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UN envoy optimistic as Yemen talks continue

'Difficult matters' remain unresolved

KUWAIT: The UN special envoy to Yemen said yesterday he is optimistic about achieving a peaceful settlement in the war-torn country, but admitted "difficult matters" remain unresolved. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said some progress had been achieved in the talks which began on April 21. "Now, we have an opportunity to reach a peaceful settlement... the progress we have made on some points makes us optimistic," he told a news conference. "But there remains some difficult matters... the problem is reaching a clear political agreement."

But the envoy declined to provide details on the progress made other than an agreement in principle to free 50 percent of prisoners and detainees before the start of the fasting month of Ramadan in the first week of June. There has been mounting international pressure to end the Yemen conflict, which the United Nations estimates has killed more than 6,400 people and displaced 2.8 million since March last year. The talks pit the Iran-backed Houthi militia and their allies of forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh against the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed

UN Security Council Resolution 2216, issued more than a year ago, orders the Houthi rebels to pull out of territory they occupied in a 2014 offensive and surrender heavy arms they captured.

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Palestinians mark Nakba with sirens, marches

RAMALLAH: Palestinians yesterday marked the anniversary of their uprooting almost seven decades ago with sirens and low-key marches. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were driven out in the Mideast war over Israel's 1948 creation. The refugees and their descendants now number several million and most still live in the region.

Sirens wailed for 68 seconds yesterday in the West Bank to mark the passing of 68 years since what Palestinians call their "nakba" or catastrophe. Cars stopped and pedestrians stood still in the cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem during the commemoration. Marchers used keys and other props to symbolize their demand to return to what is now Israel. Israel says it will never accept a "right of return," arguing it would threaten the state by diluting its Jewish majority.

Separately, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced yesterday a Tehran anti-Israel cartoon contest themed around the Holocaust, accusing Iran of denying and belittling it as well as "preparing another Holocaust". The exhibition, totaling 150 entries from 50 countries, with many entries deriding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government's Middle East policies, opened Saturday in Tehran.

"Over the weekend Iran convened a special Holocaust-denial cartoon contest," Netanyahu said at the beginning of his weekly cabinet meeting. "We raise this here because it must be understood what our problem with Iran is," he said. "It is not just its policy of subversion and aggression in the region; it is the values on which it is based. It denies and belittles the Holocaust and it is also preparing another Holocaust." — Agencies

RAMALLAH: Palestinians act in a play enacting the 'Nakba' or Catastrophe in this West Bank city yesterday. — AP

STOCKHOLM: Jamala, representing Ukraine with the song '1944', celebrates with the trophy after winning the Eurovision Song Contest 2016 grand finale on Saturday. — AFP

Russian officials bash Ukraine Eurovision win

MOSCOW: Russian lawmakers yesterday lashed out at arch-rival Ukraine's "political" victory in the Eurovision song contest, as pro-Kremlin media insisted Moscow's entrant was robbed. Ukrainian performer Jamala won the glitzy contest Saturday with her ballad "1944" about the deportation of the Crimean Tatars by Soviet authorities during World War II, in a performance widely seen as a swipe at Moscow over its annexation of the peninsula in 2014.

Russian singer Sergei Lazarev - the clear favorite with bookmakers before the contest - was beaten into third place after losing out on the national jury tallies despite claiming the most points from viewers in the public vote. It is not the first time the Eurovision Song Contest has raised political hackles though the rules leave no room for interpretation. "No lyrics, speeches, gestures of a political or similar nature shall be permitted," says the event's most sensitive rule.

"It was not the Ukrainian singer Jamala and her song 1944 that won the Eurovision 2016, it was politics that beat art," senator Frants Klintsevich told local news agencies, calling for Russia to possibly skip next year's tournament in Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine have been locked in a bitter feud since Moscow annexed Crimea in Feb 2014 and was then accused of fuelling a bloody separatist uprising in the east of the country. The crisis in Ukraine has pushed ties between Russia and the West to their lowest point since the end of the Cold War.

The head of the foreign affairs committee in Russia's upper chamber Konstantin Kochachev insisted that "according to the tally of points it was geopolitics that gained the upper hand". Kochachev said that the Eurovision victory could embolden Ukraine's pro-Western leadership and see an already stuttering peace process to end the conflict in the east jeopardized even further.

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Kerry in Saudi Arabia for talks

JEDDAH: US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday held talks with Saudi Arabia's King Salman about the conflicts in Syria, Libya and Yemen, ahead of international meetings this coming week in Europe on those crises. The visit by Kerry, who also held talks with the crown prince, deputy crown prince and foreign minister, comes at a critical time in efforts to rein in fighting and encourage political dialogue in all three countries, wracked by violence for years.

Kerry is trying to shore up the shaky truce in Syria that has been fraught with violations on both sides. While the US and its partners accuse President Bashar Al-Assad's government of the vast majority of breaches, they have acknowledged violations by the opposition. The situation has been further complicated by the intermingling of some Western and Arab-backed rebels with groups such as the Al-Qaeda affiliate, known as the Nusra Front, which the UN has designated a terrorist organization and therefore not covered by the truce. Saudi Arabia and the US have rejected attempts by Russia to get those rebels placed on the UN terrorist list.

Kerry was traveling later yesterday to Vienna where he planned to host, with Italy's foreign minister, talks on Libya today, and, with his Russian counterpart, meetings on Syria tomorrow.

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JEDDAH: US Secretary of State John Kerry (left) meets Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz yesterday in this Red Sea city. — AFP

Duterte vows to kill criminals

DAVAO: Philippines' President-elect Rodrigo Duterte poses for selfies with supporters after speaking to the media for the first time since he claimed victory in the presidential election, at a restaurant in this city on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. — AFP

DAVAO: Philippines' president-elect Rodrigo Duterte vowed yesterday to reintroduce capital punishment and give security forces "shoot-to-kill" orders. In his first press conference since winning the May 9 elections in a landslide, the tough-talking mayor of southern Davao city warned his constant campaign threats to kill were not rhetoric. "What I will do is urge Congress to restore death penalty by hanging," Duterte told a press conference in the southern city of Davao.

He also said he would give security forces "shoot-to-kill" orders against organized criminals or those who violently resisted arrest. "If you resist, show violent resistance, my order to police (will be) to shoot to kill. Shoot to kill for organized crime. You heard that? Shoot to kill for every organized crime," he said. He added military sharpshooters would be enlisted in his campaign to kill criminals.

Duterte, 71, said he wanted capital punishment - which was abolished in 2006 under then-president Gloria Arroyo - to be reintroduced for a wide range of crimes, particularly drugs, but also rape, murder and robbery.

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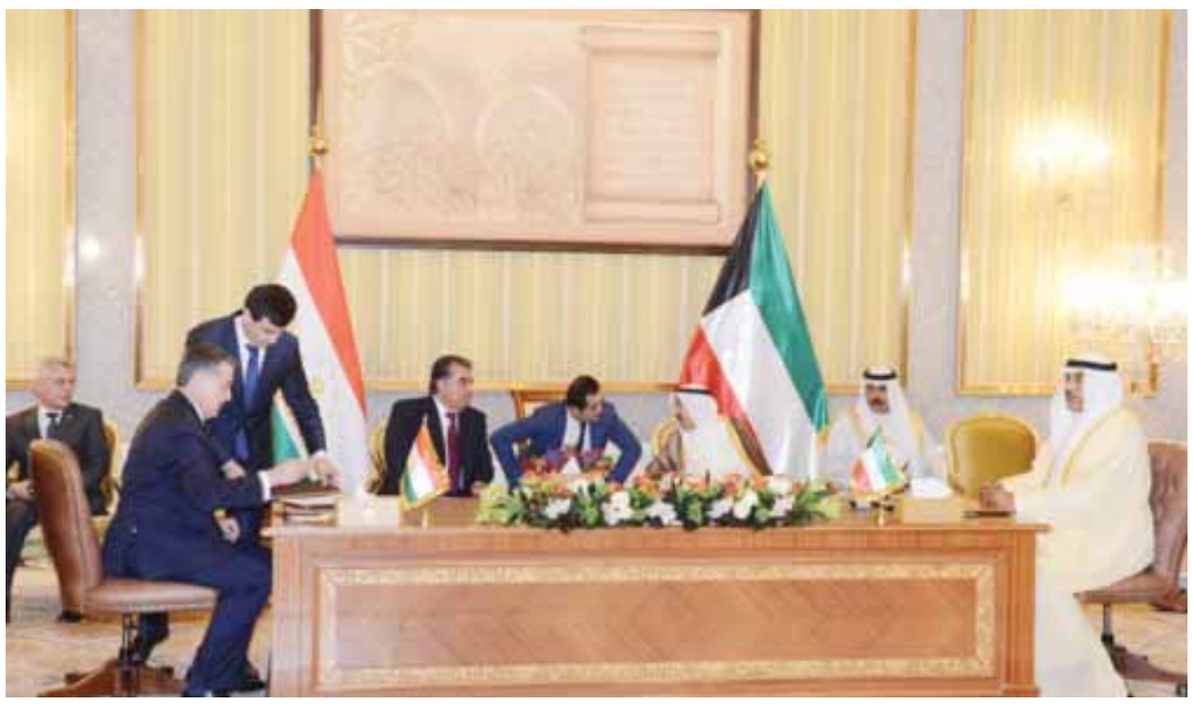
KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Tajik Foreign Minister Sirodjidin Aslov sign a memorandum of understanding on joint political consultations.

Kuwait, Tajikistan sign six joint agreements

KUWAIT: In the presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, a series of joint agreements were signed between Kuwait and Tajikistan yesterday. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on joint political consultations between both nations' foreign ministries was signed. First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah signed the MoU with Tajik Foreign Minister Sirodjidin Aslov.

Moreover, an agreement on security cooperation was signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Tajik Minister of National Security Saymumin Yatimov. Meanwhile, a MoU on education and scientific research was signed by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa and his Tajik counterpart Nuriddin Saeed.

Similarly, Minister of Communications and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari signed an agreement on aerial transportation with Tajik Minister of Transport Sherali Ganjalzoda.

An agreement on agricultural cooperation was also signed by both nations, as Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omair and Tajik Minister of Agriculture Mahmadtoir Zokirov were the signatories of that agreement.

A MoU was also signed between Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the government of Tajikistan. Director General of KFAED Dr Abdulwahab Al-Bader and Tajik Minister of Economic Development and Trade Nematullo Hikmatullozoda signed the MoU.

Official talks

Earlier, His Highness the Amir and President Rahmon held official talks at Bayan Palace, in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, as well as several senior Kuwaiti officials and the Tajik president's accompanying delegation were present in the talks.

During the talks, both sides discussed bilateral relations between both countries and friendly peoples, and ways of promoting and developing them in various fields for the common interests of both countries, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said. The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere that reflected understanding, friendship and willingness to promote existing cooperation in all fields.

President Rahmon arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a three-day official visit. He was received at Kuwait International Airport by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of Oil Dr Anas Al-Saleh, in addition to senior officials of the state, army, police, and Kuwait National Guard (KNG). Later, President Rahmon met Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah at his residence in Bayan Palace. Head of the honorary delegation, Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Daifallah Sharar attended the meetings.

Joint committee

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Zubaydullo Zubaydov said earlier that the Kuwaiti-Tajik joint committee will discuss means of boosting cooperation during its meeting at the end of 2016. President Rahmon's visit to Kuwait is part of the strong political ties shared between the two countries since 1995. It will also develop relations on all levels, the ambassador said in an interview published by Al-Qabas newspaper yesterday. He noted that the Tajikistan Embassy is providing Kuwaitis with facilitations in receiving visas, adding that they can also get their entry permits upon arrival in Tajikistan's airports.

Zubaydov mentioned his country's economic cooperation with Kuwait through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, adding that Tajikistan has seen some prominent improvements in the field. The country's GDP was recorded at seven percent annually with a drop in poverty rate from 53 percent to 36 percent in 2015, he said. Tajikistan also built hundreds of educational and health institutions as well as developing infrastructure, he added.

Furthermore, Zubaydov spoke of the recent launch of the CASA-1000 project to provide transmission lines to move electricity at high voltages from Central Asia to South Asia. The project will create job opportunities, face the lack of electricity in the South Asia region and develop trade, he explained. Meanwhile, the ambassador said Tajikistan is exerting huge efforts to cooperate with the international community in facing the growing threat of terrorism. — KUNA

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Tajik Minister of National Security Saymumin Yatimov sign an agreement on security cooperation.

Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa and his Tajik counterpart Nuriddin Saeed sign a MoU on education and scientific research.

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Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omair and Tajik Minister of Agriculture Mahmadtoir Zokirov sign an agreement on agricultural cooperation.

Amir receives invitation for Arab Summit

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter from President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, inviting His Highness to attend the 27th Arab Summit to be held in the capital Nouakchott from July 25-26. The letter was handed to His Highness by Mauritania's Minister of Islamic Affairs and Original Education Ahmed Ould Ehil Daoud at Bayan Palace yesterday. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah attended the meeting.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem as well as the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, as well as Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abaduallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir expressed in a cable sent to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayid Al-Nahayan yesterday his condolences over the demise of two military pilots after their plane crashed during training. In his cable, His Highness the Amir also offered his condolences and sympathy to the families of the two pilots. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter from President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, inviting His Highness to attend the 27th Arab Summit. — Amiri Diwan photo

Kuwaiti Minister urges joint Arab youth activities

CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday it is imperative to promote joint Arab youth activities and future orientations.

In a keynote speech during a youth campaign entitled: 'No to Violence, No to Extremism, No to Terrorism,' the minister, who is the chairman of the 38th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, said Arab young people face various challenges at present, primarily violence, extremism and terrorism.

In this context, he called on concerned officials to provide necessary protection to young people by means of organizing programs, activities and projects backed by mechanisms having positive influence on young people's behaviors, values and principles through favorite educational and human methods.

Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah

Launching high-level educational, media and steering campaigns is of paramount significance to the promotion of Arab youth activities and future orientations, the minister said. He added that during its previous session, the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports had been resolved to overhaul mechanisms of action so as to cope with swift world changes in the youth and sports domain by carrying out a set of youth and sports activities focusing on young people's key issues and needs. He noted that the council had compiled a draft guidebook for the youth media campaign 'No to Violence, No to Extremism, No to Terrorism.'

Sheikh Salman emphasized that protection should be provided to Arab young people, especially as a recent UN report showed a drop in human development levels as a result of security circumstances and wars in the Middle East. The minister hoped that the council, in its 39th session, would play a great role in promoting communication and amity among Arab youth and athletes and wiping out obstacles and problems they face. — KUNA

Deputy FM optimistic of Yemeni peace talks' outcome

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah was optimistic of the Yemeni peace talks' outcome. "I am convinced that the Yemeni warring parties will reach positive results that would put an end to a long struggle," Jarallah told the press yesterday at the opening of Comoro Islands' embassy in Kuwait. He hoped that the talks would reach a definite solution soon that would secure peace and stability in Yemen. Yesterday's meeting attempted to bring views closer and tackles top issues on security and political fronts. UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed supervised the meeting.

Meanwhile, Jarallah said Kuwait cannot exert influence or pressure on other states' football federations, regretting the recent negative vote against Kuwait over the country's sports suspension.

Al-Jarallah was replying to a question by reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony, about the vote of over 170 FIFA member states against the resumption of Kuwaiti sports activities, including countries which get loans and aid from Kuwait. "We respect the soccer federations of these countries. It is not an official vote of the states. We can by no means exert interference, influence or pressure on any state's federation," he said. Jarallah urged the football federations of world countries to believe in the significance of lifting this freeze imposed on Kuwait's international sports activities, emphasizing that Kuwait needs to reverse its approach in this regard.

Social occasion

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti official deplored the 'social occasion' which tackled the issue of Iran's Ahvaz City, reiterating Kuwait's respect of the states' sovereignty and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Replying another question on the summoning of the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Iran, he said: "We regrettably monitored this matter and we confirm Kuwait's commitment to the principles of politics, respects of the State's sovereignty, non-interference in their domestic affairs and good-neighborliness."

"It is neither logical nor reasonable for the State of Kuwait to be accused of interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Kuwaiti position in this regard is obvious," he noted. Dismissing any knowledge about this social occasion, he said: "Kuwait has clarified its position to the friends in Iran via diplomatic channels. We noticed Iran's understanding in this regard."

Separately, Jarallah dismissed reports that disputed areas between Japan and China were mentioned in a Kuwaiti-Japanese joint statement issued following recent bilateral talks in Tokyo. He said that a Japanese newspaper had carried reports in this regard, citing a Japanese official's statement. "We do not care about such statements or hints from anywhere." He reiterated Kuwait's commitment to the Kuwaiti-Japanese joint statement, and to the declaration of Doha Forum in this regard, which included nothing negative against China. Jarallah added that China is involved in discussions in East Asia, including sea or land affairs, just out of its consultations with concerned parties in line with the UN principles and charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Close ties

Comorian Foreign Minister Dr Abdulkarim Mohammad extolled his country's "firm and close" ties with Kuwait on Sunday, saying relations between both nations continue to flourish. In a speech to mark the opening of the Comorian embassy in Kuwait, Mohammad said that "the opening of the embassy is a testament to cooperation between both countries in a myriad of fields." Moreover, Mohammad also thanked Kuwait's foreign ministry's "exemplary efforts" of facilitating the opening of the embassy.

In the meantime, Jarallah described ties between both nations as "historic and excellent," adding that he hopes the opening of the embassy would serve to bolster those ties. Comorian diplomat and advisor at the embassy Abu Bakr Barhan noted that the countries have always been inextricably linked, adding that "both sides aspire to further develop their relations." — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Comorian Foreign Minister officially open the Comoro Islands' embassy in Kuwait.

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Hind Al-Subaih (left) speaks during the Municipal Council's reform and development committee meeting yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Delay of development projects fault of executors: Minister

Many government projects moving forward

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Hind Al-Subaih said that more than 70 percent of the delay in planned development projects was due to executors rather than monitoring bodies. Speaking at the Municipal Council's reform and development committee meeting Subaih noted that more than half of the projects discussed were completed. She said that the government had faced very limited obstacles but she hoped delay rates would be at zero soon.

Land not allocated

Subaih explained that some projects had faced problems because no land had yet been allocated for it. Thus it was decided that no future projects would be included in Kuwait's development plans until land was allocated. Subaih also explained that some projects had been delayed for more than 15 years due to contingent changes in budgets, conditions or other basic elements. Commenting on the issue of accountability for those responsible for the delays, Subaih stressed that as a minister herself, she works with officials under her supervision and that other bodies and ministries report those officials to the cabinet to take proper measures against them.

Overcoming obstacles

Dr Khaled Mahdi, the Supreme Planning and Development Council Secretary General, praised the cooperation shown by government bodies in overcoming various obstacles hindering development projects.

Also speaking on the meeting, Ahmad Al-Manfouhi, Kuwait Municipality Director, stressed that holding the municipal council's reform and development workshop reflects cooperation amongst various government bodies. Manfouhi added that municipality teams had worked during and outside official working hours to overcome all obstacles and that all government bodies were satisfied especially since some projects had been delayed since 2001.

Further, Manfouhi added some projects had been delayed because of some other government bodies and stressed that, so far, no municipality officials would be dismissed because of the delay, especially since the cabinet closely follows up the performance of officials in various government bodies.

Osama Al-Otaibi, head of the Municipal Council's reform and development committee, said that this was the third workshop held on the state's development projects. He added that the first workshop discussed 30 projects that were followed up in the second workshop while the third workshop was dedicated to discussing five projects. Otaibi also urged all government bodies to cooperate and combine efforts to facilitate the execution of all development projects as scheduled. The meeting was attended by government bodies executing the development plan projects, planning and municipality officials.

Select Major Development Projects underway

•Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway: Under construction with phase two already begun. Estimated cost KD 2.1 billion. It will create a causeway linkage from Doha to Subbiya.

• Jahra Road Renovation: Cost estimated at KD 750 million. Renovation of the entire Jahra Road with added junctions. Under construction.

• Boubiyan Island: Boubiyan Island Seaport Project involves design and construction of a 33km dual three-lane carriageway linking the new Boubyan Seaport on the east coast of Boubyan Island with the Subiyan-Iraq Road on Kuwait mainland. The 530 km≤ island on the Gulf - close to the southern Iraq port of Umm Qaser - is separated from the mainland by the Subbiya Channel.

• Kuwait Metro project: Expected to cost more than KD 6 billion, the metro project has yet to move beyond the planning stages. The metro is the first transport PPP (public private partnership) to be planned by the government.

• Al-Zour Refinery project: In June 2015, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), awarded Al-Zour to be built with a capacity of 615,000 barrels per day as one project within the KD 4 billion Clean Fuels Project that envisions upgrades to several refineries and other major oil facilities.

• Jaber Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Hospital - Due to open in the fall, the 1,168-bed hospital is expected to be designated as Kuwaiti-only. A new hospital in Jahra is also under construction along with several upgrades to other existing medical facilities around the country.

Photo of the day

KUWAIT: A picture of Salmiya's beach shows the Arabian Gulf's blue waters as Kuwait City's skyline can be seen in the background. — KUNA

Oil unionists questioned, released without bail

Charged with organizing illegal strike

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The public prosecution yesterday released without bail oil sector union leaders Salah Al-Marzouq and Saif Al-Qahtani, who were interrogated over charges of organizing an illegal strike that was damaging to Kuwait's economy. On the first day of the strike that took place April 18th, the government decided to refer the organizers to prosecution and take strict administrative measures against employees involved in harming state interests.

Separately, the criminal court yesterday decided to refer a citizen accused of deliberately driving into a security checkpoint during the national day celebrations for psychiatric examination to determine his mental state, as requested by the defendant's lawyer.

Notably, the defendant, who had previously confessed to committing his crime, had driven his vehicle into the checkpoint, hitting six security agents, killing one of them and injuring the others. During interrogations, the suspect had professed IS ideology.

The criminal court also postponed hearing another state security case filed against a citizen accused of burning his citizenship papers in a video circulated over social media networks because the suspect was not summoned to court from the central prison.

The Palace of Justice

KNPC's budget

Chairman of the parliament's budgets and final statement committee Adnan Abdulsamad said that the committee discussed Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) 2016-2017 budget and discovered that the number of remarks made by the Audit Bureau increased from 60 to 91, that the company's three refineries were still suffering losses that increased by 250 percent (KD 484 million) compared to the last statement due to maintenance and repeated operational problems. Abdulsamad also pointed out that the Audit Bureau's report showed a decline in progress made in the biofuel project to only 31 percent, though it is scheduled to be finished by the fiscal year 2018-2019.

He added that the report showed that Zour refinery project's cost increased by KD 871 million to push the total cost to KD 4.8 billion because of the delay in offering the project for bidding. "The report says that only 11 percent of the project that is due to be finished by 2020-2021 is complete," he added, noting that schedules of both projects must be respected.

Admission strategies

Minister of Education Bader Al-Essa said Kuwait University's council would convene before the holy month of Ramadan to set the strategies of admission for the coming academic year 2016-2017. He added that the meeting would also discuss admission rules at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

Used tires

Chairman of the Municipal Council Muhalhel Al-Khaled stressed that used tires were still being dumped in Rehayya, which has been allocated by the municipal council to build a residential city, though the municipality had promised to remove the tires over three years earlier. "Over 2,000 tires are still being dumped monthly in that area and it is still considered a time bomb if a fire breaks out there," he warned, noting that such a fire would result in the worst environmental crisis in Kuwait's history. Khaled also warned of serious violations committed in the West Sulaibikhat residential project and stressed that both the government and housing ministry have kept silent about those violations.

Soda tax

The unified tax system's team at Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) requested increasing selective taxes on carbonated drinks by 100 percent. The new tax would include all carbonated drinks sold in GCC countries that contain five grams of sugar in every 100 milligrams. GCC's commercial cooperation committee had recently discussed collecting taxes from products that contain certain percentages of sugar and salt.

Legalese

New cybercrime law

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Society has changed considerably over the last 10 years in many different ways, and I think it is safe to say that the Internet is one of the primary causes for the changes in the way we live our lives now. Communication has changed our lives positively in many ways - we can meet people easily, we are more likely to find out about events, order our favorite foods, get into long distance relationships, travel and so on, but as expected, with the change of lifestyle, new issues have arisen and questions are left unanswered in the legal world.

Do bloggers have the 'freedom of speech' to blog their opinion about restaurants, even if they did not enjoy their experience, or would that be considered defamation? Do we have the right to share pictures that were posted on social media accounts? And the questions go on.

New law

Question: I heard there are no laws in Kuwait that regulate crimes online. Is this true?

Fajer: For the longest time, Kuwait had no Internet law, but a new law was written by professionals as issues arising from Internet usage started growing in Kuwait. Even though there was no "cybercrime law" until 2015, I must make it clear that a lot of acts were still a crime online even if the law was not available. Let me give an example: Defamation (swearing) online. There was no law that made swearing online a crime, but there was and still is a law that makes swearing a crime regardless if it is in person or via a social media platform, and therefore the person swearing will still be punished!

Question: Is it true that because of the new cybercrime law, I have to be very careful with what I say online, as there is no freedom of speech online anymore?

Fajer: The new cybercrime law has a very wide application - in other words, it can be used on many platforms as it states that it is implemented on any 'information network' or any 'information technology.' The new law also imposes penalties of up to a year in prison or a KD 20,000 fine for any defamation against the Prophet (PBUH), Islam, God, the Holy Quran, companions of the Prophet (PBUH) or members of the Prophet's (PBUH) family. Also, it criminalizes any religious hate speech that constitutes discrimination or violence, regardless of the religion.

The new cybercrime law also extends the application of an older law - the press and publications law - to include blogs under the crimes stated in the law. It also prohibits Internet users from causing harm to relationships between Kuwait and other Arab countries. The law might initially seem to be strict, but in reality, it only aims to protect society and its values, as well as individuals who may be attacked or harmed online. People in Kuwait still enjoy a fairly high freedom of speech in comparison to our neighboring countries.

Defamation

Question: What can I do if someone personally attacks me online, publishes my pictures, or does anything to harm me or my reputation online? I doubt there is much I can do as it is online and I do not even know who the user is.

Fajer: The law makes defamation a crime in its wide application that includes any statements that may harm a person, religion, a group of people and so on. I would also like to make it clear that you do not need to know the name or the physical address of the person causing you harm online in order for you to ask Kuwaiti officials to investigate - all you need is their user handle/email address and so on, and if the person is in Kuwait, they can find their IP address and location and track them down. There is a specialized department under the Ministry of Defense that has the capabilities of protecting users online.

Question: If I do not know who the person is who is causing me harm online, what can I do?

Fajer: My advice would be to capture/save any communication, whether it was stated to you or in public, as in a tweet or a Facebook post, email it to yourself and print it. You then have to go to the cybercrime department under the Ministry of Defense located in Salmiya across from the new Boulevard mall and speak to the professionals there. Also, I strongly advise that you do not try to track them, do not swear back at them or be defensive, as your wordings can constitute a crime as well.

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

KUWAIT: A scene from a pediatric surgery awareness day organized by Ibn Sina Hospital. — KUNA

Ibn Sina holds pediatric surgery awareness day

KUWAIT: Ibn Sina Hospital organized Saturday a pediatric surgery awareness day at Discovery Mall, in Kuwait city. Head of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Urology units Dr. Suad Abul said in a statement the event aims to educate the society on children's healthcare.

She added that many children and parents took part in day's activities which included lectures and sessions, noting that doctors and specialists replied to all questions and inquiries of the attendees.

Some topics on pediatric surgery and safety, and how to avoid harms as well as common cases of urology were discussed, she said. The event included presentation by specialists about the proper nutrition to help children avoid obesity and constipation, she pointed out. — KUNA

Undersecretary acknowledges officers' efforts to preserve security

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry (MoI) Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad acknowledged yesterday the efforts of security personnel to uphold security in the country. In a press statement, the MoI said that Lt Gen Fahad met with customs officials and security forces, to discuss ways to enhance security cooperation, particularly, methods to equip the country with the most modern hardware to stave off all hazards.

Moreover, customs officials underscored the need to equip the security apparatus with adequate needs to ensure the nation's security. A bevy of customs and MoI officials attended the meeting. — KUNA

Scientific Center announces registration for Summer program

KUWAIT: The Scientific Center announced opening registration for children wishing to subscribe for the 2016 Summer Voluntary Program. Registration starts at May 18th at 8:00 am and ends on May 24th at 1:00 pm, and is allowed for Kuwaiti children born in 1999, 2000 and 2001, Chairman Mejbel Al-Mutawa said. Registration can only be done online through Scientific Center's website at www.tsck.org.kw. The program itself, which the Scientific Center organizes for the 16th consecutive year, takes place from July 17th to September 3rd.

Maid steals KD 250,000 worth of gold

Firefighters tackle a blaze at an abandoned building in Hawally.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A security source said that a citizen told police that her daughter's domestic helper stole jewelry worth KD 250,000 and escaped. Police were unable to verify the claims because the complainant, who is a Kuwaiti actress, is currently outside of the country and has made the emergency call from abroad, said security sources.

Damage seen inside a Hawally apartment after a fire there was extinguished yesterday.

Separately, a team from the criminal evidence department went to the premises of a company contracted with Kuwait Oil Company and based in Subbiya to lift fingerprints that may lead to the arrest of suspects accused of theft. A company official told Subbiya police that four metal detectors were stolen on Thursday.

Security campaign

Weapons detectives launched a surprise inspection campaign in Dhahar in cooperation with the traffic department and general security police. The campaign resulted in the arrest of two citizens, one of them with 150 Captagon pills, while the other was drunk and found wanted on a KD 6,000 debt. A Filipino was arrested over a KD 500 debt. All were sent to concerned authorities.

No injuries in fires

Fire broke out in an abandoned Hawally building, prompting Hawally and Salmiya fire centers to respond. The building was littered with debris, tires and wood. The fire was put out before it could spread, and no injuries were reported. Similarly, firefighters tackled a blaze reported in a seventh floor apartment in Hawally yesterday. Separately, a fire broke out in a chicken farm in Wafra. Wafra fire and Nuwaiseeb centers responded and put out the blaze. No injuries were reported.

Police inspect drivers' papers during a security campaign in Dhahar.

A policeman inspects a car's trunk during the campaign.

DAR ES SALAAM: Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassim Al-Najem at the inauguration of a community project in Dar es Salaam. — KUNA

Tanzanian Health Minister lauds Kuwait's support

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzanian Minister of Health and Community Development Ummy Ally Mwalim yesterday lauded Kuwait's humanitarian efforts towards supporting needy families and alleviating their plight. Kuwait's embassy in the East African nation said that Mwalim made the remarks in a speech to initiate the inaugural community project in the city of Dar es Salaam, to which Kuwait has heavily contributed to.

Moreover, Mwalim valued Kuwait's persistent support of development projects in Tanzania, saying the projects have helped needy families to better cope with the cost of living. Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassim Al-Najem highlighted how the community project has improved the lives of the destitute. Kuwait's aid to Tanzania includes humanitarian, social, and economic assistance, designed to lift many needy families out of penury. — KUNA

Zain sheds light on efforts of Value Added Services partners

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently held the quarterly recognition event to shed light on the efforts of its outstanding authorized service providers for value added services (VAS) to highlight their performance during the first quarter of 2016.

Zain officials, along with VAS partners' representatives, were present during the ceremony, which the company organizes on a quarterly basis to highlight the efforts of its authorized partners, allowing them to compete fairly with one another and drive more efficiency when offering the best services and products to Zain customers who form Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers.

Zain recognized the performance of its outstanding VAS partners during the first quarter of 2016 as part of 'Al Awael' program to highlight their exceptional efforts. The recognition was based on several key indicators: 'One Global' ranked first in the lowest rate of complains, 'Numbase Limited' came first in Zain's VAS net revenue, 'Concept' came first in the best Technical Team, in addition to 'AiwaGulf' who ranked first in the overall performance. This event is held several times a year to recognize Zain's distinguished partners and service providers for their efforts, which reflect on Zain's competitive and excelling value added services that offers the company's customers with the best quality services in the country.

Zain partners are an integral part of Zain's extended family, playing a major role in the implementation of the company's business strategy. Zain considers its authorized partners an integral and crucial part of its overall success and a significant element of the company's leading position. Zain encourages VAS partners to maintain their performance and continue offering the best services and products to its customers.

GCC post officials discuss development plans

JEDDAH: Heads and undersecretaries of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) post service discussed during their 31st meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia yesterday future programs and plans to develop the post service field in the region. The meeting also discussed the executive list for the joint GCC law on regulating the works of post companies and institutions, assistant undersecretary for post department at Kuwait's Ministry of Communications Mojeb Al-Dousari said. The meeting's agenda also involved establishing a joint GCC post service company and a committee to monitor electronic trade, he added.

JEDDAH: Assistant undersecretary for post department at Kuwait's Ministry of Communications Mojeb Al-Dousari attends the meeting. — KUNA

Moreover, they discussed organizing exhibitions for postal stamps every two years and participating in different workshops and training courses for those working in the field, said Dousari.

On the sideline of the meeting, a GCC stamps exhibition kicked off yesterday to showcase postal stamps issued for special occasions by the Gulf states in the past few years.— KUNA

Al-Qabas

JUST A PHONE CALL

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

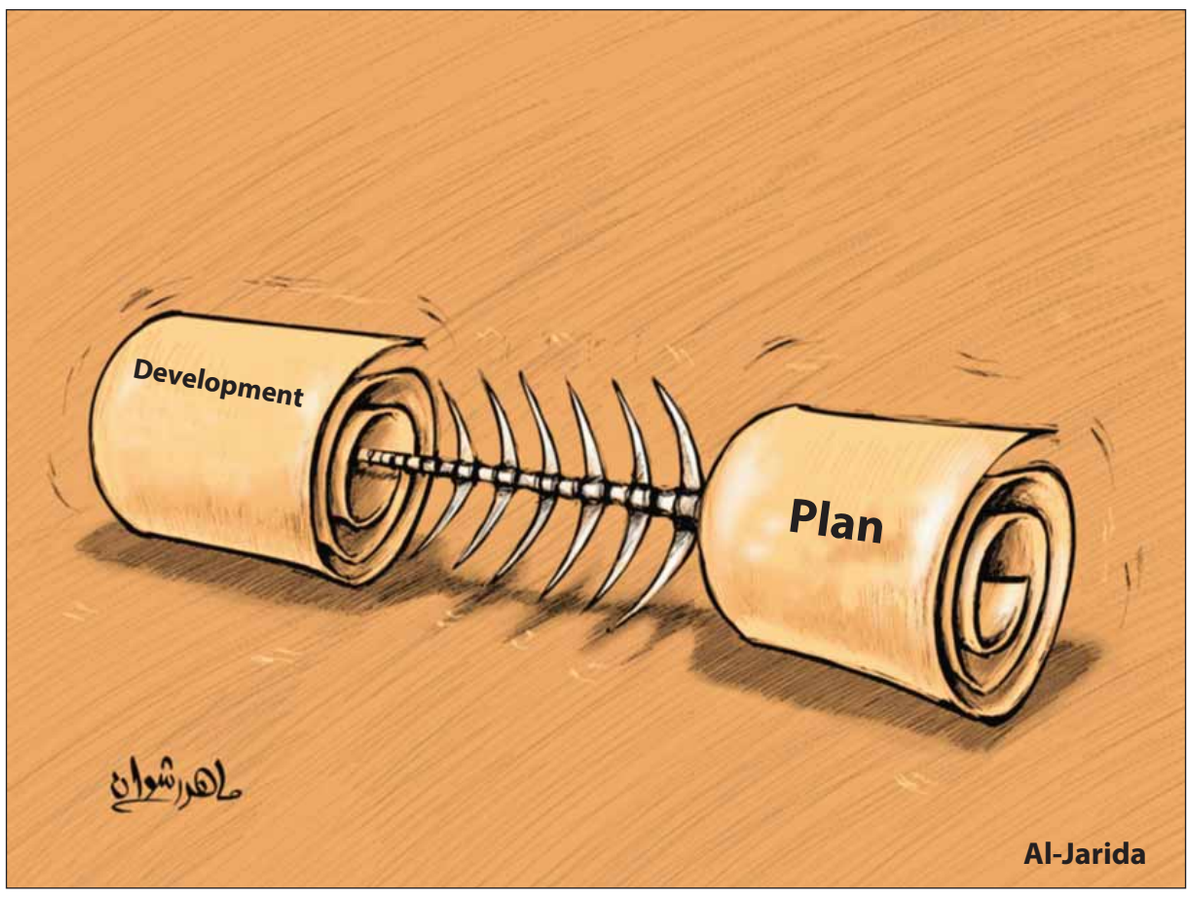
My friend Philip David, a well-known banker, advised me to take a strong drink after I suffered a stomach allergy due to cold, and this drink has the ability to remove any infections or microbes from the stomach. His advice was sound and the allergy disappeared the same day. I took the bottle of the medicine with me and left Geneva for Beirut, where I spent one night, and I got lazy and forgot to empty my bag. I then headed to Kuwait, and when I arrived, I remembered that I did not take that bottle out of my bag, and the customs inspector may think it is liquor and not a medicinal drink!

So I decided to speak to the head of the shift and explain to him the situation. After hearing my story and seeing my passport and age, as well as who I am, this man told me not to worry, and point to my bag when it goes through the x-ray machine. I did as he asked, so he got the bag and placed it on the table and asked me to open it. He almost emptied it of its contents and searched it very thoroughly including used shoes and dirty laundry, then took the half empty bottle and confiscated it.

He asked me if there were other things to declare, so I told him, while feeling sad, that I am not a smuggler or drug dealer, or a state funds or social security thief. I added he should continue searching. His hands kept moving from one angle to another, and when he did not find anything, he let me go.

One month later, I read in the newspapers that a ruling family member caused a problem at the airport when he insisted on taking liquor bottles he brought from abroad inside the country, as was reported, and how it was discovered by customs. But when the inspector attempted to confiscate the bottles, the ruling family member did not like it, as he tried to leave with what he had brought. A verbal exchange took place, and things developed to contacting high-ranking officials. The row got bigger and the ruling family member insulted employees and insisted on leaving the VIP lounge with what he had brought, and that is what happened in the end.

If this is true, then I am not in a position to compare my situation with his, and not to say that we are citizens in a country where all are supposed to be equal in front of the law. The truth is not like this under all circumstances, and such matters happen in many countries to some degree or another, and this is not this column's subject. But what I want to say is this unjustified strictness against bringing a bottle or half empty one, and getting everybody busy with trivial matters, as the issue does not need anything other than a phone call. — Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE A FASHIONISTA

By Nermin Al-Houti

It is possible that what you think is important for you may not be important for others, and the majority may think that their ridiculing, taunting and other worthless terms are facts of life. Many may look at rumors and scandals as just ways to occupy their free time, and from here and there, we can only say that everyone wants to be a fashionista (fashion enthusiast).

The issue of fame began after many people started imitating the West, and this is not new to our societies. And as usual, when we imitate, we only take the superficial, as going deeper into the imitated matter, its goals and employing it in our Arab environment is something many did not, do not and will not do, as we have got used for thousands of years to blindly imitate the worst.

In the West, when the fashionista fad appeared, the goal was renewal and change in the fashion world through some people who matched colors and clothes according to personal tastes, while some of them imitated prominent figures. As our habit is, we found overnight that the majority became fashionistas, but not to display what is new in the world of fashion or focus on some personalities and imitate them - rather the majority used this fad as a pass to the world of fame. The question is - fame in what?

The majority only has one sentence that is said among them: "Did you see what so and so said... and did you see what that woman did...", and regretfully the "so and so" get many followers, not because of their good performance, or the good quality of their subject matter, or for their good talk, but rather to only fill their time.

We, in the past, looked up to political or historic personalities that enriched our Arab and Islamic heritage, and many of us used to follow all what is good for the future. But the present emptiness in the brains of many of us has led to a point where everyone wants to be fashionista.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

News
In brief

Cabinet reviews gas prices' study

KUWAIT: The Cabinet is expected during its weekly meeting today to discuss taking steps forward regarding procedures that help maintain Kuwait's credit ranking, which include reviewing a study to increase fuel prices. The study stipulates increasing the price of premium gasoline to 85 fils per liter, super to 105 fils and ultra to 165 fils. — Al-Anbaa

Smart meters

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water prepares for a tender to import 100,000 smart meters to be installed in apartment buildings, Minister Ahmad Al-Jassar announced. He added that a previous tender was also placed to establish the infrastructure necessary for the smart meters' network with a capacity of 1.2 million meters. The new meters would help the ministry collect energy fees under the new tariffs which are expected to be implemented sometime next year. —Al-Rai

Delivery fees

KUWAIT: Several food companies listed in Kuwait Stock Exchange presented a grievance to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry against minister Yousuf Al-Ali's decision last month to limit the delivery fare at 250 fils for orders delivered within the same area and 500 fils for orders delivered outside the area. The companies demand that the fee is kept at KD 500 for all orders, arguing that the actual delivery cost reaches KD 1.7 per order. — Al-Jarida

E-media law

KUWAIT: The e-media law does not apply on social media networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube. Instead, cases filed against social media users are subjected to the information technology law and are investigated by the Public Prosecution, Attorney General Dherar Al-Asousi said. The e-media law which was passed last February indicates that the statute of limitation for cases against newspaper and news websites would be for three months for criminal proceedings, Asousi said in a recent letter to prosecutors. —Al-Jarida

Sawaber Complex

KUWAIT: Twenty four Kuwaiti families who still refuse to evacuate the Sawaber Complex have withdrawn cases filed against state departments, after legal advisors at said departments attempted to increase the repossession value by a small amount. The tenants feared that a court order that would be binding for both parties would make them lose what they perceive as their right. The Ministry of Electricity and Water has disconnected power from the complex since March 31, 2016 when an ultimatum to evacuate the building expired. — Al-Qabas

Clean fuel project

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait recently approved a request to give a number of local banks an exception from the maximum concentration ratio of financing, in order to allow them to finance the Clean Fuel Project. Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) recently signed a tranche of financing worth 1.2 billion dinars with local banks for its multi-billion-dollar project. —Al-Qabas

A winner receives his prize.

KFH NAMES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN'S 2ND DRAW

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named seven winners of the second draw of the new banking cards promotional campaign themed "Win Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV with KFH Cards" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Mustafa Al-Shkir, Ahmed Al-Mutairi, Sharifa Al-Arbeed, Iqbal Al-Zafiri, Aziza Ali, Afrah Al-Hajri, and Asmaa Ali.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will get a chance to enter a draw and win daily Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV for 50 days ending June 14th 2016. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international retail spends and KFH Debit cards used in international retail spends are eligible for the daily draw.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefitting clients and merchants. This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.

GOVT, PARLIAMENT QUOTAS IN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

KUWAIT: The government has proposed a bill to amend the constitutional court's current law to adjust its formation to include five chancellors, two government representatives and two National Assembly representatives, informed sources said. The bill was previously rejected by the supreme judicial council when lawmakers suggested it in 2009 and in 2012, the sources added. The judicial council had not so far expressed its opinion about the bill due to be reviewed by parliament in its June 7 session on the judiciary and the state council independence laws, the sources stressed. The sources explained that the suggested amendments aim at having the legislatives and the executives take part in rulings made by courts. Commenting on the proposed amendments, chairman of the supreme judicial council, head of the constitutional court and head of the court of cassation, Chancellor Yousif Al-Mutawa, said that the council had not so far received any such bills nor was it consulted in this regard. "Once we receive the proposal, the council will discuss it," he said. — Al-Jarida

Crime
Report

NINE DRUG DEALERS ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Maj Gen Abdelhameed Al-Awadhi ordered nine expats to be sent to the public prosecution charged with trading in drugs. Large quantity of drugs including heroin, shabu (meth), illicit tablets and hashish were also sent to the prosecution. The arrests by the Drugs Control General Department were at the orders of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to pursue dealers to prevent drugs from reaching users.

A security source said information was received by Acting Director General of Drug Control General Department (DCGD) Waleed Al-Duraiee about two Filipinos who had a large quantity of drugs that they sold to expats, particularly in Mahboula, Mangaf and Abu Halifa. One of the Filipinos was convinced to sell 20 gm of heroin, and it was agreed to make the exchange near Dahr graveyard, where he was arrested. When police went to his apartment in Mangaf, 1.1 kg of raw heroin was found. The suspects said they got it from an Asian country through a woman, who is being sought by police.

In Farwaniya, an Egyptian worker was arrested for trading in Tramadol and Captagon tablets. An undercover source bought 20 tablets for KD 50, and the arrest was made. He said most of those who buy from him are married men who believe it helps in their relationships. In Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, drugs control men arrested an Indian selling heroin and hashish to Asians. A security source said the Indian was arrested after selling 45 gm of heroin and 5 gm of hashish to an undercover agent. He was sent to the public prosecution.

In Salmiya, two Pakistanis who sold drugs by leaving it near trash containers or in building yards were arrested. They used to receive instructions from a central prison inmate, who will be questioned. The Pakistanis said they mixed Captagon with the heroin to increase profits.

Liquor factory

Director of Farwaniya Security Brig Saleh Al-Enezi sent two Asians to criminal detectives charged with adultery and running a liquor factory. A security source said information was received about the use of a house to make liquor, so it was raided and a large quantity of liquor was found. A man and a woman were found there, who said they were in a relationship despite being married to others.

Forgery

A citizen insisted on filing forgery charges against her husband when he refused to return the money he stole from her bank account. The woman said she was surprised to receive an SMS alert from the bank - the first over the withdrawal of KD 200, the second for KD 180 and the third about the balance being zero. She said she searched for her ATM card and did not find it. She then called her husband, who told her the card was with him and he had withdrawn the money. When she told him to return the money, he told her to lodge a complaint.

Drug possession

A Jahra police checkpoint spotted a car being driven in the wrong direction in an attempt to escape, with three Kuwaitis and a Gulf national onboard. The car was stopped and the driver got off, being nervous. He told police he did not have an ID on him. When the four were searched, materials suspected of being drugs were found. They were sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Anbaa

PANEL FORMED TO HANDLE HIGH RENTS

KUWAIT: After problems in the local real estate market were recently highlighted by real estate experts, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry invited experts to intervene and handle the problem before it gets worse. Minister Youseif Al-Ali discussed the problem with real estate experts and decided reviving the idea of forming a five-member committee to monitor the local market and track any money laundering or terrorism funding operations, if any, and control unjustified price increases including rent, said informed sources. They noted that Ali welcomed reviving the committee that was once active, to be headed by real estate union secretary Qais Al-Ghanim.

The sources added that the ministry's real estate department urged all real estate brokers to provide the needed documents to renew their annual licenses and then send copies to the ministry's anti-terrorism funding and money laundering department. Commenting on the decision, member of the real estate brokers union Omar Al-Huwaidi stressed that the committee would have to tackle major issues and solve them urgently to control the local real estate market. "The decision to renew licenses and send copies to the anti-terrorism funding and money laundering department is a step on the right path," he underlined, pointing out that it would curb suspicious deals.

Ghanim stressed that meeting with the minister to discuss reviving the real estate committee was an initial move. He added that the real estate problems the committee was expected to resolve would include high rent values, high land and property prices, tracking suspicious deals, money laundering, terrorism funding and ridding the market of unqualified real estate salespersons. He also promised that if he is appointed head of the proposed committee, he would include real estate experts who are capable of probing real estate-related problems suffered by both citizens and expatriates. — Al-Rai

BURGAN BANK SPONSORS TURKISH REAL ESTATE EXHIBITION

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday that it will be sponsoring the 'Turkish Real Estate' exhibition, which will be held today. The event, which will take place at the Sheikha Salwa Al-Sabah Hall - Salmiya, is organized by Realty Port and will showcase different opportunities in the Turkish real estate sector. Realty Port Istanbul is a Real Estate company for those interested in having a real estate property in Turkey. Its vision is to offer the clients the most valuable opportunity, due to its professional and well-trained consultancy team who do all the necessary to present these opportunities for clients while ensuring that all aftersales issues are moving smoothly and reaching the investment target. During this property event, visitors will be introduced to the different Turkish exhibitors showcasing their latest developments in Turkey, while being welcomed to explore the opportunities in Turkey through the real estate sector. Turkey's booming real estate sector remains a hotspot for GCC investors, as transactions made by foreign buyers continues to rise.

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International
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Israel shuns French peace initiative after UNESCO vote
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Trump has a mixed history with women
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MUKALLA, Yemen: Yemeni soldiers stand next to a photocopier they believed was carrying explosives, outside a public security camp following a suicide attack in this southeastern Yemeni port city yesterday. — AFP

IS bombs kill 47 Yemen police

Attacks take place in former Al-Qaeda bastion

ADEN: A suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State group and a second blast killed 47 police yesterday in the Yemeni port of Mukalla where a year of Al-Qaeda rule ended last month, medics said. It was the second attack in days claimed by IS in the city of 200,000 people that was recaptured by government forces from the rival jihadists of Al-Qaeda with US backing. The suicide bomber killed at least 41 police recruits on the southwestern outskirts of the city, the capital of Hadramawt province, medics said after earlier giving a toll of 31 dead.

The bomber detonated an explosives belt after joining a line of men at a police recruiting centre, a provincial official said. More than 50 people were also wounded in the attack in Fuwah district, a medical source said. Hadramawt's security chief, General Mubarak Al-Oubthani, was at the recruitment centre at the time of the attack but was not hurt. However, he was the target of a second bombing afterwards as he was preparing to head into central Mukalla, a security official said. The bomb exploded as Oubthani walked out of his office, killing six of his guards but leaving him with only minor injuries, the official said. An IS statement posted online claimed the suicide attack, a second rare operation by the jihadist group in an area known to be a stronghold of its Al-Qaeda rivals. "Brother Abu al-Bara Al-Ansari... detonated his explosives belt at a gathering of the apostates of the security forces," it said. On Thursday, 15 soldiers were killed in jihadist attacks outside Mukalla. IS said one of its militants blew up a vehicle packed with explosives in an army base in Khalf district on the city's eastern outskirts. The attacks included a suicide bombing that targeted the residence of the commander of Hadramawt's second military region, General Faraj Salmeen, but he escaped unharmed, officials said.

Suspected Suicide Bomber

Yesterday, troops guarding an army post in Khalf opened fire on a vehicle after they suspected its driver of being a suicide bomber, a security official said, adding the vehicle sped away. The general boasted on Friday that his forces had captured some 250 Al-Qaeda members since they retook Mukalla and nearby coastal towns, including its commander for the city of Shihr, some 60 km to the east. Al-Qaeda was driven out of the area last month with the backing of Gulf special forces. The Pentagon revealed last week that a "very small number" of US military personnel had also been deployed around Mukalla in support of the operation. The US Navy has several ships nearby, including an amphibious assault vessel, USS Boxer, and two destroyers.

Jihadists from both Al-Qaeda and IS took advantage of the conflict in the country to expand their presence in Hadramawt and other areas of the south, including second city Aden where the government has its base. IS has claimed several attacks on government and coalition targets in Aden in recent months. Washington regards Al-Qaeda's Yemen-based branch as its most dangerous and has stepped up a longstanding drone war against it in recent weeks. But the jihadists retain a strong presence and still control several towns in the interior valley of Wadi Hadramawt.— AFP

CIA tip-off led to Mandela's arrest

LONDON: A tip from a CIA spy to authorities in apartheid-era South Africa led to Nelson Mandela's 1962 arrest, beginning the leader's 27 years behind bars, an article in the Sunday Times reported. The newspaper cited comments reportedly made by Donald Rickard, a former US vice-consul in Durban and CIA operative, to British film director John Irvin. Irvin's new film "Mandela's Gun", about the months before the anti-apartheid icon's arrest, is due to be screened at the Cannes film festival this week.

Mandela was eventually freed from prison in 1990 and went on to become South Africa's president between 1994 and 1999 before dying in 2013 aged 95. An article by James Sanders, who said he was asked by Irvin to investigate the issue, said the director travelled to the US earlier this year and interviewed Rickard. Rickard explained how Mandela was arrested as he travelled between Durban and Johannesburg but did not explain how he had learnt where he would be.

"I found out when he was coming down and how he was coming... that's where I was involved and that's where Mandela was caught," Rickard was quoted as saying. He added that Mandela was "completely under the control of the Soviet Union". "He could have incited a war in South Africa, the United States would have to get involved, grudgingly, and things could have gone to hell," Rickard added. "We were teetering on the brink here and it had to be stopped, which meant Mandela had to be stopped. And I put a stop to it."

Zizi Kodwa, national spokesman of Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) party, called the revelation "a serious indictment" but said it was nothing new. "We always knew there was always collaboration between some Western countries and the apartheid regime," he told AFP. He claimed that though the incident happened decades ago, the CIA was still interfering in South African politics. "We have recently observed that there are efforts to undermine the democratically elected ANC government," he alleged. — AFP

Erdogan blasts Europe silence over execution

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday lashed out at Europe's silence over the execution of a veteran Islamist leader in Bangladesh, accusing the West of "double standards". "If you are against political executions, why did you remain silent to the execution of Motiur Rahman Nizami who was martyred a couple of days ago," Erdogan said in a televised speech in Istanbul. "Have you heard anything from Europe? ... No. Isn't it called double standards?" Erdogan said.

Nizami, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was hanged at a Dhaka jail late Tuesday for the massacre of intellectuals during the 1971 independence war with Pakistan. The 73-year-old former government minister was the fifth and the most senior opposition figure executed since the secular government in the overwhelmingly Muslim nation set up a controversial war crimes tribunal in 2010.

The 1971 conflict, one of the bloodiest in world history, led to the creation of an independent Bangladesh from what was then East Pakistan. Prosecutors said Nizami was responsible for setting up the pro-Pakistani Al-Badr militia, which killed top writers, doctors and journalists in the most gruesome chapter of the war. The trial heard Nizami ordered the killings, designed to "intellectually cripple" the fledgling nation.

In protest, Turkey on Thursday recalled its ambassador to Bangladesh for consultations. Since coming to power in 2002, Turkey's ruling Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) has sought to boost the country's power in the Muslim world. Last year, Erdogan condemned a death sentence handed to Egypt's deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who was a close ally of Ankara until he was overthrown by the military in 2013. At the time he condemned the West for turning a blind eye to the "coup" by army chief army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi who is now president. — AFP

Iraq takes aim at media amid rising strife

BAGHDAD: Iraqi authorities have shut the offices of two television channels popular with Sunni Iraqis and ordered a satirical show off air, tightening control over the media as political tensions rise in Baghdad. The crackdown, which began in March, appears to be prompted by concerns that the channels could enflame sectarian rivalries which overstretched security forces would struggle to contain. But it also raises fears over freedom of expression.

The Communication and Media Commission (CMC), has shut down the Baghdad office of the pan-Arab broadcaster Al Jazeera, closed the local TV channel Al-Baghdadia, and ordered a halt to broadcasts of the satirical Albasheer Show. It said Al Jazeera and the Albasheer Show, which mocks powerful Iraqi figures in the spirit of The Daily Show in the United States or France's Le Petit Journal, have violated a code of professional conduct. The CMC is a state authority tasked with implementing government policy. It gave few details and declined requests for comment.

"They had some reservations about (us) using the term 'militias' when referring to the Hashid Shaabi," said Waleed Ibrahim, Al Jazeera's Iraq bureau chief, referring to a coalition of mostly Shiite paramilitary groups formed to fight Islamic State. He said the CMC also objected to opinions expressed on the Qatar-based channel by guests in talk-shows broadcast from Doha. "We tried to explain that these are the guests' points of view and not necessarily ours," he said.

Al-Baghdadia, a television channel owned by Iraqi entrepreneur Awn Al-Khashlok and featuring programming popular with the Sunni minority, was shut down in March. A CMC statement said the channel lacked proper authorization. These are some of the strongest restrictions on media in the nearly two-year tenure of Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, a moderate Shiite Islamist who came to office promising to mend the rift between Sunnis and the Shiite majority. His office did not respond to requests for comment.

Abadi's predecessor, Nouri Al-Maliki, decreed a state of emergency restricting media coverage in 2014 after Islamic State seized a third of the country's territory. Those restrictions were eased when Abadi succeeded him. Maliki, a close ally of Iran, had revoked Al Jazeera's license a year earlier, accusing the Doha-based network of adopting a sectarian tone after it covered Sunni demonstrations against him. The license was restored last year.

Iraq's Shiite-led governments have had volatile relations with nearby Qatar and other Gulf Arab countries since Sunni autocrat Saddam Hussein was toppled in 2003. The country's Iranian-backed leaders have accused their Sunni neighbors of employing well-funded media outlets to undermine Iraq's political process by highlighting the suffering of Sunnis and covering anti-Maliki protests in 2013. Shiite-backed media, in turn, face criticism of coverage accusing Gulf countries of supporting Sunni militancy in Iraq.

Political Crisis

The United Nations and the United States have expressed concern about Al Jazeera's closure. "These kinds of actions will not serve the fight against Daesh (Islamic State) as Iraq moves forward and begins to attempt to reconcile its diverse communities," a State Department spokesman in Washington said this month. Iraq's security forces, while battling Islamic State in the north and west with the help of air strikes from a US-led coalition, are on high alert in Baghdad. Bombings are still common in the capital - including three on Wednesday that killed at least 80 people - and a political crisis risks sinking into clashes between supporters of rival politicians.

The government has been crippled for weeks by disputes over Abadi's proposal to replace party-affiliated ministers with independent technocrats following popular demands to dismantle political patronage networks. Powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr has ordered his followers to protest in order to pressure Abadi to follow through on reform pledges. Abadi has proposed a new cabinet lineup, but parliament has failed to approve it. Lawmakers scuffled inside the chamber a month ago and have not convened a session since demonstrators stormed the assembly complex two weeks later. "With each political crisis, they look for areas that attract the public's attention. Whenever a media outlet focuses on a problem, they order it to be shut down," said Ziyad al-Ajili, head of the watchdog Iraqi Journalistic Freedoms Observatory.

"They are currently implementing the same decisions taken in the past, when freedom of press was truly nonexistent," he said, referring to Maliki's eight-year rule. The CMC issued a warning over a program aired on Al Ahad, a channel run by the Iranian-backed Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia. The show's host Wajih Abbas had offended Sunni sentiments.

No Laughing Matter

Another target of the CMC was a group of young irreverent Iraqis who produce the satirical Albasheer Show from neighboring Jordan. Sumaria, an independent channel, was forced to take the program off the air last month even though its sketches often satirize Islamic State, mocking the militants' cruelty and violence. The CMC ban was prompted by an episode that ridiculed a Shiite cleric for discussing whether drinking milk from a dead cow was religiously sanctioned. The show continues on YouTube and Deutsche Welle's Arabic channel.

Its host, Ahmed Al-Basheer, said he refused the government's demand to alter the programme's content. "This is the formula of the show. This is how it is written and the level of freedom that it enjoys," he said. "We will continue to criticize and ridicule those who are corrupt." Journalists face more than government censorship in Iraq. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said at least six journalists were killed in Islamic State-held Mosul last year, and in January two were gunned down in Diyala, an eastern area under government control. Reporters Without Borders ranked Iraq 153 out of 180 in its 2016 World Press Freedom Index. —Reuters

Turkish rightwing dissidents' bid to oust party leader foiled

ANKARA: Members of Turkey's rightwing MHP party were prevented from holding a congress yesterday aimed at unseating longtime leader Devlet Bahceli and recovering ground lost to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party. Dissidents from the Nationalist Movement Party launched a campaign to oust Bahceli, 68, after a general election in November in which the party shed half its support - taking just 40 seats in the 550-member parliament compared to 80 five months previously.

Bahceli, who has led the party for 19 years, said in January that the next party congress would take place in 2018, meaning he would be in charge until then. But polls show MHP members hungry for change, with over 500 signing a petition in support of holding an extraordinary congress to expedite his ouster. In a show of unity, MHP's four contenders for leadership, including charismatic former interior minister Meral Aksener, arrived yesterday near the Ankara hotel - the venue of the congress - in the same vehicle, escorted by hundreds of cars.

But they faced iron barricades, with police stationing water cannon nearby and denied entry into the hotel. "Party congresses not party leaders will have the final say," the four candidates said in a joint declaration, near the police barricades. "Turkish democracy and law were trampled upon," they said. Party members waving Turkish flags outside the hotel shouted "Bahceli, resign!" Replacing Bahceli, who lacks appeal with younger voters, could boost support for the MHP at the expense of Erdogan's conservative ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). The outcome could jeopardize Erdogan's ambitions of winning a big enough majority in the next elections to allow him to change the constitution to boost his powers.

Party Congress in June

Four contenders to succeed Bahceli have emerged, including 59-year-old Aksener, a former deputy speaker of parliament seen as the strongest candidate. They have vowed to press ahead with the congress, despite the legality of the meeting being called into question and police sealing off the venue. "There is no such security measure even at the Syrian border," another dissident candidate Sinan Ogan told reporters. The country's highest appeal court said this week it will rule on the issue within a month, while two lower courts have issued conflicting decisions.

Aksener refused to leave the scene unless she was granted a written official document that they were barred from entry, to use in their legal battle. Koray Aydin, one of Bahceli's rivals, said on Sunday they would wait for the appeals court's ruling and hold a congress in June in a bid to quash a party law banning leadership change at extraordinary congresses. MHP lawyer Yucel Bulut said this week holding a congress was "legally impossible" and Ankara governor's office said it would ban the gathering. Bahceli's challengers accused the government of interfering in the legal process - allegations Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag dismissed Saturday as "slander". The AKP needs the support of MHP lawmakers to change the constitution to fulfill Erdogan's ambitions of having a US-style executive presidency. Like the AKP, the MHP draws its support mainly from conservative Turks in Anatolia and the Black Sea region.

Established in 1969, it was an ultra-radical formation in the 1970s and 80s, with its armed Grey Wolves wing operating death squads that killed numerous leftwing activists and students. Bahceli took control of the MHP in 1997, seeking to turn it into a mainstream political movement. The party vehemently opposes any peace deal with the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) that the army is battling in the southeast. Bahceli said this month that Erdogan could be sure of the MHP's full support on security as long as the "fight against terrorism continues non-stop." —AFP

ANKARA: Members of Turkey's right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) gather as police seal off a hotel, preventing dissidents from holding a party congress yesterday.—AFP

BETHLEHEM: Palestinian refugees march while marking "Nakba" or Catastrophe Day in this West Bank city yesterday. —AP

Israel shuns French peace forum after UNESCO vote

Israel wants only bilateral talks with Palestinians

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu poured cold water yesterday on the Middle East peace initiative advanced by France by questioning its impartiality, a claim swiftly denied by Paris. Speaking to ministers ahead of the weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu relayed remarks he had made to French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who was visiting the region ahead of a May 30 international ministerial meeting.

Ayrault's visit aimed to prepare for the conference that would try to revive Middle East peace talks, frozen since a US-brokered initiative collapsed in April 2014. Israeli and Palestinian representatives have not been invited to the French meeting to prepare for such a conference, mooted for the autumn. "I told him that the scandalous resolution accepted at UNESCO with France's support, that does not recognize the bond of thousands of years between the Jewish people and the Temple Mount, casts a shadow over the impartiality of the entire forum France is trying to convene," Netanyahu told ministers of his talks with Ayrault.

He was referring to a resolution adopted last month by the Paris-based UN cultural body on the flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, which made no reference to the fact that it is also revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and is Judaism's most sacred site. Sources close to Ayrault said yesterday that France "regretted" the resolution, echoing remarks by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls who on Wednesday called it "clumsy" and "unfortunate" and said it should have been avoided.

But at the same time, Ayrault rejected Netanyahu's questioning of French impartiality, insisting that an Israeli-Palestinian peace process was imperative to prevent the spread of deadly Islamist violence. "France has no vested interest, but is deeply convinced that if we don't want to let the ideas of the Islamic State group prosper in this region, we must do something," he told reporters at Ben Gurion airport after meeting both Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas.

Direct Talks 'Only Way'

While Israelis have just celebrated the 68th anniversary of their state's inception, Palestinians yesterday were marking the 1948 creation of Israel as the "nakba" - catastrophe in Arabic, as more than 760,000 Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes. Clashes erupted on the Gaza Strip border between Palestinians and Israeli forces, and the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups called for uprisings against Israel. Palestinians also marched in several cities in the occupied West Bank.

Netanyahu yesterday reiterated his opposition to indirect peace attempts, blaming the Palestinians for rejecting direct talks. "I told him that the only way to advance true peace between us and the Palestinians is through direct talks, without preconditions," he said of his meeting with Ayrault. "Any other attempt just distances peace and gives Palestinians a means of evading dealing with the root of the conflict, which is not recognizing the State of Israel," he said.

Sources in Ayrault's entourage said the French initiative was not aimed at "preventing or bypassing" direct talks between the parties, which Paris believes is the only way to resolve the conflict. "The problem is there are currently no negotiations," the sources said. Palestinian foreign minister Riad Al-Malki told reporters after Ayrault met Abbas that unlike the Israelis, they welcomed the French initiative. "We wish France and its efforts success because the French efforts are the only ones on the ground now, and could eventually result in giving the political process a good push forward at this stage," Malki said.

The French, determined to push ahead with the peace initiative despite Israel's reluctance, remain cautious as to the prospects of its success. The United States has yet to say whether Secretary of State John Kerry, who was the central force behind the latest failed round of peace talks, would attend the May 30 Paris summit. Ayrault said yesterday the US "shared our concern" and indicated France would be willing to shift the date of the conference to accommodate Kerry's schedule, should the need arise. —AFP

Suicide raid on Iraq gas plant kills 11

BAGHDAD: An Islamic State attack on a state-run gas plant in Baghdad's northern outskirts yesterday killed at least 11 people, including policemen, and forced two power stations it supplied to suspend electricity production. A suicide car bomb went off at the entrance of the facility in Taji at around 0600 local time (0300 GMT), allowing another vehicle carrying at least six attackers with explosive vests to enter and clash with security forces, police sources said. Twenty-one people were also wounded.

The militant group said in an online statement that four fighters with machine guns had killed the guards at the plant which it said the Iraqi army was using as a headquarters. When reinforcements arrived, they set off a parked car bomb before clashing with the security forces and detonating their suicide vests. A spokesman for Baghdad Operations Command said three of the facility's gas storages were set alight before security forces were able to bring the situation under control.

Iraq's Oil Ministry said the attack had not disrupted the plant's production of gas for cooking and electricity production. But the Electricity Ministry said two nearby power stations had halted operations due to a cut in gas supplies from the Taji plant. It was not clear how long it would take to restore flow to the power stations, which provided 153 megawatts to the already overstretched national grid before the attack. Video broadcast by Al Hadath TV showed a fireball surging from the plant.

An employee who lives nearby said after hearing a powerful blast he saw flames and black smoke coming from inside the facility. Dozens of police and army vehicles rushed to the site where shooting lasted for about an hour, he said. Islamic State, which controls swathes of the country's north and west, has carried out a string of bombings this week that killed around 100 people.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said on Saturday the militants were taking advantage of a political crisis in the country, sparked by his attempt to overhaul its quota-based governing system, to conduct bombings in areas under nominal government control. A US-led coalition backing the Iraqi government in its fight against Islamic State has been training army forces for months at a military base located in Taji. Separate explosions in Baghdad's southern outskirts yesterday left three people dead and 12 wounded, police sources said. — Reuters

TAJI, Iraq: An Iraqi policeman monitors the area next to a burning tank after a suicide bomb attack on the Taji gas plant, about 20 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad. — AFP

TLATLAYA, MEXICO: State police stand inside a warehouse where a black cross marks a wall near blood stains on the ground, after a shootout between Mexican soldiers and alleged criminals on July 3, 2014.—AP

Mexico court absolves soldiers in army killing of suspects

MEXICO CITY: A Mexican civilian court has freed the last three soldiers accused of homicide in a 2014 incident in which at least a dozen suspects were allegedly executed after they surrendered.

The federal Attorney General's Office emailed a news release shortly after 11 p.m. Friday saying the court absolved all three of charges of homicide, cover-up and alteration of evidence for lack of proof.

Santiago Aguirre, deputy director of the nonprofit Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Center for Human Rights, which is representing a woman who survived the incident but whose daughter was killed, said authorities cannot appeal the ruling but families of the victims may still do so.

If there is no appeal, the decision could signal an end to a case that rights groups see as emblematic of abuses by some agents in the Mexican security forces. "This confirms what we had been warning, in the sense that one of the most serious recent cases of human rights violations was on the way to going unpunished," Aguirre said.

The Mexican army reported in June 2014 that 22 presumed criminals had died in a clash with troops at a warehouse in the town of Tlatlaya west of Mexico City. It said only one soldier was wounded. But questions emerged when The Associated Press found that evidence at the site didn't match the army's account of a clash with drug suspects. There was little sign of a protracted gun battle. Instead, the walls of the warehouse showed a repeated pattern of one or two closely placed bullet holes surrounded by spattered blood, giving the appearance that some of those killed had been standing against a wall and shot at about chest level. The government's Human Rights Commission investigated and determined that at least 12 and as many as 15 people had been executed at the warehouse. It also said there were attempts by civilian and military authorities to cover up what happened. Prosecutors, however, concluded that only eight were killed after surrendering.

Victims coming forward

Three women who survived came forward to say that agents of the Mexico State prosecutor's office had tortured them to support the army's version, and state officials later charged several police officers with torture.

Juan Velazquez, an attorney who advised the families of the soldiers who were charged, insisted there was no massacre and said it was all an effort to discredit the military. "That whole story of the execution of Tlatlaya was an invention," he said.

Aguirre said the woman his center is working with, Clara Gomez, was "very upset" in the wake of the ruling. "She fears she may suffer reprisals from the army or from the very soldiers who were on trial," he said. Gomez is under round-the-clock protection by bodyguards as part of cautionary recommendations by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.—AP

Trump has a mixed history with women

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has a mixed history with women, with crude remarks mixed with efforts to foster the career of female employees, The New York Times reported.

The thrice-married Trump, 69, cultivated an image as a womanizer ever since he was in an all-male military school in the 1960s, where he was dubbed a "ladies' man," the Times reported Saturday.

Critics portray Trump as a misogynist, seeing proof in incidents such as his feud with actress Rosie O'Donnell-whom he disparaged as a "fat pig"-and his suggestions that former presidential rival Carly Fiorina's face made her unelectable. But the Times, in more than 50 interviews with women associated with Trump over the past four decades, shows a more complex and contradictory image.

There were unwelcome advances on women and plenty of crude commentary on female bodies, the Times reported. But Trump also nurtured the careers of several women within his business organization.

His TV antics

Trump has long been in the public eye as a celebrity real estate mogul, the star of a popular reality TV show, and until recently the man behind Miss Universe and other beauty pageants. One Miss USA contestant said that in 1997 Trump, who was married to actress Marla Maples at the time, introduced himself and kissed her and other contestants on the lips. However Trump also hired Barbara Res as his head of construction in the 1980s, at a time when there were few women in such positions at major construction firms. She said that her boss wanted her to be a 'Donna Trump.' "I know you're a woman in a man's world. And while men tend to be better than women, a good woman is better than 10 good men," she recalls him saying. Years later, Trump told her "You like your candy," Res told the Times. "It was him reminding me that I was overweight." Res worked with Trump for 18 years.

"The respect for women was always there," Alan Lapidus, an architect who designed the Trump Plaza casino in Atlantic City, told the Times. "When he was building his empire, the backbone was women."

Trump told the Times that he was proud of his record of hiring and promoting women. "I have always treated women with great respect. And women will tell you that." He brushed off the unflattering allegations. "A lot of things get made up over the years," he told the newspaper.

NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks on May 3, 2016.—AP

Brexit wouldn't impact US if he is president

Britain leaving the European Union would make no difference to a potential bilateral trade deal if he became president, according to an interview clip aired by broadcaster ITV yesterday. During a visit to London last month President Barack Obama told Britons that if they elected to leave the EU in a June 23 referendum they would be at "the back of the queue" for a US trade deal. "I am going to treat everybody fairly but it wouldn't make any difference to me whether they were in the EU or not," Trump said in an interview with Piers Morgan, due to be aired in full on ITV today. "You would certainly not be back of the queue, that I can tell you."—Agencies

NY senator: Put more dogs on the airport security line

NEW YORK: US Sen. Charles Schumer is urging the Transportation Security Administration to put more dogs on the passenger-screening line to reduce long delays for travelers going through security at New York City airports. The New York Democrat says the highly trained dogs and additional TSA workers would get travelers through the lines more quickly while improving security. He cited a regional transit authority report that the average maximum wait time for travelers at Kennedy airport in a month long period ending April 15 increased 82 percent from the same period last year.

Schumer says the dog teams could cut time spent going through security in half, and he predicted the lines would become even longer and slower without their addition at New York airports, among the busiest in the world.—AP

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
UNITED STATES EX REL. KAMAL AL-SULTAN, PLAINTIFF v. THE PUBLIC WAREHOUSING COMPANY, K.S.C., A/K/A AGILITY, *et al.*, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE TO: The Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C., a/k/a Agility; Agility Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C. (formerly Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C.); and The Sultan Center Food Products Company, K.S.C.

On February 5, 2016, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia granted the United States of America's motion for alternative service of a legal complaint on The Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C., a/k/a Agility; Agility Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C. (formerly Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C.); and The Sultan Center Food Products Company, K.S.C., all of which have been named as "Defendants" in that matter, Case No. 1:05-cv-2968-TWT (N.D. Ga.), and ORDERED that one method of approved service shall include publication of a legal notice in a Kuwait newspaper. The Defendants will have twenty-one days to respond to the Complaint once this notice has been completed.

The Complaint has been brought against the Defendants by the United States of America. The claims against the Defendants include breach of contract, payment by mistake, unjust enrichment, fraud, and violation of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729. These claims concern billings made under prime vendor contracts between a company formerly known as The Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C. and the United States' Defense Supply Center Philadelphia for food and other items supplied to the United States military. A summons in the case has been issued for the Defendants. It provides:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the Northern District of Georgia
UNITED STATES,
Plaintiff,
THE PUBLIC WAREHOUSING COMPANY, K.S.C., A/K/A AGILITY, ET AL.,
Defendants.
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: The Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C., a/k/a Agility; Agility Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C. (formerly Public Warehousing Company, K.S.C.); The Sultan Center Food Products Company, K.S.C.

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within twenty-one (21) days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

AMY L. BERNE
Assistant United States Attorney
75 Spring Street, S.W
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
United States of America
Tel. (404) 581-6261
Fax (404) 581-6163
amy.berne@usdoj.gov

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

James N. Hatten
Clerk of Court

Swiss town in shock after coach held over 4 killings

SCHAFISHEIM, SWITZERLAND: Police captain Markus Gisin, left, and prosecutor Barbara Loppacher, right inform the media in about the killing of a family in Rupperswil in December on Friday. — AP

BERLIN: The small Swiss town of Rupperswil is in shock after learning that a long-time local youth soccer coach is suspected of being behind the brutal killings of four people last December.

A 33-year-old Swiss citizen, named by local media as Thomas N., is suspected of killing a mother, her two teenage sons and another woman in the town 30 kilometers west of Zurich. Prosecutors said the suspect made a "comprehensive confession" after his arrest Thursday.

Roland Wenger, a spokesman for the FC Sarmenstorf soccer club where the suspect had been a coach, said members were horrified by the news. "Nobody in the club would have thought Thomas N. would be capable of this, he was always decent," he told daily Tages-Anzeiger in an interview published Saturday.

Rupperswil mayor Rudolf Hediger told daily Aargauer Zeitung there was relief at the arrest but also "a certain amount of shame and dismay that it was really a member of our village community."

Prosecutor Barbara Loppacher said the suspect was an unmarried local resident with no previous convictions or connections to the victims. She said, based on his statement and the investigation, police believe he acted alone. Prosecutors believe N. acted out of financial and sexual motives in the killing of 48-year-old Carla Schauer, her 13- and 19-year-old sons and the latter's 21 -year-old girlfriend.

Authorities revealed grim details of the crime Friday. According to investigators, the suspect tricked his way into the Schauers' home on Dec. 21. He made the mother bind and gag the other victims before forcing her to withdraw about $11,000, police captain Markus Gisin told reporters. After she returned, the suspect tied her up, raped the younger son, killed all four by cutting their throats and set fire to the house, Gisin said.

The absence of any link between the victims and the suspect had made the investigation particularly difficult, said Gisin. After his arrest, police were able to tie his fingerprints and DNA to the crime.

Gisin said the man's arrest may have prevented further killings. "Based on yesterday's search of the home, further investigations and questioning, we have to assume that the perpetrator had concrete plans for similar crimes," he said. — AP

EU trying to emulate Hitler, says UK's Boris Johnson

By trying to create a superstate

LONDON: Former London mayor Boris Johnson has claimed the European Union was behaving like German Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler by trying to create a superstate, in a newspaper interview yesterday.

Johnson is one of the leading figures campaigning for Britain to leave the EU in closely-fought referendum being held on June 23. His comments drew swift criticism from opponents, who said they were "offensive" and showed a "lack of judgment".

Johnson said the last two thousand years of European history had featured repeated efforts to bring the continent together under a single government, emulating the Roman empire. "Napoleon, Hitler, various people tried this out, and it ends tragically. The EU is an attempt to do this by different methods," Johnson told The Sunday Telegraph. "But fundamentally what is lacking is the eternal problem, which is that there is no underlying loyalty to the idea of Europe.

"There is no single authority that anybody respects or understands. That is causing this massive democratic void." Johnson's comments were attacked by opposition politicians and in Europe, while "EU to Hitler" was trending in London on Twitter.

Nasty, nasty game

Hilary Benn, foreign affairs spokesman for the main opposition Labor party and a supporter of EU membership, called the comparison "offensive". "After the horror of the Second World War, the EU helped to bring an end to centuries of conflict in Europe and for Boris Johnson to make this comparison is both offensive and desperate," he said.

Another leading pro-EU Labor figure, Yvette Cooper, said Johnson was playing a "nasty, nasty game". "The more he flails around with this kind of hysterical claim, the more he exposes his shameful lack of judgment, his willingness to play the most divisive cynical politics, and the emptiness of his arguments," she said.

Finnish finance minister Alexander Stubb added on Twitter: "What is happening in the cradle of common sense and civilization? This is an outrageous comparison by @borisjohnson." Johnson is a leading member of the ruling Conservative party of Prime Minister David Cameron, who is leading the campaign to keep Britain in the EU.

LONDON: Former London mayor Boris Johnson arrives for a meeting at Downing Street. — AP

Accusations of racism

Known for his rhetorical flourishes, he was accused of racism last month after suggesting US President Barack Obama removed a bust of Winston Churchill from the Oval Office because of anti-British sentiment linked to his "part-Kenyan" heritage. The "Remain" and "Leave" camps are currently tied at 50 percent each, according to the What UK Thinks website's average of the last six opinion polls.

Nigel Farage, leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party, backed Johnson to follow Cameron as prime minister in an interview with the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

Analysts suggest that Cameron will be forced to resign if Britain votes to leave the EU and Johnson is one of the favorites to take over from him. "Boris goes on surprising people," Farage said in an interview conducted before Johnson's latest comments were published.

"They say he can't do this, he's a joker-it's like Ronnie Reagan. Could he do it? Yes. If you'd asked me six months ago I'd have said no but I've changed my mind." The "Leave" campaign argues that Britain would be stronger outside the EU, seeing Brussels institutions as bloated and believing that the Houses of Parliament in London should have absolute sovereignty. — AFP

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI: A supporter of the PHTK presidential candidate Jovenel Moise holds up a handmade sign with a message that reads in Creole; "Deputies and senators the responsiblity is yours" during a protest march demanding the resignation of interim President Jocelerme Privert on Saturday. — AP

Protest in Haiti demands the departure of interim leader

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Protesters have marched in Haiti's capital demanding the departure of an interim president who was supposed to leave office this weekend.

The demonstration of ex-President Michel Martelly's Tet Kale political faction reached a peak of a few thousand in downtown Port-au-Prince. Many chanted that interim President Jocelerme Privert was illegally trying to hold onto power.

A February accord that helped put Privert in office called for a caretaker leader to make way for a voter-approved president on May 14. But another election date has recently fallen by the wayside.

Privert has suggested holding the repeatedly delayed runoff in October. Some demonstrators burned tires and broke car windows Saturday. Police sprayed water from an armored vehicle, scattering the crowd at a plaza near the grounds of Haiti's National Palace. — AP

London priest wanted for child abuse arrested in Kosovo

PRISTINA: Kosovo police have arrested a Catholic priest accused of child sex offences in Britain and his extradition is being processed, a senior police official said yesterday. "Andrew Charles Kingston Soper was arrested on Wednesday on a European arrest warrant issued by Great Britain," chief of police's directorate for international cooperation Veton Elshani told AFP.

"He is known as Father Laurence (and) was born in 1943," Elshani added. Soper has been on run since he jumped bail in 2011 before he could be charged with child abuse offences dating back to when he had taught at St Benedict's School, a private Catholic school in Ealing Abbey in west London.

He faces accusations of abusing five pupils. Soper "was arrested in the eastern town of Peja by the fugitive arrest search team after the police got a hint from abroad that he was there," Elshani said. "The public prosecutor ordered his detention until the court decides on his extradition," he said, adding that by the law the procedure lasts at least 40 days.

"It can be shorter only if he agrees to be extradited and does not appeal against his extradition." Following an independent British report detailing 21 incidents of abuse by monks dating from the 1970s until 2010, in 2011 the St Benedict's school apologized and accepted recommendations to fundamentally change the way it is run to protect children in the future. — AFP

17 French ex-ministers vow to shine light on sex harassment

PARIS: Seventeen French former ministers vowed yesterday to "systematically denounce" sexual harassment, days after an investigation was opened into multiple claims against a former deputy parliamentary speaker. "We will no longer keep quiet" the former ministers, all women, including current IMF chief Christine Lagarde, ex-health minister Roselyne Bachelot and ex housing minister Cecile Duflot said in a statement published by the Journal du Dimanche weekly paper.

They promised to "systematically denounce all sexist, remarks, inappropriate gestures, inappropriate behaviour." Their cross-party stand comes after French judges on Tuesday opened an investigation into multiple claims of sexual harassment against former deputy parliamentary speaker Denis Baupin, a move which experts welcomed as an end to the "omerta" around alleged abuse by politicians.

Baupin, 53, vigorously denied the claims and has instructed his lawyers to sue two French media outlets for defamation, calling the allegations "mendacious".

The same day Finance Minister Michel Sapin became ensnared in a sexual harassment scandal after admitting that he acted "inappropriately" towards a female journalist after twice denying any improper conduct. Sapin acknowledged late Tuesday "making a comment" while placing his hand on the woman's back at a conference early last year-following two previous denials of a claim that he had tweaked her knicker elastic.

The ex-ministers in their joint comment yesterday said: "Like all women who have entered into previously exclusively male environments, we have had to either submit to or fight against sexism. "It's not for women to adapt to these environments. It's the behaviour of certain men that need to change," they added. "Enough is enough. Impunity is over." The former ministers encouraged all victims of sexual harassment and aggression to speak up and lodge complaints. "Today the judicial arsenal exists but the laws are not sufficiently applied". Labor laws protect employees but are not respected, with few women lodging complaints and very few of those complaints leading to convictions, they complained.

Women's rights minister Laurence Rossignol, speaking on the France 3 television channel later, outlined two moves to tackle the problem.

"The first is to swiftly adopt the draft law currently going through parliament... which lengthens the time limits for a range of offences from three to six years, " she said, calling upon the Senate, or upper house of parliament, to pass the measure. The second initiative "is to allow associations to file complaints instead of the victims," through an amendment which will be examined by parliament next month, she added. — AFP

SCHWARZE PUMPE, EASTERN GERMANY: Activists of the environmental groups Robin Wood and ' Ende Gelaende' (It's finished now) hang at a bridge to block the railway tracks near the Vattenfall power plant yesterday. — AP

Poland's defense minister accused of undermining military

WARSAW: Poland's Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz shows a document during a session of a special parliamentary commission on March 30, 2016. — AP

WARSAW: Several former Polish defense ministers are calling for the dismissal of the current minister, arguing that he is undermining the image of Poland's military within NATO and Polish society itself. The letter, made public yesterday, comes several days after Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz accused his predecessors of leaving the country defenseless with mismanagement and allowing Russian agents to influence military training.

The signatories say Macieriewicz's claims aren't true. They said he has discredited the army, undermined the country's image with its allies and encouraged "aggressive activities against our country" by enemies.

A spokesman for the president, an ally of the ruling Law and Justice party, denounced the letter as a "tool of the opposition" being used in a "political fight." The letter was signed by former Defense Ministers Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Bronislaw Komorowski, Radoslaw Sikorski, Bogdan Klich and Tomasz Siemoniak, and former deputy defense minister Janusz Zemke. — AP

Germany: Police arrest over 100 people at anti-coal protest

BERLIN: German police say they have arrested more than 100 people demonstrating against a coal mining in eastern Germany. Cottbus police say the protesters were among about 300 people who had forced their way onto the site of the Schwarze Pumpe coal-fired power plant late Saturday. Two protesters were injured during the police operation, which was continuing yesterday.

The protest was organized by the groups Klimatecamp (Climate Camp) and EndeGelaende, which loosely translates as "it's finished now." Their goal is to prevent the mining and use of coal, which is considered a major source of carbon emissions that are contributing to climate change.

The German news agency dpa quoted the plant operator, the Swedish company Vattenfall, as saying the protest is preventing supplies from reaching the power station. — AP

SHANGHAI: Soldiers from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy watch as the USS Blue Ridge arrives at a port on May 6, 2016. — AP

China says US report hypes up its so-called military threat

BEIJING: China's defense ministry criticized a US report assessing its island-building efforts in the South China Sea, saying it "hyped up" China's so-called military threat. The US Defense Department's annual report on China's military activities had "wilfully distorted China's national defense policy," said ministry spokesman Yang Yujun, adding that the U.S. was too suspicious.

China expressed its "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition" to the Pentagon report, Yang said. "China follows a national defense policy that is defensive in nature," he said. "China's deepening military reforms and its strengthening of weapons and equipment building are aimed at maintaining sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and guaranteeing China's peaceful development." The report to the US Congress on Friday said that China was focused on developing and weaponizing the islands it has built in the disputed waters of the South China Sea so it will have greater control over the maritime region without resorting to armed conflict.

It accused China of "increasingly assertive efforts to advance its national sovereignty and territorial claims" and a lack of transparency about its growing military capabilities that are causing tensions with other countries in the region.

Yang said it was the United States that had been "frequently sending military aircraft and warships to the South China Sea to make a show of force." — AP

Press groups urge probe into Indian journalist killings

NEW DELHI: A coalition of press freedom groups yesterday urged a swift investigation into the murder of two Indian journalists in 24 hours, crimes that heightened fears about media safety and freedom in the country.

Rajdeo Ranjan, local bureau chief for the Hindi-language daily Hindustan, was shot five times by unknown gunmen late on Friday while he was travelling on his motorcycle in the eastern state of Bihar. On Thursday evening television journalist Akhilesh Pratap Singh was shot dead as he returned home on a motorbike in restive Jharkhand state bordering Bihar.

Police have not yet made any formal arrests in either case. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said the shootings took to nine the number of journalists killed in the past year in India, which has been ranked as Asia's deadliest country for reporters. "We utterly condemn the killings, demand a speedy and thorough investigation and justice for our colleagues," Brussels-based IFJ president Jim Boumelha said in a statement yesterday. "The toll of killings in India is undermining press freedom and the government and police must act to bring the killers to justice and put an end to impunity." Exposing corruption and criminal activities to be blamed

The Indian Journalists Union, an IFJ affiliate, said both of the reporters were killed because of their work exposing corruption and criminal activities in the underdeveloped states. Police have similar suspicions. "Rural reporters, who are the most neglected and poorly-paid journalists in the country, are braving the threats and intimidation of a political and criminal nexus," the Indian group said in the same statement.

The National Union of Journalists of India has threatened nationwide protests if police fail to move quickly to bring those responsible to justice. India was Asia's deadliest country for journalists in 2015, according to Paris-based Reporters Without Borders. — AFP

Dominican presidential vote hit by difficulties

Incumbent leader tipped to win

SANTO DOMINGO: Long lines, technical difficulties and walk-outs by polling staff marred presidential elections in the Dominican Republic yesterday, a race that incumbent leader Danilo Medina is tipped to win. Some voting centers opened up to two hours late due to problems with electronic equipment and a mass resignation of technical assistants. No fewer than 3,000 such assistants presented their resignations, said the head of the electoral commission, Roberto Rosario, without giving details.

Many polling places switched to manual balloting due to issues with electronic voting, which is being used for the first time in the Caribbean country. "We are overcoming these problems that are normal," Rosario said, estimating nine percent of voters had cast ballots by mid-morning but suggesting there could be a record turnout. Earlier, he promised "the most transparent elections in the history of our democracy." But some voters were disgruntled. "I got up early because I have to work ... I want to vote and couldn't," said Mireya de la Cruz, a tourism industry worker who queued at a school.

Poverty a Problem

Despite grinding poverty and widespread crime, incumbent Medina is favored to beat his seven rivals. Facing a divided opposition, he has an 89 percent approval rating, according to a survey by Mexican consultancy Mitofsky. That makes the 64-year-old the most popular leader in Latin America. "I'm going to vote for Danilo because he has worked hard for the country, he will win because people want him to continue," said Domingo de la Rosa, who works transporting sugarcane in La Romana, in the country's southeast.

Medina's centrist PLD party has been in power for 12 years in the Spanish-speaking country, which shares the island of Hispaniola with its troubled neighbor, Haiti. The economy is booming thanks to millions of tourism dollars from foreigners flocking to the country's luxury hotels and beaches. It grew seven percent last year and inflation stood at 2.3 percent. But 40 percent of the nation's 10 million people are estimated to live in poverty and the unemployment rate is about 14 percent, according to government figures.

"Everything is expensive - fuel, food," said William Mercedes, a 50-year-old farm worker. "We have a lot of poverty and there are few jobs." Critics complain that crime has worsened under Medina and say his party has been in power for too long. Medina also faces allegations of misusing electoral funds, and broad international criticism over policies that discriminate against the Dominican-born children of Haitian migrant workers.

BAODING, CHINA: Prominent Chinese Maoist Han Deqiang talks as he stands in a greenhouse at a commune he operates on May 10, 2016. — AP

Surveys indicate that Medina will get around 60 percent of the vote, enough to win the election outright. His nearest rival, social democrat Luis Abinader, has 29 percent support, the surveys showed. He is hoping to force Medina into a run-off. Many of Medina's supporters tout the state of the economy, and improvements in education, as his major accomplishments. When Medina was elected in 2012 he was supposed to be limited to one four-year stint as president. But he passed a reform in 2015 that has allowed him to run for re-election.

The 48-year-old Abinader belongs to the Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM), a break-off faction of the formerly powerful Revolutionary Dominican Party (PRD). He has blamed Medina for government corruption and the country's high crime rate. "We have two options here: democracy or one-party dictatorship," said Abinader, a wealthy businessmen of Lebanese ancestry, at a recent public appearance in a working class neighborhood. Some 6.7 million of the Dominican Republic's 10 million residents are eligible to vote, with some 3,000 observers on hand to monitor the process. Also being elected are 32 senators, 190 lower house deputies and local officials from 26 different parties.

Retired actress Frennes Baez said she was convinced by Medina's call to stay the course and believed the president deserved another term. "Voting for another doesn't mean that things will be better," Baez said at a polling station in the bustling capital. Abinader, 48, ran for vice president in 2012 but has never held elective office. On the campaign trail he has vowed to spend more on a system of social programs that provide payments to nearly 1 million poor families. He also says he would reduce crime, a principal concern in the country, and hike pay for police and the military as well raise the national minimum wage.

His backers feel the ruling party, which passed a constitutional amendment letting Medina run for a second consecutive term, has been allowed to amass too much power. "We're fed up. The PLD controls everything," said Rafael de Jesus, a mechanic and father of two who was planning to vote for Abinader. De Jesus also worried that the party has been able to pack the bench with friendly judges, saying: "They want everything." If no candidate surpasses 50 percent, there will be a runoff June 26. Electoral authorities say nearly 7 million people are expected to vote including thousands in the United States, mostly in large Dominican enclaves in New York and Florida. —Agencies

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Supporters of Nepal's minority ethnic group wearing headbands with the name of the group try to break through a police cordon, as they protest in a main street leading to the prime minister's office yesterday. — AP

Minority ethnic group supporters protest in Nepal's capital city

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Hundreds of minority ethnic group supporters scuffled with police in Nepal's capital yesterday, restarting protests against the government and the Himalayan nation's new constitution.

The protesters blocked a main street leading to the prime minister's office in Kathmandu, creating traffic problems. They chanted slogans against the government and attempted to break through a police cordon, but were quickly pushed back. Police did not use force on the demonstrators. No one was injured. Security was stepped up, with hundreds of riot police guarding the main streets and government offices. The protesters, led by the Madhesi minority group, are demanding changes in the new constitution adopted last year. Their protests from September to February resulted in the deaths of more than 50 people and blocked key border points with India that resulted in severe shortages of fuel, medicine and other supplies.

They have vowed to continue protesting in Kathmandu until their demands are met. Ethnic Madhesis oppose the new constitution because they say its seven federal states have borders that cut through their ancestral homeland in the south. They want a larger state, more government representation and more local autonomy.

Several rounds of talks with the government have failed to reach any agreement. The Constituent Assembly adopted a constitution in September after years of delays and despite protesters' claims of unfairness. — AP

Bangladesh arrests Islamist over killing of gay activists

DHAKA: Police in Bangladesh have arrested an Islamist militant over the killing of two gay rights campaigners, who died amid a surge in violent attacks against liberal activists and other minorities in the south Asian nation.

Xulhaz Mannan, 35, editor of Bangladesh's first magazine for gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, and fellow activist Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy, 25, were killed in a apartment in the capital Dhaka late last month, in an attack claimed by al Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent. Shariful Islam, 37, a member of the banned group Ansarullah Bangla Team, was arrested in the southwestern district of Kushtia in connection with the murder, Monirul Islam, chief of the counterterrorism unit of Dhaka Police, told a news conference yesterday. The arrested man was brought to the news conference but did not comment.

The Muslim-majority nation of 160 million people has seen a series of attacks over the past year in which atheist bloggers, academics, religious minorities and foreign aid workers have been killed. An elderly Buddhist monk was found hacked to death on Saturday at a temple in Bangladesh. Police said three people had been arrested, although they said the motive was not yet clear. — Reuters

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Device blown up at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER: Army experts blew up an "incredibly lifelike explosive device" at Old Trafford yesterday after tens of thousands of fans were evacuated from the stadium ahead of Manchester United's final English Premier League game of the season, police said. The emergency was signaled just 20 minutes before the scheduled start of the game in the 75,600 capacity stadium. United and Bournemouth players were warming up on the pitch when the club ordered fans out of two stands.

"Bomb disposal experts carried out controlled explosion at Old Trafford on what is described as incredibly lifelike explosive device," Greater Manchester Police said on its Twitter account. They added: "Full assessment now concluded and found device wasn't viable. A full search of the stadium is ongoing."

The game "has been abandoned, fans are leaving the ground. Please avoid the area if possible", police said earlier. A United spokesman said the suspect package was found "in the North-West Quadrant of the ground" at the Stretford End and that the match had to be abandoned. Inside the stadium, announcements were made on the public address system that security staff should invoke "operation red code".

There was no panic inside Old Trafford, one of the world's most famous sporting venues, as half of the stands were evacuated. Public announcements instructed supporters in the South and East Stands - including travelling Bournemouth fans - to remain in their seats before the game was called off. "We're still in the dressing room, seems we'll be the last to leave. There's been nerves and tension," Britain's Daily Mirror, citing Spanish radio, quoted United midfielder Ander Herrera as saying.

It is the second time in less than a week that Manchester United have been involved in a security alert. Their game at West Ham United on Tuesday was delayed after their team bus was attacked by home fans. Louis van Gaal's side went into yesterday's match seeking a victory that would give them a chance of finishing fourth, and thus qualifying for next season's Champions League, although Manchester City's 1-1 draw at Swansea has made that eventually almost impossible.

There was no initial indication of the seriousness of the incident but by the scheduled 3:00pm kick-off (1400 GMT), stewards outside the ground were telling supporters that the game had been abandoned and, within minutes, the decision was confirmed by police. People who remained inside the stadium were told to stay in their seats "while the forecourt is cleared of fans already evacuated from the stadium".

The club held up announcing the decision to fans remaining in two other stands for another 10 minutes, to avoid congestion outside the ground. By 3.15 pm, the remaining parts of Old Trafford were evacuated. Soldiers from the British Army's 'bomb squad' were then sent to Old Trafford. Assistant Chief Constable John O'Hare of Greater Manchester Police said: "We are doing everything we can to investigate this item as quickly as possible, however our priority is obviously to ensure the safety of everyone in the stadium and surrounding area. As a result, today's game has been abandoned and a controlled evacuation of the stadium has now taken place." He added: "We are awaiting the imminent arrival of military colleagues to come and support us and establish what exactly we are dealing with." — Agencies

MANCHESTER: A police sniffer dog and handler are seen on the pitch at Old Trafford stadium after yesterday's final match of the season between Manchester United and AFC Bournemouth was abandoned due to a suspect package found inside the stadium. — AP

A Palestinian youth waves the national flag as Israeli military dig in search of smuggling tunnels at the border east of Gaza City yesterday, on the 68th anniversary of the 'Nakba'. 'Nakba' means in Arabic 'catastrophe' in reference to the birth of the state of Israel 68-years-ago in British-mandate Palestine, which led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who either fled or were driven out of their homes during the 1948 war over Israelís creation. — AFP

Duterte vows to kill criminals

Continued from Page 1

The centerpiece of Duterte's stunningly successful election campaign strategy was a pledge to end crime within three to six months of being elected. Duterte vowed during the campaign to kill tens of thousands criminals, outraging his critics but hypnotizing tens of millions of Filipinos fed up with rampant crime and graft. On one occasion he said 100,000 people would die, and so many bodies would be dumped in Manila Bay that the fish would grow fat from feeding on them.

He complained that people no longer feared the law, and he would change that. "We have a society now where obedience to the law is really a choice, an option only," he said. "Do not destroy my country because I will kill you. I will kill you. No middle ground. As long as the requirements of the law are there, if you try to evade arrest, refuse arrest... and you put up a good fight or resist violently, I will say: 'Kill them'."

Duterte is due to be sworn into office on June 30 for a six-year term. The current president, Benigno Aquino, warned repeatedly during the campaign that Duterte was a dictator in the making and would bring terror to the nation. However his preferred successor, Mar Roxas, an establishment politician who promised to continue Aquino's slow but steady macroeconomic reforms, ended in a distant second place.

Duterte has been accused of running vigilant death squads during his more than two decades as mayor of Davao, a city of about two million people that he says he has turned into one of the nation's safest. Rights groups say the squads - made up of police, hired assassins and ex-communist rebels -have killed more than 1,000 people. They say children and petty criminals were among the victims. Duterte boasted on one occasion during the campaign of being behind the squads, saying they killed 1,700 people. But other times he denied any involvement. — AFP

Kerry in Saudi Arabia for talks

Continued from Page 1

The US on Friday imposed sanctions on the speaker and president of Libya's House of Representatives for what the Obama administration said was their efforts to obstruct and delay political transition in the country. Since the 2011 uprising that toppled leader Muammar Gadhafi, Libya has been split between rival governments. Last year, the UN brokered a deal on a unity government to heal the rift among the Libyans. But the new government has so far failed to gain support from various factions.

The 17-member International Syria Support Group includes Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and others. The August deadline that the US has set for starting a political transition is a target, not a drop-dead endpoint for negotiations, Kerry has said. The US ultimatum has spurred speculation that if the deadline is blown, US allies might respond by giving the Syrian opposition stronger weapons to fight Assad. Kerry also has said indirect peace talks between the Syrian opposition and the Assad government probably would resume "some days" after the Vienna meeting. Those UN-led talks have been stalled since the opposition suspended participation last month in protest. The UN's humanitarian aid coordinator for Syria has expressed dismay about "disappointing" levels of access so far this month to besieged and hard-to-reach areas.

In Yemen, the warring parties have been holding UN-brokered negotiations in Kuwait to resolve the conflict. A truce began April 10 and has mostly held despite multiple breaches by both sides. The US State Department said Kerry and Saudi officials discussed the need to strengthen that truce and their support for continued UN talks. Kerry's trip also includes a visit to Brussels for a meeting of NATO foreign ministers before he flies to Asia to meet up with US President Barack Obama in Vietnam.— AP

Russian officials bash Ukraine Eurovision...

Continued from Page 1

"For that reason Ukraine lost," he wrote on Facebook. "The thing the country needs now as much as air is peace. But war won."

Last year Armenia was asked to modify the lyrics of its song "Don't Deny", as it pointed too directly at Turkey's refusal to describe the massacre of Armenians a century earlier as "genocide". In 2014, the votes cast in Crimea were counted as Ukrainian, ignoring the fact Russia had annexed the region. "Technical reasons," Eurovision explained. For the 2012 edition held in Baku, human rights activists lashed out at the sums Azerbaijan had spent to polish the image of its authoritarian regime.

The European Broadcasting Union, which organizes the contest, "will never successfully depoliticise Eurovision," Jess Carniel, social scientist at the Australian University of Southern Queensland and a Eurovision specialist, told AFP before this year's event. Both the French and the British like to blame their string of Eurovision flops on continental alliances, claiming that the Nordics vote for the Nordics, the Slavs for the Slavs and the former Soviet republics for their kin. Russian state television had played down the themes of Ukraine's winning song prior to the victory announcement but on Sunday slammed the choice as political. "The viewers picked Russia to win, the experts chose Australia but in the end Ukraine won first place," a female news anchor on Perviy Kanal said as she introduced the segment. Mass-circulation tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda ran an online article entitled "How the European jury stole victory from Lazarev".

The outlet called for the results to be reviewed because of the "political" content of Jamala's song. "It became obvious that this is an entirely political story - as we won first place in the public vote that was meant to counterbalance the juries." In Ukraine Jamala's victory sparked jubilation at the highest levels and no small satisfaction at besting Russia. "Yes!!!" Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko tweeted. "An unbelievable performance and victory! All of Ukraine gives you its heartfelt thanks, Jamala."

"Any victory for Ukraine is going to annoy the Kremlin," Ganna Gopko, the head of the international affairs committee in Ukraine's parliament, told AFP. "This is not just a victory at Eurovision, it is a victory of values". The mood among some Crimean Tatars was even more politically charged. A businessman who last year helped organize blockades of traffic between mainland Ukraine and Crimea in protest over the annexation said Jamala's victory spelled personal defeat for Russian President Vladimir Putin. "This is our first, thumping victory over Putin's Russia," Lenur Islyamov wrote on Facebook. — AFP

UN envoy optimistic as Yemen talks...

Continued from Page 1

Pro-government forces pushed the rebels out of five southern provinces last year. The Houthis however still control the capital Sanaa as well as large parts of the country's north and west. The stumbling block at the talks remains the form of the government that would control Yemen in a transitional period. The rebels are demanding to share power with Hadi while his delegation insists he is the legitimate head of state under UN resolutions. Ould Cheikh Ahmed said UN agencies provide aid to more than 13 million Yemenis. — AFP

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Washington Watch

Underwhelming feeling at Barca despite title win

By Richard Martin

Despite winning a 24th Spanish title and with a King's Cup final against Sevilla to look forward to next week, a feeling of deflation still lingers around Barcelona after falling short of their lofty pre-season ambitions. They had aspired to be the first team to win back-to-back trebles and the first side to lift the Champions League two years in a row, but a sudden loss of form cost them dear. Atletico Madrid knocked them out in the Champions League quarter-finals and will face Real Madrid in the final - a match Barca's players will watch with a degree of envy.

The 2-0 loss at Atletico was sandwiched between defeats by Real Madrid, Real Sociedad and Valencia, seriously endangering Barca's chances of winning a La Liga title they had looked certain to retain a month previously. The glum atmosphere gripping Barcelona in April was difficult to envisage when the players set off for the March international break boasting a long unbeaten run that was eventually ended by Real at 39.

The media had described a feeling of 'euphoria' around the club, while coach Luis Enrique declared before the Champions League quarter-final draw: "The only team I wouldn't want to meet is Barca." How quickly the mood changed. "Everything happened all at once. We lost three league games in a row and were knocked out of the Champions League, and that left a bitter taste, because we felt we deserved to win it," Luis Suarez said last week. "But we stayed together as a team and we never lost our confidence."

Javier Mascherano accused his team mates of getting caught up believing their own hype. "There comes a point when everything is distorted and your surroundings make you lose your way," he said. "Things were going well and everyone spoke about winning another treble as if it was the easiest thing in the world, when it was really an exception."

Attention has already turned to next season, and Barca are reported to be on the verge of exercising their buy-back clause to secure former academy player Denis Suarez back from Villarreal for €3.25 million ($3.68 million). Barca will need to add more players though if they are to compete on all three fronts next season, with their over reliance on a fixed starting 11 a possible cause for their slide in form in the final phase of the campaign.

Media speculation continues to link the club with Juventus pair Paul Pogba and Paulo Dybala, yet Barca are unlikely to spend seismic amounts of money on one player while they struggle to agree a new shirt sponsorship deal. Of equal importance will be negotiating new and improved contracts for Suarez, Lionel Messi, Sergio Busquets and Neymar. Barca's current €35 million ($39.80 million) deal expires later this year, and unless the club can clinch a new deal soon, they could face a tough choice between keeping their all-star forward line together or offloading one of Suarez, Messi and Neymar and using the money to rebuild elsewhere. — Reuters

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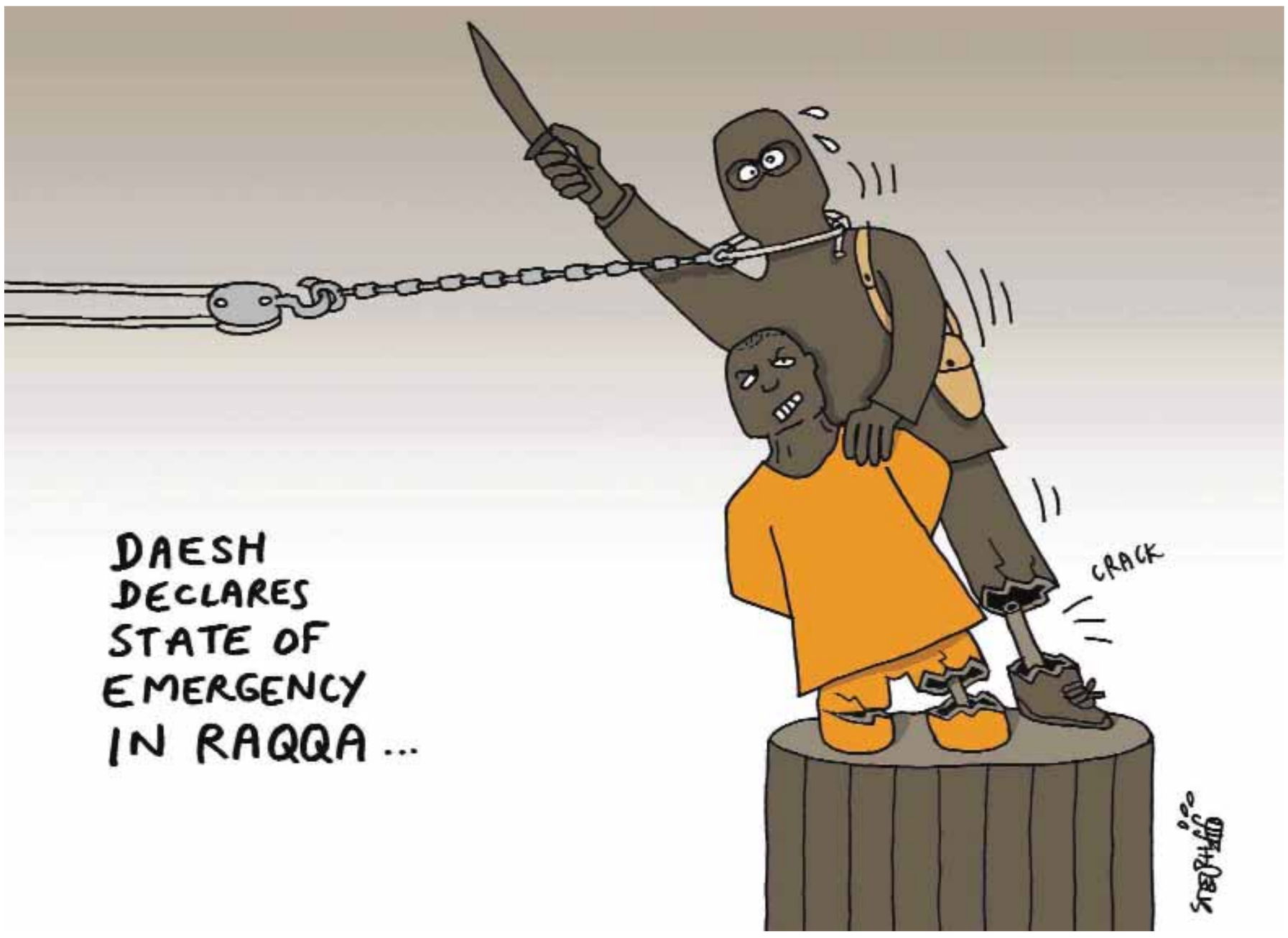


Maoists still a force 50 yrs after Cultural Revolution

By Gerry Shih

Fifty years after Mao Zedong unleashed the decade-long Cultural Revolution to reassert his authority and revive his radical communist agenda, the spirit of modern China's founder still exerts a powerful pull. Millions of people were persecuted, publicly humiliated, beaten or killed during the upheaval, as zealous factionalism metastasized countrywide, tearing apart Chinese society at a most basic level.

Student groups tortured their own teachers, and children were made to watch mobs beat their own parents condemned as counter-revolutionaries. Gangs engaging in "armed struggle" killed at least a half million people while countless more committed suicide, unable to cope with relentless persecution. It was only in 1981 - five years after Mao's death - that China's government officially pronounced the Cultural Revolution "a catastrophe."

But in the ancient city of Luoyang, the old, the poor and the marginalized gather daily in the main public square to profess nostalgia for the political movement, downplaying that period's violent excesses. In the marble halls of power in Beijing, Cultural Revolution-era song-and-dance performances are being revived. China's liberals see ominous signs of a society tugged backward by ideological currents. "Either it's because people have forgotten the Cultural Revolution or are increasingly dissatisfied with social conditions, but since the mid-1990s these kinds of ideas have been gaining currency," said Xu Youyu, a former Chinese Academy of Social Sciences researcher.

Maoists long for China to reverse its path toward market capitalism and return to Mao's radical vision of a classless society steered by a powerful and ideologically pure leader. They have largely embraced President Xi Jinping as one of their own, though he has never endorsed their views outright, and the nuances of his personal ideology - especially on economic matters - remain a cipher. Many see encouraging echoes of Mao's political style in Xi's crusade against corrupt party bureaucrats, and in his staunchly populist rhetoric, nationalistic bent and repeated demands for ideological conformity. But the surge in Maoist sentiment and distrust of the status quo points to the complex risks facing Chinese leaders. The legitimacy of the Communist Party is staked upon both Mao's legacy and a tacit promise of bettering people's lives. Those two pillars may prove difficult to maintain as China navigates a painful economic transition that threatens to shed countless miners and factory workers and widen social inequality.

While China went through similar reforms a decade ago, the economy was growing much faster at the time and citizens lacked organizational tools such as the Internet and social media platforms. Grassroots Maoism has been "blossoming in every corner" in the past few years as social media has taken off, said Han Deqiang, a prominent Maoist lecturer and professor at Beihang University in Beijing. "Many consider General Secretary Xi Jinping a leftist, so we are certainly rising, even if we cannot vote or demonstrate under the Chinese system," Han said.

Rethinking 'Catastrophe'

The Cultural Revolution is considered to have begun May 16, 1966, when the Communist Party's Politburo purged a number of leading officials. Over the following decade, Mao deposed two heirs apparent, his "Little Red Book" of sayings was elevated to the level of holy scripture, and millions were imprisoned, sent to labor camps or exiled from the cities. Xi himself spent years living in a cave dwelling and laboring in the fields of his father's native province of Sha'anxi.

The government now calls the decade-long revolution "a catastrophe." Yet in the central province of Henan, that determination rings hollow in Luoyang, a 3,000-year-old city long familiar with the ancient axioms of governance. A capital for nine dynasties, Luoyang was built by the Duke of Zhou, a sage praised by Confucius for conceiving the quintessential Chinese idea that heaven granted emperors the right to rule only if they performed virtuously and ably. If not, they risked being deposed.

Today, Luoyang seethes. Downtown, an enormous statue of Mao looms over the red-brick No. 1 Tractor Factory, one of many local icons of state-owned industry that was either privatized or shuttered by decree in the 1990s as China prepared to join the World Trade Organization. In the outskirts, struggling steel plants and glassmaking firms line roads winding along hardscrabble hills.

Nearly every day in Luoyang's Zhouwangcheng Plaza, retired or unemployed workers sing odes to Mao under a billowing Communist Party flag. Zhao Shunli, a retired veteran who collects discarded food outside restaurants to survive, performs red song-and-dance routines in a uniform decked with Mao pins. People swarm around a clothesline and squint at dozens of pinned essays condemning the past 30 years of liberalization or positively reappraising the Cultural Revolution.

When asked, many reject historical accounts of widespread political chaos during the period, or absolve Mao of responsibility, saying he did not explicitly order violent abuse. Even Xi, whose administration is now trying to slim down state-owned sectors, does not escape criticism. "Xi speaks of it so it must be Chinese theory," read one essay critiquing current policy. "But no. Supply-side economics is not Chinese, it's actually American poison."

Wang Chunwen, a 38-year-old who has washed dishes for 10,000 yuan ($1,500) a year after losing his teaching job, stopped reading one of the printouts to recount how he plunged into the world of Maoist blogs after buying his first smartphone two years ago. "China has transformed beyond recognition," he said. "When Mao started the Cultural Revolution, he was ordering surgery on a sick person. Now, China is in the terminal stage of cancer."

It was here in the plaza that Xu Xiaobin met a group of Maoist retirees who changed his thinking five years ago. That was before he was laid off from his 3,000 yuan ($460) -a-month machining job and condemned to a life of off-and-on construction work that has slowed to a trickle as the economy sputters. "Even the word 'layoff' didn't exist" in Mao's time, Xu said, standing outside the state-owned gear factory that used to support his family of four. "You look on the Internet and there are people showing off their wealth. Then there are people like me, working under the sun in 40-degree (Celsius, 104-degree Fahrenheit) heat."

Born in 1974, Xu scarcely experienced China under Mao, whose death in 1976 started China's journey toward liberalization. But during childhood, Xu saw pictures of his laborer father, and was told he was respected, not denigrated.

Protests and Crackdowns

Many formerly in the state sector have taken their grievances to Luoyang's streets. Thousands of decommissioned army veterans have been petitioning for years for retirement benefits, which have led to confrontations with police, who break up even private meetings in restaurants, said veteran Qin Shuiyan. Perhaps no one has drawn Luoyang authorities' ire more than Wang Xianfeng, a 57-year-old retiree who in recent years has pulled together Maoist rallies with thousands of people, prompting multiple crackdowns.

She discusses Maoist thought semi-weekly in a rented home next to the plaza and organizes followers who distribute thousands of pamphlets. Police once tore down the house door and seized her group's public address system, Wang says. Luoyang police declined a request for a telephone interview and did not respond to questions submitted by fax. Wang was sentenced to two years in a labor camp in 2010, but her ardor for the ruling party and its leader has hardly dimmed. In her eyes, a new Cultural Revolution has already arrived under Xi.

"He wants to inspect these people who've enjoyed their lifestyle for so long," she said. "It's a class struggle, so of course they're going to resist him, just like during the Cultural Revolution, when landlords didn't want to give up their position. "If he needs us, we're ready to fight for him." Maoism nationwide remains loosely organized, however. The community is bound mostly online by blogs and forums. Public demonstrations of even modest size are quickly shut down and unauthorized monuments to Mao, like giant statues, are razed in the heartland regions where Maoism burns hottest.

In 2012, the government launched a crackdown on public displays of "red culture" like singing and posters. It also briefly shut down Utopia, a popular Maoist news site and messaging board. Analysts say it was part of an internal party struggle that brought down Bo Xilai, party secretary of the southwestern Chongqing metropolis, who allied Maoism ideology and culture with economic policies that boosted state enterprise. Xi, however, has sent signals that he in fact supports many elements of Bo's Chongqing model. He made a prominent visit to Chongqing to observe Bo's handiwork a year before his downfall, and many elements of China's economic plan laid out in 2013 bears that model's hallmarks, analysts say.

White-Collar Support

The breadth of neo-Maoists - and their support for Xi - was recently on display in the port city of Tianjin, at a funeral for Ai Yuejin, a Maoist professor at Nankai University and popular online lecturer. Ai's fiery talks praising Mao's legacy drew followers from as far as Shanxi and Fujian provinces. Hundreds of fans, nearly all wearing Mao pins and some crying Ai's name in grief, circled a casket draped in a Communist Party flag, where the professor lay in repose with a People's Liberation Army peaked hat on his head.

In the courtyard, followers read poems or gathered around Liu Yiran, a celebrated playwright and director of Maoist-themed television shows. Hou Zhongyi scanned the crowd to explain that not only laborers but white-collar Chinese were pinning their hopes on a leader they wished would outright assume Mao's mantle. "We haven't had anybody decent until Xi," said Hou, who worked in publishing in Beijing.

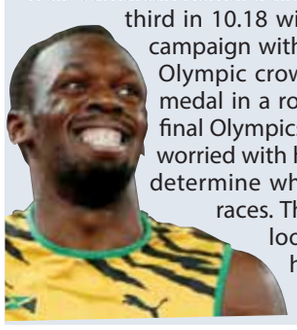
Whether Xi gives a nod to the Maoists as the Cultural Revolution's anniversary approaches this month could reflect his political standing, analysts say. If he felt politically confident, Xi could seek to allow commemorations of the movement "in a more positive light" compared to the Communist Party mainstream, which has historically preferred to suppress discussion of the period altogether, said Bo Zhiyue, a watcher of elite Chinese politics at Victoria University in New Zealand.

Divisions are already beginning to show. In March, a commentary in the state-run Global Times tabloid warned against overly discussing the Cultural Revolution. Yet a group staged a concert at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing featuring lavish productions praising Mao and Xi this month, reportedly angering some party elders who wondered how the performance gained approval. Song Yongyi, a Cultural Revolution historian at California State University in Los Angeles, said the Communist Party - and Chinese society itself - will be divided as long as the party does not allow a full and open reckoning of modern China's darkest period. "As long as Mao's picture is hanging on Tiananmen, you cannot say the Cultural Revolution has completely ended," Song said. — AP

In this photo taken on May 2, 2016, supporters of Mao Zedong's ideology dance and sing in praise of the late Chinese leader on Zhouwangcheng plaza in Luoyang in central China's Henan province. — AP

Bolt makes triumphant 100m start to season

GEORGE TOWN: World 100- and 200-meter record holder Usain Bolt of Jamaica opened his 2016 season Saturday with a 100m victory in 10.05 seconds at the Cayman Invitational. Making his fist strides on the road to the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August, Bolt crossed the finish line .07 of a second ahead of American runner-up Dentarius Locke. "It wasn't the best, but as long as I come out injury free, that's the key thing," Bolt said. "I didn't feel as smooth as I wanted to, but as I always say, it's hard to just come into your first race and do extra well." Jamaican Kemar Bailey-Cole, who trains with Bolt at Racers Track Club, was third in 10.18 with a light tailwind of 0.1m/sec. Bolt is planning his campaign with the aim of defending his 100m, 200m and 4x100m Olympic crowns in Brazil, seeking an unprecedented third gold medal in a row in all three events in what he has said will be his final Olympics. Bolt, who races in Ostrava next week, said he is not worried with his form. "It's just more races," Bolt said. "My coach will determine what I need to work on, but right now it's just more races. The more races I run, the better I will feel so I am just looking forward to running more races and see what happens. — AFP



Adidas to continue sponsoring FIFA

FRANKFURT: German sportswear giant Adidas will continue sponsoring FIFA, despite the corruption allegations dogging the bidding process for the 2006 World Cup, the group's supervisory board chief said yesterday. "If you want to sell sporting goods, you have to have a good relationship with the people in the clubs and the associations. That's part of our business," Igor Landau told newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. "We regret what has happened at FIFA. But our conscience is clear," Landau insisted. German football has been engulfed by claims that a 6.7 million euro ($7.6 million) payment to FIFA was used to purchase the votes of four members of FIFA's executive committee in 2000 — days before Germany narrowly won the right to host the 2006 finals. In March, FIFA's ethics committee launched an investigation targeting six people, including Franz Beckenbauer, the German football legend and World Cup organizing committee chief who is suspected of bribery, and Wolfgang Niersbach, former German football federation (DFB) president, who is being probed over possible failure to report FIFA ethics violations. —AFP

No treble for Morales clan as Haskins defends crown

LONDON: Ivan Morales's hopes of joining his two brothers as a world champion were dashed on Saturday when the Mexican suffered a unanimous points defeat by title-holder Lee Haskins in their International Boxing Federation bantamweight clash in Cardiff. Erik Morales was a four-time world champion, while Diego Morales won the World Boxing Organization (WBO) super flyweight crown. Ivan, however, rarely looked like completing a family hat-trick at Cardiff's Ice Arena. Instead Haskins, who is based just across the border with England in the southwest city of Bristol, recorded a comfortable points win on all three judges' cards, with scores of 119-108, 118-110 and 118-110 in his favour.

For Haskins, making his first title defense, it was the vindication he was indeed a true world champion. The Englishman became champion in unsatisfactory fashion when Randy Caballero was stripped of the title after weighing in five pounds above the 118lbs bantamweight limit in November. For months, Haskins-at 32 some eight years older than Morales-had to endure the frustration of people saying he had not won his title in the ring.— AFP

BOSTON: Jake Marisnick #6 of the Houston Astros dives after a triple hit by David Ortiz #34 of the Boston Red Sox during the ninth inning. — AFP

Big Papi lifts Red Sox over Astros in 11th

BOSTON: David Ortiz doubled with two outs in the 11th inning after lining a tying triple in the ninth and earlier moving into 20th place on the career home run list, sending the Boston Red Sox past the Houston Astros 6-5 on Saturday. Boston's Jackie Bradley Jr singled in the first inning, extending the majors' longest hitting streak to 20 games. George Springer hit a grand slam and Carlos Correa a solo homer for the Astros. Ortiz broke a tie with Ernie Banks and Eddie Mathews with his 513th homer.

Houston led 5-4 with two outs in the ninth when Ortiz hit an RBI triple just past diving center fielder Jake Marisnick. After sliding into third, 40-year-old Big Papi got up and pumped both fists toward his dugout following his first triple since June 15, 2013. In the 11th, Xander Bogaerts singled with two outs against Michael Feliz (1-1) and advanced on a wild pitch before Ortiz hit a drive off the base of the center-field wall for his 600th career double.

MARLINS 7, NATIONALS 1

Marcell Ozuna and JT Realmuto each drove in two runs and Miami beat Washington to split a doubleheader. The Nationals won the opener 6-4 behind six strong innings from Stephen Strasburg (6-0). Right after the final out, Washington announced that Bryce Harper had dropped his appeal of a one-game suspension and would sit out the nightcap for his behavior following an ejection today. The Marlins battered Nationals starter Tanner Roark (2-3) for seven runs in five innings. Ozuna had five hits in the doubleheader, including three in the second game, extending his hitting streak to 14 games. Justin Bour blasted a solo home run. Led by Jose Urena (1-0), Miami's bullpen allowed one run and four hits over six innings. Starter Kendry Flores exited after three innings with a right shoulder strain. In the first game, Justin Nicolino (2-1) took the loss and Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

ANGELS 9, MARINERS 7

Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning to fuel a second rally in Los Angeles' win over Seattle. The Angels trailed 2-1 before taking the lead with a five-run seventh, but then Seattle came back with a five-run eighth. Steve Clevenger had a two-out RBI single to cap the inning for a 7-6 lead heading into the ninth. Closer Steve Cishek (2-3) couldn't save it. With one out, he hit Kole Calhoun with a pitch and Mike Trout singled to right. Pujols then hit his eighth home run on a 1-1 slider. Adam Lind drove in four runs for the Mariners, including a two-run double in the eighth. He opened the scoring in the second with a two-run home run, his second. Cam Bedrosian (1-0) got one out in the eighth inning and Joe Smith pitch the ninth for his third save.

ORIOLES 9, TIGERS 3

Jonathan Schoop hit two home runs, including a grand slam, and Baltimore stretched its winning streak to seven games. Matt Wieters and Adam Jones also homered for the Orioles, who will seek to complete a four-game sweep Sunday. Schoop hit a solo shot in the seventh and his second career slam in the eighth to finish with a career-high five RBIs. Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer for the Tigers, who have lost 11 of 12. Wieters hit a two-run drive in the sixth inning to put Baltimore up 3-2 and Schoop's first home run of the game made it 4-2 in the seventh. Both long balls came off Anibal Sanchez (3-4), who took a two-hit shutout into the sixth. Orioles rookie Mike Wright (2-3) gave up two runs and three hits over seven innings.

ROCKIES 7, METS 4

DJ LeMahieu and Tony Wolters had two hits and two RBIs apiece and Colorado beat New York. Trevor Story and Gerardo Parra also had two hits for Colorado, which has won three straight at home for the first time this season. Mets starter Logan Verrett (3-1) struggled in the same place where he earned his first win in his major league debut. Mets manager Terry Collins also was ejected for arguing in the third inning. Neil Walker had three hits, including a solo home run, for the Mets. Rockies starter Eddie Butler (2-1) allowed four runs on nine hits in five-plus innings for the loss. Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

DODGERS 5, CARDINALS 3

Scott Kazmir pitched 8 2/3 innings and Adrian Gonzalez and Corey Seager homered in Los Angeles' victory over St Louis Cardinals. Gonzalez hit a home run, his fourth of the season, to lead off the fourth inning. Seager, who had three hits, ripped a solo home run in the seventh inning. Kazmir (3-3) allowed three runs on five hits, struck out seven and walked one. He was nearly flawless until Jeremy Hazelbaker hit a pinch-hit, two-run home run to pull the Cardinals within two runs in the ninth. Closer Kenley Jansen recorded the final out for his 13th save. The Dodgers scored three runs in the fifth after Cardinals right-hander Carlos Martinez (4-3) loaded the bases with no outs. Martinez left after that.

GIANTS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Buster Posey hit a two-run double in the ninth inning and Hunter Pence had his 200th career home run to lead San Francisco to a win over Arizona. San Francisco led 3-1 after Jake Peavy's six strong innings, but the bullpen couldn't hold the lead. Jean Segura pulled the Diamondbacks within one on an RBI groundout in the seventh inning and pinch hitter Phil Gosselin tied it with a sacrifice fly in the eighth off Hunter Strickland (1-0). The Giants loaded the bases against Daniel Hudson (1-1) in the ninth and Posey bounced a ground-rule double into the pool deck in right center. Cory Gearrin worked around a single in the ninth for his first save. Denard Span had four hits for the Giants.

RANGERS 6, BLUE JAYS 5

Drew Stubbs homered with two outs in the 10th inning, helping Texas beat Toronto after the Blue Jays rallied with consecutive homers in the ninth to force extra innings. Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer and Troy Tulowitzki followed with a tying shot off closer Shawn Tolleson. Tolleson has a 7.07 ERA and has blown two of his past four save opportunities. Tony Barnette (3-2) got Toronto's last four outs, allowing a two-out double by Jose Bautista in the 10th. Gavin Floyd (1-3) gave up two hits and struck out two.

BRAVES 5, ROYALS 0

Mike Foltynewicz pitched a career-high eight scoreless innings, Kelly Johnson and AJ Pierzynski each drove in two runs, and Atlanta beat Kansas City. Foltynewicz (1-1) got his first victory since Aug. 8, holding the Royals to seven hits, while striking out four and walking none. The Braves (9-26) avoided matching the worst 35-game start in franchise history - 8-27, set by the 1911 Boston Braves. Dillon Gee (0-1), making his first start for the Royals in place of the injured Chris Young, held the Braves scoreless on three hits over the first five innings, but retired only one of the six batters he faced in the sixth. He was charged with three runs and six hits, while striking out five and walking three in 5 1/3 innings. The Royals have lost 13 of 18 and have not won consecutive games since April 21-22.

PHILLIES 4, REDS 3

Tyler Goeddel threw out Eugenio Suarez with catcher Cameron Rupp holding onto the ball following a violent collision to end the game and Philadelphia held on to beat Cincinnati. Aaron Nola (3-2) tied a career high with nine strikeouts in seven stingy innings, Odubel Herrera hit a solo homer and David Hernandez pitched out of a jam for his first save since July 12, 2013, for Arizona against Milwaukee. Cincinnati's Tim Adleman (1-1) allowed three runs and eight hits in five innings.

YANKEES 2, WHITE SOX 1

Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman combined for scoreless relief and struck out eight as New York used its three big bullpen arms in the same game for the first time to secure a victory. Ivan Nova pitched neatly into the sixth inning to give New York's ailing rotation a much-needed boost. Aaron Hicks hit an RBI double and Didi Gregorius added a run-scoring single with two outs in the second. That was enough to squeeze past the stingy White Sox, who began the day with the best record at 24-13 and lowest ERA (3.13) in the American League. Todd Frazier hit his 12th home run for Chicago. Jose Quintana (5-2) pitched seven strong innings in a hard-luck loss.

CUBS 8, PIRATES 2

Unbeaten Jake Arrieta struck out 11 in eight innings, Anthony Rizzo drove in four runs and Chicago remained perfect against Pittsburgh. Arrieta (7-0) improved to 18-0 in 20 outings since Aug 1. The Cubs have won his last 21 starts, extending a franchise record. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner gave up three hits and two runs, leaving with a 1.29 ERA. Rizzo belted a towering three-run homer in the fourth. Addison Russell hit a two-run homer as major league-leading Chicago improved to 5-0 against Pittsburgh. The Cubs grabbed the lead for good in the fourth. Heyward singled on a dribbler to second and Kris Bryant walked on a close call on a full-count pitch before Rizzo drove an 0-1 pitch from Jeff Locke (1-3) to the bleachers in right for his 11th homer. Likely upset by the call on Bryant, Pirates pitching coach Ray Searage was thrown out by plate umpire Brian Knight on a visit to the mound later in the inning. Locke also served up Russell's fourth homer with one out in the sixth.

TWINS 6, INDIANS 3

Juan Centeno took Corey Kluber deep for his first major league homer, Ervin Santana allowed one run in six innings and Minnesota ended an eight-game losing streak. Centeno's two-run homer in the fifth landed in the right field seats and put Minnesota on top for good. Santana (1-2) gave up five hits and struck out five in his second start since returning from a back injury. Kluber (2-5) allowed four runs in 6 2/3 innings and lost his second straight start. Eddie Rosario, Eduardo Nunez, Danny Santana and Miguel Sano also drove in runs for Minnesota, which avoided its second nine-game losing streak of the season. The Twins began the season 0-9. Minnesota was tied with Atlanta for the worst record in the majors and won on the road for the third time in 19 games. —AP

MLB Results/Standings

Washington 6, Miami 4; NY Yankees 2, Chicago White Sox 1; Boston 6, Houston 5 (11 innings); Chicago Cubs 8, Pittsburgh 2; Minnesota 6, Cleveland 3; Tampa Bay 6, Oakland 0; Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 3; Baltimore 9, Detroit 3; Miami 7, Washington 1; San Diego 8, Milwaukee 7 (12 innings); Atlanta 5, Kansas City 0; Texas 6, Toronto 5 (10 innings); Colorado 7, NY Mets 4; San Francisco 5, Arizona 3; LA Angels 9, Seattle 7; La Dodgers 5, St. Louis 3.

American League

	W	L	PCT	GB
Eastern Division				
Baltimore	23	12	.657	-
Boston	23	14	.622	1
Toronto	19	19	.500	5.5
Tampa Bay	16	18	.471	6.5
NY Yankees	15	20	.429	8
Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	24	13	.649	-
Cleveland	17	16	.515	5
Kansas City	17	19	.472	6.5
Detroit	15	21	.417	8.5
Minnesota	9	26	.257	14
Western Division				
Seattle	21	15	.583	-
Texas	21	16	.568	0.5
LA Angels	15	21	.417	6
Oakland	15	22	.405	6.5
Houston	15	23	.395	7

National League

	W	L	PCT	GB
Eastern Division				
Washington	23	14	.622	-
Philadelphia	22	15	.595	1
NY Mets	21	15	.583	1.5
Miami	19	17	.528	3.5
Atlanta	9	26	.257	13
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	27	8	.771	-
Pittsburgh	18	17	.514	9
St. Louis	19	18	.514	9
Milwaukee	15	22	.405	13
Cincinnati	14	22	.389	13.5
Western Division				
LA Dodgers	20	17	.541	-
San Francisco	21	18	.538	-
Colorado	18	18	.500	1.5
San Diego	17	21	.447	3.5
Arizona	17	22	.436	4

BARCELONA: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands steers his car during the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo. (INSET) Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands holds his trophy on the podium after winning. —AP

Red Bull's Max Verstappen becomes youngest ever F1 winner

Mercedes duo collide into each other in first lap

BARCELONA: Teenager Max Verstappen became the youngest ever Formula One winner yesterday when he took full advantage of Mercedes' first lap crash to claim a drama-laden Spanish Grand Prix. In his maiden outing for Red Bull following his unexpected promotion from Toro Rosso, the 18-year-old Dutchman showed supreme composure under pressure as he resisted all attacks to claim a memorable victory in only his 24th F1 race. At 18 years and 228 days he became the youngest race winner, replacing four-time champion Sebastian Vettel who had also taken that record as a Red Bull driver at 21 years and 74 days in 2008. "It feels amazing, I can't believe it," said Verstappen. "It was a great race and it felt like an endurance race. To win straight away, in my first race, it's an amazing feeling. "From a very young age, my Dad has helped me a lot - it's just amazing."

Verstappen, heralded as the sport's hottest property, proved he has everything required to be a future world champion. But he owed some of his good fortune also to Red Bull's decision to put him on a three-stop strategy while his senior team-mate Daniel Ricciardo was on a two-stop plan.

That prevented the Australian from turning his early control of the race into victory after the opening lap collision between championship leader Nico Rosberg and his Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton had left them fuming in a gravel trap at Turn Four and out of the race. Ricciardo eventually came home fourth, despite suffering a puncture on the penultimate 65th lap, behind the two Ferraris of Kimi Raikkonen who finished second ahead of Vettel. Verstappen became the first Dutchman to win a F1 Grand Prix. "It's unbelievable, I can't believe this," said Verstappen's father Jos, who on Saturday had announced he had stood down as his son's manager. Valtteri Bottas came home fifth for Williams ahead of Carlos Sainz in a Toro Rosso, Sergio Perez of Force India, Felipe Massa in the second Williams, Jenson Button of McLaren and Daniil Kvyat on his return to Toro Rosso.

Amazing race

In an extraordinary race, there was drama from start to finish. Hamilton and Rosberg collided when they were scrapping for the lead when they wrecked the team's hopes of another one-two triumph and revived bitter memories of their collision in the 2014 Belgian Grand Prix. "We have spoken to both drivers and it is not a clear cut decision - we have lost 43 points after lots of effort by the team in the last few difficult weeks," said a strained Toto Wolff, the team chief.

Non-executive director Niki Lauda said: "It is stupid. We could have won this race... Lewis was too aggressive." Hamilton was distraught. He threw his steering wheel and knew he had thrown away a chance of claiming his first victory in eight races since he won his third title in Texas last year. It ended Rosberg's run of four wins this season and seven in all, dating back to last year, but did nothing for Hamilton's effort to close the 43-points lead that the German retained ahead of him. It also revived memories of their acrimonious scraps in the last two years.

After the drama at the start, the race resumed in more orderly fashion with Ricciardo controlling the from the front and Ferrari, under pressure to win despite chief executive Sergio Marchionne's assurances that team chief Maurizio Arrivabene's job is safe, for now, mounting a serious pursuit. The removal of the two Mercedes set up the unexpected sight of a Red Bull battle with Ferrari and a fired-up Vettel chasing hard.

Ricciardo led Verstappen until lap 11 when he pitted and gifted the teenager the lead until he came in one lap later, Vettel taking over. When the German pitted on lap 16, Ricciardo was back in control. Ricciardo then made his second stop, of his three, on lap 29, and regained his lead, but it was Verstappen, on a two-stop strategy, who appeared to have an advantage, both top teams having split their drivers' strategies for this contest.

By the time Ricciardo had come in for his third stop, it was a four-way scrap with Verstappen resisting Raikkonen ahead of Vettel and the Australian, all of them in close contention and managing their tyres for the final 20 laps. With ten laps remaining, Vertstappen was seven-tenths ahead of Raikkonen and it was all about tyre-wear management and nerves - and the teenager showed he could handle both. — AFP

Wary of rust, Cavs sweat in gym awaiting next round

INDEPENDENCE: Even coach Tyronn Lue came off the floor sweating on Saturday. Don't think for a second the unbeaten Cavaliers have been lounging around the past week as they've waited for their next opponent. "Guys have been really busting their butt in the gym," forward Channing Frye said as beads of perspiration streaked the sides of his face.

Unblemished and seemingly unstoppable through the first two rounds of the playoffs, LeBron James & Co finally know they'll host Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals tomorrow night. All that's left to be determined is whether they'll play Miami or Toronto. The Heat and Raptors will play Game 7, with the winner earning a shot at the 8-0 Cavs.

Cleveland hasn't played since May 8, when it completed its second consecutive postseason sweep, ousting an Atlanta Hawks team that was grounded by the Cavs' battalion of 3-point marksmen. The Cavs dropped 77 3-pointers in four games, and they're hoping the long break between series won't cool off their shooting touch. To combat any rust, Lue has made sure his team worked on its conditioning. They've been running and lifting and lifting and running.

On Wednesday, the Cavs endured a grueling workout supervised by strength and conditioning coach Derek Millender. The brutal, 40-minute session included time on a punishing piece of cardiovascular exercise equipment that left many of the players too tired to run. "That was pretty tough," forward Tristan Thompson said. "But I thought it was great for us because the team could push each other. It was fun. I thought it brought us even closer together as a team."

Little margin for error

The nine-day break could most help the 31-year-old James, who had to carry the Cavs a year ago. He's averaging a career-low 23.5 points so far as Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love have stepped up. "LeBron is letting the game come to him," Lue said. "When he wants to be aggressive and he sees fit to be aggressive when the teams have a good run or whatever they may have, then he just takes over the game. And with Kyrie and Kevin playing at a high level, he can take a lot of mileage off of his body and just kind of seeing and figuring out the flow of the game. "I don't think he's been in this position before and it's been great for him."

After they quickly dispatched Detroit in the first round, the Cavs didn't play for a week before their matchup against the Hawks. And although they won Game 1, it wasn't easy. Cleveland blew an 18-point lead before making plays in the closing minutes and holding on.

With little margin for error, Lue doesn't want any drop-off this time. "We got tired," he said of the 104-93 win on May 2. "In that second half we got tired in that third quarter. I went back and watched that game two nights ago. We got tired, a little fatigued. And I thought in the first half, as far as rust, we didn't have a lot of rust offensively. We took care of the basketball. We executed the way we wanted to execute, I just thought that third quarter we got a little tired."

The Cavs spent part of Saturday's workout preparing for the Heat and Raptors. Both teams run similar offensive sets, so Lue and his assistant coaches gave the players a sneak peek at what they'll be facing. It's part of keeping them mentally sharp before returning to the floor.

Lue said he's been watching the Miami-Toronto series, but not every second. He's more interested in reviewing film of Cleveland's games against both teams to see if he can spot any tendencies or weaknesses. The Cavs won't practice until Sunday evening after the Heat and Raptors conclude Game 7, that way they'll be able to prepare for a specific opponent - not two. Frye, whose role has grown throughout these playoffs, said the extended layoff has allowed the Cavs to heal some "nicks and knacks" and they should return to the floor renewed. "We have a lot of guys doing above and beyond, staying focus, watching the games," he said. "If you're not focused now, hey, I don't know if this is the right sport for you." —AP

CLEVELAND: In this May 8, 2016 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) heads to the hoop against Atlanta Hawks guard Kyle Korver (26) in the second half of Game 4 of the second-round NBA basketball playoff series. — AP

BANGALORE: Royal Challengers of Bangalore captain and batsman Virat Kohli (C-R) hugs his partner AB de Villiers after scoring 100 runs during the 2016 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Lions, at The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. —AFP

Universal praise for record breaking Kohli, de Villiers

BANGALORE: Leading cricketers hailed Virat Kohli and teammate AB de Villiers after the pair smashed scintillating centuries in their Indian Premier League match to break a string of records. India's Kohli struck a 55-ball 109 while South Africa's de Villiers scored an unbeaten 52-ball 129 to power the Royal Challengers Bangalore to a record 144-run victory over the stunned Gujarat Lions on Saturday night.

In front of a roaring crowd in Bangalore, the formidable duo scored only the second ever centuries by batsmen in the same innings in Twenty20 cricket. Kevin O'Brien (119) and Hamish Marshall (102) scored centuries together for Gloucestershire against Middlesex in 2011. Kohli and de Villiers added 229 for the second wicket on Saturday night, the highest partnership in the history of T20 cricket.

The pair smashed their own record of 215, which they notched up while playing for Bangalore against the Mumbai Indians during the 2015 IPL season. Captain Kohli, who is in sizzling form with three centuries in the current IPL, turned the attention on his partner, saying the South African had given him the confidence to power on.

"He's just an absolute legend. He gave me so much confidence in there. I started off slowly but he just took over and you saw what he can do when he gets set," the 27-year-old said of de Villiers, who struck 10 four and 12 sixes. The South African, for his part, paid credit to his wife, saying he performed well whenever he knew that she was in the stands watching.

Teammate Chris Gayle congratulated the two batsman on Twitter, describing their performance as "top knocks from 2 real champions". Gayle was dismissed for just six in the same game, his fifth single-digit score in as many matches as the Jamaican star suffers a collapse in form.

Australian vice captain David Warner, also playing in the IPL this season, hailed the pair as "easily the two best batters in the world" while England's Jos Buttler said: "This is like Ronaldo and Messi on the same team!" The winning margin was the biggest ever in the IPL since it began in 2008, breaking the previous record of 140 by the Kolkata Knight Riders, notched up in the first match of this season against Bangalore. —AFP

England's Finn fired up by Twenty20 hurt

LONDON: England quick Steven Finn has been urged by the team's Australian coach, Trevor Bayliss, to use his World Twenty20 disappointment as a spur to success in upcoming home internationals against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The Middlesex paceman was ruled out of this year's World Twenty20 in India, where England reached the final in March, because of calf and side injuries.

Finn felt a decision on his fitness had been made prematurely and wasn't shy in voicing his displeasure at being left out of the squad. The 27-year-old now regrets speaking out as he did, although Bayliss clearly doesn't bear a grudge as he has told Finn to channel any latent anger into his bowling.

"Trevor sent me an email and said to use the frustration as motivation to take wickets in the summer," said Finn, speaking in London at an event staged by series sponsor Investec, ahead of next week's first Test against Sri Lanka at Headingley-the opening match of a 2016 England home international programme that also includes fixtures against Pakistan.

"I think that was the perfect response to it because you can channel your frustration into the wrong avenues and it can affect you the wrong way." Finn added: "I missed the (Twenty20) World Cup because I was injured, I was disappointed which got portrayed in that interview I suppose in a bit of the wrong words.

"I was wrong, I accepted that and spoke to the people affected and everything is fine now. "I spoke to the medical people, selectors, people who made the decision." Finn was, however, involved in England's recent Test campaign win in South Africa, taking six for 91 in the series opener in Durban.

That should see the tall right-armer, a veteran of 29 Tests, 65 one-day internationals and 21 Twenty20s, retain his place as third seamer behind the new-ball duo of James Anderson and Stuart Broad at Headingley, although Finn faces competition for that role from Nottinghamshire's uncapped Jake Ball. —AFP

Russia 'ashamed and sorry' over doping scandal: Mutko

LONDON: Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko apologized yesterday for the doping scandal that threatens the athletic superpower's participation in the Rio Olympics. Mutko, writing in The Sunday Times, admitted the Russian Athletics Federation and athletes had made "serious mistakes" breaking anti-doping rules.

He said "they had rejected the principle of fair-play so fundamental to sport for immediate benefits. "Let us be clear. We are ashamed of them." Mutko's mea culpa comes just three days after he described as "absurd" allegations that Russian athletes were involved in systematic doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

A report in the New York Times based on information from the former head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory claimed that dozens of athletes including 15 medalists were involved. Russian athletics faces a battle to compete at the Olympics in Rio in August. The sport's ruling body the IAAF provisionally suspended the Russian athletics federation in November over a bombshell report by a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) independent commission alleging state-sponsored doping and mass corruption in the sport.

Further examination

The International Association of Athletics Federations will examine the issue of Russia's participation in Rio at an extraordinary Council meeting next month. Mukto told The Sunday Times: "We are very sorry that athletes who tried to deceive us, and the world, were not caught sooner. "We are very sorry because Russia is committed to upholding the highest standards in sport and is opposed to anything that threatens the Olympic values."

He insisted that since the scandal emerged Russia was putting her house in order. "Since Russia was suspended last November, with RUSADA, the Moscow laboratory and the ARAF all losing their WADA status, we have agreed a road-map with WADA aimed at restructuring these organisations, taking a series of steps to demonstrate how committed we are to ensuring that sport in our country is clean and fair."

Mutko listed some of the new measures designed to ensure his country's appearance in Rio. "Before the Rio Games begin, our aspiring Olympians will undergo a minimum of three anti-doping controls carried out by the IAAF - in addition to any testing that they receive in all qualifying competitions.

"In addition, two international experts are now based in Moscow to supervise all activities of our anti-doping agency." He said UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) had been appointed by WADA to take charge of drug-testing in Russia, although UKAD said on Friday it was reviewing its position after the Sochi revelations. Mutko said "key changes" had been made at the top of the All-Russia Athletics Federations to give the sport "a fresh start". "We will do everything humanly possible to ensure our athletes are a part of clean, fair and enthralling Games," he pleaded ahead of the IAAF's crunch meeting to determine Russia's Rio fate on June 17. — AFP

ROME: Andy Murray is presented with a birthday cake after beating Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3 in the final match of the Italian Open tennis tournament. — AFP

Birthday boy Murray finally masters Djokovic in Rome

ROME: Britain's Andy Murray celebrated his 29th birthday in style yesterday by winning his maiden Rome Masters title with a hard-fought win over disgruntled world number one Novak Djokovic. Murray, the number two seed who suffered defeat to Djokovic in last week's Masters final in Madrid, prevailed 6-3, 6-3 in one hour, 35 minutes. From a total of 32 previous meetings it is only Murray's 10th win over tennis's man of the moment. "Well done Andy, you did a great job today. You were just too good," Djokovic said on court after the final.

It is only Murray's third clay-court title, after his maiden victories on the red dirt in Munich and Madrid last year, but comes in timely fashion just two weeks before the start of the French Open at Roland Garros.

Murray, who cruised into the final with an easy semi-final win over French lucky loser Lucas Pouille early on Saturday, came into the match fresher after Djokovic was forced into a three-hour epic by Japan's Kei Nishikori later on Saturday. It was the third three-set match he had played leading up to the final, and amid the challenging circumstances of intermittent rain, it did not take long for nerves to fray. Murray piled the pressure on from the start, earning a trio of break chances in Djokovic's first service game. Djokovic saved them all, but two games later Murray grabbed the first break of the match when he forced Djokovic into a backhand error for 3-1.

No complaints

The slippery conditions were not to Djokovic's liking and Murray, who had no complaints about the weather, tried to capitalise. He won 16 of his first 19 service points, taking a 5-2 lead with an ace down the T, and then wrapped up the opener with a sublime forehand drop-shot winner to wrap up the set in 46 minutes.

Djokovic's game, and nerves began to come apart in a second set that saw umbrellas come out and hoods pulled up due to the occasional spattering of rain. Leading 2-1, Djokovic complained to the referee about the lack of a rain stoppage and minutes later, still battling to win the fourth game, he began remonstrating with himself. The Serbian skimmed his racket off the ground in another angry gesture after Murray got the first break of the set in game five.

From then on, Djokovic's game fell apart as Murray built on his noticeably superior serve, adding variety with drops shots and volleys at the net. Murray broke in the seventh game of the second set for a 4-3 lead, prompting Djokovic-from his chair-to start demanding a halt to the game due to rain. He was heard saying he "don't want to play any more", adding: "My friend, it's been raining for an hour." Djokovic underlined the threat of injuries playing in such conditions, but his pleas went unheard. —AFP

Serena ends 9-month title drought at Italian Open

ROME: Serena Williams ended a nine-month title drought with a 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Madison Keys in an all-American Italian Open final yesterday. Williams' previous title came in Cincinnati in August - a month before her attempt at a calendar-year Grand Slam ended with a semifinal loss to Roberta Vinci at the US Open. It's Williams' fourth title in Rome and it comes exactly a week before the French Open begins. It was the first time two American women have met in a final on clay since Serena beat older sister Venus in the 2002 French Open. The last all-American final in Rome was in 1970, when Billie Jean King beat Julie Heldman. In the men's tournament, top-ranked Novak Djokovic was facing Andy Murray in a rematch of last week's Madrid Open final.

In the Rome record book, Serena drew level with Conchita Martinez and Gabriela Sabatini, who also took four titles at the Foro Italico. Chris Evert holds the women's record with five titles while Rafael Nadal holds the overall mark with seven. It was the 70th title overall in Serena's career. The 21-year-old Keys was playing in the biggest final of her career. She posted personal best results at all four majors last year, including reaching the Australian Open semifinals and the Wimbledon quarterfinals. The 24th-ranked Keys broke Serena at love in the opening game of the match and hit six aces in her opening two service games to take a 3-1 lead. As Serena became more aggressive, however, Keys hit two double faults to hand the break back, making it 3-3.In the tiebreak, Serena took control with a wicked cross-court forehand that Keys couldn't get back then closed it out on her first set point with a big serve out wide that Keys returned long. After taking the first set, Serena pumped her fists and yelled to herself, 'Come on!'"

In the second set, Serena's only real trouble came when she was broken while serving for the match at 5-2. But she quickly ended it the next game, concluding the tournament without dropping a set.Serena hit only 13 winners to Keys' 17 but had fewer unforced errors - 24-32 - and converted five of her six break-point opportunities. Serena improved to 16-0 against Americans since losing to Venus in the Montreal semifinals in 2014. Her last loss to an American in a final came against Venus at Wimbledon in 2008. —AP

ROME: US Serena Williams takes a selfie with the trophy after winning the final match of the WTA Tennis Open tournament game against US Madison Keys at the Foro Italico. —AFP

Peaty carrying home hopes in Europe as Olympics loom

LONDON: As the Olympic Games loom ever closer, Europe's best swimmers gather in London starting today on one of the final stepping stones to Rio de Janeiro. When the European Championships start at the London Aquatics Centre - which staged the swimming at the 2012 Olympics - there will be just 82 days before the Games start. Given the proximity, few who are competing in Rio will have rested for the London meet but are instead in heavy training, eyes planted firmly on what lies ahead in August. Two years ago in Berlin, Great Britain topped the medal table with a haul of 24.

Prominent was a 19-year-old called Adam Peaty, a fortnight after beating Olympic champion Cameron van der Burgh to second in the 100m breaststroke at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Peaty was a stand-out in Berlin, winning four gold medals and setting a world record in the 50m breaststroke although this was not ratified due to an administrative error.

So too did France's Olympic 50m freestyle champion Florent Manaudou make four visits to the top of the rostrum while Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom claimed three golds. All three are set for London but for Peaty the summer of 2014 was when he made a deafening entrance onto the international stage. He went on to obliterate Van der Burgh's 100m world record last year in London before grabbing three gold medals at the World Championships in Kazan, Russia where he and the South African went toe to toe like prize fighters, trading 50m world records as boxers trade blows.

'Gladiator-style'

Now favorite for Olympic gold, English swimmer Peaty has come a long way. He told AFP: "It's only two years but I'm going to Europeans now in a completely different mindset, a completely different athlete. "I'm a lot more confident about where I'm going and what I've done to get me this far so I am looking forward to swimming this meet and I'm not really focusing on medals or times, just on my process and my weak areas. "Me and Mel (coach Mel Marshall) have already got a thing in place to hopefully just race, gladiator-style. "We are all going to be pretty tired but that doesn't mean we are going to hand the medals over, we are going to put up a good fight and see what we get. "I love competing so I'll get a little bit more energy out of myself and see what happens."

The last time Peaty competed at the Aquatics Centre he became the first man to go under 58 seconds for the 100m breaststroke, his time of 57.92 seconds taking 0.54secs off Van der Burgh's mark in the same pool in 2012. There are a host of Olympic and world champions descending on the pool in east London, with Britain's double world freestyle champion James Guy, 20, making his European debut.

Manaudou is joined on the French team by Fabien Gilot, Jeremy Stravius and Mehdy Metella, the four making up the squad that won the 4x100m freestyle world title in 2015. Gregorio Paltrinieri, winner of the 1500m freestyle in Kazan in the mysterious absence of China's Sun Yang, spearheads the Italian men along with Gabriele Detti.

Hungary's Laszlo Cseh will be bidding to add to his 12 European titles in the butterfly and individual medley events. Sjostrom will look to add to her seven medals from Berlin ahead of a much-anticipated Olympics for the Swede after five world medals, including two golds, in Kazan. Hungary's Katinka Hosszu, nicknamed the Iron Lady because of her grueling multi-event schedule, has a reduced programme in London, her eyes set on claiming her first Olympic medals.

Six-time European champion Federica Pellegrini of Italy competes ahead of her fourth Olympics and Lithuania's Ruta Mielutyte prepares for her Olympic 100m breaststroke defense. Ranomi Kromowidjojo has four Olympic medals, including three golds, but just two European trips to the rostrum, which the Dutchwoman will be hoping to rectify in London. — AFP

Ford presents 'The Return': The story of the all-new Ford GT

DUBAI: When Ford Motor Company unveiled the all-new Ford GT, the automotive world was surprised, even shocked, that no information had leaked out. Now it's lifting the curtain in a five-part video series called "The Return." Ford's passion is for making the most innovative, cutting-edge vehicles on the road. That's what inspired them to design and build the newest Ford GT.

Marking the 50th anniversary of the Ford GT's first win at the Le Mans 24 Hours by returning to the iconic race was a daring move for a company ready to showcase its newest advances in Ford EcoBoost, aerodynamics and light weighting in one vehicle. "The Ford GT is a showcase that will help drive even more advanced technologies into our vehicle lineup," said Bill Ford, executive chairman, Ford Motor Company. "We are using it not only to see what is possible, but also to help write the next chapter in our racing history and our future production."

When Ford designed the all-new Ford GT, it sought to strike the perfect balance between everyday driver comfort and enjoyment - and what would be demanded of a supercar competing on the global sports car racing stage. What was coveted on the street would also need to be competitive on the track.

"This project is one that's very close to the heart of who we are at Ford and Ford Performance," said Raj Nair, executive vice president, Ford Global Product Development, and chief technical officer. "It represents the very best of what we do; that same spirit that drove the innovation behind the first Ford GT still drives us today. We're not after short-term success - our eyes are on the long-term gain having a halo product that is this exciting can do for us, both in offering a new chapter in the Ford GT legend for fans and behind the scenes in engineering."

"The Return" features Ford, Nair and Dave Pericak, director, Global Ford Performance, and shows both the development of the Ford GT and its adventures on the race track racing around the world in both the IMSA WeatherTechSportsCar Championship (North America) and FIA World Endurance Championship (global). "We're proud of how far we've come, but we have a long way to go," Pericak said. "Every time we race the Ford GT, we learn something. Our ultimate goal is the return to Le Mans."

Pjanic 'a Juventino', but Roma in denial: Report

MILAN: Juventus have paved the way for Miralem Pjanic to join the Serie A champions after paying an estimated 38 million Euros ($43m) to trigger his release clause from Roma, reports said yesterday. The Bosnia midfielder has been one of Roma's the leading lights this season, hitting 10 league goals and two in the Champions League to help the capital club to a third-place finish on Saturday after a 3-1 win at AC Milan.

It means Roma, runners-up the past two seasons, finished two points behind second-placed Napoli and now need to pass the preliminary round of the Champions League to reach the competition's group stages. Whether Pjanic is part of their summer play-off fixtures remains to be seen.

Sportmediaset claimed Juventus have already paid Roma the fee to trigger Pjanic's release following a phone call from Massimiliano Allegri to the player. Pjanic, notably, has honed his free kick-taking skills this season and Juventus have yet to find a true replacement for dead ball specialist Andre Pirlo since his move to New York City FC last year. Roma have not denied Pjanic could leave, but in a statement relayed by Gazzetta dello Sport yesterday the club said: "Roma denies the report relayed by Sportmediaset.it claiming the club has already received payment for Miralem Pjanic's release clause. This news is totally unfounded." Reports in Italy claim Pjanic has been bidding his teammates farewell in recent days and that they, in return, have been jokingly calling him 'Juventino' - which equates as 'little Juventus player'. Juventus capped their sterling Serie A season with a 5-0 rout of Sampdoria on Saturday to finish nine points ahead of Napoli, who saw striker Gonzalo Higuain score a hat-trick in a dramatic 4-0 win over relegated Frosinone to enter the history books. With a stunning 72nd minute strike from the edge of the area, Higuain broke AC Milan forward Gunnar Nordahl's 1950 record of 35 goals in a single, 20-team, three-points-for-a-win Serie A season. Nordahl's record stood for 66 years, but Higuain finished the season on 36 to claim a prestigious 'Capocannoniere' (top scorer) award. — AFP

History maker Higuain feels Napoli love but doubts on future persist

ROME: History-making Gonzalo Higuain has declared his love for Napoli but left doubts hanging over his future as rumors persist of a possible move to the Premier League. Higuain hit a hat-trick in a dramatic 4-0 win over relegated Frosinone on Saturday to take his league tally for the season to 36 in 35 games, in the process breaking a 66-year-old Serie A record.

AC Milan forward and Sweden legend Gunnar Nordahl's record of 35 goals in a single, 20-team Serie A season had stood since 1950. Throughout the league's history, the season has variously featured between 16 and 20 teams. When Nordahl scored 35 goals in 1950 it was in a period (1948-1952) of 20 teams, before the league reverted to 18 for 1952-1967.

At a packed San Paolo stadium Higuain defied torrential rain to produce an overhead kick from the edge of the area to score his record-setting 36th goal. Higuain's feat has revived memories of the last Argentine to steal the hearts of the Azzurri fans-Diego Maradona, who helped steer them to their two titles in 1987 and 1990.

Yesterday, it was elevated to the highest levels-one church installed a large screen to the right side of the altar to show Higuain's goals to the congregation with the Champions League soundtrack playing in the background. Napoli's win also secured the runners-up spot and direct entry to the Champions League, but when asked if he would be at the club next season Higuain was coy.

"We want to think back on the extraordinary season we've just had. The team and the whole city deserve to soak it all up," said Higuain. Having joined Napoli from Real Madrid on a five-year deal worth 40 million Euros ($45 million) in 2013, Higuain has relaunched his career in Italy, although the big improvements have come under coach Maurizio Sarri this season, having failed to reach the same heights when Rafa Benitez was in charge.

'Immense joy'

When he scored his third goal on Saturday, Higuain immediately ran to hug Sarri on the touchlines. "I want to thank Maurizio Sarri... he has helped me so much, he always told me what I had to do to improve and I always listened," said Higuain. "It's difficult to comprehend but I hope it will all sink in soon. After I scored the third goal and the whole team came to hug me, I felt immense joy."

Although Napoli missed out on winning a first title in 26 years in a season that saw the club win the highest ever number of points — 87 - Higuain's feat and Napoli's return to Europe's top table has helped make amends. Ecstatic fans showed their appreciation at the San Paolo with a rendition of a song usually reserved for Maradona. "Oh mamma, mamma, mamma... I've seen Higuain." Reports in Italy say it has not been sung at the stadium since Maradona's time at the club, and Higuain understood the full significance. "This season I have felt the love. I feel loved here more than I did at any other club I've been," he said.

Maradona, who earlier this season blasted Sarri after a shaky start to the campaign, posted a message on Twitter which read: "Thanks guys for the satisfaction you've given to a city which lives and breathes football. And for this record-filled season."

A return to the Champions League should be enough for Higuain, who was bitterly disappointed when Napoli were beaten in last summer's play-off preliminary round by Athletic Bilbao, to stay at Napoli. But if he decides to quit Napoli for pastures new over the summer, the love of Napoli's fans could quickly turn to anger. Napoli's film producer owner Aurelio De Laurentiis, meanwhile, has moved to ward off potential suitors by reportedly slapping a 94-million euros release clause on his contract. — AFP

NAPLES: Napoli's Argentinian-French forward Gonzalo Higuain celebrates after scoring his third goal during the Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs Frosinone Calcio on May 14, 2016 at the San Paolo stadium. — AFP

GRANADA: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring during the Spanish league football match Granada CF vs FC Barcelona at Nuevo Los Carmenes stadium. —AFP

Suarez the new leader of Barcelona's strike force

BARCELONA: Barcelona's celebrated 'MSN' strike force of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar had La Liga defences at their mercy for much of the campaign but as Barca swept to the title by winning their final five games it was Suarez who led the three-pronged attack.

The Uruguayan scored 14 goals in those five games, sealing the title with a hat-trick in the 3-0 title clincher at Granada on Saturday, ending the campaign on 40 goals and finishing as top scorer in Spain and Europe. His goal-scoring outshone that of his partners: Messi hit three goals in the five games, while Neymar had two goals, one of them from the penalty spot.

The Brazilian had the chance to have the final say in the win at Granada when he got through on goal but he selflessly teed up Suarez for a hat-trick. Neymar was reportedly told by Argentine team mate Javier Mascherano recently to "stop being selfish and play for the team". Neymar's pass for Suarez's third goal and his intelligent ball to Jordi Alba that lead to the Uruguayan's opening strike were proof that the message had got through.

Earlier in the season Neymar was the team's figurehead, stepping up a level while Messi was out for eight weeks with a knee injury. Although Neymar finished the season with 24 goals, two more than last term, his form nosedived towards the end of the season and he was portrayed as the scapegoat for Barca's surprise stutter in April.

Missing Messi?

Messi meanwhile has taken on a new role, playing ever deeper than before and controlling the play from deep. At times it resembled the role Xavi Hernandez had but with added firepower. The Argentine was third in the league-scoring table with 26 goals, even with his two months out, yet it was his worst tally since 2009 and contrasted with his 43 goals last season.

While most strikers would still envy Messi's tally, the signs are that the team have been geared up to get the best out of Suarez. Helped by the fact that he played more minutes than any other Barca player this term, the Uruguayan scored 24 goals more than last season, when he was serving a ban for the first two months for biting.

Last season the success of 'MSN' was put down to Neymar's and Suarez's ability to bow down to Messi but now the Uruguayan is the main man. "Without people saying it, I've realised that recently my team mates have been looking to pass to me more and more," Suarez said last week. "That's a sign of the great team ethic there is." Barca's attacking trio were even more ferocious than last season, scoring a total of 90 goals compared to 80 last term. Spain's media acknowledged the new dynamic in the trio, with Marca and El Pais both proclaiming: "This was Suarez's title." — Reuters

Five keys to Barcelona's 24th La Liga triumph

BARCELONA: Barcelona claimed their 24th La Liga title on Sunday with a 3-0 win at Granada. Here, AFP Sports looks at five key reasons why Luis Enrique's men retained their title despite a thrilling chase from Champions League finalists Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid.

Survived Messi's injury absence

When five-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi went down with knee ligament damage against Las Palmas in September ruling him out for two months, the time seemed ripe for Barca's title rivals to capitalise. Instead, inspired by the remaining two stars of stellar front three, Luis Suarez and Neymar, Barca fired their way to the top of the table in Messi's absence with five wins from six games. More remarkably, by the time Messi set foot back on the pitch in El Clasico against Real, Barca were already leading 3-0 before going onto complete a 4-0 rout after which they were never usurped by their eternal rivals.

Insatiable Suarez

For the first time in seven years, the Pichichi trophy awarded to La Liga's top scorer wasn't won by Messi or Real's Cristiano Ronaldo. Suarez's 40 La Liga goals is a record for anyone other than Messi or Ronaldo, who have taken goalscoring to barely believable figures over the past decade. The Uruguayan has 59 in 52 games in all competitions and, more crucially, has come up big when Barca needed him most. He scored 12 in 10 games during Messi's injury layoff and 14 in the last five matches of the league season to prevent the title slipping out of Barca's grasp.

Atletico comebacks

It is hard to think of a tougher task in European football than coming from behind against the continent's meanest defense in Atletico Madrid. Barca and Bayern Munich found that to their cost in being eliminated from the Champions League. However, in their two league meetings, Barca reacted from conceding first to win 2-1 for six points that prevented Diego Simeone's men from winning a second title in three years.

Bounce back from spring slump

Barca looked set to wrap the title up weeks ago during a 39-game unbeaten run stretching from October to April that saw them lead Atletico and Real by nine and 12 points respectively. However, a run of one point from a possible 12, including defeat at home to Real to break their unbeaten streak and spark a run of three consecutive league defeats for the first time in 13 years set up a thrilling three-way fight for the title. Barca's response since then of five wins from five, scoring 24 goals without reply in the process has been one of champions.

Prime Pique

Barca's South American striking triumvirate of Suarez, Messi and Neymar hogs the headlines after a 130-goal season. Yet, at the other end of the field Gerard Pique's return to being one of the best centre-backs in world football has proven just as important to hold an at times crumbling defense together. It was the substitution of Pique with Barca leading 2-0 at Villarreal in late March which sparked the Catalans' mini-collapse. Pique has attracted criticism throughout the season for his controversial comments and use of social media, yet he his actions on the pitch have been of a true leader when his side most needed one. —AFP

Ibrahimovic sets goal record in final French league game

PARIS: Zlatan Ibrahimovic set a record for league goals in a single season by a Paris Saint-Germain player, saying farewell on Saturday with a brace in a 4-0 win over Nantes in the French league. Playing his last game at PSG's home ground in the final round, Ibrahimovic moved to 38 league goals, ahead of Carlos Bianchi, who managed 37 in 1977-78. Josip Skoblar holds the all-time record of 44 league goals in 1970-71 for Marseille.

Sweden striker Ibrahimovic, who announced earlier this week that he would be leaving the French champions at the end of the season, entered the pitch alone and received a guard of honor from his teammates. The match was stopped briefly in the 10th minute as fans gave Ibrahimovic - whose PSG shirt is No 10 - a standing ovation. Ibrahimovic opened the scoring eight minutes later after using his chest to connect with a cross from Angel Di Maria at the far post and sealed PSG's win with a header in the 90th minute.

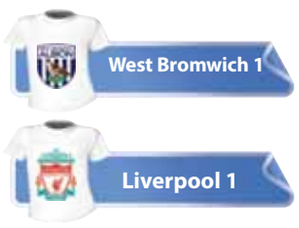
After scoring his double, Ibrahimovic was joined on the pitch by his two children, who wore PSG jerseys with the words "king" and "legend." The shirts echoed Ibrahimovic's statement that he arrived at PSG "like a king" and "left like a legend."

Lucas Moura and Marquinhos were also on the score sheet for PSG. "You're a PSG legend, you're PSG's best scorer. We will never forget what you did for the club," PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said after the game during the title celebrations. Ibrahimovic, who has yet to announce his plans for the future, has one more match to play with PSG - the French Cup final against bitter rival Marseille on May 21 at the Stade de France.

At 34, Ibrahimovic played one of the best seasons of his career. Although he failed again in his task of delivering the Champions League to the Qatari-owned club, he was named last week the French league's best player for the third time in four seasons. Playing tremendous soccer for most of the season, the imposing striker became PSG's all-time leading scorer as the Parisian club won a fourth consecutive French league title and the League Cup.— AP

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic leaves a pitch at the end of the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Nantes at the Parc des Princes stadium. — AFP

Ibe secures a point for second-string Liverpool



WEST BROMWICH: Jordon Ibe's superb goal gave a much-changed Liverpool side a 1-1 draw at West Bromwich Albion on the final day of the Premier League season. Three days before the Reds face Sevilla in the Europa League final in Basel, their manager Jurgen Klopp made 11 changes for their final domestic outing of the campaign.

They fell behind on 13 minutes to a fine West Brom goal that was finished off by Venezuelan international Salomon Rondon. But Ibe's solo effort levelled the scores 10 minutes later as most of Klopp's likely European starters were rested. Emotions were high before the game as West Brom paid a touching tribute to the victims of the 1989 Hillsborough stadium disaster following their families' momentous inquest victory. There were 96 empty red seats in the away end, each bearing the name of a fan who died, and before kick-off West Brom captain Darren Fletcher and former Liverpool striker Rickie Lambert, now with Albion, laid floral tributes in front of the visiting supporters. There was little incident of note in the opening stages, but the game was then enlivened by three pieces of fabulous skill from young attacking players.

First Jonathan Leko, West Brom's 17-year-old wideman, created the opening goal for Rondon. Leko pounced on Joe Allen's poor pass, rode two firm challenges to stay on his feet and then fed Rondon with a perfect pass. The Venezuelan then produced a fine, low finish past Adam Bogdan.

Cameron Brannagan tried to replicate Leko with a strong, weaving run at the heart of the West Brom defence, but his low shot was tame and comfortable for Ben Foster in the home goal. But Ibe made no mistake on 23 minutes with a fantastic solo effort to level the scores.

Testimonial pace

He left Jonny Evans standing on halfway, close to the right touchline, before darting 50 yards, through the West Brom defence and past Jonas Olsson. He then kept his composure to place a firm, low shot past Foster. On the half-hour, Allen tried to make amends for his earlier error, but his long-range shot was dragged well wide. Then came a disappointing moment for another youngster as Liverpool full-back Brad Smith was booked for diving after a powerful run at the West Brom back four brought him one-on-one with Jonas Olsson. The second half also began at near testimonial pace, with both sides lacking the urgency to create openings.

Craig Gardner was first to try his luck with a long-range shot that flashed well wide. Then Rondon had the first of several chances as he met a fine free-kick from Gardner with a glancing header that struck the woodwork. It was Rondon again who threatened to score when a Gardner corner was flicked on to the far post. The big striker failed to make a clean contact with his first shot, but he recovered for a second, which Bogdan turned around the post superbly for another corner. West Brom continued to look more likely scorers as they pegged Liverpool in their own half for long spells, but they could not force a breakthrough. And in the closing moments Christian Benteke should have made the most of a two-on-one break with fit-again substitute Jordan Henderson unmarked in the centre. But the big striker lost his way and was tackled by Gareth McAuley. — AFP

WEST BROMWICH: Liverpool's Jordon Ibe, centre, scores his sides first goal during the English Premier League soccer match between West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool FC at The Hawthorns Stadium. — AP

'I want to stay here' says emotional Terry

LONDON: Captain John Terry told Chelsea's fans he wanted to stay at the club during an emotional address following their 1-1 draw with Premier League champions Leicester City yesterday. Terry, 35, announced in January that he would be leaving at the end of the season due to the club's failure to offer him a new contract. But Chelsea performed a U-turn this week by announcing that Terry has been offered a new one-year deal and while he stopped short of saying that he would accept it, he suggested that he saw his immediate future at Stamford Bridge. "We all want the same thing," Terry told fans during an on-pitch speech.

"I've said that. I want to stay. The club knows that, the fans know that." Terry has made 703 appearances for Chelsea, putting him third in the club's all-time list, and is their most successful captain, having won four league titles, five FA Cups, three League Cups, the Champions League and the Europa League during his 18 years in the first team.

The former England captain missed Chelsea's last two games of the season through suspension, but he was present at Stamford Bridge yesterday as fans chanted "John Terry, we want you to stay!" and held up signs showing "26", his squad number. In his speech, he paid tribute to Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, his former boss at Chelsea, and Guus Hiddink, who has come to the end of his second stint as the London club's interim manager. "First and foremost I'd like to wish Claudio Ranieri and Leicester congratulations. I'm delighted that Leicester have won it and Tottenham haven't," Terry said, to roars from the home fans. "This has been a difficult season and we are where we deserve to be in the league (10th). The fans have stuck with us. Thank you. "I can assure you we'll be back fighting for this title next year. On a personal note this has been tough for me, very emotional." He paused, apparently fighting back tears, before continuing: "Before I sign off I'd like to say thank you to Guus Hiddink. He is a great man." —AFP

LONDON: Chelsea's English defender John Terry applauds fans after the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Leicester City at Stamford Bridge. — AFP

LONDON: Leicester City's English midfielder Danny Drinkwater (C) celebrates after scoring during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Leicester City at Stamford Bridge. —AFP

Drinkwater spares Leicester City from closing defeat at Chelsea

LONDON: Danny Drinkwater struck a stunning late equalizer as Leicester City concluded their fairytale Premier League campaign with a 1-1 draw against outgoing champions Chelsea at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Cesc Fabregas's penalty put Chelsea ahead, but Drinkwater crowned his return from suspension by leveling with a dipping 25-yard effort in the 82nd minute to ensure that manager Claudio Ranieri did not taste defeat on his return to his former club.

Beaten only three times over the whole campaign, Leicester finished the season 10 points clear of second-place Arsenal, with long-time pursuers Tottenham Hotspur a point back in third. They also equalled a club record of 12 consecutive league games without defeat. Chelsea finished 10th, 31 points off the pace, and while Guus Hiddink said his goodbyes after his second stint as interim manager, there remains uncertainty over the future of captain John Terry.

Suspended for Leicester's visit, the 35-year-old was set to take part in the post-match lap of honour but has yet to reveal whether he will sign the one-year contract extension that the club offered him this week. Leicester's players were granted a guard of honor by their hosts as they took to the pitch beneath bright sunshine in west London, while Ranieri was presented with a memento by Chelsea, the club who had sacked him 12 years previously.

Hello again Ranieri

While the home fans said hello again to Ranieri, they also bade farewell to Hiddink, who gives way to Italy manager Antonio Conte, and implored Terry not to end his time at the club on 703 appearances. On minute 26 — reflecting Terry's squad number-Chelsea fans in the Shed End held up signs bearing the number 26 as the home ground chanted: "John Terry, we want you to stay!" The former England captain, sitting behind the dug-outs, acknowledged the display with a raised hand.

Perhaps with next season's Champions League campaign in mind, Ranieri used the occasion to test out a new system that saw Riyad Mahrez and Demarai Gray flank lone striker Jamie Vardy in a 4-1-4-1 formation. Vardy put two efforts wide, while Gray worked Thibaut Courtois with a firmly hit right-foot strike.

But Chelsea finished the half on top, visiting goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel twice denying Fabregas and saving spectacularly from Willian and Baba Rahman before an offside flag denied Pedro Rodriguez an opener from Willian's low cross. Ranieri sent on Jeff Schlupp and Shinji Okazaki at half-time as Leicester reverted to their familiar 4-4-2 shape, while Hiddink looked to the future in the second half with the introductions of Ruben Loftus-Cheek, 20, and 18-year-olds Tammy Abraham and Fikayo Tomori, who made his debut. Fabregas broke the deadlock in the 66th minute, sending Schmeichel the wrong way from the spot after Schlupp had been penalized for flying in towards Nemanja Matic. But Leicester, fittingly, had the final say as Drinkwater gathered a pass from Schlupp and hit a sweet drive that flashed past Courtois and into the bottom-left corner. — AFP

Flores ends Watford tenure with draw to Sunderland

WATFORD: Watford failed to send off departing manager Quique Sanchez Flores with a victory as Sunderland left Vicarage Road with a 2-2 draw yesterday. Fresh from securing their Premier League future in midweek with a 3-0 rout of Everton, Sunderland twice took the lead through Jack Rodwell and Jeremain Lens, but each time the Hornets hit back with Sebastian Proedl and Troy Deeney finding the net. Fans gave Flores, who will leave the club after just a year in charge, a rapturous reception before kick-off and his side then played their part in an entertaining fixture. Almen Abdi twice came close to hitting the target when well placed and when he finally did with a third attempt for the hosts, Sunderland goalkeeper Jordan Pickford saved comfortably.

For all Watford's early pressure, though, it was the visitors, for whom manager Sam Allardyce had given a chance to several young players, who took the lead. Rodwell arrived unmarked at the back post to open the scoring on 39 minutes with a simple finish.

Two minutes later the visitors were harshly denied a second from Duncan Watmore by a debatable offside flag. It took Watford only two minutes after the break to equalise as Proedl headed home Adlene Guedioura's corner to score his first Watford goal. Yet just three minutes after that Watmore broke clear from another Watford corner before finding Lens, who fired past goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes.

Sunderland had another effort from Dame N'Doye chalked off by an offside flag and, just 60 seconds later, John O'Shea brought down Jose Jurado in the box, allowing Deeney to crash home the spot-kick. Two minutes from time Odion Ighalo had the chance to snatch a winner but he placed his shot wide and Flores bowed out with a draw. — AFP

Everton begin post-Martinez era with 3-0 Norwich victory

LIVERPOOL: Everton claimed a rare home win as they beat relegated Norwich City 3-0 on the final day of the Premier League season in their first match since Roberto Martinez was sacked as manager. Caretaker coaches Joe Royle and David Unsworth named an experimental side, and James McCarthy lashed them into the lead after good work by Keiran Dowell.

Leighton Baines doubled the advantage from the penalty spot shortly before half-time, and Kevin Mirallas swept home just after the restart to end the game as a contest. Everton still end the season with their lowest points tally at Goodison Park for a league campaign since three points have been awarded for a win, but there was a glimpse of the future with several youngsters involved.

Alex Neil's Norwich made an immediate return to the Championship when Everton lost 3-0 at Sunderland in midweek, and they looked like a second-tier outfit yesterday. Unsworth, who won the 1995 FA Cup under Royle as a player, made four changes to Martinez's side that was beaten at the Stadium of Light on Wednesday.

Midfielders Dowell and Tom Davies, 17, were given their full Premier League debuts, while defender Jonjoe Kenny came off the bench early on for the injured Matthew Pennington. The Toffees forged ahead in the 19th minute with a fantastic goal from McCarthy, as the Irish international hammered home from 20 yards after a slaloming run by Dowell.

Mirallas then passed up a great opportunity to make it two, while Matt Jarvis spooned Norwich's best chance at the other end over the top. Romelu Lukaku was hauled down inside the area by Robbie Brady, and left-back Baines stepped up to score his second goal of the season on the stroke of half-time.

The third goal would have delighted the Gwladys Street faithful, with Davies and Dowell part of a flowing move that ended with Belgian forward Mirallas tapping in Kenny's cross from close range. The 18-year-old Dowell was given a standing ovation when he was replaced by Ross Barkley, who was denied a fourth by Canaries keeper John Ruddy. It was a lifeless display from Norwich with which to sign off from a campaign that sees them finish second-bottom, while Everton end up in 11th place. — AFP

LIVERPOOL: Everton's English midfielder Tom Davies (2L) attempts a shot on goal during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Norwich City at Goodison Park. —AFP

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LONDON: Arsenal's French striker Olivier Giroud (C) celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Aston Villa at the Emirates Stadium. — AFP

GIROUD SINKS VILLA, LIFTS ARSENAL TO SECOND

Arsenal 4

Aston Villa 0

LONDON: Olivier Giroud's hat-trick inspired Arsenal to a 4-0 demolition of Aston Villa yesterday that, combined with Tottenham's defeat at Newcastle, ensured they finished the season as Premier League runners-up. Gunners manager Arsene Wenger has endured protests from supporters convinced it is time for a change throughout much of a difficult campaign.

But snatching an unexpected second place finish that maintained Arsenal's record of finishing above local rivals Tottenham every year since the Frenchman took charge in 1996 will strengthen Wenger's position heading into the close-season. Wenger had acknowledged the disappointment of failing to challenge for the title by insisting before this game that defeat hurts him more than ever because, at the age of 66, he knows he has only a limited number of seasons in front of him.

Chips Keswick, the Arsenal chairman, also expressed in the match day program his disappointment at the club's failure to close in on champions Leicester, but despite the feeling of frustration, Wenger's side still came into this game having already secured another top four finish. Last weekend's draw at Manchester City meant the manager had guided the club into the Champions League for a 19th successive season.

And for Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere, there was the added incentive of demonstrating to watching Roy Hodgson he is now fully fit, 24 hours before the England coach announces his squad for Euro 2016. Wilshere was making his first start since the final day of the last Premier League season after suffering a leg fracture last August and offered enough signs during his 70-minute appearance to strengthen his claims.

Disastrous Villa

For Villa, already relegated and destined to finish at the bottom of the table after a disastrous season, there was nothing but pride to play for before their focus shifts towards attempting to return from the Championship next season. The opening moments showed just why Villa have found themselves in such a mess with Arsenal taking a fifth minute lead without breaking sweat. The goal could hardly have been simpler, with Giroud set up by an excellent left wing cross from Nacho Monreal and the striker rising above the visitors' defense to head past Mark Bunn. The expectation was that Arsenal would go on to build on that opening goal and finish the season in style.

Villa, as they have been for much of the season, were ineffectual, but Wenger's side struggled to create more chances despite the weakness of the opposition and it was another 20 minutes before the home supporters were stirred into life by news of Newcastle's opening goal at St James' Park.

Arsenal dominance was reflected by the fact the visiting supporters celebrated loudly when their team forced a corner midway through the second half after a rare foray forward. But the Gunners continued to frustrate, with Wenger growing increasingly animated on the touchline as his side failed to add to their lead when Mohamed Elneny volleyed over. It was left to Giroud to calm his side's nerves in the 78th minute when he got in front of the Villa defense to turn home at the near post from Mesut Ozil's cross. The France striker then completed his hat-trick two minutes later with a first time finish after an excellent through ball from Hector Bellerin. Mikel Arteta, who along with Mathieu Flamini and Tomas Rosicky will leave the club shortly, was the architect of the fourth goal, sending a shot against the bar that bounced into the goal off Bunn. An emotional Arteta left the pitch in tears after a game that added an unexpected gloss to a season marked by frustration at Arsenal's failure to challenge for the title. — AFP

NEWCASTLE HUMILIATES SPURS

Newcastle 5

Tottenham 1

NEWCASTLE: Tottenham Hotspur surrendered a second-place Premier League finish as they suffered a humiliating 5-1 final day defeat at relegated Newcastle United yesterday. Georginio Wijnaldum led the way with two goals either side of one by Aleksandar Mitrovic, who was later sent off, before late efforts from substitute Rolando Aarons and defender Daryl Janmaat saw Spurs comprehensively beaten as they failed to earn the point they needed to seal their best top-flight campaign since 1963.

Arsenal's victory at home to Aston Villa saw them climb above their north London neighbors, who dropped to third after going winless in their last four games of an otherwise hugely impressive campaign. Erik Lamela scored their consolation and although Harry Kane failed to find the net, the Tottenham forward had the consolation of claiming the Golden Boot award as the Premier League's top scorer with 25 goals this season.

Home fans conducted a 90-minute serenade of Rafael Benitez, the manager they hope will lead the attempt to bounce straight back into the top flight next season. The Spaniard, who has a relegation break clause in the three-year contract he signed when he replaced Steve McClaren in March, is set for talks over his future with the club's owner Mike Ashley this week. Newcastle are hopeful they can persuade the former Real Madrid and Liverpool manager to stay, but the 56-year-old is seeking assurances as to the amount of investment in players and his level of control before he commits himself.

Shambolic display

Tottenham ended the campaign in shambolic style, missing the midfield drive of suspended duo Dele Alli and Mousa Dembele as they extended their 21-year sequence of finishing below Arsene Wenger's Arsenal. Wijnaldum opened the scoring in the 19th minute, finding the corner of the net from 12 yards after Mitrovic teed up a Moussa Sissoko cross for the Dutch midfielder.

Newcastle, whose second relegation in seven years was sealed by victory in mid-week for their neighbors Sunderland, were bright and enterprising from the start as Sports Direct billionaire Ashley took in his first home game this year from the directors' box.

It was a performance that left supporters wondering what might have been, with St James' Park hosting its last top-tier football for at least 15 months.

Mitrovic doubled the hosts' advantage on the stroke of half-time, sending in a diving header from Sissoko's centre that Hugo Lloris partially blocked, but was unable to prevent from finding the net. Not even a goading fly-past paid for by Sunderland supporters-a plane trailing a banner that proclaimed "Auf Wiedersehen Prem. Tyne to go'-dampened the atmosphere, as supporters made their feelings clear at the level of affection for Benitez.

Lamela halved the deficit from a narrow angle on the hour after good approach play by Kane, Christian Eriksen and Eric Dier, and Newcastle looked susceptible to an equalizer after Mitrovic earned a straight red card for an over-the-top challenge on Kyle Walker. But Wijnaldum restored the two-goal advantage 17 minutes from time, sending Lloris the wrong way from the spot after Sissoko was deemed to have been fouled by Jan Vertonghen.

Aarons made it four with five minutes left, finding the top corner from close range after Andros Townsend's effort came off the frame of the goal. Janmaat exploited further gaps in the Spurs defense to fire the fifth into the bottom corner. — AFP

NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United's Serbian striker Aleksandar Mitrovic reacts after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur at St James' Park. — AFP

PELLEGRINI BOWS OUT WITH CITY TAKING EURO PRIZE

Swansea 1

Man City 1

SWANSEA: Manuel Pellegrini's reign as Manchester City manager ended with a 1-1 draw at Swansea yesterday that was enough to effectively ensure his successor Pep Guardiola will be able to lead the club into the Champions League next season.

Pellegrini, whose three-year spell at Eastlands has seen the club win the Premier League title once and two League Cups, saw City live dangerously at times before he was able to sign off with the point needed to almost certainly beat Manchester United to the Premier League's fourth Champions League qualifying spot. Teenage striker Kelechi Iheanacho got City off to a flying start with an early goal at the Liberty Stadium but Andre Ayew's equalizer just before half-time ensured a nervy last stand for Pellegrini in the club's final game of the season.

Although United still have a game to play following the abandonment of their fixture against Bournemouth, due to the discovery of a suspect package at Old Trafford, City are three points above them with a vastly superior goal difference that makes it extremely unlikely their rivals will overhaul them.

Swansea manager Francesco Guidolin had done United counterpart Louis van Gaal no favours at all by resting his three best players. Lukasz Fabianski, Ashley Williams and Gylfi Sigurdsson were all given a day off with Euro 2016 in mind, but Swansea grew in confidence against below-par opponents. In his final game before stepping aside for Guardiola, Pellegrini named Raheem Sterling, Yaya Toure and Samir Nasri among his substitutes but they were hardly conspicuous in their absence early on. While United players were kicking their heels in frustration at Old Trafford, City wasted little time in trying to extinguish their neighbors' slender hopes of playing in Europe's elite club competition next season.

In command

Iheanacho quickly took advantage of Guidolin's decision to field a weakened team by putting the visitors in command with a close-range goal after five minutes. The 19-year-old Nigeria striker, who scored 14 goals in his breakthrough season, tapped the ball past Kristoffer Nordfeldt after the Swedish goalkeeper had distinguished himself with a smart save to deny Sergio Aguero. Confusion followed as referee Mike Dean had seemingly over-ruled the goal for offside but this gave home supporters false hope as he was merely pointing to the centre spot.

Much to the locals' frustration, the opposite applied after Jefferson Montero diverted the ball past City goalkeeper Joe Hart, only for his celebrations to be cut short due to his foul on Bacary Sagna. City then dominated proceedings but Aguero was thwarted by Nordfeldt before wild efforts by Iheanacho and Jesus Navas.

Their wastefulness, which drew forlorn stares from Aguero, was punished in first-half stoppage time when Ayew restored parity in the most fortuitous of circumstances. City defender Nicolas Otamendi was asking for trouble when he felled Swansea skipper Leon Britton with an ill-judged lunging challenge that earned a caution. There was further punishment moments later as Ayew set his sights on goal with a 25-yard free-kick and found Lady Luck was smiling on him as Fernando's head diverted the set-piece past the wrong-footed Hart. — AFP

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BANGALORE: An Indian shopper using an elevator during a visit to a mall in Bangalore. Narendra Modi was elected two years ago this week promising to ease India's notorious red tape and unpack regulatory tangles, but for foreign firms, doing business in the world's fastest-growing large economy can still be a costly headache. — AFP

Foreign companies struggle in Modi's India

Govt eases red-tape, but corporate tussles bamboozle investors

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi was elected two years ago this week promising to ease India's notorious red-tape and unpack regulatory tangles, but for foreign firms, doing business in the world's fastest-growing large economy can still be a costly headache.

With a billion consumers and rising middle class, India holds dazzling potential-yet despite signs of change on the ground, high-profile corporate tussles continue to bamboozle investors.

British firms Cairn Energy and Vodafone have this year been hit with fresh bills for billions of dollars in backdated tax and threats of asset seizure linked to long-running disputes. Agribusiness giant Monsanto in March threatened to pull out of India over government plans to slash cotton seed royalties paid by local firms by about 70 percent to help farmers.

And two major American business bodies this month voiced disappointment with the glacial pace of market reforms. In a submission to the US commerce secretary, the National Association of Manufacturers urged Washington to press for change during a visit by Modi in June. "Despite statements made by Prime Minister Modi and other senior Indian officials over the past two years, there has been limited progress in many key areas that make it challenging to do business in India," the group wrote.

Open for business?

Modi took power after winning elections in May 2014 promising to make India "open for business", seeking to replicate an impressive economic track record as chief minister in Gujarat and speed up a market opening that began 25 years ago.

The potential is breathtaking: India's population will overtake China's within six years and comprise 1.7 billion people by 2050, according to the UN. But India ranks 130 out of 189 on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index-the worst of all G20 countries.

Regulations vary capriciously across its 29 states, where even the same law can be interpreted in bafflingly different ways. "It is a hassle, it's a pain, the amount of (tax) bills we get, the number of licences we need," the India head of one major European retailer told AFP on condition of anonymity. "Any store that we open, there are between 25 to 40 licences. It's just a mess." A much-reviled 2012 retrospective tax law has not been repealed, with telecoms giant Vodafone and oil explorer Cairn charged billions over previously cleared dealings. "The finance minister himself has said on more than one occasion that retrospective taxes have been an own goal," Naushad Forbes, president of the Confederation of Indian Industry, told AFP.

"They ruin our reputation and don't bring us any revenue." Trade remains a bugbear, with US exporters to India lamenting eye-wateringly high tariffs and protectionist restrictions, and years-long talks with the EU all but stalled. "One big conflict at the highest level (is) that the Modi government is very pro-investment but at the same time, very anti-trade access," said Richard Rossow of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington. Even Facebook-personally courted by tech-loving Modi in Silicon Valley-ran into trouble with Free Basics, an initiative to give limited free Internet to the poor. After Indian entrepreneurs railed against corporate paternalism, Free Basics was blocked by the telecoms regulator, in a ruling ostensibly over data pricing.

Some suggest India's buoyant economy, expected to have grown 7.6 percent this year, has bolstered nationalist tendencies. While headline-grabbing corporate wrangles spook investors, many businesses say they see signs of change. Several executives told AFP they find civil servants more approachable under the Modi government and said a drive to bring a vast ocean of approvals online has had a tangible effect. "We have certainly seen an improved willingness amongst some individuals in government organizations to close out historic project problems," said Liz King, India managing director of engineering consultancy Mott MacDonald.

Hundreds of backdated tax cases have been quietly resolved and it appears new ones are not being taken forward, said Rossow of CSIS. "In the weeds there are good things happening," he said.

The UK India Business Council said its members still cite legal and regulatory impediments as their biggest challenge to doing business in India. But, said its head Richard McCallum, things are moving faster. "It used to take three months to incorporate a company in India and now we are doing it in three weeks," he said.— AFP

Region falls after debt downgrades

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Major Middle Eastern stock markets fell yesterday after Moody's cut the debt ratings or outlooks of many countries, while Dubai construction firms dropped steeply after reporting first-quarter earnings. Moody's lowered its ratings for Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain while assigning negative outlooks to the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain.

Its rating of Saudi Arabia is still two notches above Standard & Poor's, but the action underlined continued pressure from low oil prices; negative outlooks were assigned to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. The Saudi stock index spent much of the day higher but closed 0.03 percent lower, with petrochemicals blue chip Saudi Basic Industries dropping 0.3 percent.

Miner Ma'aden climbed 3.3 percent, however. It is expected to benefit from a drive to develop the mining industry in the kingdom's economic reform plan. Saudi International Petrochemical Co (Sipchem) was flat after chief executive Ahmad Al-Ohali told Reuters the firm would be open to reviving its aborted merger with Sahara Petrochemical or pursuing another target, but only once the kingdom had changed rules governing mergers and acquisitions. Sahara rose 1.3 percent. Dubai's index dropped 1.2 percent as Arabtec tumbled 4.6 percent, after its first-quarter net loss narrowed to 46.4 million dirhams ($12.6 million) from 279.8 million dirhams a year earlier. Analysts polled by Reuters had on average forecast a loss of 123.6 million dirhams. Drake & Scull also sank 4.6 percent after reporting a 61 percent plunge in profit to 9.8 million dirhams. EFG Hermes had forecast 20.1 million dirhams. Abu Dhabi's index fell 0.3 percent as Aldar Properties lost 1.9 percent. Qatar edged down 0.2 percent but drilling rig provider Gulf International Services jumped 6.5 percent.

In Oman, Renaissance Services climbed a further 5.2 percent after jumping its 10 percent daily limit on Thursday, when it said its subsidiary Topaz Energy and Marine were part of a consortium that won a contract to supply and operate 15 vessels for a company in Kazakhstan. Oman's stock index edged up 0.03 percent. Egypt's index sank 2.0 percent after Moody's cut its outlook to negative from stable, a sign that hoped-for improvements in the economy following massive foreign aid and efforts at reform are still proving difficult to achieve.

Commercial International Bank, Egypt's largest-listed company, slipped 2.2 percent to 43.00 Egyptian pounds after reporting a 17 percent rise in first-quarter net profit, helped by improved interest margins. Exotix investment bank kept a "buy" rating on the stock with a target price of 49.00 pounds, though it said it was concerned by rising costs at the bank and expectations that the introduction of Basel III global banking standards this year would reduce the bank's capital buffer. — Reuters

ECB has become too powerful, says Berlin's economic advisor

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank has become too powerful, but largely because politicians have foisted an increasingly political role onto it, one of the German government's key economic advisors said in a newspaper interview yesterday. "The ECB has gained enormous power, even though it is not answerable to any parliamentary control. I take a critical view of this," Isabel Schnabel told the Sunday newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung.

Asked whether the ECB had become too powerful, she replied: "I think so." The ECB "has also come more political. But that's because politicians have frequently failed to act and thereby forced the ECB to do so," she continued. "The central bank has become a quasi-political institution. It's important that we move away from this." Schnabel is a member of the German government's panel of economic experts that used to be known as the "Five Wise Men" until women joined it.

Schnabel, who was appointed to the panel in June 2014, defended the ECB against the criticism it has recently come in for in Germany for its policy of ultralow interest rates. "Low interest rates are primarily an after-effect of the financial crisis," she argued. "And the ECB isn't the only (body) that influences rates," Schnabel said, pointing to long-term macro-economic trends such as the ageing population. German politicians have recently raised hackles at the ECB by attacking the historically low level of interest rates, saying they hurt German savers and undermined banks' profitability.

"As long as the ECB is acting within its mandate, it is not for politicians to interfere," Schnabel said. — AFP

BoE's Carney denies overstepping mark with Brexit warning

LONDON: Bank of England Governor Mark Carney denied yesterday that he had compromised the central bank's independence by warning of the short-run costs of leaving the European Union, after criticism from "Out" campaigners. Last week the BoE said Britain risked slower growth, higher inflation and even recession if voters backed leaving the EU in a referendum on June 23, prompting criticism that the BoE was biased and itself destabilizing markets.

Carney, in a BBC television interview yesterday, said he had "absolutely not" overstepped the mark and that he would be failing the public if he did not flag dangers in advance. "We ... have a responsibility to explain risks and then take steps, because by explaining them - by explaining what we would do to mitigate (them) - we reduce them. And that is the key point, ignoring a risk is not to reduce it."

Earlier yesterday, Conservative environment minister and "Out" campaigner Andrea Leadsom told the BBC that the BoE's analysis was one-sided and reflected the view of elites who were not hurt by mass immigration from the EU. "There is this big institutional ganging-up on the poor British voter," she said. — Reuters

NBK calls its 6.5% capital increase with subscription starting 18 May

Rights issue aims to boost NBK's capital base

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait announced that its Board of Directors approved calling-in the bank's planned 6.5 percent rights issue with the subscription period set to start on Wednesday, 18th May 2016 and to conclude with the close of business on Thursday, 16th June 2016. The subscription will be available through Kuwait Clearing Company.

Following all regulatory approvals, NBK's 6.5 percent rights issue will be through issuing new shares available for subscription by all registered shareholders on record as of the last business day prior to the commencement of the subscription period (Tuesday, 17th of May 2016). The subscription price is set at 400 fils per share (a nominal value of 100 fils/share in addition to an issuance premium of 300 fils/share). NBK will be issuing 343.96 million ordinary shares and following the rights issue the bank's issued and paid-in-capital will reach KD563.57 million distributed among 5,635.7 million shares.

It is worth mentioning that the capital increase aims to boost NBK's capital base under Basel III framework and CBK's requirements. The capital increase will also support NBK's position as the largest and most systemically important financial institution in Kuwait with a leading role in financing mega infrastructure projects.

NBK was founded in 1952 as the first indigenous bank and the first joint stock company in Kuwait and the Gulf Region. NBK reported profits of $929.7 million (KD 282.2 million) for 2015. NBK's total assets were $77.8 billion (KD 23.6 billion) at the end of 2015, while shareholder equity stood at $8.6 billion (KD 2.6 billion).

NBK is the largest financial institution in Kuwait with effective market dominance in the commercial banking market and has been consistently awarded the highest credit rating of all banks in the region from Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Ratings. NBK also stands out in terms of its local and international network, which includes branches, subsidiaries and representative offices in China, Geneva, London, Paris, New York, and Singapore alongside its regional presence in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey, and the UAE.

NBK's Long-Term Rating:

• Moody's	Aa3
• Fitch Ratings	AA-
• Standard & Poor's	A+

RAS JEDIR, Tunisia: Men carry boxes of electronic appliances as they cross the Tunisian-Libyan border by foot on Saturday. — AFP

Trade to resume at main Tunisia-Libya crossing

ZARZIS, Tunisia: Cross-border trade between Tunisia and Libya resumes today after the two countries reached a deal to lift a trade blockade at the main frontier crossing following angry street protests. The breakthrough came after an agreement was reached late Friday on customs duties for goods passing through Ras Jedir, local governor Tahar Matmati said.

The accord provides for the establishment of a single customs duty for goods, Matmati said, adding that a joint monitoring committee was to oversee the deal. Libyan border officials halted all freight traffic through the crossing at the end of April in an attempt to stop the smuggling of fuel, which is much cheaper across the border.

The closure sparked demonstrations on the Tunisian side and a strike on Wednesday in the impoverished town of Ben Guerdane, where the economy is heavily dependent upon trade with Libya, both legal and contraband. On Monday, police used tear gas to disperse a protest by hundreds of demonstrators. Ben Guerdane, one of the North African nation's poorest towns, was also hit by jihadist violence in March from across the border that killed seven civilians and 13 security personnel as well as 55 extremists. On Saturday, Libya's LANA news agency cited an official in the Libyan town of Zwara as saying passenger traffic had already been fully restored.

On the Tunisian side, lines of vehicles waited patiently under the hot sun to cross, as security forces looked on, an AFP correspondent said.

Tunisia has built a 200-kilometre (125-mile) barrier stretching about half the length of its border with Libya in an attempt to prevent militants from infiltrating. Thousands of Tunisians have joined jihadist movements including the Islamic State group in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

Last year, Tunisia was hit by three IS attacks targeting both the country's lucrative tourism industry and the security forces, killing a total of 72 people. This week, the authorities launched a sweep that they said resulted in the arrest of 37 people, some of whom were involved in attacks on the country. — AFP

Sipchem hopes to complete sukuk next month: CEO

KHOBAR: Saudi International Petrochemical Co (Sipchem) hopes to complete a 1.8 billion riyal ($480 million) sukuk issue next month, its chief executive told Reuters. Ahmad Al-Ohali also said the firm would be open to reviving its aborted merger with Sahara Petrochemicals or pursuing another target but only once the kingdom has changed the rules governing mergers and acquisitions, which scuppered the tie-up.

Sipchem, a mid-sized petrochemicals firm whose largest shareholder is the Zamil Group according to Thomson Reuters data, began meeting local investors in Jeddah and Riyadh this week about the sukuk transaction, Ohali said in an interview. "I think we have positive feedback so far from potential investors," he said of the deal, which is being arranged by Riyad Capital and NCB Capital.

The sukuk, or Islamic bond, will be used to fund current business requirements as well as new opportunities, Ohali said. Sipchem announced on Thursday in a bourse filing that it would repay the existing Islamic bond on June 15 using cash reserves.

"We believe we will be closing the sukuk in reasonable terms considering the current financial and banking market challenge." "We hope by early June to conclude the pricing negotiations, book building and the whole transaction," Ohali told Reuters at the company's headquarters in Khobar.

MERGERS

Sipchem and Sahara, which also counts the Zamil Group as its largest shareholder, began merger talks in 2013 but, after more than a year of negotiations, the tie-up collapsed as both sides were unable to reconcile the deal under the existing stock market rules. Successful mergers between two listed firms are extremely rare in Saudi Arabia-there has only been one successful case in recent memory involving food firm Almarai. "No activities yet on the subject of merger with Sahara. However, if the regulatory policies and environment is suitable for merger opportunity, things can change," he said. "I am a strong believer in consolidation in our business, especially now and for the next few years."

On May 3, Saudi Arabia announced a string of reforms to its stock market. Sipchem is also pursuing downstream opportunities in the kingdom and plans to grow abroad into areas which would give it a competitive advantage, such as with feedstock in the United States or closer access to its customers, according to Ohali. Gas supplies are short in Saudi Arabia where the world's largest oil exporter has to satisfy demand for both the electricity and industry sectors. To address that, Sipchem is trying to rationalize or consolidate its businesses to increase efficiency. — Reuters

News in brief

Abu Dhabi's ADNOC cutting 5,000 jobs

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's state-owned National Oil Co (ADNOC) plans to cut 5,000 jobs by the end of the year, and 2,000 of the lay-offs have already been carried out, Middle East news service MEED reported yesterday. ADNOC has roughly 55,000 staff. Many companies in Abu Dhabi and elsewhere in the Gulf are trying to cut costs as low oil prices slow economic growth and pressure state finances. An ADNOC spokesman, contacted by Reuters, did not confirm or deny the cuts but said: "In keeping with the entire oil and gas industry, ADNOC is constantly looking at ways to be more efficient and more profitable, particularly in the current market environment. "This is in line with our strategic goals of efficiency, profitability and performance." On Thursday, ADNOC announced it had reshuffled its leadership in the first major shake-up since the appointment of Sultan Al-Jaber as its chief executive in February.

Egypt's unemployment rate eases slightly to 12.7%

CAIRO: Egypt's unemployment rate eased slightly in the first quarter of 2016 to 12.7 percent from 12.8 percent in the previous quarter as well as the same quarter a year earlier, the statistics agency said yesterday. Analysts believe actual unemployment may be higher than the official figures. Egypt has been struggling to restore economic growth since a 2011 uprising toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak. The revolt was partly driven by anger about the lack of job prospects for young Egyptians. Egypt's president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi had pledged to reduce joblessness to 10 percent over the next few years, a target that will require much higher levels of economic growth. The country's labour force grew by 99,000 people in the first quarter to reach 28.4 million people, the agency said.

Egypt's 91-day T-bill yield eases

CAIRO: The yield on Egypt's three-month treasury bill eased at an auction yesterday while the yield on the nine-month treasury bill rose, central bank data showed. The average yield on Egypt's 91-day bill fell to 12.836 percent from 12.839 percent at the last sale on May 8. The yield on the 273-day bill rose to 13.981 percent from 13.959 percent at a similar auction a week ago.

Al Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma Account draw

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 Abdulaziz Al-Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:-
Mohammed Billal Hussain Pramanik — KD 7000,
Taha Abdulamir Hassoun Taha — KD 7000,
Zahra Sayed Mousa Hayad — KD 7000,
Erwin Tenio Gelicame— KD 7000,
Mustafa Kamel Mohammed Al-Shiekh — 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.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.778
Indian Rupees	4.544
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Srilankan Rupees	2.074
Nepali Rupees	2.837
Singapore Dollar	221.430
Hongkong Dollar	38.945
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippine Peso	6.438
Thai Baht	8.590
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.643
Qatari Riyal	83.070
ani Riyal	785.473
Bahraini Dinar	803.110
UAE Dirham	82.335
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.427
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	150.370
Jordanian Dinar	425.970
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015
Syrian Lira	2.155
Morocco Dirham	31.816
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.250
Euro	345.930
Sterling Pound	437.510
Canadian dollar	234.300
Turkish lira	103.510
Swiss Franc	313.210
Australian Dollar	223.360
US Dollar Buying	301.050
GOLD	
20 Gram	258.180
10 Gram	132.010
5 Gram	66.850

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.900
Canadian Dollar	234.060
Sterling Pound	436.275
Euro	345.405
Swiss Frank	294.660
Bahrain Dinar	798.680
UAE Dirhams	82.435
Qatari Riyals	83.650
Saudi Riyals	81.185
Jordanian Dinar	425.285
Egyptian Pound	33.901
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Indian Rupees	4.528
Pakistani Rupees	2.878
Bangladesh Taka	3.840
Philippines Pesso	6.369
Cyprus pound	575.020
Japanese Yen	3.810
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	76.225
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.795
Thai Bhat	9.570
Turkish Lira	103.200

Bahrain Exchange Company

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.428232	0.437232
Czech Korune	0.004695	0.016695
Danish Krone	0.042111	0.047111
Euro	0.0338104	0.0346104
Norwegian Krone	0.032678	0.037878
Romanian Leu	0.076460	0.076460
Slovakia	0.009000	0.019000
Swedish Krona	0.032926	0.037926
Swiss Franc	0.304269	0.314469
Turkish Lira	0.098543	0.108843
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.213127	0.224627
New Zealand Dollar	0.197456	0.206956
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227516	0.236016
US Dollars	0.298150	0.302650
US Dollars Mint	0.298650	0.302650
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003435	0.004009
Chinese Yuan	0.044964	0.048464
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036852	0.039602
Indian Rupee	0.004314	0.004704
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002691	0.002871
Kenyan Shilling	0.002999	0.002999
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071576	0.077576
Nepalese Rupee	0.002880	0.003050
Pakistan Rupee	0.002665	0.002945
Philippine Peso	0.006359	0.006639
Sierra Leone	0.000074	0.000080
Singapore Dollar	0.216965	0.222965
South African Rand	0.013924	0.022424
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001693	0.002273
Taiwan	0.009165	0.009345
Thai Baht	0.008270	0.008820
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795155	0.803155
Egyptian Pound	0.029743	0.034861
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422296	0.429796
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020777	0.044777
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778645	0.784325
Qatar Riyal	0.082309	0.083522
Saudi Riyal	0.079713	0.080663
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.146914	0.154914
Turkish Lira	0.098543	0.108843
UAE Dirhams	0.081310	0.082459
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446

Oil prices surge despite market glut

KAMCO REPORT ON OIL MARKET

KUWAIT: A number of positive data points for the oil market that suggested tightening of the oil supply situation led to a continued bull run during April-16 with OPEC oil reaching a six month high level of $42.7/b at the end of the month, a surge of 24.4 percent as compared to the close of March-16. The surge came despite major oil producers failed to agree on freezing oil producing in a much watched meeting that took place during the second half of April-16. Moreover, prices have been bullish as expectations that oil market will rebalance in 2017 are becoming stronger on the back of higher oil demand coupled with a drop in US shale output.

The price surge during the first half of the month building up for the OPEC meeting in Doha failed to maintain the momentum and declined almost 6 percent after the producers failed to come to a consensus to freeze oil production as Iran did not join the talks and vowed to attain pre-sanction levels. However, soon after the meeting, an oil worker strike in Kuwait that affected the country's output by almost 60 percent to 1.1 mbpd resulted in a new oil price rally. The strike, which ended within three days, had pushed OPEC oil prices to $ 40/b, a level not seen since November-15.

Moreover, a smaller-than-expected rise in oil inventories in the US supported oil prices during the second half of April-16. This was followed by a report by API that suggested a surge in oil consumption in the US to record high of 9.25 mbpd in March-16. On the other hand, a decision by the US Fed to not increase the interest rate weakened $ rates against commodity currencies. This pushed oil prices further as a weak $ would make oil cheaper for oil importers.

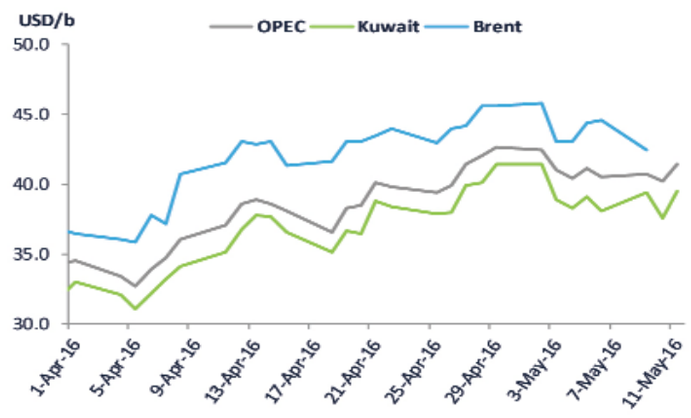
Oil prices in May-16 started on a negative note as rising output in the Middle East renewed worries about an oil glut that was further supported by $ strength. Prices continued to remain volatile for the rest of the month after news of supply outages in Canada due to the wildfires as well as stoppages in Nigeria supported oil prices. The market got further push after the weekly US EIA report suggested that crude inventories fell for the first time since March-16. The report also stated that US oil production fell for the 15th consecutive week by 23 tbpd to 8.8 mbpd for the week ending 8-May-16.

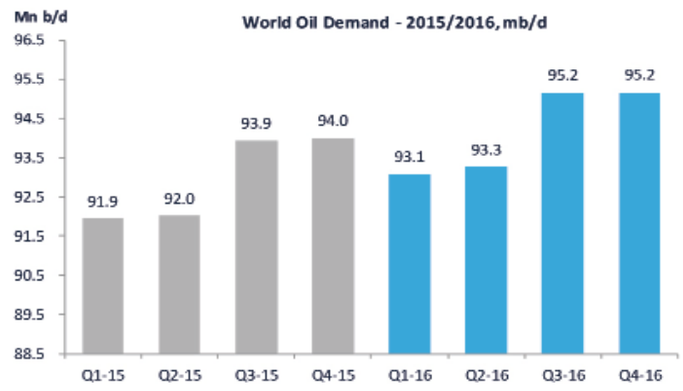
In its latest monthly oil report, OPEC predicted that 2016 could see further oil glut as member countries increase their oil output that would offset price-led decline by non-OPEC producers, especially the US. OPEC predicted a decline in supply to the tune of 740 tbpd during 2016 (led by the US) by non-OPEC producers and said that this could lead to a stronger market in 2017. Meanwhile, the IEA monthly report pointed to a smaller oil oversupply during 1H-16 as compared to last month's report on the back of strong demand during the first quarter led by robust demand from India and other Emerging Markets.

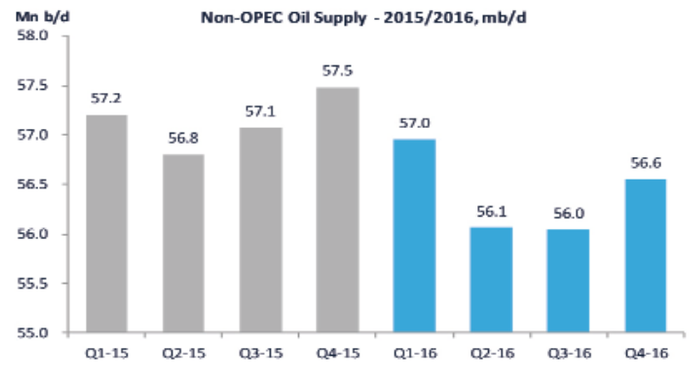
Oil prices

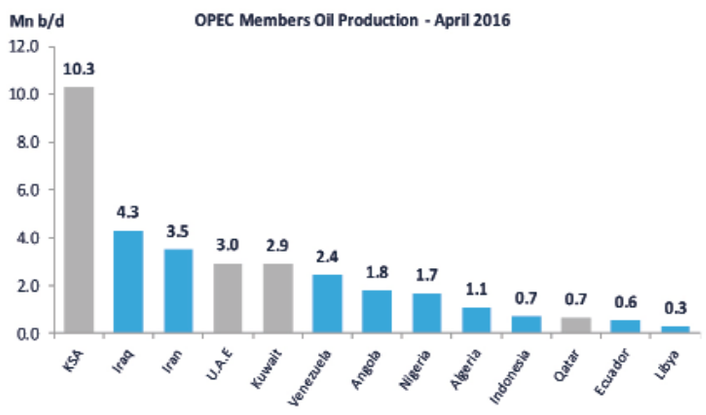
The oil market saw a lot of activity during April-16 and May-16 that point to mostly positive development in oil prices. On one hand the built-up for the OPEC meeting during the second half of April-16 led to a gradual price surge during the first half and although the talks failed, other factors like the oil workers' strike in Kuwait that lasted for three days affecting almost 60 percent of the daily oil production provided support to oil prices. This was followed by the Canadian wildfires that affected oil production in that region as it displaced oil workers rather than affecting the facilities itself. The latest update on this front was that the producers were scrambling to get the production facilities online as soon as they can. Meanwhile, there was a change of guard in Saudi Arabia as the Kingdom replaced its veteran oil minister in a broad reshuffling of economic posts in the Kingdom as part of the reform program announced last week which included the part privatization of Aramco. The move had minimal impact on oil prices as there is expected to be no apparent shift in Kingdom's oil policy, although it is expected to be more transparent going forward. The US EIA released a bullish weekly inventory report that reported the first inventory drawdown in the US since March-16 as inventories declined by 3.4 million barrels. The report also showed a decline in US oil production by 23 tbpd to 8.8 mbpd for the week ending 6-May-16. In addition, the agency in its International Energy Outlook said that Brent crude prices could reach $ 76/b next year on the back of higher consumption in emerging markets in Asia, Middle East and Africa.

Average monthly OPEC oil prices surged for the third consecutive month during April-16 by 9.3 percent to $ 37.86/b, the highest monthly average price since November-15. This trend continued during May-16, although initially the prices declined for a first few sessions. The average OPEC oil price for the month of May-16 stood at $ 41/b with a surge of 9.3 percent by 11-May-16. Average monthly Kuwait oil price also surged by a slightly higher 10.1 percent during the month and stood at $ 36.3/b. The growth in average monthly Brent crude price was the smallest during April-16 as compared to OPEC crude and Kuwait crude recorded at 7.7 percent after it regained the $ 40/b a level for the first time since November-15 to reach $ 41.5/b.

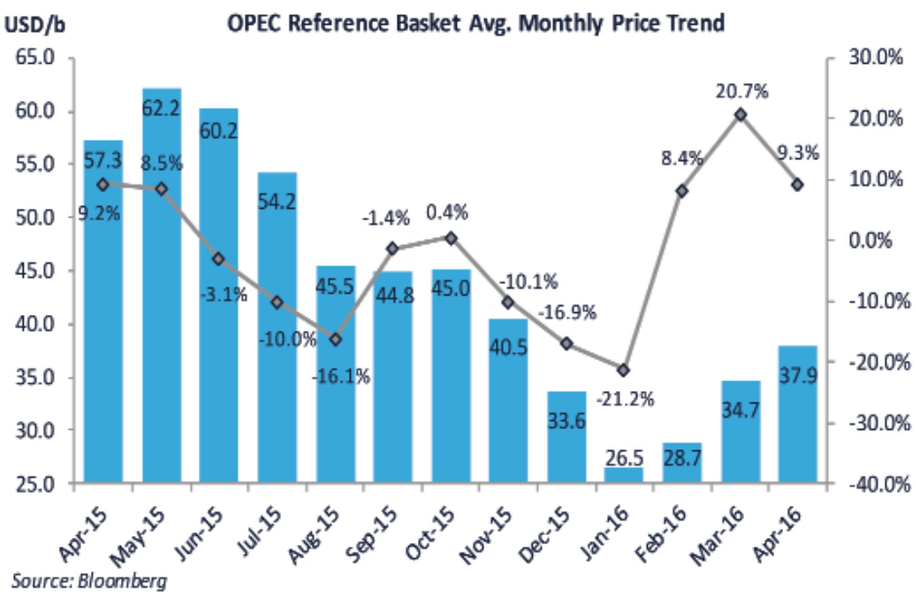








Source for the above charts : OPEC and Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Production ('000 b/d)	Mar-16	Apr-16	Change		Capacity	Spare Capacity
Total OPEC-12	**32,733**	**33,217**	**484**	**1.5%**	**36,657**	**3,440**
KSA	10,190	10,270	80	0.8%	11,500	1,230
Iraq	4,150	4,310	160	3.9%	4,450	140
Iran	3,200	3,500	300	9.4%	4,000	500
U.A.E	2,890	2,950	60	2.1%	3,150	200
Kuwait	3,000	2,900	-100	-3.3%	3,000	100
Venezuela	2,440	2,440	0	0.0%	2,500	60
Angola	1,780	1,800	20	1.1%	1,870	70
Nigeria	1,720	1,690	-30	-1.7%	2,200	510
Algeria	1,100	1,100	0	0.0%	1,150	50
Indonesia	732	722	-10	N/A	722	0
Qatar	650	670	20	3.1%	780	110
Ecuador	551	555	4	0.7%	555	0
Libya	330	310	-20	-6.1%	780	470
Total OPEC-11	**28,583**	**28,907**	**324**	**1.13%**	**32,207**	**3,300**

World oil demand

Monthly growth since May 1978 on the back of strong growth in vehicle sales further supported by low gasoline prices pushed consumption. However, overall oil demand for the month was weak and in line with the weak economic developments during Q1-16 with soft demand for industrial fuels. In OECD Europe, a warmer weather during the first quarter of 2016 dented heating oil demand in the region despite improving economic conditions. The demand growth expectation was also affected due to the low base effect in 2015 vs. 2014 as well as due an apparent fading out of oil price reduction effects. During March-16, total oil demand data for the European Big 4 saw a decline of more than 1 percent y-o-y or 0.08 mbpd. In OECD Asia Pacific, Japan recorded a decline in demand during March-16 in almost all categories with the exception of LPG, gas, diesel oil and jet fuel, due to warmer weather conditions and fuel substitution effect. Outside the OECD, in other Asia, India continued to witness strong growth in oil demand across all products recorded at 15 percent y-o-y or 0.6 mbpd during March-16. Oil consumption during the month reached 4.56 mbpd, the second-highest level ever recorded. In Latin America, Brazil recorded a steep decline in oil demand during Q1-16 due to weak economic conditions. In the Middle East, oil demand in

Total world oil demand growth for 2015 was kept unchanged from the last month at 1.54 mbpd to reach 92.98 mbpd on the back of rising oil demand in almost all parts of the world partially offset by a decline in OECD Asia Pacific, Latin America and FSU. The latest OPEC monthly report revised quarterly demand trends for almost all the quarters of 2015. The demand growth outlook for Q1-15 and Q2-15 were marginally raised whereas it was slightly lowered for Q3-15 and Q4-15.

Oil demand growth for 2016 was also kept unchanged at a growth of 1.20 mbpd to reach 94.18 mbpd as upward revisions to Other Asia was offset by equivalent downward revisions to Latin America and China. The latest US oil demand data saw a remarkable improvement as compared to the previous year with a growth of 1.6 percent during February-16. US Gasoline demand during February-16 saw the highest Saudi Arabia grew by almost 17 percent on the back of higher demand for power generation fuel.

World oil supply

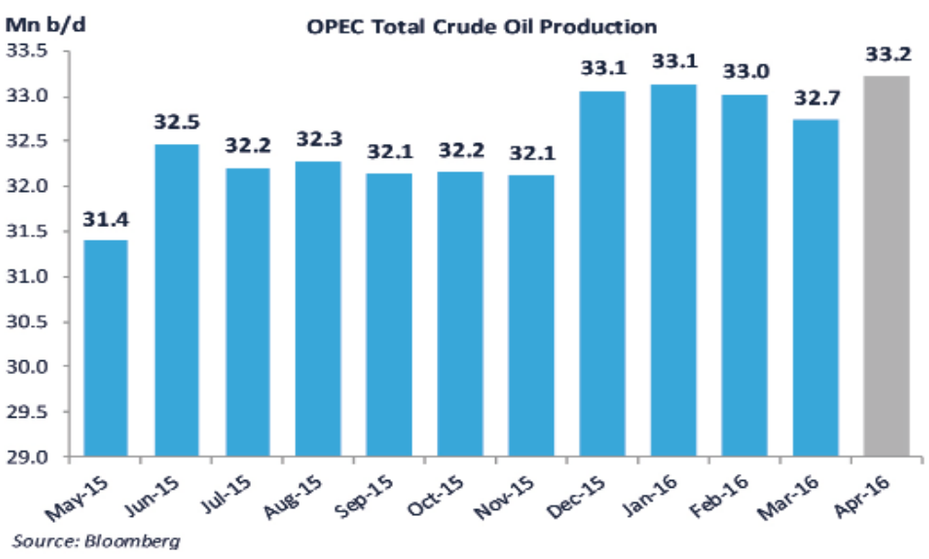
Non-OPEC oil supply growth in 2015 saw a marginal upward revision by 10 tb/d to 1.47 mb/d to average at 57.14 mb/d. There were upward revision in supply in 4Q15 for UK and Russia to the tune of 60 tb/d which was offset by downward revision in 3Q15 to the tune of 10 tb/d for output in FSU and Other regions. The decline in oil investments for exploration and production has prominently reflected in the profitability and operation of oil field services companies. Schlumberger announced job cuts and recorded a 36 percent drop in topline and a 63 percent drop in profits for Q1-16. Similarly, Halliburton booked $ 2.1 Bn in expense for Q1-16 for cutting jobs and writing off assets. In terms of bankruptcy filings, a total of 59 oil and gas companies are now bankrupt in the US as of the first week of May-16, according to Reuters data, with a relatively higher number of companies expected to file for bankruptcy during Q2-16 as compared to Q1-16. Non-OPEC oil supply for 2016 saw a marginal downward revision of 10 tb/d and is now forecast to contract by 0.74 mb/d to average at 56.4 mb/d. The downward revision primarily reflected lower output from China, Brazil, Vietnam and India partially offset by upward revision in output from Russia and UK in 1Q16. According to OPEC, the decline in global oil and gas capex is expected to be significant in 2016 that would have a negative impact on new oil discoveries. A total of almost $ 290 Bn is estimated to be slashed from capex in 2015 and 2016. Between 2016 and 2018, the industry is expected to invest around $ 40 Bn per year in exploration and appraisal, which is less than half of the investments between 2012 to 2014.

OPEC oil production & spare capacity

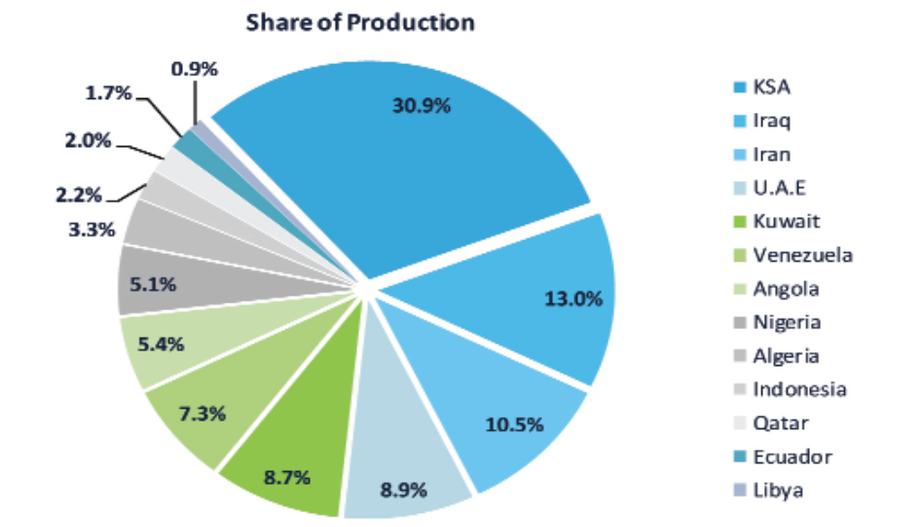
After two consecutive months of decline, OPEC oil output rose to its highest historical recorded level during April-16. Monthly average output by the group increased 1.5 percent or 484 tbpd to 33.22 mb/d during April-16 as compared to 32.73 mb/d during March-16, according to Bloomberg data. The top four producers in OPEC i.e. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and UAE, increased production during the month whereas production in Kuwait declined due to the oil worker strike and in Nigeria due to pipeline disruption. Iran saw the highest production growth during the month after it increased output by 300 tbpd to reach 3.5 mbpd during April-16. According to IEA, Iran reached its pre-sanction output level during April-16 after its production rate reached levels last seen in November-11 before the imposition of trade restrictions on the country. The country's oil exports increased to 2 mbpd, near pre-sanction levels, after it increased exports by 600 tbpd as compared to March-16.

Production in Iraq also increased by 160 tbpd on the back of recovery in exports through the Kurdish region. The country's oil exports have reached record levels despite facing internal political issues as well as a resistance from foreign oil companies to cooperate on spending cuts. Moreover, during the first week of May-16, oil production was effected in Iraq's northern Kirkuk province that could impact the overall production for the month.

Oil production in Kuwait declined by 100 tbpd during the month on the back of the oil worker strike that lasted for three days. The strike lowered oil output in the country to 1.1 mbpd as KNPC lowered operations at its three oil-processing plants to almost 520 tbpd which is less than 60 percent of its capacity. Nevertheless, the producer quickly ramped up the production after the strike ended as majority of the facility came back online. Nigeria and Libya also recorded production decline during the month due to political issues. The issues in Nigeria persisted during May-16 and is said to have affected output by almost 600 tbpd in Nigeria. On the other hand, the output decline in Libya was primarily due to marketing differences between governments in east and west and limited storage capacity, according to IEA.



Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Average Crude Oil Prices, USD/b	Mar-16	Apr-16	Change	2015	2016
OPEC Reference Basket	**34.7**	**37.9**	**3.2**	**52.0**	**32.1**
Arab Light	34.7	38.2	3.5	52.0	32.2
Basrah Light	33.4	36.6	3.2	50.1	30.6
Bonny Light	38.5	41.5	3.0	56.1	35.8
Es Sider	37.5	40.5	3.0	54.2	34.9
Girassol	38.4	41.3	2.8	56.0	35.6
Iran Heavy	33.2	36.7	3.4	50.9	30.5
Kuwait Export	**33.0**	**36.3**	**3.3**	**50.2**	**30.1**
Marine	35.5	39.0	3.5	53.4	32.8
Merey	25.8	28.8	3.0	45.4	24.3
Minas	34.6	38.5	3.9	53.7	33.4
Murban	40.0	42.5	2.5	56.5	37.2
Oriente	31.5	35.0	3.6	46.9	28.9
Saharan Blend	39.4	42.3	2.9	55.7	36.7
Other Crudes					
Brent	38.5	41.5	3.0	55.3	35.9
Dubai	35.2	39.0	3.9	53.6	32.7
Isthmus	35.5	38.1	2.7	52.2	33.2
LLS	40.0	42.7	2.7	54.9	37.1
Mars	34.5	37.3	2.8	51.3	31.9
Urals	36.9	39.9	3.0	54.9	34.3
WTI	37.8	41.0	3.2	50.0	35.2
Differentials					
Brent/WTI	0.7	0.5	(0.2)	5.3	0.7
Brent/LLS	(1.5)	(1.2)	0.3	0.5	(1.1)
Brent/Dubai	3.4	2.5	(0.9)	1.7	3.2

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - May 2016

S&P seen failing in reach for year-old record

NEW YORK: As the anniversary of the S&P 500's high mark approaches, the benchmark US stock index's latest rally has stalled and failed to breach a key level, prompting some calls for sell-offs, at least in the short term. The rally, which started in mid-February and fizzled in late April, took the S&P 500 just shy of its record close set May 21, 2015. The index trades at nearly 17 times the estimated earnings of its components over the next year - still as expensive as at its peak and in the two attempts since to breach it.

The latest rally was driven by more companies than a year ago, something viewed as a positive by both market technicians and those who deal with fundamentals. It was not, however, enough to catapult the S&P to new highs.

The S&P rose almost 17 percent from its two-year low hit in mid-February to this year's high mark of 2,111 in April. "Seems every time we get up here the market runs out of steam, investors start to worry about valuation," said Paul Hickey, co-founder of research firm Bespoke Investment Group in Harrison, New York.

Valuation is not the only reason to sell but it is "hard to justify adding new money," he added. Hickey said earnings need to catch up to valuations, something that most analysts expect to happen in the second half of the year according to the latest estimates compiled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

The first-quarter earnings growth estimate stood at negative 5.4 percent on Friday with 90 percent of S&P 500 companies having reported. Revenues are expected to have fallen 1.9 percent from the first quarter of 2015. The second quarter reporting season begins in July.

LINE IN THE SAND

Technical analysts see strong resistance, or significant selling pressure, at 2,100 on the S&P. Both in August and December the index hovered near that level before double-digit percentage declines. Three weeks ago it again failed to get over the hurdle, triggering calls for another sharp sell-off. "For a breakout we need consecutive weekly closes above 2,100," said Katie Stockton, chief technical strategist at BTIG in New York. "Momentum is not there yet, so I'm watching for the downside." Her technical analysis showed buyers would initially get into the S&P when the index nears 2,000, and draw even more support in the area between 1,925 and 1,950, she said. "That's where I think the correction takes us. We need to set higher lows compared to February; that would be the first step toward a real recovery."

Another pillar for that recovery may already be in place, in the form of broader market breadth. In the week the S&P set its record last May, nearly 550 stocks on the New York Stock Exchange hit a 12-month high. In six of the last seven weeks, even more stocks have hit new highs despite a drop of over 1 percent in the S&P 500.

"We've had a consolidation of the move up, the market is catching up to itself," said Bruce Zaro, chief technical strategist at Bolton Global Asset Management in Boston. Zaro said even though he saw "a potential for the (S&P 500) to make fleeting nominal new highs," the market would eventually break down due to the uncertainty ahead of the US presidential election on Nov. 8.

"We'll be in much firmer footing after the election."

A Commerce Department released Friday confirmed that consumers are spending more, just not at department stores. Sales at those stores have fallen 2 percent over the last year while online and catalog sales have jumped 10 percent. Nordstrom tumbled 19 percent this week, while Macy's and Kohl's, which reported first-quarter results earlier in the week, fell 17 percent and 14 percent, respectively. "It's been a very challenging week for retailers," said Rob Samuels, a UBS Wealth Management strategist. He said consumers are spending money on home improvement goods and trips and other items, but they're not spending as much on clothes. And competition to department stores just keeps growing, as shoppers turn to smaller web-based brands. — Agencies

KSE ends trading on mixed board

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended trading on mixed boards yesterday with the price index went down by 19.81 points to reach 5,375.7 points. The weighted index shed 0.84 points to stand at 361.87 points, while the KSX 15 index gained 0.01 points, to read 845 points. Value of trade was KD 10,620,315.145 while the volume was 129,658,919 million shares done through deals 3,005. — KUNA

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

جلوبل Global

Sunday 15 May 2016

Index		Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼	-19.81	5,375.70	5,395.51	5,396.55	5,358.37
Weighted Index	▼	-0.84	361.87	362.71	363.55	360.91
KSX 15	▲	0.01	845.00	844.99	849.57	842.05

Volume	130,109,375
Value (KWD)	10,648,332
Number of Trades	3,025

Security	High	Low	Trades Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last		Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	—	0.0
IKARUS	42.5	41.0	559,000	23,307	21	42.0	▼	-1.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	—	0.0
ENERGYH	57	55	97,356	5,356	7	57	▼	-1.0
GPI	47.0	44.5	20,744,237	955,084	343	45.5	▲	0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	—	0.0
Oil & Gas			**21,400,593**	**983,747**	**371**	**804.12**	▼	**-0.65**
KFOUC	190	186	57,450	10,736	9	188	▼	-4.0
BPCC	540	520	1,015	528	3	530	—	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	210	208	111,294	23,331	13	210	—	0.0
Basic Materials			**169,759**	**34,596**	**25**	**986.32**	▼	**-4.92**
KCEM	395	390	8,220	3,207	6	395	▲	5.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	—	0.0
CABLE	450	430	313,999	140,009	41	435	▲	10.0
SHIP	170	158	60,200	9,714	12	170	▲	8.0
PCEM	1,000	1,000	2,500	2,500	1	1,000	▼	-20.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	—	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
ACICO	295	295	18,234	5,379	2	295	—	0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	—	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	—	0.0
NICBM	236	226	531,448	120,922	8	226	▼	-10.0
EQUIPMENT	53	52	1,527,943	79,591	48	53	▲	1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	—	0.0
SALBOOKH	79	77	131,000	10,206	7	77	▼	-1.0
AGLTY	500	500	2,069,993	1,034,997	36	500	—	0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	—	0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.5	—	0.0
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	520	—	0.0
KGL	49.0	47.0	122,000	5,776	7	47.0	▼	-1.5
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	—	0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,060	980	56,401	59,785	5	1,060	—	0.0
NAFAIS	174	174	91	16	1	174	▲	10.0
SAFWAN	242	242	10	2	1	242	▼	-13.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0	—	0.0
MAYADEEN	23.0	22.5	831,162	18,715	26	23.0	▲	1.0
CGC	780	780	4,050	3,159	1	780	▲	10.0
MTCC	80	78	446,873	35,214	18	80	▲	2.0
UPAC	700	690	16,708	11,668	3	700	—	0.0
ALAFCO	206	206	100	21	1	206	▼	-2.0
MUBARRAD	64	64	72,679	4,651	3	64	—	0.0
LOGISTICS	80	78	578,227	45,882	29	79	▼	-2.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	—	0.0
GCEM	79	78	70,000	5,470	3	79	▲	1.0
QIC	73	68	100,005	6,850	4	73	▲	5.0
FCEM	77	75	990,500	74,879	30	76	—	0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	—	0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	—	0.0
Industrials			**7,952,343**	**1,678,612**	**291**	**1037.84**	▲	**3.03**
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	—	0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	—	0.0
CATTL	174	168	130,000	21,854	6	168	▼	-10.0
DANAH	91	89	4,472,147	401,893	108	89	▲	1.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	—	0.0
FOOD	2,400	2,340	11,392	26,701	9	2,340	▼	-80.0
Consumer Goods			**4,613,539**	**450,448**	**123**	**1084.94**	▼	**-11.07**
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	—	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—	0
YIACO	200	200	1,000	200	1	200	▼	-10
Health Care			**1,000**	**200**	**1**	**947.70**	▼	**-18.11**
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,300	—	0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	—	0
SULTAN	61	60	500,000	30,260	23	60	▼	-1
CABLETV	23.5	23.5	28	1	1	23.5	▼	-2
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0
OULAFUEL	112	110	213,633	23,773	20	110	—	0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0
JAZEERA	880	860	30,789	26,519	8	880	—	0
SOOR	108	106	27,789	2,986	7	106	▼	-2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0
ALRAI	138	136	1,010,000	139,360	5	138	▼	-2
ZIMAH	43.0	42.0	290,219	12,334	14	42.5	▼	-1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	—	0
Mezzan	1,100	1,060	18,352	19,458	5	1,100	▲	20
Consumer Services			**2,090,810**	**254,710**	**83**	**930.54**	▼	**-5.77**
ZAIN	350	345	123,093	42,517	13	345	—	0
OOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,120	—	0
HITSTELEC	38.0	36.5	9,872,026	369,356	164	37.0	▼	-1
VIVA	970	970	31,234	30,297	42	970	—	0
Telecommunications			**10,026,353**	**442,170**	**219**	**612.51**	▼	**-1.19**
NBK	670	650	3,757,266	2,473,860	76	660	—	0
GBK	236	234	25,500	6,009	4	236	—	0
CBK	435	435	10,000	4,350	2	435	—	0
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	—	0
ALMUTAHED	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	—	0
KIB	210	208	469,521	98,096	19	208	▼	-4
BURG	340	340	361,659	122,964	34	340	—	0
KFIN	480	475	654,328	312,413	33	480	▲	5
BOUBYAN	405	400	120,318	48,518	10	400	—	0
AUB	184	184	343,858	63,270	5	184	▼	-2
ITHMR	39.5	38.5	7,180,198	280,797	105	39.0	▲	1
WARBABANK	178	174	889,482	156,470	85	174	▼	-4
Banks			**13,812,130**	**3,566,749**	**373**	**826.86**	▼	**-2.01**
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	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	106	—	0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0.0
FTI	50	50	760	38	1	50	▲	10.0
WETHAQ	32.0	31.5	63,000	1,985	5	31.5	▼	-0.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			**63,760**	**2,023**	**6**	**1020.96**	▲	**20.62**
SOKOUK	37.5	37.0	914270	33,949	32	37.0	▼	-1.0
KRE	56	55	2,482,654	136,946	27	55	▲	1.0
URC	88	88	30,000	2,640	2	88	▼	-2.0
NRE	92	90	1,998,404	182,071	21	90	—	0.0
SRE	350	350	500	175	1	350	▼	-10.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	—	0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	—	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	—	0.0
ARABREC	32.5	32.0	353,400	11,478	9	32.0	▼	-1.0
ERESCO	60	58	1,177,000	68,440	19	60	—	0.0
MABANEE	830	830	5,900	4,897	2	830	—	0.0
INJAZZAT	76	76	10,000	760	1	76	▼	-1.0
INVESTORS	22.5	21.5	5,102,873	111,523	53	22.0	—	0.0
IRC	31.0	30.0	995,598	30,304	20	30.0	▼	-0.5
ALTIJARIA	77	76	101,644	7,826	6	77	—	0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.5	—	0.0
AAYANRE	67	66	151,564	10,013	7	66	▼	-1.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	—	0.0
ALAQARIA	23.0	22.0	60,000	1,348	7	22.0	▼	-0.5
MAZAYA	120	118	622,039	74,051	11	118	▼	-4.0
ADNC	16.5	15.5	10,928,386	174,434	118	15.5	▼	-0.5
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.5	—	0.0
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	23.0	—	0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	—	0.0
ARGAN	166	164	48,449	7,962	11	164	▼	-2.0
ABYAAR	25.0	25.0	1,758,074	43,952	31	25.0	▼	-0.5
MUNSHAAT	57	54	2,133,481	117,000	78	54	▼	-3.0
FIRSTDUBAI	56	55	481,000	26,456	25	56	▼	-1.0
KBT	44.0	43.0	1,705,502	73,472	28	43.0	▼	-0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	—	0.0
MENA	24.0	22.0	128,175	2,946	8	24.0	▲	2.0
ALMUDON	32.0	31.0	436,681	13,542	20	31.5	—	0.0
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.5	—	0.0
REMAL	34.5	34.0	160,335	5,481	7	34.5	▲	0.5
MASHAER	77	77	40,100	3,088	3	77	▼	-1.0
Real Estate			**31,826,029**	**1,144,753**	**547**	**849.35**	▼	**-8.31**
KINV	86	85	52,000	4,450	4	85	▼	-4.0
FACIL	182	180	31,360	5,645	5	182	▲	6.0
IFA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5	—	0.0
NINV	116	116	732,475	84,967	22	116	▼	-2.0
KPROJ	530	530	34,270	18,163	4	530	—	0.0
COAST	47.0	46.0	2,805,435	130,396	71	46.0	▼	-1.0
SECH	44.0	42.5	2,753,661	118,699	46	42.5	▼	-1.5
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	—	0.0
ARZAN	34.0	33.0	2,830,832	94,707	64	33.5	▲	0.5
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	—	0.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	—	0.0
ALAMAN	51	50	368,768	18,556	11	50	▼	-1.0
ALOLA	50	50	1,898,450	94,923	50	50	▼	-1.0
ALMAL	30.0	28.5	2,313,360	67,142	74	29.0	▼	-0.5
GIH	29.5	28.0	5,400,874	155,331	91	28.5	—	0.0
AAYAN	37.5	36.5	820,010	30,385	22	37.0	▼	-1.0
BAYANINV	35.0	34.0	904,243	30,792	45	34.5	▼	-0.5
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	—	0.0
KFIC	37.5	37.5	30,413	1,140	2	37.5	▼	-2.0
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0
NIH	58	53	115,450	6,218	17	56	▼	-1.0
ISKAN	30.5	29.5	1,064,186	31,872	24	30.5	—	0.0
MADAR	16.0	14.5	26,000	379	2	14.5	▼	-0.5
ALDEERA	39.5	38.5	494,000	19,266	13	39.0	▲	0.5
ALSALAM	38.5	38.0	1,356,388	51,544	39	38.5	—	0.0
EKTTITAB	36.0	35.5	100,010	3,560	7	36.0	—	0.0
ALMADINA	39.5	38.5	890,127	34,908	19	39.0	▼	-0.5
NOOR	42.0	41.0	922,780	37,998	25	41.0	▼	-2.5
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	—	0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	—	0.0
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
KSHC	35.0	34.0	255,500	8,814	9	34.5	▼	-0.5
ASIYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	—	0.0
GNAHC	37.0	36.5	375,598	13,879	11	36.5	▼	-1.0
AMWAL	20.5	19.5	193,366	3,818	6	20.5	▲	0.5
ALIMTIAZ	70	70	842,334	58,963	28	70	—	0.0
MANAZEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	17.0	—	0.0
NIND	120	116	3,315,250	386,069	83	116	▼	-10.0
BIIHC	30.5	29.5	1,535,811	46,173	23	30.5	—	0.0
SENERGY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	13.0	—	0.0
AGHC	62	61	200,500	12,231	5	61	▼	-1.0
KPPC	47.0	46.0	198,908	9,240	10	47.0	▼	-0.5
TAHSSILAT	54	54	5,000	270	1	54	—	0.0
JEERANH	72	72	150	11	1	72	—	0.0
EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	—	0.0
GFH	74	71	1,274,750	92,526	30	72	▼	-1.0
INOVEST	54	54	40,000	2,160	1	54	▼	-1.0
Financial Services			**34,182,259**	**1,675,195**	**865**	**576.13**	▼	**-4.39**
Investment Instruments			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.00**	—	**0.00**
ASC	350	325	111,400	36,314	7	350	▲	15.0
OSOS	106	100	3,360,444	348,130	92	106	—	0.0
FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	—	0.0
HAYATCOMM	55	55	48,500	2,668	2	55	▼	-1.0
Technology			**3,520,344**	**387,112**	**101**	**978.86**	▲	**12.07**
BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172	—	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	—	0.0
EFFECT	40.0	39.5	30,956	1,228	3	39.5	▼	-0.5
AJWAN	26.0	26.0	88,500	2,301	4	26.0	▼	-0.5
MASAKEN	75	73	331,000	24,488	13	74	▲	4.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	—	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	—	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.5	—	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	—	0.0
KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5	—	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	55	—	0.0
Parallel Market			**450,456**	**28,017**	**20**	**1255.84**	▲	**7.94**

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

الوطني NBK

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	17,720.50	17,535.32	-185.18	▼	-1.05	1.53
NASDAQ	4,737.33	4,717.68	-19.66	▼	-0.41	-5.79
S&P 500	2,064.11	2,046.61	-17.50	▼	-0.85	0.58
Financial Times	6,104.19	6,138.50	34.31	▲	0.56	-1.66
DAX	9,862.12	9,952.90	90.78	▲	0.92	-7.35
CAC 40	4,293.27	4,319.99	26.72	▲	0.62	-6.84
Swiss	7,885.85	7,925.76	39.91	▲	0.51	-10.12
Nikkei 225	16,646.34	16,412.21	-234.13	▼	-1.41	-13.77
Topix	1,337.27	1,320.19	-17.08	▼	-1.28	-14.68
Hang Seng	19,915.46	19,719.29	-196.17	▼	-0.99	-10.02
Straits Times	2,745.39	2,734.91	-10.48	▼	-0.38	-5.13

MENA Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,395.51	5,375.70	-19.81	▼	-0.37	-4.07
Saudi Arabia	6,694.82	6,715.15	20.33	▲	0.30	-3.14
Dubai	3,344.67	3,304.63	-40.04	▼	-1.20	6.15
Abu Dhabi	4,387.25	4,374.19	-13.06	▼	-0.30	1.86
Bahrain	1,111.46	1,109.78	-1.68	▼	-0.15	-8.59
Qatar	9,941.42	9,919.62	-21.80	▼	-0.22	-4.68
Oman	5,969.47	5,971.25	1.78	▲	0.03	10.42
Lebanon	1,154.29	1,154.82	0.53	▲	0.05	-1.30
Jordan	2,097.22	2,100.56	3.34	▲	0.16	-1.83
Egypt	7,520.52	7,447.34	-73.18	▼	-0.97	7.34
Morocco	10,208.65	10,100.57	-108.08	▼	-1.06	14.37
Tunisia	5,491.86	5,501.56	9.70	▲	0.18	8.92

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3207	3.2992	2.9156	2.2956	3.2168	358.30	4.5375
Saudi Riyal	0.08116		0.2678	0.2366	0.1863	0.2611	29.08	0.3683
US Dollar	0.30310	3.7344		0.8837	0.6958	0.9750	108.60	1.3753
Euro	0.34299	4.2258	1.1316		0.7876	1.1028	122.90	1.5550
Sterling Pound	0.43562	5.3671	1.4372	1.2697		1.4013	156.08	1.9750
Swiss Franc	0.31087	3.8302	1.0256	0.9068	0.7136		111.41	1.4106
Japanese Yen	0.00279	0.0344	0.0092	0.0081	0.0064	0.0090		0.0127
Australian Dollar	0.22038	2.7153	0.7271	0.6431	0.5063	0.7089	78.96	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30310	3.7344	0.3741	3.6256	0.3831	3.6571	8.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2992		12.3207	1.2341	11.9617	1.2640	12.0657	28.9343
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08116		0.1002	0.9709	0.1026	0.9793	2.3484
Bahraini Dinar	2.6734	0.81032	9.9837		9.6928	1.0242	9.7770	23.4461
Qatari Riyal	0.2758	0.08360	1.0300	0.1032		0.1057	1.0087	2.4189
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79114	9.7473	0.9763	9.4634		9.5456	22.8910
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08288	1.0211	0.1023	0.9914	0.1048		2.3981
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03456	0.4258	0.0427	0.4134	0.0437	0.4170	

Global Interest Rates

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	N/A	1.31	1.63	1.88	2.19
US Dollar	0.40	0.43	0.62	0.90	1.22
Euro	-0.37	-0.35	-0.27	-0.16	-0.03
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51	0.59	0.73	0.98
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.77	-0.73	-0.64	-0.52
Australian Dollar	1.82	1.87	1.76	1.72	1.64
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.90	0.90	1.03	1.10

Global Bond Yields

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.75	1.21	1.70	2.55
Europe	-0.52	-0.39	0.12	0.82
United Kingdom	0.35	0.78	1.37	2.25

Commodities

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	41.16	41.49	0.33	▲	0.80	30.15
Brent	47.06	47.04	-0.02	▼	-0.04	20.12
West Texas	46.27	46.17	-0.10	▼	-0.22	19.75
Gold	1273.20	1273.20	0.00	-	0.00	16.64
Silver	17.09	17.09	0.00	-	0.00	18.96

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

Dollar gains amid hawkish Fed comments

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: Last week, the dollar continued to gain against its major counterparts despite disappointing data from the labor market, as more Fed officials made the case for higher rates this year. Fed members Eric Rosengren and Esther George, both voters on the Federal Open Market Committee this year, stated that the central bank risks fuelling an asset bubble by delaying action for too long.

Additionally, weak data from the Euro zone also increased demand for the greenback. The Dollar Index started the week at 93.88 reaching a low of 93.68. However, the index managed to close at 94.60 after reaching a high of 94.85 following better than expected retail sales figures.

The euro opened the week at 1.1404, and reached a high of 1.1440 on Wednesday. The currency then dropped to a low of 1.1329 as gross domestic product in the Euro zone rose less than expected in the first quarter, adding to global growth worries. The Euro closed the week at 1.1309 after reaching a low of 1.1283.

The sterling pound traded in a volatile manner against the greenback as investors awaited more signals from the Bank of England on the outlook of the British Economy. The pound dropped as the BoE kept interest rates unchanged citing a slowdown in the UK economy and uncertainties ahead of June's referendum on EU membership. The currency reached a low of 1.4341 and closed the week at 1.4365.

In Japan, the yen lost its traction to reach a two week lows against the dollar after comments from the Japanese finance minister Taro Aso that financial authorities are prepared to intervene in the currency market if excessive moves in the yen are enough to affect the country's economy. The Yen managed to recoup some of its losses, but gains were limited as Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said on Friday that the central bank will act "decisively" to achieve its 2 percent inflation target, stressing that it still has "ample" policy options available if it were to expand stimulus again.

In Australia, the Australian dollar continued to struggle against the US dollar in its second week after cutting rates on May 3, 2016. Consumer sentiment made a huge rebound this month jumping from -4.0 percent to 8.5 percent but was not enough to support the currency versus a US dollar rally. Furthermore, a recent sell-off in the AUD was triggered when the Australian inflation expectations report came in at 3.2 percent below the 3.6 percent expected. The Aussie opened the week at 0.7329, reached a high of 0.7402 before tumbling to 0.7271 after the release of US retail sales report.

Retail sales beat expectations

The US Commerce Department released its monthly retail sales showing the best monthly performance this year. Retail sales increased by 1.3 percent last month beating a 0.8 percent expected rise. Core retail sales, which exclude automobile sales, increased by 0.8 percent in April also beating expectations of a 0.5 percent increase. The US dollar index jumped from 94.373 to 94.771 after the release.

On a different front, the Producer Price Index only rose 0.2 percent in April while it was expected to gain 0.3 percent. The lacks of inflationary pressures together with weak pricing power were shown to be behind this fall. Meanwhile, core prices, which exclude excluding food and energy, were unchanged compared to the expected 0.1 percent increase.

Initial jobless claims

Applications for unemployment benefits unexpectedly increased last week to the highest level since February 2015 as filings surged in New York. Initial jobless claims rose by 20,000 to 294,000 in the week ended May 7, a report from the Labor Department showed Thursday. The median forecast of economists surveyed called for a decline to 270,000. A jump in filings in New York State may reflect striking workers at Verizon Communications Inc., spring break holiday at schools or a combination of the two. Economists will continue to monitor claims data in the coming weeks before concluding that the labor market is taking a bigger step back.

German GDP

Germany's economy grew at its fastest pace in two years at the start of 2016 as domestic spending helped offset weakness in global trade. Gross domestic product rose a seasonally-adjusted 0.7 percent in the three months ended March 31.That exceeded expectations of 0.6 percent. On an annual basis the economy expanded 1.6 percent.

Germany has benefited from record-low unemployment that has supported consumer demand, while European Central Bank stimulus is driving a cyclical recovery in the 19-nation Euro area as a whole. Nonetheless, the Bundesbank has said it sees signs of slowing momentum in Germany this quarter and concerns remain that a slowdown in China, the country's third-biggest trading partner, will weigh on demand.

In parallel, gross domestic product in the eurozone rose less than expected in the first quarter adding to global growth worries according to official data released on Friday. In a report, Eurostat said that GDP rose to a seasonally adjusted 0.5 percent from 0.3 percent in the preceding quarter. That was below the initial reading of 0.6 percent released on April 29 and the consensus was expecting no change. Year-on-year, GDP in the single currency bloc rose 1.5 percent, also below the initial estimate, the fourth quarter reading and analyst forecasts for growth of 1.6 percent

Eurozone FMs discuss Greek relief

Greece and eurozone lenders reached an agreement last week, which paves the way to disburse bailout cash to Athens and may include debt relief measures, Greece's finance minister said after a meeting of eurozone finance ministers. The preliminary deal may unlock more than 5 billion euros to ease Greece's finances and cover debt repayments maturing in June and July. It was the first time eurozone finance ministers discussed Greece's debt relief during the bailout program. No haircut of the nominal value of the debt is on the table, but ministers said they were open to consider maturities and the timing for the repayment of the loans.

The final statement of the euro group meeting said prior actions included measures agreed with lenders in July. Among them are pension and tax reforms passed on Monday by the Greek parliament and additional contingency measures. These measures should be applied if Athens failed to reach its agreed fiscal targets in 2018 when the current bailout program expires. The additional measures have been requested by the International Monetary Fund as a condition to participate to the Greek bailout. Under the measures passed, a combination of social security reform and additional taxation aims to ensure Greece will attain enough savings to meet an agreed 3.5 percent budget surplus target before interest payments in 2018. This will help Greece to regain bond market access and make its debt load sustainable. The measures are expected to be finalized when Euro zone finance ministers meet again on the 24th of May.

The IMF prefers lower fiscal targets for Athens, which it sees as more credible. Meanwhile, eurozone countries led by Germany insisted that a primary surplus of 3.5 percent of GDP in 2018 is possible.

Euro area industrial production

Industrial production in the euro area ended the first quarter with a second monthly drop, weakened by falling output in consumer goods and capital goods. Output declined 0.8 percent in March from February, as per the Eurostat statistics office in Luxembourg. The reading follows disappointing data this week from Germany, France and Italy, the region's three biggest economies. Economists expected production to remain unchanged. From a year earlier, production rose 0.2 percent.

UK industrial production grew less than forecast in March as manufacturing barely rose and oil and gas output shrank. Output rose 0.3 percent, less than the 0.5 percent predicted gain. It followed a 0.2 percent decline in February. Factories increased production by 0.1 percent in March, also less than predicted. Industrial production fell 0.2 percent from a year earlier, while manufacturing declined 1.9 percent, the biggest annual drop since May 2013.

The BoE keeps rates unchanged

The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee members voted unanimously to leave interest rates at 0.50 percent and the size of the asset purchase program at £375bn unchanged as expected by analysts. The MPC decision to keep interest rates unchanged comes amid a slowdown in the UK economy and uncertainties ahead of June's referendum on EU membership.

Interestingly, the MPC noted that a vote to leave the EU could lead to a fall-off in demand and material depreciation in sterling, leading to the committee having to make a trade-off between stabilizing output and inflation. The BoE noted in its monetary policy statement that inflation remains well below its 2 percent target, largely due to falls in energy and food which are "expected to fade over the next year". Core inflation also remains subdued due to weak global price pressures, the central bank said.

In the Inflation Report, released alongside the policy announcement and meeting minutes, the BoE said, "returning inflation to the 2 percent target requires achieving a balance between the drag on inflation from external factors and the support from gradual increases in domestic cost growth". The MPC expects inflation to reach 2.1 percent by the second quarter of 2018 and 2.2 percent by the second quarter of 2019. The BoE also cut its economic growth forecasts to 2 percent for 2016, down from the 2.2 percent it expected three months ago.

Chinese exports and imports drop

China's exports and imports fell more than expected in April, underlining weak demand at home and abroad and curbing hopes of a recovery in the world's second-largest economy. Exports fell 1.8 percent from a year earlier, the General Administration of Customs said on Sunday, reversing the previous month's brief recovery and supporting the government's concerns that the foreign trade environment will be challenging in 2016. April imports dropped 10.9 percent from a year earlier; falling for the 18th consecutive month, suggesting domestic demand remains weak despite a pickup in infrastructure spending and record credit growth in the first quarter. China had a trade surplus of $45.56 billion in April, versus forecasts of $40 billion.

The Bank of Japan published the minutes of its April policy meeting, showing some numbers expect the target date for 2 percent sustained inflation may need to be pushed back and that it's best to leave negative rates in place with consumer sentiment down sharply. However, some members suggested crude oil prices had rebounded since mid-February after pushing Japan's core CPI (excluding fresh food) down to zero from a modest rise. "Some members expressed the recognition that there was an increasing risk that, from early spring, the year-on-year rate of increase in the CPI (all items less fresh food and energy) would come in lower than previously projected," the minutes said.

Furthermore, a reversal of the Yen's depreciation, which had supported exporter profits, remained a concern on hitting the price target and on consumer expectations for inflation. "These members said that it was necessary to closely monitor whether such developments in inflation expectations would affect firms' and households' behavior in the future," the minutes showed.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30155
The USDKWD opened at 0.30155 yesterday morning.

Stock indices are expensive, some quality stocks are cheap

By Hayder Tawfik

KUWAIT: Most stock markets across the globe are trading at expensive valuation. The outlook for economic growth and corporate earnings do not look that promising to justify the high multiples on some of these indices. Again, zero interest rates, the very low yields or in some cases negative yields on governments bonds and equity index funds are the reason why some of these equity indices are expensive. At present it is not the right strategy to buy stock indices. This even applies to the long-term equity investors. Buying an equity index is easy but only if it is trading at rock bottom valuation.

World developed Stock markets are not in a down turn yet but they are finding it difficult to move up and make new highs. I believe it is the best time now for investors to pick those undervalued quality stocks. At present stock picking is becoming more crucial. Investing in attractively priced good quality stocks is sure certainty for future growth. Generally, equity indices reflect the past more than the future, never a sound investment-strategy at a time of rising divergence. Investors should be aware that investing in attractively priced good quality companies doesn't mean investing in cheap or value stocks. Cheapest stocks are not always the best future performers.

Some international banks are trading way below their price to book values but perhaps for good reason. Obviously, investors do not believe that these banks are holding good quality assets on their books. On pure valuations they look attractive but that should not be a reason to buy these stocks. This applies to the auto manufacturers too. Some of them have their own reasons why they trading cheaply but the auto industry generally are trending down in valuation terms. The global car industry is very much saturated at least for the next couple of years.

Most stock indices recovered from their low levels reached in mid-February of this year but some of the worst performing stocks since February failed to bounce back with the markets. This is yet another example of the need to stock pick carefully, even when engaging in bottom fishing. This to me is a clear warning to those investors who are hooked on investing in underperforming or cheap stocks. What right now looks like a vastly under-valued stock could easily prove to have been a significantly over-valued one in a relatively short space of time. One good example is Apple Inc. When investing in undervalued good quality stocks, investors should assume that growth prospects for these companies are as good as they were in the past.

Overvaluation of global stock indices will last till the exceptional monetary stimulus since the financial crises back in 2008 produces inflation, which will need to be squeezed out, or the unprecedentedly large budget deficits that some economies are experiencing including the US, crowd out private investment, then growth and earnings prospects for the next few years would be below average. In that event, stock markets as they stand today would be overvalued. Bailouts and stimulus can thus produce long-term uncertainty as well as short-term uplift.

Overall stock markets could, face a correction before hitting bottom on valuation terms. I believe that any future corrections will be dictated by the global economic data's and in particular the outlook for the US economy and by any reversal of the easy monetary policy that have been supporting equity markets stretched valuations. — Rasameel.

Gulf Insurance Co launches a 20% discount campaign on travel assistance insurance

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance and Re Insurance, a leader in providing insurance services in Kuwait and the Middle East, announced the launch of a 20 percent discount campaign on its travel Assistance insurance products. The campaign, which runs for 3 months start from the 15th of May and until the 31st of July, 2016, is available through the company Head Office, the company branches includes the sales Compay website (website www.clickgic.com) , iPhone App and its Android App.

Aisha Al-Rashoud, Deputy Department Manager of Property and Casualty at the company said, "These discounts are launched during the holiday's season and reflect the company's understanding of the importance of travel Assistance insurance policies. The company's objective is to provide the best insurance services and solutions to its clients. These services include an extensive range of full coverage programs such as urgent medical expenses, urgent hospitalization, urgent dental treatment ,compensation for loss of baggage, kidnapping attempts, losing passport, personal accidents, and civil liability towards third party resulting from an accident that entails the death of others or injury or physical damage to property."

Al-Rashoud also added, "The discount campaign includes family travel Assistance insurance policy that covers the husband, wife, and an unlimited number of children who are under the age of 18.The policy covers all the countries around the world and meets all the requirements of the European Union (Schengen). It also covers people who are over the age of 65 years to 80 years old with special prices. Moreover, the policy also includes coverage for individuals who are 81 years old with competitive prices to accommodate the requirements of Schengen countries only. An annual travel insurance policy is available that covers multiple journeys throughout the year (the number of days of each journey should not exceed 92 consecutive days) along with insuring short journeys from 7 to 180 days."

The company's policies and features are ready. During cases of emergencies, clients are required to call the service center which is available 24/7 to start the claim procedure.

Gulf Insurance & Reinsurance Co (GIRI) is the largest insurance company in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in both life and non-life insurance and its activities are further supported by first class reinsurance security. GIRI has created a competitive edge in its market through the implementation of a comprehensive approach involving use of Information Technology, Product Innovation, Customer Relations Management and prudent underwriting practices.

Gulf Insurance & Reinsurance holds a Financial Strength Rating of A- (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of "a-" with a revised Positive Outlook from A.M. Best Europe Rating Services Limited. Standard & Poor's has also assigned its Financial Strength and counterparty credit ratings of A- with Stable outlook.

MUNICH: A new Aldi store in Munich, southern Germany. —AFP

AUB announces exclusive launch of Prince of Wales Gardens in London

Real estate investment opportunities across UK, Europe, N America and Egypt

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank Kuwait announced yesterday that it has collaborated with the leading global commercial real estate firm, Jones Lang LaSalle, to exclusively launch the Prince of Wales Gardens development in London. The announcement was made during a seminar the Bank recently organized with an underlying objective of focusing on the project's benefits along with the varied opportunities available across the real estate investment sector. The Prince of Wales Gardens is a prestigious residential development, located in Battersea, London.

The seminar was a major success with a large number of attendees. It provided a strong platform to present the project's features and to book residential units. Moreover, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the United Kingdom's tax system and the proposed changes that are expected to take effect by April 2017, along with a closer look at inheritance tax issues impacting private residential and commercial real estate investments. Medhat Tawfik, Ahli United Bank's General Manager of Private Banking and Wealth Management said, in a press release: "The Bank's success and commitment to achieve excellence is attributed to our relationship managers' unique skills that help position the Bank as the ideal partner for our customers to advise them on a wide range of financial matters. Such seminars aim at educating our customers and providing them with the latest updates across the real estate investment sector." "Similar events provide ideal opportunities to understand our customers' needs in terms of financial products and banking services that in turn enable us to provide a tailored service and accommodate their diverse requirements. AUB was able to lead in providing strong advisory real estate advisory services after its success in London. The bank's scope now includes markets across Europe, North America and Egypt.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens its 151st outlet globally in Oman

KUWAIT: Renowned Omani football player Ali Al Habsi inaugurated the 151st global outlet of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, which is 11th in Oman at Lulu Hypermarket, Barka, on 12 May in the presence of Dr PA Ibrahim Haji - Co Chairman, Malabar Group; Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; KP Abdul Salam, Group Executive Director; Najeeb K, Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, well-wishers, invited media and guests.

Being the eleventh branch in the Sultanate of Oman and the first of its kind in Barka, Malabar Gold & Diamonds intends to provide an unparalleled shopping experience to every customer of this region. The jewelry chain offers a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelry. Like all their other outlets, this outlet exhibits a wide range of diverse and trendy designs in 18K, 22K gold, IGI certified diamonds and precious stone jewelry from Italy, Singapore, Bahrain and India. To celebrate the occasion, customers can avail free gifts on every purchase they make at the new showroom until 28 May. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also gives their customers the advantage of using their 0% Easy Payment Plan with selected banks through which they can pay the total amount in 3 to 6 installments without any interest.

Customers can also enroll to the unique 'Gold Purchase Scheme' which gives them the opportunity to save gold every month equivalent to equal monthly installments for a maximum period of 24 months.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been at the forefront in gold jewelry manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing and strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding their presence in Oman by opening new showroom in Seeb City Center this year.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate. Established in 1993 in Indian state of Kerala, Malabar Gold & Diamonds today has a strong retail network of 151 outlets spread across nine countries, 10 wholesale units in addition to offices, design centers and factories spread across India, Middle East and Far East. With an annual turnover of $4 billion, the company currently ranks among the world's top five jewelry retailers in terms of annual turnover.

ABK bags 'Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait' Award

Accad named 'Banker of the Year' by Banker Middle East

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced that it received the 'Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait' award by Banker ME, which also named ABK's Chief Executive Officer, Michel Accad, 'Banker of the Year', presenting the Bank with two prestigious awards. The award ceremony was held in Dubai on May 12th 2016.

Commenting on the two notable wins, Michel Accad said: "It is truly an honor to be recognized as the 'Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait' and I'm very honored to be named 'Banker of the Year'. ABK has worked hard to develop a successful strategy that aims to create a simpler Banking model for its customers, and we have witnessed the success of this since it's been put into effect. We delivered major enhancements and developments to our systems and services as part of our 'Simpler Banking' Strategy, which revolves around offering more security, convenience and speed to our customers."

"I would like to thank the panel of judges for recognizing our efforts and I would like to thank and congratulate everyone at ABK for working so diligently to make things happen".

ABK recently won the Africa Region 'Deal of the Year' award by The Banker, an FT affiliate, under the Merger and Acquisition category, for the acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt (PBE), which was finalized in November, 2015. The Bank's new identity will be rolled-out over the entire 39 branch network in the first half of 2016.

ABK is committed to presenting customers with differentiated services and a unique experience when managing their Banking needs. The Bank will continue to roll out its 'Simpler Banking' strategy and reach new heights with the ongoing implementation of new developments and enhancements.

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.

Ooredoo offers devices on new intuitive Shamel portal

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, emphasized that customers are able to get all the needed information about the Shamel packages in a simple interactive way.

The website employs the latest technology to offer customers an interactive easy-to-navigate experience, paying attention to all the details to communicate the information in a concise way.

It divides the features of the new Shamel into various eras, spanning from the 1980s, to the present day. Upon choosing any of the eras, the television commercial lead character explains to the customers directly one of the new Shamel features. Customers who are interested in getting the new Shamel plans can leave their contact details on the website and will be contacted by a customer care agent.

The interactive videos of each era use the fashion, style, and dÈcor used in that specific period, while the character explains the features in a concise, down-to-earth and comical way.

The new Shamel packages give customers more flexibility, allowing them to freeze contracts up to three months a year while traveling. Customers can also enjoy unlimited local voice calls on Ooredoo network, a feature included in all packages. They can also transfer contracts at any time and carry forward unused Internet data to the following month, which will provide customers with more freedom to use the web. Customers can also get the latest device from Ooredoo, even if they have existing contracts, which allows them more freedom and flexibility in use.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential.

Ooredoo announces second weekly winners of its prepaid campaign

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the second weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign "Every Recharge Wins." Seven of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile and one winner with the iPad Mini 3.

The winners for this week were:
Bino Falamkozhil Jhon — Samsung Galaxy, Ahmed Jabar — Samsung Galaxy, Majde Esam — samsung Galaxy, Shajo Thithoni — Samsung Galaxy, Mohammad Zaman Mohammad Kano Miah — Samsung Galaxy, Surish Anil— Samsung Galaxy, Muhi Eldeen Nizam Aldin — Samsung Galaxy, Shaban Shalgham I — Pad Mini 3.

Ooredoo's "Every Recharge Wins" campaign is the first of its kind, providing customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each KD1 recharge. Customers can win smartphones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize, which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more customers recharge their lines, the more chances they get to win. In addition to the draws, customers will also be entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge.

To take part in these draws and win one of the great prizes, customers merely need to recharge their prepaid lines. The more the customers recharge, the more chances they have to win. All winners will be contacted directly and an announcement with the winners' names will be made.

Gulf Capital wins 'Best Alternative Investment Firm' in Middle East

Banker Middle East Industry awards

ABU DHABI: Gulf Capital, one of the largest and most active alternative asset managers in the Middle East, was yesterday named as the "Best Alternative Investment Firm" in the Middle East at the Banker Middle East Awards. The prestigious ceremony was attended by prominent industry leaders and banking and finance experts from the Arab World, including the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC), Levant and North Africa, and from around the world.

The award was presented to Chris Foll, Chief Financial Officer at Gulf Capital, Richard Dallas, Senior Managing Director at the Firm's Private Equity Group, Fidaa Haddad, Managing Director at the Private Debt Group, along with their teams. Commenting on the recognition, Dr Karim El Solh said: "Over the years, we have grown into becoming one of the largest and most active alternative investment firms in the Middle East. As we are celebrating our 10th anniversary, Gulf Capital has become the gateway for regional and global investors for investments in the Middle East. We are entering 2016 with a strong momentum across all of our alternative asset classes, fully funded and actively seeking investment opportunities. We look forward to yet another productive year."

He added: "We are extremely proud to have won this award and to be recognised as the premier alternative investment company in the region. As we celebrate our tenth year anniversary in 2016, this award is a testimony to the rapid growth, strength and diversity of our asset management platform. Gulf Capital manages today over 14.7 billion dirhams ($4 billion) across 10 funds and investment vehicles. The Firm invests across three alternative asset classes, namely private equity, private debt and real estate. Over the last year, Gulf Capital has been particularly active and productive across its businesses, on the investing, acquisitions and growing fronts. We expect 2016 to be equally productive, and we are fortunate to be one of the best capitalised investment firms in the region and to be able to take advantage of the unique investment opportunities in the current environment."

Gulf Capital has been quite busy in Private Equity over the last year, closing a series of new investments and bolt-on acquisitions for its portfolio companies. The Firm acquired last week 100 percent of Multibrands Trading Co, one of largest food and beverage distributors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This F&B related transaction, the largest of its kind in its sector, continues Gulf Capital's strategy of investing in defensive and fast growing sectors across the Gulf region. Gulf Capital has built to date a portfolio of defensive investments in resilient and fast growing sectors such as food and beverage, healthcare, education, hospitality, power, water and FMCG.

The Private Debt division also had a particularly busy period in 2015, as evidenced by the landmark investment in Carbon Holdings, one of Egypt's largest industrial petrochemical projects. Dr El Solh commented: "Gulf Capital is increasingly becoming the provider of choice for growth capital to fast growing companies and for acquisition finance for regional investment firms. With the launch of our second Private Debt fund, Gulf Capital is increasing its activities in this sector and expects to announce a number of new credit and mezzanine transactions in the near future."

New website helps Germans, migrants meet, talk about life

BERLIN: During the height of the migrant crisis in Europe last fall, Lasse Landt came to a startling realization. Thousands of migrants were pouring into Germany every day, but the 36-year-old startup consultant from Berlin hadn't met a single one of them.

"It was all over the media, every day on the talk shows you had people talking about the refugee crisis. I had never seen a refugee," said Landt. "I just wanted to find out if it was real."

His experience is typical for most Germans, and many have volunteered with charitable groups in part to meet the migrants they're hearing so much about. But Landt went further - and the result is a kind of dating website for Germans and migrants, albeit without the romantic aspect. Together with Khaled Alaswad, a 25-year-old Syrian he met at a computer coding class for migrants in Berlin, Landt started a project to help refugees and locals meet up. Called Let's integrate! , it allows users to pick a time and location and set up a "date."

The idea is to set as low a hurdle as possible for the meeting. No preparation is needed - people just need to show up and hopefully have a good conversation. Or if the language barrier is too high, have a conversation with hand signals. Alaswad said his friendship with Landt has helped him land on his feet in Germany. "If the refugees never talk face to face with a local person, they will never know anything about the culture here," he said. "There is just such a big difference between our culture and the German culture."

Germany registered around 1.1 million irregular migrants in 2015, most of them refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. But with the closure of the Balkans migration route from Greece to Germany, the number of migrants coming in has dropped dramatically this year. So attention has now shifted to integrating the refugees, who will most likely spend several years, if not their whole lives, in Germany.

BERLIN: Cindy Spieker, Ahmed Haj Ali, Paul Spieker and Abdul Wahab (from left) sit around a table in Berlin. The group met through a website called 'Let's integrate!' that sets dates between refugees and locals in Berlin. — AP

The authorities are focusing on having migrants learn the language and get jobs. The German government has promised to introduce subsidized workplaces earmarked for refugees.

"In Germany, we have a very technocratic view of integration," said Landt. "It is basically, you do a language class, you get a job and then you are integrated. But really, it is very much about social contact. Something you can achieve before you wait six months for your language class and another year before you are somewhat fluent."

Let's integrate

Let's integrate! was launched May 1 and so far at least a dozen meetings have taken place. More Germans have signed up than migrants, so organizers are putting up posters in refugee homes to try to even out the numbers. The service is free but only available in Berlin, though there are plans to expand it to other German cities soon, including those where migrants have received a less-than-enthusiastic reception. Fears about migrants have been stoked by far-right and nationalist groups, who have staged hundreds of rallies near refugee homes or planned shelters.

To identify each other at the meeting point, people are asked to hold up their index finger and thumb to make an L and I - for Let's integrate - a bit like a secret hand signal.

One of the first meetings was between two Syrians and two Germans. Abdul Wahab, an 18-year-old Syrian, said he simply did an Internet search for "Integration Germany" and found the page. Ahmed Haj Ali, a 23-year-old refugee from Damascus, found the website on Facebook.

"I want to stay here for a long time," Haj Ali said. "This will help me adapt to their culture and help me learn German." Haj Ali and Wahab met with Cindy and Paul Spieker, two siblings from Berlin who were also involved in building the website. After meeting at a shopping street in Berlin, the group traveled to a park, where the Germans drank beer and the Syrians enjoyed orange juice.

"We all fear what we don't know," said Paul Spieker. "The refugees are worried about us and we are worried about the refugees."

"When you meet, you realize that they are people like us and there is no need to be worried," he added. — AP

Will robot cars drive traffic congestion off a cliff?

A new era of mobility being ushered in

WASHINGTON: Self-driving cars are expected to usher in a new era of mobility, safety and convenience. The problem, say transportation researchers, is that people will use them too much.

Experts foresee robot cars chauffeuring children to school, dance class and baseball practice. The disabled and elderly will have new mobility. Commuters will be able to work, sleep, eat or watch movies on the way to the office. People may stay home more because they can send their cars to do things like pick up groceries they've ordered online. Researchers believe the number of miles driven will skyrocket. It's less certain whether that will mean a corresponding surge in traffic congestion, but it's a clear possibility.

Gary Silberg, an auto industry expert at accounting firm KPMG, compares it to the introduction of smartphones. "It will be indispensable to your life," he said. "It will be all sorts of things we can't even think of today."

Cars that can drive themselves under limited conditions are expected to be available within five to 10 years. Versions able to navigate under most conditions may take 10 to 20 years.

Based on focus groups in Atlanta, Denver and Chicago, KPMG predicts autonomous "mobility-on-demand" services - think Uber and Lyft without a driver - will result in double-digit increases in travel by people in two age groups: those over 65, and those 16 to 24. Vehicles traveled a record 3.1 trillion miles in the US last year. Increased trips in autonomous cars by those two age groups would boost miles traveled by an additional 2 trillion miles annually by 2050, KPMG calculated. If self-driving cars without passengers start running errands, the increase could be double that.

Safer, cheaper

And if people in their middle years, when driving is at its peak, also increase their travel, that yearly total could reach 8 trillion miles. "This could be massive," Silberg said.

Driverless cars are expected to make travel both safer and cheaper. With human error responsible for 90 percent of traffic accidents, they're expected to sharply reduce accidents, driving down the cost of insurance and repairs. But the biggest cost of car travel is drivers' time, said Don MacKenzie, a University of Washington transportation researcher. That cost comes down dramatically when people can use their travel time productively on other tasks.

A study by MacKenzie and other researchers published in the journal Transportation Research: Part A estimates that the vehicles can cut the cost of travel by as much as 80 percent. That in turn drives up miles traveled by 60 percent.

"You are talking about a technology that promises to make travel safer, cheaper, more convenient. And when you do that, you'd better expect people are going to do more of it," MacKenzie said.

There's a fork ahead in this driverless road, says a report by Lauren Isaac, manager of sustainable transportation at WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff, that envisions either utopia or a nightmare.

In the best case, congestion is reduced because driverless cars and trucks are safer and can travel faster with reduced space between them. Highway lanes can be narrower because vehicles won't need as much margin for error. There will be fewer accidents to tie up traffic. But those advantages will be limited as long as driverless cars share roads with conventional cars, likely for decades.

But that scenario depends on a societal shift from private vehicle ownership to commercial fleets of driverless cars that can be quickly summoned with a phone app. Driverless fleets would have to become super-efficient carpools, picking up and dropping off multiple passengers traveling in the same direction. The congestion nightmare would result if a large share of people can't be persuaded to effectively share robot cars with strangers and to continue using mass transit, Isaac said.

A study last year by the International Transport Forum, a transportation policy think tank, simulated the impact on traffic in Lisbon, Portugal, if conventional cars were replaced with driverless cars that take either a single passenger at a time or several passengers together. It found that as long as half of travel is still carried out by conventional cars, total vehicle miles traveled will increase from 30 to 90 percent, suggesting that even widespread sharing of driverless cars would mean greater congestion for a long time.

Airlines also may face new competition as people choose to travel by car at speeds well over 100 mph between cities a few hundred miles apart instead of flying. Transit agencies will need to rethink their services in order to stay competitive, especially because the elimination of a driver would make car-sharing services cheaper. To make the shared-vehicle model work, government would have to impose congestion pricing on highways, restrict parking in urban centers, add more high-occupancy vehicle lanes and take other measures to discourage people from traveling alone in their self-driving cars.

Land-use policies may need to be adjusted to prevent sprawl, or people will move beyond the fringes of metropolitan areas for low-cost housing because they can work while commuting at high speeds. Taxes based on the number of miles a personal vehicle travels are another way to discourage car travel. All these policy changes would be controversial and difficult to achieve.

While there are "loads of likely positive impacts for society associated with driverless technology," people are right to worry about potential for huge increases in congestion, Issac said. "Without any government influence," she said, "human nature is to get into that single occupancy vehicle." — AP

MOUNTAIN VIEW: A Google self-driving car goes on a test drive near the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif. Self-driving cars are expected to usher in a new era of mobility, safety and convenience. The problem, say transportation researchers, is that people will use them too much. — AP

Huawei holds ICT roadshow 'Opening Road to the Cloud'

Roadshow reaffirms Huawei's commitment to Kuwait's ICT innovation

KUWAIT: Huawei-a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider-organized a nationwide ICT roadshow dubbed, 'Kuwait IT Truck Roadshow', where it shared its global expertise on how Kuwait enterprises can leverage new ICT to drive innovation in the coming five years.

During the roadshow events, Huawei met and collaborated with enterprise leaders across a number of key verticals including Government, Financial Services, Oil & Gas, Healthcare, Education, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Telecom providers. The roadshow included several key forums that covered cloud deployment in Public Safety, Financial Services, Oil & Gas and ISP, and addressed challenges that enterprises could face during the transition to a full cloud-based ICT ecosystem that would simplify infrastructure complexities for better agility across their businesses.

"Huawei has been in Kuwait for more than 10 years now and its extensive investments in R&D have given Huawei a leadership position in addressing these areas. Our commitment to bring leading innovation and knowledge to Kuwait is reflected by this roadshow, and we continue to support Kuwait organizations with insights on new technology trends driven by cloud computing," Lizonglun, Huawei Kuwait Enterprise Business Group Director said. "Our commitment to innovation is demonstrated in the investments made for R&D which reached $9.2 billion in 2015, which is over 15 percent of our annual revenue. This has led Huawei to develop new technologies that place us on the top of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) list of patent submissions with 3,898 patents - that's 13.2 per cent more than the previous year and 59 per cent higher than the second patent applicant."

Leading Kuwait bank executives gained insights from the financial forum on banking digitalization & cloud, business continuity, and video cloud storage, while oil and gas professionals witnessed the latest advancements in digital oil field and Internet Of Things (IoT) deployments. The highlight of the roadshow was a keynote speech by Mr. Fan Ruiqi, Huawei's Vice President of IT Product Line worldwide, who shared his views on how businesses of the future will compete on their data capabilities.

"ICT is now empowering the new industrial revolution to change our society, business operations, and our lives. Cloud Computing, Big Data, Mobility, SDN, and IoT, are the enabling forces for the upcoming digital transformations. As of today, public safety is the top priority for many countries. It is not only a standard of living but an essential element in life," added Lizonglun.

Fan Ruiqi, Huawei's Global VP of IT Product Line, gives a keynote speech at Huawei Kuwait IT Truck Roadshow.

As a leader in new ICT, Huawei unveiled its modern cloud computing and end to end IT infrastructure products and solutions like Converged Storage System, Desktop Cloud Platform (VDI) and Huawei Service-Driven Distributed Data center solution, from its IT truck which showcased these solutions.

Huawei also demonstrated eLTE and Intelligent Video Surveillance solutions during the event to address public safety concerns mandated in Kuwait recently. Attendees discussed the latest industry trends with Huawei experts and explored transformation opportunities and challenges in the cloud era.

The Kuwait IT Truck Roadshow event extends on Huawei's commitment to Kuwait to ensure that local organizations are able to leverage the latest technologies to improve their business while enriching society as a whole.

GMO Mosquito plan headed for residents' vote in Florida Keys

KEY WEST, Florida: Residents in the Florida Keys will get to vote on whether genetically modified mosquitoes should be released in their neighborhood. The mosquito control district in the island chain wants the British biotech firm Oxitec to test its modified mosquitoes in a neighborhood of 444 homes clustered on a relatively isolated peninsula north of Key West. At a board meeting tomorrow in Marathon, the district's board of commissioners decided to allow residents of the Key Haven neighborhood to have a say in the project.

The vote will be nonbinding, but The Key West Citizen reports that a majority of the five commissioners said they would abide by the will of the voters. The newspaper reported last Monday that board members weren't comfortable with either a district survey that found Key Haven residents supportive of the test or anecdotal complaints from angry residents. Two commissioners are up for re-election, and a third has decided not to run again. Commissioner Jill Cranney-Gage, who is running for re-election and lives in Key Haven, said she wanted an independent survey on the proposed test.

"I do not want to shove this down people's throats," she said. "I have heard from residents, friends and neighbors, but what I have heard is not significant when it comes to an overall response." Oxitec, which was bought last year by the biotechnology company Intrexon, modifies Aedes aegypti mosquitoes with synthetic DNA to produce offspring that won't survive outside a lab. The mosquito species can transmit the Zika virus, along with dengue and chikungunya, to humans.

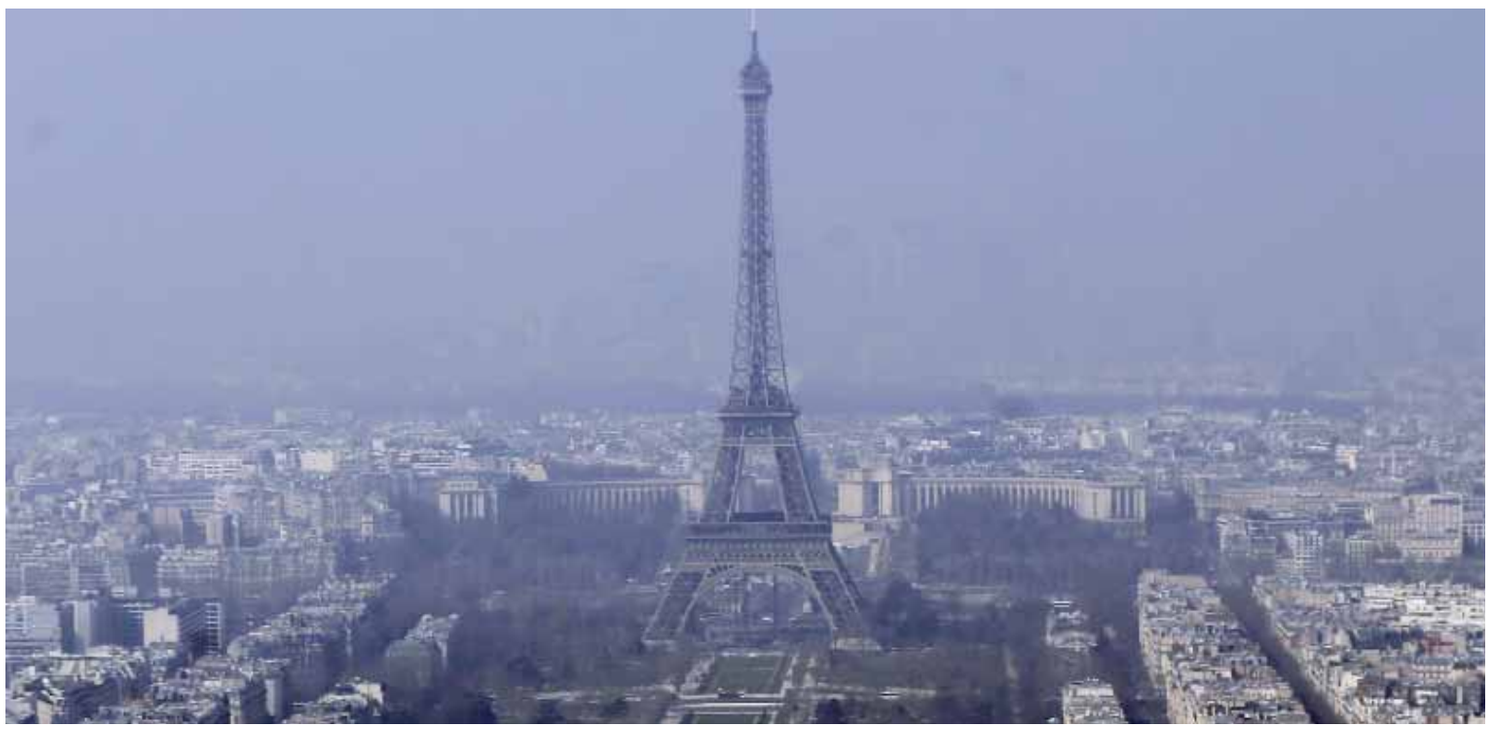
Small field tests in Panama, Brazil and the Cayman Islands significantly reduced wild Aedes larvae populations in the targeted neighborhoods with no adverse impacts to humans or the environment, Oxitec officials have said. The company is expanding its operations in Brazil to conduct larger tests with its mosquitoes. A similar technique using radiation to sterilize insects has been used for decades to control mosquitoes and other insects.

Discussion and decisions

Derric Nimmo, who would oversee the Florida test for Oxitec, said he supports the vote. The test proposed in the Keys would release roughly 3 million modified male mosquitoes into the neighborhood to mate with wild female mosquitoes. "I think a referendum is great, as long as it is done in an independent way," Nimmo said. "An informed choice is what we want." Thousands of mosquitoes would be released three times a week for up to 22 months during the test. The Monroe County Supervisor of Elections Office agreed to oversee the election, and the ballot question will go before voters in the Aug. 30 primary, the district's attorney, Dirk Smits, said.

The district has until June 24 to submit the ballot question, Smits said. Some Key Haven residents who have opposed Oxitec's plan welcomed the vote. Ed Swift said last Tuesday that neither he nor his neighbors want to be "guinea pigs." The Citizen has reported over 60 signs visible in the neighborhood state that residents do not consent to the test. The US Food and Drug Administration still has to decide whether to allow the test to proceed. The agency's Center for Veterinary Medicine has released a preliminary finding of no significant impact for the trial, and the public has until May 13 to review and comment on those findings. — AP

PANAMA CITY: In this file photo, containers hold genetically modified aedes aegypti mosquitoes before being released in Panama. — AP



PARIS: In this file photo, the Eiffel Tower, is photographed through the smog. — AP

UN warns of rising air pollution levels in cities

GENEVA: Almost all inhabitants of large cities in low- and middle-income countries face excessively high air pollution, a growing problem that is "wreaking havoc on human health" and causes more than 3 million premature deaths each year, the World Health Organization said Thursday. The agency, hoping to raise awareness and highlight national efforts, said its database now shows more than four in five urban dwellers worldwide live in cities that don't meet WHO air quality guidelines - 98 percent in poorer countries and 56 percent even in high-income countries.

The findings are part of WHO's third Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database, which examines outdoor air in 3,000 cities, towns and villages - but mostly cities - across 103 countries. It is based on country reports and other sources. An accompanying news release said global urban air pollution levels rose by 8 percent between 2008 and 2013 "despite improvements in some regions," and it noted that people face a higher risk of strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases as air quality worsens.

"Urban air pollution continues to rise at an alarming rate, wreaking havoc on human health," said Dr Maria Neira, a WHO director for environment and public health. "At the same time, awareness is rising and more cities are monitoring their air quality. When air quality improves, global respiratory and cardiovascular-related illnesses decrease." The database named Zabol, Iran, as the city with the highest annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

Garbage burning

The Indian capital of New Delhi, which had previously topped the list, dropped to No. 9 after the city managed to decrease its annual average concentration of particulate matter by about 20 percent from 2014 to 2015. The change coincides with a series of air-clearing measures including banning older cars and cargo trucks from city limits. "New Delhi has succeeded in arresting the trend, which shows that if you take action, you will see results," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director of research and advocacy at the Delhi-based Center for Science and Environment. New Delhi has continued its air-clearing campaign by introducing steep fines for construction pollution or the garbage burning, as well as shutting down an old coal-fired power plant.

But India overall is still struggling, with the WHO data set showing four other Indian cities - Gwalior, Allahabad, Patna and Raipur - surpassing New Delhi to rank as the world's second, third, fourth and fifth most polluted. "Ambient air pollution, made of high concentrations of small and fine particulate matter, is the greatest environmental risk to health - causing more than 3 million premature deaths worldwide ever year," WHO's statement said.

Citing efforts by policymakers to promote cleaner transportation, production of more efficient energy and better waste management, WHO said: "More than half of the monitored cities in high-income countries and more than one-third in low- and middle-income countries reduced their air pollution levels by more than 5 percent in five years." — AP

INDIA: In this file photo a local train moves past burning garbage at a local train station in Mumbai. — AP

Italy set to double baby bonus to fight birth rate 'apocalypse'

ROME: Italy's health minister is proposing doubling a 'baby bonus' incentive for couples to have more children to combat what she calls a catastrophic decline in the country's birth rate. "If we carry on as we are and fail to reverse the trend, there will be fewer than 350,000 births a year in 10 years' time, 40 percent less than in 2010 — an apocalypse," the minister, Beatrice Lorenzin, said in an interview published yesterday by daily La Repubblica. Lorenzin told the paper she wanted to double the standard baby bonus, currently 80 euros ($90) a month for low-to-middle income families, and introduce higher payments for second and subsequent children to encourage bigger families.

Introduced last year, the allowances are currently payable only for babies born between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017 up to their third birthdays. Lorenzin wants to expand eligibility to all under-threes (thereby including those born before 2015) and to extend the provision for an additional three years, covering all babies born up until the end of 2020. Higher-income families, those with taxable earnings of more than 25,000 euros per year, are not eligible for the scheme, excluding about a third of parents.

The allowances are paid at higher rates for the poorest-those declaring less than 7,000 euros a year to the taxman. Under the new proposals, the payment for second and subsequent children would be 240 euros/month for average families and 400 euros/month for the poorest. Lorenzin is an influential member of Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's centre-left government and would not have floated the increased payments without a green light from him, political commentators noted. The proposals may however raise eyebrows in Brussels, where the European Commission is pressing Renzi to move faster on cutting the country's budget deficit as a way of bringing down its huge national debt, currently equivalent to more than 130 percent of GDP.

Lorenzin's proposals would add 2.2 billion euros to public spending over six years, her department estimates. "In five years we have lost more than 66,000 births (per year) - that is the equivalent of a city the size of Siena," the minister said. "If we link this to the increasing number of old and chronically ill people, we have a picture of a moribund country." Lorenzin said the drive to get Italians to have more children would not be restricted to fiscal incentives. "Couples have to understand that waiting until after 35 to have children can be a problem," she said. —AFP

Beyond immuno-oncology, AstraZeneca builds up 'DNA damage' drugs

LONDON: Drugs targeting DNA repair mechanisms inside cells are showing real promise for a range of tumors and AstraZeneca believes it is well ahead of rivals in the emerging cancer field. Chief Executive Pascal Soriot said on Friday that while DNA damage response (DDR) was under-recognized by investors, oncologists were already "very excited" by its potential. Work on how cells repair damaged DNA landed Swedish, US and Turkish scientists the Nobel Prize for Chemistry last year and AstraZeneca's recently approved Lynparza is an early example of a drug that builds on this new understanding.

Lynparza fights tumors by disrupting cancer cells' natural ability to repair themselves as they replicate, causing them eventually to die. The British drugmaker is now combining different DDR medicines and will present early results at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting next month, including data on using Lynparza with an experimental WEE1 inhibitor. n"It's early days but if this works we believe we could end up treating up to 40 percent of patients with ovarian or breast cancer and, importantly, we also have very strong pre-clinical results in lung cancer," Soriot told Reuters.

"We are not only first but we are going to be first and alone for a time in DDR because there is nobody else that has this portfolio ... we will have something quite unique." Most attention in cancer research is currently focused on so-called immuno-oncology drugs, which harness the body's immune system to fight tumors, where AstraZeneca is behind rivals such as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck and Roche.

AstraZeneca still hopes to gain an important foothold in the immuno-oncology market with a combination treatment that mixes two of its pipeline medicines, durvalumab and tremelimumab. Soriot said he expected clinical results on the drug cocktail's ability to slow lung cancer progression early in 2017, with results on overall survival of patients following soon afterwards. "We'll have our overall survival data by Q2 or Q3 next year," he said. Results from this clinical trial, dubbed MYSTIC, are keenly anticipated, since durvalumab is arguably AstraZeneca's most important pipeline drug. "If our study in lung cancer is positive, the view people have of the company will change completely," Soriot said. He added that patient enrolment was proceeding very rapidly and nearly all the 1,100 subjects had now been signed up. AstraZeneca recently increased the size of the MYSTIC trial to add more patients and measure overall survival as well as progression-free survival. Oncology is the area with the greatest potential to drive future sales at AstraZeneca, as the company grapples with a wave of patient expiries on older mass-market medicines, such as its cholesterol fighter Crestor and stomach acid pill Nexium. — AP

Vermont to require drug makers to explain price increases

MONTPELIER, Vermont: Vermont is poised to become the first state requiring drug companies to explain their price increases, and Bob and Deborah Messing think that's a good idea. The Messings live in Montpelier and are in their early 70s. She's on Orencia, a Bristol-Myers Squibb product, for rheumatoid arthritis. He recently finished a course of Harvoni, made by Gilead Sciences Inc, to treat hepatitis C. Both drugs are expensive, though for people of the Messings' modest income, big manufacturers' discounts and state assistance make their costs manageable. Harvoni lists at $1,125 per pill, or $94,500 for a 12-week course of treatment. Orencia's list price tops $3,000 a month.

The Messings say they're mystified by the high prices and worried about what would happen if either the discounts or state assistance disappeared. "Then you're faced with these wildly expensive costs," Deborah Messing said. Drug prices have been a big issue nationwide, highlighted by Martin Shkreli, a boyish-looking, early-30s executive dubbed "Pharma Bro." He was CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals when the company acquired rights to make Daraprim, which has been on the market since the 1950s and is used to treat a life-threatening parasitic infection. Turing raised the price from $13.50 to $750 per pill.

Expensive research

At a US Senate Finance Committee hearing in March, Sen Bob Casey, a Pennsylvania Democrat, called that move "pure evil." Bob Messing pointed to a Harvoni predecessor, also made by Gilead: Sovaldi. Information gathered by the US Senate Finance Committee in 2014 showed that the company that developed the drug, Pharmasset Inc, projected its price at $36,000 for a 12-week course of treatment. After Gilead acquired Pharmasset, the price jumped to $84,000. Drug companies often counter that research and development of new medicines is costly, a view that got some support last month in a Boston Globe op-ed by Dr Jeffrey S Flier, dean of the Harvard Medical School.

"New drugs require expensive research and development under tight regulatory oversight. The cost of developing a single new drug may exceed $2 billion when including the cost of failures," Flier wrote. Vermont state Rep Christopher Pearson, a member of the Vermont Progressive Party from the state's largest city, Burlington, and a key supporter of the legislation, noted prescription drugs often sell for far less in other countries and offered another reason for high prices: the inability of Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate better prices under federal law. Priscilla VanderVeer, spokeswoman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said Vermont is the first state to see a transparency bill pass both houses of its Legislature. If the governor signs the bill, which is likely, it wouldn't be the first time one of the nation's smallest states in both size and population has taken on big business. Vermont in 2007 passed a law to restrict prescription "data mining" by companies that track doctors' prescribing habits and sell the information to drug companies, but the US Supreme Court shot it down in 2011. The food industry so far has failed to block a Vermont law to require labeling of genetically modified food that is set to take effect July 1.

Annual list

Several other states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, California and Virginia, have had drug-explanation measures like Vermont's under consideration this year and in 2015. A California ballot initiative in November would go further by requiring state agencies to get drugs for the same prices as the Veterans Administration, which is not affected by the no-negotiations rule. The Vermont bill calls on state health care regulators to develop an annual list of up to 15 drugs that have seen the biggest price increases. Their manufacturers would then have to justify the increases to the attorney general's office. — AP

CALIFORNIA: This file photo shows the headquarters of Gilead Sciences in Foster City, California.

Italian fertility guru cries witch hunt over stolen eggs charge

ROME: A controversial Italian fertility surgeon who has been accused of removing eggs from a woman's ovaries without her consent claimed yesterday he is the victim of a witch hunt. Severino Antinori, dubbed the grandmothers' obstetrician for helping women in their 60s to have children, was recovering at his Rome residence yesterday, a day after he was rushed to hospital. He attributed the visit to the stress of being arrested and suspended from medicine over what his lawyers have dismissed as malicious claims. "I have pains in my chest, I could have had a heart attack," Antinori, 70, told the AGI news agency. "I am very ill because of this unjustified arrest. Do they want me dead?

"I am an honest man. I've never robbed eggs from anyone and while all this is going on the embryos that have been sequestrated are dying." Antinori has been under house arrest since Friday after being detained by police at Fiumicino's airport on charges of aggravated robbery and causing personal injuries. The charges followed a month-long investigation triggered by a 24-year-old Spanish woman who says she had her eggs harvested after being forcibly placed under anaesthetic while undergoing treatment for an ovarian cyst at Antinori's Milan clinic in early April.

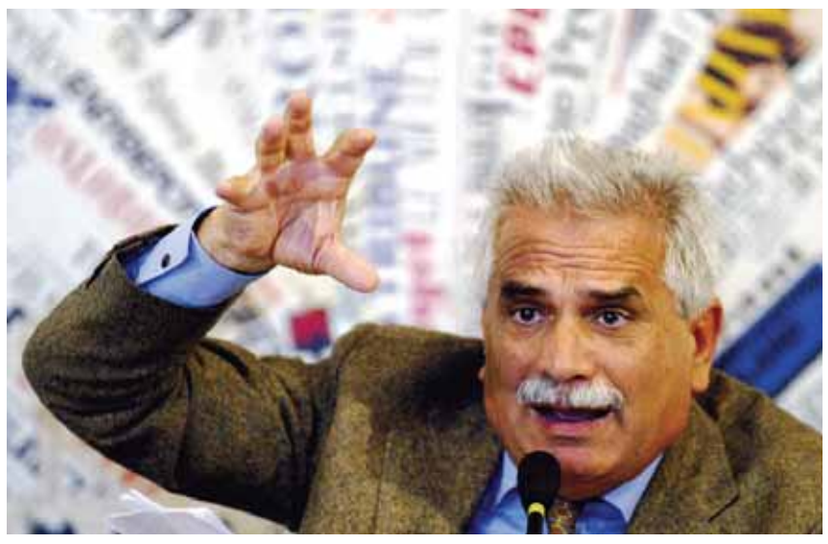
Lawyers for the physician claim the woman had signed consent forms and had tried to blackmail the clinic into giving her a permanent job by threatening to go public with a false version of what happened to her. The alleged victim has a nursing qualification and had recently begun working at the clinic.

'1,000 euros per harvest'

Prosecutors suspect Antinori had offered the woman a job and later diagnosed her as having an ovarian cyst as a pretext for being able to operate and remove eggs from her. They are also examining statements from other women who say they donated eggs at the clinic in return for payment, which is against the law in Italy. One of the alleged paid donors was quoted by La Repubblica as saying that Antinori personally oversaw payments for eggs. "It was 1,000 euros for every harvest and an extra 500 if I brought a friend. I needed money, he needed eggs," the 22-year-old Brazilian told the daily's Sunday edition.

Antinori became famous worldwide in 1994 when Italian Rossana Della Corte giving birth to a son at the age of 63 thanks to his treatment. Della Corte was the oldest woman to have given birth at the time but that record has since been beaten. A 65-year-old, Annegret Raunigk, gave birth to quadruplets in Germany last year and Daljinder Kaur, who told AFP she was around 70, gave birth to a boy last month following fertility treatment in India, where a 72-year-old reportedly had a child in 2008.

Antinori was also involved in the treatment of Patricia Rashbrook, who became Britain's oldest new mother when she had a boy in 2006 at the age of 62. The physician is most controversial because of his advocacy of the use of cloning technology to enable infertile couples to have children by injecting genetic material from a father into donated eggs. It is unclear whether he has ever overseen the creation of a cloned child although he has suggested as much in interviews. — AFP



ROME: This file photo shows controversial Italian embryologist Severino Antinori addressing a news conference in Rome. — AFP

Two escaped tigers returned to Dutch refuge

THE HAGUE: Two Bengal tigers that escaped Saturday from a big cat shelter in the Netherlands have been recaptured after about four hours on the loose, Dutch authorities said. The two tigers named Radja and Delhi were found roaming the wooded area near the refuge from which they escaped by crawling under a fence, ANP news agency reported, citing local police. Veterinarians equipped with tranquilizer guns and police helicopters had launched an urgent search around the northern village of Oldeberkoop for the felines.

After several attempts to capture them, the animals were anaesthetized and confirmed to be "in a very deep sleep," Jan Graafstra, a police officer involved in the operation, wrote on Twitter. Several men then carried the two big cats, each weighing around 150 kilos (330 pounds), back to their cages in the refuge in big cloth sacks with carrying handles, Dutch public television NOS reported.

"There was never any danger for local residents," who had been warned about the escaped tigers, local mayor Harry Oosterman told ANP. The Felida big cat rescue center takes in animals in need of protection from possible abuse or neglect as those of advanced years. Radja and Delhi originally came from a private German zoo, whose cash-strapped owner could no longer afford to feed them. The goal is to eventually transfer them to a sanctuary in South Africa. — AFP

OSLO: Pictures of John Jeanette Solstad Remo as she worked as a submarine captain.

'Tick here please': Changing gender in Norway gets easier

'No one other than me can decide who I am'

OSLO: As the commander of a Cold War submarine tracking the Soviets, John Jeanette's dresses were stashed away in a locker reserved for top-secret documents. Soon, this former Norwegian navy captain will be recognized for what she is: a woman born in a man's body. Under a proposed new bill hailed by activists as one of the most liberal in the world, people who want to change gender in Norway would no longer be required to undergo any physical transformation. No more humiliating psychiatric exams, no lengthy hormone treatments and invasive surgeries resulting in irreversible sterilizations that have been the practice for a legal gender change in Norway since the 1970s.

All you would have to do is notify authorities-a click on a website would suffice-to change your legal gender if the bill becomes law. The legislation, which activists hope will be voted on by parliament before the summer break, has met little opposition. "All my life, I had to show that I was a boy, then a man. I played the role of macho. I had a nice thick beard, exactly as was expected," says John Jeanette Solstad Remo, who picked a first name emphasizing her trans identity. "But when I look like a man, even though I can function, life is grey. When I look like a woman, it's the opposite, there are lots of colors in my head and around me," adds the 67-year-old ex-submarine captain.

"No one other than me can decide who I am and this law recognizes this right." Dressed in a black skirt and a pale green top and matching scarf, her brown bob framing her face, Remo recalls a lifetime of uphill battles. Her memories range from the joy of wearing girls' clothes at the age of four and being immediately stifled by her mother, to suicidal thoughts in her teens after being outed by other youths. She also remembers trying to fit in while hiding her true self in the virile world of the naval academy and the submarine corps.

"When we called at port, we often stayed in hotels. I would buy a bottle of wine, I'd watch TV and I stayed in my room, dressed as a woman. It was the only way to survive," says Remo, who has not undergone gender reassignment surgery. Her first marriage ended after her unwitting wife found a bag of women's clothes hidden in the cellar. Remo remarried, this time to a woman who accepted her as she was: "The trans that I am is sort of a third person in our relationship."

Children too

While times have changed in Norway, and public opinion too, daily life can still be problematic when it comes to borrowing a book at the library, getting a prescription filled, or crossing borders with identification papers that don't match one's physical appearance. Still listed as a personality disorder by the World Health Organisation, transgenderism stirs up emotions internationally.

OSLO: John Jeanette Solstad Remo shows a picture of herself as she worked as a submarine captain at her home. — AFP photos

A North Carolina law that requires transgender people to use the restroom corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates has sparked angry protests, from Bruce Springsteen to Deutsche Bank, and a heated debate between US Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. Argentina is a pioneer in the field, having allowed people since 2012 to choose their own legal gender without previously having reassignment surgery.

But life expectancy for the Latin American country's transgenders is no more than 35 years, according to a study by the Association of Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgenders of Argentina. It said they were often ostracised by society, facing discrimination and a lack of access to jobs and housing for example, that left them increasingly desperate. "The law is one thing but you also have to really change attitudes," says Patricia Kaatee of Amnesty International, which fights for the rights of transgender people.

Norway's bill also allows minors aged six to 16 to change their gender if both parents agree. If one parent opposes, authorities may decide "in the child's best interest." "The law will make things easier for us. We won't have to always prepare everything in advance before going anywhere. There are already so many things to explain," says Sofie Brune, a mother of two who lives in Oslo. Her second child Miria was born six years ago in a girl's body but has identified as a boy since a very young age. So it's only natural that he now plays on the local boy's football team, and he's treated as a boy in school. "He's happy. That's what's most important. Children around him are very tolerant once we explain" the situation, Sofie says. For transgender people, the most important thing is to be able to live their lives the way they want. In the words of transgender Frida Haslund: "I don't want to be buried without ever having been myself." — AFP

Annual Ramadan basketball tournament

The Public Authority for Sports is hosting a basketball tournament this Ramadan for all nationalities in their fields in Bayan, the tournament runs from 3rd of Ramadan until June (end of Eid).

Rules:
- No fees.
- First place takes KD 100 each member, second takes KD 80 each member, including substitutes.
- Five members on-court, up to two substitutes allowed. First team to 15 wins, two halves with a 2 point difference if there is a tie, up to 21points then a tie round. One 30seconds break for each team.
- A player can't play for two teams. his team will be disqualified otherwise. 15yo+
- Matches will be played from 8;30 pm to 12;00am. Teams must arrive before their matches by 10minutes. if you're late more than 10minutes to your match you'll be disqualified.
- 32 teams, knockout tournament. Slots could be increased to 64 if there is more teams wanting in

Sign up at Bayan courts. Bring your ID or a copy of it
For more info WhatsApp: 6661-6173

Big Mac Moment winners to meet Neymar in his hometown

McDonald's Arabia is delighted to announce the winners of the Big Mac Moment competition. The fourteen lucky winners from across the GCC, including Kuwait's own Artin Kalayjian and Aftab Ahmed have won an all-expense-paid trip to Barcelona to meet Neymar Jr, the forward of the Spanish Club, FC Barcelona.

Launched in January 2016, the competition proved to be a success among fans, with hundreds of entries submitted online. McDonald's customers in the GCC were asked to upload their own take doing a Big Mac Moment on the McDonald's Arabia website and asked to share it on various social media platforms using the campaigns dedicated hashtag #BigMacMoment. Winners were selected at random, where a selection of participants got the chance to be featured in the winners Big Mac Moment compilation video, which can be viewed on YouTube.

Kuwait's winner of the Big Mac Moment competition, Aftab Ahmed said: "I am still trying to wrap my head around this fantastic news. I did my own version of the Big Mac Moment because I thought it was a fun campaign, but I never expected to win. Getting to meet my football icon is a dream come true and to travel all the way to Barcelona is the icing on the cake."

Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait, commented: "We are always looking for ways to bring unique experiences to our valued customers. Football is such a treasured sport in this region and we are thrilled to provide this once in a lifetime opportunity for our lucky winners. Thank you to all our participants for sending in their videos and a big congratulation to the lucky fourteen who are Barcelona bound."

To view a selection of the winner videos, you can visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/McDonaldsArabia and to follow their journey to Barcelona, follow the hashtag #BigMacWalk on various social media channels.

Al-Mulla Exchange announces winner of final draw in 1 kg gold promotion

Al-Mulla Exchange, Kuwait's premier money exchange company, announced the grand prize lucky winner of the 3 month gold promotion. The winner Bolaram Mahapil Narayana received the grand prize, 1 kg gold prize at a special ceremony the winner at Al-Mulla Exchange Head Office from Rakesh Joshi, General Manager of Al-Mulla Exchange.

The Gold promotion was a unique top of the line marketing promotion, enabling 10 customers to win 1 g gold at any branches of Al-Mulla Exchange. There were 910 customers who won 1 g gold during the 3 months promotion period. This culminated in a raffle draw where in the winner was selected from more 1,200,000 customers.

The lucky winner, Boloram won 1 kg gold. The promotion allowed every customer who makes a transaction at one of the Al-Mulla branches to take part and enjoy a chance to win. The offer was applicable to bank transfer, currency exchanges, remittances made through Western Union.

Speaking about the promotion, Joshi commented that it was designed as a way of giving back to our customers, and to entice more people to conduct transactions through Al-Mulla. "The promotion has been a great success, and has increased footfalls in all our branches since its launch. We promise to delight our customers with more offers and promotions in future."

Elected officers of Kuwait Triskelion Alumni Organization (KTAO) took their oath recently at the Philippines Embassy.

May Day celebration at Indian Learners Own Academy School

A 'May Day' celebration for all the transport employees working in Indian Learners Own Academy School was arranged exclusively by Samy Venkat, General Manager, Al-Maha Star Transport Corporation. Asha Sharma, Principal, wished the employees and gave her recommendations during her speech and Anie John also attended the function. AMA Fazly and Samy venket conveyed their wishes to all the employees. S Chelladurai, Fatima Fazly and Easwari Venkat facilitated the function as special guests. Participation of 70 employees including Supervisors, Drivers and technicians made the celebration a successful event. The program ended with a delicious lunch served by Udayam Hotel - Mangaf.

Marriott Hotels in Kuwait hold Blood Donation Drive

Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Central Blood Bank, recently organized a blood donation drive which took place at Salhia Meeting Room at the JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait City.

More than 40 associates took time from their daily routines to each donate a unit of blood to the Kuwait Central Blood Bank (KCBB), which came collecting at the JW Marriott Kuwait. A special medical clinic was set up by the Central Blood Bank to allow Marriott associates to donate blood while also giving them the opportunity to undergo some basic health checks, including blood pressure. The event reflects Marriott's ongoing commitment towards supporting every aspect of the local community and environment, while fulfilling its global "Spirit to Serve" initiatives. Setting up the in-house clinic made it easy for donors to donate blood, which was also evident from the support received during the campaign.

The Doctors from the KCBB explained that blood is always needed in Kuwait, and highlighted that they are pleased with the generosity and level of awareness of both locals and expatriates in the country.

"Corporate social responsibility takes different forms and donating blood is a very valuable way of contributing to local communities." Said George Aoun, the Cluster General Manager of Marriott Hotels in Kuwait.

"Through the regular blood drives, we aim to spread awareness in the local community on the importance of serving as a good example that upholds the value of the community as a whole. We strongly encourage all citizens and residents in Kuwait to donate to this vital cause whenever they can, as a mission to provide care to individuals in need, and save lives," Aoun added.

Canadian Business Council holds presentation on Middle East issues

To enhance the business climate for Canadian businesses and business people residing in Kuwait, Canadian Business Council (CBC) conducted presentations by diverse professionals on monthly basis. This presentation was one among the series. This presentation was on the Middle East issues, including Palestine, Iraq and oil. Ambassador, Martine Moreau welcomed CBC members, their guests and the speaker.

CBC President Ishtiaq Malik introduced CBC and its mission to promote the development of business ties between Canada and Kuwait and to increase awareness among Canadian companies and Canadian commercial organizations of the opportunities that exist for trade and commerce in Kuwait.

CBC President also introduced the speaker Dr Usameh Jamali an Advisor to the Chairman at the Australian College of Kuwait since December 2010. He was associated with the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) for 36 years. Dr Jamali graduated from the American University of Beirut in 1957 where he earned a BA in economics. He went on to earn an MBA from Columbia University, and a MALD and PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. His past experience includes working for the Rafidain Bank in Baghdad, Beirut, London and J. Henry Schroeder Banking Corporation in NYC. He subsequently trained with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in preparation for joining the National Bank of Libya (1960 - 1964). As an academic, Dr Jamali lectured in various fields of economics at Tufts and Northeastern University in Boston (1965 - 1974) and at the American University of Kuwait (2010). Dr Jamali's main field of interest remains energy economics.

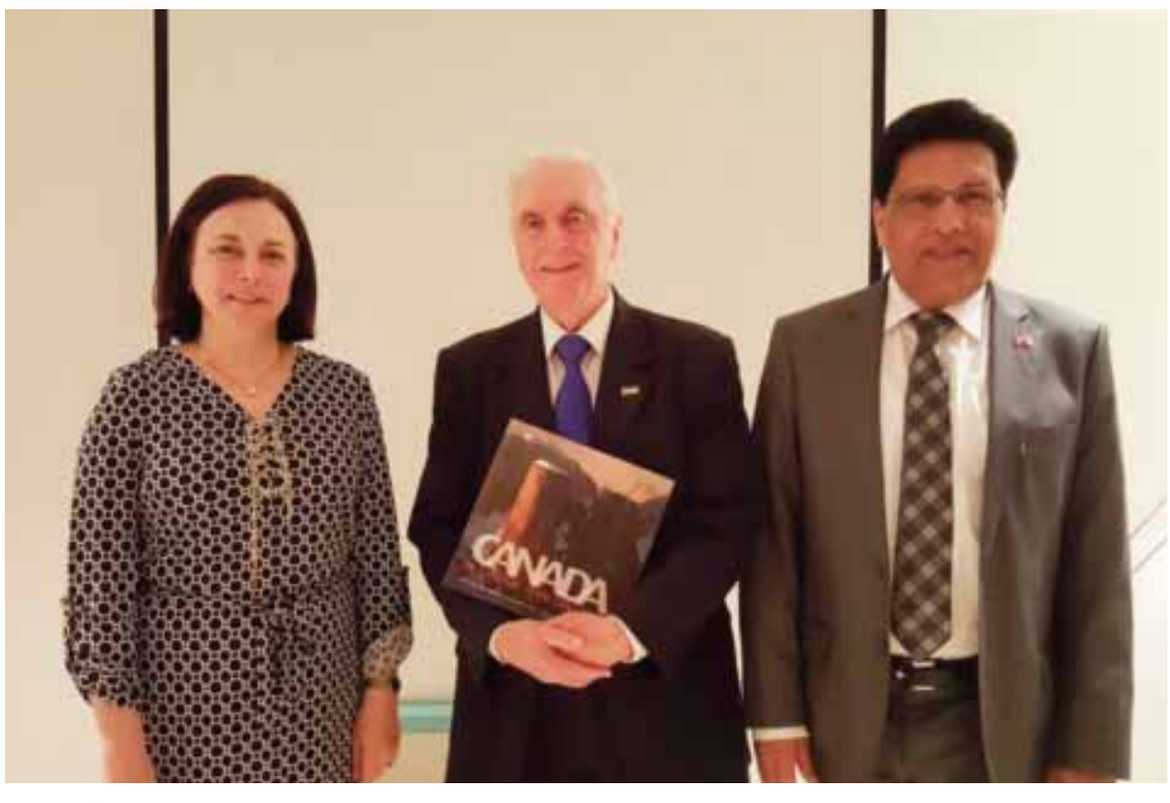
In this presentation Dr Jamali highlighted opportunities lost during the course in dealing with Palestine and Iraq. In the case of oil, it was the chance to optimize the use of the oil export revenue bulge that was the direct result of the speculative price increase sparked by other nations. After the presentation a lively discussion followed with Dr Jamali's. Ambassador Moreau on behalf of CBC presented a book on Canada titled Canada in Color to Dr Jamali. Malik thanked CBC members their guests and the speaker for joining this evening.

CBC EC members with embassy staff.

Dr Christian Awaraji with guests.

Dr David McHardy with guests.

Tammy Ames and Nadia Hammouda



(From left) Ambassador, Martine Moreau, Speaker Dr Usameh Jamali and CBC President Ishtiaq Malik.

A view of the audience.

amc

03:55 Big Screen
04:10 Fear The Walking Dead
05:10 Billy Two Hats
06:50 Big Screen
07:05 The Magnificent Seven
09:10 Jakob The Liar
11:05 Peggy Sue Got Married
12:50 Pork Chop Hill
14:25 Big Screen
14:40 Lords Of Dogtown
16:20 Thunderbirds Are Go
17:55 Waking Up In Reno
19:30 The Tender
21:00 Fear The Walking Dead
22:00 Sfw
23:35 Pray For Death
01:10 Red Dawn

Animal Planet HD

03:25 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
04:15 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
05:02 Speed Of Life
05:49 Wildest Islands
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Dog TV
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Gangland Killers
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Dog TV
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 Monster Island
01:40 Dog TV
02:35 Tanked

BBC First

03:25 Orphan Black
04:10 Doctors
04:45 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Eastenders
07:00 Doctors
07:35 Death In Paradise
08:30 37 Days
09:25 Doctor Who
10:15 Doctors
10:50 Eastenders
11:25 Death In Paradise
12:20 37 Days
13:15 Doctor Who
14:05 Doctors
14:35 Eastenders
15:05 Death In Paradise
16:00 Hitler On Trial
17:25 Doctor Who
18:15 Death In Paradise
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Undercover
21:00 Undercover
22:00 Southcliffe
22:50 Orphan Black
23:40 Death In Paradise
00:30 Undercover
01:30 Undercover
02:35 Southcliffe

Comedy Central

03:00 South Park
03:25 Tattoo Disasters
04:40 Workaholics
05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 Tosh.0

crime & investigation network

03:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
04:00 The Haunting Of...
05:00 Monster In My Family
06:00 The FBI Files
07:00 Beyond Scared Straight
08:00 The FBI Files
09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Private Crimes
12:30 Private Crimes
13:00 Homicide Hunter
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Beyond Scared Straight
16:00 The FBI Files
17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
19:00 Homicide Hunter
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 What The Killer Saw
22:00 Born To Kill
23:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
00:00 Gangland
01:00 What The Killer Saw
02:00 Born To Kill

Discovery Channel HD

03:40 Lost And Sold
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Property Wars
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 South Beach Classics
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Lost And Sold
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Property Wars
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 South Beach Classics
10:35 Misfit Garage
11:25 Diesel Brothers
12:15 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
13:05 Lost And Sold
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Property Wars
14:20 Yukon Men
15:10 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 South Beach Classics
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Gold Rush
18:30 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
19:20 Men, Women, Wild
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Property Wars
21:00 Gold Rush
21:50 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
22:40 Outback Truckers
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:10 Gold Rush
02:00 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
02:50 Outback Truckers

Discovery Family

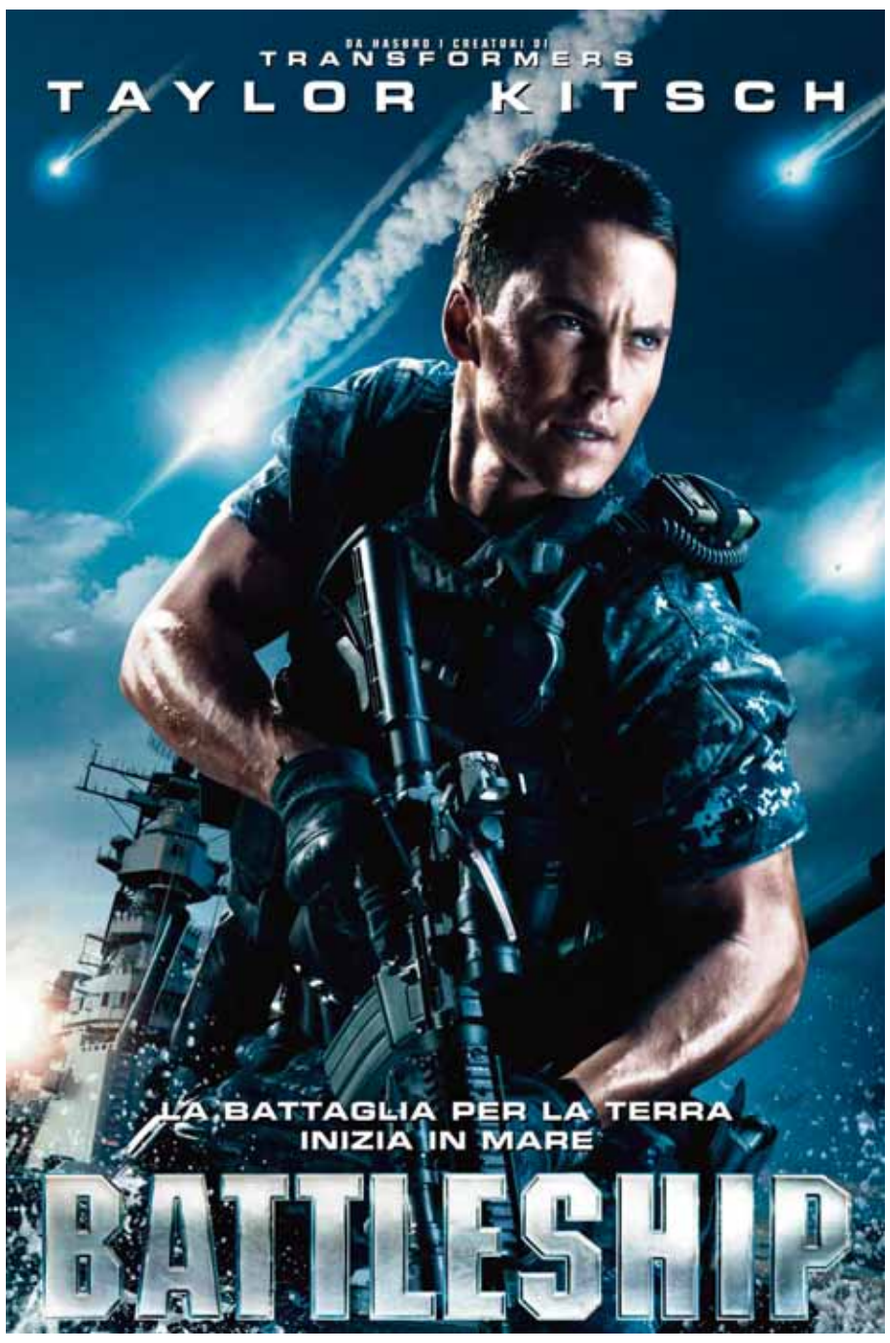
03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
03:50 You Have Been Warned
04:40 You Have Been Warned
05:30 You Have Been Warned
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 Invent It Rich
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Bad Dog
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Ultimate Survival
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
Jones
15:20 I Was Murdered
15:45 I Was Murdered
16:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
17:00 Blood Relatives
17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
18:40 The Perfect Murder
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 I Was Murdered
20:45 I Was Murdered
21:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:00 Murder Comes To Town
22:50 Web Of Lies
23:40 Evil Stepmothers
00:30 Evil Kin
01:20 Murder Comes To Town
02:10 Web Of Lies

Discovery Science

03:29 Kings Of Construction
04:16 Kings Of Construction
05:03 Food Factory USA
05:25 Food Factory USA
05:50 Food Factory USA
06:12 Food Factory USA
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 How It's Made
08:30 How It's Made
08:53 Kings Of Construction
09:38 Through The Wormhole
10:23 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:08 How The Universe Works
11:53 Kings Of Construction
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole
14:10 How It's Made
14:33 How It's Made
14:57 Secret Space Escapes
15:44 How The Universe Works
16:31 Kings Of Construction
17:18 How It's Made
17:41 How It's Made
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 You Have Been Warned
19:40 How The Universe Works
20:25 Through The Wormhole
21:15 How It's Made
21:37 How It's Made
22:00 You Have Been Warned
22:45 How The Universe Works
23:35 Mythbusters
00:20 Through The Wormhole
01:08 You Have Been Warned
01:55 How The Universe Works
02:42 How It's Made

Disney Channel

03:00 Discovery World
09:00 Discovery World
15:00 Discovery World
21:00 Discovery World
Disney HD
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Hank Zipzer
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
10:10 H2O: Just Add Water
10:35 I Didn't Do It
11:00 I Didn't Do It
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally



BATTLESHIP ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Miles From Tomorrow
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:20 Doc McStuffins
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
12:30 Special Agent Oso
12:45 The Hive
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Doc McStuffins
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:25 PJ Masks
21:50 Jungle Cubs
22:20 Aladdin
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack

Disney XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Supa Strikas
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos Quest
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
10:50 Marvel Avengers Assemble
11:20 Guardians Of The Galaxy
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:05 Mighty Med
16:30 Kirby Buckets
16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Mighty Med
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

E! HD

03:15 Botched
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News
14:05 Giuliana & Bill
15:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
16:00 Dash Dolls
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched: Post Op
21:30 E! Entertainment Special
22:00 WAGs
23:00 E! News
00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 Botched
02:20 E! News

Food Network

03:00 Man Finds Food
03:30 Man Finds Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
18:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 The Freshman Class
21:30 The Freshman Class
22:00 Mystery Diners
22:30 Mystery Diners
23:00 Iron Chef America
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 The Freshman Class
01:30 The Freshman Class
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners

History HD

03:40 American Restoration
04:05 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Battle 360
06:00 Mountain Men
06:50 Ice Road Truckers
07:40 Ax Men
08:30 Shipping Wars
08:55 American Restoration
09:20 American Restoration
09:45 Leepu And Pitbull
10:35 Counting Cars
11:00 Counting Cars
11:25 Battle 360
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Pawn Stars
14:20 Pawn Stars
14:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
15:10 Pawn Stars South Africa
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Mountain Men
16:50 Ax Men
17:40 Ice Road Truckers
18:30 Battle 360
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Storage Wars Miami
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 Shipping Wars
22:15 Shipping Wars
22:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
23:30 Storage Wars Miami
23:55 Storage Wars
00:20 Shipping Wars
00:45 Shipping Wars
01:10 Storage Wars Texas
01:35 Storage Wars Texas
02:00 Ice Road Truckers
02:50 Ax Men

itv HD Choice

03:25 Raised By Wolves
03:55 Raised By Wolves
04:20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
06:10 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
07:30 Raised By Wolves
08:00 Raised By Wolves
08:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance
09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
11:05 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Coach Trip
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
15:35 Catchphrase
16:05 Royal Stories
16:30 Raised By Wolves
17:00 Raised By Wolves
17:25 Doc Martin
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Catchphrase
20:05 Royal Stories
20:30 Raised By Wolves
21:00 Raised By Wolves
21:25 Doc Martin
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
00:10 Catchphrase
00:40 Royal Stories
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Coach Trip
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

Nat Geo People HD

03:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
03:55 Carnival Eats
04:20 Places We Go
04:45 Places We Go
05:10 A Marriage Of Flavours
05:35 Home Strange Home
06:25 Eat Street
06:50 East Bites West With Chef Wan
07:15 Bondi Rescue
07:40 Maximum Foodie
08:05 Tales From The Bush Larder
08:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
08:55 Confucius Was A Foodie
09:45 Carnival Eats
10:10 Places We Go
10:35 Places We Go
11:00 A Marriage Of Flavours
11:25 Home Strange Home
12:15 Eat Street
12:40 East Bites West With Chef Wan
13:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:35 Grandma's Boy
14:00 Grandma's Boy
14:30 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
14:55 Confucius Was A Foodie
15:50 Carnival Eats
16:20 Places We Go
16:45 Places We Go
17:15 A Marriage Of Flavours
17:40 Home Strange Home
18:35 Eat Street
19:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
20:00 Carnival Eats
20:25 Places We Go
20:50 Places We Go
21:15 A Marriage Of Flavours
21:40 Home Strange Home
22:30 Eat Street
22:55 East Bites West With Chef Wan
23:20 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
23:45 Grandma's Boy
00:10 Grandma's Boy
00:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
01:00 Food School
01:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:50 Mega Food
02:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

OSN First HD Comedy

OSN First Comedy HD
03:00 Kevin From Work
03:30 The Goldbergs
04:00 Living With Fran
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Better With You
06:00 My Name Is Earl
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Living With Fran
08:30 Better With You
09:00 Kevin From Work
09:30 Grandfathered
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 My Name Is Earl

OSN Movies HD Action

03:15 Battleship
05:30 The A-Team
07:45 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
09:15 R.I.P.D.
11:00 Pearl Harbor
14:15 The A-Team
16:30 Abandoned Mine
18:15 R.I.P.D.
20:00 Dracula Untold
22:00 The Terminator
00:00 Grace: The Possession
02:00 Sharknado 2: The Second One

OSN Movies HD Comedy

04:00 Three Men And A Baby
06:00 At Middleton
08:00 50 First Dates
10:00 Three Men And A Baby
12:00 Pitch Perfect
14:00 Green Card
16:00 50 First Dates
18:00 Man Of The House
20:00 Think Like A Man Too
22:00 Ted
00:00 Good Luck Chuck
02:00 Man Of The House

OSN Movies HD Family

03:00 Mr. Magoo
05:00 Ratatouille
07:00 The Princess Diaries
09:00 The Shaggy Dog
11:00 Home
13:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
15:00 Enchanted
17:00 Tangled
19:00 Blank Check
21:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
23:00 Enchanted
01:00 Blank Check

OSN Movies Festival

03:30 Veronica Guerin
05:15 Merchants Of Doubt
07:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces
09:00 Monkey Kingdom
10:30 Veronica Guerin
12:30 The Mirror Has Two Faces
14:30 Beaches
16:45 Monkey Kingdom
18:30 The Horse Whisperer
21:30 Masaan
23:15 25th Hour
01:30 The Postman Always Rings Twice

OSN Movies HD

03:00 Big Eyes
05:00 A Promise
06:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey
09:00 Step Up All In
11:00 Imogene
13:00 Life Of A King
15:00 The Two Faces Of January
17:00 Pompeii
19:00 The Drop
21:00 Dark House
23:00 The Gambler
01:00 7 Minutes

OSN Movies HD Kids

04:15 Blue Elephant 2
06:00 Justice League vs. Bizarro League
07:45 Marco Macaco
09:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
11:15 The Heart Of The Oak
12:45 Cher Ami
14:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
16:00 Blackie And Kanuto
18:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
20:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
22:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
23:30 Blackie And Kanuto
01:15 Marco Macaco

MAN OF THE HOUSE ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

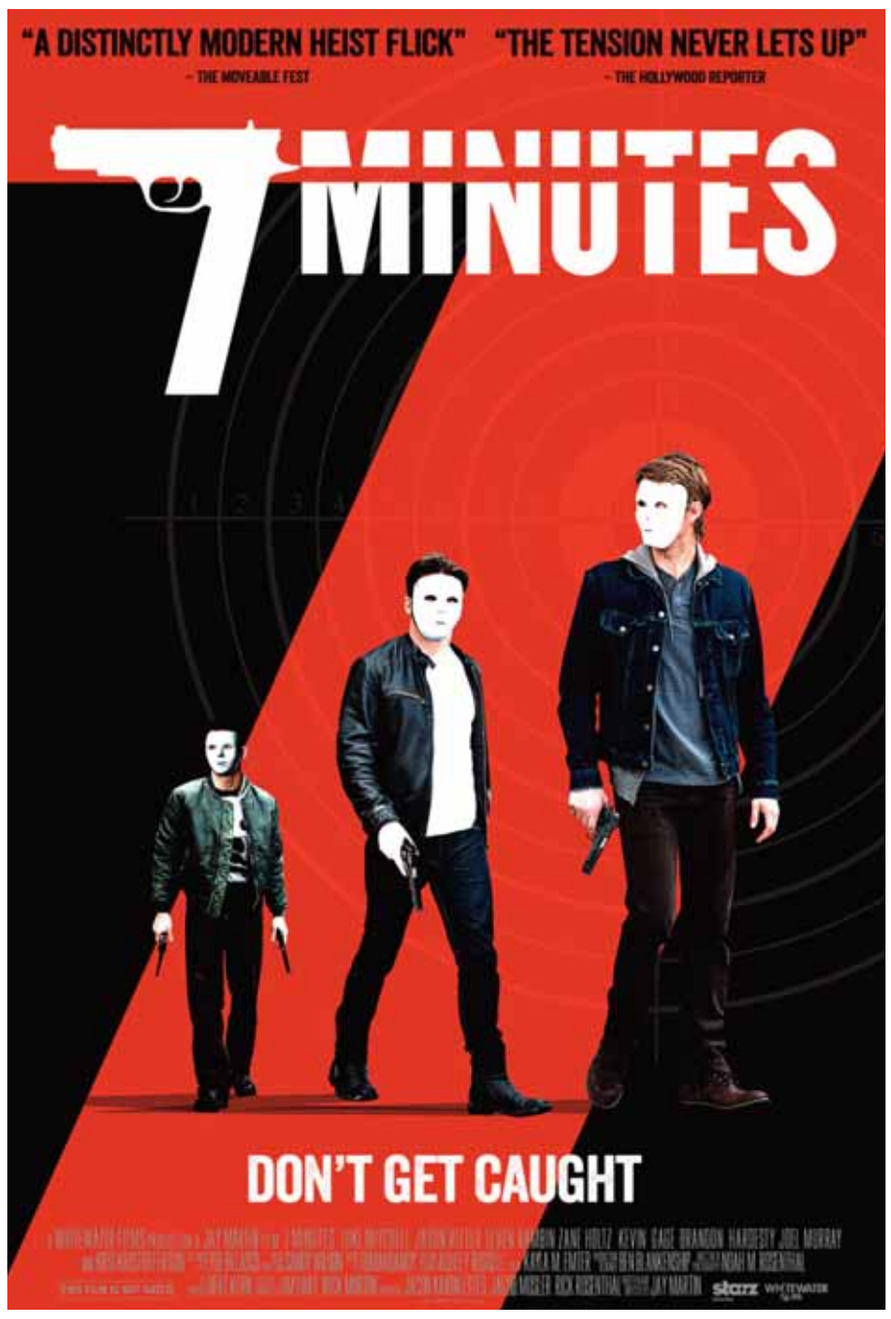
06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
07:40 Workaholics
08:05 Workaholics
08:30 Key And Peele
08:55 Key And Peele
09:20 Tosh.0
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Nathan For You
10:35 Nathan For You
11:00 Lip Sync Battle
11:25 Lip Sync Battle
11:50 Workaholics
12:15 Workaholics
12:40 Key And Peele
13:05 Key And Peele
13:30 Tosh.0
13:55 Tosh.0
14:20 Nathan For You
14:45 Nathan For You
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Workaholics
16:30 Workaholics
16:55 Key And Peele
17:25 Key And Peele
17:50 Tosh.0
18:15 Tosh.0
18:40 Nathan For You
19:05 Nathan For You
19:30 Tattoo Disasters
19:52 Tattoo Disasters
20:15 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 Lip Sync Battle
21:30 Steve Rannazzisi: Manchild
22:30 South Park
23:00 South Park
00:00 Steve Rannazzisi: Manchild
00:50 South Park
01:15 South Park
02:05 Steve Rannazzisi: Manchild
17:00 Bahama Blue
17:50 North America
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Bahama Blue
22:00 North America
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Bahama Blue
02:10 North America

ID Investigation Discovery

03:00 Discovery ID
09:00 Discovery ID
15:00 Discovery ID
21:00 Discovery ID
Discovery ID Xtra
03:00 Web Of Lies
03:48 I'd Kill For You
04:36 I'd Kill For You
05:24 I'd Kill For You
06:12 I'd Kill For You
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 Nowhere To Hide
09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:20 I Was Murdered
10:45 I Was Murdered
11:10 Suspicion
12:00 Blood Relatives
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Alex And Co
17:50 Jessie
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Girl Meets World
19:05 Evermoor Chronciles
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta

Disney Junior

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou



7 MINUTES ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

Kuwait CINEMA

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/05/2016 TO 18/05/2016)

SHARQIA-1
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:15 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 7:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 9:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-2
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 3:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 6:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 9:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-3
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 11:30 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 1:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 4:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 6:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 8:30 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 10:30 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-1
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 11:30 AM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 8:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 10:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 1:00 AM

MUHALAB-2
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 1:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 1:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 8:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 10:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 12:15 AM

MUHALAB-3
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:45 AM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 2:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 5:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 8:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:45 PM

FANAR-1
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 1:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 3:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 5:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 8:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 10:15 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:30 AM

FANAR-2
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM
TERM LIFE 10:00 PM
TERM LIFE 12:05 AM

FANAR-3
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 12:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 2:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 4:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 6:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 9:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 11:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 1:00 AM

FANAR-4
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:30 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 2:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 4:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 7:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:30 PM

FANAR-5
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 3:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 6:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 9:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:15 AM

MARINA-1
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 2:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:15 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 9:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 11:45 PM

MARINA-2
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 11:30 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 1:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 6:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 8:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 10:30 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 12:30 AM

MARINA-3
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:30 AM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 2:30 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 5:30 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 8:30 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:30 PM

AVENUES-1
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 1:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 3:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 5:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 7:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 9:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 11:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 1:15 AM
NO THU+FRI
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 1:15 AM

AVENUES-3
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 2:15 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 4:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 6:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 9:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 11:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 1:30 AM
THU+FRI
TERM LIFE 12:45 AM

360°- 1
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 12:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 7:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 11:45 PM

360°- 2
FAN- Hindi 1:00 PM
FAN- Hindi 4:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 11:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 1:00 AM

360°- 3
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 1:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 4:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 6:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 8:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 10:45 PM
TERM LIFE 1:15 AM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 1:15 AM

AL-KOUT.1
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 1:00 PM
TERM LIFE 1:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 4:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 7:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 10:00 PM
TERM LIFE 1:00 AM

AL-KOUT.2
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 2:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 5:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 7:15 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 9:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 11:45 PM

AL-KOUT.3
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 1:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 8:00 PM
TERM LIFE 10:15 PM
TERM LIFE 12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.4
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 11:45 AM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 2:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 8:30 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 10:30 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 12:30 AM

BAIRAQ-1
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 11:45 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 4:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 6:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D 8:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:00 PM

BAIRAQ-2
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 3:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 6:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 9:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:05 AM

BAIRAQ-3
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 7:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 10:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 12:15 AM

PLAZA
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:45 PM
JACOBINTE SWARGARAJYAM- Malayalam 8:00 PM
THU+FRI+MON
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 8:00 PM
THU+FRI+MON
Ely Ekhtashou Matou 11:00 PM

For Rent
Brand new apartment in Salmiya, Amman street with two rooms + bathroom & Kitchen. Electricity, water and A/C at owner's expense.
Mob: 99878154
97997766

TUITION

Indian teacher required to provide tuition to two children in grades I and II in Rumaithiya. Tel: 97832060
11-5-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Irene Elias Sequeira, holder of Indian Passport No. G3662883, Sai Kripa Chawl R 2 Tembi Pada Lokmanya Nagar Bhandup W Mumbai, converted to Islam and hereby change my name as Ayesha.
(C 5170)
11-5-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:26
Shorook	04:56
Duhr:	11:44
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	18:33
Isha:	20:01

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 16/5/2016

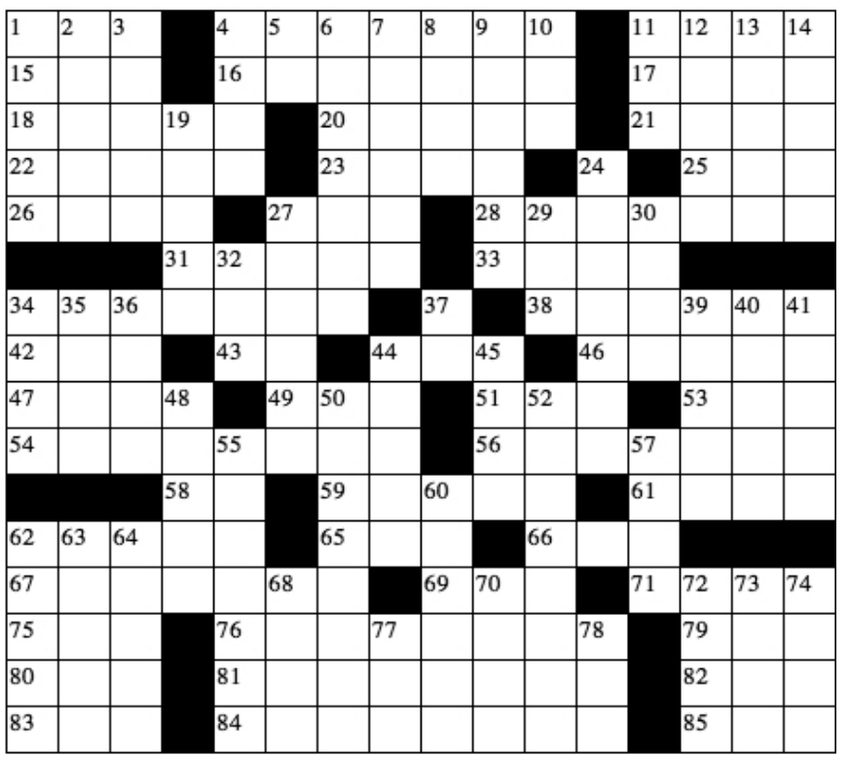
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20
CEB	018	Manila	02:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
JAV	621	Amman	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	09:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	118	New York	16:30
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
SYR	341	Damascus	18:00
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
BBC	143	Dhaka	22:40
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
THY	764	Istanbul	22:55
MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40

Departure Flights on Monday 16/5/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05
AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
KAC	417	Manila	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
CEB	019	Manila	04:50
JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
JAV	622	Amman	10:25
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KAC	103	London	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	238	Amman	18:45
SYR	342	Damascus	19:00
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	5054	Dubai	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	1301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1255



ACROSS

1. Apparent power to perceive things that are not present to the senses.
4. French pirate who aided the United States in the War of 1812 and received an official pardon for his crimes (1780-1826).
11. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
15. The month following February and preceding April.
16. Engaged in as a pastime.
17. (New Testament) Disciple of Jesus.
18. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in question.
20. The sacred city of Lamaism.
21. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
22. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
23. North American yellow-breasted songbirds.
25. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
26. Young sheep.
28. Capable of resuming original shape after stretching or compression.
31. Any plant of the genus Erica.
33. Type genus of the Ranidae.
34. A quiet song intended to lull a child to sleep.
38. A small float usually made of cork.
42. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
43. An uproarious party.
46. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
47. Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
49. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.
51. The residue that remains when something is burned.
53. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
54. Wrongfully emptied or stripped of anything of value.
56. Moving upward and forward in a quick motion or series of motions.
58. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
59. A state of northeastern India.
61. (prefix) In front of or before in space.
62. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
65. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
66. A mature blood cell that contains hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the bodily tissues.
67. A young child.
69. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
71. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
75. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
76. Shrubby lichens of the family Usneaceae having a flattened thallus.
79. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
80. A colloid that has a continuous liquid phase in which a solid is suspended in a liquid.
81. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
82. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
83. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
84. Freetail bats.
85. A young woman making her debut into society.

DOWN

1. (computer science) A system of worldwide electronic communication in which a computer user can compose a message at one terminal that is generated at the recipient's terminal when he logs in.
2. Spicy sauce of tomatoes and onions and chili peppers to accompany Mexican foods.
3. (Greek mythology) The last king of Troy.
4. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
5. Before noon.
6. A misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning.
7. A college town in central New York on Lake Cayuga.
8. A drop of the clear salty saline solution secreted by the lacrimal glands.
9. Any mammal with prominent tusks (especially an elephant or wild boar).
10. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
11. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
12. A style of glazed earthenware.
13. A genus of Indriidae.
14. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
19. A confusion of voices and other sounds.
24. Fudge made with brown sugar and butter and milk and nuts.
27. A town of Denmark in north central Jutland.
29. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
30. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
32. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
35. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
36. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
37. 1/10 gram.
39. An inflammatory swelling or sore.
40. Intelligence derived from non-communications electromagnetic radiations from foreign sources (other than radioactive sources).
41. An area in which something acts or operates or has power or control.
44. A nonmetallic element belonging to the halogens.
45. Offering fun and gaiety.
48. A promotional statement (as found on the dust jackets of books).
50. Any period of seven consecutive days.
52. Marine food sport fishes mainly of warm coastal waters.
55. (usually followed by `for') Extremely desirous.
57. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
60. A haulage contractor.
63. Gallery where works of art can be displayed.
64. A leisurely walk (usually in some public place).
68. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
70. Little known Kamarupan languages.
72. Set down according to a plan.
73. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
74. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
77. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution

H	A	J	I		Z	I	G	Z	A	G		C	A	B	G
I	Y	A	R		E	N	R	A	G	E		I	C	A	O
C	A	V	E	A	T		O	N	O		K	A	M	B	A
K	H	A	L	K	A		A	Z	U	R	E		E	A	T
			A	I		I	N	I	T	I	A	L			
B	O	A	N	N		D		B	I	T		A	L	A	S
A	D	A	D		P		D	A		U		V	E	G	A
F	I	R		C	A		A	R	R	A	S		P	A	L
F	O	O	T		R	P	M		A	L	A	B	A	M	A
L	U	N	A		C	H	A	N	G		B	A	S	I	A
E	S		B	L	A	E			B	A	A	S		C	M
		D	A	L	E	A		P	A	C		A	D		
A	C	E	R	B		S	M	O	G		F	L	A	S	K
B	E	A	D		B	A	A	L		B	A		G	C	A
E	R	T		H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H		D	A	M
D	O	H		A	N	T	I	A	C	I	D		A	B	A

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good day to work and communicate with the opposite sex. Staying away from competitive challenges is a good thing. A need to be respected is important to you and it comes easily when you show respect for another person. You develop a knack for organizing things and people-a sense of ambition and practicality takes hold. Work, achievement and ambition take priority. Because your thoughts and energies are more focused on your work, it may not the best time to try to shop, even over the internet. You may not find much support for your particular tastes and values just now. There is plenty of enthusiasm today, enabling you to work or play at accelerated paces. Physical activity, especially sports, is a good way to be expressive.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be thinking about work from this past week and then find yourself blocking out your surroundings. You may want to plan a trip to the movie this afternoon so that you can create a fun distraction in your day. If there is time, you might get a couple of friends to fast walk for a couple of miles before or after the movie. There is a lot of talk about energies and being in a positive place. Some of your own music could become one of your favorite ways to rev up your energies and make your run fun. Unless certain planets in your birth sign interfere, you can be successful in any undertaking. This evening is a lucky time and will probably be full of surprises-certainly a fun and relaxed atmosphere for your special day.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a natural aptitude for describing the most sensitive areas of the human psyche; you are a practical psychologist of the first order. You may enjoy working with young people that need special guidance. You can manage and work with touchy issues that others will not attempt. You may find yourself looking forward to any problem challenge that may occur. This afternoon is a good time to buy clothes, join a club, give a party, buy property, collect debts and have a spa treatment. You have a new incentive and some new ideas that will help to lighten your load in the future. You have a sense of value and valuing that may find you lavishing affection on those near you. You enjoy the company of someone your senior this evening.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are very passionate and personal. You rush past superficialities and right to the heart of most matters. You will see the results of your hard work today. Given to clearheaded thinking and practical insight and vision, you take a distant perspective and a cool appraisal with most opportunities. This permits you to make good choices most of the time and limits your risk-taking to a minimum. You may find yourself analyzing some new projects-take your time. Today you will be able to tackle tasks that require real organization skills. You will find yourself in a very practical mood and working with, instead of against, yourself. You may have some serious or contemplative moments. Your confidence and willingness to help others is evident.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you give your best efforts at work now, great strides can be taken. This is a positive result sort of day and good for working in groups. You may be sought after as just the person to be added to a team or to head your own team. Your intuition is sharp and you may have insights about the future stability of your company. Welcome the trials of a new financial venture. You have the mental insight to chase down an unusual opportunity. While out with your friends this afternoon-be slow to criticize. There is one who may grind on your nerves. Romance is available in the workplace-however, it would be a good idea to practice diplomacy. This evening is a great time to enjoy a new book, neighbor or friend.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find that you are able to bring more imagination to your goals and ambitions at this time. You are able to cut through the red tape and get to what is behind most situations that others feel have no remedy. This is a time when you can make a real difference in the workplace and help the profits of the company for which you work. There is support and recognition from those around you. You might find your ideals taking a more spiritual turn, thus involving you more in community and religious projects. This is a time when philosophical ideas-religion, psychology and such-really take a hold on you. You will be very idealistic during this time, able to see the unity that binds, so to speak. Romance is possible this evening.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

This morning a co-worker or higher-up has a lot to say and may have the opportunity to assert a little power-this person may seem controlling. This time will pass easily enough, especially if you just continue on with your work and what you know is set aside as your responsibility for this day. Express your creative side at home this evening. Perhaps you will enjoy this time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for ideas. Also, this evening is a good time to just sit back and enjoy what you have. Your health gets better all during this year; keep it that way through structured and programmed exercise and smart eating. You could find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter, or making a special phone call this evening.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A difficult project in the workplace last week may call for your investigation today, before tackling the problem next week. As usual, you can work out the best way to come up with the most creative and successful way to solve a problem or tackle a project. This afternoon you may not appreciate someone's unrealistic approach to a particular situation. General fogginess and an impractical attitude may find you or others in a quandary. Speak the facts, if needed, and then move forward with your own plans. Technical work helps balance your energies. You are likely to reach out to a loved one this evening-consider cooking the evening meal yourself-surprising and pleasing someone. Keep conversations light and enjoy an after dinner walk among the stars.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You make a strong effort to organize your personal workplace. Focus could be difficult-especially if you are in designing or an advertising type of business. For some reason, completing unfinished business is important just now. You are a good speaker with a nice voice, and may be called to teach others the finer points of some technical program. This afternoon you may find that a love relationship needs some attention. Concentrate on communicating to each other what you really feel so that you can bring about a better understanding of how your lives fit together. People that are close to you in friendship and as loved ones, draw close to you. Being appreciated and admired for your gifts and talents are powerful needs. Positive growth is yours.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a busy day but you dive in as though the hours were all connected from one day to another. Interesting travel experiences can be shared with co-workers during the noon break. There are some special travel deals that sound most interesting to you and you might want to write down some internet sites and check them out. An older person or someone in authority may deem it necessary to give you advice today. Be grateful for this input-it will soon make a big difference in your earning power. You draw emotional sustenance and a sense of security from ideals, friends and social involvement. This may mean regular get togethers with co-workers or friends for a short while after the workday to visit and bond. You are the optimist.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

If your attitude toward challenges is positive, you will do well. There may be a test of sorts to see which person would best fit at a particular job identity. A current situation may demand some time for research but you may be ready for a little time to gather information from the back shelf of some library or other resource. A busy but quiet afternoon finds you gathering all the information you need in order to succeed at some project. Your ambition and drive are strong. You are able to use good common sense and can make all the right moves that will get you where you want to go. Position, career and emotional bonds are in the forecast now. You want to demonstrate your appreciation for someone special in your life this evening.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. Today, your ability to solve problems is important and you have a lot of talent for working things out in positive ways. Some difficult customer seems to enjoy making life complex. Your compassion and influence are at a high point-it won't take long to get positive results from a difficult situation. Luck also visits you today; your financial situation may improve. You will be extremely busy. This evening a cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins, emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life. You want to belong on a private, intimate, personal level-you like being needed.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Songs From the Year 2002

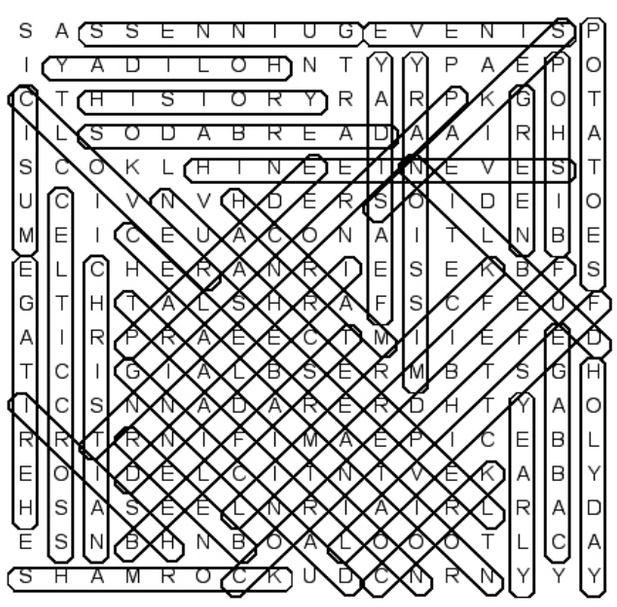
Find and circle all of the songs from 2002 that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 21 letters spell an additional song title from 2002.

N	E	V	A	E	H	G	I	R	L	F	R	I	E	N	D	C	E
E	M	T	U	O	H	T	I	W	A	H	S	I	L	O	O	F	L
A	N	D	H	Z	Y	D	E	T	A	C	I	L	P	M	O	C	D
T	L	B	I	P	Y	S	E	L	G	N	E	H	U	A	F	A	D
T	O	L	P	L	C	A	F	C	A	T	L	U	O	E	U	D	I
Y	O	A	M	A	E	C	D	E	I	O	Y	H	Y	R	L	D	M
H	H	X	P	Y	R	M	L	Y	S	F	O	H	R	I	L	I	E
B	E	E	I	A	L	C	M	E	N	Y	I	U	O	A	M	C	H
Y	U	L	Z	C	S	I	Y	A	O	I	B	R	F	L	O	T	T
T	A	Y	L	D	I	O	F	G	I	S	A	O	C	S	O	I	S
H	O	D	N	A	U	T	I	E	T	T	M	R	G	A	N	V	I
E	N	A	Y	R	G	R	Y	I	A	I	Y	U	T	S	S	E	L
W	H	I	S	R	L	O	K	O	V	L	E	B	A	B	Y	Y	Y
A	S	E	H	T	E	R	O	H	I	L	H	E	R	E	I	A	M
Y	L	P	A	T	O	V	E	D	T	F	B	L	U	R	R	Y	D
F	F	L	I	W	O	R	E	M	O	L	D	I	S	E	A	S	E
Y	K	H	E	N	O	N	I	N	M	Y	P	L	A	C	E	A	D

ADDICTIVE	ESCAPE	HEAVEN	NOTHIN'
AERIALS	EVERYDAY	HELLA GOOD	OH BOY
ALL MY LIFE	FOOLISH	HERE I AM	RAINY DAYZ
BABY	FOR YOU	HERO	SPIN
BLURRY	FULL MOON	HEY MA	STILL FLY
BY THE WAY	GIRL TALK	IN MY PLACE	THE MIDDLE
COMPLICATED	GIRLFRIEND	LOSE YOURSELF	TOXICITY
DAYS GO BY	HALFCRAZY	MOTIVATION	UH HUH
DILEMMA	HANDS CLEAN	MY LIST	WITHOUT ME
DISEASE	HAPPY	MY SACRIFICE	WORK IT

Yesterday's Solution

St. Patrick's Day



BEER	DANCING	HOLY DAY	POTATOES
BELFAST	DUBLIN	IRELAND	SEVENTEENTH
BISHOP	EVENTS	IRISH	SHAMROCK
CABBAGE	FEAST DAY	LEPRECHAUN	SNAKES
CELEBRATION	FESTIVAL	LIMERICK	SODA BREAD
CELTIC CROSS	GREEN	MARCH	TRADITION
CHRISTIAN	GUINNESS	MISSIONARY	YEARLY
CLOVER	HERITAGE	MUSIC	
CORK	HISTORY	PARADE	
CORNED BEEF	HOLIDAY	PATRON SAINT	

The hidden message is: SAINT PATRICK LIVED IN THE FIFTH CENTURY

Daily SuDoku

					7			1
				2		5		6
8					3	9		
		9		4		7		
	5		6		2		1	
		2		9		8		
		4	2					7
9		6		8				
5			7					

Yesterday's Solution

1	5	4	3	9	2	6	7	8
6	3	2	8	1	7	4	9	5
7	8	9	6	5	4	1	3	2
9	6	8	5	4	3	2	1	7
3	2	1	7	8	9	5	4	6
4	7	5	2	6	1	9	8	3
5	4	7	1	3	6	8	2	9
2	1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4
8	9	3	4	2	5	7	6	1

Color me!

Leaning Tower of Pisa

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the campanile, or freestanding bell tower, of the cathedral of the Italian city of Pisa, known worldwide for its unintended tilt.

It is situated behind the Cathedral and is the third oldest structure in Pisa's Cathedral Square after the Cathedral and the Baptistery. The tower's tilt began during construction, caused by an inadequate foundation on ground too soft on one side to properly support the structure's weight. The tilt increased in the decades before the structure was completed, and gradually increased until the structure was stabilized (and the tilt partially corrected) by efforts in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Who was the architect?

There has been controversy about the real identity of the architect of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. For many years, the design was attributed to Guglielmo and Bonanno Pisano, a well-known 12th-century resident artist of Pisa, famous for his bronze casting, particularly in the Pisa Duomo. Bonanno Pisano left Pisa in 1185 for Monreale, Sicily, only to come back and die in his home town. A piece of cast with his name was discovered at the foot of the tower in 1820, but this may be related to the bronze door in the facade of the cathedral that was destroyed in 1595. However, recent studies seem to indicate Diotisalvi as the original architect due to the time of construction and affinity with other Diotisalvi works, notably the bell tower of San Nicola and the Baptistery, both in Pisa. However, he usually signed his works and there is no signature by him in the bell tower which leads to further speculation.

How long did it take to construct?

Construction of the tower occurred in three stages across 199 years. Work on the ground floor of the white marble campanile began on August 14, 1173, during a period of military success and prosperity. This ground floor is a blind arcade articulated by engaged columns with classical Corinthian capitals.

The tower began to sink after construction had progressed to the second floor in 1178. This was due to a mere three-meter foundation, set in weak, unstable subsoil, a design that was flawed from the beginning. Construction was subsequently halted for almost a century, because the Republic of Pisa was almost continually engaged in battles with Genoa, Lucca, and Florence. This allowed time for the underlying soil to settle. Otherwise, the tower would almost certainly have toppled. In 1198 clocks were temporarily installed on the third floor of the unfinished construction.

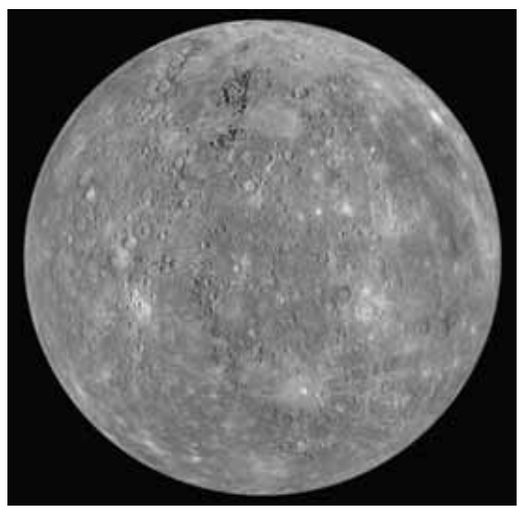
In 1272 construction resumed under Giovanni di Simone, architect of the Camposanto. In an effort to compensate for the tilt, the engineers built upper floors with one side taller than the other. Because of this, the tower is actually curved. The seventh floor was completed in 1319. The bell-chamber was finally added in 1372. It was built by Tommaso di Andrea Pisano, who succeeded in harmonizing the Gothic elements of the bell-chamber with the Romanesque style of the tower. There are seven bells, one for each note of the musical major scale. The largest one was installed in 1655. After a phase (1990-2001) of structural strengthening, the tower is currently undergoing gradual surface restoration, in order to repair visible damage, mostly corrosion and blackening. These are particularly pronounced due to the tower's age and its exposure to wind and rain.

About Mercury

Mercury is the smallest planet in the Solar System and the one closest to the Sun, with an orbital period of about 88 Earth days, which is much faster than any other planet in the Solar System. Seen from Earth, it appears to move around its orbit in about 116 days. It has no known natural satellites. It is named after the Roman deity Mercury, the messenger to the gods.

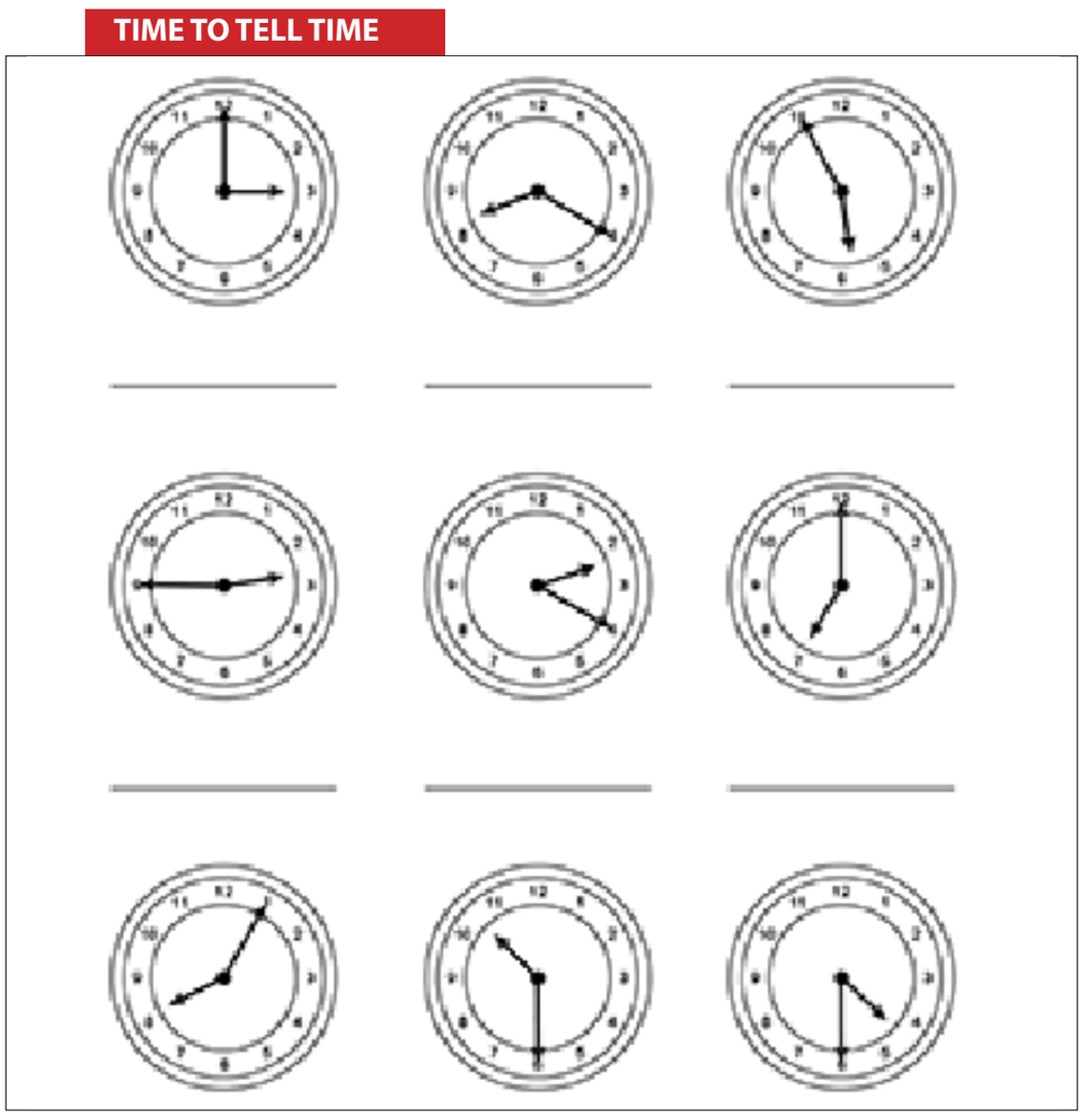
Partly because it has almost no atmosphere to retain heat, Mercury's surface temperature varies diurnally more than any other planet in the Solar System, ranging from 100 K (- 173 ∞C; - 280 ∞F) at night to 700 K (427 ∞C; 800 ∞F) during the day in some equatorial regions. The poles are constantly below 180 K (- 93 ∞C; - 136 ∞F). Mercury's axis has the smallest tilt of any of the Solar System's planets (about 1?30 of a degree), and its orbital eccentricity is the largest of all known planets in the Solar System. At aphelion, Mercury is about 1.5 times as far from the Sun as it is at perihelion. Mercury's surface is heavily cratered and similar in appearance to the Moon, indicating that it has been geologically inactive for billions of years.

Mercury is tidally or gravitationally locked with the Sun in a 3:2 resonance, and rotates in a way that is unique in the Solar System. As seen relative to the fixed stars, it rotates on its axis exactly three times for every two revolutions it makes around the Sun. As seen from the Sun, in a frame of reference that rotates with the orbital motion, it appears to rotate only once every two Mercurian years. An observer on Mercury would therefore see only one day every two years. Because Mercury



orbits the Sun within Earth's orbit (as does Venus), it can appear in Earth's sky in the morning or the evening, but not in the middle of the night. Also, like Venus and the Moon, it displays a complete range of phases as it moves around its orbit relative to Earth. Although Mercury can appear as a bright object when viewed from Earth, its proximity to the Sun makes it more difficult to see than Venus. Two spacecraft have visited Mercury: Mariner 10 flew by in the 1970s; and MESSENGER, launched in 2004, orbited Mercury over 4,000 times in four years, before exhausting its fuel and crashing into the planet's surface on April 30, 2015.

TIME TO TELL TIME



WORD SEARCH

Solar System

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The words may be hidden in any direction.

U Q T U R A N U S I E G O
C S I E N K G M A R S T M
P M B G R G A V O O U N O
S V R H U E S O I L K O O
U U O G T R T L P L D L N
U M N K A Q E N U T P E N
C E N E S O R T Y S M V O
K T T P V C O X I E T T E
V E T H O H I E R P E A D
F O X M E Z D C M N U N R
G R E P J S U E A F L J G
H T R A E R U L G Y O D I
F Q D X Y L P N U S T X N

ASTEROID
COMET
EARTH
JUPITER
MARS
MERCURY
METEOR
MOON
NEPTUNE
ORBIT
PLANET
PLUTO
SATURN
STAR
THE SUN
URANUS
VENUS

Lava Lamp Bottle

What You Need:
- Oil
- Water
- Plastic cup
- Food coloring
- Empty soda or water bottle

Instructions:
1. Fill a bottle 3/4 full with vegetable oil. A clear bottle will work best.
2. Fill a plastic cup with water and add a few drops of food coloring. Stir.
3. Add the colored water to the bottle with the oil, and screw the lid on tight.
4. Turn the bottle sideways, and watch as the color moves through the oil in funny shapes and blobs.

SUDOKU

2	3	1	8				4	
	7	4			3		8	9
				4	5			3
7	4		6			5		2
		3	9	7				4
		6			8			1
8			5	1		2		
	6		2			4		
				6	7			

2	3	1	8	9	6	7	4	5
5	7	4	1	2	3	6	8	9
6	8	9	7	4	5	1	2	3
7	4	8	6	3	1	5	9	2
1	5	3	9	7	2	8	6	4
9	2	6	4	5	8	3	7	1
8	9	7	5	1	4	2	3	6
3	6	5	2	8	9	4	1	7
4	1	2	3	6	7	9	5	8

RECIPES FOR KIDS

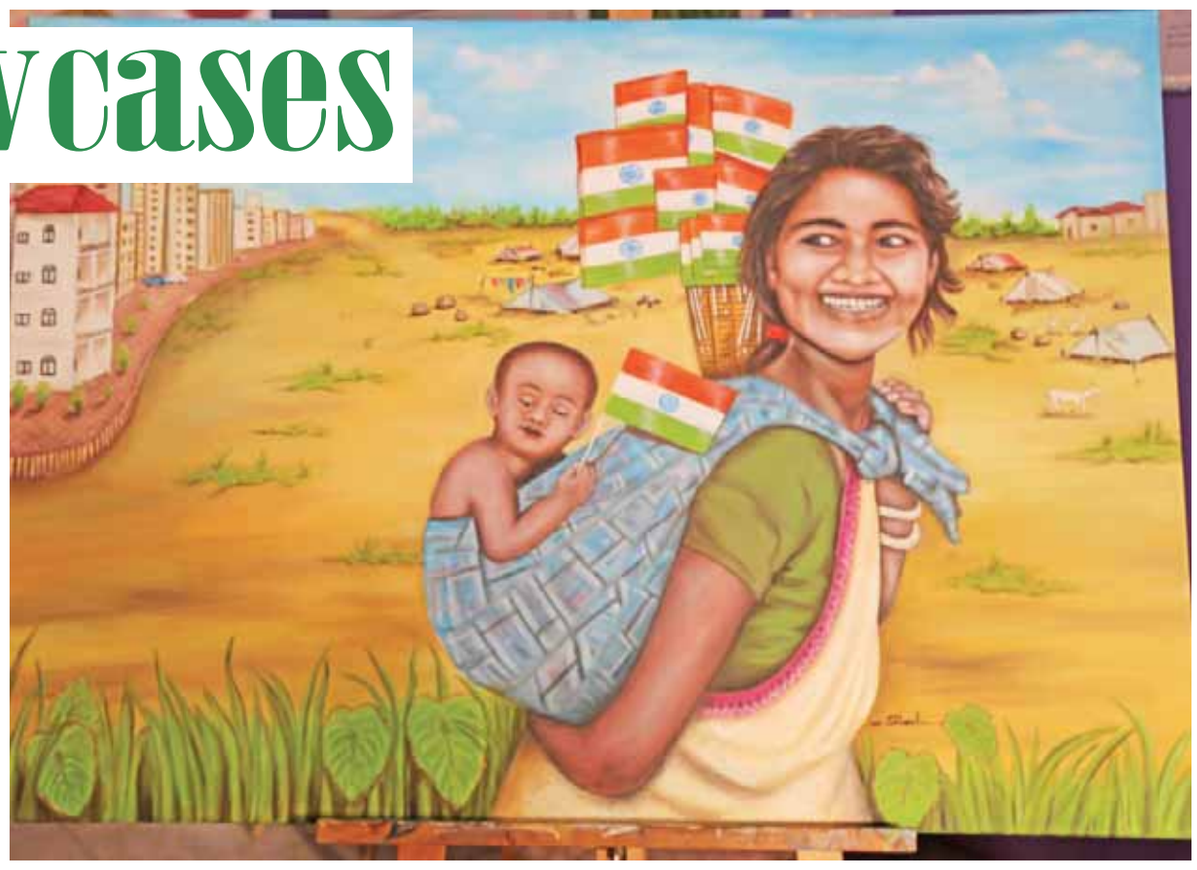
Strawberry- Banana Smoothie

What You Need:
- 2 Cups of milk
- A banana
- 1/2 cup of strawberries
- Blender
- Ice (optional)

Instructions:
1. Place milk, the banana and strawberries into a blender.
2. Blend until the fruits are nice and smooth. You shouldn't see any chunks!
3. Serve into glasses and enjoy!
4. If you'd like to make this a cooler drink, try adding some ice!

Indian artist showcases 'poetry paintings'

Indian artist Sunil Kulanada



By Sajeev K Peter

Can one art form merge into another? Is it possible to paint poetry on canvas? Indian artist Sunil Kulanada says 'yes' who displayed some of his rare poetry paintings on Saturday at Marina Hall in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The art exhibition, held on the sidelines of a nurses' conference by Indian Nurses Federation of Kuwait (INFOK), attracted a large number of art lovers who applauded the young artist's exceptionally distinct classical style of painting.

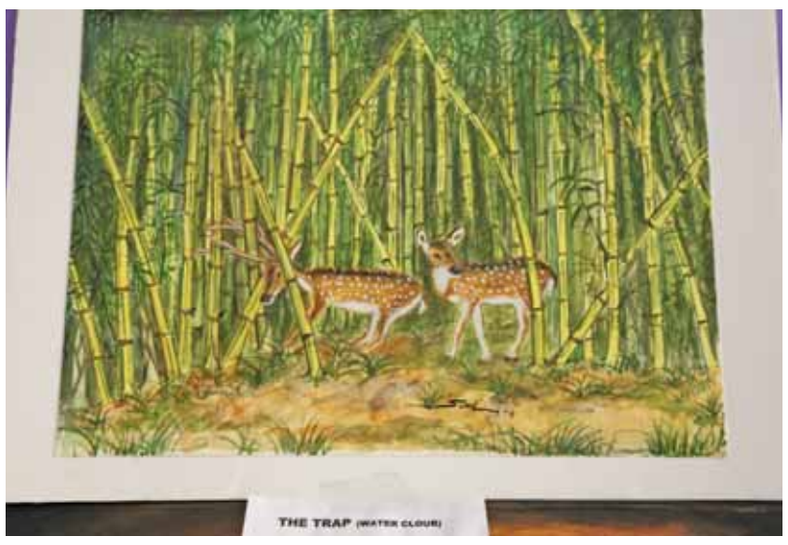
Swiftly gaining popularity as a 'poetry-painter', Kulanada has transformed several literary classics of writers like William Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Coatsworth and many Indian poets into delightful paintings. He exhibited 30 of his recent works, mostly 'poetry painting', that range from water color and oil painting to murals and acrylics.

"Through poetry painting, I was trying to experiment something new. Here, I try to give a new colorful dimension and life to these great literary masterpieces," explained Kulanada. Some of his paintings on display included 'Daffodils', 'Swift Things are Beautiful' and 'A Fairy Song', and works based on many Shakespearean sonnets. 'Fruit Basket, 'The Mystical Supper', 'Canna Indica' and 'The Trap' are some of his other acclaimed water color paintings in the poetry painting series.

Kulanada, who hails from Pandalam in Kerala, India is known for his classical style of painting. "As a child I was fascinated by the works of celebrated artist Raja Ravi Varma whose classical style of painting influenced me a lot," said Kulanada. When Kulanada started an arts school in Kuwait, he named it after Raja Ravi Varma as a tribute to the great artist, whose influence is ostensibly evident in many of his nature paintings and portraits. As a child, he was also inspired by the cartoons and paintings of his great uncle, cartoonist Pulikkeril Kesavan Manthri.

Kulanada first ventured into poetry-painting with his unique work 'Daiva Dasakam' based on the famous poem written by Kerala's great social reformer, late Sree Narayana Guru, in which the artist attempts to delineate the universal prayer on canvas. "It was a humble attempt to understand the vast ocean that is the 'Daiva Dasakam'. As an artist, it was a big challenge for me. Initially, I conceived all the figures of 'Daiva Dasakam' in my mind. Then, step by step, I used my craft to convert each line of the verses into colors on the canvas," said Kulanada, as he recalled how he completed the painstaking, yet rewarding project to his satisfaction.

Artist Sunil Kulanada, who started his expatriate life in 1996, has conducted several exhibitions in India and the Gulf, including Kuwait. He is married to Smitha, and the couple have two daughters, Sarangi and Samantha.



This undated photo provided by Christie's shows Claude Monet's "Pond with Water Lilies," a picture created by the French impressionist artist in 1918-1919. — AP photos

Frida Kahlo fetches record $8M for artist at NYC auction

A painting by Frida Kahlo set a new auction record for the Mexican painter when it sold for $8 million at Christie's sale of impressionist and modern art Thursday night. Kahlo's "Two Nudes in the Forest (The Land Itself)," depicts two nudes in a dreamlike setting. It had been estimated to bring $8 million to $12 million and was shown in an exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden last year. The previous auction record for Kahlo was $5.6 million.

The small 1939 canvas was a gift for Kahlo's friend, film star Dolores del Rio. It last appeared at auction in 1989. Works by Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and other perennial favorites also went up for sale. The top lot of the sale was an iconic painting by Monet depicting his beloved water lily pond, which sold for $27 million. It's one of a sequence of 14 paintings the French impressionist artist created in 1918-1919. "Pond with Water Lilies" has been in the same collection for 20 years and was estimated to bring $25 million to $35 million. The auction record for a Monet work is $80.4 million for another water lily picture.

"Seated Man," a picture from Picasso's famous musketeer series, fetched $8 million, just matching its low presale estimate. Created in 1969, the colorful portrait of a swordsman was exhibited at the 1970 Avignon exhibition at the Palais des Papes. There are a total of 52 works in the auction, including a portrait by Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani. His "Young Woman with a Rose," painted in 1916, sold for $12.8 million. — AP

This photo shows Pablo Picasso's "Seated Man," a picture created in 1969 from the artist's famous musketeer series. — AP

Revamped San Francisco Museum of Modern Art reopens

The revamped San Francisco Museum of Modern Art reopened Saturday with a marching band, jumbo red balloons and red confetti raining down from the top of the new 10-story white building with a bulging side. The celebration comes after a three-year redesign that nearly tripled the building's gallery space and added sculpture gardens, education spaces, a giant living wall and outdoor terraces with sweeping city views.

"The new SFMOMA is a manifestation of our city's deep respect for creativity," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, who along with San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, museum Board Chairman Charles Schwab and Board President Bob Fisher, spoke during the reopening ceremony. Pelosi called the building redesigned by the Norwegian firm Snohetta "a living temple for imagination." The $305 million expansion includes almost 170,000 square feet of new and renewed indoor and outdoor galleries, museum officials said.

It opened to the public with 19 inaugural exhibitions showcasing painting and sculpture, photography, and architecture and design work by top artists, including Frida Kahlo, Henri Matisse, Andy Warhol, Charles Ray, Diane Arbus and Mark Bradford. Highlights include 260 pieces of art from the collection of Doris and Donald Fisher, who founded the Gap, more than 600 works promised through the museum's Campaign for Art, and pieces from the New Pritzker Center for Photography Inaugurate Museum, museum officials said. The renewed museum, whose lobby welcomes people with a massive spiraling sculpture by Richard Serra, will also offer free access to 18-year-old and younger visitors and will open every day.

The new stairway in the Haas Atrium is seen during a preview of the newly expanded San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. — AP photos

Yachiyo Hamilton of Richmond, California, was one of about 5,000 people who snatched free tickets last month to visit the museum on opening day. She, her daughter and mother arrived an hour before the museum opened.

"I love art, and my daughter is taking a photography class so I wanted her to see what they have and experience this new space," Hamilton said. She said she and her mother are also excited about the living wall, which is sustained by rain and recycled water and features more than 15,000 plants. "The wall has native California plants, and my mom has a green thumb. It's something we want to see!" she said. — AP

A photography interpretive gallery is seen next to the Sightglass coffee bar.

A series of screenprints by Dennis Adams called, Patricia Hearst: A thru Z, is seen during the preview.

This image provided by Renaissance Hotels shows a hallway at the Renaissance NY Midtown hotel in New York with an interactive digital tapestry on the wall. —AP

This image shows people using a digital tourism portal at the Renaissance NY Midtown hotel in New York.

Interactive digital walls offer art and info in hotel lobby

Walk down a hallway in the new Renaissance NY Midtown hotel and the walls come alive. On one side, there's an interactive digital tapestry of images and sounds that changes as you pass by. On the other side, merely point at the wall and a tourism portal opens up, providing information about things to do and see in response to your gestures. "It's a unique opportunity to come in and discover the city in a different way," said hotel manager David DiFalco. "It's all designed to be interactive. We want it to be an engaging experience."

Both are examples of how the hospitality sector is going high-tech. Jessica Rodriguez, an expert on new technology in the hospitality sector who works for the Wagstaff Worldwide marketing firm, says "technology as a whole in the hotel space has advanced to a completely new level." The tourism portal at the Renaissance feels like something out of a sci-fi movie. You stand in footprints in a circle on the floor, point at categories displayed on the wall, and screens open up delivering information on things to do within a 10-minute, 20-minute or 30-minute walk, including price, hours and a map. Attractions include shopping, shows, museums and restaurants. "It ranges from the band playing at Madison Square Garden to a real cool sushi bar nearby that maybe not a lot of people have heard about," DiFalco said.

Abstract art

The digital tapestry is an interactive work of art with 50 displays that respond to movement as people pass by. The tapestry changes color and form and also offers sound effects, with images ranging from leaves to buildings to starbursts to abstract art. Rodriguez says some tech applications in the hotel sector are designed to improve service, with texts that let you know when your room is ready or apps that provide keyless entry to your room via cellphone. Others combine function with fun: Robots that deliver towels or room service that can be ordered by emoji text.

Among other things, technology can also help hotels gather data on what their guests require, and use that information to improve the hotel experience by anticipating customer needs. Rodriguez says some hotels are replacing those big notebook-style directories typically found in guest rooms with tablets that offer room service menus and how-to information. Many hotels see the switch to digital as important in appealing to millennials who may think that using a landline to call the front desk for help is absurdly old-fashioned. But Rodriguez cautioned against hotels going overboard with technology. "Sometimes you want to go analog," she said. "Sometimes you just want to turn on the light." — AP

This photo shows some of Hawaii's early postage stamps, combined with US stamps, on an envelope addressed to a New Bedford, Mass, company.

Stamps issued when Hawaii was kingdom going to auction

A collection of historic postage stamps issued when Hawaii was a kingdom is expected to fetch at least $2 million at auction. Renowned stamp collector William H Gross is offering 77 items on May 29 during the World Stamp Show at New York's Javits Center.

The collection has "some of the most iconic rarities in Hawaiian philately," said Charles Shreve, director of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries. It contains 10 examples of very rare Hawaiian Missionary stamps issued in 1851 - some unused, some cancelled and on original envelopes, some containing letters. A 13-cent unused Missionary in near mint condition is expected to bring $50,000 to $75,000. "There are only seven unused examples known and this is by far the finest quality example in existence" of that denomination, said Shreve. The Missionaries, used primarily by missionary settlers, were Hawaii's first postage stamps. They were issued in 2-, 5- and 13-cent denominations and printed on very thin paper called pelure that Gross likened to toilet paper. They were Hawaii's only postage stamps until the Kamehameha III issue, named for the king, in 1853. "The Missionaries are extremely rare; to collectors they're iconic. ... They talk of an earlier time and place, a remote and far-off outpost," said Daniel Piazza, curator of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington. Gross said in an interview that one of his favorite covers, or envelopes, in the sale is addressed to a New Bedford, Massachusetts, company. It combines stamps from two countries - known in the philatelic world as mixed franking. "It's a striking piece because of the five 13-cent Kamehameha stamps in combination with five US stamps - four 10-cent George Washington stamps and one 12-cent George Washington stamp. Visually it's just stunning," said Gross, a Wall Street money manager who lives in Newport Beach, California.

The cover also has five 5-cent provisional surcharge stamps - handwritten on the 13-cent denomination due to a shortage of 5-cent stamps in 1857. It's regarded as the most outstanding US and Hawaiian multiple-rate franking cover outside the Missionary issue, according to the catalog. Its pre-sale estimate is $250,000 to $350,000.

The sale also has letters without postage stamps, used before the issuance of Missionary Stamps. The recipient paid the postage when collecting the letter at a post office. One letter, written by a missionary to someone in Danbury, Connecticut, sheds light on the life of Pacific Island missionaries.

"We are fed and clothed and have nought to think of but our precious children and the souls by whom we are surrounded," he writes. The work will exert "a great influence for good, or for evil" upon the indigenous population. It's estimated to fetch $2,000 to $3,000. The auction proceeds will be divided between the Hawaii Foodbank and the postal museum in Washington, where a gallery is named after Gross. To date, he has sold nearly $25 million of his non-US stamp collection to benefit charities. Hawaii became a US territory in 1898, and the 50th state in 1959. — AP

This photo shows an example of Hawaii's first postage stamp issued in 1851, a 13-cent unused iconic Missionary stamp.

Love is in the air

as British Airways unveils its summer honeymoon hot spots

British Airways' team of experts has scoured the globe for the top five most romantic city getaways and honeymoon locations across Europe and North America to tempt newlyweds as the temperatures rise in the Middle East over the summer months. The airline, which flies to 199 destinations in nearly 90 countries, named London, Paris, Amsterdam, Rome and New York, as the hottest honeymoon escapes.

Treat your loved one to a trip where the memories will last a lifetime with British Airways' discounted return fares from Kuwait to London and North America, which are available for a limited time until 18 May 2016 with travel valid until 30 November 2016.

From the UK capital, customers flying with British Airways can take advantage of connecting flights to 10 destinations in the UK, 106 in Europe and 83 in the rest of the world. If a good deal and five desirable destinations are not enough to appeal to reluctant Romeos, then British Airways' well-travelled cabin crew have some insider tips about some of the romantic things to see and do in each location:

London, UK

The challenge in a big, happening city is to find a bit of peace and quiet yet despite all its busy tourist attractions, London has many romantic spots. Try renting a rowboat and sharing an afternoon watching the swans on the Serpentine before taking a stroll through Hyde Park. If you really want to impress, pick up all the ingredients at Fortnum and Mason for a luxury picnic on Hampstead Heath. To add an element of unexpected fun, take along a kite or just enjoy people watching. There are plenty of great walks in London, but one of the most romantic is along the houseboat-lined Grand Canal, a quiet stroll just off the busy Edgware Road.

Paris, France

The Eiffel Tower offers exceptional views of Paris but the insider's advice is that Montmartre, a hill in the northern part of the city, is a wonderful place to take in the of the City of Light. After you've seen the sights wander through the narrow streets and stop at one of the many small cafÈs. The Pont Des Arts is another must-do. The pedestrian bridge spans the Seine and provides picture-postcard views of the ?le de la CitÈ, one of the two remaining natural islands on the river with street musicians adding to the atmosphere. Take a stroll through the gardens of the Luxembourg Palace and you'll be in good company. Napoleon and Josephine as well as Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir frequented the gardens, which are still popular with courting couples.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Let your love bloom in Amsterdam, famous for its flowers and canals. Explore the wonders of this enchanted city like the locals by hiring a bicycle. Cycle the paths beside the canal taking in the beautiful sights, stopping along the way to visit the fascinating Canal House Museums.

Rome, Italy

The Trevi Fountain has featured in so many Hollywood romances that it simply has to be the first place you visit. Legend has it the throwing a coin into the fountain will ensure a return visit to Rome. When you've posed for your selfies, take a walk along the three tiny streets (the tre vie) from which it takes its name. If the Trevi is the Rome of Hollywood, the Trastevere prides itself on being the real thing. Take a passeggiata (leisurely stroll) though its narrow streets taking in the roof gardens and spacious piazzas. During the day it is a quiet neighbourhood but comes to life in the evening and it is one of the best places to experience authentic Roman dining. Take a walk up the Via Giacinto Carini and you'll be rewarded with wonderful views of the Albian Hills and the Villa Lante al Gianicolo is one of the best vantage points from which to see the Eternal City.

New York, USA

There is so much to do in the Big Apple - walks in Central Park, carriage rides, a Broadway show - the choices are endless. Go stargazing at the Lincoln Center where the high-powered telescopes will give you an exceptional view of the constellations and perhaps a perspective on your places in the universe. Take a trip on the bright red aerial tram to Roosevelt Island. All it takes is a swipe of your MetroCard and the two of you will be hundreds of feet in the air waving goodbye to the East Side skyscrapers and looking forward to an afternoon of kite flying in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park. What better way to escape the hustle and bustle and see the city than by kayaking on the Hudson? Get a double kayak so you can take turns to take the pictures while your partner paddles.

Return Fares from Kuwait to the UK start from as little KWD 155 and to North America via London from KWD 238 across World Traveller cabins. A full timetable of British Airways' flights to London and beyond is available online where customers can find the lowest fares and book, pay and check-in online for their flights.

International Modest Fashion Week takes off in Turkey

Spring colors, breezy fabrics, high necklines and long hemlines: The International Modest Fashion Week opened Friday in Istanbul as Turkey sought to be seen as a creative hotspot for conservative wear around the world. Seventy designers were taking part in the two-day event hosted by Modanisa, an online retailer of Muslim fashion, at a historic railway station flooded with spotlights for the occasion.

"(We want) to create mainstream fashion out of modest fashion and to energize Islamic communities to produce (clothing) for Muslim women," Modanisa CEO Kerim Ture said. "They want to have their rules but they also want to look chic." In Turkey, an estimated two-thirds of women wear a headscarf, according to industry experts.

Modest fashion represents a growing market in the world and Turkey, with its Muslim traditions and booming textile industry, is uniquely placed to cash in both creatively and commercially. Worldwide spending on Muslim clothing is projected to grow to $327 billion by 2020, according to the latest Global Islamic Economy report. Designers say it's a budding industry in which Turkey serves as a natural bridge between European and Asian markets.

Dashing turbans

"In fashion, we have the mainstream fashion line and the modest fashion line," says Malaysian designer Hazizul Abd Aziz of Aidijuma who favors cool satins and cottons. "The modest fashion line is actually very new." The models paraded styles ranging from earthy tunics and floral dresses to grandiose gowns in shimmering pear palettes and dark abayas - all connected by shape-concealing cuts. The looks were set off by dashing turbans, decorative headscarves and prim chignons for the unveiled.

The fashion shows come amid a revived debate over the role of secularism in Turkey, a predominantly Muslim nation where the constitution enshrines secular principles. The speaker of parliament, Ismail Kahraman, sparked controversy last month by suggesting the country should have a constitution based on religion instead. That triggered fears among the secular segments of society and small protests in Istanbul.

Outgoing Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says the new constitution, which is being drafted by the Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party, would feature a freedom-oriented principle of secularism rather than an "authoritarian understanding of secularism." Since the Islamist-leaning party of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to

power in 2002, restrictions on the displays of religious symbols in public have been relaxed, allowing conservative women to get a university education and enter the workforce. But it wasn't until 2013 that the ruling party succeeded in lifting a decades-old ban on the wearing of headscarves

by public servants and legislators.

Franka Soeria, a representative of the Islamic Fashion and Design Council, says the divide between religiously conservative and secular environments remains palpable in Turkish society. Soeria, who sports a black hijab - an Islamic-style headscarf - and an ankle-length abaya, told The Associated Press that some secular friends had discouraged her from going to certain Istanbul neighborhoods because her attire is too modest.

Religiously neutral

"Why? I mean, it's just a hijab. I'm still the same person. I'm still stylish. you wear a bikini, I wear my hijab," she said. Academic Mary Lou O'Neil says the growing visibility of religiously conservative women in public spaces has sparked fear in Turkey's secular women that this will evolve into restrictions on their dress and conduct. "In a society that said public space is neutral, religiously neutral, you now have conservative fashion week," said O'Neil, director of the Gender and Women's Studies Research Center at Kadir Has University in Istanbul. "(It's) a visually stunning development for a lot of people and it certainly bothers a lot of people."

Many studies suggest a growing number of Turkish women self-identify as "conservative" and veiled women are part of the Turkish workforce, appearing at universities and state institutions, she noted. Many younger women have also had the opportunity to travel or study abroad and speak more than one language - opportunities that translate into more economic power. "They want all the same things, just packaged in a slightly different way," said O'Neil. — AP

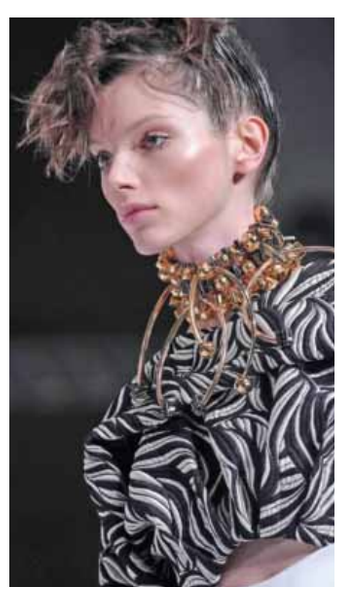
Models get ready backstage for the fashion show.

Fashion enthusiasts talk ahead of the launch fashion show during the International Modest Fashion Week.

People arrive to attend the fashion show.

Fashion enthusiasts take pictures during the launch of the fashion show.

AUSTRALIA *Fashion Week*



Kuwait Times
Lifestyle
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

International Modest Fashion Week takes off in Turkey 38

Participants in fancy costumes walk in front of the Monument to the Battle of the Nations during the Wave Gothic Festival (WGT) in Leipzig, Germany. Approximately 20,000 goths and other dark subculture fans are expected to attend the world' largest gothic and 'edark' culture festival until May 16, 2016. —AP

Germany Wave Gothic Festival