external ear.
9. Consent reluctantly.
10. Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydradiz) used to treat tuberculosis.
11. A Hindu goddess who releases from sin or disease.
12. Transmitting light.
13. (Greek mythology) The brother of Jocasta and uncle of Antigone who became king of Thebes after the fall of Oedipus.
14. A general direction in which something tends to move.
22. In bed.
25. Red pear-shaped tropical fruit with poisonous seeds.
27. The square of a body of any size of type.
29. The line or plane indicating the limit or extent of something.
34. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
35. A city in Indonesia.
36. The Muskogean language of the Choctaw people.
38. A proteolytic enzyme secreted by the kidneys.
39. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
41. An industrial city in southern Poland on the Vistula.
43. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
45. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
47. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
49. Receives blood from lower limbs and abdominal organs and empties into the posterior part of the right atrium of the heart.
53. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
54. Offering fun and gaiety.
55. An associate degree in nursing.
57. Small genus of mediterranean shrubs.
58. A member of the Tarcahitian people of central Mexico.
60. An inflammatory swelling or sore.
63. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
64. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
65. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
67. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
68. Slightly wet.
69. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris and traditional capital of Assyria.
72. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
73. The month following February and preceding April.
74. A pilgrimage to Mecca.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you attend a spiritual gathering this morning, you will find some in-depth discussions that may cause you to think about your beliefs and urge your contribution in a group discussion. You may find yourself enjoying an afternoon book signing, an art show or a small gathering of friends. You will have a grasp for the abstract and will be able to express your views to others. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance for you. This could all mean a very busy day involved in some convention or group session. Being more involved with neighbors this evening satisfies that need to be up-to-date with the happenings around you. Others could seek you out for your insight concerning an unusual animal.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Spiritual involvement and group surroundings express some fun activities today. Leading others, asking questions, making an important contribution keep you aware and up-to-date, and give you a feeling of security. Your magnetic charm attracts the positive. Young people may occupy the afternoon and you may find yourself coordinating events to lend some order to a noisy situation. You could become carried away with an idea; writing your ideas down and allowing time for them to develop is a good thing. You may be outside some of the afternoon, catching up on yard work, house or mechanical repairs. Birthday celebrations can be enjoyed later today; there are hugs and laughter and great photo opportunities with those you love.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a natural talent for describing the most sensitive areas of the mind—a practical psychologist of the first order. Now you must use this talent in your own life. If you find your time is no longer your own, particularly if you are in your own business, work to bring a balance to the way you use your time. Your ambitions go hand in hand with your communication skills and using the mind. Someone complains of physical pain and it is important to encourage him or her to see a physician. Start a dream diary and encourage others in your family to do the same. You will find some interesting conversations along the spiritual lines today. You and a group of your friends may enjoy dinner away from home this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are intense, passionate and very personal today. You will find yourself rushing past the superficial-right to the heart of any subject. Careful, not everyone likes to have someone ask all the questions that you can ask. Communication is high and you may enjoy some good solid gossip. Home, family and security have been on your mind lately and you may find yourself teaching young people about fairness, evenhandedness, goals, roots and the importance of family. You have clearheaded and practical insight for most anything you choose to do. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way. You may find yourself most intrigued with the things that come to your attention at this time.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your mind may be very clear now and your thoughts brought into sharp focus. It will be wise to create a list of things you want to accomplish. Your analytical powers are superb and you will enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. Remembering a class which you would like to retake or review may call for you digging around to find your notes or the class book. A friend or family member may be taking this class soon-memories. Close personal friendships bring satisfaction for you. Friends, group projects and community concerns play a key role in this day. In particular, you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings. A choir may be made up of the above people, making beautiful sounds.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

An important luncheon is successful and more enjoyable than you thought it would be. This could mean you are meeting new people or reuniting with old friends. You may find yourself more than a little eager while you are out shopping later today. Your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to indulge too much. You will eventually make some good choices but it will take time to think through your options. An important relationship, perhaps with a young person or someone in your near environment, may come into focus this evening. You may gain a better understanding of how he or she came to believe some of the things he or she believes. This also may require some flexibility and patience on your part.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will find that your mind and thoughts will be focused this morning. There could be a lot of pressure to make decisions and you do not like regrets. You are sensitive and may be careful before expressing yourself. After you give an answer, do not go back and forth questioning yourself. This is the perfect time to let go and trust in the positive. Periods of intense creativity enable you to go through changes and inner growth. Give yourself time to think and plan. This creative intensity may take the form of music, poetry or art. Your friends, partners and close associates mean a lot to you. You are indeed a social being and will no doubt weave this fact into your lifestyle. Let peace follow you wherever you go.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Religion, philosophy and higher knowledge will be the base of most conversations today. You are mentally and physically willing to meet the demands that this day holds. You are helpful to all who need your assistance. You are able to be adaptable to another person's moods and may find yourself moving to music this evening. This is a good time to begin to think of ways to expand your social circle. Networking will help you in business, but communication with neighbors and others will help enlarge your support group and give you a good foundation for the future. Social windfalls will be coming your way during this time. Reach out to make the contacts, instead of waiting for others to come to you. Your home is a great place to relax.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your vanity and your pride may interfere with clear understandings among friends today. Think before becoming too involved in some sort of bragging competition. Create a feeling of self-confidence and people will follow you anywhere. This can make a big difference when you want support in accomplishing a group project. Positive interaction with neighbors is hopeful for future gatherings. You may be thinking about a fishing trip that could supply the food for a fun backyard gathering. A young person may need your guidance this afternoon. This young person will know the right answer—you can encourage him or her to think independently. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Orange is a wonderful color this spring. Look... The color matches most everything else you have. You may find an orange sundial or orange stepping stones or of course... Marigolds. Take time to present yourself to the world this morning—you will enjoy a leisure morning under the orange sun. You have a fruitful imagination that can be helpful in many circumstances, particularly with children, which means you may be babysitting this afternoon. You enjoy this because you feel that you have some act in the shaping and molding of someone's future. This evening is a good time to relax and be with loved ones and friends. A variety of conversations help to guide your understanding and appreciation in the thinking of others.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You are ready to begin a home project or to help someone with his or her errands. Your energies continue to support you throughout the day and you may be encouraged to just relax sometime this afternoon. Your attention moves to friends or family. You could find yourself solving puzzles and problems, finding solutions, etc. You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. To you, problems may be valued for the lessons they represent, rather than perceived as obstacles. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance. Your creative skills count this evening. You may quickly invent a method to make life easier for an elderly person tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If you attend a spiritual gathering today, you will enjoy the emotional satisfaction as well as the communication with others. After a noon meal you and a friend or neighbor may get outside to walk or bicycle. Later, being lazy is important. You may want to catch up on reading and just soak in the good energies that are present. Rest and relaxation along with the importance of some personal quiet time are good. Law, politics, education, travel, religion or perhaps a good story may be where your interest is later today. Tonight you may enjoy communicating with family members. Clear thoughts about the past may also be flowing in this day. You express your optimism to people and they in turn become optimistic.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Nursing Home 2

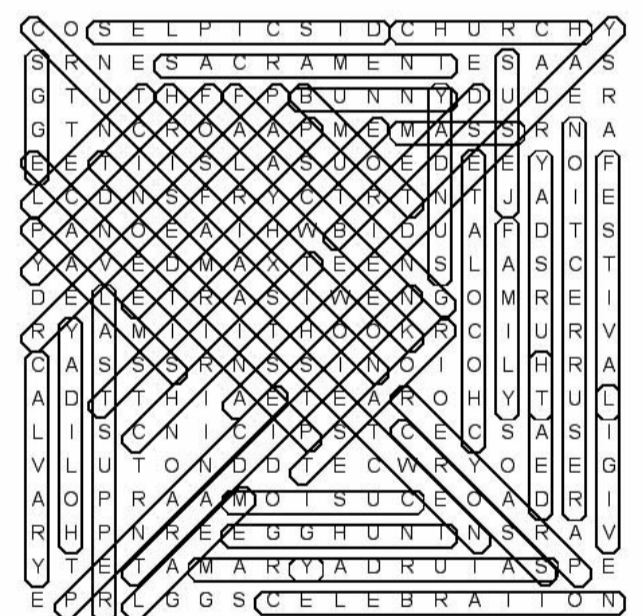
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Benjamin Franklin quotation.



- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| ADMISSION ASSIST | DISABILITY DOCTOR | LOTION LOUNGE | PHYSICAL THERAPY PILLS | SOAP SOCIALIZE |
| BEDPAN | ELEVATOR | MEALS | PODIATRIST | STAFF |
| BEDTIME | ENTERTAINMENT | MECHANICAL LIFT | RECLINER | SUPPOSITORY |
| BOOKS | EYEGLASSES | MEDICINE | RECREATION ROOM | SYRINGE |
| CALL BELL | FOOD TRAY | MEMORY | RELATIVES | THERMOMETER |
| CARD GAMES | GERIATRIC | NURSE | ROOMMATE | TUBE FEED |
| CHARTING | HEALTH | MORNING CARE | SEDTATIVES | VIRUS |
| CRAFTS | HOLIDAY EVENTS | OSTEOPOROSIS | SHAVER | VISITOR |
| DEMENTIA | INSULIN SHOT | OXYGEN | SINGING | WANDER ALARM |
| DIABETES | LAXATIVES | PATIENTS | SLEEP | WASH HANDS |
| DINNER | LOCKDOWN | PHARMACIST | SNACK CART | |

Yesterday's Solution

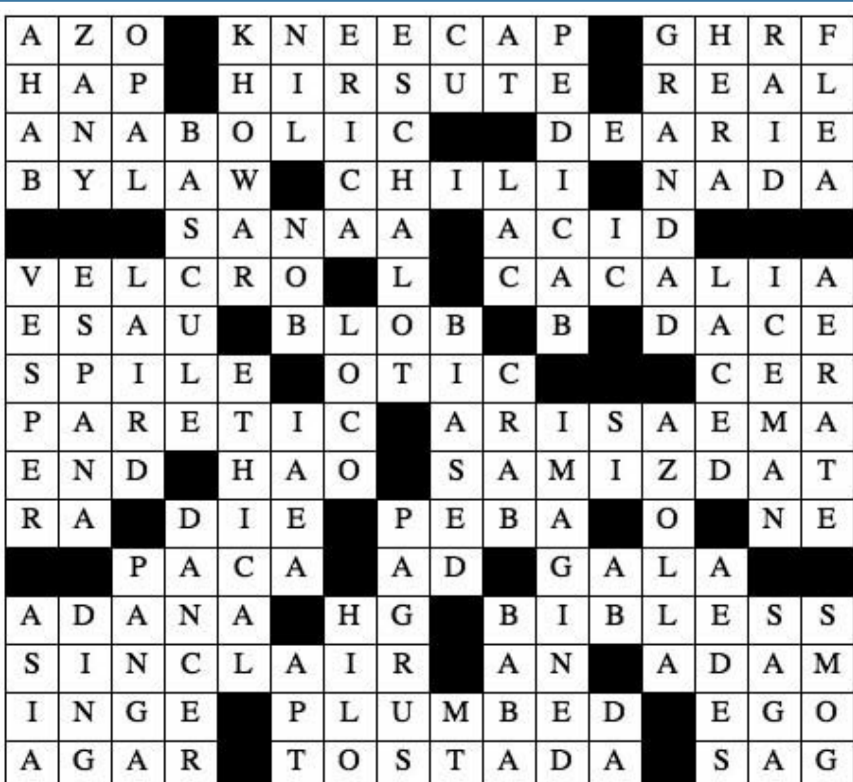
Easter



- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ASH WEDNESDAY | DEATH DISCIPLES | JESUS LAST SUPPER | PENITENCE PRAYER |
| BREAD | EGG HUNT | LENT | RESURRECTION |
| BUNNY | EGGS | MARY MASS | ROAST SACRAMENT |
| CALVARY | CELEBRATION | FAMILY FASTING | SATURDAY |
| CHOCOLATE | CHRIST | FESTIVAL | SUNDAY |
| CROSS | CRUCIFIXION | FRIDAY PARADE | THURSDAY |
| CUSTOM | HOLY WEEK | HOLIDAY PASSOVER | TOMB TRADITION |
| | | HOLY WEEK | PENANCE VIGIL |

The hidden message is: ONE EASTER TRADITION IS TO DECORATE EGGS

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

DAY: Sunday

01/05/2016

Issue Time 19:00

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h

BY DAY: Relatively hot with light to moderate southerly changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h

STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	38 °C	26 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	38 °C	21 °C
ABDALY	38 °C	23 °C
BUBYAN	37 °C	22 °C
JAHRA	38 °C	24 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	37 °C	24 °C
SALMIYAH	35 °C	26 °C
AHMADI	34 °C	25 °C
JAL ALIYAH	37 °C	20 °C
QAROH ISLAND	28 °C	26 °C
UMM AL-MARADEM	29 °C	25 °C

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX. Temp.	MIN. Temp.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Monday	05/02	Relatively hot	39 °C	21 °C	S-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	05/03	Hot + scattered clouds	40 °C	24 °C	S-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	05/04	Hot	42 °C	25 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 28 km/h
Thursday	05/05	Hot + blowing dust	43 °C	26 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:40
Sunrise	05:06
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:24
Isha	19:47

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	19 °C
MAX. RH	59 %
MIN. RH	29 %
MAX. Wind	NW 46 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	.25 mm

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. UP.0

2016/05/01 15:08 UTC V1.00 T2.3 8-1/ع/ق

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	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-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

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	
Dr Adrian 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. Mobarak 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. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah 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 Abdallah 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	Te: 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
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President closes out his run as comedian-in-chief

President Barack Obama performed his brand of sharp-tongued comedy at the White House Correspondents' Dinner for the last time - wrapping up with "Obama out" and dropping the mic while the crowd cheered.

Obama's performance Saturday night proved he hasn't lost a step. "If this material works well, I'm going to use it at Goldman Sachs next year," Obama quipped. "Earn me some serious Tubmans."

Obama drew plenty of laughs with his barbed remarks to a ballroom filled with journalists, politicians, and movie and television



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama concludes his remarks after speaking at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday.



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama laughs as he listens to Larry Wilmore, the guest host from Comedy Central, speak at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday.

stars. It was his eighth appearance at the event and his last as president and he kidded about the pains of being a lame duck. "Last week Prince George showed up to our meeting in his bathrobe," Obama cracked. "That was a slap in the face." The president waxed nostalgic at times. "Eight years ago I said it was time to change the tone of our politics. In hindsight, I

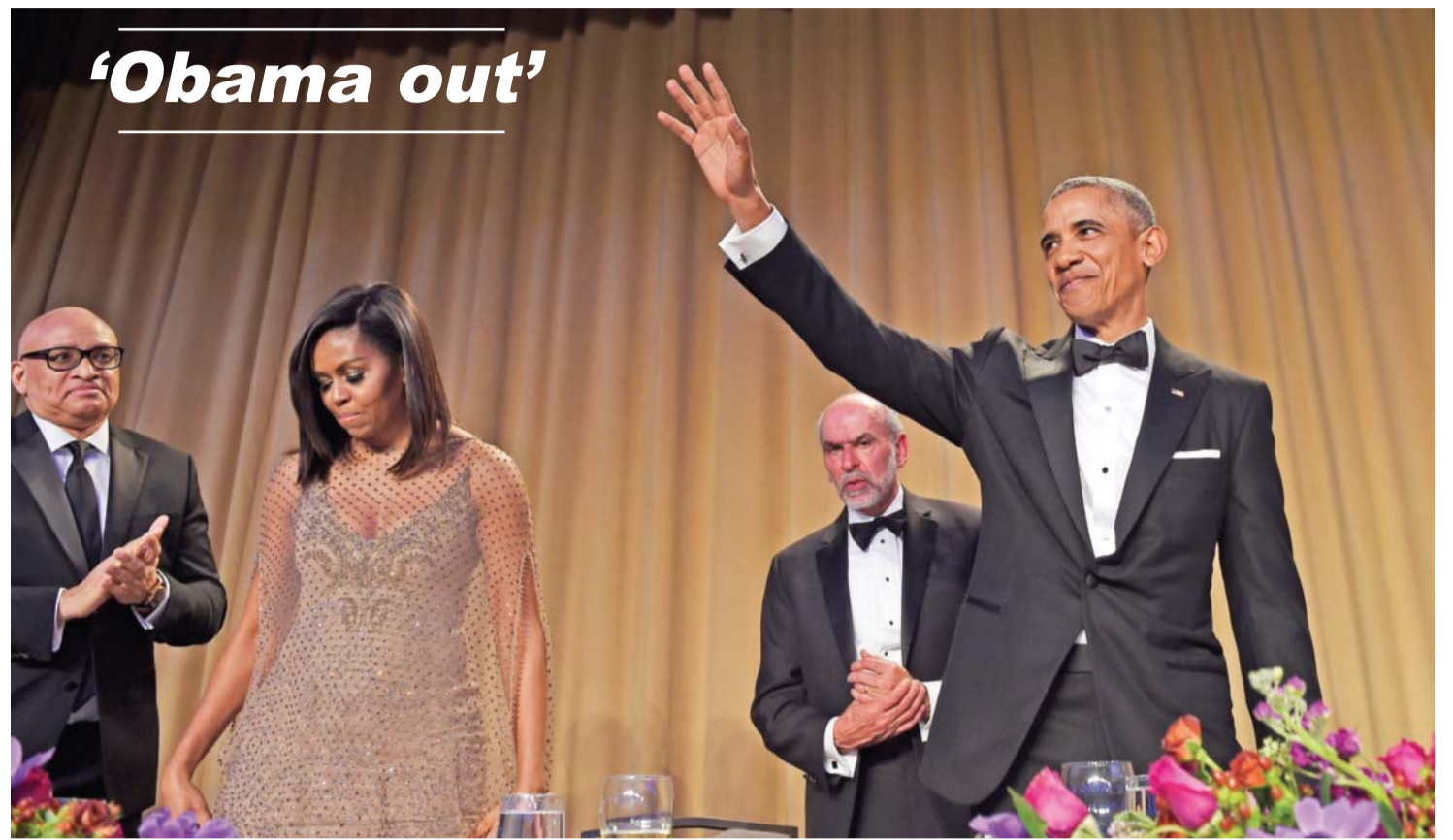
clearly should have been more specific." And he acknowledged that the years had taken their toll. "I'm gray, grizzled ... counting down the days to my death panel." On the other hand, he pointed out that his approval ratings are up. "The last time I was this high," he said, "I was trying to decide on my major." When he said he couldn't explain the rise in his popularity, two photographs of scowling presidential candidates appeared on ballroom screens: Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. Obama took a few more swipes at the presidential race, noting that "next year at this time someone else will be standing here in this very spot, and it's anyone's guess who she will be." After calling presidential candidate Bernie Sanders the bright new face of the Democratic Party, Obama contrasted the slogan "Feel the Bern" with one he said was rival Hillary Clinton's: "Trudge Up the Hill."

Republicans took most of Obama's humorous broadsides. "Guests were asked to check whether they wanted steak or fish," he told the diners, "and instead a whole bunch of you wrote in Paul Ryan."

Obama said of the billionaire businessman and real estate mogul leading the GOP race: "He has spent years meeting with leaders from around the world - Miss Sweden, Miss Argentina, Miss Azerbaijan." He added: "And there's one area where Donald's experience could be invaluable, and that's closing Guantanamo - because Trump knows a thing or two about running waterfront properties into the ground." Turning serious, the president thanked the White House press corps and praised a free press. Obama took a few hits, too. Preceding his remarks was a tongue-in-cheek video tribute to his seven-plus years in office that contained highlights of his verbal gaffes - his reference to "57 states" and misspelling "respect" among them - as well as light-hearted



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama speaks at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday.



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama, right, waves after speaking at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday. — AP



WASHINGTON: Larry Wilmore, the guest host from Comedy Central, speaks at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday.

moments. Comedian Larry Wilmore, the evening's professional entertainment, began by saying, "It's not easy to follow the president." Then he proved his point, offering a series of jokes about the president, different media

organizations and various presidential candidates that often were racially tinged and drew a mixture of laughter and groans.

"Welcome to Negro night," Wilmore said, and added that Fox News had reported that "two thugs" disrupted an elegant dinner, also mixing in critiques of CNN's viewership and MSNBC's firing of black anchors. Wilmore said the president is showing signs that his time in office has been hard on him. "You came in here looking like Denzel, now you're going out looking like Grady from 'Sanford and Son.'" As usual the Washington Hilton ballroom was a celebrity-spotters dream. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders joined Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry and other government officials taking a seat. Also on hand were Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Trump, a regular in recent years, was absent this time, but a son and daughter-in-law, Donald Jr. and Vanessa Trump, were spotted on the red

carpet. Among the film and television performers at the event were Oscar winners Helen Mirren and Jared Leto, "Breaking Bad" actor Bryan Cranston, "Independence Day" stars Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum, actress Rachel McAdams, and "Night Manager" miniseries star Tom Hiddleston.

Proceeds from the dinner go toward journalism scholarships and reporting awards. This year's winners: Carol Lee of the Wall Street Journal, winner of the Aldo Beckman Memorial Award for excellence in White House coverage. Matt Viser of the Boston Globe, winner of the Merriman Smith Award for outstanding White House coverage under deadline pressure. Norah O'Donnell of CBS News, winner of the Merriman Smith Award for broadcast journalism. Terrence McCoy of The Washington Post and Neela Banerjee, John Cushman Jr., David Hasemyer and Lisa Song of InsideClimate, winners of the Edgar A. Poe award, which recognizes excellence in coverage of events or investigative topics of regional or national interest. — AP

UK lawyer: Boyfriend of actress admits killing her

A lawyer says the boyfriend of a British actress has admitted killing her and her two young children. Defense attorney Jim Sturman told a British court at hearing Friday that Arthur Simpson-Kent admitted killing his partner Sian Blake and her children, 8-year-old Zachary and 4-year-old Amon.

Simpson-Kent, 48, appeared via video link from Belmarsh prison. He will remain in custody until July 29, when he is expected to enter a plea. Simpson-Kent flew to Ghana after speaking to detectives in Britain on Dec. 16 about Blake and the children, who had been reported missing. Their bodies were found in January.

Ghanaian police arrested him on Jan. 9 in the western coastal town of Butre. He did not contest extradition. Blake, 43, appeared in the long-running soap opera "EastEnders" in 1996-1997. — AP

Duchess Kate poses for British edition of Vogue



NORFOLK, ENGLAND: Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge on the cover for British Vogue's centenary issue. — AP

The British edition of Vogue will mark its 100th anniversary with a rare portrait of Kate Middleton looking relaxed in the countryside.

The Duchess of Cambridge opts for a casual look in her first-ever cover shoot for Vogue. The fashion magazine is publishing a series of Middleton images shot by photographer Josh Olins in its June edition and some will be placed in Britain's National Portrait Gallery.

Kensington Palace said Kate "hopes that people appreciate the portraits with the sense of relaxed fun with which they were taken." The casual clothes and settings provide a counterpoint to the more formal portraits commonly produced of senior royal figures. The Duchess plans to visit the National Portrait Gallery in London on Wednesday to view the Vogue exhibit. — AP



JOHANNESBURG: Miss Ghana, Rebecca Asamoah, poses on stage in traditional costume during the Miss Africa Continent competition.

JOHANNESBURG: Miss Ghana, Rebecca Asamoah, is crowned the first ever Miss Africa Continent on Saturday. — AFP

Ghanaian crowned first 'Miss Africa Continent'

Barefoot, wearing traditional costumes including animal hide skirts and elaborately beaded headdresses, the contestants strutted the stage before Ghanaian Rebecca Asamoah was crowned the first Miss Africa Continent.

The 24-year-old dental hygienist beat 11 finalists drawn from an original list of 40 contestants from across the continent in the inaugural pageant at Johannesburg's Gold Reef City casino on Saturday night. Runner-up was Michelo Malambo of Zambia, while South Africa's Jemimah Kandimiri was placed third.

The swimsuit contest was also a departure from the beauty contest norm, with contestants wearing black t-shirts and tight shorts while dancing barefoot to music such as "Africa" by Mali's legendary afro-pop musician Salif Keita.

The pageant is the brain child of South African film producer Neo Mashishi, who says it aims to empower young African women. "This is the first ever Miss Africa Continent," said Mashishi, adding that it had been five years in the making. "This is about Africa, we are selling Africa to the world, and we are proud to be Africa. The way everything was

done was African, we didn't emulate anything from Miss Universe, or Miss World," he said.

Asamoah, who wore braids, entered the stage in a traditional Ghanaian Ashanti gold-colored beaded crown and then returned in an evening dress made from the country's trademark kente cloth. She walked away with a grant to study business management at Monash university in Johannesburg. Runner up in the 2015 Miss Ghana competition, Asamoah said she wanted to see young people help uplift the continent. "There are a lot of things to be fixed in Africa - water, education, environmental issues," she told AFP. "My

main concern is the empowerment of youths... so we can work hand in hand and put our continent in the best place it should be." In the weeks running up to the event, the 12 finalists embarked on a series of pre-pageant activities, including showing off their culinary skills in cooking traditional meals from their native countries.

Ultimately, the organizers hope to involve the continental body, the African Union, "so our winner can play a role in uplifting Africa" and spearhead campaigns to fight Africa's woes such as malaria, poverty and xenophobia. — AFP

Cowabunga! Ninja Turtles official NYC ambassadors



Discover New York City with the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Cowabunga, dudes! The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are New York City's official family ambassadors for 2016.

The city's tourism agency, NYC & Company, has announced that the sewer-dwelling reptiles will star in ads to encourage families to explore New York. Agency CEO Fred Dixon says the turtles are "the perfect guides to help families discover the

vibrancy and excitement throughout the five boroughs."

The crime-fighting ninja turtles - Donatello, Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael - started out in comic books in the 1980s before branching out to TV and film. The latest movie came out in 2014 and a sequel is set for release in June. They succeed Dora the Explorer, who served as last year's ambassador. — AP



Pop star Kesha releases first single after label dispute

Pop star Kesha released her first new music in three years on Friday after losing a legal bid earlier this month to scrap her recording contract with Sony Music and producer Dr. Luke, whom the singer had accused of sexual assault. Kesha, 29, teamed up with DJ Zedd on the single "True Colors," an electro-pop ballad released through the singer's label RCA Records, an unit of Sony Corp's Sony Music Entertainment, and Dr. Luke's Kemosabe Records, to which Kesha is still signed to.

In a tweet on Friday, Kesha said "truecolors spoke to me so deeply I had to spread the beautiful message of personal empowerment." Zedd added on Twitter, "Just to clarify: We didn't use any loop holes. Kemosabe / RCA gave us permission to release this song!" Earlier this year, Kesha appealed a New York Supreme Court justice's decision to refuse to release her from a six-album contract with Sony, after the singer filed a sexual assault lawsuit against Dr. Luke in 2014.

Representatives for Sony Music and Dr. Luke did not immediately respond

to Reuters' requests for comment on Friday. The producer has previously denied Kesha's allegations of rape and emotional abuse. The justice found in February that Kesha, who had not released new music since 2013's "C'Mon" and "Crazy Kids" from her "Warrior" album, was free to record for Sony with other producers, without interference from Dr. Luke. The singer said the decision was akin to slavery. The case sparked the #FreeKesha campaign on social media and a petition asking Sony to release Kesha from her contract. The singer also earned support from other artists such as Taylor Swift, Adele and Lady Gaga.

"True Colors" features Kesha singing lyrics such as "We've escaped our capture, And I have no master," and "I won't apologize, For the fire in my eyes, Let me show you my, my true colors." Kesha had made a surprise appearance on stage with Zedd at the Southern California music festival Coachella earlier this month to debut the song. "True Colors" was at No. 11 on the iTunes US top-selling songs yesterday evening. — Reuters



'A Melody to Remember' Wins The Audience Award at Udine

Lee Han's 'A Melody to Remember' scooped the audience award at the 18th edition of the Far East Film Festival, which unspooled April 22-30 in Udine, Italy.

The drama about a Korean War veteran who organizes a choir at an orphanage after returning from the front was an international premiere at the festival following its January 2016 release in Korea by Next Entertainment World.

Shuichi Okita's quirky comedy "Mohican Comes Home" was given the 'Black Dragon Audience Award,' voted on by special pass holders, as well the third place audience award. Both director Okita and star Ryuhei Matsuda were on hand to accept the prizes.

The second place audience

award went to Lee Ho-Jae's drama "Sori: Voice from the Heart," which was also the closing film. The Mymovies Award, selected by Internet voters, was given to Hitoshi One's manga world comedy "Bakuman."

'Golden Mulberry Awards' for lifetime achievement went to director Nobuhiko Obayashi, four of whose films were screened in the festival's retrospective dedicated to Japanese sci-fi and fantasy classics, and Hong Kong martial arts legend Sammo Hung, whose new film "The Bodyguard" was also shown on closing night. Launched in 1999, the Udine Far East Film Festival has become Europe's largest showcase of Asian genre and popular films. — Reuters

Original Tintin 'King Ottokar's Sceptre' art sells for \$1.2 mn



The original artwork for the last two pages of the Tintin comic book "King Ottokar's Sceptre" sold for a total of 1.046 million Euros at auction Saturday in Paris.

"This is only the second time a Tintin plate has exceeded a million Euros," Eric Leroy, comic book expert at French auction house Artcurial, told AFP. A double page plate also from "King Ottokar's Sceptre" sold for more than 1.5 million Euros at Sotheby's in Paris in October.

Artcurial had estimated Saturday's lot would fetch between 600,000 and 800,000 euros, before fees. "Over a million Euros, this is an excellent result," said Leroy. "Hergé's universe still conquers," added Leroy, referring to the cartoonist behind the famous

comic. The work in blue watercolor, gouache and ink was bought on the phone "by a European collector, a long-time fan," said Leroy. Published in 1939, "King Ottokar's Sceptre" is the eighth installment of the adventures of the intrepid boy reporter by the Belgian artist Hergé.

Intended by Hergé as criticism of Nazi Germany, Tintin helps thwart a plot to overthrow the king of a fictional Central European country which is threatened by an aggressive neighbor. Tintin works are becoming increasingly popular with collectors. An ink drawing for the cover pages of the Tintin books published from 1937 to 1958 was sold for 2.65 million Euros by Artcurial in 2014, a world record. — AFP

Openly gay rock singer changing tune on Mormon religion

Two years after coming out as gay and praising the Mormon church for offering support, the lead singer of a popular rock band is denouncing his faith in his latest music video.

Tyler Glenn of Neon Trees, a Provo, Utah-based band, released the video Friday for a single titled "Trash," in which he appears to be trashing the church. The video includes images related to the church and shows Glenn drinking alcohol.

Glenn told Rolling Stone magazine that his belief in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints changed about six months ago. In November, the church announced that people in same-sex couples could be excommunicated. The rules also said children of those couples must disavow homosexual relationships and cannot be baptized until they are 18.



One of few publicly out Mormons, Glenn told The Associated Press in 2014 that he was looking forward to speaking about gay acceptance in his religious culture. "On the level of being a role model for kids or LGBT Mormon youth, I'm totally down because I come from that background and I would be able to speak to them honestly," he said

shortly after announcing his sexual orientation.

A representative of the church declined to comment. In the 2014 interview, he said he had received positive feedback from church leaders. "I was surprised at how many Mormon church leaders wrote me messages saying, 'This is great that you're doing this,'" he said. "That really was cool." — AP



WASHINGTON: Dame Hellen Mirren arriving at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton wearing a purple dress and fake tattoo honoring Prince. — AFP

Helen Mirren on Trump: 'I'm a Believer of the American Democratic System'

Oscar-winning actress Helen Mirren was among the guests at the Saturday afternoon Georgetown brunch hosted by Tammy Haddad before the White House Correspondents Dinner.

Mirren, who has voiced her support for Hillary Clinton in the past, took selfies with fans at the star-studded-by Washington D.C. standards-outdoor party. "Politics in America are always very exciting," Mirren told Variety, as she took a sip from an orange smoothie. "It's very watchable, full of drama. I'm observ-

ing it. I don't vote in America. I'm not an American citizen. So I can watch with fascination."

When asked about Donald Trump, Mirren only replied: "I'm a believer of the American democratic system," she said, as her husband pulled her away.

Other sightings at the brunch included Charlie Rose (who gave Mirren a big hug), Rosario Dawson, Joy Behar, Candace Cameron Bure, Sela Ward, "Scandal" president Tony Goldwyn and former "Apprentice" contestant Omarosa Manigault.

Sela Ward Studied Hillary Clinton to Play President in 'Independence Day: Resurgence'

In the upcoming "Independence Day: Resurgence," Sela Ward plays a pantsuit-wearing US president tasked with saving mankind after an alien invasion. Director Roland Emmerich offered her the part, and Ward was game ("I'm going for it"), after working with him on 2004's "The Day After Tomorrow." Variety caught up with Ward at this week's White House Correspondents Dinner.

Did you model President Landford on any real-life presidents? Well, we don't have any female presidents to emulate. But I watched a lot of Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail, just to see physically what she would do, how she would approach a podium, a crowd, etc. [Germany's] Angela Merkel, I would look at a little bit. She's not as expressive. It's really mostly watching Hillary, who is the only real female role model we have.

Did you absorb Hillary's energy? I was listening to the cadence of her speeches. That informed me a lot. I was watching physically what



she would do.

Did you look at any male presidents? No. Not relevant.

Is she based on Hillary? No. She's based on how Sela would approach the world.

Is she a good president? Fabulous. She's very strong, decisive, not afraid to use force. She's a risk taker, a split second decision-maker. I loved her.

Is it time for the United States to elect a female president? Oh, past time.

What are your thoughts on this year's election? It's the craziest circus I've ever seen.

Are you a Republican? I'm an independent. I'm such a centrist. We need to have our own party.

Are you supporting Trump or Hillary? I haven't decided. — Reuters

Tribeca Film Review:

‘Don’t Look Down’

Sir Richard Branson's out-sized hankering for adventure is matched only by his talent for self-promotion. "Don't Look Down" focuses on Branson as balloonist, using previously unseen footage of his daredevil hot air flights together with archival footage and interviews with the major players, and while the achievements have an undeniable thrill, the documentary needs trimming. Director Daniel Gordon, best known for his superb North Korean trilogy, seems to be a helmer for hire here, delivering a solid, and solidly engaging film that nevertheless feels like an extended promo for the Branson brand. TV and streaming sites will be the likely takers.

Who would deny the romance of a hot air balloon? Their majestic beauty is an understandable lure, so combined with the challenge of breaking world records (not to mention the nice big expanse of canvas crying out for the Virgin logo), they seem custom designed to tickle Branson's fancy. Plus the timing was right in 1987, just three years after he launched Virgin Airlines, to pull off a fantastic stunt guaranteed to get his company's name in all the papers. Branson hadn't flown a hot air balloon before, but he brought in balloon pilot Per Lindstrom and set off to cross the Atlantic.

"Don't Look Down" details every step of the



A screenshot from the 'Don't Look Down' film showing 'Don't Look Down' in hot air balloon. — AFP

journey, from balloon construction to the flight itself. Near disaster dogged their path as they crossed the ocean from Maine to Scotland, and Lindstrom nearly drowned, but the record was broken and, most importantly, Branson's feat was on everyone's lips. Two years later a larger challenge beckoned: the Pacific. The first attempt was a non-starter but in 1991 Branson and Lindstrom managed the impossible by flying from Japan to Canada in 46 hours. Much to the businessman's chagrin, their achievement was overshadowed by news of the First Gulf War (it's terribly provoking when pesky military conflicts hog one's limelight, but certain things really are out of the hands of mere mortals).

Much of the in-gondola footage shot from the balloons truly is spectacular, and Gordon does a fine job building momentum by balancing this with news footage and talking heads ranging from balloon experts to the indispensable weather consultant to Branson's proud yet reserved mother. However, there's an inevitable sense of repetition, and especially the failed Pacific attempt could be more tightly retold. Occasional dramatic recreations are unfortunate and threaten to turn the documentary into History Channel filler, and while the use of b&w looks nice, it serves no purpose apart from varying the visuals a bit. — Reuters

‘Shadow World’

Johan Grimoprez doesn't want audiences to get out their handkerchiefs; he wants them to get out their protest signs, their megaphones and their voting ballots. Whether documentaries have that ability is sadly open for debate, but "Shadow World," Grimoprez's superb, gut-punching exploration of the global arms trade is the sort of catalyst to energize politically-minded viewers. Flawlessly juggling an impressive array of talking heads with archival footage, the director ("Double Take") aims his disgust at politicians, from Reagan to Obama, Blair to Prince Bandar bin Sultan, and the billions invested in ensuring militarization and war never get put on ice. Smart, hard-hitting and possibly too intellectual for many, "Shadow World" deserves wide exposure at home and abroad.

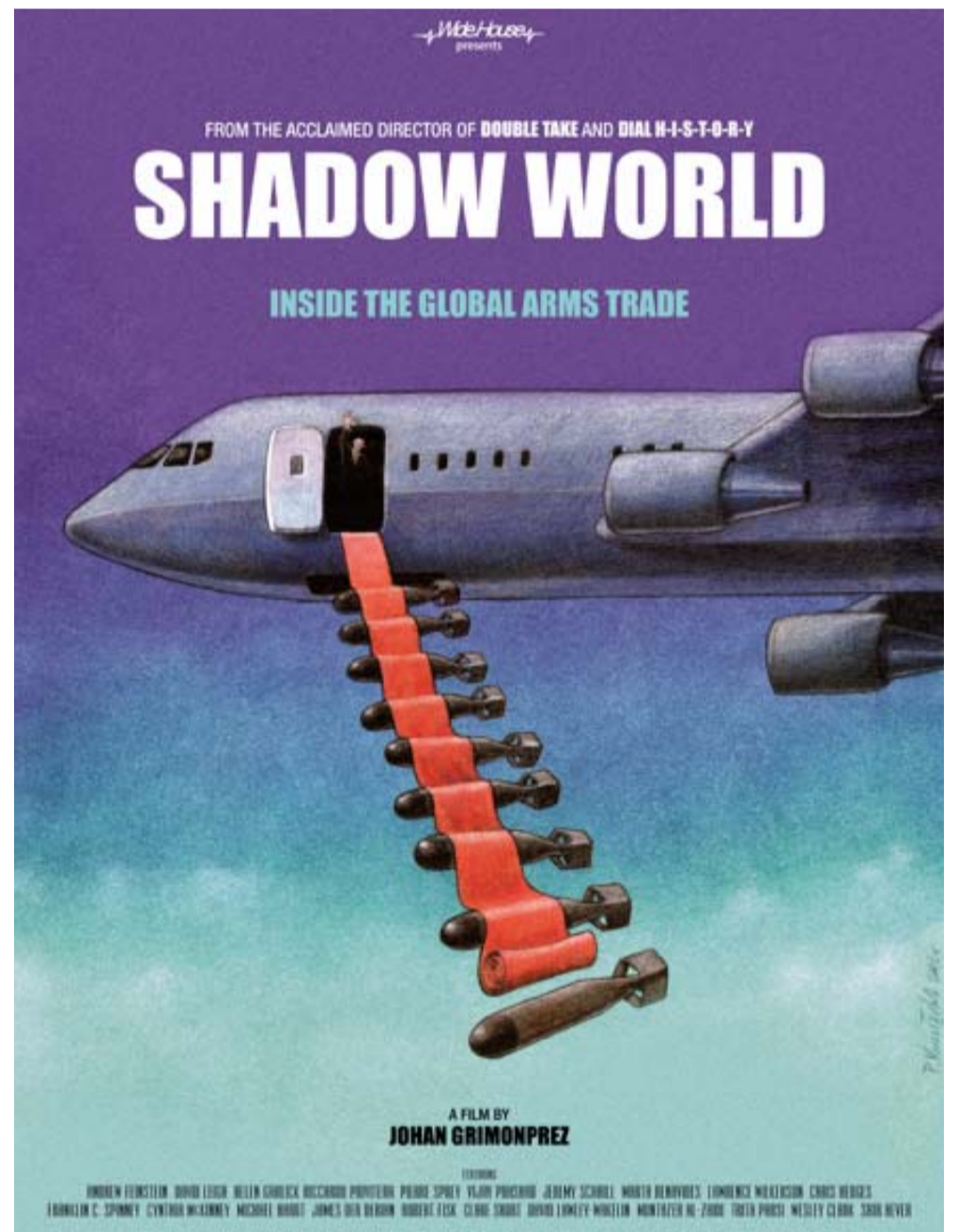
Grimoprez bases his research on Andrew Feinstein's 2011 book "The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade," bringing the South African author in as co-writer and talking head. Bookending the documentary is archival footage from the "war to end all wars": ghostly black-and-white images of World War I soldiers in the trenches are accompanied by archival interviews with such noted veterans as Henry Williamson, George Ashurst and Smedley D. Butler, with author Williamson recalling the "Christmas Truce" of 1914, when soldiers from both sides spontaneously mingled with the so-called "enemy." Opening with this footage is Grimoprez's way of saying war is not necessary, yet the decision-making has never been in the hands of foot soldiers.

Such is the documentary's nod to early 20th century history: from there it jumps to the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan had Margaret Thatcher arrange massive arms deals with Saudi Arabia so that Israel wouldn't accuse the US of collaborating with the enemy. This, according to "Shadow World," was the crucial moment when Saudi influence began its staggering ascent. There are a number of nemeses here, but none as adept as the Saudis in manipulating world powers to ensure monumental kick-backs.

That's probably the biggest takeaway, along with the harsh realization that governments are heavily invested in ensuring the "war on terror" remains an undefinable state of semi-emergency with no end in sight. According to the film, the reason is simple: War is lucrative, especially for lobbyists and politicians who ensure the arms trade remains a feeding frenzy with no oversight. It backs that point with mind-boggling figures: an \$87 million slush fund from Britain's BAE arms manufacturer to Saudi beneficiaries (Maggie's son Mark Thatcher got more than \$17 million for that one), plus a \$1.5 billion bribe to Prince Bandar bin Sultan; \$10 billion paid by South Africa for arms they certainly didn't need, with \$300 million as bribes to ANC officials; etc., etc.

Much of this information has been published in the British newspaper "The Guardian" (journalist David Leigh is among those interviewed), but of course documentaries have a particularly potent way of conveying information when done well, as is the case here. Tony Blair comes off as little more than a slippery arms salesman (Grimoprez doesn't point out the laughable irony of Blair's post-ministerial position as "peace envoy"), while the portrayals of Reagan, Thatcher and Bush make them out as war criminals. "Shadow World" does a far better job nailing Donald Rumsfeld than "The Unknown Known," and accomplishes the take-down in a more succinct manner, showing how he and Dick Cheney have reaped the rewards of their time in the private sector with companies like Halliburton, which is in the business to ensure that wars continue;

Casper Weinberger's association with Bechtel could equally have been included. Barack Obama is also implicated, especially for signing off on targeted assassinations, along with billions of dollars in drone contracts. Grimoprez and his editors are exceptionally clever at clearly presenting information and then follow-



ing through with the consequences, so a discussion of C.I.A. funded right-wing coups leads to an interview with El Salvadorean activist Marta Benavides, who talks in concrete terms about the results, followed by a section on the Iran-Contra scandal to help connect the dots. Two talking heads are especially chilling in very different ways: One is jailed arms dealer Riccardo Privitera, a self-aggrandizing sleazebag fond of making bald-faced statements with the incontrovertible ring of truth. The other is "New York Times" war correspondent Chris Hedges, who movingly speaks of the psychological trauma from seeing so much killing. He also offers one of the most accurate

statements about the crisis in the Arab world: "The disease of permanent war is what's destroyed the Middle East, not Islamic fundamentalism." As the documentary clearly demonstrates, the U.S. and U.K. keep ensuring that this particular disease remains incurable.

Much as "Double Take" maintained an audacious balance thanks to masterful editing, so too "Shadow World" successfully corrals a remarkable amount of information via impressive montage work. Passages from stories by the late Eduardo Galeano are layered throughout the film, offering a poetic, if not entirely well-integrated, commentary. — Reuters



In "Inside Men," a smashing political revenge thriller with more double-crossings than "Infernal Affairs," a prosecutor allies himself with a gangster to topple the corrupt cabal formed by a congressman, a tycoon and a media pundit. South Korean writer-director Woo Min-ho ("The Spies") has crafted a deliberately paced yarn packed with shrewd political insight and gripping procedural detail. An instant domestic hit, the film enjoyed a second wind when a three-hour director's cut was released a month later, pushing its B.O. total to about \$62.95 million. It should be no outsider to major Asian markets and genre circles. Though they've been a staple in Korean cinema, the last few years have seen a steep rise in political thrillers that lambast unholy alliances between state departments, politicians, chaebols (conglomerates) and the mafia. Comparable with Ryu Seung-wan's

"The Unjust" in its canny grasp of how the country's venal social hierarchy thrives, "Inside Men" represents a classy example of the genre thanks to unpredictable character arcs and a judicious use of sex and violence in an otherwise talky and convoluted screenplay.

Adapted from a webtoon by leading manhwa (comic) artist Yoon Tae-ho ("Moss"), the story features such unconventional leads as a newspaperman with ambitions of being a political kingmaker. While the pen this charismatic villain wields is mightier than the sword, the anti-hero played by Lee Byung-hun ("Masquerade," the "G.I. Joe" series) proves it's still no match for a saw.

Retired gangster Ahn Sang-goo (Lee) holds a press conference to spill the beans about a slush fund set up by Hanyul Bank and Mirae Motors to bankroll the presidential campaign of congressman Jang Pil-woo (Lee Kyoung-young). With a grotesque flourish, Ahn takes off his glove to reveal a prosthetic hand. Flashback to two years ago, when ambitious district attorney Woo Jang-hoon (Cho Seung-woo, "Tazza: The High Rollers") corners Mirae accountant Moon Il-seok to get evidence of the slush fund, only to be beaten to it by Ahn, then a small-time gang leader in the pocket of Mirae president Oh Hyun-soo (Kim Hong-fa). However, Ahn makes the fatal mistake of passing a copy of the documents to Lee Gang-hee (Baek Yoon-sik), chief editor of the Kukmin Daily. This leads to the film's most sensational scene, when Ahn gets his hand sawed off by Oh's henchmen. The first act unloads a flurry of characters who hop from one backroom deal to the next.

Their entangled connections and Machiavellian power plays are difficult to parse, especially if one has to keep up with the dissembling dialogue via subtitles. However, the central figures' actions and motives gain clarity as the story progresses, while plot turns manage to stay one step ahead of the audience.

Accentuating the depravity of the country's movers-and-shakers, most action is either set amid urinals or private lounges furnished with a chorus line of hostesses, as the fearless sexagenarian actors perform in the buff with sleazy gusto. Although the overall length could have been shortened to drum up tension, it's never dull watching Ahn and Woo take their time gravitating toward one other to plot their revenge. Their rapport during a hideout in the country home of Woo's father provides the requisite calm before a storm. Once their plan is set in motion, the pace hurtles forward like a bullet train. As their adversaries retaliate with fearsome clout, a thrilling battle of minds and brute force ensues, climaxing in a switcheroo with an unlikely, but stirring payoff.

In a bravura performance, Lee adds an entertaining layer of loud showmanship to Ahn's feral nature, as when he sings a weepy folk song while hammering Moon's fingers to shreds. It's a lot of fun to see him claw his way back no matter how his powerful enemies try to crush him. Cho is understated but no less mentally focused as the cerebral Woo, driven by his exclusion from the boys' club because he went to a provincial university and has no connections. The film depicts a moving transformation, as Ahn eventually turns his personal vendetta into a public cause while Woo also gets over his careerism to defend justice and combat elitism. Baek makes Lee's viper-like nature all the more repulsive by affecting a suave demeanor, even if it's hard to believe a journalist could wield that much power in business or politics. His longtime liaison with Ahn isn't any more convincing.

Although Ahn claims he'd once supported Lee financially, their history is only touched upon in one driving scene. Thus, Ahn's motives for entrusting him with incriminating documents remain obtuse to the end. It's one of many loose strands that indicate a script over-reaching itself.

The film's tech credits, less glossy than typical Korean commercial fare, are serviceable. If anything, the mundane locations and plain visuals draw events closer to reality. Editing by Kim Sang-bum tends to split the narrative into too many scenes. — Reuters

The chai cup of village intrigue runneth over in "Thithi," Raam Reddy's tale of various ill-advised maneuvering that ensues after the death of a cantankerous 101-year-old patriarch. Even-keeled in execution but highly eventful in content, this clever social satire has accrued numerous prizes on the fest circuit, with specialty release in various markets and formats the next logical step.

Locally famed for his age if nothing else, "Century" Gowda (Singrigowda) causes a stir when he finally drops dead at pic's start. Most stirred is his eldest grandson Thamanna (Thammegowda S.), who stands to inherit agricultural acres if rival family factions don't swoop in; least perturbed is his father Gadappa (Channegowda), a scraggly elder notorious for his endless roaming, imbibing and generally uncooperative ways. (Much later we learn the scandalous youthful tragedy that led to this scornful son's estrangement from all relations, starting with his pa Century.)

Things would be simple if Gadappa signed over the land that's now legally his to Thamanna. But the old man is too stubborn and contrary to consent. Strapped for cash—even more so after an astrologist informs he must throw a huge "Thithi" feast to commemorate his freshly departed grandfather-Thamanna begins pondering how he call sell off this property he hasn't actually inherited yet.

This leads to some bribery, forgery, and other skullduggery, but for the sale to go through he still has to make Gadappa "disappear" long enough to be passed off as dead. He figures he'll give the coot enough money to realize his dreams of wider-roaming travel for a few



months. But waylaid by booze, Gadappa doesn't make it very far, falling in with a nearby tribe of transient shepherds. Among them is young Cauvery (Pooja S.M.), who has already caught the girl-crazy attentions of his otherwise sullen, idle grandson Abhi (Abhishek H.N.).

With a few colorful peripheral characters lending additional complications, "Thithi" wends its way pleasantly toward what we rightly guess will be the comical climactic collapse of all well-laid plans. Complexly plot-driven yet never hectic or over-contrived, Reddy and Eregowda's screenplay treats all its onscreen fig-

ures with an amusement that stops short of ridicule, allowing them a certain melancholy dignity as their efforts to improve their lot only make things worse.

While packaging is competently straightforward rather than distinctive, effect could hardly be more flavorful-not least because all roles were apparently cast among non-pro residents of a village in South India's Karnataka district where co-writer Eregowda was born. For the most part, they're all such naturals it's almost hard to believe they came to the project as amateurs. — Reuters



NEW ORLEANS: Yvette Landry performs on the Sheraton New Orleans Fais Do-Do Stage during second Saturday of the New Orleans Jazz Fest at the Fair Grounds, on Saturday.—AP



NEW ORLEANS: Paul Sanchez, pictured, and The Rolling Road Show open the Gentilly Stage during the New Orleans Jazz Fest at the Fair Grounds, on Saturday.—AP



NEW ORLEANS: The Preservation Hall Jazz Band performs on the Gentilly Stage during the New Orleans Jazz Fest at the Fair Grounds, on Saturday.—AP



Tissot new ambassador Spanish MotoGPTM rider Jorge Lorenzo.



MotoGPTM World Champion, Jorge Lorenzo, New Tissot Ambassador

The most decorated Spanish MotoGPTM rider in history, reigning World Champion and one of the most talented riders on the international scene, Jorge Lorenzo, is the newest member of the Tissot Family. Known for his precision, elegance and style in addition to his competitive spirit, he represents the values of the swiss watchmaker perfectly and is a great addition to the Tissot family, Official Timekeeper of MotoGPTM.

Jorge Lorenzo's path has been paved with precociousness and records. Success has been his companion since the day he rode a bike for the first time at the young age of 3. When he was 8, as one of the youngest, he won the Balearic Championship. He soon made the jump into the European Championship and the Aprilia Cup. His quick thinking and his constant evolution opened the doors to the MotoGPTM World Championship. In 2002, on his 15th birthday and on the famous Jerez circuit, he became the youngest rider in the World Championship. After three years in the 125CC category, he escalated to 250cc and achieved two consecutive World Championship Titles. Jorge Lorenzo was then at ease in making the leap to the top flight in 2008. In his first race, he won pole position and in his third MotoGPTM Grand Prix, he climbed to the top of the podium.

Since then and during his eight seasons, Lorenzo has not stopped growing. He has achieved three World Championships (2010, 2012 and 2015), has been runner-up three times (2009, 2011 and 2013) and has become one of the most important racers of all-time with a record number of Poles (62). He is also the fourth driver in the all-time list for victories in the premier class (41) and third in line for the most podium finishes (99).

FranAois ThiÉbaud, President of Tissot, has also expressed his enthusiasm: "We are very pleased to welcome Jorge Lorenzo to the Tissot family. His passion, his courage and fighting spirit fit with the values of Tissot perfectly. Our commitment to the world of MotoGPTM and to our role as Official Timekeeper is strengthened by our alliances with great athletes. It is an honour for us to welcome the three-time World Champion in our family today."

"It is an honour for me that Tissot, such a prestigious brand with so much history in motorcycling, entrusts me with the role of ambassador. Tissot plays crucial role in the races and sets the pace in MotoGPTM. Now, I would like to return the favour and trust with victories and maximum precision on the track." Says Jorge Lorenzo.

A champion who joins the great Tissot family of MotoGPTM ambassadors: Stefan Bradl, Thomas L,thi, Tito Rabat and Bradley Smith. Welcome!

Jazz fest's last day kicks off after storm cancels some sets

The last day of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival kicked off yesterday under grey skies again, a day after a deluge whipped through the area and rained out closing acts.

Organizers honored tickets yesterday for those who were rained out Saturday. Stevie Wonder, who was supposed to close the Acura Stage Saturday, gave an impromptu performance in a New Orleans nightclub instead on Saturday evening.

Some of the acts were singer Lena Prima; jazz patriarch Ellis Marsalis; the Isley Brothers; gospel singer Mavis Staples; and Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue.

Prima has an interview on one of the festival's 12 stages and a performance 2 1/2 hours later on another, with the Lena Prima Band. In an interview ahead of the festival, she said she most likely won't be in the audience at other performances ahead of her own. "I like to conserve my energy so I can do the best show I can."

Earlier days featured the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Steely Dan, Pearl Jam, Boz Scaggs, R&B crooner Maxwell and Van Morrison.

Prima's show includes both songs she's written (mostly with her husband, bassist Tim Fahey, or with singer-songwriter Ingrid Lucia) and songs written or made popular by her father, whose many hits included "Sing, Sing, Sing," "Jump, Jive an' Wail," and "A Sunday Kind of Love." Her own songs embrace many genres, including reggae, country, rock, and New Orleans sound, sometimes with a gospel vibe. Her father's music is also hard to classify, she said. Louis Prima, who voiced the orangutan King Louie for the 1967 Disney animation of "The Jungle Book," moved from New Orleans jazz to swing, big band, a Las Vegas lounge act, and a pop-rock band.

Prima said she's always loved her father's music. She also loved his stories about growing up in New Orleans, which included running after Louis Armstrong's band as it drove around town on a flatbed truck, playing to publicize appearances. She grew up mostly in Las Vegas, with intermittent stints in New Orleans and in suburban Covington, where he owned a golf course. "I was star-struck by him my whole childhood - how he talked to people, how he treated people, how he was on stage," she said. Surgery to remove a non-cancerous but large brain tumor left her



NEW ORLEANS: The Acura Stage area is flooded after a storm dumped several inches of rain on the New Orleans Jazz Fest at the Fair Grounds, on Saturday.—AP

father in a coma in 1975. She was 7. He died three years later, still in a coma.

At 18, Lena Prima was fronting a heavy metal band. Working two or three day jobs and singing at clubs at night was exhausting, and heavy metal gave way to grunge. Prima's best high school friend was singing in Las Vegas casinos with cover bands and suggested she try it.

It was a hard decision, she said, but she eventually took her friend's advice and enjoyed full-time singing: "Three, four, five sets a night. It was hard but great."

After 10 years, she put her own show together. She'd been featuring a few of her father's songs, and found fans coming up afterward to talk about him. In 2000, the tribute

became the show.

Prima played the 2010 Jazz Fest and was entranced by the city's passion for music and musicians' support for each other. "People go to New Orleans for music. They don't do that in Vegas anymore," she said.

She and Fahey moved around Christmas 2011. During the move, they got a call from the Monteleone hotel, which was opening a lounge and asked if she'd like to open it in January. They have a standing Friday date. "From the moment I went up there and sang that first song with that band, I felt ... 'Ahhhh.' I felt great," she said.—AP



Newt Gingrich: Reagan Movie Would Work if it Was Like 'The Notebook'

"I'm delighted that Ferrell had the good sense to figure out this is a dead loser," former speaker of the house Newt Gingrich told Variety Saturday night at a party before White House Correspondents Dinner, responding to the news that Will Ferrell had pulled out of a the Black List script "Reagan."

"I hope the people who want to do the movie just drop it," Gingrich was quick to oppose Ferrell playing the late president, and tweeted an open letter from Patti Davis, Reagan's daughter, to his 1.5 million followers on Friday.

"I think the very premise is idiotic and despicable," Gingrich said. "I like Will Ferrell. I think he is a very funny guy, but I think this would have been an absolute disaster for his career."

The script, optioned by Ferrell's production company, centers on the conceit that Reagan had no idea what he was doing during his second term, and in it makes mistakes like thinking Mikhail Gorbachev is Ernest Borgnine. But, Newt

does think a Reagan movie would work, if it were not a comedy, but rather a love story in the vein of "The Notebook," the 2004 film that touches on the subject of dementia.

"The Notebook" deals with the real sense of the human tragedy, and at the same time of the opportunity for loving," Gingrich said. "I'm almost crying talking to you about it. It is so real. I've probably seen it seven times."

But in Gingrich's vision the film should be built around Nancy Reagan, who died earlier this year, and her experience caring for her husband. "Nancy has the really complicated role," Gingrich said. "She talked to me about this one time. He looks totally normal but he is not there, and she is having to go through the whole process—they are building the library, they are trying to make sure they are preserving his legacy, and she is really at the intersection. Ronnie is not."

Gingrich even volunteered his consulting services on the script. —Reuters

Actor Woody Harrelson's application to open pot business in Hawaii fails

Oscar-nominated actor Woody Harrelson's bid to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Hawaii was rejected on Friday, as the state approved eight of more than 60 applicants, officials said.

Harrelson, who is best known for his roles in the film "White Men Can't Jump" and 1980s sitcom "Cheers," had applied for a license on behalf of his company Simple Organic Living LLC.

The actor, who for more than a decade has spoken in favor of pot and is on the advisory board of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, made national headlines earlier this year when his application became public.

The Hawaii Department of Health on Friday released a list of approved applicants, with three in Honolulu on the island of Oahu, two on the Big Island, two on Maui and one on Kauai.

Harrelson's business was not on the approved list, and a statement from the department did not specifically say why the actor's application was denied. The Hawaii

legislature last year approved the creation of medical marijuana dispensaries. More than 20 US states and the District of Columbia allow medical marijuana and four of those states also allow recreational pot use, but the drug is banned under federal law.—Reuters



LOS ANGELES: Woody Harrelson poses at the premiere of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" on November 16, 2015.—AFP



HAVANA: Youths perform in front of a Cuban flag beamed on a giant screen, before the May Day parade at Revolution Square yesterday.—AP

Prince fought throat, stomach pains recently Says longtime chef

On stage, Prince was still captivating audiences at recent performances in Australia and California. He hosted a pop-up party at his Paisley Park studio, and there were few outward signs in his final months that anything was wrong.

But off stage, something was different. Prince began wanting meals that were easier to digest and was fighting off waves of sore throats and frequent upset stomachs, the musician's personal chef told The Associated Press.

A law enforcement official has told the AP that investi-



Chef Ray Roberts, who runs multiple Peoples Organic restaurants with his wife in the Twin Cities, prepares meals at his Edina, Minn., location.—AP

gators are looking into whether Prince, who was found dead at his home on April 21, died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks beforehand. The official has been briefed on the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Ray Roberts, who cooked for Prince nearly every day for almost three years, said in an interview that wasn't the man he saw nearly every night, "not even a hint. Not at all." But Roberts did start noticing changes in Prince's diet - he was eating less and drinking less water, and looked like he was losing weight. "It felt like he wasn't himself probably the last month or two," Roberts said. "I think he was just struggling with being sick a lot."

Prince, who didn't eat meat, normally loved foods like roasted beets and minestrone soup with a harissa chermoula, an herb sauce from North Africa. In recent months, Roberts said, as Prince would have sore throats or seem like he wasn't feeling well for "weeks at a time," he would prefer smoothies and fresh juices to soothe his throat or stomach.

Stomach and throat ailments aren't unusual in a stubbornly cold Minnesota winter, and to the public, there was little to suggest something was amiss.

Since Prince's death, fans who saw him recently have talked about his energy and his mesmerizing performances with just a microphone and a piano. Many who saw his final public appearance at Paisley Park only days before he died said he may have seemed more tired - one person who was at one of his last shows in Atlanta said his speaking voice was weak at times - but overall he was not changed.

"He seemed fine. He looked normal and he had this kind of energetic glow that he always had," said Lars Larson, a Minneapolis man who often worked at Paisley Park for Prince's parties. Even in private, Roberts said, Prince would soldier through and work. "It was amazing. I don't think I ever saw him really looking bad ever. He was always on

point," he said. Roberts and his wife began cooking for Prince in 2013 after an informal tryst with several other chefs, and he made all his meals for the musician in the restaurant-grade kitchen at Paisley Park.

Most of the time, Roberts would make light salads and soups he said Prince particularly liked the roasted beets as well as a pesto broccolini dish. When Prince was gearing up for more shows and wanted to be more active, Roberts would scale back the sweets.

As for meat, there was none of it. "I don't know if it was just an unwritten rule, but there was no meat there - ever," he said. "If somebody wanted to eat meat, they would have to eat it in the parking lot. And he was very serious about this." Roberts saw Prince nearly every day. He cooked for him every day except Sunday - and sometimes even then. Combined with the four Peoples Organic restaurants he and his wife run in the Twin Cities, Roberts said he was working about 100 hours a week, with his schedule tightly tethered to Prince's. The musician would even bring Roberts and his wife on tour around the country at times to cook for him.

Still, Roberts said it was a dream job and he relished the opportunity to listen to Prince practice and jam with other famous musicians, never knowing who he would be cooking for next. He said Prince had a "higher purpose" and that while he could be a joker or even cocky, most of the time he was a "caring, thoughtful person" who apologized if he was running late and considered his employees family.

"I wish he was still here," he said, wiping away a tear. "That's what it boils down to."

Roberts last saw Prince the evening before the musician was found dead at Paisley Park. He cooked Prince a roasted red pepper bisque with a kale and spring vegetable salad. But Prince never ate it. When he returned to the musician's studio home for his memorial service a few days later, Roberts found it in the refrigerator - just as he'd left it.—AP

Director Zhang Wei on the Challenges of Making China's First Transgender-themed Film

Chinese entrepreneur-turned-director Zhang Wei is becoming known for naturalistic portrayals of the marginalized in China's rapidly changing society, including "Factory Boss," about a factory owner who desperately takes on low margin jobs from Western conglomerates to keep his business afloat, and "Destiny" ("Xi He") the tale of an autistic boy's struggle to get an education. "Boss" won the best actor prize for actor Yao Anlian at the 2014 Montreal World Film Festival.

Zhang has just announced that he will shoot what is being touted as the first feature film from his country focusing on the difficulties of transgender people there. Titled "Rib," it will depict a teen born into a devoutly Christian family in the Zhejiang province whose mother becomes deeply destabilized when she discovers he wants to transition from male to female, according to a statement. In the ensuing conflict they overcome their differences and both face the rife prejudice against the local underground LGBT community.

Transgender issues are increasingly surfacing in China. The country's first transgender job discrimination case was widely reported earlier this month. Being transgender is still classified as a mental illness in the country. But there are also reportedly indications of slowly shifting attitudes. These include the country's most famous sexologist, Li Yinhe, announcing last year that her longtime husband was born female - and underlining that she considers herself heterosexual - and the stellar success of male-to-female transsexual dancer Jin Xing on mainstream TV.

While attending the Far East Festival in Udine, Italy, Zhang Wei spoke to Variety about the challenges of treading new cinematic ground in China's censored but changing film industry.

Your film "Destiny" depicts the difficulties of a family contending with autism in the city of Shenzhen, which is a symbol of the Chinese economic miracle. What drew you to the subject matter?

I was inspired by several news items published in 2012; I was really touched by them. But that aside, in all my movies I try to explore fate, or "Destiny," as the film is titled. In this film there is a mother of a mildly autistic child who also has an acutely autistic brother, so she cannot escape the destiny of her family's DNA. There are things we have no control over, and autism is one of them.

Have there been any other movies about autism made in China?

Yes, there is one made in 2010 titled "Ocean Heaven" [starring martial arts superstar Jet Li as a terminally ill father grooming his autistic son to survive on his own] but the angle in "Destiny" is completely different.—Reuters

From Clooney to Spielberg, 5 Big Questions About Summer Box Office

Summer doesn't officially start until June 21, but the movie business operates on its own calendar. The foreign release of "Captain America: Civil War" this weekend and its domestic debut in five days kicks off Hollywood's busiest season and signals that it's popcorn movie time again.

The next four months will bring sequels aplenty, costumed vigilantes, and the destruction of several major cities. If movie studios have gamed out their major releases correctly, then they stand to profit handsomely from new Avengers, X-Men, Ghostbusters, and Star Trek installments. If not, they could be left holding a "R.I.P.D."

Here are five burning questions that audiences will help answer at the multiplexes this summer.

Does star power still matter?

George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Matthew McConaughey and Ryan Gosling are just a few of the A-listers who are betting that their names above the

title still mean something. They are putting their clout on the line to try to attract audiences to films that are more challenging, provocative or just plain scragglier than comic-book movies and sequels.

"Money Monster," the financial thriller with Clooney and Roberts, feels like a throwback to '90s era hits such as "Conspiracy Theory" or "Clear and Present Danger." "The Nice Guys," a violent action-comedy with Gosling and Russell Crowe, overflows with dark jokes and '70s pornstaches, but will have to duke it out with "The Angry Birds Movie" and the "Neighbors" sequel. Meryl Streep will attempt to find the funny in opera with "Florence Foster Jenkins." Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson will try to put a fresh spin on the buddy cop genre with "Central Intelligence." And McConaughey has perhaps the toughest challenge of all-trying to convince audiences accustomed to slick, diverting fare to revisit the Civil War with "Free State of Jones." If the bets pay off, then these stars will justify the millions it takes to land them. If not, expect

questions to be asked about their commercial appeal.

Is there an animated film pile-up?

With four major animated releases all slated to hit theaters over the next four months-Disney/Pixar's "Finding Dory," Fox/Blue Sky's "Ice Age: Collision Course," Universal/Illumination's "The Secret Life of Pets" and Sony's "The Angry Birds Movie" — there certainly are signs of a potential traffic jam.

It's not usually this congested. Last summer only fielded two major animated films, "Inside Out" and "Minions," and the summer before was a virtual desert for animated fare with "How to Train Your Dragon 2" and "Planes: Fire and Rescue" (a C-grade Disney offering) serving as the genre's representatives. It's a sign of how competitive the space is becoming, as more studios invest in animated fare. At some point, is there a limit on how many movies families are willing to shell out to see in theaters?—Reuters