

Patient safety paramount at Amiri Hospital biomedical lab



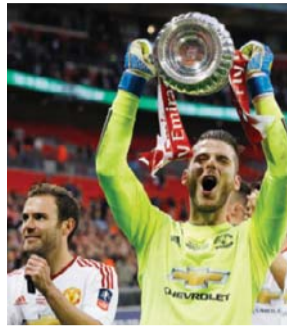
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KAC, MOI ASSURE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS IS TOP PRIORITY

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JETS SCRAMBLED TO MONITOR US PLANE HEADING TO KUWAIT

ATHENS: Greece scrambled fighter jets to monitor a US passenger plane that failed to identify itself when entering Greek airspace last week, an official said yesterday, confirming media reports. The Delta Air Lines aircraft, flying from Paris to Kuwait, entered the Athens Flight Information Region (FIR) at 19.10 (17:10 GMT) Thursday, the same day the EgyptAir plane crashed in the Mediterranean shortly after leaving Greek airspace.

Its pilots failed to answer to repeated calls from the Greek Civil Aviation authorities, according to various media reports, confirmed to AFP by a Greek defence ministry source. Following military protocol, at 19.49 (17:49 GMT) two F-16 fighter jets intercepted the Delta airplane while it was flying near the Aegean island of Santorini. According to the Mega Channel, one of the fighter jets flew in front of the passenger plane and with light signals alerted the pilots to switch on their radio on the right frequency. The Ant1 Channel said that the pilots contacted Greek authorities at 19.55 (17:55 GMT) and exited the Athens FIR at 20.10 (18:10 GMT).

The incident occurred after the EgyptAir Airbus A320 carrying 66 people from Paris to Cairo disappeared off radar screens in the early hours of Thursday, without its crew sending a distress signal. There was no suggestion of a link between the EgyptAir crash and the Delta incident. — AFP



KUWAIT: Relatives and friends pray yesterday for Abdulmehsen Al-Suhail, a Kuwaiti passenger of the EgyptAir plane that crashed in the Mediterranean on May 21, 2016. — AFP

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways (KAC) underscored yesterday its keenness to ensure the safety of all of its passengers and not slacking in carrying out all security and safety measures in this regard. In a press statement, the company said it had re-inspected the luggage of all passengers on Flight 561 bound for Jordan after a rowdy passenger began screaming in a threatening manner. This caused disturbance among the passengers, requiring security personnel to deal with the offender, said the statement.

In its eagerness for the safety of the passengers and to carry out the normal procedure in such cases, the company "ran a re-inspection check on all passenger luggage while summoning airport security as an extra cautionary measure", said the statement. It added that "the flight in question departed after that momentary disruption to its prescribed destination".

Earlier yesterday, the Interior Ministry stressed in a press statement that security preparedness may entail taking precautionary measures at the airport such as asking passengers to deplane and re-inspect luggage and the aircraft, which is a standard, normal procedure at all airports. It added that these precautionary measures are carried out to ensure the safe takeoff and landing of all planes as well as the safety of all passengers onboard these planes. It emphasized that security personnel at the ministry did not receive any call regarding the existence of a bomb on the Kuwait Airways plane bound for Jordan.

Separately, the ministry's security media and relations department strongly denied social media reports that a citizen allegedly died as a result of injuries he sustained in a fight at Kuwait International Airport. Security sources said airport security immediately intervened and stopped the fight, and all those involved were referred to Jleeb police station for further investigations. — Agencies

EGYPTAIR JET SENT SMOKE WARNINGS BEFORE CRASH

CAIRO: Smoke was detected inside an EgyptAir plane shortly before it plunged into the Mediterranean with 66 people on board, investigators said yesterday, offering clues but no answers about why it crashed. The Airbus A320 had been flying from Paris to Cairo early Thursday when it plummeted and turned full circle before vanishing from radar screens, without its crew sending a distress signal. Egypt's military released pictures of wreckage recovered so far, including a pink bag decorated with butterflies, a life vest, shredded seat covers and mangled debris showing the EgyptAir name.

France's aviation safety agency said Flight MS804 had

transmitted automated messages indicating smoke in the cabin as the disaster unfolded. While the information may help investigators, more wreckage including the black boxes will need to be found before they can piece together what happened. "There were ACARS messages emitted by the plane indicating that there was smoke in the cabin shortly before data transmission broke off," a spokesman for France's Bureau of Investigations and Analysis told AFP. It was "far too soon to interpret and understand the cause of the accident as long as we have not found the wreckage or the flight data recorders", he said.

Continued on Page 13



An image grab taken from a video uploaded on the official Facebook page of the Egyptian military spokesperson yesterday shows some debris that the search teams found in the sea after an EgyptAir Airbus A320 crashed in the Mediterranean. — AFP

EXPERTS: PERFECT SECURITY IS ELUSIVE AT ALL AIRPORTS

PARIS: Explosives in the form of paper, or concealed in a medicine-sized bottle and looking like salt. Tiny electric detonators. Security agents at the main airport in Paris are trained to detect all manner of increasingly sophisticated devices that could doom a flight. But the chilling reality is that security is ultimately fallible. "The infinitely perfect does not exist," said Sylvain Prevost, who trains airport personnel seeking the coveted red badge that allows them access to the airport's restricted areas.

That is especially true when 85,000 people at Charles de Gaulle airport hold red badges, which are good for three years, and many of them work for a host of private companies. Add to the mix, concern over religious extremism in an age of increasing radi-

calization that can transform people within months. Airport authorities in France and elsewhere are painfully aware of the risks, but hesitant to speculate as to whether an airport security lapse could have contributed to Thursday's crash of EgyptAir Flight 804. The Airbus A320 took off from Charles de Gaulle with 66 people on board before lurching wildly to the left and right, spinning around and crashing into the eastern Mediterranean Sea, according to officials. The cause of the crash remains unclear.

France has been in a state of emergency since Nov. 13 Paris attacks that killed 130, after two deadly attacks earlier in 2015, all with links to the Islamic State group. Security is being further reinforced

Continued on Page 13



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AMIR LEAVES TODAY FOR TURKEY TO ATTEND WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT



Chief of the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) Bulent Yildirim

KUWAIT/ANKARA: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is worthy of the global humanitarian leader title bestowed to him by the United Nations, a Turkish relief aid official said yesterday. His Highness the Amir and his accompanying delegation will leave today for Istanbul, Turkey to head Kuwait's delegation participating in the World Humanitarian Summit.

Ahead of the summit which takes place from May 23-24, chief of the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) Bulent Yildirim said that Kuwait's leadership and people have always been on the forefront of providing aid to those affected by wars or natural catastrophes.

He took the chance to thank Kuwait for contributing to the construction of refugee towns for the Syrian refugees south of Turkey. Some towns, named after Kuwait and His Highness the Amir, housed a number important facilities that helped the refugees to overcome a bit of the hardships caused by the war in their country.

Kuwait charitable hand not only benefited refugees from other countries, but also helped Turkish citizens overcome several natural disasters which hit Turkey, said Yildirim. Regarding cooperation between the IHH and the Kuwaiti International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO), the Turkish official said that this cooperation was not only

restricted to efforts to gather money for charity, it was also extended to finding means to further benefit the needy in Turkey and around the globe.

Speaking about Turkey's efforts in aiding the Syrian refugees, the official said that the main focus was to provide necessities and foodstuff. Several bakeries were opened to provide bread to the refugees, said the official, adding that the IHH also provided assistant to enable Syrian students to continue their education and studies. The UN sponsored World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul is expected to attract representatives from 155 world countries and international organizations. Fifty world leaders are expected to attend. — KUNA

Local Spotlight

EGYPT TRAGEDY



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The disappearance of the EgyptAir Airbus 320 jet above the Mediterranean on Thursday is troublesome for everyone. It is still early to determine what caused the crash and the death of those onboard, but there are various analyses and theories about this incident. The plane disappeared during a flight from Paris and Cairo, and claimed the lives of Arab, foreign and Gulf nationals, in addition to the Egyptian crew.

Unfortunately, news about aircraft crashes is becoming commonplace these days. The problem is that determining the cause of a plane crash is not as quick as that of a collision between cars. It is a completely different matter because of the complex technical efforts required to find the black boxes that record

Security of airports and aircraft shouldn't be overlooked or taken lightly

what really happened in the cockpit. What complicates everything in all aircraft accidents at this time is that no one can deny the possibility of a terrorist act. With the Egyptian plane, this scenario is a default one and must be taken into account.

In Oct 2015, a Russian Airbus 321 jet crashed in Sinai after taking off from Sharm El-Sheikh, killing all 224 people onboard. IS' branch in Sinai claimed responsibility for the attack. This tragic incident had a very negative impact on tourism in the area and the region's economy. In March this year, another EgyptAir plane with 55 passengers was hijacked. The pilot was threatened by a passenger wearing an 'explosive belt,' which forced the pilot to land at Larnaca airport in Cyprus. After arrival in Larnaca, all the passengers were freed, and the hijacker turned himself in after six hours of negotiations with Cypriot authorities. It was not a terrorist act, but it created panic.

Hypotheses about the recent incident are three: A technical fault, an act of terrorism or human error, and these reasons or even one of them are usually the direct cause of any aircraft crash in the world and not just the Egyptian plane. But, because of the situation in Egypt internally and externally, the possibility of a terrorist act comes first to mind. Security of airports and aircraft shouldn't be overlooked or taken lightly, because laxness can cause grave damages, loss of lives and aircraft and can impact nations.



CAIRO: A general view of a meeting between the Arab League's permanent envoys and representatives of UNSC member nations, held yesterday in Cairo, Egypt. —KUNA

UN, ARAB LEAGUE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO COOPERATE FOR SUSTAINED PEACE

CAIRO: It is imperative to have further cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations (UN) on issues germane to international peace and security, a meeting between the Arab League's permanent envoys and representatives of UNSC member nations underscored yesterday. A number of issues of mutual concern have been investigated, particularly, ones related to peace in the Middle East, said a statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting. Moreover, the situation in Libya and Somalia, in addition to the refugee crisis, was also amongst issues discussed at the meeting, the statement noted.

The Arab League's Secretary General Dr Nabil Al-Araby had earlier called for an overhaul of the UNSC, in an attempt to

ramp up efforts to deal with conflicts that threaten regional and international peace and security, the statement added.

"It is imperative to restructure the UNSC," the Arab League chief noted, lashing out at the council for its failure to "put an end to conflicts and to preserve peace." "How can we justify using veto laws to prevent decisions to enforce ceasefires in conflict-ridden areas?" Araby questioned. Moreover, Egypt's Permanent Representative to the UN Amr Aboulatta underscored the significance of the meeting, saying that "regional challenges have morphed into international issues that require collective collaboration."

Meanwhile, Aboulatta singled out terrorism as the primary challenge, describing it as a "black thought that threatens the

prospect of political solutions," while calling on increased cooperation to "pluck terrorism from its roots."

On a similar note, Bahrain's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Arab League Sheikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al-Khalifa highlighted the need to address the region's pressing issues. The Bahraini diplomat pinpointed the refugee crisis, calling it an immense challenge that calls for concerted Arab and international efforts to solve the issue. He also acknowledged Kuwait's hosting of three international conferences in support of refugees. Kuwait's deputy acting charge d'affaires of its permanent mission to the Arab League Mohammad Al-Allati led the country's delegation to the meeting. —KUNA



Kuwait's deputy acting charge d'affaires Mohammad Al-Allati attends the meeting



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Saber Chowdhury. — KUNA

IPU CHIEF IN KUWAIT ON OFFICIAL VISIT

KUWAIT: The President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Saber Chowdhury and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait yesterday for an official visit. Upon arrival, Chowdhury was received at the airport by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem

and Head of the Honorary Mission MP Faisal Al-Shaya. Chowdhury is a distinguished politician with an impressive track record in public service in Bangladesh and extensive experience in inter-parliamentary relations. He is the 28th President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. — KUNA

REGION NEEDS ARAB COOPERATION TO FACE CRITICAL CONDITIONS: AMBASSADOR

LONDON: The Arab region is going through critical and painful conditions so cooperation of all Arab is needed to face these conditions, said Kuwait's Ambassador to Britain Khaled Al-Duwaisan. He made the statement on Friday after sponsoring an honoring ceremony of some 31 Arab diplomats who finished a training program organized by Arab League Secretariat in the British capital.

The league plays a vital role in coordinating stances of member states pertaining to the major causes, said Duwaisan, who is also Dean of Arab and Foreign Diplomatic Corps. He expressed his gratitude to the League's Assistant Secretary General for Financial and Administrative Affairs Adnan Al-Khudair for organizing such programs outside the league's headquarters.

Meanwhile, Khudair said the program which features about 31 Arab diplomats was successful and achieved several goals, mainly enhancing communications between the league's mission in London and Arab embassies. The secretariat will organize some workshops and seminars related to Arab citizens living in London and embassies' employees of Arab countries in several fields, he added. — KUNA

ZAIN HONORED FOR SPONSORING THE 13TH ARAB MEDIA FORUM

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, was honored by the organizing committee of the Arab Media Forum for its successful participation and Diamond sponsorship of the 13th edition of the forum. The Arab Media Forum was held early May under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Zain's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti received the honoring token from the Head of the Arab Media Forum Madhi Al-Khamees during the appreciation ceremony held to recognize and highlight the efforts of sponsors, participants, and volunteers who helped make the 13th edition of the forum a success.

The forum, sponsored by Zain for five consecutive years, has proven itself to be one of the region's most prominent events that attend to Arab Media. The event brought together many ministers, media executives, journalists, academics, authors, actors, businessmen, and social figures from all around the Arab world, along with the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister's representative, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Many seminars, workshops, and discussion panels were held during the forum, one of which witnessed the participation of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, ex Minister of Telecommunications of the State of Qatar Dr Hissah Al-Jaber, along with Chairman of

the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology Engineer Salem Al-Uthaina.

Zain participated in the forum through its dedicated booth, where the company welcomed visitors to discuss the various ways in which different communications mediums can enhance the development of current media

tools in the Arab region. Zain's sponsorship and participation in this forum highlights its social commitment, as the company believes in the importance of the role press and media plays in the development of communities. Zain will continue supporting this very important sector which carries significant and informative messaging to the public at large and the communications world as a whole.



KUWAIT: Zain's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti receives the honoring token from the Head of the Arab Media Forum Madhi Al-Khamees.

KUWAIT SET TO PUSH AHEAD WITH MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti government remains committed to rolling out its ambitious infrastructure development plan despite uncertainty over global oil prices. A host of public construction contracts have been awarded so far this year after the government launched a six-pronged economic recovery strategy aimed at encouraging expansion of public-private partnerships (PPPs). This came on the heels of a new five-year plan with over \$100 billion worth of infrastructure spending. An emphasis on hard and soft infrastructure, including new schools and utilities projects, should support construction industry and non-oil growth in the near term, while a long-term finance agreement reached for the Clean Fuels Project at the end of April will further underpin future oil and gas growth.

construction spending on various projects. Although transportation mega-projects, including a metro and a national rail network, have been delayed, social infrastructure is already benefitting from the spending surge. For example, Kuwait University is currently constructing a new campus in Shadidiyah, located south-west of Kuwait City, which will house all 14 of its faculties. Offering capacity for up to 30,000 students,



Contracts boom in 2016
Kuwait's projects market has shown robust expansion despite low oil prices, international media reported in April, with the state awarding KD 1.5 billion (\$5 billion) of contracts during the first quarter of the year.

These awards brought the total size of the local projects market, including public, private and planned developments, to KD76.6 billion (\$252.3 billion), a 2.8 percent year-to-date increase, according to reports.

Infrastructure development featured heavily in the state's most recent five-year economic development plan, which was approved in February 2015 and envisions \$116 billion of

the new campus is slated for mid-year completion after the university awarded a KD173m (\$574.3m) contract for construction of the administration facilities to a joint venture between China State Construction Engineering Corporation and Combined Group Contracting Company in January.

Pushing progress

Delayed utilities projects are also slated to move ahead after the creation in 2014 of the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), an agency tasked with identifying and developing PPPs, and established to replace

the Partnerships Technical Bureau (PTB).

Developing PPPs is a key pillar of the six-point economic reform plan launched by Anas Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil.

KAPP has since announced it will award the main contract for the second phase of the Al-Zour North independent water and power plant, which will produce 1,800 MW of electricity and 464,100 cu meters per day of desalinated water. This comes alongside a contract bid for the KD450m (\$1.5 billion) Umm Al-Haiman wastewater treatment plant, which opened at the end of April, and a tender for the Kabd municipal solid waste project, due in late May.

Future developments

Oil and gas projects are also making steady progress, particularly as the country seeks to expand value-added downstream production and reduce domestic liquefied natural gas (LNG) consumption via new imports.

In early March the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) awarded its largest contract so far this year. The KD 882m (\$2.9 billion) contract for construction of a new LNG import and regasification terminal was given to a consortium led by South Korea's Hyundai Engineering and Hyundai Engineering and Construction, and includes four full-containment LNG tanks with a maximum daily capacity of 1.5trn British thermal units. The Clean Fuel Project - a total overhaul of the state's two largest refineries, Mina Abdullah and Mina Al-Ahmadi - will see the government intensify its focus on value-added production of diesel and kerosene. It is one of the largest undertakings on Kuwait's infrastructure agenda, and although some media sources have reported that the KD3.7 billion (\$12.3 billion) initiative has been pushed to 2019, the project has witnessed some positive developments in recent weeks. In late April the KNPC announced it had signed an agreement for the first tranche of financing, a 10-year agreement worth KD1.2 billion (\$4 billion) and backed by a consortium of local lenders, including the National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Finance House.

The forecast for construction industry growth is positive, with the government set to award KD10.8 billion (\$35.8 billion) worth of contracts before December, while down from the KD16 billion (\$53.1 billion) originally planned, more than 60 percent of contracts to be awarded already have a list of qualified bidders, according to international media.

—Oxford Business Group



OFFICIALS TO BE DISCIPLINED AFTER HOLIDAY OVER DELAYED PROJECTS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: During her meeting today with the parliament's priorities committee, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih will discuss a report she had made about government bodies and ministries lagging behind in development projects and how much of these projects have been completed so far. Notably, Subaih had finished the report earlier and submitted it to the Cabinet, which is expected to take some decisions concerning some senior officials, including not renewing their tenures and giving notices or final warnings according to how behind they are in their responsibilities in the development projects. Informed sources said that the first of such decisions would be made after the Eid Al-Fitr holiday in mid-July, adding that the parliament's priorities committee would later report to the State Audit Bureau requesting to take disciplinary measures against these officials.



Minister Hind Al-Subaih

Labor transfer

The Manpower Public Authority denied that new decisions have been made about transferring work permits. It further stressed that administrative decision number 842/2015 is still in effect pertaining with restricting work permit transfers in the shepherding, fishing, agriculture, industry and co-operative sectors. The decision also restricts transfer of visas of workers recruited for government contracts to other government contracts only.

Oil statistics

Acting director of the Central Statistical Bureau Mona Al-Daas said that in view of the significance of oil-related statistics, and with the aim of reducing the time needed to provide such statistics, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was being prepared with the oil ministry to provide such information. Daas added that the directorate discussed the governance indicators needed with the State Audit Bureau in accordance with the development goals in the UN's 2020-2030 development plan on the strategic goal of governance.

Fatal accident

A Kuwaiti couple, a 35-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman, yesterday sustained fatal injuries and died instantly when they lost control of a bike on Arabian Gulf Road and it flipped over several times.

Lagging behind

Meanwhile, Chairman of the parliament's priorities committee MP Yousef Al-Zalzalah said that some ministries were not doing a good job in following up on the development plan projects under their jurisdiction and that a report was submitted at the National Assembly to hold them responsible and accountable. Zalzalah pointed out that many ministries were lagging behind, namely the public works, electricity and water and the municipality affairs' ministries.

Mandatory zakat

Kuwait Zakat House Manager Ibrahim Al-Saleh said GCC states plan to set legislations mandating individuals and companies who possess sums for which they should pay zakat (alms) to do so. "This can easily be done through consulting banks," he said, noting that zakat houses in GCC states were suffering from huge financial shortages.

GROUP SLAMS BILL: 'COUP AGAINST KUWAITI JUDICIARY'



Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) issued a press statement commenting on a bill recently proposed by Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane. It noted that the proposed bill aims at 'impeding the judiciary's authorities and independence' and transferring some of its responsibilities to the executive authority. "This is an organized governmental coup against the Kuwaiti judiciary," said the statement, noting that the government had been keeping a lid on

the amendments it proposed and ignored lawmakers' opinions.

NDA also deemed the proposed amendments as retaliation against some recent constitutional court rulings concerning freedom of expression and withdrawal of citizenships. "The judiciary should have been consulted on these amendments before submitting them to the parliament for discussion by the legislative committee," the statement added. Several MPs had also criticized the proposed law projects, saying that they would give the government control over the judiciary.

KUWAIT URGES FURTHER SUPPORT TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE

NEW DELHI: The Kuwaiti delegation to the 55th annual meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) on Friday urged more support to the Palestinian cause. The five-day AALCO concluded sessions in New Delhi on Friday.

Addressing the final session, Chairman of the Appeals Chamber in Kuwait's Ministry of Justice Counselor Ali Musaed Al-Dhabibi called for taking into consideration the latest developments in Palestine.

Dhabibi, who led the Kuwaiti delegation to the event, urged the delegates from Asia and Africa countries to enhance efforts to develop arrangements and guarantees to halt Israel's recurrent violence and aggression against the Palestinian civilians. Participants in AALCO discussions addressed a host of major topics, including Law of the Sea, the Israeli violation of international law in Palestine, violent extremism, terrorism and cyber-security laws.

The Kuwaiti delegation effectively contributed to the deliberations at the AALCO meeting especially on Palestine. It also called for a resolution on Palestine that comprises fundamental issues such as urging more efforts by the international community on all levels to ensure calm and peace there, as well as providing humanitarian support and rebuilding the Palestinian economy, as priorities.

During the annual meeting, the nominee of Tanzanian government and the African Union Professor Kennedy Gaston was elected AALCO's Secretary General as the tenure of the current chief Dr Rahmat Mohammad expires in August 2016.

Following the historic Bandung Conference, Indonesia, April 1955, the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC) was formed, November 1956 with India, Iraq, Japan, Egypt, Syria, Indonesia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka as the founding members. It was renamed as the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) in 1958. —KUNA

MINISTRY CONFISCATES 160 COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) has confiscated a total of 160 counterfeit products, the ministry's Undersecretary Khaled Al-Sahlawi said in a press statement yesterday. Authorities at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) have detected the largest quantity of forged and counterfeit drugs, stashed in unsanctioned storages, the statement added.

The products include antibiotics, lotions, beauty products and herbal medicines, all of which have not been registered at the MoH, Sahlawi added. Moreover, he also noted a case where authorities had busted an unlicensed store in Salmiya, selling fake products with potentially hazardous health effects. Al-Sahlawi also asserted that the ministry is steadfast in its efforts to nab all manufacturers of such products, saying health security is the ministry's top priority. —KUNA

MAN ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING POLICE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives yesterday arrested a bedoon (stateless) man wanted for running over a police officer and fleeing a few days ago, said security sources, noting that the suspect's brother was caught on the spot while he fled the scene on foot, leaving his vehicle and his brother behind. Searching the vehicle, policemen found alcohol and a weapon. The suspect was hiding in a house in Firdous. Both suspects are facing charges of possessing alcohol, an unlicensed weapon and evading arrest.

Brothel raided

Following several complaints, a Farwaniya brothel was raided and three prostitutes were arrested, including one in violation of residency laws, said security sources.

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Biomedical lab technician talks challenges, sacrifices to keep 'patient safety first'

علم الأنسجة Histopathology

تستلم في هذا القسم أنسجة وخلايا المرضى، وفي مدة زمنية محدودة؛ وبعد أن تقوم بإجراء العديد من العمليات المعقدة على العينة تتوصل إلى معرفة الخلل المعنوي إن وجد، كالإلتهابات أو الأورام (الحميدة أو الخبيثة)، لتتمكن الطبيب أو الجراح من تشخيص المرض.

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الأحياء الدقيقة Microbiology

نحن نعزف للطبيب الجرثومة المسببة للمرض والمضاد الحيوي المناسب لها، حتى يتسنى له أن يصف الدواء المناسب لعلاج المريض. نتعامل مع كل أنواع الجراثيم يومياً؛ من فيروسات وبكتيريا وفطريات وحتى الفيروسات ذات الخاصية المناعية للمضادات الحيوية، وذلك باستخدام تقنيات حديثة معقدة، تشمل فحوصات كيميائية وميكروسكوبية لعينات مختلفة من سوائل الجسم.

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"Prescribing antibiotics without the microbiological report may lead to inappropriate treatment"

IRON DEFICIENCY ANAEMIA

Iron deficiency anaemia IDA is a condition where a lack of iron in the body leads to a reduction in the number of red blood cells. And it's the most common type nutrient deficiency in the world.

The Signs and symptoms of IDA are, chronic fatigue, weakness, Increased HEART Rate, dizziness, headaches, depression, sore tongue, sensitivity to cold (low body temp), shortness of breath doing simple tasks.

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IDA CAN BE TREATED !! by using Iron tablets which can help restore iron levels in your body. ALSO the following foods can help in treat or prevent iron deficiency: red meat, leafy vegetables, dried fruit, nuts and iron-fortified cereals.

BREAST CANCER

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, which is caused by the development of malignant cells in the breast tissue.

Common Warning Signs include changes in breast size or shape, skin inflammation, discoloration, fever, a lump in the breast, rash on the nipple, chills, or unexpected weight loss.

Risk Factors are being overweight, lack of exercise, smoking, and/or unhealthy diet.

Facts

- 9 out of 10 breast lumps are not cancer.
- The best way to detect breast cancer is by "Self Examination".
- Not all women have the same cancer type, the unique characteristics include: tumor size and grade, lymph node involvement, or positive or negative hormone receptor.

Lower your risk by simply having a Healthy Life Style

All lab workers are scientists. However, in Kuwait, there is a reluctance to use this designation.

Transmission
طرق الانتشار
by drinking unpasteurised milk & dairy products
تناول الألبان الملوثة الغير مبسترة

direct contact with infected animals (farmers, veterinarians & butchers)
الاتصال المباشر مع الحيوانات المصابة من المزارعين و البيطريين وعمال المصانع

Symptoms
الاعراض
Fever حمى
Sweats تعرق
Fatigue تعب
Headache صداع
weight loss فقدان الوزن

Incidence
نسب الاصابات
11 case in Amiri hospital
11 حالة في اميري للمستشفى لعام 2015

Distribution
التوزيع
Mediterranean, middle east & central asia
الشرق الأوسط و وسط المتوسط

cannot be transmitted from one person to another
لا تنتقل من شخص إلى آخر

Cholesterol

عوامل تؤدي إلى ارتفاع نسبة الكوليسترول في الدم
Factors affect blood Cholesterol level

عوامل تساعد على تقليل نسبة الكوليسترول في الدم
Factors maintain Cholesterol level in blood

CHOLESTEROL

What is cholesterol ?
Cholesterol is a fatty waxy substance found in all human body cells . The body needs cholesterol to make hormones and substances that help digest food. Cholesterol moves in the blood in small particles called lipoproteins.

Types of cholesterol :
There are two types of lipoprotein that carry cholesterol

Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL)
Deposition in blood vessels narrows them, which may over time hardens, leading to limited blood flow, and sometime stroke. LDL rate raises in the blood due to excessive consumption of food rich in fat and cholesterol or due to other diseases such as hypothyroidism ,diabetes, or genetic diseases.

Cholesterol (LDL) rich sources
Red meat - food which includes organs of animal source (kidney, liver, bone marrow).

High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL)
This type carries cholesterol to the blood vessels to the liver to be maintained. Increasing the rate of HDL can be through physical activities such as sports. Healthy lifestyle is also an important factor; and it can be achieved by non-smoking, ideal weight, and healthy diet by replacing saturated oils (animal oils) with unsaturated oils (olive oil).

Cholesterol (HDL) rich sources
Egg yolk - Sea food - nuts.

Laboratory Cholesterol Analysis
This is done by a simple blood test; by analyzing a blood sample of a 12 hours fasting patient.
Cholesterol's Normal Range of less than 5.2 mmol / L.

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The world is filled with unsung heroes who have forgotten their importance due to their work routine. Working for long hours in front of laboratory machines makes lab workers, technicians and specialists forget their crucial role in saving the lives of others, and how without them, doctors can never diagnose their patients to the fullest.

April 15 marked International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day, which focused this year on 'Patient Safety First'. Also, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is celebrated on April 28. In Kuwait, Amiri Hospital has taken charge to celebrate both days in an event that is being planned since the end of 2015.

"When the team gathered in the first meeting, I asked each member to tell me who they are," said Dr Naheda Alkazemi, Amiri Hospital's Safety and Quality Improvements Manager. "All of them talked about how they were doing their jobs. None of them were able to define themselves. Then, I said: 'You are scientists - you are the science behind the interpretation of the numbers and without your solid base of knowledge and experience, no result will ever come out.' I had to pull them out of the system."

Scientist

A piano player is a pianist, a geology expert is a geologist, while a science specialist is a scientist. "I am a scientist. In fact, all lab workers are scientists. However, in Kuwait, there is a reluctance to use this designation," she said. Alkazemi's first job at Amiri Hospital was as a lab specialist. Later, she got a scholarship to complete her master's and doctoral studies by the hospital and graduated in 2014, majoring in biomedical sciences and chemistry from the University of Dublin, Ireland.

"I got my bachelor's degree from Kuwait University in medical lab sciences. I studied biochemistry, microbiology, histopathology, hematology and more. Therefore, I was eligible to get into any department at the hospital. But from the beginning, I was sure that I wanted to be in the hematology department. Once I joined, I was trained in all the departments before working in the hematology department," Dr Alkazemi said.

"The hematology department is where blood gets tested for types, anemia, blood thinners, blood cells and platelets, hemoglobin ratios, thalassemia (genetic or

- Social significance overshadows the importance of your job.
- I know many great lab workers who have given up their passion because of social pressure.
- We deal with all samples as if they are infected with AIDS or hepatitis.
- Amiri Hospital performs over 4,500 diabetes tests monthly.

Sacrifices

non-genetic), iron deficiency and leukemia. Our examinations are very critical to determine the healing process after surgeries. Moreover, our blood bank is always on standby, ready for emergencies. We get supplies from the central blood bank. By the way, not every group A blood type matches another A. There are subgroups of A and we cross match the patient's blood sample with the blood we have to choose the right one. Because if it is not the right one, it will cause a reaction in the body, like fever. We also give platelets or plasma and provide all types of blood components," she explained.

It is often said that professions like medicine involve a lot of sacrifices, especially from the social side. Dr Alkazemi admits that it is a stressful work environment. "This is Kuwait, a social country. Social significance overshadows the importance of your job. If you are a woman, your identity is connected to who you have got married to or how many children you have. Your career is just a job to get a salary from. For this reason, I know many great lab workers who have given up their passion because of social pressure. Some of them now work at clinics, while some left their profession to become bankers and others opened home businesses. These jobs need great sacrifice and greater understanding," stressed Alkazemi.



Dr Naheda Alkazemi

"However, I now take care of administrative tasks more than laboratorial ones. No night shifts - but I still do not have a social life. Becoming the safety and quality improvements manager means creating a safer lab environment for lab workers to accomplish their jobs in a safe manner, and equally being responsible for waste management and biohazards. We deal with all samples as if they are infected with AIDS or hepatitis. If a lab worker gets injured or has a blood splash incident, he gets treated for infection immediately and examined. Then we do a follow-up check a week later to check his blood to make sure he is OK. We deal with a heavy load as a government hospital. Therefore, it is our duty to be careful that samples don't get mixed with each other, and ensure that our patients get an accurate result," she added.

Amiri Hospital performs over 4,500 diabetes tests monthly. In 2015, the hospital did 4,544 blood transfusions and 6,100 blood cross-matching procedures. The Amiri Hospital laboratory was accredited 4 out of 4 by the Canadian system which inspects quality and safety every two years. It is the only lab in Kuwait that achieved the highest valuation.

فني المختبرات البيولوجية الطبية Biomedical Laboratory Scientists

فني المختبرات الطبية هم الخط الأول الذي يتعامل مع عينات المرضى، تعمل على مدار الساعة من أجل صحتك. العلم هو أساس كل ما نعمله في المختبر؛ لذلك فنحن نطبق النظريات العلمية وخبراتنا العملية يومياً. ورغم أننا نستخدم الأجهزة في عمل التحاليل؛ فنحن من يفسر معنى القراءات والأرقام التي تصدرها تلك الأجهزة. حرصاً على تقديم أدق النتائج للمريض نحن نعمل دائماً على استخدام أحدث التقنيات الطبية في المختبر وتأكيد من أن النتائج دقيقة وتندرج تحت سياسة الصنيد النوعي قبل إرسالها للطبيب أو الطاقم الطبي للقيام بالتشخيص الصحيح وإصدار العلاج اللازم.

The biomedical laboratory scientists are the frontline to handle patient's samples, working together 24/7 for your health. Science is the base of everything we are doing, hence we apply our theory knowledge and practical expertise on the everyday routine work. Although we use analyzers, but it is all about the interpretation of the results. In order to provide the best services for the patients; we regularly update our technology to be implemented under the best quality control policies and we make sure that the results are accurate before releasing them to the doctors or the medical staff for diagnosis and treatment.

الكيمياء الحيوية الاكلينيكية Clinical Biochemistry

في قسم الكيمياء الحيوية الاكلينيكية نعمل على تحليل الدم ومختلف سوائل الجسم بالاستعانة بالأجهزة الطبية والتحاليل المناعية، وكذلك نعمل على تحليل الهرمونات والسعوم ونقوم بفحص وظائف الكبد والكلية بالإضافة لفحوصات عديدة لمرضى السكر، ودائماً نحرض على مطابقة النتائج مع الحالة الصحية للمريض. شهرياً نؤدي بما لا يقل عن 4500 تحليل لمرضى السكر.

In the clinical biochemistry unit we analyze blood and body fluids using medical instruments and immunoassays; and correlate test results with patient's current condition. We perform endocrinology, toxicology, examine your liver and kidney functions, or test you for diabetes. Each month we perform about ~4500 tests for diabetic patients.

"Just give me blood and I can tell you your cholesterol level, blood glucose level, or thyroid conditions."

علم أمراض الدم Hematology

علم الدم يختص بوظائف خلايا الدم والتي تتكون من خلايا الدم البيضاء وخلايا الدم الحمراء وخلايا الصفائح الدموية. في هذا المختبر نستطيع أن نبتن تحيلاً دم المريض ونعزف الطبيب المعالج ما إذا كان المريض يعاني من مرض النزف الدموي (الهيموفيليا) أو إذا كان المريض يحتاج للأسبرين لعلاج خلل ما في قدرة دمه على التجلط.

«عند أول نظرة على حزمة الدم تحت الميكروسكوب نستطيع أن نأول ما إذا كانت الحزمة غليظة أو رقيقة يعني من جسم المريض فقر الدم (الأنيميا) أو سرطان الدم (اللوكيميا)، ونستطيع أيضاً أن نعزف نوع المرض في الدقائق»

Hematology is the science of the physiology of the blood cells (white, red, and platelets). We also determine how well the patient blood clots, and help the doctor tell if the patient has hemophilia or that needs to take aspirin for a clotting disorder.

"One look at the blood smear and I can tell if the patient is normal, or has anemia, or leukemia, and I also identify the type of each of them."

بنك الدم Blood Bank

إذا كنت تحتاج للدم فلنا الشخص الذي يجد لك الكيس الذي يطابق دمك. نحن نحدد تطابق دم المتبرع والمتخذ له باستخدام أحدث التقنيات للفحوصات المناعية؛ وهذه الفحوصات معقدة، ولا تقتصر على تحديد الفئة الدموية (سائلة أو موجبة). ففي عام 2015 قمنا في مختبر المستشفى الأميري بما لا يقل عن 6100 فحص تطابق للدم و4044 عملية نقل دم.

«نحن نحرص على أن تكون عملية نقل الدم كل سريعة ودائمة»

If you need blood, I'll be the one to find you a perfect match. We determine the compatibility between donor blood and transfusion recipient using up-to-date immunologic technology, and it is more complicated than just ABO and Rh. In 2015, we had 6,100 patients for blood cross matching procedures, and 4,544 blood units transfused.

"We make sure your blood transfusion is both safe and fast."

In Brief

OIL PRICE UP

KUWAIT: The price for Kuwaiti oil went up Friday by \$1.04 to settle at \$42.88 per barrel (pb) after being at \$41.84 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Cooperation (KPC) said yesterday. In the global market, prices also went down after a hiked US dollar encouraged investors to sell. The Brent mix price was down nine cents to settle at \$48.72 pb, a similar case was with the American crude; down 41 cents, to settle at \$47.75 pb. — KUNA



BILLBOARDS BANNED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality warned against placing billboards without a license on roads, roundabouts and open yards to advertise, make greetings or for any other purposes. Legal actions will be taken against violators of Kuwait Municipality's regulations in this regard, the Public Relations Department said in a statement.



FINALS UNDERWAY

By Meshaal Al-Ezezi

KUWAIT: Grade 12 students of both the arts and science streams will start their final exams today to conclude the school year 2015-2016, said Capital educational area director Badriya Al-Khaldi, noting that all Capital schools are fully prepared for the exams. Khaldi added that 1,587 arts students and 1,626 science students would sit for the exams in the Capital governorate.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A picture taken from the desert in Kuwait showing the sun sets into the horizon. — KUNA



MEDICAL, FOOD PROGRAM FOR DUTERTE A SUCCESS

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A successful thanksgiving, medical and food program was held on Friday at the Philippine Embassy in Hateen. The event, organized by the OFW Aguilas Movement sa Kuwait, was held in support of Philippine president-elect Rodrigo Duterte's programs, especially to achieve unity and change. Duterte's new government will assume office on June 30.

The highlights of the program were the food and gift giving and medical missions, made possible by Tag Cargo owner Marivic Paradero, who coordinated the three Filipino and an Arab doctors - Dr Emilia Zapanta, Dr Cristina Cura, Dr Aileen Basuil and Dr Sameh Aziz, to address the medical needs of Filipina runaway housemaids.

The four doctors examined around 150 maids at the shelter and gave medical advice and prescriptions. A brief lecture was conducted by Carolynne B Paggabao, a nurse from Sabah Hospital. The nurses also gave hygiene kits to all the housemaids at the shelter. After the program, OFW Aguilas Movement sa Kuwait shared sumptuous food with them.

The maids also enjoyed singing and parlor games hosted by dynamic duo Raymund Recamadas and Kathrina Perea from TFC and Pinoy Arabia FM. "This is another proof of our commitment to support our new leader Rodrigo Duterte. This would not be possible without the support of everyone in the group, and I thank them and our sponsors," said Eric 'Neptune' Cajés, OFW Aguilas Movement President.

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MOTION & EMOTION



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الجريدة Al-Jarida

KUWAITI FOOTBALL MYSTERY

By Dr Hassan Abdullah Jouhar

FIFA's decision to suspend Kuwait's sports activities in international soccer was not surprising or sudden, despite Kuwait's sports diplomacy's retreat to its worst since the independence. Only 12 out of 179 countries, ie only seven percent of international voters, voted for lifting the suspension. The decision recently made at FIFA's meeting in Mexico is a continuation of suspending Kuwaiti sport activities that has been in effect for years with the excuse that Kuwaiti sports laws contradict with international federations and the International Olympic Committee's laws and covenants. This threat will surely remain if sports remain politicized in Kuwait.

Out of the principle of 'opportunity makes the thief', FIFA's negative attitude towards Kuwait was utilized to drain some sums during a time of financial austerity by sending a sports delegation on first class flights including people who know nothing about sports to Mexico, hoping they would convince member states of Kuwait's view, and these endless sums only resulted in the majority, including our GCC brothers, voting against us!

Political profiteering of some lawmakers was clearly manifested in very angry statements they made expressing sadness and regrets for depriving our youth from playing with the great! They even threatened to stop aid or even go as far as halt diplomatic relations with the 'rejecting' countries. Our distinguished parliament and its do-nothing priorities committee did not even think of reviewing sports legislations or even listing them on its priorities agenda since it came to power, because they are only after reducing the privileges Kuwaitis get, increasing fuel prices, imposing taxes and fees, passing security agreements and selling what is ever left of Kuwait's resources and property. They have no time to consider youth aspirations and concerns.

Everyone including young and old, sportsmen and non-sportsmen, highly educated and simple people all know for sure that Kuwait's sports issue is the result of a limited personal conflict of no more than two people. Everybody knows that using sports for political reasons would bring the highest gains and facilitate dominance and power. Sport has become the easiest and shortest way to achieve political gains and as long as we remain in this 'bone-breaking' phase, our youth will go on playing football only in open yards in their neighborhoods with the utmost ambition to play in the Roudhan Tournament during Ramadan.

Kuwait's sport has deteriorated and our national football team is now ranked 126 worldwide and last in GCC states, but this is all but an indicator of the general deterioration in all fields, including politics, economy, development, culture and arts, which can all be resolved by the government if only it decides to do so. It was funny how our government was smart and wise enough to pass the one-vote election system and blow out all opposition, while it failed to get more than 12 countries to vote for it at an international sports convention!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



التحسس

Al-Qabas

THE AMBASSADOR'S MISSION

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

An ambassador's mission is not limited to representing his head of state and people in the country he is sent to and care for his government's interests and fellow citizens needs in that country. He is also supposed to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the people of the two countries. But some of our ambassadors abroad, particularly in important countries, are not at the required level in my opinion, but that is another story.

As opposed to those problematic ambassadors, there are several citizens here in Kuwait who carry out the mission of being ambassadors for their country without costing the state one fil, despite the magnificent job they are doing. Their activities have a positive effect that cannot be ignored in strengthening friendship ties between Kuwaiti people and the people of tens of other countries, by caring for their ambassadors, either by presenting and orienting them with the local society and customs, or through making them feel as if they did not leave their countries and did not come to an unwelcoming environment.

These ambassadors who are not ambassadors search for every new ambassador and move towards him when they find him ready and leaning towards being socially active. They invite him to their homes, and host him in their chalets, and care for him during his mission. Among those ambassadors who deserve

a medal and appreciation by the Kuwait foreign ministry is the ambassador without an embassy (like the minister without portfolio), businessman Saud Al-Arfaj, whose nights and invitations are not void of tens of ambassadors. Also, the other ambassador who is not an ambassador who deserves special recognition by the state is engineer Sabah Al-Rayes, who is no less a celebratory in welcoming ambassadors than his colleague Saud. Rayes' musical events and his dinners always have an ambassador without discrimination, as all receive the same care and welcome from him.

As we speak about Kuwait's ambassadors in Kuwait, it is worth saying that one of the best European ambassadors here is the Greek ambassador Theodoros J Theodorou, who went out of the way in all his relations and entered the hearts of many, as he entered their homes, and his role in promoting his country became an example. He is among the distinguished ambassadors who cannot be forgotten easily, as their imprints on relations and activities will remain in our memory for a long time. He was very able during his three-year posting, which we hope will be renewed. He did the most difficult jobs out of his love for his job and country, as well as his values, history and Greek heritage, so a big salute to this fantastic ambassador.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



ABK PARTICIPATES IN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING'S DESIGN EXHIBITION

UWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its participation in the 30th College of Engineering's Design Exhibition at Kuwait University (KU), which was held on 18 and 19 May, 2016 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

ABK reinforced its active role in supporting Kuwait's youth and the education sector by sponsoring six different projects exhibited by graduating students. The Bank's Corporate Communications team attended the exhibition and toured the different projects as the students presented their work. ABK is committed to supporting students and encouraging them to maximize their potential. The

Bank strongly believes that the role these students will play in the future of Kuwait is invaluable and it is a duty to support them through the most critical phases of their education and to show them the options they have, in terms of career choice.

ABK continuously supports students through the Bank's 'ABK Academy', which focuses on developing students banking skills and equips them with the necessary training to prepare them for the work place. 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 18998999.

FAMILY, COMMERCIAL VISIT VISA EXTENSIONS NEXT WEEK: MAARAFI

RESIDENCY CARDS TO REPLACE PASSPORT STICKERS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) is currently considering a new project involving issuing a residency card instead of residency stickers affixed on expats' passports, said Major General Talal Maarafi, Director of the ministry's Residency Affairs Department. He added that the new card would include all information about sponsors and holders and would be given on getting or renewing residency visas.

Responding to a question about Kuwaiti sponsors withholding expats' passports, Maarafi said that once the new card is in use, sponsors would be banned from retaining passports. "This way, passport pages will not be used up by residency stickers in a short time," he underlined.

Asked about extending commercial and family visit visas, Maarafi said that extensions would start next week after new extension



Major General Talal Maarafi

rubberstamps arrive in order to avoid using stickers as well. However, Maarafi said that extensions would only be given for special cases with valid reasons because expats should immediately leave once their one- or three-month visit visas expire.

Moreover, Maarafi said Yemeni and Syrian expats would be allowed to stay out of Kuwait for over six months without cancellation of their residency visas on condition that the visas remain valid and holders or their legal representatives apply for 'absence permission'.

Maarafi also announced that the Capital immigration department located in Shuwaikh would be relocated to the former Hawally immigration department building overlooking the Jawazat Roundabout in Salmiya within two months pending the construction of a new building within two years. — Al-Rai

Crime

Report

47 arrested around airport

KUWAIT: Police officers at Kuwait International Airport arrested 47 people wanted for various cases, said security sources, noting that the suspects were arrested during a security inspection campaign in the airport's parking spaces and surrounding areas. The sources added that detectives examined 230 persons' IDs and found that 47 of them were wanted for forgery, theft, slander, assault and hit-and-runs.

Teens fight at airport

Four juvenile citizens were arrested at Kuwait airport after engaging in a fight. Security sources said the fight started when one of the boys made fun of another's haircut.

Passenger interrogated

A citizen was arrested at Kuwait airport for suspiciously cancelling his trip only half an hour prior to his flight's departure to a GCC state, said security sources. The man had booked his flight two days earlier and after going past the passport counter, he asked to cancel his trip and return to Kuwait. The suspect was interrogated by airport detectives and held until the flight safely reached its destination.

Fireman fired

A fireman who was recently fired was arrested for charging at his superiors at the Kuwait Fire Services Directorate's (KFSD) building in Salhiya, shouting and demanding to know why he was sacked. Security sources said the man turned out to be wanted for a KD 9,000 financial claim and that he had been fired because he had not been showing up to work regularly.

Indecent acts

A Kuwaiti couple was arrested while committing indecent acts in a vehicle parked in an open yard near the Ice Skating Rink, said security sources. They were taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Bank forgery

An Indian man reported that an unidentified person transferred KD 200 from his bank account to his own through online transactions. A forgery case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Drugs arrest

Two persons, Kuwaiti and Saudi were arrested in Farwaniya with 43 illicit pills and six packets of meth, said security sources. They were taken to the Drug Control General Department to face charges. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

News

in brief

SCPD assesses workers' demographical effect

KUWAIT: The Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) requested from all state departments to provide the number of laborers working on developmental projects that each department is currently implementing. The SCPD wants to know the workers' numbers in order to establish a better idea about the volume of laborers executing developmental projects and assess their effect on Kuwait's demographical structure, informed sources said. — Al-Anbaa

Charity controls

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is working on a new law for charity organizations that gives top priority for local charitable works while introducing tougher penalties for violators; which currently stands at a KD 50 fine. Out of 21 organizations in Kuwait, only 15 are allowed to collect donations during Ramadan. — Al-Anbaa

Border farms

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) received on Friday a 18,900-kilometers-long border fence located at the southern area of Al-Wafra. New farms will be established in the border area after the old fence is removed in order to increase local production and boost the country's food security efforts, PAAAFR chairman Faisal Al-Hasawi said. — Al-Qabas

Forged certificates

KUWAIT: Investigations are ongoing in search for a Kuwaiti man sentenced to seven years in prison for selling hundreds of forged academic certificates. The public prosecution is currently questioning 300 high school graduates accused of paying the suspect to receive their forged certificates, sources said, adding that 80 percent have so far been sent for trial. — Al-Qabas



KUWAIT: Salah Al-Fulaij, NBK CEO - Kuwait, and NBK officials in a group picture with NBK Academy new graduates.

NBK CELEBRATES GRADUATION OF 15TH BATCH OF NBK ACADEMY

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) celebrated the graduation of the fifteenth batch of newly hired young Kuwaitis from NBK Academy. NBK Academy aims to train and develop the professional skills of young Kuwaitis as part of NBK's strategy to attract and develop national human resources.

NBK organized a special ceremony for the graduation of the newly hired young Kuwaitis. Salah Al-Fulaij, NBK CEO - Kuwait, attended the ceremony along

with other NBK officials. NBK Academy is the first initiative of its kind in the private sector in Kuwait and is part of NBK's strategy to attract young Kuwaitis by offering them a range of career and professional development opportunities. NBK Academy programs run for four months and specially tailored to provide trainees with theoretical and practical skills covering the different aspects of the banking industry.

NBK maintains its leading position as

one of the country's largest employers in the private sector and is committed to supporting Kuwaiti nationals and empowering them to realize their potentials. Annually, NBK offers many training programs for employees including Shabab program, and the first of its kind NBK High Fliers Program. NBK also organizes executive training programs in line with the bank's commitment to developing and investing in its key resource and human capital.

MPs MAKE 51 RECOMMENDATIONS ON ECONOMIC REFORM PLAN

KUWAIT: The parliament's financial affairs committee has gathered 51 recommendations from various MPs concerning the government's economic reform plan submitted to the parliament on April 13. Informed parliamentary sources said that the recommendations include excluding bodies handling public resources from privatization plans and reorganizing them instead. The recommendations also included exempting the oil

sector from the strategic payroll alternative, stopping waste in oil production and making expats pay for part of the subsidies. According to the MPs, Kuwait's expatriate population of three million allegedly consumes two-thirds of the subsidies. The recommendations also include preparing a comprehensive law on taxes, tax legislations and value added tax, and determining those with low, limited and high income. — Al-Jarida





Foreign aid reaches flooded Sri Lankan capital, 71 dead

DIGNITY ONLY IN DEATH FOR CALAIS' 'JUNGLE' MIGRANTS



SPOKANE, Washington: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump takes a photo with a supporter after a rally. — AP

WHITE WOMEN STILL SKEPTICAL OF TRUMP

SWING STATE SUBURBS REMAIN UNEASY ABOUT BILLIONAIRE

WESTERVILLE: For Donald Trump to win the White House in November, he'll need the votes of women like lifelong Republican Wendy Emery. Yet the 52-year-old from the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio, can't commit to voting for her party's presumptive presidential nominee.

"I'm just disappointed, really disappointed," she said while standing in her arts and crafts shop. She and her circle of friends are "still in shock" over Trump's success and wonder who's voting for him, "because we don't know any of them."

Emery's negative impression of Trump was shared by most of the dozens of white, suburban women from politically important states who were interviewed by The Associated Press this spring. Their views are reflected in opinion polls, such as a recent AP-GfK survey that found 70 percent of women have unfavorable opinions of Trump.

Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign sees that staggering figure as a tantalizing general election opening. While white voters continue to abandon the Democratic Party, small gains with white women could help put likely nominee Clinton over the top if the November election is close. Democrats believe these women could open up opportunities for Clinton in North Carolina, where President Barack Obama struggled with white voters in his narrow loss in the state 2012, and even in Georgia, a Republican stronghold that Democrats

hope to make competitive. Patty Funderburg of Charlotte, North Carolina, voted for Republican Mitt Romney in 2012, but says she's already convinced that Trump won't get her vote. "He's not who I'd want to represent our country," said Funderburg, a 54-year-old mother of three. Trump insists he's "going to do great with women." He's accused Clinton of playing the "woman's card" in her bid to become the first female commander in chief. He's said he will link her aggressively to past indiscretions with women by her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

The businessman also has previewed an argument focused on national security, with echoes of the pitch that President George W. Bush successfully made to white suburban women during his 2004 re-election. "Women want, above all else, they want security," Trump told The Associated Press recently. "They want to have a strong military, they want to have strong borders. They don't want crime." He said "Hillary is viewed poorly on that."

Not so in the AP-GfK poll. About 40 percent of women surveyed said Clinton would be best at protecting the country and handling the threat posed by the Islamic State group, and about 30 percent said Trump. Throughout the primary, Clinton has talked about policies meant to appeal to women: equal pay, expanded child care, paid family and medical leave and more.

And Trump has his own complicated past regarding women and has faced criticism for his actions both in his personal life and at his businesses toward them. He's vigorously defended his treatment of women, as has his daughter Ivanka Trump, who said her father "has total respect for women."

A super political action committee backing Clinton has released its first television advertisements featuring Trump's contentious statements about women. "Does Donald Trump really speak for you?" the super PAC ad asks. For many of the women interviewed, the answer appears to be no.

"He's just a jerk," said Elizabeth Andrus, a registered Republican in Delaware, Ohio, who says she voted twice for Obama. She praised Trump's political skills and argued his business career indicates an intellect and ability that could benefit the nation. But his temperament, she said, is somewhere between "buffoonery" and "complete narcissism."

"It would be like having Putin for president," she added, referring to Russia's sometimes belligerent president, Vladimir Putin. Erin Freedman, a 38-year-old from Reston, Virginia, said Trump "scars the crap out of me." While she's an enthusiastic backer of Clinton's primary rival, Bernie Sanders, she said she'd have no problem backing the former secretary of state against Trump in a general election. — AP

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RAJASTHAN TRIES COPING WITH RECORD HEAT WAVE

NEW DELHI: Authorities in a parched western Indian state sprinkled water in the streets and awaited the arrival of a special water train yesterday, two days after temperatures reached a record-high 51 degrees Celsius.

Several hospitals in the desert state of Rajasthan, which has been hit worst by a heat wave that has spread to many parts of India, have set aside beds to treat heatstroke victims. Television video Saturday showed heatstroke patients being wheeled in on stretchers, with paramedics covering them with ice packs and pouring water on them. The main summer months in India - April, May and June - are always excruciatingly hot across most of the country, before monsoon rains bring cooler temperatures.

In Rajasthan yesterday, municipal workers sprinkled water in residential areas of the city of Bikaner and a train filled with 2.5 million liters of water headed toward the town of Bhilwara. Indian media reported 16 deaths in Rajasthan, where nearly 17,000 villages in 19 of 33 districts were facing water shortages.

The India Meteorological Department said that maximum temperatures will likely fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius in Rajasthan next week. But no significant change is expected in northern India. The blistering heat also is sweeping across large parts of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, with six deaths reported there in the past

month. On Thursday, the city of Philodi in Rajasthan state suffered through the country's highest recorded temperature - 51 C. India's meteorological department said the previous high was 50.6 C, reached in 1956 in the city of Alwar, also in Rajasthan.

Heatstroke has claimed 109 lives in southern Andhra Pradesh state, where pre-monsoon showers have broken the hot spell, a state government statement said. The intense heat wave in western Gujarat state has claimed 17 lives this month, with temperatures touching 48 C. Officials have shut schools in several states, including Rajasthan, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, to protect children from the heat wave.

Authorities have issued a list of precautions, urging people to stay indoors, shun unnecessary travel in the sun, increase intake of water and seek medical attention if they feel the symptoms of heatstroke. Authorities issued a severe heat wave alert for the weekend in Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of the central state of Madhya Pradesh. That means the areas can expect temperatures of at least 47 C. The monsoon normally hits southern India in the first week of June and covers the rest of the nation within a month. It is especially eagerly awaited this year because several parts of the country are reeling under a drought brought on by two years of weak rains. — AP



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MORE THAN 60,000 DEAD IN SYRIA REGIME PRISONS

BEIRUT: More than 60,000 people have died in Syrian government prisons over the past five years from torture or due to dire humanitarian conditions, including a lack of food, a monitor said yesterday. The head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group, Rami Abdel Rahman, said he compiled the toll from regime sources.

"Since March 2011, at least 60,000 people lost their lives to torture or to

horrible conditions, notably the lack of medication or food, in regime detention centers," Abdel Rahman told AFP. He said the highest number of deaths had been recorded in the infamous Saydnaya prison as well as detention centres run by Syria's notorious air force intelligence and state security forces.

Thousands of prisoners are held in the military-run Saydnaya prison, one of the country's largest detention centre

located 30 kilometers north of Damascus. Rights groups have accused Syria's government of systematically using torture and inhumane practices in its detention centres.

A UN probe in February accused the Syrian government of a policy of "extermination" in its jails. The Britain-based Observatory says it has compiled a list of 14,456 names including 110 children who have died in regime prisons.

According to Abdel Rahman, government forces have arrested a total of 500,000 people since Syria's conflict erupted in 2011.

While some have been released and others died, the whereabouts of thousands of detainees remain unknown. Abdel Rahman also said that "several thousand people" have died while being held by rebel groups and jihadist factions like the Islamic State group.

In early 2014, a regime defector calling himself "Caesar" smuggled out of Syria some 55,000 photographs depicting the tortured and abused bodies of around 11,000 people who had reportedly died in Syrian jails during the first two years of the conflict. Earlier this month, the UN special envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura named Eva Svoboda to oversee progress on the issue of detainees. —AFP

LEBANESE CHARITY SAYS UNFAIRLY HIT BY US ANTI-HEZBOLLAH LAW

BEIRUT: A Lebanese charity network run by a Shiite Muslim cleric said it had been unfairly caught up in new US financial sanctions against Hezbollah, accusing Lebanese banks of applying the restrictions too widely. The US act passed in December threatens to punish any organization providing significant finance to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, deemed a terrorist organization by Washington.

The Mabarrat foundation told Reuters that some Lebanese banks, scared of risking international isolation, had frozen some of its accounts, even though it had no political affiliation. The foundation was established by the late Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, a top authority in Shiite Islam who was an early mentor to Hezbollah but later distanced himself from its ties to Iran. He died in 2010. Sayyed Ali Fadlallah, his son, declined to say which bank or banks had frozen the accounts. "The foundation's name was not mentioned in this law ... what is happening now are precautionary measures taken by some institutions that are dealing with this matter far removed from the accuracy required to ensure no one is done an injustice," Fadlallah told Reuters in an interview on Friday.

The foundation generates funding through individual donations and a network of businesses including hotels, restaurants and petrol stations. "We felt from our meeting with some of the banks that they

are afraid and wanted to take precautions that were greater than necessary," said Fadlallah, whose charities include schools, hospitals and orphanages.

'A wide rift'

The US Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act has ignited an unprecedented dispute between Hezbollah, Lebanon's most powerful group, and the central bank. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has criticized the central bank for agreeing to measures it deems as part of a war against it.

The organization has said the law will lead to "a wide rift" between Lebanese citizens and the banks, suggesting many Shiites would stop dealing with banks for fear of being sanctioned. The central bank has said the US law must be applied to avoid the international isolation of Lebanon's banking sector.

Central bank governor Riad Salameh said in a May 17 statement that banks that intended to close accounts of individuals or organizations considered to be in breach of the US law must provide justification for that decision, and wait for a response from a central bank committee. Since 2001, the United States has put more than 100 individuals and entities affiliated with Hezbollah onto sanctions lists under existing anti-terrorism funding legislation, but the new law is aimed at Hezbollah specifically. —Reuters

GEORGE P: CAN A BUSH SURVIVE IN A TRUMP POLITICAL WORLD?

DALLAS: George P Bush was talking about his future political plans - and how Donald Trump wouldn't reshape them - when two women approached, giddy with excitement. They wanted pictures with a man whose photogenic smile once landed him on People magazine's most-eligible bachelors list. Up close, though, they saw something unexpected.

"You look like your dad," Ruth Ann Pratt, a retired college math teacher from Lake Jackson, near Houston, finally exclaimed. "You turn slightly to the side, and you ARE your dad." Bush only smiled. These days, being associated with his father, former Florida Gov Jeb Bush, may not be such a great thing. Eighteen months after he was elected Texas land commissioner and a few weeks past his 40th birthday, Bush is quietly continuing his family's legacy. The grandson of one former president and nephew of another, he remains a rising star in America's largest conservative state and is keeping alive the possibility that a political dynasty declared dead by many when his dad flamed out of the presidential race could yet again return to national prominence.

Ultimate outsider

What remains to be seen, though, is if a third George Bush can survive in a political world turned upside down by Trump - where Republican primary voters overwhelmingly have embraced the ultimate outsider who promises to smash the political establishment the Bushes embodied for decades. "Regardless of what comes at me, I'll be prepared," Bush said of the possibility his last name has shifted from GOP royalty to a liability.

In an interview during the recent Texas Republican Convention in Dallas, Bush said that, like his father, grandfather and uncle, he isn't endorsing Trump or attending the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. Bush said he was part of a national conservative movement concerned about Trump's candidacy. "He has the ability to win us over if he clarifies many of his remarks and he demonstrates that he has humility and that he doesn't besmirch peoples' character as the motivating factor for why he's running for office," Bush said. Pointing to his own sons, ages 1 and 3, he added: "I want them to be able to look at the Oval Office and see the presi-

dential seal and say, 'That is somebody who I look up to.' Trump says being shunned by the Bushes proves he's not beholden to Washington powerbrokers. And Bush's hesitation to embrace Trump hasn't appeared to cost him much in Texas and beyond - at least not yet. Joe Brettell, a former GOP congressional staffer now based in Houston said "George P. has one of the brightest political futures in the country."

Republican radar

"He is absolutely on any smart Republican's radar," Brettell said. "When the party begins to rebuild after Trump, Marco Rubio and George P Bush will be two people that they look at as a blueprint for potential good times ahead." Bush said he's not worried since "I believe that Texas is unique and its politics are separate from what's happening nationally."

"This isn't a smaller state where potentially there's more consolidation behind another candidate," he said. Texas' GOP establishment has long seen Bush, whose mother was born in Mexico and who speaks fluent Spanish, as a potential powerhouse - especially for Hispanics, who will become the state's majority population by around 2030.

The land commissioner's office has sometimes led to better-known posts. It's hard to imagine Bush challenging Texas' popular and ideologically similar Gov. Greg Abbott, in a 2018 Republican primary. But Bush, an attorney, could be a favorite in the state's race for attorney general. Texas's current attorney general, Republican Ken Paxton, is facing felony securities fraud indictments that may complicate the re-election bid he's vowing to mount in two years.

Bush, however, says he has "every intention of running again for the General Land Office, but my priorities right now require my focus to be on the here and the now." His agency oversees the state's publicly held land, roughly 13 million acres, and administers mineral rights leases to oil and gas companies, which has generated nearly \$17 billion for public schools.

Still, in speeches, Bush is quick to mention national issues. Addressing Texas' Republican Convention, he offered a message directly to President Barack Obama and Democratic presidential front runner Hillary Clinton. —AP



BAGHDAD: Mourners carry the Iraqi flag-draped coffins of two protesters killed in the protests outside Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone on Friday, during their funeral procession. — AFP

IRAQ BORDER WITH JORDAN TO OPEN AFTER YEAR OF CLOSURE

BORDER PROVINCE FALLEN TO ISLAMIC STATE EXTREMISTS

AMMAN: Iraq's border crossing with Jordan is expected to open in about two weeks, after an almost year-long closure, allowing for a resumption of vital trade and a return of Iraqi refugees, an Iraqi diplomat said yesterday.

Iraq had closed the crossing in July because large areas of the border province of Anbar had fallen to Islamic State extremists. But since its rapid expansion in 2014, IS has lost territory in Anbar in recent months, most recently the town of Rutba. The capture of Rutba by the Iraqi army this week cleared the way for reopening the Trebil crossing, but security forces need time to clear explosives planted by the extremists, said the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan, Safia Al-Souhail.

Rutba is located about 90 miles from the border, on the Jordan-Iraq trade route that links Amman and Baghdad, the respective capitals of the two countries. "We are expecting the open-

ing of the borders in no longer than two weeks' time," the ambassador said. "It might be less, it might be a little bit more, but this is the time frame that we have been informed about."

Opening soon

In closing the border last year, Iraq said it wanted to deprive IS militants of taxes they impose on cargo trucks driving through the area. The closure dealt a blow to Jordan, with exports to Iraq dropping from \$1.16 billion in 2014 to \$690 million in 2015. Pro-Western Jordan is part of a US-led military coalition against IS, which still controls large areas of both Syria and Iraq.

"We hope that the crossing will open sooner than later, because it is of crucial benefit to both Iraq and Jordan," said Jordanian government spokesman Mohammed Momani. Still, it is

unclear if opening the crossing will automatically lead to the resumption of land trade.

The Iraq military may not be able to secure the long desert highway from IS counterattacks that could discourage truck drivers and business people who once used the route. The vast deserts on the fringes of Anbar province, traditionally used by smugglers, were out of government control for years, even before the IS takeover of some of the territory.

In yesterday's announcement, the Iraqi ambassador said she also hopes an opening of the border will bring back large numbers of Iraqis from Anbar who sought refuge in Jordan after the initial IS land grabs. However, booby-traps set by the extremists might slow any return. In Anbar's capital, Ramadi, several dozen returnees were killed by such explosives after the Iraqi army retook the city. —AP

ISTANBUL SUMMIT SEEKS TO TRANSFORM AID RESPONSE

ISTANBUL: Global leaders and key NGOs gather in Istanbul tomorrow for an unprecedented UN-backed summit aimed at transforming the world's response to humanitarian crises; despite skepticism the talks will have little impact. With an estimated 60 million people displaced around the world and conflict and climate change posing a growing risk, there is widespread agreement among governments and aid groups that the current humanitarian system is in desperate need of an overhaul.

The two-day summit aims to establish a set of "concrete actions and commitments" that would help countries better prepare to fight crises, lay out a new global approach to manage forced displacement, and secure dependable financing to respond to such situations. But participants will need to overcome deep skepticism about the summit's ability to realize its ambitious agenda, and not turn into yet another international talking shop with good intentions but zero outcome. Medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has pulled out of the event, fearing it could be a "fig leaf" for a lack of global action. The choice of Istanbul is symbolic, with Turkey itself hosting at least 2.7 million of the estimated 4.84 million refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria. If delegates step outside the metal security barriers separating the luxury venue from the outside world, they will see the desperate faces of Syrian refugees begging and selling low-value goods on many Istanbul street corners.

'System failing profoundly'

But with 60 world leaders due to attend including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, participants hope the summit will at least start to make a difference. "Expectations for the summit have gradually reduced. We still have the feeling there is a lot of good faith going into Istanbul. We also have a restricted view of what is possible to achieve," said Rob Williams, chief executive of charity War Child, which supports and protects children around the world affected by conflict.

"The number of people in the world who real-

ly understand how the world humanitarian system is failing is really small," he told AFP in a telephone interview. "If that number of people increases during the summit then that would have been worth it. But I think we are in the early days of the world being honest with itself."

He said the current humanitarian system was "failing children quite profoundly" and the summit had to come up with "concrete agreements" to punish war crimes, improve education of children and protect their welfare in camps.

Turkey, which has spent some \$10 billion in hosting the Syrian refugees and repeatedly complained of the West's failure to shoulder the burden, is emphasizing the importance of the summit and has set up Olympic Games-style countdown clocks around the city.

UN Secretary General Ban has described the event as a "singular opportunity" to show that "we will not accept the erosion of humanity which we see in the world today." "History will judge us by how we use this opportunity," he said last month. "Less bureaucracy, fewer overheads" - Kerem Kinik, the chairman of the Turkish Red Crescent, said the summit needed to be a

"milestone" for updating the humanitarian relief system and setting development targets.

"We are expecting less bureaucracy from the humanitarian system. The system must empower the local actors - the small actors, in the local areas, who are facing directly the humanitarian crises." "The structure must empower these small and medium-sized NGOs through localization," he added, calling for a more sustainable financial system with fewer overheads.

The credibility of the event was dealt a blow by the decision to pull out by MSF, who lamented the summit's agenda failed to reinforce the obligations of states to uphold humanitarian law and that any commitments made would be non-binding. Sandrine Tiller, MSF's program advisor on humanitarian issues, told AFP that the current global humanitarian system was "bureaucratic and risk-averse" and the summit risked making no difference to people suffering from conflicts in places like Syria and Yemen. "The current content and format of the summit make it difficult to see it as more than a gathering which will state good intentions but not make any real change." — AFP



DALLAS: Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush waves to delegates before speaking at the Texas Republican Convention. — AP



ISTANBUL: United Nations security personnel, left and Turkish armed forces officers, right, attend a flag raising ceremony, marking the opening of business at the World Humanitarian Summit. — AP

NEW SAN FRANCISCO POLICE CHIEF INHERITS CITY DIVIDED BY RACE

SAN FRANCISCO: First, police fatally shot two minority suspects carrying knives. Then transcripts surfaced showing officers using racial slurs in text messages. Finally, a young black woman was shot dead as police tried to pull her from a stolen car. The woman's shooting death Thursday was the tipping point for San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who forced Police Chief Greg Suhr to step down after months of mounting pressure.

The new chief inherits the daunting task of turning around a troubled department in a city deeply divided by race - and doing it fast. "Reforms, reforms, reforms," acting Police Chief Toney Chaplin said Friday when asked about his priorities. Chaplin, who is black, is a 26-year veteran of the department. Until Thursday, he was a deputy chief in charge of implementing Suhr's reforms. Previously, Chaplin was a lieutenant in charge of homicide investigations.

The 47-year-old Oklahoma native said he intends to carry on with plans to equip officers with body cameras. "It's not going to solve everything, but it will give us

another look at what's happening, hopefully from the officer's perspective," Chaplin said. He said he will also continue to push for several reforms aimed at cutting down on the number of officer shootings, such as giving suspects armed with knives "time and distance" to surrender rather than having officers pull their guns and shoot.

'Much work to do'

Police Commission President Suzy Loftus said Chaplin "is not going to skip a step" in implementing changes because of his position before he was appointed chief. Chaplin's appointment is on an interim basis. The commission is in charge of forwarding a short list of three candidates to the mayor. Chaplin said he isn't thinking yet about the permanent position.

"There's too much work to do," he said. The mayor appointed him Thursday, the same day the previous chief stepped down. He already has the support of the NAACP and the police officer's union. Chaplin "has the charisma, chemistry and courage to lead this department," said Rev Amos Brown, president of the San



SAN FRANCISCO: The new acting SFPD Chief Toney Chaplin stands beside San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee (not pictured) during a press conference at City Hall. — AP

Francisco chapter of the NAACP. The mayor said the department is still expected to plow ahead with announced changes. "I will hold the acting chief and the department to a high standard of

urgency," Lee said. The mayor accepted Suhr's resignation hours after a young black woman driving a stolen car was fatally shot by a sergeant. The unidentified sergeant and another officer were

struggling to pull the woman from the moving car, which had seconds before slammed into a parked utility truck.

She was identified Friday by the medical examiner as Jessica Williams, 29. It was the third fatal shooting of an unarmed minority suspect since five officers shot to death a young black man carrying a knife in December. That shooting was captured on video and circulated widely online. It appeared to contradict Suhr's initial assertion that the suspect menaced officers with the knife before they opened fire. The video and Suhr's initial statement prompted protests and calls for his resignation. Those calls intensified in April, when police shot and killed a homeless Latino man who was also carrying a knife. Several days later, transcripts that showed three officers exchanging racist and homophobic text messages were released. It was the second such texting scandal to rock the department since late 2014, when the public learned that eight officers had also exchanged inappropriate messages ridiculing minority suspects and using slurs. — AP

SANDERS DELEGATES BRACE FOR PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION FIGHT

DENVER: Gabriel McArthur is heading to the Democratic National Convention in July to serve as a delegate for Bernie Sanders. Screaming and shouting are a distinct possibility from the Sanders camp at the event, he says.

McArthur and other Sanders supporters are approaching the gathering with the enthusiasm that has powered the effort from the start - holding garage sales, delivering pizza and raising money online to pay for their travel to Philadelphia. But their nerves are raw now over the Democratic Party's perceived slights against the insurgent candidate and they are clinging to a bygone hope that Sanders can wrest the nomination from Hillary Clinton despite her overpowering lead in delegates.

As these super-fans chant "Bernie or bust," Democratic officials are growing increasingly worried about dissent, especially after a recent state convention in Nevada turned raucous. Some of the Sanders backers who are going to the convention as delegates for him - and there are more than 1,400 - give party officials little reason for comfort.

Civil disobedience

"I don't think we're going to see a lot of violence, but we are going to see some screaming and shouting if the DNC doesn't humanize itself," McArthur, a 24-year-old administrative assistant in suburban Denver, said of the Democratic National Committee. "A little civil disobedience is OK. It's part of being an American."

Sanders delegates, in more than a half-dozen interviews, say that while violence is not their goal for Philadelphia, party unity isn't their priority, either. They don't believe he has been treated fairly by the party establishment. "Anything can happen," said Jessica Marie Butler, 25, a Sanders delegate from Hawarden, Iowa, who volunteers for the campaign and is raising money on gofundme.com for her trip to Philadelphia. "This is a movement. This is a political revolution. It's getting people involved in the process. We're going to stick to it."

Clinton only needs 90 more delegates to lock up the presidential nomination, a number she's likely to reach June 7, the final major day of primary voting. She now leads Sanders by nearly 300 delegates won in primaries and caucuses, an advantage that grows when including superdelegates, or party officials who can back any candidate. Most of them, by far, say they will support Clinton.

Still, Sanders has shown no interest in letting up, despite concerns of many Clinton supporters that he is undermining her as Republicans coalesce around Donald Trump. Many Sanders delegates don't want him to give up, either. JoAnn Fujioka, a Sanders delegate from Denver, said she didn't approve of the chaos in Nevada, where Sanders supporters shouted down speakers. The state party chairwoman later received death threats and thousands of angry phone calls. Fujioka says Sanders supporters are deter-

mined, but idealistic and optimistic.

"We should do whatever we can to get him nominated," she said. "We are in it to win it - as Bernie is." Without acknowledging the reality that the nomination is essentially out of reach, the Sanders campaign has signaled it will agitate for changes in the party's platform and procedures, which could also disrupt the convention. The DNC began discussing composition of the committee that would draft the initial platform this week, assuring both the Clinton and Sanders campaigns they'd be fairly represented.

Superdelegates

Sanders supporters want the Vermont senator's priorities, like a \$15 minimum wage and stricter banking regulations, included in the platform, an agenda that is not binding on the nominee. They also want changes in how elections are run, criticizing superdelegates and restrictions on primary voting.

Ingrid Olson, 38, a Sanders delegate from Council Bluffs, Iowa, said: "I think open primaries should be available everywhere. I also believe in restorative rights for felons. I don't agree with superdelegates unless superdelegates are going to follow the will of the people." The acrimony has reached such a pitch that several Sanders delegates say they don't know if they can ever back Clinton.

"I don't see any scenario where I would support her at the convention," said David Johnson, 50, a delegate from West Branch, Iowa. But in the general election? "It's a hard call for me. Nobody wants to see that insane Trump guy win." He said it's a "ridiculous argument" to say Sanders delegates should stand down to avoid weakening Clinton in the fall.

"This is a competition," he said. "Bernie Sanders isn't running to prop up Hillary Clinton. He's running to win." Some Sanders delegates don't want to go too far. "No matter who the nominee is, we have to unite," said Euell Santistevan Jr., 20, of suburban Denver. But Cleo Dioletis, from Denver, said the Nevada blow-up showed how far the party establishment would go to silence Sanders' supporters. "I am very concerned that credentials could be pulled for unjust causes," he said.

Ashley Wolthuis, a realtor in Ogden, Utah, said worries have increased sharply among her fellow Sanders delegates after Nevada. And she said Sanders supporters feel short-changed by the few slots the Democratic National Committee gave them on the standing committees that will govern how the convention operates.

Wolthuis said she was appalled at the chaos in Nevada. But, as a former Libertarian Party member who became a Democrat because of Sanders' focus on overhauling money in politics, she's not worried about a Sanders-led push causing Democrats heartburn. "Hillary didn't inspire me to join the Democratic Party, Bernie did, so it's hard for me to not imagine following Bernie wherever he goes," Wolthuis said. — AP



LOUISVILLE: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at the National Rifle Association convention. — AP

AT NRA, TRUMP CRITICIZES CLINTON FOR 'HEARTLESS' GUN RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP CALLS FOR ENDING 'GUN-FREE ZONES'

LOUISVILLE: Donald Trump on Friday slammed Hillary Clinton as "heartless" for backing restrictions on gun ownership that he said would leave Americans in high-crime areas unable to protect themselves. He also challenged Clinton to follow his lead and release a list of potential Supreme Court nominees.

Trump's remarks came at the National Rifle Association convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The gun rights organization endorsed the presumptive Republican nominee ahead of his remarks, despite Trump's previous support for measures like an assault weapons ban that the NRA vigorously opposes. The businessman has taken a far less restrictive stance on guns during the Republican presidential primary. His call for ending "gun-free zones" across the country was enthusiastically welcomed by the NRA crowd.

'Vulnerable Americans'

Trump centered his remarks on Clinton, claiming she would seek to "abolish" the Second Amendment through the Supreme Court and release violent criminals if elected president. He also called her "Heartless Hillary" - a new nickname from the branding expert for the likely Democratic nominee - for backing restrictions aimed at reducing gun deaths, saying her proposals would instead leave law-abiding citizens exposed to criminals.

"She's putting the most vulnerable Americans in jeopardy," Trump said. He added that women

in particular would be at risk, a nod to what he's said will be a security-focused appeal to women in the general election.

Trump heads into the fall campaign with stunningly high disapproval ratings with women. The supremely confident Trump appeared to acknowledge that weakness, saying that while his poll numbers with men are strong, "I like women more than men." "Come on women, come on," he said.

Clinton's campaign called Trump's gun policies "radical and dangerous." Senior policy adviser Maya Harris said Clinton believes "there are common-sense steps we can take at the federal level to keep guns out of the hands of criminals while respecting the Second Amendment."

Background checks

Among the measures Clinton supports are expanding background checks to sales at gun shows and online purchases, and reinstating a ban on assault weapons. Trump backed an assault weapons ban, as well as slightly longer waiting periods for gun purchases, in a 2000 book. He's since said such bans don't work and has also called for making it easier for law-abiding citizens to carry guns for self-protection.

On Friday, he reiterated his call for ending "gun-free zones" and touted the list of potential Supreme Court nominees he released this week as a sign of his commitment to upholding the Second Amendment. "I'd like to call for Hillary

Clinton to put together a list also," said Trump, predicting her potential justices would be a "day and night" difference with his. He also said he expects the next president to appoint between three and five justices to the high court.

NRA leaders were blistering in their condemnation of Clinton, accusing her of threatening Americans' freedom and being driven by personal greed. During one speech, an NRA leader briefly played a video showing Clinton barking like a dog.

The organization's leaders were less robust in their endorsement of Trump, mentioning him by name only briefly and saying little about his record on guns. They appeared to acknowledge there may be some reluctance among their members to backing the real estate mogul. Chris Cox, the NRA's chief lobbyist, said that for those who preferred other candidates to Trump, "It's time to get over it."

Since the early primary states, Trump used his sons, Eric and Donald Jr., both avid hunters and outdoorsmen, to connect with the gun community and counteract his father's image as an elite Manhattanite. The pair have visited numerous gun ranges and gone on several hunting trips, often inviting the media along to document their skills. He turned to his sons again Friday as he opened his remarks to NRA members, noting their long association with the group. "They have so many rifles, so many guns that even I get a little concerned," he added. — AP

SECRET SERVICE SHOOTS MAN OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON: A US Secret Service officer shot a man with a gun who approached a checkpoint outside the White House and refused to drop his weapon, the Secret Service said. The White House was briefly placed on a security alert after the Friday afternoon shooting, which happened within view of sightseers as sidewalks were crowded with families, school groups and government workers.

The armed man approached the checkpoint on

E Street shortly after 3 pm, and ignored repeated orders from the officer to drop his gun, according to a statement from David Iacovetti, a Secret Service deputy assistant director. The officer fired one shot at the man and the gun was recovered at the scene, Iacovetti said. The man was transported in critical condition to a nearby hospital, an emergency medical services spokesman said.

President Barack Obama was away playing golf,

but Vice President Joe Biden was in the White House complex and was secured during the lockdown, his office said. The security alert was lifted about an hour later. The gunman never made it inside the White House complex, and no one else was injured, the Secret Service said.

A US law enforcement official said Friday evening that authorities had identified the gunman as Jesse Oliveri of Ashland, Pennsylvania. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to release the information. Federal agents found ammunition inside a Toyota sedan, parked nearby on Constitution Avenue, that the gunman was believed to have driven, the official said.

Sightseer Jenna Noelle of Austin, Texas, said she had just taken a photo of the White House when she noticed a man harassing an agent. Then, "as we were walking away we heard a shot fired, then some people started running away and agents had guns and were evacuating people." "I had a panic attack," she added. "I'm doing OK now, but it was pretty freaky to be right there a second before it happened. Not really the experience we wanted," she added.

Community activist Akil Patterson said he heard a single gunshot while waiting in a security line. Within seconds, a security guard shouted to drop to the ground, and then he was evacuated to the street. Patterson said he was at the White House to get a presidential award for his work with Baltimore teens. He says his community work aims to "get rid of the notion that gun violence is the answer." — AP



WASHINGTON: A member of the US Secret Service Counter Assault Team is seen entering the White House in Washington after accompanying President Barack Obama's motorcade back from Andrews Air Force Base. — AP

HONOLULU TO SETTLE SUIT FROM LESBIANS JAILED AFTER KISSING

HONOLULU: Honolulu has agreed to pay \$80,000 to settle a lawsuit from two gay women who allege a police officer wrongfully arrested them after seeing them kissing in a grocery store. Details of the settlement were announced Friday in federal court in Honolulu. It's still subject to City Council approval. The council is expected to consider the settlement at a July 6 meeting, said Honolulu Deputy Corporation Counsel Nicolette Winter.

"The Department of the Corporation Counsel believes that the tentative settlement is in the best interests of the city," Corporation Counsel Donna Leong said in a statement. Courtney Wilson and Taylor Guerrero were visiting Hawaii from Los Angeles last year when, according to their lawsuit, they were harassed and arrested because the officer didn't like their public displays of affection in a Foodland store on Oahu's North Shore.

They were walking through the aisles holding hands and at one point hugged and kissed, the lawsuit said. Officer Bobby Harrison, who was shopping in uniform, "observed their consensual romantic contact and, in a loud voice, ordered plaintiffs to stop and take it somewhere else." The women complied and continued shop-

ping, the lawsuit said. When Harrison again saw them being affectionate with each other, he threatened to have them thrown out of the store.

While the women were in the checkout line, Harrison grabbed Wilson by the wrist, and she started to call 911, the women described last year. All three got into a scuffle and Harrison arrested them. They were charged with felony assault on an officer and spent three days in jail. Charges were eventually dismissed.

After the lawsuit was filed, the Honolulu Police Department opened an internal investigation. "The internal investigation was completed, and the allegations were not sustained," department spokeswoman Michelle Yu said in an email. Harrison retired at the end of last year, she said. The settlement dismisses Harrison from the lawsuit and isn't an admission of any wrongdoing, Winter said.

Wilson said she and Guerrero are no longer a couple but remain friends. She went back to Los Angeles while Guerrero decided to stay in Honolulu. "I'm glad it's over, but at the same time we wanted the officer to suffer some sort of repercussion," Wilson said. — AP

CONGOLESE TEACHER DIES AFTER GROUP ATTACK IN NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: A young Congolese teacher has been killed by a group of men in New Delhi, police said yesterday, the latest victim in a series of attacks on African nationals in India. Three men pelted MT Olivia, 23, with stones and bricks after chasing him through the upscale neighborhood of Vasant Kunj late Friday, police said, following an altercation. "It started when the

Congolese man was hiring an auto-rickshaw. They had a heated argument leading to the attack," Ishwar Singh, deputy police commissioner for south-west Delhi, told AFP, adding that the man died in hospital early yesterday. "One of the attackers has been arrested," he said.

The police official said a manhunt had been launched to find the remaining attackers, who also beat up a local

resident after he tried to help the foreigner. The victim taught at a private institute in southern New Delhi, police said. Singh said the assault was not racially motivated. Yet attacks on African nationals are relatively common in India, where they face frequent racial discrimination and harassment by locals.

Police typically reject any suggestion of racist intent in the case of attacks. In

2013, a Nigerian national was killed by a mob in western Goa state, with local politicians later comparing Africans to "cancer". The politicians demanded the eviction of Africans from the state and local councils ordered residents not to rent them their homes.

In January an Indian mob beat a Tanzanian woman and her male friends in Bangalore and set their car ablaze

before dragging them off a bus, while scores of passengers watched in silence. That attack came in an apparent revenge for a road accident in which a Sudanese driver ran over a local woman in the city. Delhi's former law minister was also accused in 2014 of harassing African women after he led a vigilante mob through an area of the capital, accusing the women of being prostitutes.

G7 TAKES AIM AT TERROR FINANCE WHILE RIFTS ON POLICY REMAIN

AKIU, Japan: The Group of Seven major economies showed a united front on fighting terrorist financing and tax evasion in talks that ended yesterday, but shied away from coordinated action on policies to revive stalling growth.

An "action plan" issued after the talks by G7 finance ministers and central bank governors at a hot springs hotel in northern Japan called for increased exchanges of information on financial intelligence, reducing the level of cross-border transactions subject to disclosure and collaborating on targeted sanctions for terrorists' financial networks, including freezing assets. "There's a moment for reflecting, for putting forward ideas, for comparing them, and then comes the moment for action. This is where we are today," said France's finance minister, Michel Sapin, whose country has suffered devastating attacks in the past few years.

The talks in Akiu, to be followed by a G7 summit in central Japan's Ise region next week, started out with a brainstorming session on how best to use monetary policy, government spending and longer-term reforms to help support growth. But they ended with countries stressing the need for varying strategies for boosting growth.

Most of the governments of the G7 favor more pro-active government spending to help support flagging growth and spur demand, while Germany has remained more conservative on fiscal matters, regarding structural reforms as crucial.

US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said the lack of coordinated action, in the absence of a crisis, was natural, given the varying conditions and resources in each country. "We each have unique challenges that have to be addressed, so it's not one-size-fits-all," Lew said. "Different times require different responses. We're not in 2008 or 2009." Lew did express concern, however, over Japan's plan to raise its sales tax, to 10 percent from the current 8 percent, in April 2017.

Policy actions

"Each of us needs to take policy actions

that given the conditions in our country are most likely to produce more demand and more growth," Lew said, adding that while the decision is up to Japan, "We'd be quite concerned about taking steps that would put a drag on the economy." Aso, who has said the tax hike will go ahead unless there is a major crisis or disaster, also acknowledged differences with the US over such issues as exchange rates.

"I met with Secretary Lew and we didn't have a heated discussion. We had a normal conversation," Aso said. "We have to say what we think to each other because that's our jobs. It's normal to exchange views and that helps ensure things will not go awry because issues become too emotional."

Lew stressed that he hoped G7 members would honor commitments made during recent discussions in China by the wider Group of 20 major economies, where members pledged to not manipulate exchange rates to their own advantage.

A recent rise in the value of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar is adding to pressures on Japanese companies who had reaped record profits as the yen weakened in recent years, fattening earnings brought back to Japan in yen terms. While reiterating a pledge not to engage in "competitive devaluations," Aso has chafed at recent moves in the yen's value, hinting at the possibility of intervention if they become too "disorderly."

"Instability and disorderly movements can have ... implications for financial stability," he said. The talks also touched on non-financial risks to growth, such as the refugee crisis, terrorism and a looming referendum in Britain over whether or not to leave the European Union. Such a move is viewed as likely to cause major disruptions both in Europe and in global financial markets.

Insuring risks

The World Bank, whose president, Jim Yong Kim, is attending the talks, took the opportunity to launch a financing mechanism for insuring risks from pandemics. Japan pledged the first \$50 million to fund the \$500 million initiative.—AP



CALAIS: A migrant uses his phone next to tents inside the "Jungle" slum.—AFP

DIGNITY ONLY IN DEATH FOR CALAIS' 'JUNGLE' MIGRANTS

MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE HAVE PERISHED SINCE JUNE

CALAIS: They fled hardship and war only to find misery and squalor, but migrants who met a gruesome end in northern France hoping to reach England are finally getting a touch of dignity in death. More than 30 people have perished since June last year in and around the vast, infamous camp known as the "Jungle" in northern French port of Calais, near the Channel Tunnel.

The latest was a Pakistani man, only 24, hit by a car on the ring road around Calais on May 9. Others have been struck by a train, drowned or electrocuted, some in horrific circumstances, dragged along tracks after a desperate, failed bid to stow away on cross-Channel transport.

To spare them a nameless, forgotten fate, rights workers and medical personnel act as go-betweens to put the police, hospital or funeral home in contact with family or other migrants who came to know the victim. "Often, police send me photographs, when they're fit to be seen, which I print out. They help me find people in the 'Jungle' who knew the victim to make a positive identification and prepare the rest," said Lou, a full-time psychologist with the medical charity Medecins du Monde who gave only her first name.

As for regular citizens, "autopsies are systematically performed to dispel any doubt about the cause of death," said Stephane Chochois, who heads the forensic medicine unit at a Calais hospital. Identifying people in illegal flight can take months but the bodies are patiently kept in the morgue. The volunteers follow every clue-checking with travel companions, any documents or cell phone chips. Often, Chochois said, victims have several chips, typically hidden in their socks. If none of that works, they take finger prints and DNA samples.

Sometimes the clue comes from 'Jungle' residents themselves, worried about someone who suddenly disappeared. They come, telling us "we lost one of our friends," said psychologist Lou. Yet restoring dignity can be a challenge, said Chochois citing one case where a migrant's body parts were spread "along 20 meters" last summer "after the person was dragged along by a train".

A wooden cross and a name'

Psychological support is lacking, Lou told AFP, as in a case "in October when a 26-year-old Syrian man died after being struck by a car in front of his nine-year-old son". Nearly 5,000 people are massed in the 'Jungle', some months on end as they try to reach Britain and, they think, jobs, according to French and British charities. The government says the figure is vastly inflated, but tension remains high as police regularly jostle with migrants desperate to cross the Channel. "There's lots that needs to be done," said Lou. "In the Eurotunnel, for example, the agents have support. But the migrants, they have nothing." "To repatriate a body is not always easy when they come from thousands of kilometers away and we don't speak the language or know the customs," she said. And each case is different "depending on the embassy". Some pay part of the repatriation, which can vary widely from 3,000 to 6,000 euros (\$3,300 to \$6,700) - as do the often complex procedures.

If the family has been contacted, and both wants and can pay for the victim's return, all goes smoothly. Sometimes the person's community chips in to offer a decent burial. If not, the migrant is buried in the town where they die and the town cannot refuse. A sad testament lies in a cemetery north of Calais where several

graves stand out from the others in the Muslim section, small wooden markers bearing only a name and the years of birth and death. For some migrants, even that was not known, said Lou

pointing to a barren area of paupers' graves farther off. "Whether it be at the border or in the shanty town, no one dies by chance in Calais," she said sadly.—AFP

BOKO HARAM REFUGEES IN NIGER FEEL ABANDONED BY THE WORLD

ASSAGA: "Take us away from this hell," said Boussam, a mother of seven cradling skeletal goats in Niger's Assaga camp, where thousands of desperate refugees fleeing Boko Haram Islamist insurgents are living in hunger. She spoke to AFP in the south eastern camp near the border with Nigeria where some 6,000 people are crammed in UN tents in baking sun after being displaced by the violence.

The size of the camp has swollen quickly since people began to arrive from mid 2015, having fled attacks that have engulfed the region as Boko Haram seeks to carve out a hardline Islamist state in the north east of neighboring Nigeria. Conditions in the camp have deteriorated in recent months as food aid has struggled to reach its occupants who live with just basic medical care and schooling.

The UN emergency relief coordinator Stephen O'Brien, who visited the camp this week, warned that the raging conflict has "catastrophically exacerbated" the vulnerability of the region's refugees, displacing people already dogged by chronic food insecurity. Anger is rising in the camp that more is not being done to help them. "I think that everyone has abandoned us," said Ibrahim, a refugee in his fifties. Niger's humanitarian affairs minister Lawan Magadji, who accompanied O'Brien on his visit to the region, accepts that not enough aid has reached the camp. "There is not enough food. Distribution operations are based on the neediest households," he said. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has blamed a lack of funds for the shortages.

'I am ashamed'

Of the \$316 million (283 million Euros)



DIFFA: A child walks inside the Assaga refugee camp near Diffa in the southeast of Niger.—AFP

EUROPEANS WARILY WATCHING AUSTRIA'S PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

VIENNA: Austria's presidential election has significance far beyond the small EU nation's borders. In a scenario that was unthinkable just a few years ago, a right-wing, Euro skeptic candidate is favored to become president.

Such a development would be the latest sign of political upheaval in a country that until recently appeared to be solidly in the pro-European Union camp. Europe's right-wing is gaining strength among citizens both disillusioned with establishment parties and increasingly distrustful of the EU's ability to fix stagnating economies, joblessness and the migrant crisis. Here are some things to know as Austrians prepare to elect a new president today.

What can the president do?

Austria's post-World War II presidents have been generally content with ceremonial functions greeting incoming ambassadors, cutting ribbons, hosting visiting dignitaries and giving rubber-stamp approvals of new governments formed by the strongest political party. But a president in Austria can also wield significant clout: He can dismiss governments and parliament on his own - and both candidates say they are prepared to use the more potent tools at their disposal.

The candidates

Put forward by the populist anti-EU Freedom Party, Norbert Hofer, a 47-year-old lawmaker, is the front-runner in polls just days before the vote. Hofer has threatened to dismiss Austria's government coalition of Social Democrats and the centrist People's

Party if it fails to heed his repeated admonitions to do a better job - and is casting himself as the final arbiter of how the government is performing. With his Freedom Party now outpolling the government parties in popularity, he could be tempted to dismiss the government in order to give the Freedom Party the chance to win an ensuing election.

But Hofer's rival also could upend the traditionally cozy relationship between Austrian presidents and governments. Running as an independent, Alexander van der Bellen, a professorial 72-year-old Greens Party member, has said he would not swear in a Freedom Party chancellor even if that party wins an election that must take place within the next two years. That, too, could create political upheaval and uncertainty unseen in post-war Austria.

How did we get here?

First-round voting last month revealed the depth of the electorate's disdain for the Social Democrats and the People's Party. Those parties have dominated postwar politics, and up to now, Austria's president has always had the backing of one of them. But both their candidates were trounced in the initial round, which was won by Hofer with more than 35 percent support. Decades of bickering over key issues - most recently tax, pension and education reforms - have fed perceptions of political stagnation. The migrant influx last year also forced the coalition government to swing from having open borders to becoming one of the EU's most restrictive asylum regimes.—AP



VIENNA: In this picture taken on Thursday, May 19, 2016, a man walks past election posters of Alexander van der Bellen, candidate for the presidential elections and former head of the Austrian Greens, right, and Norbert Hofer, candidate for presidential elections of Austria's right-wing Freedom Party (FPÖ). — AP

OBAMA TO HOST MODI AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama will host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House on June 7, as the pair try to flesh out nascent trade and security ties. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Modi's visit would "highlight the deepening of the US-India relationship in key areas since the president's visit to New Delhi in January 2015."

"The President looks forward to discussing progress made on our climate change and clean energy partnership, security and defense cooperation, and economic growth priorities." This will be Modi's second White House visit since his Hindu nationalist party won a sweeping victory in 2014 polls.

Obama has assiduously courted the Indian premier, cultivating a strategic relationship seen as a

counterweight to an increasingly assertive China. It has been a dramatic transformation for a man who in 2005 was denied a visa to the United States on human rights grounds.

He had served as chief minister in his home state of Gujarat, when anti-Muslim riots killed hundreds. But turning Obama and Modi's warm words into concrete agreement has proven difficult. A proposed bilateral investment treaty has languished for years, as New Delhi has taken a tough negotiating line.

Talks have been stalled over several issues, including the lack of protection for foreign firms in disputes with the Indian government. "I think there is a reasonable chance we will see the leaders re-commit to engaging in BIT negotiations," said Rick Rossow of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, predicting limited progress.

Technical steps

India's economy is rapidly growing, but poverty remains pervasive and foreign investment has lagged behind China, Brazil and even advanced economies like Ireland. Modi, who faces reelection in 2019, has pegged his political future on a reform agenda and boosting the economy. Observers say there could be more progress on security and energy cooperation.

A series of technical steps could allow the men to announce US nuclear companies entering the potentially lucrative Indian market. In 2005, then-president George W. Bush lifted a three decade long moratorium on nuclear cooperation with India, introduced after the country developed a nuclear bomb. The issue had been a major hurdle to relations between two of the

world's largest democracies. Modi has made nuclear energy a priority, to offset horrendous levels of air pollution that is worsened by the dominance of coal-fired power plants and reduce dependence on foreign gas and oil. A series of military agreements linked to support and logistics could also be signed by the two leaders and could pave the way for deeper military cooperation.

Many of the agreements have been stalled for years by India's concerns about weakening the ability to act alone militarily. Modi will also address a joint session of Congress on June 8. Modi was invited to address the US Congress by Republican speaker Paul Ryan, who called the US-Indian relationship "a pillar of stability in a very, very important region." — AFP

DUTCH CLIMBER DIES AFTER MOUNT EVEREST SUMMIT

KATHMANDU: A Dutch climber has died after reaching the summit of Mount Everest, expedition organizers said yesterday, the third death in a week to hit the Himalayan climbing season. The mountaineer, named as Eric Arnold, died at Camp 4 after falling ill with altitude sickness late Friday as he descended the world's highest mountain, Mingma Sherpa, Managing Director of Seven Summit Treks said.

"The climber who died was a Dutch mountaineer named Eric Arnold. We got the news from his team leader, Arnold Coster, at base camp," Pasang Phurba Sherpa, a board director at the expedition agency told AFP. Earlier yesterday a tourism official said authorities were working to bring the deceased climber's body to Everest base camp before transporting it to the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. Arnold, 35, on Friday posted a picture on his Twitter account saying he had reached the top of the mountain.

It was his fifth attempt to scale the 8,850-metre high peak. Last year, he was among the climbers caught up in a deadly avalanche which struck the region in the wake of the Nepal earthquake. The Dutch news agency ANP reported that Arnold had told his teammates after returning from the summit "my body has no energy left" adding he had apparently died in his sleep.

Around 330 climbers have successfully scaled Mount Everest this season after two con-

secutive years of deadly disasters, but two other mountaineers have died in the past few days. A Nepali sherpa guide perished Thursday after he slipped and fell 2,000 meters down Mount Lhotse, the world's fourth-highest peak. On the same day an Indian climber died after falling ill while descending from Mount Dhaulagiri, also in the Himalayas.

'Top of the world'

A second Dutch climber, Niels van Buren, also scaled Everest on Friday to become the first patient suffering with multiple sclerosis (MS) to reach the top "after an intense journey of two months," his organizers Mission Summit said. Van Buren, 37, has been in intensive training for three years for the ascent, which he hoped would raise awareness of MS and money for research into the disease. "It all feels a little unreal," Van Buren said in a statement posted on the Mission Summit website. "...Slowly I come to realize that I stood on top of the world."

Nepal issued 289 permits to foreign mountaineers for this year's brief spring climbing season, which runs from mid-April to the end of May, after two consecutive failed seasons. Hundreds of climbers fled Everest last year after an earthquake-triggered avalanche at base camp killed 18 people. Only one climber summited the mountain in 2014 after an avalanche killed 16 Nepali guides that year. — AFP



COLOMBO: Flood-affected Sri Lankans struggle to cross a torrent of floodwaters in Kelaniya, on the outskirts of Colombo yesterday. — AFP

FOREIGN AID REACHES FLOODED SRI LANKAN CAPITAL, 71 DEAD

EXTREME WEATHER WREAKING HAVOC IN SOUTH ASIA

COLOMBO: Foreign aid began arriving in Sri Lanka yesterday, bringing help to half a million people forced out of their homes by heavy rains and landslides that have killed at least 71 in a week of extreme weather wreaking havoc in South Asia.

As the heaviest rains in a quarter of a century battered Sri Lanka, Cyclone Roanu barreled into the Bangladesh coastline leaving six people dead and forcing the evacuation of 500,000 as it unleashed winds as strong as 88 kilometers per hour and heavy downpours.

Torrential rains have deluged Sri Lanka since last weekend, triggering huge landslides that have buried victims in up to 50 feet of mud and left 127 people missing. As aid began to arrive yesterday on a military plane from India and a commercial flight from Japan, Sri Lankan authorities said their priority was now preventing diseases such as diarrhea, with many areas still under water.

"We have sent a large number of doctors and nursing staff to ensure there is no outbreak of waterborne diseases," Health Minister Rajitha Senarathne said. In Colombo, residents clung to ropes as they battled to cross torrents of water pulsing through the streets of the flooded capital, with some forced to take shelter in rickshaws.

The Indian government has provided inflatable boats, outboard motors, diving equipment, medical supplies, electricity generators and sleeping bags, officials said. The first of two Indian naval ships arrived yesterday at the port in Colombo, while Australia and the United States have made cash donations to help victims. Floodwaters in parts of the capital subsided slightly overnight, officials said, but heavy downpours yesterday prevented many from moving back to their homes on the banks of the Kelani River.

"Colombo did not receive any significant rain last night and the water levels of the Kelani went down slightly," Disaster Management Centre spokesman Pradeep Kodippili said. "But there were showers upstream and we are worried that the water levels can rise again in a day."

Buddhist holiday

Nearly 300,000 people were staying in about 500 state-run relief centers yesterday, which also marks the Buddhist holiday of Vesak, while a further 200,000 people were staying with friends or family. Officials said there was a fresh landslide in the worst-hit central district of Kegalle, but that no casualties were reported because the area had been evacuated.

The country's influential Buddhist clergy

urged the faithful to divert at least half of the money spent on holiday celebrations to help flood victims. "There are lots of people who have lost their homes, some have only the clothes they are wearing," top Buddhist monk Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana said. "Consider this your meritorious deed to celebrate Vesak."

Vesak celebrations were muted yesterday in Colombo compared with previous years when the entire city was decorated with lanterns and colored lights. President Maithripala Sirisena called on Sri Lankans to provide shelter and donate cash or food to flood victims as offers of assistance came in from overseas.

The accommodation booking website airbnb.com listed at least 29 places offering free lodging for anyone affected by the floods in Sri Lanka. Disaster management officials said there had been a huge outpouring of sympathy for victims with donations of food, clothing and dry rations. The meteorological department says the rains were caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, ahead of the arrival of the southwest monsoon.

Around 22 of Sri Lanka's 25 districts have been affected by the rains, according to disaster officials. Almost a third of residents have been moved from the low-lying capital, which has a population of about 650,000. — AFP

30 DIE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS IN NORTH INDIA MOUNTAINS

NEW DELHI: Two deadly road accidents in India's northern Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh killed at least 30 people and injured 24 others, police said yesterday. An overcrowded jeep fell into a gorge 1,000 feet deep early yesterday, killing 13 people in Kinnaur district, police said, about 200 kilometres (124 miles) east of state capital Shimla.

"Thirteen people have died and one is injured. 10 of them were from one village," Surinder Mohan, a local police officer, told AFP of the accident. It followed a separate

tragedy late Friday when a passenger minibus bus swerved off a hilly road into a gorge, killing 17 and injuring 23 in the state's Chamba district.

"Seven people died on the spot and the rest died on their way to and in the hospital. Many are critically injured," Ajay Parashar, police officer said. Fatal traffic accidents are common in India, which has some of the world's deadliest roads with more than 200,000 fatalities annually, according to the World Health Organisation. — AFP



SHIMLA: Volunteers and medical personnel place an injured Indian bus passenger onto a trolley at The Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital in Shimla yesterday, after a bus fell into a gorge in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. — AFP

23 DEAD, 500,000 FLEE AS CYCLONE HITS BANGLADESH

CHITTAGONG: Cyclone Roanu struck the Bangladesh coast yesterday killing 23 people and forcing hundreds of thousands more to flee their homes as the storm unleashed strong winds and heavy downpours. Authorities took more than 500,000 people into shelters as the cyclone made landfall just after noon local time (0600 GMT), packing winds as strong as 88 kilometers per hour.

"It has struck the southern coastal areas of Barisal and Chittagong with a wind speed of 62-88 kilometers per hour," Omar Faruq, a government meteorological department official told AFP. "The landfall began just after noon. It will take another three-four hours to complete the landfall," he added. Several villages were inundated on the Banskhali coast in Chittagong after the cyclone triggered a five-foot storm surge, the Red Cross's cyclone preparedness official Ruhul Amin told AFP.

"Thousands of villagers were forced to flee their homes after the storm surge flooded their villages," he said. It came after the peripheral wind of the cyclone struck coastal areas early yesterday morning, causing widespread devastation across the impoverished region. Six people perished and hundreds of mud-and-tin houses were damaged in two southern districts, police said.

"A mother and her young child were killed after a landslide buried their hillside home at Sitakundu in Chittagong. The landslide was caused by heavy rains," Shah Alam, a police inspector told AFP, adding that another child died in the Chittagong city. Two others were

killed in Tajmuddin town on Bhola island in the coastal region while a woman in her 50s died under a flattened house in nearby Patuakhali, police said.

Thousands of homes were being evacuated as the cyclone bore down. "So far we have moved more than 500,000 people to cyclone shelters," Reaz Ahmed, the head of Bangladesh's Disaster Management Department told AFP. Disaster authorities have shut down sea and river ports and ordered fishing trawlers not to go out, while the meteorological department warned of landslides in southeastern hill districts. Officials told AFP Friday night that they were prepared to move more than two million people to nearly 4,000 cyclone shelters in the country's south.

Textile factory fire

In other news, a fire in a textile factory in Dhaka yesterday killed three workers and left five injured, police said, in the latest accident to cast a spotlight on the country's hazardous garment industry. A Pakistani technician was among those killed in the blaze in the sprawling complex belonging to fabric manufacturer Mom Tex in Narsingdi, just outside the capital Dhaka. Police officials said the fire started on the ground floor of a seven-storey building where chemicals and dyes were stored, trapping workers who were resting before their shift.

"Three workers who were resting near the chemical storage unit have died of suffocation

and burns," police inspector Shahidur Rahman told AFP. "At least five workers were also injured and were rushed to a hospital," he said. Firefighters brought the blaze under control in around two hours, Narsingdi police chief Amena Begum told AFP.

A company official confirmed the deaths to AFP. "We suspect the electricity short-circuited, causing a fire in the storage room where dyes and paints were kept," Nazmul Islam, a deputy general manager of Mom Tex said. "The workers who were resting in the upper floors died due to suffocation from smoke," he said.

Fires and other accidents are common in the factories that make up the \$27-billion garment industry in Bangladesh, the world's second-biggest apparel exporter after China. In November 2012, at least 111 workers were killed when a devastating fire engulfed a nine-storey garment factory in the Ashulia industrial area, outside the capital Dhaka.

The accident was followed by an even bigger tragedy six months later when 1,138 people died after another clothing factory complex collapsed, trapping over 3,000 workers. But the incidence of fires has declined in recent years after two groups of global apparel brands and the Bangladesh government began to push through crucial safety reforms in the nation's 4,500 garment factories. Set up in 2012, Mom Tex is part of the Pakiza group of companies, one of the nation's largest sari and fabric makers catering largely to the domestic market. — AFP



COX BAZAR: Bangladeshi villagers make their way to shelter in Cox's Bazar yesterday as Cyclone Roanu approached. — AFP

AUSTRALIAN PM'S POPULARITY FALLING AS ELECTION LOOMS

MELBOURNE: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's popularity has fallen, just over a month before what is expected to be a closely fought election, an opinion poll published yesterday showed. Turnbull's conservative government remained neck and neck with the centre-left Labor Party in the Ipsos poll, which showed the government leading with 51 per cent support to Labor's 49 per cent.

However, Turnbull's personal popularity as pre-

ferred prime minister fell four percentage points to 47 per cent, which is still above opposition leader Bill Shorten at 30 per cent. Australians will vote on July 2 after an unusually long 74-day campaign.

Turnbull, considered a moderate in the conservative Liberal Party-led coalition government, had enjoyed high levels of popularity since he deposed his right-wing predecessor, Tony Abbott, in an internal party coup in September.

"Turnbull was expecting to run rings around Labor in this campaign and instead Labor have him in their sights," said Peter Chen, a political scientist at Sydney University. "He would be a very nervous man this morning." The election comes as Australia is trying to rebalance its economy away from a once-in-a-generation mining boom.

The economy, which remained relatively unscathed by the global financial crisis, has start-

ed to show signs of a slowdown in recent years. Economic issues such as tax and the funding of education and health care have been front and centre in the campaign, as well as the hot-button issue of asylum seekers and border protection. Australia has seen a revolving door of political leadership in recent years. If Turnbull loses on July 2, the change in prime minister would be the fifth since 2010. — Reuters



OKINAWA: People offer a silent prayer in front of the US Kadena Air Base in Cyatan, Okinawa prefecture, to protest against the US military presence. — AFP

JAPAN DEFENSE MINISTER LODGES COMPLAINT OVER US BASE ARREST

TOKYO: Japan's defense minister travelled to Okinawa to lodge a formal protest with the commander of the US military base there yesterday after the arrest of a base employee linked to the suspicious death of a local woman. Gen Nakatani's visit to the island comes just days before a high-profile trip to Japan by US President Barack Obama.

"I deliver a strong message of regret and at the same time make a protest," Nakatani told US military commander Lt Gen Lawrence Nicholson, according to public broadcaster NHK, as he demanded the US military in Okinawa ensure discipline among troops. For his part Nicholson told Nakatani: "Our heartfelt prayers and condolences are offered to the family."

The southern island of Okinawa was the site of a brutal World War II battle but is now considered a strategic linchpin by hosting numerous US military bases that support the two countries' decades-long security alliance. Okinawan police arrested Kenneth Franklin Shinzato on Thursday for allegedly disposing of the woman's body in a weed-covered area in southern Okinawa.

Outrage

The man, a US citizen and former US Marine, who works at the US Kadena Air Base, has reportedly admitted to raping and killing 20-year-old Rina Shimabukuro, who had been missing since late April.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday expressed "outrage" after the arrest, while Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida summoned US ambassador Caroline Kennedy to lodge a protest, calling the case "very cruel and atrocious".

Obama is due in Japan next week for a two-day summit of Group of Seven countries which concludes on Friday, before venturing the same day to Hiroshima — becoming the only sitting US president to visit the world's first atomic bombed city. The Hiroshima visit by Obama, who has a record of calling for global denuclearisation, has been well received in Japan but the issue of the heavy US military presence on Okinawa has long been a periodic thorn in the side of relations.

More than half of the 47,000 US military personnel in the country are stationed there, and rapes and other crimes by service personnel have sparked local protests in the past. In 1995 the abduction and rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen sparked massive protests, prompting Washington to pledge efforts to strengthen troop discipline to prevent such crimes and reduce the US footprint on the island.

But continued crimes by American personnel remain a potent rallying point for Okinawans and others in Japan who oppose the presence of the bases on the crowded island, where pacifist sentiment runs high. — AFP

AILING THAI KING TREATED FOR EXCESS FLUID IN SPINE, BRAIN

BANGKOK: Doctors treating Thailand's hospital-bound monarch Bhumibol Adulyadej have drained excess fluid from his spinal cord and brain, the palace said in a statement late Friday. The king, 88, is the object of an intense personality cult and his frail health is a subject of significant public concern.

The wheelchair bound monarch has spent most of the past two years hospitalized for a series of ailments, with very few public appearances and speeches. The Royal Household Bureau said in a statement published late Friday night that doctors adjusted a tube used to drain excess fluid after they noticed facial twitching.

"It was detected that his facial muscles had irregular movements and the doctor conducted a computer x-ray and found there was an irregular surplus of fluid in the backbone and brain," the statement said. "The team of royal physicians corrected this by adjusting the tube in his abdomen between 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm (Friday) and the result was satisfactory," the statement added.

It is the second health update issued by the palace in under a week. Last Saturday

the palace said Bhumibol had been treated with antibiotics for a lung infection and knee inflammation. Previous health updates have also mentioned a buildup of fluid in his spine or brain. Bhumibol is the world's longest-reigning monarch and most Thais have never known life under another king.

Anxiety over what will happen after his reign comes to an end is considered an aggravating factor in the country's past decade of tumultuous politics as competing elites jostle for power and influence ahead of the transition. Bhumibol last left Bangkok's Siriraj hospital in early January for an hour-long trip by car to visit his palace and other royal projects, according to officials.

He was last seen in an official photograph distributed in mid-December. The kingdom has one of the world's strictest lese majeste laws, punishing any criticism of the monarchy with up to 15 years in prison. Use of the law has skyrocketed ever since royalist army generals seized power in a May 2014 coup with scores arrested and jailed, some for as long as 30 years. — AFP

VIETNAM FREES JAILED DISSIDENT PRIEST AHEAD OF OBAMA'S VISIT

DISSIDENTS' PERSECUTION A ROADBLOCK TO RELATIONS

BANGKOK: Vietnam granted early release from prison to a Catholic priest who is one of its most prominent dissidents, a move widely seen as a goodwill gesture before President Barack Obama arrives on an official visit tonight.

The Catholic Archdiocese of the central city of Hue reported on its webpage that it welcomed the return Friday of the Rev Nguyen Van Ly from prison. Photos on its website showed a frail Ly, 70, being helped off a minibus, kneeling to pay his respects to his senior colleagues, then being led to a room prepared for him at the diocese. He has suffered several health crises while imprisoned.

Ly has served several long terms in prison or under house arrest for promoting political and religious freedoms in the communist nation. He had been serving an eight-year prison term since March 2007 after being convicted of spreading propaganda against the state. He was first jailed in 1977, two years after the Communist takeover of all Vietnam.

Vietnam's persecution of dissidents has been a roadblock to warmer relations with the United States, from which it is seeking the lifting of an arms embargo. Washington and Hanoi share a strategic interest in challenging Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea, some of which are in areas long claimed by Vietnam.

Strained relations

The government's relations have always been strained with the Catholic church, associated with French colonial rule and the former anti-communist South Vietnam, as well as an influential power base independent of the ruling Communist Party's control. The US State Department said it welcomed Ly's release.

"We consistently have called for the release of Father Ly and all other prisoners of conscience in



WASHINGTON: In this photo taken July 7, 2015, President Barack Obama meets with Vietnamese Communist party secretary general Nguyen Phu Trong in the Oval Office of the White House. — AP

Vietnam," said Gabrielle Price, the department's spokeswoman for East Asia and Pacific affairs. "We remain deeply concerned for all prisoners of conscience in Vietnam. We call on the government to release unconditionally all prisoners of conscience and allow all Vietnamese to express their political views peacefully without fear of retribution."

More than a dozen human rights groups last month sent an appeal to Obama urging him to

press Hanoi to release political prisoners. The appeal, whose signees included Human Rights Watch as well as groups focusing on Vietnam, urged him "to make clear, both in private and in public, that (the) U.S.-Vietnamese relationship will not fundamentally advance absent meaningful human rights improvements, including the release of imprisoned activists, and end to harassment of civil society groups, and respect for international law." — AP



SEOUL: A woman places a flower for a South Korean woman who was stabbed to death at an exit of Gangnam subway station. — AFP

S KOREANS MARCH TO PROTEST WOMAN'S STABBING DEATH

SEOUL: Hundreds of South Koreans marched in one of Seoul's busiest leisure districts yesterday to protest the stabbing death of a 23-year-old woman. Her death has struck a nerve in a country where, despite its reputation for being relatively safe, many women say they are increasingly afraid of threats, abuse and attacks by men.

The protesters, many wearing white masks and vinyl coats, began their march at a gate of southern Seoul's Gangnam subway station, near where the victim was attacked by a male stranger early Tuesday in a building's bathroom. It was the fourth straight day of memorial events and other gatherings following the attack.

The gate has been covered by seemingly thousands of post-it messages, the majority of

them apparently from women who expressed grief and fears about potentially becoming random targets of violence. Post-it walls have appeared in other major South Korean cities as well, including Busan and Daejeon.

"As another woman in her 20s, I feel devastated about this incident because it could have been me," read a note attached to the subway gate in Seoul. "I want to live in a place where I don't have to be told I must be careful because I am a woman," said another note.

Police on Friday arrested a suspect in the attack — an unemployed 34-year-old man with a history of schizophrenia. Police said the man waited around 40 minutes for a woman to appear at the bathroom before stabbing the victim at around 1

a.m. Tuesday with a knife he had brought. He told officers he attacked the woman because he felt that women have been "dismissive" of him.

Statistics show that violent crimes against women are rising in South Korea. The latest statistics from the Supreme Prosecutors' Office show that in 2014, women accounted for around 85 percent of the country's 34,000 victims of "heinous" violent crimes, including murder, robbery and sex crimes. Some experts see women as becoming more vulnerable to violence and threats in everyday life, often by economically struggling men who feel marginalized and are eager to vent their frustration on women, who compete against them for jobs and social status. — AP

BEIJING TO CUT CONTACTS IF TAIWAN DOESN'T TOE LINE

BEIJING: Beijing warned Taiwan it would cut off critical contacts with the island if its new president Tsai Ing-wen does not state her support for the concept that there is only "one China", state media reported yesterday. The comments came a day after Beijing-skeptic Tsai's inauguration speech, where she called for "positive dialogue" with the Chinese mainland, but stopped short of any compromise on Beijing's demands that she back its "one China" principle. That principle was recognized by outgoing president Ma Ying-jeou of the Beijing-friendly Kuomintang party, who oversaw an eight-year rapprochement between the former bitter rivals.

Although Taiwan is self-ruling after splitting with the

mainland in 1949 following a civil war, it has never formally declared independence and Beijing still sees it as part of its territory awaiting reunification. Beijing is highly suspicious of Tsai, whose Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is traditionally pro-independence and has warned her against any attempt at a breakaway.

Beijing and Taipei have held regular, official communications since 2014, but that will stop unless Tsai acknowledges the "1992 consensus", said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office, according to a report by the official Xinhua news service. The tacit agreement followed a 1992 meeting between Chinese officials and the KMT which laid out

the "one China" ideology, but allowed each side its own interpretation.

"The communications mechanism between the two departments can only continue if the '92 consensus', which represents the common political foundation of the One China principle, is adhered to," Xinhua quoted Ma as saying. Tsai and the DPP have never acknowledged the consensus. In her speech Friday, Tsai reiterated her previous stance of recognizing the 1992 meeting took place, but did not endorse its conclusions.

Unofficial communication mechanisms will also be at risk, Chinese authorities said. The Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), a semi-offi-

cial organization that works with its Taiwanese counterpart, the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), deals with issues that are too legally or politically delicate to be handled through official government channels.

"As long as SEF receives authorization to confirm to ARATS the adherence to the '92 consensus'... authorized negotiations and contact between the two organizations can be maintained," Xinhua quoted the head of ARATS as saying, without giving a specific name. The two organizations, which have played a critical role in improving ties between Taipei and Beijing, renewed contact in 2008, following almost a decade of tension that ended with the election of Ma. — AP

TALEBAN LEADER 'LIKELY KILLED' IN US AIRSTRIKE

WASHINGTON: The United States carried out a drone strike yesterday against the leader of Afghan Taliban, likely killing him on the Pakistan side of the remote border region with Afghanistan in a mission authorized by US President Barack Obama, officials said. The death of Mullah



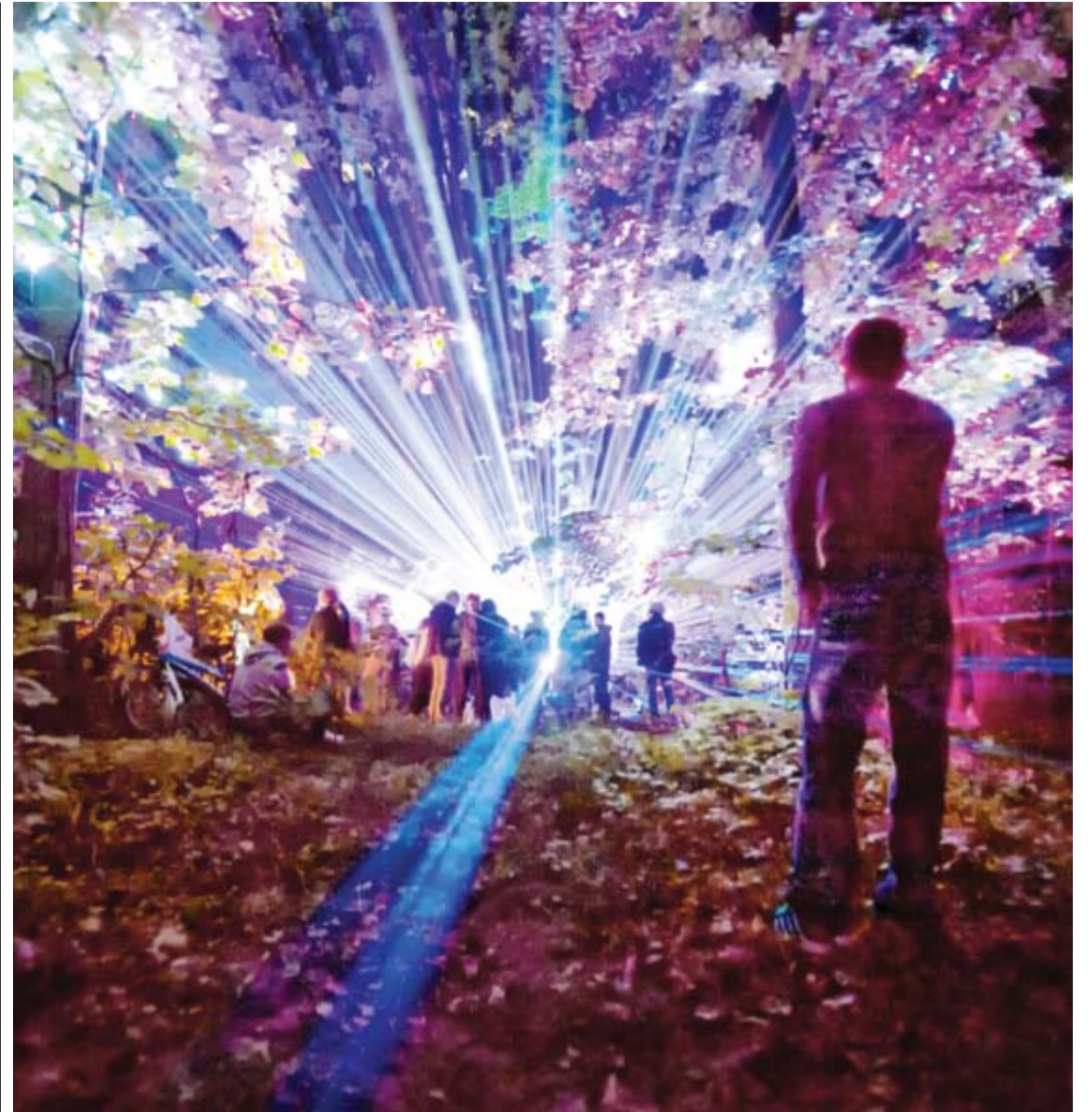
This handout file photo shows Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour posing for a photograph at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was targeted and 'likely killed' yesterday in a US drone strike in a remote area of Pakistan along the Afghan border. — AFP

Akhtar Mansour, should it be confirmed, could have implications for stalled peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

It could also have political repercussions within the Taliban, where rival factions rejected Mansour's leadership after he publicly assumed the title of his predecessor, Mullah Omar. Omar's death was only disclosed last July after being kept secret for more than two years. The Pentagon branded Mansour "an obstacle to peace and reconciliation between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban" and said he was actively involved in planning attacks that threatened US, Afghan and allied forces.

Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook, confirming an air strike targeting Mansour in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, said Mansour had prohibited Taliban leaders from participating in peace talks with the Afghan government. "We are still assessing the results of the strike and will provide more information as it becomes available," Cook said. Multiple US drones targeted the men as they rode in a vehicle in the remote area, southwest of the town of Ahmad Wal, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. US special operations forces operated the drones, in a mission authorized by US President Barack Obama, the official said.

The strike took place at about 6 am EDT (1000 GMT), a US official said, which would have placed it at yesterday in 3 pm in Pakistan. A State Department official said both Pakistan and Afghanistan were notified of the strike, but did not disclose whether that notification was prior to it being carried out. "The opportunity to conduct this operation to eliminate the threat that Mansour posed was a distinctive one, and we acted on it," the official said. — Reuters



A man watches from a distance as youngsters dance during a music and laser show in a forest outside Bucharest, Romania, early yesterday. — AP

EGYPTAIR JET SENT SMOKE WARNINGS BEFORE...

Continued from Page 1

ACARS, which stands for Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System, transmits short messages between aircraft and ground stations. Search teams were scouring the eastern Mediterranean yesterday for more parts of the plane and the black boxes. While Egypt's aviation minister has pointed to terrorism as more likely than technical failure, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said yesterday that nothing was being ruled out. "At this time... all theories are being examined and none is favored," he told a news conference in Paris after meeting relatives of passengers.

Egyptian Civil Aviation Minister Sherif Fathi told reporters an additional challenge in the hunt for the black boxes was the depth of the Mediterranean in the area under search. "What I understand is that it is 3,000 (meters)," he said. That would place the black box locator beacons, which last for 30 days, on the edge of their detectable range from the surface based on the type of acoustic equipment typically used during the first stages of a search, according to a report into the 2009 crash of an Air France jet in the Atlantic. "No important devices from the plane have been retrieved so far," Fathi said.

The disaster comes just seven months after the bombing of a Russian airliner over Egypt's Sinai peninsula in October that killed all 224 people on board. The Islamic State group was quick to claim responsibility for the attack, but there has been no such claim linked to the EgyptAir crash. Relatives of the passengers on the EgyptAir flight gathered at a hotel near Cairo airport on Friday after meeting airline officials as they struggled to come to terms with the catastrophe. "They haven't died yet. No one knows. We're asking for God's mercy," said a woman in her 50s whose daughter had been on board.

EgyptAir Holding Company chairman Safwat Moslem told AFP yesterday that the priority was finding the passengers' remains and the flight recorders, which will stop emitting a signal in a month when the batteries run out. "The families want the bodies. That is what concerns us. The army is working on this. This is what we are focusing on," he said.

A French patrol boat carrying equipment capable of tracing the plane's black boxes was expected today or tomorrow. The plane disappeared between the Greek island of Karpathos and the Egyptian coast in the early hours of Thursday. It had turned sharply twice before plunging 22,000 feet (6,700 m) and vanishing from radar screens, said Greek Defence Minister Panos Kammenos.

Aviation Herald, a respected Austria-based website specializing in air accidents, first published a burst of sev-

en messages broadcast over the space of three minutes. These included alarms about smoke in the lavatory as well as the aircraft's avionics area, which sits under the cockpit. While suggesting a possible fire, the relatively short sequence of data gives no insight into pilot efforts to control the aircraft, nor does it show whether it fell in one piece or disintegrated in mid-air, two aviation safety experts said. The data fragments also included alarms related to cockpit window heating and two flight control computers, both of which have backups.

Experts stressed there was not enough information yet to explain the incident. "All you can say... is that there was smoke. The smoke could be due to a fire in the plane following a technical problem, or it could also mean an explosion... but it is far too early to formulate hypotheses," Jean-Paul Troadec, a former BEA director, told AFP. "The fact that there was no distress call doesn't necessarily mean anything," Troadec said. "The pilots maybe had other things to do, reacting to the event. Sending a message is not the first priority."

"The question now is whether the fire that caused the smoke was the result of an electrical fault - for example a short-circuit caused by damaged wiring - or whether some form of explosive or incendiary device was used - for example by a terrorist - to generate a fire or other damage," aviation safety expert David Learmont said. The ACARS data suggested the fire had spread quickly and "that might explain the fact that there was no distress call," Learmont wrote in a blog.

Personal belongings and parts of the Airbus A320 had been spotted by teams searching the sea off Egypt's northern coast about 290 km from the city of Alexandria, the Egyptian military said. Kammenos said the search teams, which include multinational aircraft and ships, had found "a body part, two seats and one or more items of luggage". The passengers were 30 Egyptians, 15 French citizens, two Iraqis, two Canadians, and citizens from Algeria, Belgium, Britain, Chad, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. They included a boy and two babies. Seven crew and three security personnel were also on board. The European Space Agency said one of its satellites had on Thursday spotted an oil slick about 40 km southeast of the plane's last known location.

In October, foreign governments issued travel warnings for Egypt and demanded a review of security at its airports after the Islamic State group said it downed the Russian airliner over Sinai with a bomb concealed in a soda can that had been smuggled on the plane. IS has been waging a deadly insurgency against Egyptian security forces and has claimed attacks in both France and Egypt. — Agencies

EXPERTS: PERFECT SECURITY IS ELUSIVE...

Continued from Page 1

ahead of the French Open tennis tournament, which starts today, and the Euro 2016 football championships, a month-long tournament that begins June 10. The March 22 attacks that killed 32 people in Brussels, at the airport and in a metro station, add to the sense that public places like airports are vulnerable. "It's possible to get any kind of dangerous object through every airport in the world due to the contradiction between time and security," said noted criminologist Alain Bauer. "Everybody wants to get in the plane fast ... so everybody compromises on time and security."

French investigators are doing background checks and interviewing ground staff at Charles de Gaulle who had a direct or indirect link to Flight 804, from baggage handlers to gate agents, a judicial official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the probe. Since the Jan 2015 Charlie Hebdo newsroom massacre in Paris, French authorities withdrew or refused 85 red badges, according to Paris Aeroports, nearly 70 of them taken away within a month after last November's attacks.

Most were for the "phenomenon of radicalization," Augustin de Romanet, the chief of Paris Aeroports said on Europe 1 radio. Badges can also be removed for other reasons like when someone gets a police record. A long absence could also spur an investigation. One of two suicide bombers in the Brussels airport attack, Najim Laachraoui, had once been a Brussels airport employee himself, and Sami Amimour, one of the terrorists that attacked Paris' Bataclan concert hall in November, had once worked for France's RATP transport authority.

After the November attacks, "we re-examined the situation of the entire (airport) staff and as soon as there was a question, not even a suspicion but a question, these badges were withdrawn," Transport Minister Alain Vidalies said Friday. As many as 4,000 private lockers at Charles de Gaulle were searched after the Paris attacks said Serge Nybelen, secretary general of the powerful

CGT union chapter at the airport. He said investigators found nothing incriminating. "There can be little groups" of the same ethnic origin "but I have no knowledge of people who radicalize," Nybelen said.

People with red security badges are expected to watch for suspicious behavior around them, according to Paris airport chief de Romanet and others. The badges are awarded by the deputy prefect for airports, a state representative, after a training course and an exam, plus security checks by police. A decade ago, officials cracked down on what they said was infiltration of Islamists at Charles de Gaulle and Orly, the second Paris airport, closing down some 15 clandestine prayer rooms at the two airports. Security clearances were withdrawn from 72 people, some for issues identified in letters seen by AP as "behavior" and "attitude." Employees who lost their clearance said at the time they were questioned about their religious practice and whether, for instance, they had traveled to Makkah, Islam's holy site.

"It's not a problem of religion. It's a problem of the person," said Prevost, with the Aviation Security Training Center. Weapons of destruction have evolved along with radicalization, he noted. "Today, the system of airport security as we knew it has been redefined," Prevost said. "Here you see an explosive in the form of paper ... which can be hidden in a portable computer or in a small tablet."

Speaking at his training center, Prevost showed the barely detectable element on a screen - which was made clearly visible only when a special filter was applied. Sharp objects like knives made with polymer, an extremely hard plastic, can also escape a metal detector, he said. "The real challenge today is the radioscopic analysis," he said, referring to X-Rays to detect such objects bundled deeply into luggage. Prevost suggested that complicity between an airport employee and an outsider would be the most likely way to sabotage an aircraft, because the airport "is a bubble". However, he said "the threat is everywhere and changing". — AP

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Washington Watch

NETANYAHU
DID IT AGAIN

By Dr James J Zogby

For weeks now, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been engaged in public negotiations designed to bring Isaac Herzog, Chair of the "centrist" Zionist Union bloc, into his coalition government. And then, out of the blue, Netanyahu did a complete reversal, dropping Herzog and instead bringing the far right Avigdor Lieberman into his government.

The move caught Israelis and much of the rest of the world by surprise. Just one day before Netanyahu's announcement, liberal commentators were salivating over the prospects of a Netanyahu-Herzog coalition, basing their assessments more on wishful thinking than sound political analysis. Some speculated that national unity might moderate the government, easing international pressure on Israel. A few days ago, when Egypt's President Al-Sisi offered to help facilitate Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and both Herzog and Netanyahu in rapid succession issued statements supporting the Egyptian proposal, commentators were positively gleeful. Many even speculated that Sisi's move had been orchestrated with Netanyahu and Herzog to help spur the Israeli unity effort.

Still others saw the entry of the Zionist Union into the hard-line Netanyahu government as an insurance policy guaranteeing that the Obama Administration would not take or support any untoward actions against Israel at the United Nations for fear of disrupting the new fragile Israeli unity government. One respected Israeli writer called it a "stroke of genius" - a classic Netanyahu move: A feint to the left providing his government with a fig leaf to mask its continuing aggressive settlement policy in the occupied territories.

Charade

As much as Netanyahu and Herzog, each for their own reasons, wanted this unity charade to succeed, it was not to be. The Prime Minister had become increasingly annoyed by his outspoken Minister of Defense Moshe Yaalon, who had recently taken to defend the right of the military to speak out against excessive use of force. Netanyahu wanted to replace him. Herzog appeared willing to accept the role but wanted other key cabinet posts for his bloc, as well. This would have required that Netanyahu displace other coalition partners, a move that would fracture his right-wing alliance.

And so, still needing to remove his troublesome defense minister and to expand his one vote majority coalition government, Netanyahu abruptly turned to the right and invited the controversial Lieberman (who once called for "beheading" Israeli Arab "traitors") to join the government, offering him the defense portfolio.

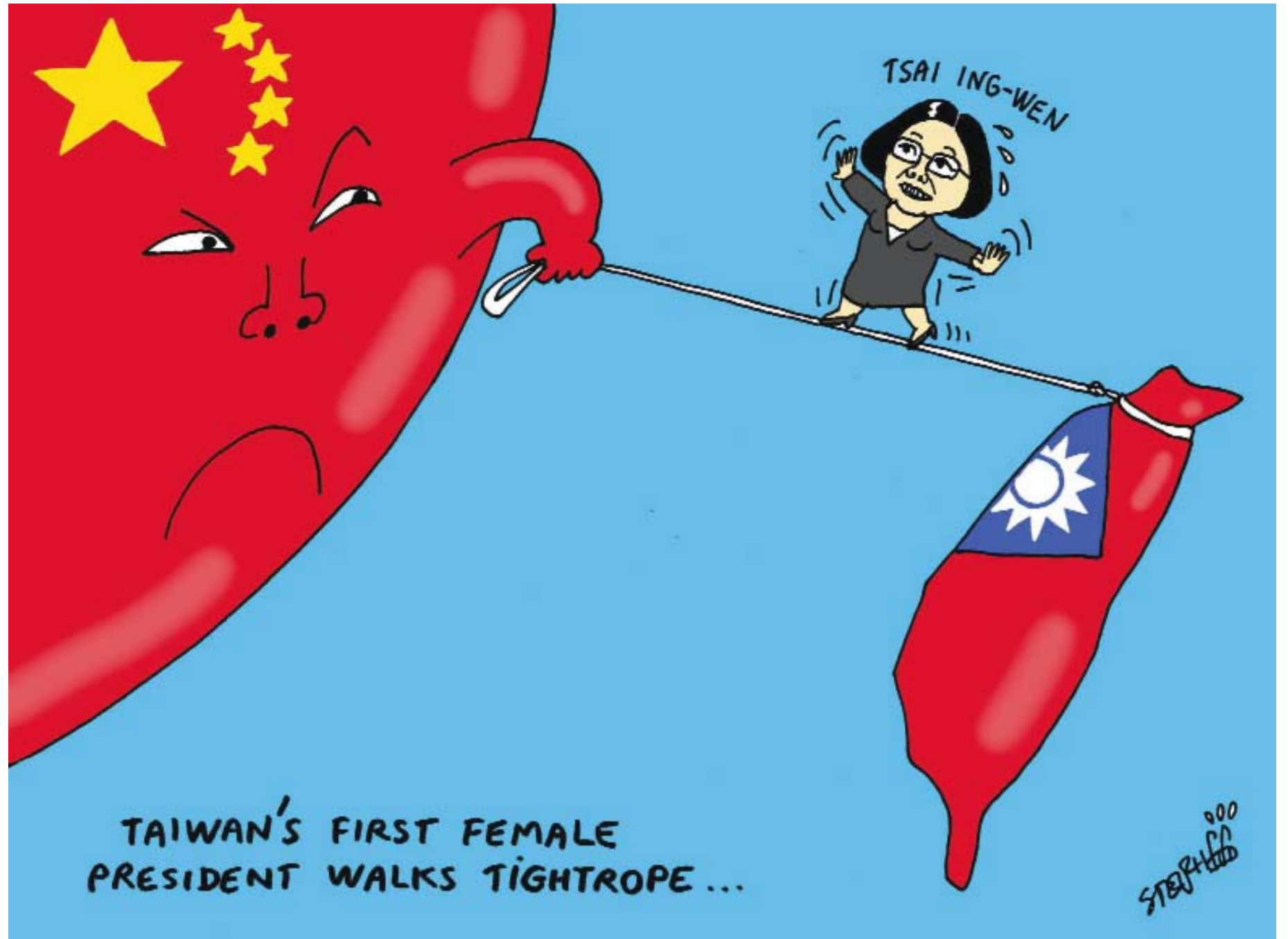
With all these, Netanyahu has revealed key aspects of his governing philosophy. He is a master maneuverer, but despite his occasional feints to the left, he is, at his core, a rightwing hardliner. He has no interest in ending the occupation or providing justice for the Palestinians. Even if Herzog had joined the coalition, it would only have been as a fig leaf to shield Netanyahu from Western critics - not a serious move toward peace. Equally important to note is that far from being a strong leader, Netanyahu is weak and constantly fearful of others, both inside and outside of his government, who may challenge his authority. Alongside his core belief in maintaining Jewish control over Eretz Israel stands his concern with maintaining his personal power.

Shameful Behavior

These two goals define the man and explain his bullying and his maneuvers. His behavior has been shameful, but so too is the extent to which Israelis, Americans and others continue to enable his malevolent rule. As one Israeli military leader noted last week, Israeli society is on a slippery slope - becoming increasingly tolerant of racist violence. Even though some of the most disturbingly bigoted personalities are in the Netanyahu government, the leader of the "centrist" opposition was desperate to join this coalition to protect it from Western critics.

The Europeans continue to threaten sanctions in the face of ever expanding settlement construction in occupied lands. On this issue, Netanyahu has been especially defiant. During his tenure in office, the settler population has increased by over 100,000. Despite this behavior, the Europeans have allowed themselves to be silenced and bullied by Netanyahu into inaction. As for the Americans, they have repeatedly expressed displeasure over Netanyahu's settlement policies and his blatant interference in US internal politics. Nevertheless the administration is now debating whether to reward his government with a 10 year aid package valued at \$35 billion - while Netanyahu, supported by allies in Congress, is brazenly holding out for \$45 to \$50 billion. And so, operating with virtually no restraints, Netanyahu continues to maneuver and to aggressively advance his hard-line agenda. He maintains his grip on power. Israeli society continues to become more extreme and intolerant. Palestinians are more despairing and desperate. And peace more remote.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



WHY JUNTA RULES THAILAND, WITH NO END IN SIGHT

By Grant Peck

Thailand's military seized power from an elected government on May 22, 2014, with the justification that it wanted to end chaotic and violent political confrontations that had wracked the country for years. But more than an attempt to restore stability was at play. Here's a look at the reasons for, and consequences of, the coup led two years ago Sunday by Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, who continues to rule as prime minister:

WHY?

The coup really was traditional ruling elite's latest and most decisive intervention in what is now a decade-long war for political power with billionaire telecommunications tycoon-turned-politician Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin was a popular prime minister from 2001 until he was booted by an earlier coup in 2006. After years of political turmoil and musical chairs, his sister Yingluck Shinawatra came to power in a landslide election victory in 2011. Her government was ousted in the 2014 coup following about six months of protests and political street-fighting that paralyzed Bangkok, the capital.

Arrogant and flexible in his ethics, Thaksin alienated the educated, urban middle class and alarmed traditional ruling circles - royalists and the military - who also feared his lock on the electorate challenged the power structure. The military also worried he would interfere in the succession when the revered and ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej - on the throne since 1946 - ended his reign. Thaksin has lived abroad since 2008 to avoid serving prison time for a corruption conviction he says was politically motivated. The anti-Yingluck protests were sparked by an amnesty bill that could have allowed Thaksin to return to Thailand a free man.

LIFE TODAY

The junta has since restored order, but at the cost of suspending many civil liberties, most notably freedom of expression.

The military holds near-absolute power through Article 44 of the junta-imposed interim constitution. It allows Prayuth to take any measures deemed necessary to promote public order and unity. Most of the repression so far has been applied with a touch more paternalistic than brutal. When threats fail to keep critics and dissidents in line, they are detained at military bases, usually for no more than a week, for interrogation sessions called "attitude adjustment." One major exception: Those convicted of insulting the monarchy face up to 15 years in prison.

Lately, however, junta officials frustrated by repeat offenders have suggested they be sent to "re-education camps", which implies at least longer detentions. Another ominous development is the prosecution of human rights lawyers. Military courts are empowered to try certain types of civilian cases. In March, the military were given police-like powers to seize assets, search premises and arrest and detain criminal suspects. Junta critics have expressed particular outrage over the recent arrest of the mother of a pro-democracy activist. Her alleged crime: Failing to rebuke a Facebook friend who sent an alleged anti-monarchist message.

ECONOMY

The junta inherited a lagging economy, with policymakers hindered by years of political instability. Macroeconomic indicators showed Thailand underperforming much of the region, though this year's estimated first-quarter growth of 3.2 percent was stronger than expected. Thailand's export-led economy was especially vulnerable to China's downturn. Two of the strongest export sectors face other problems as well. Agriculture has been weakened by severe drought, while scandals in the fishing and seafood industry - involving labor abuses and illegal fishing practices - risked sanctions in the markets of the EU and the United States. Tourism, however, has remained strong, even after a bomb blast last year in central Bangkok killed 20 people.

Boosting investment has been difficult, with some ambitious infrastructure projects stalled in part due to political uncertainties. Instead, the government has focused mainly on increasing consumption to stimulate the economy, particularly in rural areas. These measures, such as farming subsidies, were similar to Thaksin government policies that his critics derided as populist giveaways to buy voters' loyalty. What concerns economists is that the junta's generally narrow focus on political stability constrains it from tackling the country's acknowledged structural problems - competitiveness, industrial production capacity, productivity, education and training, state-owned-enterprise reform - that the pre-coup turmoil allowed to fester.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Traditionally close relations between the United States and Thailand, its oldest ally in Asia, have seemingly been shaken. Moves by Bangkok to cozy up to Beijing have been widely interpreted as a response to Washington's scolding of the military for uprooting democracy and violating human rights. The US suspended \$4.7 million in security assistance funds and stopped top-level diplomatic exchanges. Washington has made clear that those restrictions will remain until civilian rule is restored. Prayuth, however, has been able to visit the US for multilateral events. The US has also continued to stage in Thailand its largest multilateral military exercise in the Asia-Pacific, albeit on a smaller scale than before the coup.

Thaksin's most virulent critics regard US cheerleading for liberal democracy as tantamount to backing for the former prime minister. Junta officials have expressed their annoyance at Washington, but how deep their anger actually runs is hard to gauge - anti-American statements play well with their supporters, but military-to-military relations run deep. Bangkok's flirtations with Beijing involve relatively modest investments, closer military relations, and an increasing willingness to extradite Beijing's political opponents,

despite international criticism. At the same time, however, Thailand has stood fast against unfavorable financing terms offered by the Chinese for a much-desired major rail project, and has expressed interest in joining the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

THE FUTURE

Thailand's ruling generals have made clear they are not planning to yield control anytime soon. Initial plans to hold an election in 2015 were deferred until 2016, and are now deferred again until 2017. Their proposed draft constitution is fashioned to keep power in the hands of their allies in the traditional elite - using the courts and bureaucracy as their tools - at the expense of the voters' political representatives. One provision could allow for an unelected prime minister - a concept many Thais believed dead and buried a generation ago along with military dictatorship. Another would see the junta remain in existence for five years after the polls for what is described as a "transitional period."

The draft charter will be voted on in an Aug 7 referendum that amounts to the first measurement of public sentiment toward the military government. The exercise will be far from free and fair - campaigning for or against the draft is subject to nebulous rules that could land activists up to 10 years in prison. Even the sale of a "Vote No" T-shirt is considered against the law. Prayuth has said the junta will press ahead with its plans regardless of the outcome, suggesting that if the draft charter is rejected, a replacement will be enacted without a popular vote. In any case, a rejection would deeply undercut the legitimacy the junta has claimed for itself.

FINAL WORD

The streets of Bangkok may be calm, and the country's resorts thronging with tourists. But the problem the junta faces is that it has not moved the country one inch away from the polarized politics it claimed to be seeking an end to, since it has been a party to the conflict all along. — AP

TRUMP FUELS US RELOCATION DREAMS

By Jennie Matthew

Donald Trump's inflammatory presidential campaign and the prospect of the brash-talking tycoon actually becoming commander-in-chief has left progressive Americans obsessing about one thing: Moving to Canada. Stars from Cher to Lena Dunham have declared their intention to head north if the former reality star, famous for insulting Muslims and Mexicans, and under the microscope for alleged sexism, reaches top office.

According to one recent Morning Consult/Vox poll, 28 percent of Americans would "likely" consider moving to another country if Trump wins in November. Google said the search "how can I move to Canada?" surged 350 percent on March 1 when Trump won seven Republican state elections. Money makers on both sides of the border have turned the hype into a savvy marketing tool. "Leaving the country if TRUMP is elected PRESIDENT? Give me a call and LET'S GET YOUR HOME SOLD!" advertised one US realtor.

A millennial entrepreneur in Texas set up dating site Maple Match promising to help Americans "find the ideal Canadian

partner to save them from the unfathomable horror of a Trump presidency." The site is the brainchild of 25-year-old Joe Goldman, who always wanted to set up a dating site but used the Trump bandwagon to drive publicity. While actual introductions and dates are a way off, Goldman says that more than 30,000 people hungry for love have already signed up. "The Donald Trump campaign for president has provided us with an opportunity to make something positive," he told AFP. "But ultimately Maple Match itself is not political. It's about bringing Americans and Canadians together."

Fear Stoked by Election

After Cape Breton Island, off the tip of Nova Scotia, offered a refuge to Trump-hating Americans earlier this year, visitors to its tourism site exploded from 65,000 last year to 600,000, says tourist chief Mary Tulle. US academic Neda Maghbouleh moved to Toronto three years ago with her husband when they were offered attractive faculty jobs at a university. Their daughter was born in Canada, the couple have acquired permanent residency and now they want to sponsor Maghbouleh's parents to join

them. "My urgency and fear was really stoked by this election. It was a feeling that we need to be very proactive about this," she said.

Businessman Nuri Katz, who helps people acquire second citizenship, says "tens" of clients have given Trump as a reason for wanting to relocate, but warns that there are huge obstacles to actually getting up and moving. "All this anecdotal talk about moving to Canada, it's really tough," he told AFP during a business trip to New York. "It's not going to be a flood of people just driving into Canada and saying 'here we are,'" he said.

Sortable, a web advertising company in Ontario, targeted US-based developers by cheekily offering "a safe place for smart, nice people" looking for an alternative to a Trump presidency earlier this year. But while the ad generated a lot of interest, the company has yet to recruit any Americans although talks are ongoing, says digital marketing officer Brenden Sherratt. Canada has tightened immigration procedures for many categories of people, although it has been liberal in accepting Syrian refugees. Americans opposed to Trump hardly meet the UN definition of a refugee, Katz warned.

American Refugees?

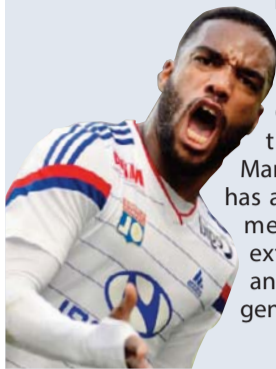
"It is a tough argument to make that you are being politically persecuted in the US," said Katz, president at Apex Capital Partners Corp. "Canada started accepting American political refugees? Boy, China would have a field day with that. Could you imagine?" Katz says Dominica in the Caribbean is the cheapest place for Americans to buy second citizenship - yours for an investment of \$100,000. He has also signed up his first American client for Cyprus, where nationality can be acquired in three months for a one-off investment of 2.5 million (\$2.8 million).

But Americans are a minority of those shopping for a second nationality and although a record number are renouncing citizenship, often for a combination of financial and political reasons, Katz says the industry is "tiny". And even if Americans have itchy feet, their country remains a premier destination for foreigners, particularly Chinese. An investor program grants green cards to those who invest at least \$500,000 and create 10 fulltime jobs. But it's so inundated that the wait time is eight years, Katz said. As the daughter of Iranian immigrants, Maghbouleh grew up feeling lucky. "The US in so many ways is still the promised land for so many people," she admitted. — AFP

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LYON REJECT \$44.9M WEST HAM OFFER FOR LACAZETTE

LYON: Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas confirmed yesterday that the French club had rejected a 40-million-euro (£30.9m, \$44.9m) offer from West Ham United for striker Alexandre Lacazette. French international Lacazette, 24, has long been linked with a move to the Premier League having scored 48 goals over the last two Ligue 1 seasons. "For a sale to be made, all three parties must agree. We have refused several offers, the most important from West Ham for 40 million euros and we refused it," Aulas told French daily Le Progres. "It is an answer that says I want to keep him, but I'm not sure because ultimately it is he who will decide. "I do not want on August 28, ahead of the Champions League, to find ourselves in the same situation as Monaco (who sold Anthony Martial to Manchester United last summer). "Ideally, he will stay. If he has an offer that he can't refuse then it will come through me, and that's it." Aulas also said that he is hoping to extend the contract of Lyon head coach Bruno Genesio, and bring in former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier as general manager.—AFP



RUGBY: BLUES HOLD OFF STRONG-FINISHING FORCE

PERTH: The Auckland Blues battered down to defeat the strong-finishing Western Force 17-13 in a battle of the Super Rugby strugglers in Perth yesterday. Tana Umaga's Blues led 17-3 at half-time and fended off the Force despite not scoring a point in the second half for their sixth win of the season. Auckland dominated the opening half with tries from Jerome Kaino and Tevita Li, but had to defend for long periods as the home side hit back in the second term. Force skipper Matt Hodgson ploughed over from close range in the 54th minute and former Queensland Reds centre Ben Tapuai kicked the home side to within four points with a penalty goal with 16 minutes. Force were in the Blues' quarter for the final stages before they lost possession in a driving maul allowing the Kiwis to kill off the game. Auckland saw out the game with 14 men after replacement forward Nic Mayhew was yellow-carded for collapsing a Force maul close to the Blues' try-line. The win did little to help Auckland's lowly standing in the New Zealand conference despite the inconsistent Blues bouncing back after being thumped 43-5 by the Golden Lions in South Africa last week.—AFP

CYCLING - AUSSIE DENNIS WINS TOUR OF CALIFORNIA TIME TRIAL

SAN FRANCISCO: Australia's Rohan Dennis won Friday's sixth stage time trial in the Tour of California while France's Julian Alaphilippe finished eighth to retain his grip on the overall lead. BMC rider Dennis captured the 12.6-mile (20.3km) time trial around the town of Folsom in 24mins 16secs, defeating American Andrew Talansky of Cannondale by 17 seconds with US standout Taylor Phinney, Dennis' BMC teammate, third, another three seconds adrift. Etixx-Quick Step rider Alaphilippe, meanwhile, kept the overall lead with two stages remaining by finishing only 45 seconds behind Dennis, giving the Frenchman a total time of 24:26:46. The Aussie's stage triumph jumped him into second place overall, only 16 seconds off the pace after starting the day 61 seconds adrift. American Brent Bookwalter of BMC was third overall, 38 seconds back after a fifth-place stage finish in which he pulled back only two seconds from Alaphilippe. The Frenchman had owned a 22-second lead on American Peter Stetina after five stages. Lotto-Jumbo rider George Bennett of New Zealand, 37 seconds adrift after the fifth stage, fell to ninth overall at 1:45 back.—AFP



CUBS OVERPOWER GIANTS; ARRIETA SHINES ORIOLES POWER PAST ANGELS 9-4 ON 4 HOMERS

SAN FRANCISCO: Jake Arrieta continued his impressive pitching and Kris Bryant provided the power as the Chicago Cubs beat the San Francisco Giants 8-1 on Friday night. The Cubs won in Arrieta's 22nd consecutive start going back to last season, with their ace going 16-0 over that stretch. They won on the road for the 24th time in 29 games as they snapped San Francisco's eight-game winning streak. Cubs outfielder Jason Heyward left the game in the bottom of the first inning after crashing into the wall on a diving catch. Heyward is under evaluation for an injury to his right torso abdominal region, the Cubs said. Arrieta, who leads the majors with a 1.29 ERA, allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked one in seven innings. Jake Peavy (1-5) allowed five runs, seven hits and two walks in 1 2/3 innings.

PADRES 7, DODGERS 6

Melvin Upton Jr hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lead the San Diego Padres past the Los Angeles Dodgers. After Wil Myers hit a bloop single to shallow center to lead off the ninth against Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen, Upton went the opposite way beyond the right-center field fence for the comeback victory. Kevin Quackenbush (2-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win for the Padres, who had lost four straight. Jansen (1-1) had converted all 14 of his save chances before Friday. Justin Turner hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning that had given the Dodgers a 6-5 lead.

NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 1

Tanner Roark finally beat the team that kept beating him, pitching 6 2/3 innings to help the Washington Nationals past Miami. Roark (3-3) came into the game 0-3 in three starts versus the Marlins this season with an ERA of 8.40. Against the rest of the majors he's 2-0 in five starts with an ERA of 0.79. Ryan Zimmerman and Michael Taylor homered to help the Nationals score all their runs in the second inning. Marcell Ozuna hit his eighth home run for Miami, but Roark had no trouble with slumping slugger Giancarlo Stanton, who finished 0 for 4 with three strikeouts, dropping his average to .214. Justin Nicolino (2-2) went 5 1/3 innings and has lost all three career starts against Washington. He was hit hard.

INDIANS 4, RED SOX 2

Jason Kipnis hit a three-run homer, Corey Kluber slowed down the majors' top-scoring team for seven innings and Cleveland won its fifth straight game. Boston's Jackie Bradley Jr. extended his hitting streak to 25 games with a solo home run. The Red Sox homered for a club-record 20th straight game, breaking their mark of 19 set in July 1996. Kluber (3-5) allowed a run in each of the first two innings, but gave up just one hit over the next five. He allowed five hits, struck out six and walked two. Cody Allen struck out three in the ninth for his 10th save.

ROYALS 4, WHITE SOX 1

Omar Infante, Paulo Orlando and Lorenzo Cain all doubled in a three-run sixth inning off Jose Quintana to lead Kansas City to a victory. Orlando added an RBI single in the ninth and Dillon Gee (1-1) allowed a run over five innings for his first victory since 2014. The Royals won for the fifth time in seven games and moved within 3 1/2 games of the AL Central-leading White Sox. Quintana (5-3) who entered with an AL-best 1.54 ERA, gave up one hit while facing the minimum 15 batters through five. He retired 11 straight until Infante had the first of four straight one-out hits. Wade Davis got his 10th save in 11 tries.

BLUE JAYS 9, TWINS 3

Jose Bautista hit a three-run home run to break open the game in the sixth inning and Toronto slugged its way to a victory. Josh Donaldson, Michael Saunders and Darwin Barney also went deep for Toronto. Aaron Sanchez (4-1) gave up two runs on eight hits with seven strikeouts in seven innings to give the Blue Jays their second straight win after a five-game losing streak. Robbie Grossman went 3 for 4 with a homer, a double and three RBIs in his first game for the Twins, who have lost five straight games and are an MLB-worst 10-31 this season. Tyler Duffey (1-3) gave up six runs on nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

MARINERS 8, REDS 3

Dae-Ho Lee's bases-loaded single completed Seattle's late rally against the major leagues' worst bullpen, and he later added a solo homer. Seattle opened a weekend dedicated to Ken Griffey Jr by getting four runs in the seventh inning against a bullpen that has blown 10 of its 14 save chances. Blake Wood (3-1) relieved in the seventh and loaded the bases on two singles and a walk. Wood walked Seth Smith to force in a run, and Tony



MINNEAPOLIS: Robbie Grossman #36 of the Minnesota Twins hits an RBI double as Russell Martin #55 of the Toronto Blue Jays catches during the second inning of the game on May 20, 2016.—AFP

Cingrani came on and hit Robinson Cano with his first pitch to tie it. Lee's pinch-hit single with two outs knocked in the go-ahead runs. Nelson Cruz and Lee homered in the ninth off Jumbo Diaz, the 35th and 36th homers allowed by Reds relievers this season. Hisashi Iwakuma (2-4) gave up three runs in six innings, including Zack Cozart's solo homer.

PIRATES 2, ROCKIES 1

Starling Marte and John Jaso had two hits each and made fine defensive plays to help

the inning as he tried to score from second base on Charlie Blackmon's single to left. Mark Melancon worked around two singles in a scoreless ninth for his 14th save in 15 opportunities. Eddie Butler (2-2) allowed two runs - one earned - in the loss.

METS 3, BREWERS 2

Steven Matz pitched seven sharp innings to win his sixth consecutive start, Michael Conforto hit a two-run homer and New York beat Milwaukee. After skipping a turn in the

save. With the Mets trailing 2-1, Asdrubal Cabrera singled to start the sixth and Conforto homered off Willy Peralta (2-5).

RANGERS 2, ASTROS 1

Colby Lewis pitched seven scoreless innings and Prince Fielder provided the offense with a two-run double to lead Texas to a victory. Lewis (3-0) allowed four hits and struck out six in his first scoreless outing this season to pick up his first win since April 29. Sam Dyson gave up an RBI single to Colby Rasmus with two outs in the ninth before striking out Evan Gattis for his third save. Houston starter Lance McCullers (0-1) yielded five hits and two runs with seven strikeouts in six innings in his second start of the season since coming off the disabled list.

RAYS 7, TIGERS 5

Steven Souza and Steve Pearce homered to help Tampa Bay beat Detroit. Miguel Cabrera homered twice for the Tigers. Matt Andriese (3-0) picked up the win despite allowing four runs in 5 1/3 innings. Four relievers followed, with Alex Colome pitching the ninth for his 11th save in 11 chances. Anibal Sanchez (3-5) allowed five runs in five-plus innings for the Tigers.

BRAVES 7, PHILLIES 1

Freddie Freeman homered twice and drove in four runs and Nick Markakis also hit a home run to lead Atlanta to a victory. It was a rare power surge for the Braves, who entered last in the majors by a wide margin with just 15 homers. Philadelphia's 31 homers entering Friday were second from the bottom in the big leagues. The Braves hit three homers in a game for the first time this season, and have nine in their last five games. Matt Wisler (2-3) allowed one run on five hits with seven strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings to help the Braves to just their fourth win in 15 games. Aaron Nola (3-3) gave up five runs - two earned - and seven hits in seven innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, CARDINALS 7

Patrick Corbin (2-3) struck out seven and Chris Herrmann homered with three RBIs for the Arizona Diamondbacks in a victory over

the St. Louis Cardinals. Michael Bourn and Chris Owings added two RBIs apiece for the Diamondbacks, who are 13 7 on the road and 7-17 at home. They pulled away with seven runs over the last two innings and have won nine of 10 road series openers dating to last September. Carlos Martinez (4-4) allowed four runs in five innings and has lost his last four starts after winning the first four. Reliever Jonathan Broxton was charged with five runs in one-third of an inning in the eighth and infielder Ruben Tejada made his major league pitching debut in the ninth, surrendering consecutive homers to Herrmann and Brandon Drury.

YANKEES 8, ATHLETICS 3

CC Sabathia came off the disabled list to pitch six innings and become the eighth player in the modern era to win 100 games or more with two teams, and the New York Yankees beat the Oakland Athletics. Carlos Beltran doubled three times and drove in three runs, Jacoby Ellsbury added two RBIs while Ronald Torreyes had a two-run triple during a five-run fourth inning to help the Yankees to their second straight win in this series after getting swept by the A's in April. Sabathia (3-2), who had a groin injury earlier this month, allowed one run, three hits, walked one and had a season-high eight strikeouts for his first victory there since 2012. Sonny Gray (3-5) gave up five runs in 3 1/3 innings.

ORIOLES 9, ANGELS 4

Chris Davis hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning - one of four in the game by the Orioles - and Baltimore defeated the Los Angeles Angels in the series opener after blowing a three-run lead. Mark Trumbo also hit a two-run blast, and Joey Rickard and Manny Machado added back-to-back solo shots for the AL East leaders who improved to 8-7 away from home. They had played just two road games since April 28 before opening a nine-game West Coast trip in Anaheim. Mychal Givens (3-0) allowed two hits and no runs in 1 1/3 relief innings. Jose Alvarez (1-2) took the loss.—AP

MLB Results/Standings

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

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB	
Baltimore	25	15	.625	Washington	26	16	.619	-
Boston	25	17	.595	Philadelphia	24	18	.571	2
Tampa Bay	20	19	.513	NY Mets	23	18	.561	2.5
Toronto	21	23	.477	Miami	21	20	.512	4.5
NY Yankees	19	22	.463	Atlanta	11	30	.268	14.5
Central Division				Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	25	17	.595	Chicago Cubs	29	11	.725	-
Cleveland	22	17	.564	Pittsburgh	23	18	.561	6.5
Kansas City	21	20	.512	St. Louis	22	20	.524	8
Detroit	19	22	.463	Milwaukee	18	24	.429	12
Minnesota	10	31	.244	Cincinnati	15	27	.357	15
Western Division				Western Division				
Seattle	24	17	.585	San Francisco	25	19	.568	-
Texas	23	19	.548	LA Dodgers	21	22	.488	3.5
LA Angels	19	23	.452	Colorado	20	21	.488	3.5
Oakland	19	24	.442	Arizona	20	24	.455	5
Houston	17	26	.395	San Diego	18	25	.419	6.5

Gerrit Cole navigate through seven shaky innings. Cole (5-3) scattered 10 hits and a walk while not recording a strikeout as he won his second straight start. David Freese snapped a 1-1 tie with a two-out single in the sixth inning to give the Pirates their fifth win in six games and eighth straight victory over the Rockies. Marte preserved the 2-1 lead in the seventh by throwing out Dustin Garneau at home to end

rotation last weekend because of a sore elbow, Matz (6-1) picked up right where he left off in his previous outing May 9 at Dodger Stadium. The rookie left-hander held the Brewers to three hits. The only real hiccup for Matz came when Chris Carter connected for his 13th home run of the season, a two-run shot in the first inning. After that, Matz retired 15 straight. Jeury Familia closed flawlessly for his 14th



Jarryd Hayne

HAYNE MAKES WORLD RUGBY SEVENS DEBUT

LONDON: Jarryd Hayne made his debut for Fiji in the World Rugby Sevens in London on Saturday in the latest Olympic twist to the Australian-born back's star-studded code-crossing adventure. Hayne last week abandoned playing NFL with the San Francisco 49ers to pursue a spot on Fiji's sevens squad for this year's Rio Games. The 28-year-old's run out for Fiji at Twickenham was his debut in rugby union, having previously starred for Parramatta Eels in the Australian NRL, during which time he won 12 caps for the Kangaroos and four for Fiji, from where his father hailed.

In London, Hayne, who played 20 times for New South Wales at full-back or centre in the State of Origin, started on the bench for the reigning series champions and current series leaders. But England bucked the script, Dan Norton, Alex Gray and Alex Davis crossing for three long-distance first-half tries before Stade Français winger Waisea Nayacalevu pulled one back for Fiji. Norton scored a splendid second try before Hayne was introduced for the final four minutes.

Masivesi Dakuwaqa went over for Fiji's second before Hayne finally touched the ball after the hooter had sounded, Tom

Bowen capitalising on a speculative offload to seal a comfortable 31-10 victory for the home side. Fellow cross-code import Sonny Bill Williams, who made his name in rugby league before going on to win two World Cup titles with the All Blacks, was in no doubt when asked if he'd given Hayne any advice. "Work on your fitness!" said Williams, before adding that Hayne "would be fine". Nick Cummins, who is also pursuing his Olympic dream with the Australia sevens team after winning 15 Wallaby caps, added: "Old Hayne's not a bad rooster, is he?" He's a special athlete and he'll have quite an impact for the Fijian side, I reckon he'd be good."

Former New Zealand captain Karl Te Nana, now a respected television commentator, added: "It's always going to be tough, you try to get involved. He needs some time in the saddle, it's great to see him get on the field at least. "The game had been lost by then, but now he's got the feel of it, he's into the tournament and hopefully the next game and going forward he'll get more game time." Hayne will no doubt have further opportunities at England's rugby union headquarters when Fiji cross swords with pool rivals Wales and Australia later.—AFP

BONUS TRY PUTS CHIEFS ON TOP RUNG OF SUPER LADDER

WELLINGTON: A blunt assessment of their shortcomings paid off for the Waikato Chiefs who went top of the Super Rugby table with a bonus-point 36-15 victory over the Melbourne Rebels in Hamilton yesterday. On a wet night, the Chiefs scored five tries to move to 42 points, one ahead of the Canterbury Crusaders, while the Rebels remain on 23 points and with their play-off hopes slipping away. Chiefs captain Sam Cane said there had been some serious soul-searching after losing to the Otago Highlanders in their last outing and, with a bye last week, they returned a fresher and more focused side. But of concern for the Chiefs was how they went off the boil after chalking up 26 points in the first half hour.

They put away the backline enterprise that caused much of the early damage, their control of the breakdown was diluted and it took 40 minutes before they scored again with a late flurry. "The way we started the game, the first 30 minutes were urgent. We were a lot more clinical than we had been in the last couple of weeks. The disappointing part was we did not show that for the whole 80," Cane said. Seta Tamanivalu set the tone for the opening onslaught with a try in the third minute after the Chiefs pack had marched the Rebels back 20 metres. Brad Weber moved the ball wide

where Tamanivalu wrong-footed Mitch Imman and Reece Hodge to cross handy to the posts.

The Rebels were outplayed in every department in the opening exchanges as the Chiefs corrected all the errors that had slipped into their game. After forward power set up the first try, the second came from a delicate Aaron Cruden chip kick behind the Rebels defensive line which hooker Nathan Harris pounced on for the five-pointer. With the Rebels falling off tackles, Toni Pulu came off his wing to score the bonus point try in the 23rd minute when a dummy pass from scrum-half Brad Weber opened a hole close to the ruck.

But, after Cruden scored to put the Chiefs up 26-3, the Rebels enjoyed 10 minutes of dominance through to half-time without converting possession into points. Three times skipper Nic Stirzaker turned down shots at goal in favor of an attacking lineup and each time they came up empty handed. The Rebels resurgence continued at the start of the second half when Harris scored and converted. It was not until the 69th minute that the Chiefs scored again, first with a penalty by Aaron Cruden who contributed 14 points on the night and then a try to Andrew Horrell before the Rebels finished the game with a try to Hodge.—AFP

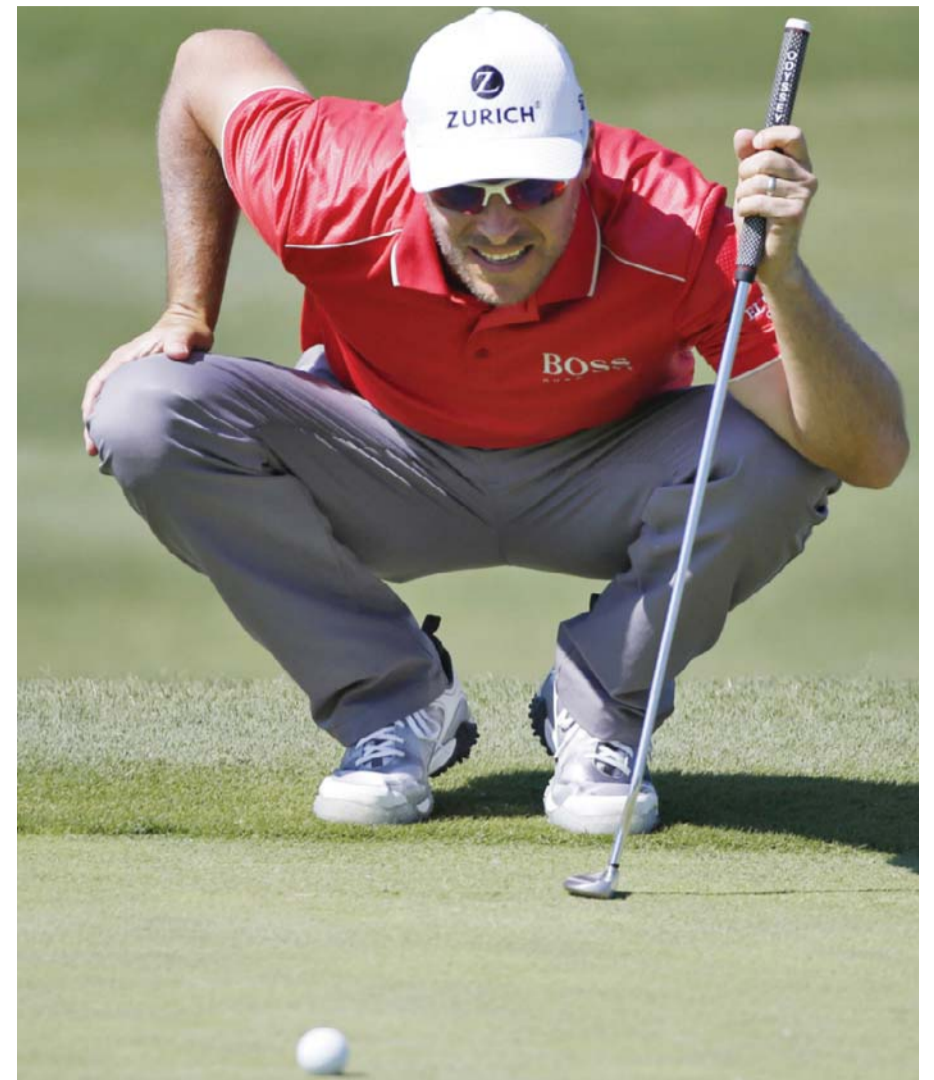
CRANE SWOOPS INTO BYRON NELSON LEAD

WORLD NUMBER TWO SHOOTS 65; SPIETH ONE BACK

TEXAS: Hometown favorite Jordan Spieth struggled with his iron play but drained two lengthy birdie putts to move within one stroke of leader Ben Crane after the second round at the weather-hit AT&T Byron Nelson in Texas on Friday. The US Open champion kept errors to a minimum as he followed his opening 64 with a five-under-par 65 at the rain-softened TPC Four Seasons Resort in Irving. He ended the round equal second with Spaniard Sergio Garcia (66) and Americans Brooks Koepka (64) and Bud Cauley (65), while Crane (63) set the halfway pace at 12-under 128. Spieth, who missed the cut at last week's Players Championship in his first PGA Tour start since his shocking collapse at last month's Masters, was happy to make "limited mistakes" but acknowledged need for improvement.

"Again, I just took advantage of the easier holes," the 22-year-old told reporters. "Had a couple of longer putts go in today and found both the par-fives in two to two-putt and tap in for those two birdies. "So very limited mistakes. I have three-putted 13 times and that's really the only mistakes that I have made this week, even not quite feeling like I have my best iron play right now." Spieth, a seven-time winner on the PGA Tour who is known for his brilliant putting, said he felt much more in control of his game on the green than with an iron in his hand.

"You'd certainly like to feel like you have full control over the ball every time you step over it but that's not reality in golf," the American world number two smiled. "I'd like to have a bit more. "I don't feel like I am tied for the lead right now, it's not the feeling I have when I stand over an iron shot but when I stand over my putter right now, it's back to where we like to have it." Crane flew into the lead with an eight-birdie sortie that included a 70-foot bunker shot that rolled deliciously into the middle of the cup at the third hole. The 40-year-old has been missing in action since he won in Memphis two years ago, a slump he puts down to too much tinkering with his swing. "As a pro golfer you just want to get better. Changing stuff isn't always the answer," said the five-time PGA Tour winner.—Reuters



TEXAS: Ben Crane lines up a putt on No 5 during the second round of the Byron Nelson golf tournament at TPC Four Seasons on Friday, May 20, 2016. — AP

RAMPANT JAPAN DEMOLISH S KOREA IN NINE-TRY ROMP

INCHEON: Japan all but secured their second consecutive Asia Rugby Championship in Incheon yesterday with a 60-3 nine-try mauling of South Korea. While Hong Kong can still mathematically level the series with two games remaining, three bonus-point wins leave the Brave Blossoms with one hand firmly on the cup. Japan entered the match with a 23 that included five debutants and a host of changes from their last match. Interim coach Ryuji Nakatake said he was pleased with the victory, but also highlighted South Korea's effort.

"Korea have high pressure on defense and particularly on the breakdown," he said. South

Korea, with three changes to their starting 15 from last week's 34-27 defeat by Hong Kong, showed more fight than in their 85-0 loss to Japan in the regional championship opener but were never in the game. They started the match with the assistance of a strong breeze and made use of it in the opening minutes-fly-half Oh Jim-Yeong launching a successful penalty kick from halfway to give his side an early 3-0 lead. Japan responded soon after through a try to hooker Atsushi Sakate and they took the ascendancy when captain Keisuke Uchida split the home defence to make it 10-3.

South Korea's cause was made tougher when Youn Kwon-Woo found himself in the sin bin after 16 minutes, allowing Japan to further drive home their advantage. A penalty try and a brace from Ryohei Yamanaka saw Japan pull away and take a 29-3 lead into the half-time break. It was all Japan after the restart and South Korea were again a man down when Kim Hyun-Soo was yellow-carded after 53 minutes. A second try to Sakate was followed by scores from Kentaro Kodama, Naohiro Kotaki, Takuhei Yasuda and Hajime Yamashita, and a strong defensive effort ensured Japan are yet to concede a try in the tournament.—AFP



INCHEON: Japan's Takuhei Yasuda (left) is tackled by South Korea's Kim Hyun-Soo (right) during their Asian Rugby Championship match at the Namdong Asiad Rugby Field yesterday.—AFP

LIGHTNING HANG ON TO DEFEAT PENGUINS, EVEN SERIES

PITTSBURGH: The Tampa Bay Lightning jumped out to a 4-0 lead then gave up three goals in the third period before holding on for a 4-3 Game Four victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins at Amalie Arena on Friday to even the Eastern Conference finals series. "I didn't think

we ever lost control of the game," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "Give Pittsburgh credit. They played loose, they played hard, they tried to make a game of it, which they did. "But I never was sitting there saying 'This game's in trouble for us,' and I think everybody on the bench

thought that and the result ended up saying the same thing."

After giving up 48 shots in a 4-2 loss on Wednesday, the Lightning were in control from the start and scored 27 seconds into the game. Three goals assisted by defenseman Victor

Hedman matched a Lightning playoff record. Goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy took a shutout into the third before things got interesting. Pittsburgh's Phil Kessel ended the shutout early in the third, scoring his eighth goal of the playoffs just 1:18 into the final period to make it 4-1. The Penguins pulled goalie Matthew Murray for the first time in the postseason, putting in Marc-Andre Fleury for the third period and his debut in this year's playoffs.

Pittsburgh added a goal from Evgeni Malkin—his fourth of the playoffs—to pull within 4-2 with 8:47 remaining. Pittsburgh got a power play 13 seconds later, and converted with 6:52 left as Chris Kunitz hammered home a rebound to cut the lead to 4-3. "I think they were just a little more desperate," Penguins' Sidney Crosby said. "We didn't have the desperation we needed early on, until we got behind four goals and we found it. We put ourselves in a big hole there." The best-of-seven series continues on Sunday in Pittsburgh before returning to Tampa on Tuesday.

The Penguins saw defenseman Trevor Daley helped off the ice in the second period with a lower-body injury after he went awkwardly into the boards behind the Pittsburgh net. He did not return to the game and reportedly left the arena on crutches. Up 2-0 after one period, the Lightning stayed in control, then took advantage with a four-minute power play, with Hedman feeding Jonathan Drouin for his third goal of the series and a 3-0 lead. The extended power play came after Pittsburgh defenseman Kris Letang shot the puck after the whistle and it hit Drouin, setting off a scuffle that would result in Letang getting two minutes each for cross-checking and roughing.

Hedman took a cut to the neck on a high-stick that was not called, and the goal came shortly after his return to the ice, three minutes exactly into the power play. "I have no excuse," Letang said after the game. "I should be on the ice. I should be more disciplined." Tampa Bay made it 4-0 with 2:12 left in the second-Tyler Johnson, who had taken a puck to the face in warmups, was credited with his sixth goal of the playoffs, but all he did was let Nikita Kucherov's cross pass hit his shin and bounce into the goal. Tampa Bay, coming off back-to-back losses for the first time in this postseason, took the lead on the first shot of the night. A long shot from Hedman was redirected in front of the net by Ryan Callahan and past Murray for his second goal of the playoffs. The Lightning, playing again without top goalie Ben Bishop or leading scorer Steven Stamkos, got strong play from Vasilevskiy in net. Tampa Bay had only four power plays in the first three games of the series, but earned two in the first eight minutes of the game Friday.

Johnson, who took a puck to the face in warmups when a shot caromed off the post, played through the injury—at first, he wore a full cage to protect his face, switching to a clear shield over his face midway through the first period. "Now the talk is somebody should shoot one into Johnny's mouth now in warmups now for Game 5. I thought he had a hell of a game," Cooper said. "He should probably keep the cage on again in warmups." Tampa Bay made it a 2-0 lead with 5:32 left in the first, as Kucherov made a stellar cross-zone pass to hit defenseman Andrej Sustr on the far side of the net, and he scored for his first goal of the playoffs.—Reuters



TAMPA: Sidney Crosby #87 of the Pittsburgh Penguins takes a shot against Andrei Vasilevskiy #88 of the Tampa Bay Lightning during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs on May 20, 2016. — AFP

DJOKOVIC CONFRONTS GREATEST CHALLENGE AS CLOCK TICKS

PARIS: Twelve months after his latest bid to complete a career Grand Slam was thwarted, Novak Djokovic targets an elusive French Open title with time and history threatening to conspire against him. The world number one was left in tears in 2015 when Stan Wawrinka unleashed a battery of single-handed backhand winners to all corners of Court Philippe Chatrier on his way to a shock Paris title. Djokovic turns 29 today and will be playing Roland Garros for a 12th time where he remains the overwhelming favorite to secure a trophy which would also place him halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since 1969.

But tennis is littered with great names whose Grand Slam pedigree endured shattering reality checks on Roland Garros's unforgiving crushed red brick surfaces. Pete Sampras won 14 majors but 13 times the great American tried to win the French Open and 13 times he failed. Stefan Edberg also made 13 fruitless visits while Djokovic's coach Boris Becker tried nine times. John McEnroe also flopped, the four-time US Open and three-time Wimbledon winner having to console himself with a runners-up spot in Paris in 1984.

Djokovic, with 11 majors under his belt, has come closer than all of them. He has been runner-up three times and a semi-finalist on four occasions. His record in 2016 reads 37 wins and just three defeats although two of those came on clay against Jiri Vesely in a freak Monte Carlo opening-round exit and a loss to Andy Murray in last weekend's Rome final.

Djokovic starts in Paris against Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun, the world number

100. He is seeded to face Tomas Berdych in the last-eight before a potential semi-final blockbuster against nine-time champion Rafael Nadal in what would be the 50th meeting between the two superstars. "I still feel like I have plenty of more years ahead of me, which gives me more comfort in terms of opportunities I'm going to have at the title of Roland Garros, which releases more pressure for me this year," said the top seed. "I don't try to approach them from a point of view of being obsessed with this tournament." World number two Murray is shaping up as Djokovic's greatest threat. He may be 8,000 points behind in the world rankings, but the former US Open and Wimbledon winner has developed a taste for clay relatively late in his career. His 6-3, 6-3 win over Djokovic at the Foro Italico came on his 29th birthday.

Murray threat

Murray has steadily improved in Paris with three semi-final runs in his last four appearances, losing a five-set epic to Djokovic in 2015. He faces 37-year-old Czech qualifier Radek Stepanek in the first round with a potential semi-final against Wawrinka. "Qualifiers have played three matches. That's tough. They have won three matches here. They are probably feeling pretty good about their conditions and comfortable on the courts," said Murray. Nadal was promoted to the fourth seeding after Roger Federer withdrew from the tournament with injury ending a run of 65 consecutive Grand Slam appearances stretching back to 1999. Written off after a 2015 campaign saw him endure his worst season in a decade, the 29-year-old Spaniard



PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic trains ahead of the 2016 Roland Garros French Tennis Open in Paris yesterday. — AFP

won in Monte Carlo for the ninth time and then clinched the Barcelona crown to equal Guillermo Vilas's record of 49 career clay-court titles. A semi-final run in Madrid and quarter-final spot in Rome where it took Murray and Djokovic respectively to halt him-illustrated his enduring power. Nadal starts his French Open against big-serving Sam Groth of Australia. With his 30th birthday just around the corner, Nadal has arguably the toughest draw-Italy's Fabio Fognini,

who came back from two sets down to beat him at the US Open last year, is a possible third round opponent.

Rising Austrian Dominic Thiem, the man who knocked Federer out in Rome, is lying in wait in the round of 16. "I'm not feeling old. On court it is true that I had a lot of years here on the tour, but in terms of mentality and in terms of life I feel myself young," said Nadal. "I don't think about going to be 30." Defending champion Wawrinka, 30, has endured a

roller-coaster clay-court season-a quarter-final run in Monte Carlo followed by an opening loss in Madrid and just one victory in Rome. World number six Kei Nishikori of Japan remains an outside hope. The 26-year-old was runner-up in Barcelona to Nadal and then lost semi-finals to Djokovic in Madrid and Rome. But Nishikori's record at the French Open is modest with a quarter-final spot last year representing his best performance.— AFP



Serena Williams

SERENA WILLIAMS TARGETS STEFFI AT THE FRENCH OPEN

PARIS: Serena Williams will have a third go at winning a 22nd Grand Slam singles title at the French Open, which would draw her level with Steffi Graf as the most successful female player in the Open era. But to do so, the 34-year-old American will have to achieve something she has so far failed to manage-defend her crown in Paris. Just three of Williams' 21 Grand Slam titles have come in France-the first in 2002 and then a long gap until 2013 and 2015. The year after her inaugural French Open title, she lost in three tough sets to eventual winner Justine Henin-hardly a major upset at that time. But in 2014 she lost a second round tie to young Spaniard Garbine Muguruza, a defeat that recalled her shock first round exit at the hands of Virginie Razzano two years previously.

That defeat to the lowly-ranked French player resulted in Williams re-dedicating herself to the game under the guidance of French coach Patrick Mouratoglou. The result has been spectacular with her winning two Wimbledon titles, three consecutive US Opens between 2012 and 2014, one further championship in Paris and the Australian Open in 2015. Williams, who won her first title in nine months in Rome last weekend, will begin her Paris defense against Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova, the world number 76, who has yet to make it beyond the second round.

The American star insists she is feeling no pressure. "I think now it's different because I want to win more than I think most people ever, but also I think it's different now because I don't have anything to prove and I don't have anything-it's just a different feeling," she said. "Whereas five, ten years ago, oh, I'm defending and I feel that pressure. Now it's like I'm defending, I'm in Paris, it's cool, and I'm having, you know, the time of my life. I'm just happy to be here." The victory in Italy came at an opportune moment for Williams as she had gone title-less since Cincinnati in the buildup to last year's US Open.

There then followed losses in the finals of the US and Australian Opens and a defeat to main rival Victoria Azarenka at Indian Wells. A fourth round loss to Svetlana Kuznetsova at Miami saw Williams pull down the shutters for a while only for her to roar back to form in Rome. Asked how relieved she felt to finally get another win-the 70th of her career-under her belt Williams replied: "It feels great. But I mean, I have played, let's see, US Open, Australian, Miami, Indian Wells. So it's only four tournaments. So it's not like I was playing every week."

Emerging threat

With two-time winner Maria Sharapova out of the picture under a doping cloud, the opposition to Williams is expected to come from Europeans in the shape of Germany's Angelique Kerber, who upset Williams in Melbourne, two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, 2014 finalist Simona Halep of Romania, Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, as well as Azarenka. But there could be an emerging threat from her fellow American Madison Keys, who ran Williams close in the Rome final, and who seems to have developed a taste for clay-court action at just 21.

Former world number one and two-time Australian Open winner Azarenka is a potential quarter-final foe for Williams while 2010 French Open champion could be a third round opponent. Fifth seed Azarenka, a semi-finalist in 2013, opens against Italy's Karin Knapp. Second seed Radwanska is scheduled to face Halep in the last eight. Radwanska, yet to get past the quarter-finals, takes on Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski first up. Kerber, the third seed, is lined up for a last-eight duel with 2015 semi-finalist Timea Bacsinszky. Kerber starts against Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens. Wimbledon finalist Muguruza and US Open runner-up Roberta Vinci is the other potential quarter-final if seedings go to plan.— AFP

MAGIC NAME FORMER PACER BENCH BOSS AS NEW COACH

MIAMI: Frank Vogel, coach of the Indiana Pacers for the past five seasons, was named Friday as coach of the NBA Orlando Magic. The 42-year-old American, also a former assistant coach with Philadelphia and Boston, replaced Scott Skiles, who resigned last week after the Magic went 35-47 in his only campaign as coach. Orlando has endured four losing seasons in a row, but the Magic were 10 games better last season than the previous season and there is hope Vogel can make more progress.

"This group is ready to make that next jump," Vogel said. "My intention is to come in and make this happen for this group right away and make that jump (to the playoffs) this year. This is going to be a season about being on a mission and winning a lot of games." Vogel is known for emphasizing defensive work. Indiana's past five teams were among the NBA's top six each season in shooting percentage defense and all six were in the top 10 for defensive efficiency.

"Frank is a terrific fit for our organization," Magic general manager Rob Hennigan said. "He is a strong, hard-working and experienced leader who will continue to instill smart, physical, unselfish and defensive-minded basketball in our group." Vogel went 250-181 with the Pacers and reached the playoffs five times, going so far as the Eastern Conference finals in 2013 and 2014 but losing to the LeBron James-led Miami Heat each time. "In Frank, we feel we have someone with tremendous perseverance, character and great balance," Magic chief executive Alex Martins said. "He's an effective communicator who brings a wealth of strategic and postseason experience and is incredibly excited to embrace the journey ahead." — AFP



Frank Vogel

CHINA DOMINATES S KOREA TO WIN THE UBER CUP FINAL

KUNSHAN: Olympic champion Li Xuerui led the Chinese national squad to victory over South Korea at the Uber Cup final in China yesterday, securing the country's 14th world badminton team championship title in dominant fashion. China rarely surrendered command over the court during its 3-1 triumph in front of a packed home crowd in the eastern city of Kunshan, near Shanghai.

Li, the world number three, brushed off an early deficit after dropping the first game to seventh-ranked Sung Ji-hyun. The Olympic gold medalist rallied back for the win by controlling the pace and keeping the South Korean out of sync with repeated drop shots in the 14-21, 21-13, 21-10 victory. "Every step in the team match

is one step for myself," Li told a news conference after the match, adding she planned to celebrate "quietly" after the week-long tournament.

Sixth-ranked doubles team Jung Kyung-eun and Shin Seung-chan from South Korea prevented a whitewash, powering through a 16-21, 21-17, 25-23 scrap against the world number four China duo of Tian Qing and Zhao Yunlei that clocked in at 94 minutes. Wang Shixian put China back in the win column as she exhausted Kim Hyo-min, moving the shuttlecock across the court at will during the 21-13, 21-12 rout. Following the win, Wang downplayed her individual efforts and Olympic ambitions as Rio approaches, saying she was proud to be "fighting for our team, for our national team".

Chen Qingchen and Tang Yuanting delivered the third and final victory in the best of five series by beating Chang Ye-na and Lee So-hee in straight sets, 21-14, 21-16. With the championship sealed, the fans in attendance unleashed a deafening approval of the pair's spirited performance as their teammates rushed onto the court to celebrate. The South Koreans, who were aiming to end their six-year drought at the Uber Cup, were unable to find their groove during the tie and suffered in the absence of their second singles player Bae Yeon-Ju, who was sidelined by an ankle injury sustained on court Friday night. China has won three-straight Uber Cups and 14 in total since the team first started competing in the tournament in 1984.—AFP



KUNSHAN: China's players and coaches celebrate on the court after winning badminton's Uber Cup in Kunshan in eastern China's Jiangsu province yesterday. China beat South Korea 3-1 to win the Uber Cup. — AP

GAYLE BOASTS OF 'VERY BIG BAT'

LONDON: Chris Gayle, the big-hitting batsman who sparked a sexism scandal after flirting with a female broadcaster on live television, fanned the flames again yesterday in an interview touching on sex, women and equality. Gayle, one of the biggest stars in world cricket, boasted about his "very, very big bat" and asked journalist Charlotte Edwards from British newspaper The Times if she had ever had a threesome.

The interview is likely to provoke reaction from cricketing circles and beyond. The 36-year-old Jamaican said women enjoyed "more than equality" and insisted his countrymen took a relaxed view about sex. The West Indies batsman said women threw themselves at him in their thousands, explaining he was "damn good-looking". The self-confessed joker boasted about having "a very, very big bat, the biggest in the woorld", adding, "You think

you could lift it? You'd need two hands." Edwards wrote: "He asks how many black men I've had, goading me when I deflect the question, and whether I've ever had a 'teesome'-I bet you have. Tell me."

On the subject of women, Gayle said women should have and did have equality. "They have more than equality. Women can do what they want. Jamaican women are very vocal. They will let you know what time it is, for sure," he said. He added: "Women should please their man," explaining: "When he comes home, food is on the table. Serious," although if she also works, "they share" and it is down to the "first person home". Gayle has a baby daughter with Natasha Berridge, his girlfriend of 10 years. He said he would change a nappy, but on cooking, "no", and cleaning: "That is not going to happen." — AFP

CSKA OVERCOME RUBIN TO WIN RUSSIAN PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE

KAZAN: CSKA Moscow fought off a challenge from surprise title contender FC Rostov to win the Russian Premier League for the sixth time yesterday. Roared on by thousands of traveling fans, CSKA held on to an early lead to win 1-0 at Rubin Kazan, knowing that if Rubin had equalized Rostov would have taken the title on the head-to-head record. Alan Dzagoev scored the vital goal for CSKA with a fierce shot in the 19th minute, and goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev preserved the lead

with a spectacular double save in the final minutes.

"All those five seconds, (my heart) was stopped," CSKA coach Leonid Slutsky said of the double save. "Everything's great." Both teams could have scored more, with Rubin's Mijo Caktas rattling the bar in the first half, and CSKA's Zoran Tosic hitting the post shortly before the break. Winning the title could be the last act at CSKA for Slutsky, who has been splitting his time with the Russian national team

this season but is under pressure to go full time with Russia ahead of the 2018 World Cup.

It is CSKA's third title in four seasons, all under Slutsky's leadership, earning a place in the Champions League group stage next season. Runner-up Rostov, which beat Terek Grozny 2-0, goes into the Champions League qualifying rounds, while reigning champion Zenit heads for the Europa League in third. That ends a remarkable season for Rostov, which

barely survived relegation last season and has maintained a shock title challenge despite severe financial problems. Coach Kurban Berdyev and Iranian star striker Sardar Azmoun are among several personnel already being linked with transfers elsewhere in the summer.

Zenit beat Dynamo Moscow 3-0, with former Dynamo star Alexander Kokorin among the scorers. It was the first relegation in Soviet or Russian football history for Dynamo, the club of Soviet goalkeep-

ing great Lev Yashin. Mordovia Saransk, which lost 3-0 to Lokomotiv Moscow, was also relegated. That leaves just six of the 11 host cities for the 2018 World Cup with a top-flight club. Second-tier sides Gazovik Orenburg and Arsenal Tula won promotion to the Premier League for next season. In playoffs for relegation and promotion, Premier League teams Anzhi Makhachkala and Kuban Krasnodar face second-tier clubs Tom Tomsk and Volgar Astrakhan.—AP



Brendan Rodgers

LIVERPOOL EX-BOSS RODGERS NAMED AS CELTIC'S MANAGER

LONDON: Celtic have named former Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers as their new manager on a 12-month rolling contract, the Scottish Premiership champions said on Friday. Northern Irishman Rodgers, who has also managed at Swansea City, Reading and Watford, was sacked by Liverpool in October and replaces Ronny Deila at the Scottish club. "I am absolutely delighted to be named Celtic manager," Rodgers, 43, said in a statement on Celtic's website (www.celticfc.net). "This is genuinely a huge honour for me. I have followed Celtic all my life and to be given this fantastic opportunity and to be part of such a truly great football club is a dream come true." One of the most pressing tasks facing Rodgers will be steering the club into the group stage of the Champions League, starting with a second qualifying round tie.

He will also face the renewal of the 'Old Firm' rivalry with their Glasgow neighbours Rangers, who will return to the top flight next season after four years in the lower divisions following the club's liquidation in 2012. "We wanted to bring one of the biggest and best names to the club to match our own aspirations and those

of our supporters- we believe, in appointing Brendan, that we have done this," Celtic Chief Executive Peter Lawwell said. "We have appointed a special manager and we are sure he can bring some special times to Celtic." Rodgers was sacked by Liverpool after an underwhelming start to the season, with his record in the transfer market coming under scrutiny and his team struggling in the Premier League.

Having been named Liverpool boss in 2012, Rodgers took the club to the brink of the Premier League title two years later, playing an exhilarating brand of football, spearheaded by striker Luis Suarez. A late slump that season, however, allowed Manchester City to pip them to top spot and from that point on things went downhill for Rodgers. Liverpool sold Suarez to Barcelona and brought in several players with the proceeds, with many failing to make an impact as the club slumped to sixth in the table. A humiliating 6-1 defeat at Stoke City in Liverpool's final game of the 2014-15 season left Rodgers on borrowed time and he was dismissed after eight league games of the following campaign.—Reuters

ENGLAND'S KANE AND VARDY HOPE FOR TURKEY CHANCE

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane hopes to get an opportunity to partner Jamie Vardy when England tackle Turkey today in the first of their three Euro 2016 warm-up matches. Kane's 25 Premier League goals earned him the Golden Boot, with Vardy finishing the campaign one goal behind after inspiring Leicester City to their fairytale title triumph. The pair have started just one England game together-last October's 3-0 win in Lithuania-but with Wayne Rooney and Marcus Rashford on FA Cup final duty with Manchester United this weekend and Daniel Sturridge expected to be rested after playing for Liverpool in the Europa League final, they may be aligned together again at the Etihad Stadium.

"Jamie has had a fantastic season and scored a lot of goals, so if we are playing together it will be very exciting," Kane told reporters at England's St George's Park training centre this week. "We are different sorts of players. He has got a lot of pace and can run in behind-that will probably allow me to drop off and get into space. "If the manager puts us together we will be ready to go and try to score as many goals as we can." England manager Roy Hodgson is expected to approach Euro 2016 with a two-man strike-force operating in front of a midfield diamond, although he has also utilized a 4-3-3 system on occasion. With Rooney, England's captain and record goal-scorer, now operating in a midfield role for United, there could be an opportunity for Kane and Vardy to form an enduring partnership up front. The two went head-to-head in the Premier League title race and Vardy, 29, bared his claws on social media in response to a photograph posted on Instagram by 22-year-old Kane. Kane's image showed four lions on the prowl-apparently a reference to his team's pursuit of Leicester-and when Spurs' 2-2 draw at Chelsea gifted the Foxes the title, Vardy retaliated with a picture of Mufasa, head of the pride in the Disney animated film 'The Lion King', sliding to his death.

Mor to come

But Kane said: "We had a bit of banter over



Jamie Vardy

social media, but everything is all good. "Winning the Golden Boot is always nice. It's something I'm very proud of, but nothing has really been said about that. "He won the Premier League, so there isn't much I can really say!" With his United and Liverpool players absent, Hodgson had only 19 members of his 26-man squad at his disposal for training on Thursday ahead of the match at the home of Manchester City, which is followed by games against Australia and Portugal.

But Liverpool's captain Jordan Henderson took part after being an unused substitute in his club's 3-1 loss to Sevilla in Basel on Wednesday, which followed a month-long absence with a knee injury. Chelsea centre-back Gary Cahill also trained, having missed the first session of the

get-together with a knock. Turkey are gearing up for their first major tournament since reaching the semi-finals at Euro 2008, having failed to qualify for Euro 2012 and the last two World Cups. Fatih Terim's side face Croatia, the Czech Republic and defending champions Spain in Group D at Euro 2016, after scraping through qualifying as the best of the nine third-place teams. Today's game could feature an international debut for quicksilver 18-year-old FC Nordsjaelland winger Emre Mor, who was born and raised in Denmark, but switched allegiances to Turkey-the land of his parents-earlier this year. "I think he is a player out of the ordinary," said Terim. "I decided to give him a chance and Turkey can gain a very interesting player."—AFP



DENSO KOBELCO SARD LEXUS RC F FINISHES 2ND IN ROUND 2 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT500 SERIES

KUWAIT: The No 39 DENSO KOBELCO SARD Lexus RC F driven by Heikki Kovalainen and Kohei Hirate ended Round 2 of the 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT500 series by finishing second to get yet another podium finish for Lexus in the SUPER GT500 class. The No 37 KeePer TOM'S Lexus RC F driven by James Rossiter and Ryo Hirakawa finished third to make it two podium finishes for Lexus. The No 36 au TOM'S Lexus RC F and No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR Lexus RC F, which claimed fourth and fifth position respectively, made it a successful outing for Lexus with four positions in the Top 5. The race took place recently at the Fuji Speedway in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "The Lexus RCF-powered teams have yet again proven their prowess with their superb performance on the track during the 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT500 series. The demanding environments of competitive racing are a great testing ground for evaluating our vehicles, which in turn helps us enhance our efforts to make ever better cars of the race track as well for the benefit of our customers. We also appreciate the support of our fans who have backed our racing initiatives over the years."

At the start of the race, the No 39 DENSO KOBELCO SARD Lexus RC F car was well behind the initial race leaders but was still competing hard to move up the grid. On Lap 72, a left-side tire burst threw pieces of a competitor race car across the track. To clear the track of the broken parts, the Safety Car was brought in and, as a result, the gaps between the lead machines narrowed rapidly. The Safety Car left the track on lap 78 and the race resumed, and as soon as it did, several cars that were seriously low on fuel immediately made their routine stops, including the No 39 DENSO KOBELCO SARD Lexus RC F (KoheiHirate) and the No 37 KeePer TOM'S Lexus RC F (Ryo Hirakawa). Thereafter, the Lexus RC F No 39 car and Lexus RC F No 37 car then managed to maintain their fast lap times and avoid any mishaps to finish the race. Finishing the race in second place was the No 39 DENSO KOBELCO SARD Lexus RC F which had continued to run at a strong pace throughout the race. For Kovalainen, this was his first podium finish in his second year of SUPER GT competition. Finishing third after a tough charge from a ninth position grid start was the No 37 KeePer TOM'S Lexus RC F. Round 3 of the 2016 championship now takes place in Autopolis, Japan, on May 21-22, 2016.





SAINT-DENIS: Paris Saint-Germain's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the French Cup final football match between Marseille (OM) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) yesterday. — AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC LIFTS FRENCH CUP IN PSG SWANSONG

PARIS: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored two goals and set up another as Paris Saint-Germain defeated bitter rivals Marseille 4-2 to clinch a 10th French Cup title yesterday in the Swede's final game with the club. Blaise Matuidi struck PSG's opening goal inside two minutes at the Stade de France, but Marseille hit back just 10 minutes later through on-loan Newcastle midfielder Florian Thauvin. Ibrahimovic then converted a penalty immediately after half-time to restore the capital club's lead, before he played in Edinson Cavani to add a third goal on 56 minutes. The 34-year-old Swedish star signed off in trademark spectacular style with his second of the evening, the 156th and final goal of his PSG career, eight minutes from time as Laurent Blanc's side repeated last year's domestic treble despite a late consolation from Michy Batshuayi.

With the Ligue 1 crown and French League Cup already in the bag, PSG were aiming to move level with record 10-time

French Cup winners Marseille in a repeat of the 2006 final, won 2-1 by Paris. Ibrahimovic, who last weekend broke Argentine striker Carlos Bianchi's single-season club record of 37 league goals, was aiming to bring down the curtain on a glittering four-year stay in the French capital having already helped PSG to 11 trophies. However, Abdelaziz Barrada fired an early warning signal to PSG in their quest for another title when the midfielder's 25-yard drive flashed just wide of Salvatore Sirigu's right-hand post with less than a minute gone.

Blanc's side were ahead though with their first attack as Angel Di Maria, provider of 18 goals in his first Ligue 1 campaign, delivered another from a wicked right-wing cross that was turned in by Matuidi from close range. But Marseille, who were hoping to salvage their season after finishing 13th in the league, responded on 12 minutes as Thauvin's strike from just outside the area clipped Thiago Silva leg to wrong-foot Sirigu.

Thauvin was fortunate to escape punishment when he blocked Ibrahimovic's goalbound strike with his hand shortly before the interval, but Marseille were caught out seconds after the restart as Nicolas Nkoulou bundled over Matuidi inside the box.

Ibrahimovic slotted past Steve Mandanda from the penalty spot to put PSG back in front on 47 minutes, before Paris' record goalscorer played in Cavani to steer home a third nine minutes later after Chile international Mauricio Isla lost possession in midfield. Matuidi then released Ibrahimovic to stroke home a fourth on 82 minutes and guarantee PSG a 10th successive win over Marseille, despite Batshuayi converting a rebound three minutes from the end after Sirigu could only Benjamin Mendy's low shot. Blanc then withdrew Ibrahimovic, who will leave Paris when his contract expires at the end of June, to a rapturous ovation late on in the final act of a remarkable chapter in PSG's history. — AFP

MOURINHO SET FOR MAN UNITED

LONDON: Jose Mourinho will be appointed Manchester United manager next week to replace Louis van Gaal despite yesterday's FA Cup final victory over Crystal Palace, British media have reported. The 53-year-old Portuguese will take over at United, according to the reports, even though Van Gaal, who steered United to a 2-1 extra-time win over Crystal Palace at Wembley, has a year left on his contract. Mourinho, sacked by Chelsea in December after his second spell in charge of the west London club, has also managed Porto, Inter Milan and Real Madrid. The Daily Telegraph reported on its website that the deal to bring Mourinho to Old Trafford was reached at the end of last week with an official announcement due in the next few days.

The BBC ran the same story but added that some senior figures at United were known to have serious reservations about the prospect of appointing Mourinho, with some preferring Van Gaal's assistant, Ryan Giggs, as an alternative. Asked about his future at a news conference after the final, the Dutchman pointed at the FA Cup in front of him. "I show you the Cup," he said. "And I don't discuss it with my friends of the media, who already sacked me for six months. Which manager can do what I have done? I don't want to talk about leaving the club."

Regular criticism
Van Gaal preferred to dwell on the positives from a season in which United won their first trophy since 2013 and brought in some promising young players but came one place lower in the Premier League, finishing fifth behind Manchester City on goal difference and missing out on the Champions League. There has also been regular criticism from the club's supporters about a style of play that brought only 49 goals in the Premier League—their lowest total since 1989-90.

"I said when I started that we were in transition," Van Gaal added. "I had to refresh my squad and I've done it. In spite of the many injuries this season we were still in the (Premier League) race and now we have lifted the Cup. That's a title. "I'm very proud that I'm the first manager after the period of Sir Alex Ferguson (to do it)." The defiant Dutchman suggested he was already planning new signings for next season. "Every year we want to improve. It is not so easy when United come for a player. When United come the price is double or much more." Whether he is given the chance to do so remains in serious doubt. — Reuters

BARCELONA, NIKE INK RECORD DEAL

BARCELONA: Barcelona agreed a "long-term" contract extension with American sportswear giant Nike yesterday, which will reportedly see the Catalan club surpass Manchester United with the most lucrative kit-sponsorship deal in the world. Barca said the details of the deal will be revealed and ratified at the club's next general assembly. Catalan sports dailies Sport and Mundo Deportivo reported, however, that the world champions could make up to a staggering 155 million euros (\$174 million) a season.

That would dwarf the current £75 million (\$109) a season, 10-year deal Manchester United agreed with Adidas last year. "FC Barcelona and NIKE, Inc. have extended their current sponsorship deal, which was due to end on 30 June 2018," Barcelona said in a statement. "The long-term agreement is a landmark in global football and builds upon a highly successful partnership. The details of the agreement will be reported and will

have to be ratified at the next Club General Assembly." A record-breaking deal with ease the strains on Barca's finances with a 420-million euro renovation of their Camp Nou stadium due to begin in 2018. Moreover, the club are reportedly set to announce an extension to Brazilian star Neymar's contract who is a key Nike-sponsored athlete-in the coming weeks.

"Through this new agreement with Nike we are extending a strategic alliance for the club, while also reinforcing our global position, hand in hand with the leading global sports brand," said Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu. "We are excited by this new agreement and are confident that we'll be able to celebrate continued sporting successes together." Despite sealing a 24th La Liga title last weekend, Barca are yet to agree a shirt sponsorship deal for next season as talks with current sponsors Qatar Airways have stalled. — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's players take part in a training session at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi. — AFP

BARCELONA AND SEVILLA AIM TO SWEETEN SUCCESSFUL SEASONS

BARCELONA: Important titles secured, Barcelona and Sevilla aim to sweeten already successful seasons in the Copa del Rey final today. Barcelona is defending its domestic cup trophy at Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid, a week after winning its second straight Spanish league title. The Liga champions face a Sevilla side that is riding high after coming back in the second half to beat Liverpool 3-1 and clinch a third straight Europa League title on Wednesday.

"It's the last game of the season, everything has a beginning and an end, and we are heading into the match highly motivated to win another title," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said yesterday. Despite his team's advantage of four more days of rest and preparation, Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta expects Sevilla to be a bigger threat after having retained the Europa League crown. "It makes them more dangerous," Iniesta said. "They have already won a title and will be feeling great. This is a team that always plays us tough. It has great players and a coach that gives it a lot of character."

Iniesta, who along with Lionel Messi holds a career 27 club trophies, helped Barcelona lift

three of its record 27 Copa del Rey titles - in 2009, 2012 and 2015. Sevilla has tested Barcelona three times this season. Barcelona needed extra time to edge Sevilla in a 5-4 shootout for the European Super Cup last August. Unai Emery's side then dealt Barcelona a 2-1 loss in Sevilla before the Catalan club won 2-1 at its Camp Nou in their two league meetings. "This is a tremendous opportunity that will be very difficult to have again," Emery said. "We are facing a rival that is the favorite and who wants and needs to win a second trophy because its credibility depends on winning titles."

Barcelona will again look to its trio of star forwards to finish off the campaign with another trophy, adding the cup to the league, Club World Cup and European Super Cup titles. Striker Luis Suarez leads Barcelona with 59 total goals across all competitions, followed by Messi's 41 and Neymar's 30. Despite having injury doubts in its defense, Sevilla will likely stick to its tried and trusted strategy when it faces Barcelona of soaking up its attacks while looking to exploit the speed of striker Kevin Gameiro and forward Victor "Vitol" Machin.

Sevilla can also look to its record in winning all five of its Europa League finals in the last 11 seasons. Luis Enrique praised Emery for making Sevilla an expert in knockout tournaments. "(Emery) is one of the best coaches in European football," Luis Enrique said. "They are specialists in finals and in turning around an adverse score in a final. I am optimistic that we will win, but our rival will be in the match until the end." Sevilla has won the Copa del Rey five times, with its last title coming in 2010. "At the start of the season it was unthinkable that we would be disputing two finals," Vitol said. "But at this stage we are very excited about the possibility." — AP

GRIEZMANN IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP 3: SIMEONE

MADRID: Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone hailed star forward Antoine Griezmann as "one of the best three players in the world" as Atletico prepare to face local rivals Real Madrid in next Saturday's Champions League final. Griezmann has enjoyed his best ever goal-scoring season with 32 goals in all competitions. However, the French international has been particularly effective in the Champions League as his double against Barcelona in the quarter-finals and vital away goal at Bayern Munich in the last four allowed Atletico to upset the odds and reach a second final in three seasons. "He has worked very hard, pushed himself and knows how to listen," Simeone said yesterday.

"The best way to improve in any job is to listen. Without doubt he is one of the best three players in the world." Griezmann also netted the winner when Atletico last met Real back in February. However, he insisted Atletico's run to the final will mean little if they don't finally land the trophy. "It's nice (to hear compliments), but the truth is I try to do my best in every training session and my teammates and the coaching staff help me be at this level," said Griezmann. "Just because we have beaten Bayern or Barca

doesn't mean we will win this match. "It doesn't guarantee anything. We have to give everything we have."

Griezmann also played down the impact that a two-week layoff since the end of the Spanish league season could have on both sides. "To play in the final of the Champions League is a dream. "Now we have to prepare well, we have had two weeks and we have another week still to prepare. "I don't feel the pressure. I know there is a lot of waiting, but that doesn't bother me. I try not to overthink things and that is one of my strengths." The majority of the stars will be on Real's side as Atletico aim to avenge their defeat in agonizing fashion in the final two years ago by winning the competition for the first time in Milan next weekend.

Simeone's men were on course for victory in Lisbon until Sergio Ramos headed Real level deep into injury time and Los Blancos ran out 4-1 winners after extra-time. Yet, despite the presence of three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo, the world's most expensive player in Gareth Bale and the likes of Karim Benzema and Luka Modric, Simeone expects the Real to play on the counter-attack. "In the Champions League that is clearly the route they have chosen," added Simeone. "I expect an opponent that will wait for their opportunity. The presence of Casemiro in midfield has given them a lot of power defensively and in the Champions League they have played on the counter-attack."

Real's route to the final has been a much easier one on paper than Atletico's treacherous course past Dutch champions PSV before dumping out Barca and Bayern. Los Blancos brushed aside Roma before squeezing past Wolfsburg and Manchester City. However, Simeone also reserved praise for how Zinedine Zidane has revived Real's fortunes since taking over as coach from the sacked Rafael Benitez in January. "He has recovered the confidence, intensity and the speed of their attack," added the Argentine. "He has a more concrete style to make the most of the three strikers. "To get to a Champions League final is an important demonstration of his work." — AFP



Antoine Griezmann



Match on TV
(Local Timing)

SPAIN COPA DEL REY
Barcelona v Sevilla 22:30
AD SPORTS 3 HD

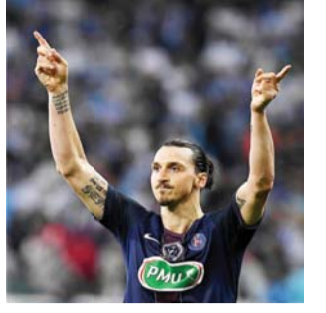
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LONDON: United's manager Louis van Gaal (right) watches as the players pose with the trophy after they won the English FA Cup final soccer match between Manchester United and Crystal Palace at Wembley stadium yesterday. United won 2-1. — AP

MANCHESTER UNITED GRAB FA CUP

LINGARD ROCKET ENDS UNITED'S 12-YEAR FA CUP WAIT

LONDON: Jesse Lingard's extra-time thunderbolt earned Manchester United a record-equaling 12th FA Cup as Louis van Gaal's side came from behind to defeat Crystal Palace 2-1 in yesterday's final at Wembley. In a rematch of the 1990 final, which United won after a replay, underdogs Palace took the lead in the 78th minute when Jason Puncheon slammed home, only for Juan Mata to equalize less than three minutes later. With the tie heading towards penalties, substitute Lingard drilled a stunning volley past a motionless Wayne Hennessey in the 110th minute to end United's 12-year wait to lift the FA Cup and give their supporters something to cheer about at the end of a tumultuous season.

"It is fantastic to win this title for the club, for the fans and also for me, because I now have won the cup in four countries, and not many managers have done that," Van Gaal said. "With 10 players, and we have played Tuesday evening also (beating Bournemouth 3-1), but we have deserved it, I think. It was a super goal, eh?" Lingard told BT

Sport: "I saw it come across and it landed nicely for me. All I had to do was hit it sweet, and luckily I did that. As a sub you always have to be ready. Thankfully I was."

It was United's first FA Cup win since 2004, allowing captain Wayne Rooney and Michael Carrick to complete their domestic medal collections, and took them level with Arsenal, winners in 2014 and 2015, as the most successful clubs in the competition's illustrious history. But while Van Gaal celebrated his first trophy in English football, and United's first major honor since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, it may not be enough to keep him in a job following the club's failure to qualify for the Champions League.

Instead United, who lost Marcus Rashford and Marcos Rojo to injury and Chris Smalling to an extra-time red card, will go into the Europa League, along with West Ham United, after United's Wembley win freed up an extra qualifying berth. Palace manager Alan Pardew, meanwhile, met with FA Cup heartbeat for the third time, having been on the losing side against United with the south London club

in 1990 and overseen West Ham's defeat on penalties by Liverpool in 2006.

Pardew dance

United enjoyed the best of the first half, but Pardew was infuriated when referee Mark Clattenburg brought play back for a free-kick despite Connor Wickham jumping to his feet and racing into the box after being dragged to the turf by Smalling, who was booked. United's control was even more pronounced after half-time as Van Gaal's men succeeded in pinning Palace back and they hit the woodwork twice in the space of eight minutes through Marouane Fellaini's drilled shot and Anthony Martial's header. Injuries then deprived United of Rojo and Rashford, with Matteo Darmian and Ashley Young coming on, while Puncheon replaced Yohan Cabaye.

The Palace substitute made an immediate impact. His 78th-minute corner from the left was headed away by Fellaini, but Joel Ward helped the ball back into the box and

Puncheon brought it down before blasting a vicious left-foot shot past David de Gea at his near post. Pardew celebrated with a touchline dance, but within three minutes Palace's lead had vanished. Rolling back the years, Rooney did superbly to reach the byline on the right before digging out a cross that was chested down at the back post by Fellaini for Mata to strike a volley that rattled between Ward's feet and crept over the line.

United lost Smalling when the England centre-back received a second yellow card for hauling Bolasie back by his ankle as he lay on the turf. The teams exchanged chances in the second extra period-De Gea thwarting substitute Dwight Gayle with his feet, Carrick heading wide-before United academy graduate Lingard, a 90th-minute replacement for Mata, claimed a piece of FA Cup history. Antonio Valencia's drilled cross was cleared by Damien Delaney, but the ball popped up for Lingard, who sent a volley whistling into the top-left corner before tearing off his shirt and racing towards the United end in gleeful celebration. — AFP

JUVE RETAIN ITALIAN CUP

MILAN: An extra-time winner from late substitute Alvaro Morata saw Juventus to their 11th Italian Cup with a 1-0 triumph over AC Milan yesterday. It means Juventus become the first Italian team to win successive league and Cup doubles, a year after ending a 20-year wait to achieve the feat. AC Milan's defeat means the seven-time European champions failed to qualify for Europe next season. Sixth place finishers Sassuolo will be handed a Europa League place.

Milan put everything into a match most expected to be a one-sided in Juve's favor but came away lamenting their failure to convert a host of chances. Morata came off the bench to replace Hernanes in the second period of extra time, and only two minutes later the Spain

international fired a superb first-time strike from Juan Cuadrado's chipped pass past a well beaten Gianluigi Donnarumma to wrap up the double for Massimiliano Allegri's men. But on all-round performance, the champions were barely worthy winners after a comparatively stirring Milan performance given the disastrous season of Cristian Brocchi's men.

Juve midfielder Paul Pogba had claims for a penalty waved away in the early stages when he was upended by Davide Calabria. But from then on, it was mostly all Milan. Calabria overcame his early jitters to whip in an inviting cross for Giacomo Bonaventura on 13 minutes but the midfielder lashed over from yards out. Matteo De Sciglio's drive sailed over and had Juve's second-choice keeper Neto screaming at his last line of defence before he then produced a reflex save when Bonaventura's deflected snap shot wrong-footed the 'keeper. Milan midfielder Juraj Kucka was allowed to power down the middle to set up Keisuke Honda, but Andrea Poli wastefully first-timed the Japanese midfielder's delivery over from 16 yards out.

Milan continued apace after the break, Neto forced down low to stop De Sciglio's low strike in the opening minutes, although a Juve counter had Donnarumma out his net in quick fashion to palm away Mario Lemina's rasping cross away from the feet of Dybala as the Argentine teed up to strike. Juve enjoyed a brief spell of promise, but when Pogba muscled his way into the area his deflected strike was met by the right hand of an alert Donnarumma at the near post. Stephan Lichsteiner then fired a header into the hands of Donnarumma from Pogba's cross, and when Lemina found Mandzukic with a great through ball moments later Donnarumma parried the Croatian striker's half-volley on the turn on 74 minutes. Allegri replaced Lichsteiner with Cuadrado a minute later, and six minutes from the finish M'Baye Niang replaced Poli.

Into extra-time, Juve got another sniff when a tiring Riccardo Montolivo gifted the ball away in midfield and Mandzukic set up Pogba for a piercing strike from distance that Donnarumma did well to parry. Carlos Bacca then fired a spectacular overhead kick just over and minutes later the hosts had claims for a penalty waved away when Honda came down after clashing with Giorgio Chiellini. Milan were tiring and Juve's late changes made the difference when a counter saw Cuadrado allowed to fire a chip over for the unmarked Morata, who swept past Donnarumma with ease. Milan threatened a late leveler when Jose Mauri's low drive from the edge of the area shaved the post, but it was not to be for the struggling Serie A giants. — AFP



ROME: Juventus players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Italian Tim Cup final football match AC Milan vs Juventus yesterday at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. — AFP



BERLIN: Bayern Munich's Spanish head coach Pep Guardiola lifts the trophy as he and his players celebrate winning the German Cup (DFB Pokal) final football match Bayern Munich vs Borussia Dortmund yesterday. — AFP

BAYERN CLINCH GERMAN CUP

BERLIN: Pep Guardiola celebrated a dramatic final victory as Bayern Munich coach yesterday, as his side beat Borussia Dortmund on penalties to win the German Cup final. Neither side was able to find the net in 120 minutes of football, but Dortmund missed two penalties in the shootout to give Bayern victory in and provide Guardiola with a seventh and final title in Germany before he heads to Manchester City. Guardiola, so often accused of being too emotionless during his time in Munich, broke down in tears as Bayern celebrated.

It was also an emotional evening for Mats Hummels, too. The Dortmund captain will move to Bayern this summer after eight years with Borussia. Hummels' farewell ended early, as he fell victim to cramp and was replaced by Matthias Ginter in the 79th minute. Bayern had the better chances in the first half. Thomas Mueller fired a speculative shot over the bar early on, before doing the same with a header 20 minutes later. Both sides struggled to free themselves from a hard-fought midfield battle, however. Several Dortmund counter-attacks came to nothing, while Bayern searched in vain for the decisive final ball.

Only on the half hour mark did the game truly spark into life. Roman Buerki denied Douglas Costa with a smart save, before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired wide as Dortmund hit back on the break. Hummels, in the spotlight all evening, will have been grateful for a relatively uneventful first half in which the Munich outfit

barely got into gear. The Germany international almost got on the scoresheet just after the break, heading the ball over the bar from a Marco Reus free-kick. Bayern hit back immediately, as Franck Ribery fired a loose ball across the face of goal on the half-volley.

Devilish crosses from Ribery and Costa followed as Bayern began to increase the pressure. Hummels and his defensive colleagues were caught flat-footed on 64 minutes, allowing Mueller too much space to set up Robert Lewandowski, who scooped the ball over the bar. With just 15 minutes to go, Ribery forced an instinctive save from Buerki, as Bayern began to pin Dortmund back in the final third. Minutes later, Hummels was substituted off to muted applause from the Dortmund fans. Bayern continued to push forward in vain, and two more Dortmund counter-attacks came to nothing in the final five minutes.

Neither side could break the deadlock, and Guardiola's farewell was taken to extra-time. Ribery set up Lewandowski in the penalty area. The Polish striker was denied only by a brilliant challenge from Erik Durm. Dortmund's best chance came in the 103rd minute, Henrich Mkhitaryan firing a shot across the face of goal. David Alaba also had a chance for Bayern, but neither side could score, and the final went to penalties. After Sven Bender and Sokratis failed to score for Dortmund, Douglas Costa fired home the winning penalty to give Guardiola the perfect happy ending. — AFP

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WITH AUSTERITY LIGHT ON TAXES, CYPRUS SEES ECONOMY REBOUND

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AKIU, Japan: Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (fifth from left in front row) poses with other finance ministers and heads of central banks of the Group of Seven for a group photo in Akiu, northern Japan, yesterday. — AP

G7 WARNS OF BREXIT 'SHOCK' TO ECONOMY LEADERS VOICE CONCERN OVER GLOBAL ECONOMY AS CURRENCY ROW FLARES

SENDAI, Japan: A British vote to quit the European Union would inflict a "shock" on the global economy, G7 ministers said yesterday, presenting a united front against the prospect of a "Brexit".

Among the most vocal was German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, who strongly cautioned against opting to leave the 28-member EU in next month's referendum.

"We were all of the opinion that it would be the wrong decision for the UK," Schäuble said at the conclusion of two days of talks in northern Japan among Group of Seven finance ministers and central bank chiefs. "But it's a decision to be taken by the British voters. We're concerned that it could have negative consequences for the European and the world economy."

The club of rich nations also issued a statement that warned a Brexit would only worsen the outlook for an unstable world. "Uncertainties to the global outlook have increased, while geopolitical conflicts, terrorism, refugee flows, and the shock of a potential UK exit from the European Union also complicate the global economic environment," they said.



LILLE: This photo illustration in Lille shows the flags of the European Union and the United Kingdom. Tomorrow Great Britain will hold a referendum on whether or not the United Kingdom will remain within the European Union, often referred to as "Brexit." — AFP

As the June 23 referendum on Britain's future draws closer, finance minister George Osborne said his meetings with G7 counterparts underscored the gravity of the in-out decision. If voters opt to leave, Britain would find it "extremely difficult" to conclude trade deals with European Union countries, he told the BBC.

"If Britain left the EU, and wanted access to the single market... then we would need to pay into the EU budget and we'd have to accept free movement of people but we'd have no say over those policies at all," he said.

"We would have a two-year period to negotiate our exit with 27 other countries, we'd then have to negotiate new arrangements... and at the same time conclude over 50 trade deals with countries that aren't even in Europe."

On a visit to London last month, US President Barack Obama said Britain being in the EU magnified its global influence, and outside the bloc it would go to the "back of the queue" when it came to signing trade deals. International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde has also lent her voice to the "Remain" campaign, warning that quitting the EU would be "pretty bad to very, very bad" for the British economy.

Sputtering economy

The finance ministers yesterday voiced con-

cern about the sputtering global economy as they looked for a plan to stoke growth, while a currency policy clash overshadowed their meetings.

The club of rich nations also pledged to tackle tax avoidance in the wake of the Panama Papers investigation and beef up efforts to disrupt the murky world of terrorism financing.

Two days of talks at a hot spring resort in northern Japan focused on how to stoke global growth which they said was under threat from myriad challenges, including terrorism, refugee flows and the threat of Britain's exit from the European Union. The ministers were unanimous in opposing the prospect of a "Brexit," saying it would inflict a "shock" on the global economy that would only worsen the outlook at a time of geopolitical instability. Host Japan was keen to get its G7 counterparts on board with the view that fiscal stimulus is the best way to kickstart global growth, but Germany and Britain were cool on the idea.

Yesterday, the group suggested a go-your-own-way approach. "(We) discussed how to employ a balanced policy mix—monetary, fiscal, and structural—taking into account country-specific circumstances," they said in concluding remarks.

Japan's determination to tame the resurgent yen was another sensitive topic, after its repeated threats to intervene in forex markets put it on a collision course with its G7 counterparts.

The yen has seen several steep jumps since the start of the year, soaring more than 10 percent against the greenback at one stage, in a blow to Japan's exporters just as the economy slowed. US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew kept up the pressure Saturday with a fresh warning, reminding Japan that previous commitments to "refrain from competitive devaluation and communicate closely have helped to contribute to confidence in the global economy."

Yen clash

In a statement which presented a clear rebuff to Japan, the group "underscored the importance of all countries refraining from competitive devaluation". In response, Japanese finance minister Taro Aso said yesterday that he told his US counterpart Tokyo was merely reacting to "one-sided, abrupt, and speculative moves" in forex trading.

A softer currency has been one of the pillars of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's bid to revitalise the world's number-three economy since he swept to power in late 2012. Japan last intervened in currency markets around November 2011, when it tried to stem the yen's rise to keep an economic recovery on track after the quake-tsunami disaster earlier that year. The G7 finance chiefs also vowed to escalate efforts to disrupt the financing of global terrorist networks. An action plan that their leaders are to sign at a summit in Japan next week set out measures to step up intelligence-sharing, freeze assets and tighten reporting rules on international transfers.

"Countering violent extremism and bringing perpetrators to justice remain top priorities for the whole international community," said the group which takes in the US, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Britain. "The G7 commits to working together to strengthen the global fight against terrorist financing," they added. — AFP

UNLOVED BULL MARKET: IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE LATEST RECORD

NEW YORK: Yesterday was the one-year anniversary of the stock market's record high. And no, you didn't miss the party, because no one seems to be in the mood to celebrate.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index reached its latest high of 2,130.82 exactly one year ago. Since then, it's come close to beating it, only to veer lower, sometimes sharply. Last month it came within about 1 percent of the record, but then more jitters about the economy and fears that the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates in June set in.

After a horrendous start to the year, the worst on record for the market, stocks have shown remarkable resilience and have clawed back the ground they lost since 2016 began. As of Friday, the S&P 500 was barely positive for 2016. It would need to gain another 4 percent to match the high it reached a year ago. More gains may be on the way, strategists along Wall Street say, though the forecasts are largely for only modest gains, and rocky ones at that. But even with the good news for 401(k) accounts, the excitement that pulsed during past peaks is lacking now from the market.

"There is no euphoria," says John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management. "There isn't even contentment."

A big reason is how fresh the memory still remains of the stock market's crash during the 2008 financial crisis. The S&P 500 lost 55 percent from top to bottom from Oct. 9, 2007 through March 9, 2009, even after including dividends. That steep drop has led to a lasting skepticism about stocks, and the scars are affecting not only individual investors but also financial advisers whose job it is to counsel them, says Linda Duessel, senior equity strategist at Federated Investors.

"This is the most hated rally since it began," she says. "If you're an adviser, you're afraid that if you get too bullish on stocks that you'll lose your client if you get another downdraft."

Such hesitancy is actually an encouraging sign to contrarians, particularly when few economists are predicting an imminent recession. But investors see many reasons to stay on the sidelines, and they're showing it in several ways. Among the signs of and causes for concern that still envelop the market:

- Defensive stocks are leading the way. The best-performing areas of the market over the last year aren't hot, high-growth stocks. They're the old-line companies that traditionally do best when the market is struggling.

- Utilities, telecoms and companies that make everyday items for consumers have had the strongest returns. These companies tend to have the most stable profits, and thus the most stable stock prices.

- Part of it is likely a result of demographics. Baby Boomers are nearing or in retirement,

and they're looking for more stable investments that also produce income. That's a good description for defensive stocks: Utilities in the S&P 500 have a dividend yield of 3.7 percent, for example, well above the 1.85 percent yield for a 10-year Treasury.

The strong run means dividend-paying defensive stocks are more expensive, relative to their earnings. But they should continue to attract buyers because they still look better than many alternatives, such as low-yielding Treasuries, says Federated's Duessel.

- Investors are more fearful than greedy. Nearly \$18 billion left US stock mutual funds and exchange-traded funds during the first quarter, according to Morningstar. Much of that was because of the scary 5 percent loss for the S&P 500 in January, and it fits with the longstanding hesitancy investors have had about the US stock market.

Over the 12 months through March, investors pulled a net \$69 billion from US stock funds. And it's not like investors have been fleeing all types of investments. They put \$163 billion into foreign stock funds and \$7.5 billion into taxable bond funds over that same time.

- The global economy is scuffling. Even though central banks around the world have piled on unprecedented amounts of stimulus, growth around the world remains weak.

The US economy appears to be in the best shape, relatively speaking, as job growth continues. But it expanded at just a 0.5 percent

annualized rate last quarter, its weakest pace in two years. Other economies around the world look to be in worse shape, highlighted by Europe and Japan. The International Monetary Fund recently cut its forecast for global growth this year and warned that global financial stability risks have increased.

- Corporate earnings are sinking. Stock prices generally follow corporate profits over the long term, and the recent trend has been downward.

Most companies have given their report cards for how they fared from January through March, and S&P 500 earnings per share look to be 5.8 percent lower than a year ago, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. That would be the worst performance since the spring of 2009, when the economy was in the last throes of recession.

It would also be the third straight quarter where earnings have dropped. Much of the weakness has come from the energy sector, where falling oil prices have decimated profits, but other sectors are also seeing weakness. S&P 500 earnings fell 1.1 percent last quarter, even after excluding energy companies. Forecasts are for this reporting season to mark the bottom. Analysts expect to see more modest declines and even slight growth as the year progresses. "On the whole, I think it will get better," Wells Fargo's Manley says about his expectations for both corporate earnings and the stock market. But "I'm looking over my shoulder like everyone else until earnings get better." — AP



NEW YORK: Specialist Meric Greenbaum works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. May 21 was the one-year anniversary of the stock market's record high. — AP



NICOSIA: A mother with her child walk past a woman who begs for alms at a main pedestrian shopping street in central capital Nicosia of the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus, on Friday. — AP

WITH AUSTERITY LIGHT ON TAXES, CYPRUS SEES ECONOMY REBOUND

NICOSIA BOASTS HIGH GROWTH RATE

NICOSIA: Less than two years ago, amid Cyprus' worst economic crisis in decades, a charity shop run by the Orthodox Church in the heart of medieval Nicosia was awash with jobless people looking for free food. Now, demand has dropped off to the point where Church authorities are considering shutting it down. At last check, some 120 families were using the shop, a far cry from 2,500 in July, 2014, said its manager Panayiotis Panayiotou.

"The shop has run its course," he said. "The need for it is no longer that great." After emerging from a three-year, multi-billion euro rescue program, Cyprus boasts one of the highest economic growth rates among the 19 eurozone countries - an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the first quarter.

Finance Minister Harris Georgiades says Cyprus turned its economy around by aggressively slashing costs but also by avoiding piling on new taxes that would weigh ordinary folks down and put a serious damper on growth.

"We didn't raise taxes that would burden an already strained economy," he told The Associated Press in an interview. "We found spending cuts that weren't detrimental to economic activity."

Cyprus was on the brink of bankruptcy in March, 2013, after a banking crisis over-

whelmed state coffers, which were already strained by years of huge budget deficits and government overspending on the massive public sector. Cyprus' 10-billion-euro (\$11.2 billion) rescue deal from its European Union partners and the International Monetary Fund came with the kinds of strings attached that sent shockwaves across the 28-member bloc and beyond. Unsecured deposits in the country's largest lender were seized to buttress a teetering banking sector, while the second largest lender was forced to shut its doors with savers seeing their money evaporating except for a protected 100,000 euros.

The shock was immense: to prevent a run on banks, Cypriot authorities immediately imposed controls on money transfers that were only fully lifted a couple of years later, after the banking sector was thoroughly restructured. "This has enabled the banking sector to heal to a large extent, to regain the trust and confidence of depositors and investors," said Georgiades. That's not to say that all's well. Nearly half of all loans in Cyprus are still classified as soured and authorities are still struggling with high unemployment of around 12 percent. That's down from its peak of around 16 percent a year ago but a long way off the 4 percent it enjoyed a

few years ago. "Exiting the crisis program, this second chance which we have essentially gained, does not signal a termination of the efforts," said Georgiades. "On the contrary, we shall maintain and enhance the reform momentum and strictly maintain fiscal discipline."

Critics have accused the government of working its fiscal gymnastics on the backs of the poor - essentially chopping salaries for public sector workers.

Pambis Kyritsis, head of the left-wing PEO trade union, said the government's "neo-liberal" policies coupled with the creditors' harsh terms have widened the chasm between the have and have-nots to huge proportions. "What we see now is this bill is being paid by the workers and the poor people," Kyritsis said in an interview with the AP. "(Under) this philosophy, it's reasonable for workers to lose their income and their rights, but profits should stay stable or getting better." Georgiades turned Kyritsis' argument around to reinforce his point that there shouldn't be any letup in the government's reform program and fiscal discipline.

"We have been in a recession since 2009 and a year of growth is not enough to do away with all the consequences that a long, protracted crisis has left behind," he said. — AP

KUWAITI OIL PRICE UP \$1.04 TO \$42.88 PB

KUWAIT: The price for Kuwaiti oil went up Friday by \$1.04 to settle at \$42.88 per barrel (pb) after being at \$41.84 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Cooperation (KPC) yesterday.

In the global market, prices also went down after a hiked US dollar encouraged investors to sell. The Brent mix price was down nine cents to settle at \$48.72 pb, a similar case was with the American crude; down 41 cents, to settle at \$47.75 pb.

The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$43.84 a barrel Thursday, compared with \$44.88 the previous day, the OPEC said on Friday. The annual average of the

OPEC basket price hit \$49.64 pb, it said in a press release. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

During their recent meeting in Vienna in late 2015, OPEC member countries had decided to maintain their production at 30 million barrels per day (bpd) despite a surplus in the market estimated at over a million barrels. — KUNA

TURKMENISTAN SEEKS IDB, SAUDI, JAPANESE FUNDING FOR GAS LINK

AVAZA, Turkmenistan: Turkmenistan is in talks with the Islamic Development Bank, the Saudi Fund for Development and Japan's government on financing the construction of a gas pipeline to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, a project official said yesterday.

The TAPI pipeline is supposed to carry 33 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas a year from Turkmenistan's giant Galkynysh gas field - a project designed to ease the former Soviet state's dependence on Russia and China. Turkmenistan, which sits on the world's fourth-largest gas reserves, started building its section of the link in December. But its partners in the project - the state energy companies of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India - have yet to begin work.

The 1,814-km (1,127-mile) route also

faces security challenges - current plans send the underground pipeline through one of Afghanistan's most violence-ravaged provinces, Helmand, where the Taliban insurgents hold sway. "The Islamic Development Bank has expressed interest and readiness to finance the project, not only on Turkmenistan's territory, but also in Afghanistan and Pakistan," Muhammetmyrat Amanov of TAPI Pipeline Company Limited told a conference in the Turkmen resort of Avaza.

"We are also working with the Saudi Fund for Development ... We have had meetings with the government of Japan. They have expressed interest," he said. Amanov said the project company, controlled by Turkmen state firm Turkmenengas, was working on estimating the total cost of the project. — Reuters



FORT WORTH: American Airlines employees look on and shoot video of the implosion of the company's former headquarters building in Fort Worth, Texas on Friday. —AP

AMERICAN AIRLINES DEMOLISHES OLD HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS

FORT WORTH, Texas: Six buildings that were part of American Airlines' headquarters in the 1980s have been demolished to clear the way for a new corporate campus. The buildings, located south of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, were demolished Friday.

Hundreds of employees gathered on top of a parking garage at American's current headquarters, about a mile away, to watch the implosion of the buildings,

which stood three to five stories tall. American moved to its current headquarters in 1990. The old headquarters building was subleased but has been vacant since 2009. After the explosion, some of the buildings were left partially standing. American Airlines said that was done to protect nearby trees. The company says the remains of those buildings will be cleared later with the rest of the debris. — AP

ARAMCO, SABIC DENY PLANS TO MERGE PETROCHEMICALS

DUBAI: National oil giant Saudi Aramco and Saudi Basic Industries Corp denied yesterday they had any plans to merge their petrochemicals businesses after media reports on the possibility. "The companies wish to clarify that they have no plans to pursue this

option," they said in a joint statement. "Both companies will continue to explore mutually beneficial opportunities to work together as partners and contribute to the continued growth and diversification of the kingdom's economy." — Reuters

SOUTH AFRICA TO LIMIT FARM SIZES TO SPEED LAND REDISTRIBUTION

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, South Africa: South Africa's government is planning to impose limits on farm sizes to free up parcels of land to hand over to blacks, a minister said yesterday, giving an insight into the workings of a divisive redistribution scheme. Gugile Nkwinti, the minister of rural development and land reform, told Reuters the government was planning to set a range of limits - from a 1,000-hectare (2,470-acre) "small-scale" farm, up to the largest allowed, at 12,000 hectares.

"If you are a small-scale farm and have 1,400 HA, we will buy the 400, and leave you with your 1,000. We will buy the extra and redistribute it to black people," the minister said.

South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC), facing local elections in August, has promised to speed up plans to redistribute land which remains predominantly in white hands two decades after the end of apartheid. Some economists and farming groups have said the proposals could hit investment and production at a time when South Africa is emerging from a major drought - pointing to the economic damage linked to

farm seizures in neighboring Zimbabwe. They have also complained about a lack of clarity on how it will all work. Setting out the farm size limits and specifically linking them to the redistribution scheme may further alarm owners, particularly of smaller plots. But the government says the redistribution process needs to be accelerated, to rectify past wrongs and provide opportunities to the previously excluded, and has repeatedly said it will stick to the law and not follow Zimbabwe's example.

KRUGER COMPENSATION

"In South Africa you have a concentration of land ownership in the hands of a few people. That is something we have to correct," Nkwinti said before a ceremony in Kruger National Park where President Jacob Zuma handed over 84 million rand (\$5.4 million) in compensation to black communities evicted decades ago.

Experts estimate about 8 million hectares of farmland have been transferred to black owners since the end of apartheid, 8 to 10 percent of the land in white hands in 1994 and only a third of the ANC's long-running 30 percent tar-

get. The party has said it will speed up the process with a bill going through parliament allowing the state to expropriate land without the owner's consent.

Several black communities had land claims on the 2-million hectare Kruger Park because they were removed after the Native Land Act of 1913, which consigned South Africa's black majority to 13 percent of the country's territory. But the government wants to keep the Kruger, a major tourist draw and home to many animal species, intact, so its policy is to compensate those with claims on it through cash instead of allowing them to resettle in the park's boundaries.

Perry Sambo, a 63-year-old school teacher who is one of the claimants being paid, said his parents had been removed from Kruger before he was born. "It was very difficult. Transport was very scarce and they did not get any assistance in what they wanted to carry. And some of their belongings they had to leave because they could not carry everything. They lost also cattle on the way that were eaten by lions," he told Reuters. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.749
Indian Rupees	4.488
Pakistani Rupees	2.892
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Nepali Rupees	2.819
Singapore Dollar	220.660
Hongkong Dollar	38.971
Bangladesh Taka	3.860
Philippine Peso	6.476
Thai Baht	8.510

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.776
Qatari Riyal	83.207
ani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.471

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.484
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	146.610
Jordanian Dinar	426.740
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	31.702

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	341.200
Sterling Pound	442.320

Canadian dollar	232.710
Turkish lira	102.280
Swiss Franc	308.300
Australian Dollar	221.610
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD

20 Gram	253.210
10 Gram	129.530
5 Gram	65.610

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	231.795
Sterling Pound	442.800
Euro	340.545
Swiss Frank	301.425
Bahrain Dinar	801.595
UAE Dirhams	82.735
Qatari Riyals	83.950
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	426.835
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Indian Rupees	4.492
Pakistani Rupees	2.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippines Peso	6.459
Cyprus pound	577.120
Japanese Yen	3.740
Syrian Pound	2.376
Nepalese Rupees	3.805

Malaysian Ringgit	75.020
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.680
Thai Bhat	9.475
Turkish Lira	101.845

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.431791	0.440791
Czech Korune	0.004535	0.016535
Danish Krone	0.041568	0.046568
Euro	0.0333930	0.0341930
Norwegian Krone	0.032297	0.037497
Romanian Leu	0.075092	0.075092
Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023
Swedish Krona	0.032313	0.037313
Swiss Franc	0.298732	0.308932
Turkish Lira	0.096938	0.107238
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.210292	0.221792
New Zealand Dollar	0.198458	0.207958
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225151	0.233651
US Dollars	0.298650	0.303150
US Dollars Mint	0.299150	0.303150
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003442	0.004016
Chinese Yuan	0.044898	0.048398
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036881	0.039631

Indian Rupee	0.004276	0.004666
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002663	0.002843
Kenyan Shilling	0.002994	0.002994
Korean Won	0.000245	0.000260
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070950	0.076950
Nepalese Rupee	0.002885	0.003055
Pakistan Rupee	0.002685	0.002965
Philippine Peso	0.006400	0.006680
Sierra Leone	0.000074	0.000080
Singapore Dollar	0.215528	0.221528
South African Rand	0.013325	0.021825
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001697	0.002277
Taiwan	0.009132	0.009312
Thai Baht	0.008163	0.008713

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796481	0.804481
Egyptian Pound	0.029193	0.034311
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423005	0.430505
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020832	0.044832
Nigerian Naira	0.000917	0.001552
Omani Riyal	0.779944	0.785624
Qatar Riyal	0.082447	0.083660
Saudi Riyal	0.079847	0.080797
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.143282	0.151282
Turkish Lira	0.096938	0.107238
UAE Dirhams	0.081446	0.082595
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448

TOP TIPS TO STAY HEALTHY AT WORK

BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

Being healthy' is one of the top priorities of professionals in the region. According to the Bayt.com 'Health and Lifestyle in the Middle East and North Africa' poll, March 2016, 65 percent of professional respondents say they are adopting healthier eating habits. The same poll also shows that most of them take the time to exercise, with only 5.6 percent of all respondents being not active at all. Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you 6 tips to enjoy a healthier lifestyle at work:

1. Do not miss breakfast

A healthy breakfast is key to maintaining your food balance throughout the day. Make time for a healthy and wholesome breakfast every morning, before or after coming into the office.

2. Get your homemade food with you

Pack your lunch! A homemade lunch is much

healthier than vending machine treats and many food court fast foods. Also, keep healthy snacks within reach so that you can easily and readily shun all unhealthy food cravings during your work day.

3. Get out of the office during your lunch break

Whether it is a 30-minute or a one-hour lunch break, make it a point to get out of the office and take a stroll around your building or the neighborhood. If it's too hot or too cold to walk outside grab a cab or bus and up that heart rate by enjoying a brisk walk at the closest mall or park. 87 percent of respondents in the Bayt.com 'Health and Lifestyle in the Middle East and North Africa' poll claimed that they would more likely exercise if their company had a gym or offered a gym subscription.

4. Keep your body hydrated at all times

Always have your bottles of water stored at

work. Do not settle for less than 8 glasses a day. People often tend to forget about drinking water in the midst of a busy working day. Keep your water within reach at all times while working in order for you to avoid dehydration, lack of energy, and eventually a drop in your productivity. Worn-out bodies and souls are naturally not as productive as healthy and energetic ones!

5. Keep moving

Do you need to share a word with a colleague down the hall? Walk down to her instead of using the phone or e-mail. Do you have an urgent request from the IT department on the second floor? Walk up or down the stairs to them. These simple efforts will improve your blood circulation. The Bayt.com 'Health and Lifestyle in the Middle East and North Africa' poll shows that the most popular form of exercise among professionals in the region is running/walking (29.7 percent).

6. Ask for management support

When asked about the barriers that stand in the way of making healthy choices, 15.3 percent of respondents in the Bayt.com 'Health and Lifestyle in the Middle East and North Africa' poll said that they simply lack the motivation to do so. Do you and your colleagues trust management should equip you with an office cafeteria that serves healthy food or a company gym? The benefits of healthy employees are numerous. There are many benefits from a monetary standpoint: a healthy employee is less likely to get sick, so no more absenteeism and extravagant healthcare expenditures for your employer. Healthy employees also tend to have a higher level of energy and are thus more productive. Suggest all the benefits and options you find viable to the upper echelons in the organization and let them help you in your journey towards a better, healthier you.

HOUSE PRICES WILL PLUMMET IF BRITAIN LEAVES EU: TREASURY

LONDON: British house prices could fall by up to 18 percent if the country leaves the European Union, the Treasury says - a claim dismissed as scaremongering by campaigners for a UK exit from the bloc.

Treasury chief George Osborne said leaving the EU would be a "profound economic shock" that would lower property values and raise mortgage rates. Treasury analysis estimates property prices will be worth between 10 and 18 percent less by 2018 if Britain leaves than if it stays.

British house prices rose 9 percent in the year to March, and the value of property is something of a national obsession - especially in London, where the average home costs 535,000 pounds (\$775,000), more than 10 times the average annual household income.

Some economists think a fall in house prices would be a good thing because it would help new buyers currently priced out of the market. Others argue any benefit

would be offset by a rise in mortgage rates and economic instability.

Many international banks and ratings agencies have warned that leaving the EU would destabilize the economy, and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said earlier this month that a British exit, or Brexit, could tip the country into recession. Osborne, who was attending a meeting of G-7 finance minister in Japan Saturday, said allies including France, Germany and the United States agreed that "it would be bad for the British economy if we left the European Union."

But Energy minister Andrea Leadsom, who backs a "leave" vote in Britain's June 23 referendum, said Saturday that "the greatest threat to the economy is the perilous state of the euro" currency used by 19 EU states. "The safer option in this referendum is to take back control of the vast sums we send to Brussels every day and Vote Leave on 23 June," she said. — AP



ATLANTA: Traffic flows in and out of downtown Atlanta on the Interstate 75/Interstate 85 Connector in Atlanta. More travelers are expected to take to the roads and sky this summer thanks to lower gas prices and an upbeat economy. — AP

GREAT ROAD TRIP RETURNS THIS SUMMER THANKS TO CHEAP GAS

CHEAP FUEL LEAVES AMERICAN FAMILIES FLUSH WITH SPARE CASH

NEW YORK: Grab your sunglasses, a giant cup of coffee and prepare to hit the highway: 2016 is shaping up to be the summer of the road trip. Cheap fuel prices have left many American families flush with spare cash, which they now plan to spend on vacations. And with summertime gas prices predicted to be the lowest in 13 years, the travel industry is looking forward to a blockbuster July and August.

"We're pretty excited," says Steve Joyce, CEO of Choice Hotels, which includes Comfort Inn and Econo Lodge. "Last year was a record summer for us. We're going to be a lot stronger this year."

The hotel chain is seeing an increase in bookings. And low gas prices throughout the winter means that Americans had cheaper commutes and more disposable income. "That's a raise in our guys' pockets which means they are going to take another trip," Joyce says.

The job market is also giving Americans a reason to take a vacation: The economy created about 2.4 million jobs between last Memorial Day and the end of April. Initial data for the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the start of the travel season, is already signaling a strong summer for the tourism industry.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is seeing a 44 percent spike in reservations for the holiday weekend

compared to last year. And AAA, one of the nation's largest travel agencies and a car lobbying group, is predicting 38 million people will travel for the holiday, the most since 2005. That's 700,000 or 1.9 percent more travelers than last year. The overwhelming majority of Memorial Day travelers - 89 percent - plan to go by car. That's the highest percent of drivers since AAA began tracking holiday travel in 2000.

"The great American road trip is officially back thanks to low gas prices," says Marshall Doney, CEO of AAA. The average price for a gallon of gas is expected to be \$2.24 by July and \$2.20 in August, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Adjusted for inflation, that would be the lowest summer prices since 2003.

Those who choose to fly this summer will have plenty of company too. The lobbying group for most US carriers, Airlines for America, is predicting that 231.1 million passengers will fly in June, July and August. That's a 3.8-percent increase over last summer's record numbers.

Airlines have added more flights and are using larger planes, leading to the most number of seats in the sky since 2008. That, along with low fuel prices, has led to a 4-percent drop in domestic airfares so far this year, according to the airline lobbying group.

Missing flights

The airlines have a message for fliers: Get to the airport early. Long lines at Transportation Security Administration checkpoints have plagued thousands of travelers this spring, causing many of them to miss flights. The situation is expected to get worse in the summer with an average of 2.5 million passengers a day flying. Last year, 19 of the 25 busiest days for the TSA occurred during the summer. The top five busiest were: Friday July 31, Thursday July 2, Friday June 26, Friday May 22 (right before Memorial Day) and Friday July 24.

San Francisco International Airport is already advising fliers that all parking lots are expected to be at or near capacity during peak summer days. US theme parks are predicting 376 million visitors this year, up 3 percent from last year. The National Park Service saw a record 307 million visitors last year and expects to match that high level of attendance this year. The bulk of visitors at the 411 parks, recreation areas and national memorials come during the summer months.

That's great news for Geoff Ballotti, CEO of Wyndham Hotel Group. Half of his company's Travelodge properties are within 25 miles of a national park. "We believe it's going to be a hot summer for us," Ballotti says. — AP

VW AGREES TO 4.8% PAY RISE FOR WORKERS

FRANKFURT: Automaker Volkswagen and Germany's industrial union have agreed to increase wages 4.8 percent by next year in an economy where the cost of living is flat - the kind of raises that could help the 19-country eurozone lift inflation from dangerously low levels.

The company said Friday that almost 120,000 workers would get 2.8 percent more on Sept. 1 and then another 2.0 percent on Aug. 1, 2017. Volkswagen is struggling to overcome the costs of a scandal over cars equipped with software that enabled them to cheat in diesel emissions tests. The company deducted 16.2 billion euros (currently \$18.1 billion) from its earnings last year to cover recalls and other costs for 11 million cars sold with the software worldwide.

But worker representatives have been adamant that they should not pay the price for management's mistakes. The Volkswagen deal broadly tracks a nationwide deal for raises of 2.8 percent and 2.0 percent for 3.8 million factory workers, although the dates of the increases are different. Volkswagen typi-

cally opts out of the national deal and makes its own agreement with its workers.

Economists say higher wages and inflation in Germany would help the entire eurozone. Prices in Germany fell 0.1 percent in the year to April, and in the eurozone they fell 0.2 percent. The European Central Bank, the chief monetary authority for the countries that use the euro as their currency, is pumping newly printed money into the economy through bond purchases in an attempt to raise inflation to a level more in line with a solid economy. The bank's goal is just under 2 percent.

As the currency union's biggest economy, Germany would make the largest contribution in raising price levels. Current low levels of inflation make it harder for indebted countries such as Greece and Italy to reduce their debt loads. Higher wages in Germany would also improve the relative trade competitiveness of struggling eurozone members. If overall eurozone inflation is near zero, as it is currently, then hard-hit Greece needs to actually force down wages in order for its companies to become more competitive. — AP



WOLFSBURG: A Volkswagen emblem VW at a factory entrance stands behind green bushes in Wolfsburg, Germany. Automaker Volkswagen and Germany's industrial union have agreed on Friday to increase wages 4.8 percent by next year. — AP

KENTUCKY SEES LARGE UNEMPLOYMENT DROP

WASHINGTON: Unemployment rates were significantly lower in five states in April, led by a big drop in Kentucky. The Labor Department says Kentucky saw its unemployment rate fall to 5.3 percent in April, down from 5.6 percent in March. The state with the largest increase was Pennsylvania, which saw the unemployment rate rise to 5.3 percent from 4.9 percent in April. Pennsylvania was one of four states with significantly higher jobless rates in April.

The national jobless rate was unchanged in April at 5 percent. Employers added 160,000 jobs, well below the average gain of 243,000 over the prior six months.

Over the past year, 37 states have added an appreciable number of jobs. Two states have lost jobs, and 11 states have seen job levels essentially unchanged.

In addition to Kentucky, the other four states judged to have significantly lower unemployment rates in April were Arkansas, Delaware, Kansas and Vermont. In addition to Pennsylvania, the states with significantly higher rates were New Jersey, Wyoming and Utah. The other 41 states were seen as having stable unemployment rates from March to April. For April, the states with the lowest jobless rates were South Dakota at 2.5 percent and New Hampshire at 2.6 percent. Alaska and Illinois had the highest rates, both at 6.6 percent. Over the past year, the states with the biggest gains in payroll employment were

California, up 450,200; Florida, up 254,500 and Texas, with a gain of 189,600 jobs.

The two states with significant job declines over the past year were North

Dakota, with a drop of 17,600, and Wyoming, with a decline of 10,800. Both states have been hurt by cutbacks in the energy industry due to falling prices. — AP



PITTSBURGH: Job recruiters work their booths at a job fair in Pittsburgh. The Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits in the previous week. — AP

BRAZIL DEFICIT MUCH 'WORSE THAN THOUGHT'

BRASILIA: Brazil's projected budget deficit for this year will be nearly twice as big as forecast when Dilma Rousseff was president, the new finance minister said Friday. Rousseff's government vastly overestimated tax revenues from an economy in deep recession, minister Henrique Meirelles told a press conference. Rousseff's government had calculated the primary deficit excluding debt payments at 96 billion reais (\$27 billion). But the figure is more likely to be around 164 billion reais, Meirelles said.

"The target is set with realistic parameters," the minister said of the new projection. Brazil, just a few years ago the fast-growing poster child of developing economies, is mired in acute recession and now headed for its third straight year of deficit spending.

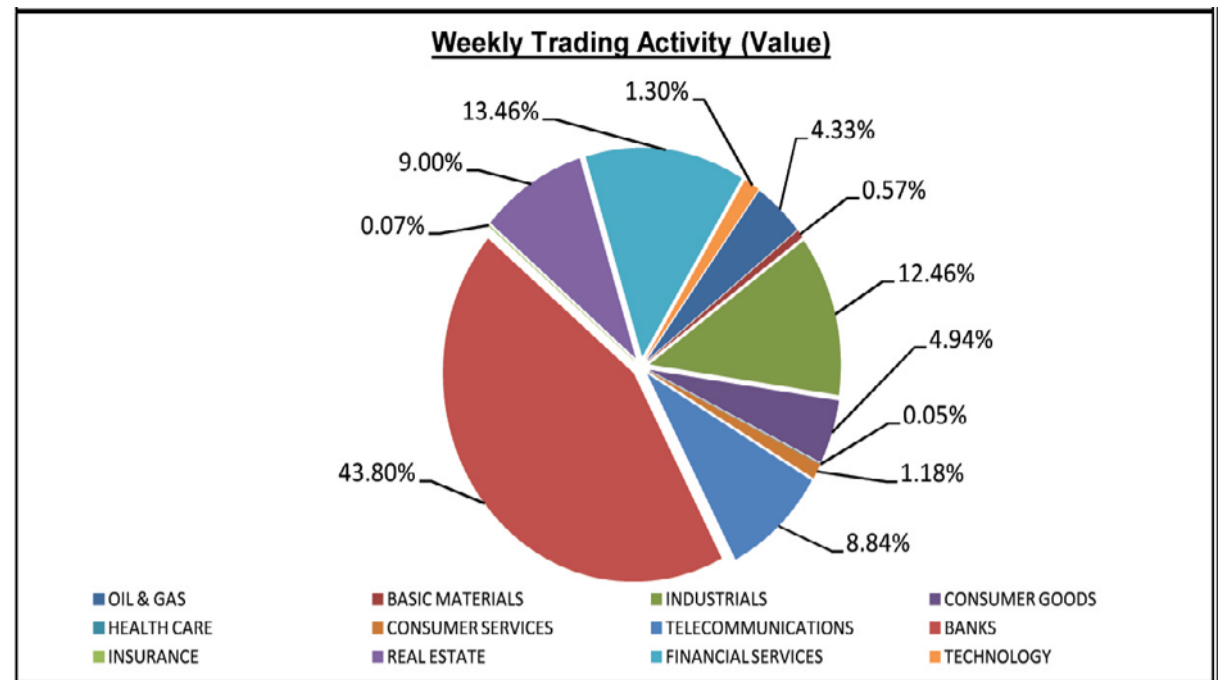
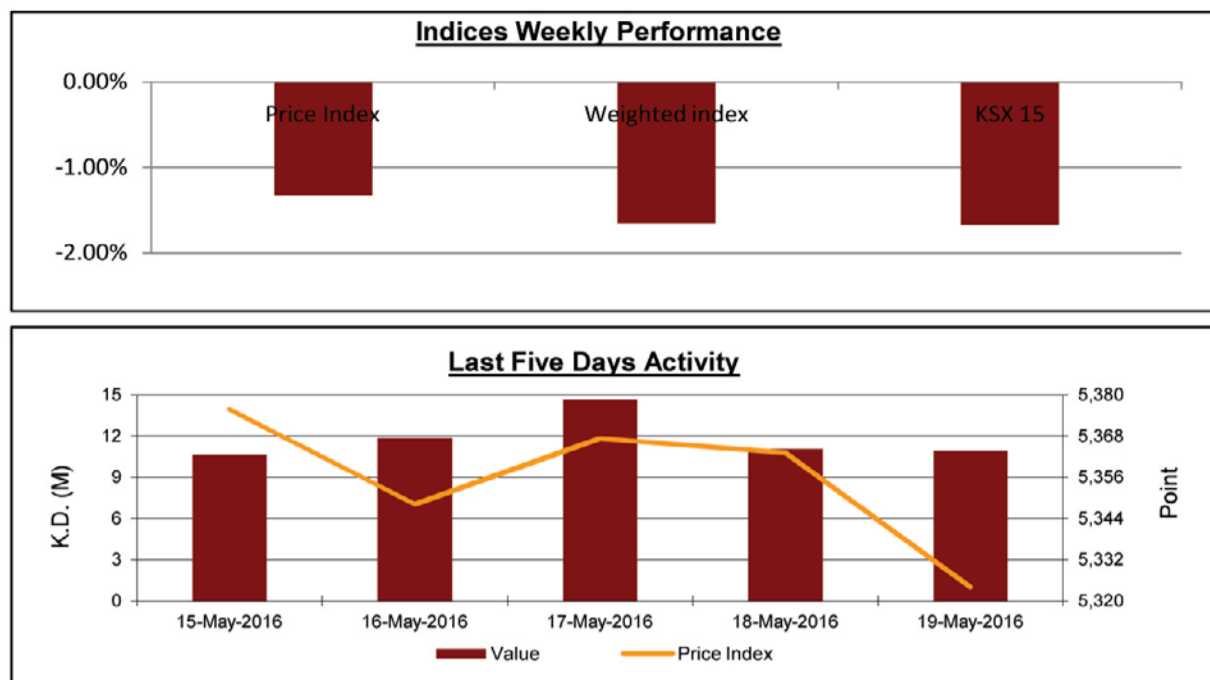
Meirelles said the deficit estimate does not take into account economic reform measures that are under consideration, such as renegotiating the terms of debt owned by Brazilian states. Rousseff was suspended from office last week and replaced by her vice president Michel Temer as acting president. — Agencies

For Rent

2 Bedrooms + Salon
+ 2 Bathrooms and
Kitchen in a
Privileged Area in
Salmiya

Salmiya Block 3
Building 6 St.5 Sub
Street Khansa St.
Avenue 6 Facing
Salmiya Gym

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69996992



KSE STOCKS END WEEK ON BEARISH NOTE

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,324.05 points, down by 1.32 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 1.65 percent after closing at 356.71 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 830.91 points down by 1.67 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 13.93 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 11.82 million, whereas trading volume average was 110.24 million shares, recording a decrease of 7.02 percent.

The stock market took a downward direction last week, and the three indices recorded different losses in light of the selling pressures and profit collections operations that overtook the random purchasing operations which were present during some daily sessions of the week, however were limited, and the selling operations included many traded stocks, amid a mixed performance for the trading indicators compared to a week earlier, whereas the values increased by the end of the week, with a limited decrease in the volumes. Also many negative factors contributed into the market decline during the last week, headed by the drop in profits of many listed companies for the first quarter of the current year, in addition to the absence of positive motivators that can increase the purchasing traffic.

As per the daily performance of KSE; the market recorded mixed closings to the three indicators on the first day of the week, whereas the Price and Weighted indices declined in parallel with the selling operations witnessed by a group of small-cap stocks, while KSX-15 Index was able to hold and end the session almost without a change. The market witnessed thereafter a noticeable drop during Monday's session, as a result to the strong selling operations executed on stocks of different weights. The market returned to fluctuate on the third day, as the Price Index compensated a part of its previous day losses supported by the purchasing operations executed on some small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices' losses increased by the end of the session due to the selling operations that concentrated on the leading stocks. On Wednesday's session, the Price Index returned to the red zone once again, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to realize some increase, compensating some of its previous losses. The market continued its downward direction during the end of week sessions, which increased the three indicators' losses and was accompanied by a limited decline in the trading activity.

Moreover, the market capitalization reached by the end of last week KD 23.28 billion, declin-

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,324.05	356.71	830.91
	Previous week	5,395.51	362.71	844.99
	Change (Point)	-71.46	-6.00	-14.08
	Change (%)	-1.32%	-1.65%	-1.67%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-291.07	-24.99	-69.52
	Change (%)	-5.18%	-6.55%	-7.72%

ing by 1.23 percent when compared to its level in a week earlier, as it was KD 23.57 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE dropped by 7.86 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it recorded then KD 25.27 billion. As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 5.18 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 6.55 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 7.72 percent loss.

Sectors' Indices

Ten of KSE's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other two recorded increases. The Telecommunications sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.63 percent to end the week's activity at 597.55 points. The Consumer Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.21 percent, closing at 915.66 points, followed by the Financial Services sector, as its index closed at 568.16 points at a loss of 2.13 percent. The Industrial sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,032.04 points with a 0.27 percent decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Insurance sector, achieving 1.82 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,018.53 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Technology sector's index closed at 975.23 points recording 0.87 percent increase.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 155.10 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 28.14 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 23.10 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 127.35 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 25.89 million or 43.80 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 7.96 million representing 13.46 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	56,265,625	10.21%	2,557,643	4.33%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,357,040	0.25%	337,343	0.57%
INDUSTRIALS	49,843,908	9.04%	7,368,776	12.46%
CONSUMER GOODS	22,696,348	4.12%	2,918,420	4.94%
HEALTH CARE	153,338	0.03%	30,724	0.05%
CONSUMER SERVICES	4,392,878	0.80%	696,477	1.18%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	60,964,642	11.06%	5,228,603	8.84%
BANKS	65,195,969	11.83%	25,890,562	43.80%
INSURANCE	416,177	0.08%	39,161	0.07%
REAL ESTATE	127,352,488	23.10%	5,321,355	9.00%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	155,099,670	28.14%	7,958,613	13.46%
TECHNOLOGY	7,477,848	1.36%	769,029	1.30%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	789.19	804.77	-1.94%	-3.61%
BASIC MATERIALS	984.33	991.24	-0.70%	-0.21%
INDUSTRIALS	1,032.04	1,034.81	-0.27%	-1.05%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,082.02	1,096.01	-1.28%	-1.18%
HEALTH CARE	955.82	965.81	-1.03%	3.29%
CONSUMER SERVICES	915.66	936.31	-2.21%	-9.22%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	597.55	613.70	-2.63%	-0.18%
BANKS	815.57	828.87	-1.60%	-10.09%
INSURANCE	1,018.53	1,000.34	1.82%	-9.62%
REAL ESTATE	842.41	857.66	-1.78%	-10.45%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	568.16	580.52	-2.13%	-4.57%
TECHNOLOGY	975.23	966.79	0.87%	18.91%

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	551,215,931	592,840,840	-7.02%
Value (K.D)	59,116,708	51,887,612	13.93%
Deals	13,874	14,664	-5.39%

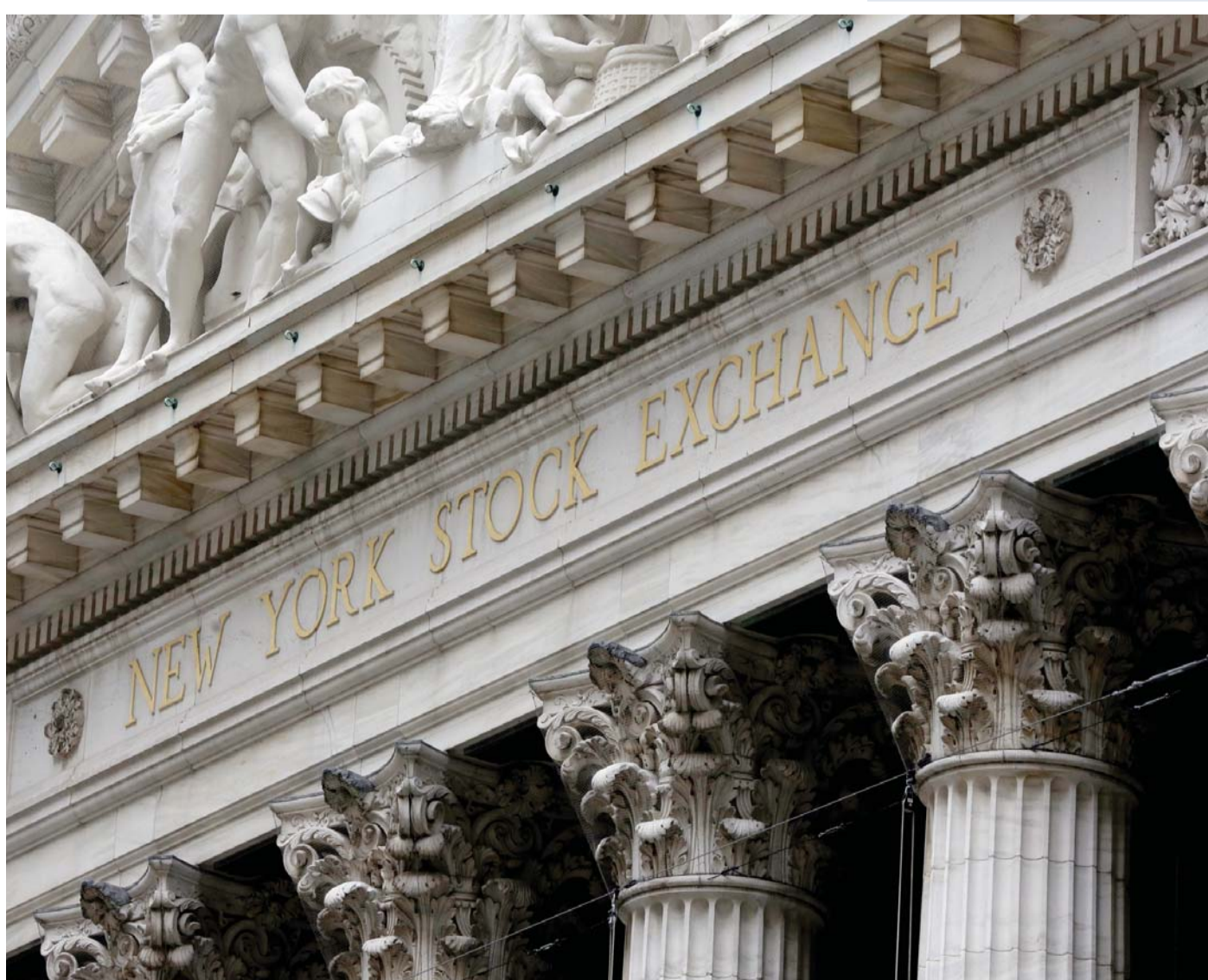
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %
	23,279,000,000	23,569,900,000	-1.23%
			Annual Ch. %
			-7.86%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
FTI	50.00	41.00	9.0	21.95%
DANAH	102.00	88.00	14.0	15.91%
EQUIPMENT	60.00	52.00	8.0	15.38%
CITYGROUP	520.00	475.00	45.0	9.47%
PAPCO	102.00	94.00	8.0	8.51%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
KCIN	1,100.00	1,300.00	-200.0	-15.38%
CATTL	152.00	178.00	-26.0	-14.61%
NIND	110.00	126.00	-16.0	-12.70%
ADNC	14.00	16.00	-2.0	-12.50%
NICBM	208.00	236.00	-28.0	-11.86%

STOCKS CLOSE HIGHER, LED BY HEALTHCARE AND TECH FIRMS

WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP



NEW YORK: The facade of the New York Stock Exchange. Global stock markets recovered their poise Friday in the wake of sizeable falls triggered by the US Federal Reserve's surprise indication that it could raise interest rates in June. — AP

NEW YORK: US stocks rose on Friday in a modest but broad rally that erased much of the losses from earlier in the week when investors had sold over fears of rising interest rates.

Healthcare and technology stocks rose the most, helping to nudge the Standard and Poor's 500 index back to slight gains for the week and year. Nine of the index's 10 sectors closed higher. Stocks rose from the start of trading, following sizable gains in Europe. Among the winners, Intel climbed nearly 2 percent and Pfizer closed up 1.1 percent.

Investors were spooked earlier in the week when the Federal Reserve released minutes of its last meeting that suggested it may raise rates in June, something the market had not expected. They scrambled to readjust portfolios, selling oil and copper, US Treasury bonds and stocks of steady dividend payers like utilities that tend to fall when rates rise.

But on Friday a measure of calm returned. US bonds barely moved, commodities ended mixed and utilities rose, albeit just 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 rose 12.28 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,052.32. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day up 65.54 points, or 0.4 percent, to 17,500.94. The Dow lost 0.2 percent for the week.

The Nasdaq composite climbed 57.03 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,769.56. Applied Materials led the move higher in technology stocks. The maker of chipmaking equipment jumped \$2.75, or 14 percent, to \$22.66 after reporting earnings ahead of analysts' forecasts.

Another big gainer for the day, InterOil, jumped \$11.92, or 38 percent, to \$43.57 after rival Oil Search announced a deal to buy the company for \$2.2 billion. The deal still needs approval by shareholders.

Friday's gains notwithstanding, the major indexes have barely moved this year. Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Mizuho Securities, says investors are uncertain about the strength of the economy and that's reflected in their unwillingness to commit themselves to buying. "There's no conviction," he said. "There is no

inside momentum." Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist for Wells Capital Management, thinks investors will eventually come around. He said he welcomes Fed talk of a rate increase because it shows things are getting better.

"The economy is good enough that even the Fed thinks it might be able to raise rates," he said. "Job creation is there, unemployment is low." Among other stocks making big moves, Campbell Soup dropped \$4.08, or 6 percent, to \$59.90 after reporting third-quarter sales that fell short of Wall Street expectations. The company partly blamed challenges in its V8 beverages business and problems with its fresh carrot supply.

The clothes chain Gap rose 73 cents, or 4 percent, to \$18.01 after announcing late Thursday that it's closing 75 Old Navy and Banana Republic stores outside North America. The announcement came as the clothes retailer reported a 47 percent drop in first-quarter profits and lower revenue.

In Europe, stock markets reversed losses from the previous day. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 1.7 percent while Germany's DAX rose 1.2 percent. France's CAC 40 advanced 1.7 percent. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.5 percent while South Korea's Kospi was flat. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.8 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5 percent.

Benchmark US oil fell 41 cents to \$47.75 a barrel in New York. Brent, used to price international oils, lost 9 cents to \$48.72 a barrel in London. In other energy markets, wholesale gasoline inched up to \$1.64 a gallon. Heating oil rose 1 cent to \$1.49 a gallon. Natural gas rose 2 cents to \$2.06 per 1,000 cubic feet. Bond prices rose slightly. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at 1.85 percent. The euro rose to \$1.1219 from \$1.1202, while the dollar rose to 110.23 yen from 109.89 yen.

Metals prices were mixed. Gold fell \$1.90 to \$1,252.90 an ounce. Silver added 4 cents to \$16.53 an ounce. Copper remained at \$2.06 a pound. — AP

KUWAIT'S CREDIT RATING INVOLVES COSTS AND RISKS

AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Moody's Credit Classification Agency fixed that rating to three GCC countries and reduced it to three others: KSA, Bahrain and Oman. This credit classification comes second in significance to us compared to the future look. By its name, this rating is addressed to credit granters to these countries, i.e. a different client. The down rating of increased risks and consequently requesting higher interest from us by the creditor to be in line with the increased risks. This consequently increases borrowing costs for both the public and private sectors.

The financial position is a variable that follows the economic situation, when the future outlook is negative. This means that prospects of the failure of economic reform have become bigger, which is the real warning and the important source of concern for us. Therefore, KSA obtained a stable future outlook, despite the down rating of its credit rating. They provided a vision to reform the economic situation, which is more important, and to monitor their conditions that will focus more on implementing it. Therefore, KSA will precede its fellow GCC countries in changing its tax regime and its subsidy policies to prove its credibility in implementing its vision.

As for Kuwait, despite its lengthy meetings with Moody's Team, it was certain that the report will conclude a negative future outlook, at a high credit rating level. The meetings left no doubt that the concerned departments are unable to reform. The report's core mistake is giving heavy weight to the internal opposition to reform policies. In fact, this justification could have become very low, if the government had been a role model and begun halting its waste and confronting the wide spread corruption. In addition, the content of its reform document reflects the poor level of the government administration. Therefore, the government deserves no credit for fixing the credit rating, as it is the only positive outcome of the temporary oil prosperity throughout 10 years. Its result, despite the uncontrolled financial policy -waste- managed to accumulated about \$600 billion under the Public Investment Authority (KIA). This will enable Kuwait, for a period of time, to comply with its financial commitments towards others. Unless the provisionally avail-

the first third of 2015) and about 44.1 percent of total value of purchased shares (47.4 percent for the same period 2015). Individual investors sold shares worth KD 540.945 million and purchased shares worth KD 492.735 million with a net trading, more selling, by KD 48.210 million.

Corporations and companies sector captured 31.2 percent of total value of purchased shares (27.7 percent for the same period 2015) and 25.1 percent of total value of sold shares (about 26.5 percent for the same period 2015). The sector purchased shares worth KD 348.308 million and sold shares worth KD 279.977 million with a net trading, more purchasing, by KD 68.331 million.

The third contributor to market liquidity is the clients' accounts sector (portfolios), which captured 17.3 percent of total value of sold shares (15.5 percent for the same period 2015) and 15.4 percent of total value of purchased shares (15 percent for the same period 2015). The sector sold shares worth KD 193.222 million and purchased shares worth KD 172.410 million, with a net trading balance, selling, by KD 20.812 million.

The last contributor to liquidity is the investment funds sector which captured 9.2 percent of total value of purchased shares (about 9.8 percent for the same period 2015) and 9.2 percent of total value of sold shares (about 8.4 percent for the same period 2015). This sector purchased shares worth KD 102.912 million and sold shares worth KD 102.221 million, with a net trading, purchasing, by KD 691.6 thousand.

KSE continues to be a domestic stock exchange with Kuwaiti traders forming the biggest trading group and purchased shares worth KD 966.074 million capturing 86.5 percent of total value of purchased shares, (85.8 percent for the same period 2015), and sold shares worth KD 965.191 million, capturing 86.5 percent of total value of sold shares (87.4 percent for the same period last year). As such, their net trading, more purchasing, with KD 883.2 thousand.

Other investors shares, out of total value of sold shares scored 10.3 percent, (9.7 percent for the same period 2015), worth KD 115.527 million and they purchased shares worth KD 106.498 million, or by 9.5 percent of total pur-

	31/03/2016	31/03/2015	Change		
	(Thousand KD)	(Thousand KD)	Value	%	
Total Assets	5,459,266	5,394,752	64,514	1.2%	↑
Total Liabilities	4,920,770	4,875,224	45,546	0.9%	↑
Total Equity	538,496	519,528	18,968	3.7%	↑
Total Operating Revenues	44,023	41,509	2,514	6.1%	↑
Total Operating Expenses	15,583	14,318	1,265	8.8%	↑
Provision	19,265	16,948	2,317	13.7%	↑
Taxation	409	460	(51)	-11.1%	↓
Net income	8,766	9,783	(1,017)	-10.4%	↓
Ratios					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	0.6%	0.7%			↓
**Return on Average Equity (ROE)	6.5%	7.6%			↓
**Return on Capital (ROC)	11.5%	13.2%			↓
*Earnings per share (EPS) - (Fils)	3	3	0.0	0.0%	↔
Closing price - (Fils)	212	280	(68)	-24.3%	↓
Price to Earnings Per Share Multiplies (P/E)	17.7	23.3			
Price to Book Value Multiplies (P/B)	1.2	1.6			

* Indicators Ended March 31, 2016 on an annual basis

** Calculated based on the average rate of the financial data at the end of December 2015 and 31 March 2016

The following tables summarize last week's performance of KSE

Description	Week 20	Week 19	Diff %
	19/05/2016	12/05/2016	
Working days	5	5	
AlShall index (38 Companies)	340.4	343.4	-0.9%
KSE index	5,324.1	5,395.5	-1.3%
Value Trade (KD)	59,117,358	51,887,612	
Daily average (KD)	11,823,472	10,377,522	13.9%
Volume Trade (Shares)	551,216,931	592,840,845	
Daily average (Shares)	110,243,386	118,568,169	-7.0%
Transactions	13,875	14,665	
Daily average (Transactions)	2,775	2,933	-5.4%

percent of total accounts (24,497 accounts in the end of March 2016), i.e. about 6.7 percent of total accounts for the same month, down by -1.9 percent during April 2016.

Profits of listed companies

171 companies out of 186 listed companies (about 90.4 percent) officially announced their financial statements for the first quarter

of the current year, after excluding the deleted and suspended companies and those whose with financial statement dates difference. Those companies achieved net profits by KD 476.1 million which is lower by 4.3 percent than profits of the same companies in the same period 2015 which was KD 497.3 million. Profit level improved in the first quarter 2016 by 93.3 percent compared with the profits in the fourth quarter of 2015, the same sample, which scored KD 246.3 million. Profits of 11 sectors out of 12 active sectors achieved rose compared to the fourth quarter 2015. The financial services sector came out the best which changed its loss by KD 36.8 million to a profit by KD 29.5 million. The banking sector came second which increased its profits from KD 177.2 million to KD 230.5 million, and the industry Sector came next and increased its profits from about KD 8.4 million to KD 57.8 million. Profits of the consumer services sector dropped from KD 21.3 million to about KD 11.7 million.

Results of the first quarter of the current year indicate that the performance of 84 companies improved; 77 increased their profits, 7 companies reduced their losses or turned to profitability in other words, (49.4 percent of the companies which announced their results achieved better performance).

86 companies achieved drop in their performance, with 65 companies achieved less profits, and 21 companies moved from profits to losses. Top gainers included 10 leading companies which achieved the highest profits value KD 280.7 million, 59 percent, to total absolute profits "NBK" led the list by about KD 78.9 million, "Ahli United Bank" - Bahrain branch- came next by KD 46.7 million. "Zain" came third by KD 37.3 million. "KFH" came forth by KD 34.1 million. Top losers achieved absolute losses by KD 14.6 million and "Al-Mal Investment Co" scored the highest loss by KD 5.3 million and "IFA Hotels & Resorts Co" came second by about KD 2 million.

The weekly performance of KSE

The performance of Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) for last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and general index, showed a decrease, while the value traded index showed an increase. AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 340.4 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing a decrease of about 3 points or about 0.9 percent compared with its level last week and it decreased by 25.5 points or about 7 percent compared with the end of 2015.

Compared Announced Companies Profits During The First Quarter 2016 with Fourth Quarter 2015									
Sectors	Number of Announced companies	Common Listed Companies Profits '000		Change		% of Total		Rank	
		First Quarter 2016	Fourth Quarter 2015	000 KD	%	First Quarter 2016	Fourth Quarter 2015		
1	GAS & OIL	7	7,186	(11,106)	18,292	164.7%	1.5%	-4.5%	5
2	BASIC MATERIALS	2	2,182	1,405	777	55.3%	0.458%	0.6%	11
3	INDUSTRIALS	38	57,846	8,428	49,418	586.4%	12.1%	3.4%	3
4	CONSUMER GOODS	7	24,236	12,842	11,394	88.7%	5.1%	5.2%	6
5	HEALTH CARE	3	1,953	(4,818)	6,771	140.5%	0.4%	-2.0%	8
6	CONSUMER SERVICES	13	11,691	21,286	(9,595)	-45.1%	2.5%	8.6%	12
7	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	4	57,442	38,429	19,012	49.5%	12.1%	15.6%	4
8	BANKS	12	230,450	177,163	53,287	30.1%	48.4%	71.9%	2
9	INSURANCE	8	14,003	6,244	7,759	124.3%	2.9%	2.5%	7
10	REAL ESTATE	34	34,356	31,792	2,563	8.1%	7.2%	12.9%	10
11	FINANCIAL SERVICES	38	29,534	(36,783)	66,317	180.3%	6.2%	-14.9%	1
12	TECHNOLOGY	4	5,245	1,422	3,823	268.9%	1.1%	0.6%	9
	Total	170	476,123	246,304	229,819	93.3%	100%	100%	

able strength element -savings- is employed in adopting the sustainability of public finance principle to transform the savings from a financial strength element to an economic strength element, time will manage to strip Kuwait off these savings, kill its last chance of its turn and begin reducing its credit rating. The turn which could achieve a stable or perhaps positive future look, is easier in Kuwait than most regional countries. But this will not be achieved due to the weak ability and desire of the current government in understanding and adopting the cost of this turn, to despite its paramount significance.

Very briefly, the down rating of the credit classification involves costs and risks, fixing it is temporary with no credit to the public administration. But, the focus however should be given to the risks of the future negative outlook because economic failure is much more dangerous than the cost of a temporary reduction of the credit classification and therefore it is permanent danger.

Trading features at KSE

Kuwait Clearing Company issued its report titled "Trading Volume According to Nationality" for the period of 01/01/2016 to 30/04/2016, which was published on Kuwait stock exchange (KSE) official website. The report indicated that individual investors are still the prevailing group though their share is declining; they captured 48.5 percent of total value of sold shares (about 49.6 percent for

chased shares (10.6 percent for the same period 2015); thus, their net trading value, the only one selling, by KD 9.029 million.

GCC Investors' share out of total value of purchased shares scored 3.9 percent (3.6 percent for the same period 2015), worth KD 43.793 million, while percentage of their sold shares scored 3.2 percent (2.9 percent in the same period 2015), worth KD 35.647 million. Their net trading was, more purchasing, by KD 8.146 million only.

Relative distribution among nationalities changed from the previous period 86.5 percent for Kuwaitis, 9.9 percent for traders from other nationalities, and 3.6 percent for GCC traders versus 86.6 percent for Kuwaitis, 10.2 percent for other nationalities and 3.3 percent for GCC traders, for the same period of 2015. This means Kuwait stock exchange remained domestic though with more trading by foreign and investors from outside the GCC than from the GCC with trading prevalence to individuals. It should be pointed however that the stock exchange is passing through a state of severe liquidity scarcity; some analysis of behaviors may be untrue as it may change fundamentally if the stock exchange restored its normal liquidity.

Number of active accounts between the end of December 2015 and the end of April 2016 dropped by -7 percent, (45.9 percent between the end of December 2014 and the end of April 2015). Number of active accounts in the end of April 2016 scored 24,029 or 6.5

Most Active Sectors & Companies		
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	16,905,841	28.6%
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE	3,902,823	6.6%
AGILITY PUBLIC WAREHOUSING COMPANY	3,663,901	6.2%
GULF PETROLEUM INVESTMENT (S.A.K.C)	2,488,377	4.2%
DANAH ALSAFAT FOODSTUFF COMPANY	2,060,698	3.5%
Total	29,021,640	49.1%
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
BANKS SECTOR	25,890,562	43.8%
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	7,941,567	13.4%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	7,385,828	12.5%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	5,321,355	9.0%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	5,228,603	8.8%

ALSHALL INDEX	Week 20	Week 19
	19/05/2016	12/05/2016
Increased Value (# of Companies)	9	12
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	17	12
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	12	14
Total Companies	38	38

	Company Name	THU	THU	DIFF %	CLOSE 2015	DIFF %
		19/05/2016	12/05/2016			
1	The National Bank Of Kuwait	351.2	345.2	1.7	401.1	(12.4)
2	The Gulf Bank	183.7	191.8	(4.2)	211.3	(13.1)
3	Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	366.8	371.0	(1.1)	402.3	(8.8)
4	Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	219.3	219.3	0.0	245.5	(10.7)
5	Kuwait International Bank	210.5	220.9	(4.7)	235.5	(10.6)
6	Ahli United Bank	369.8	369.8	0.0	424.2	(12.8)
7	Burgan Bank	307.2	316.7	(3.0)	359.6	(14.6)
8	Kuwait Finance House	1000.8	1013.1	(1.2)	1052.0	(4.9)
	Banking Sector	365.1	365.2	(0.0)	409.7	(10.9)
9	Commercial Facilities Co	134.2	127.0	5.7	125.6	6.8
10	International Financial Advisors	247.2	247.2	0.0	235.1	5.1
11	National Investments	143.5	148.5	(3.4)	110.7	29.6
12	Kuwait Investment Projects	1181.1	1181.1	0.0	1292.5	(8.6)
13	Coast Investment & Development	59.5	64.2	(7.3)	43.7	36.2
	Investment Sector	338.1	337.1	0.3	347.4	(2.7)
14	Kuwait Insurance Company	67.3	66.2	1.7	67.3	0.0
15	Gulf Insurance Company	376.4	376.4	0.0	427.7	(12.0)
16	Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	174.6	174.6	0.0	199.0	(12.3)
17	Warba Insurance Company	81.9	86.9	(5.8)	88.5	(7.5)
	Insurance Sector	147.6	147.4	0.1	162.9	(9.4)
18	Kuwait Real Estate Company	90.3	88.6	1.9	88.6	1.9
19	United Realty Company	185.6	183.5	1.1	193.7	(4.2)
20	National Real Estate Company	194.4	196.6	(1.1)	187.8	3.5
21	Salhiah Real Estate Company	1453.6	1453.6	0.0	1494.0	(2.7)
	Real Estate Sector	182.6	182.3	0.2	184.3	(0.9)
22	The National Industries	98.3	112.6	(12.7)	112.6	(12.7)
23	Kuwait Cement Co	565.3	587.9	(3.8)	595.5	(5.1)
24	Refrigeration Industries Co	100.0	100.0	0.0	104.9	(4.7)
25	Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	165.9	169.9	(2.4)	149.9	10.7
26	Contracting & Marine Services Co	61.1	63.6	(3.9)	64.8	(5.7)
	Industrial Sector	164.3	174.3	(5.7)	172.4	(4.7)
27	Kuwait National Cinemas	690.5	816.0	(15.4)	577.5	19.6
28	Kuwait Hotels Company	115.5	115.5	0.0	115.5	0.0
29	The Public Warehousing Co	1921.0	1940.4	(1.0)	1862.8	3.1
30	Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	353.8	338.2	4.6	353.8	0.0
31	Safat Energy Co	12.6	12.6	0.0	11.7	7.7
	Services Sector	620.1	627.1	(1.1)	598.6	3.6
32	Livestock Transport & Trading Co	126.7	148.3	(14.6)	106.7	18.7
33	Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	104.3	90.0	15.9	81.8	27.5
34	Kuwait United Poultry Co	58.7	58.7	0.0	65.3	(10.1)
35	Kuwait Food Co	2246.6	2384.6	(5.8)	1970.7	14.0
	Food Sector	774.2	821.6	(5.8)	681.5	13.6
36	Sharjah Cement Co	333.3	329.1	1.3	362.5	(8.1)
37	Gulf Cement Co	314.5	314.5	0.0	322.6	(2.5)
38	Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	522.4	500.3	4.4	588.6	(11.2)
	Non Kuwaiti Companies	220.0	218.3	0.8	228.6	(3.8)
	General Index	340.4	343.4	(0.9)	365.9	(7.0)

BRITISH AIRWAYS PARTNERS WITH COMMERCIAL BANK OF KUWAIT CARDHOLDERS WILL COLLECT AVIOS, THE REWARD CURRENCY OF BA EXECUTIVE CLUB

KUWAIT: British Airways and the Commercial Bank of Kuwait yesterday announced the launch of three MasterCard products for customers to collect Avios, the reward currency for the British Airways Executive Club.

The CBK British Airways World, Platinum and Prepaid MasterCard are the only British Airways branded cards available in Kuwait. The new CBK British Airways MasterCard combine a world leading card concept with a global loyalty program. Cardholders can use Avios on flights worldwide with British Airways and oneworld airline partners.

Sahar Al-Rumaih, Acting General Manager for Retail Banking Division CBK commented: "This new partnership with British Airways and Avios is a major breakthrough for our growing expansion in Kuwait and we

are proud to be the only bank issuing a British Airways co-branded card anywhere in the Middle East. It is part of our overall strategy to bring the best card products to our customers."

Customers will be able to collect Avios on purchases, from booking flights to paying for dinner, filling up with petrol or everyday shopping. All eligible spend on the new cards will help CBK customers fly to London and beyond using their Avios.

Paolo De Renzis, Head of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Sales for British Airways said: "We're pleased to be able to offer our customers in Kuwait more opportunities to gain fantastic travel benefits with British Airways. Customers successfully applying for a CBK British Airways MasterCard can collect up to

25,000 bonus Avios - that's a return flight to London at peak times.

The number of Avios a customer needs depends on the destination and class of travel. For example, customers could fly one-way to London from Kuwait in economy during an off-peak period for 10,000 Avios or one-way to New York for 23,000 Avios, simply paying taxes, fees and carrier charges."

The new CBK British Airways MasterCards also have valuable additional benefits including access to MasterCard Priceless Cities which offer VIP treatment and unique experiences in entertainment, dining, hotels and shopping in cities around the world. World and Platinum cardholders also benefit from lounge access, travel insurance and concierge services.

Marc Guiomar, Head of Markets for Avios in Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific at Avios, said: "We are delighted to partner with British Airways and the Commercial Bank of Kuwait to launch the only British Airways co-branded cards in the Middle East, enabling customers in Kuwait to collect Avios on their everyday spending. We know customers love to travel and shop, so this is an ideal way for them to build their Avios balance and enjoy the flight rewards that brings."

Customers can get more information on how to apply for the new CBK British Airways MasterCards at www.ba.com/cbk. Cardholders wanting to learn more about how to spend Avios can visit www.britishairways.com/executive-club/spending-avios



X-CITE WINS KUWAIT'S 'BEST RETAILER OF YEAR' AWARD 2016 DISTREE MIDDLE EAST AWARDS

KUWAIT: X-cite by Alghanim Electronics won two awards at the 2016 DISTREE Middle East Awards including the best Kuwait Retailer of the Year award for the 8th consecutive year as well as the best Kuwait Retail Executive of the Year Award for Ali Al-Shawwaf. The award ceremony was part of the annual 2016 DISTREE channel-networking event held at Fairmont Bab Al Bahr Hotel in Abu Dhabi, UAE from the 10th to the 12th of May 2016. The award is bestowed to international retailers for excellence in retailing across a range of criteria that includes successful channel engagement strategy, implementation of best business practices in retailing and the ability to provide customers with access to the latest technology products within a world-class shopping environment.

For more than a decade, DISTREE Events has been the leading organizer of executive-level events in the ICT & Consumer Electronics channels across emerging markets in Africa, Russia & CIS and Latin America as well as the more established markets of Europe and the Middle East. DISTREE works with tech brands across the globe at all stages of their channel development.

X-cite shone during the awards ceremony with its 8th consecutive win of Kuwait Retailer of the Year, an honor that highlights the country's biggest electronic retailer's commitment to only offering the best products as well as beneficial promotions to everyone in the community. X-cite's Ali Al-Shawwaf was also recognized during the ceremony by winning the Kuwait Retail Executive of the Year Award.

X-cite by Alghanim Electronics is the largest network of retail electronic stores in Kuwait with over 300 global brands. It

offers a convenient, dynamic and modern shopping experience that aims to add joyous, entertaining moments to shoppers' time spent in the store. With its engaging and easy-to-use product displays that encourage customers to get hands-on with the product of their choice, X-cite's shopping experience is further enhanced by a highly skilled and multi-lingual team of sales professionals and the latest electronic devices and gadgets in the market. X-cite has branches in 18 locations situated in strategic areas across Kuwait, 2 branches in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as www.xcite.com and the X-cite application on iOS and Android, e-commerce platforms that parallel X-cite's unmatched in-store experience as they provides customers with valuable offers on a wide selection of quality brands with an interactive and customer friendly navigation. Customers can also enjoy many of X-cite's convenient services including Easy Credit, shopping at any of X-cite's select stores that are open 24-hours, extended and accidental warranty programs in addition to free delivery and installation services. X-cite also provides its customers with a full-fledged service center, open 6 days a week, and a professional field technician team. X-cite offers the Kuwaiti marketplace a best-in-class shopping experience through its modern retail format, open layouts, and the availability of all the most sought-after electronic brands in one place.

To stay updated on latest product launches, monthly promotions and offers customers are invited to subscribe to the daily newsletter on xcite.com or follow X-cite's social media channels: Facebook.com/XcitebyAlghanim or Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter @xcitealghanim.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 15 May 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 8 May - 12 May 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.



The winners are

(Sunday 8/5): Raikan Abdulrahman Hussain Al-Khaldi, Mohammed Jasib Qanawati Zada

(Monday 9/5): Khalil Abdullah Rashedi, Mohammed Riaz Ul Haque Ghulam Jelany

(Tuesday 10/5): Sulaiman Marzouq Ahmad Al-Dosrei, Abdullah Joudah Sayer Sagheir

(Wednesday 11/5): Neama Tamer Mohammed Zaytoun, Hatem Atiya Awaad Nzaal

(Thursday 12/5): Nawaf Abdullah Naser Al-Menayekh, Eassa Rajab Mohammed Al-Abden

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 2nd quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on the 30th of June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al-Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your

chances of winning the KD500,000 or millionaire draw!

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Win big, live big, with Al-Danah 2016

Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.

KFH WINS 'BEST BANK IN KUWAIT' AWARD FROM EMEA FINANCE

AWARD RECOGNIZES BANK'S ROBUST FINANCIAL POSITION, ASSET QUALITY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won "Best Bank in Kuwait" and "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" awards from EMEA Finance Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA). The awards recognize KFH's consecutive achievements, robust financial position, outstanding performance, and the continuing improvements in its products and services as per international standards of service quality and adherence to customers' requirements and the market's development.

Group Chief Treasury Officer at KFH Abdul Wahab Al-Roshood stated in a press release on the heels of receiving the awards, that the bank continues its efforts to maintain its pioneering position as the best bank at all levels, yet to reinforce its leadership as a world leading Islamic financial institution. The bank attaches great interest in increasing its market share, while prioritizing quality elements in service and human capital.

He added that KFH succeeded in rendering high-end technical and financial services and products. The bank ensures providing consistency between the compliance to the legislative rules and practices and coping with the latest development in the banking technology. Locally, KFH operates amidst fierce competition, however the sharia-compliant products and services are

witnessing huge clients' turnout, which positively affected the qualitative and quantitative share of KFH in the market and allowed it to remain on the top spot.

He indicated that KFH assumes key role in the Islamic finance sector as it constantly innovates new Islamic finance products and services that are alternatives to the conventional ones. Sharia-compliant instruments aim at strengthening the bank's role in financing the development projects in the region and the global markets.

Al-Roshood confirmed that KFH views these awards as a motivator for further success, while looking forward for more achievements to attract new customers in an attempt to boost the market share of the bank, yet to consolidate its prestigious position locally and globally.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.



Al-Roshood receiving the two awards.

64% OF KUWAIT RESPONDENTS SAY THEIR SALARY IS LOWER THAN INDUSTRY AVERAGE

BAYT.COM AND YOUNGOV SALARY SURVEY

KUWAIT: The 2016 Bayt.com Middle East and North Africa Salary Survey, conducted by Bayt.com, the Middle East's number one job site, and YouGov, the leading market research agency, revealed that almost half (48 percent) of Kuwait respondents are expecting a salary increase in 2016.

Current salary

In Kuwait, less than one in five professionals (19 percent) believe that their salary is competitive with other companies in their industry, while the majority believe that their salary is lower than the industry average (64 percent). When asked about the industries which offer the highest salaries, oil, gas and petrochemicals (49 percent), banking and finance (38 percent) and real estate/construction/property development (19 percent) emerged at the highest paying industries for Kuwait respondents.

47 percent of Kuwait respondents claim the salary they earn is, at least to some extent, the main driver behind their loyalty to their company, while one-third (33 percent) claimed their loyalty is not linked to the salary they receive. Besides salary, long-term career advancement opportunities (39 percent) and line manager (34 percent) emerged as the most important factors driving employee loyalty in the Kuwait.

In terms of equal pay, while fewer than half (44 percent) claim they are unaware, the largest proportion (32 percent) with a point of view believed that men and women are paid equally for doing the same work.

"This study was especially designed to provide employers with insights into employee satisfaction levels with their salary and raises. This information is key to guiding both employers and job seekers, so the mismatch between salaries offered and expectations can be successfully addressed. Tools such as Salary Search by Bayt.com can help employers uncover the salaries that are being paid in their industry. The same tool helps professionals gauge their earnings against market average, and thus, learn whether or not they are being fairly paid for the job they are doing," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com.

Promotions and pay raises

In 2015, around one in five (22 percent) respondents in Kuwait received a promotion, with two thirds of them (61 percent) receiving an accompanying salary increase.

Surprisingly, close to half of Kuwait respondents (44 percent) disclosed that they have not received a pay raise in 2015 at all, and 28 percent of those who did were quite dissatisfied with their raise. In fact, only 6 percent of Kuwait respondents said their raise was above the inflation rate; 17 percent said it was in line with the inflation rate, and 56 percent said the raise they received was below the current rate of inflation.

On the other hand, 26 percent appear to be very happy or modestly happy with their raise, and 15 percent believe that the pay raise they received last year was fair in light of their contribution to the company. As for future expectations, 29 per-

cent of Kuwait respondents expect a raise of up to 15 percent, while 32 percent do not expect to receive a raise at all in 2016. Another 16 percent were unsure of whether they would get a raise.

Benefits, Bonuses and Promotions

In Kuwait, 31 percent of professionals receive overtime pay, and 44 percent receive a company bonus or incentive plan. For those who receive a bonus, 68 percent said they get an annual or year-end bonus, while 31 percent get an incentive-based bonus.

In terms of pay structures, two-thirds (67 percent) of professionals in Kuwait prefer a 100 percent fixed pay structure, while 28 percent say that they prefer a partially-fixed pay structure, with variable pay for commissions and incentives. Pay structures are annually or biennially reviewed for 40 percent of Kuwait respondents, while one fifth (17 percent) do not receive any pay reviews at all.

With regards to additional benefits, 37 percent of Kuwait respondents say that they receive personal medical insurance, 23 percent are allotted a

in opportunities and economic growth in the country (24 percent), and good corporate performance/increased profitability (17 percent). On the other hand, Kuwait residents see poor economic growth/declining oil prices (59 percent), poor corporate performance/decreased profitability (33 percent), and employer-friendly laws (28 percent) as the factors preventing salary increases.

Expenses and savings

With regards to the rising cost of living in Kuwait, the majority of respondents say that they have witnessed an increase in their rent (82 percent), food and beverage (69 percent) and utilities (32 percent). Another 42 percent of respondents say they have also experienced increases in education, and 32 percent mentioned entertainment as one of the major cost increases.

The increased cost of living has, in turn, hampered Kuwait professionals' ability to save: 26 percent of them admit that they save nothing from their monthly salary. Still, 58 percent of Kuwait employees manage to repatriate a portion of their salary to their home country.

Masri continued, "As a part of our mission to empower people to lead their lifestyles of choice, Bayt.com has currently more than 10,000 jobs posted on its website on any given day. That is beside the volume of unadvertised jobs that get filled by employers through the CV Search mechanism on Bayt.com. Jobseeker registration on Bayt.com is growing at over 12,000 new registered job seekers a day - a growth that reflects a healthy appetite for jobs across the industry spectrum across the region and corresponds to the fact that the majority of MENA respondents plan to look for a new job in the next 12 months."

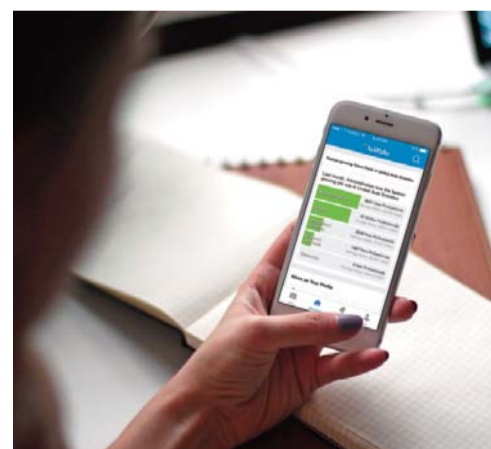
Investments

In Kuwait, the most popular choice for monthly investments include investing in local property (16 percent). It is worthy to note, though, that only 19 percent of Kuwait respondents make financial investments on a regular basis.

Of those polled in Kuwait, 36 percent own their own home, while 27 percent are interested in owning a home in their country of residence, and 69 percent would like to own a home in their home country.

Joao Neves, Research Director, YouGov, said: "It is interesting to note that 61 percent of MENA respondents manage to save a portion of their monthly income, with 58 percent of those living outside their home country being able to repatriate a portion of their savings to their home country. This is a good sign for both employers and job seekers, as the ability to save and repatriate savings will impact other factors such as employee satisfaction and loyalty towards the company."

Data for the 2016 Bayt.com Middle East and North Africa Salary Survey was collected online from April 1st to April 15th 2016. Results are based on a sample of 8,158 respondents who live in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.



personal air ticket and 19 percent receive transportation allowance from their companies. When asked about their preferences, 62 percent of the respondents admitted that they would prefer to receive a bonus, while others would rather receive housing allowance, or company-provided accommodation, at 41 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Future plans and expectations

In Kuwait, the majority of respondents (53 percent) claim that they are planning on finding a better job in their industry within the next 12 months, while 29 percent state that they will be looking for a better job in a new industry. Interestingly, 25 percent of Kuwait respondents plan on relocating to a different country in the Middle East in search of a better job.

When asked about future trends, a third (33 percent) of Kuwait respondents expect salaries to slightly increase, while 9 percent expect the opposite (slightly decrease). According to the respondents, factors causing salaries to increase include inflation/rise in cost of living (62 percent), growth

CANON HOSTS PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP TO NURTURE KENYA'S CREATIVE TALENT

DUBAI: Reaffirming a commitment to developing young talent in the region, Canon, a world leader in imaging solutions, in partnership with Office Technologies, the local distributor of Canon in Kenya, and House of Photography, is hosting a series of professional photography and video workshops in Nairobi between May 9-20.

The educational sessions are intended to provide emerging young artists the skills and training needed to gain more knowledge in their field, whilst harnessing new talent and giving Kenya's youth hands-on access to

Canon's cameras. The workshops will encourage participants to boost their professional photography portfolio by producing a host of images that will be displayed in an exhibition to be held on May 21st and 22nd in the Westgate Mall in partnership with Sona Shoppe.

Canon is committed to the Africa region and recently established Canon Central and North Africa, a division under Canon Middle East, to be closer to its customers in Africa. The workshops are part of the company's efforts to enhance its presence in the strategically important

Kenyan market, through social responsible activities which form a core part of the company's corporate philosophy, 'Kyosei,' a Japanese word meaning living and working together for the common good.

From May 9-13, a short course in DSLR filmmaking will take place at Office Technologies' offices, to be followed by a workshop on Commercial Street Photography from May 14-15 in the same location. The creative sessions will end with the Canon story-telling photo workshop being held from May 14-20, and hosted by the world renowned

photojournalist Gary Knight, also a Canon Master, at the House of Photography.

With access to Canon equipment, attendees will be advised on their projects and will greatly benefit from private lessons and creative and technical sessions which will introduce them to the most cutting-edge technology in the world of photography and videography.

Commenting on the workshop initiative, Gary Knight said: "Africa - especially East Africa - is growing at a rapid pace and there is no shortage of creative talent in this region. Short professional workshops like these play an important role in education by enabling participants to learn through actual experience. Together with Canon, we have been conducting these workshops in the hope of inspiring local photographers and now videographers to live up to their full potential."

Basil Serrao, Managing Director, Office Technologies Ltd, said: "We are pleased to partner with Canon in its initiative to nurture and develop the upcoming talent within Kenya. With this venture, we hope to enhance the knowledge and skillset of the students via a "hands on" experience with the right equipment and professional training. We look forward to these and the many more to come in the future."

Commenting on the workshop initiative, Sharon & Teddy Mitchener from House of Photography, said: "It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to come alongside Canon and play our part in growing the industry in this part of the world!" Canon serves as an active partner in the communities it operates in, by working with governments, scientific, academic, humanitarian, and arts and culture organizations, to integrate corporate social responsibility across all elements of the business.



NAIROBI: Canon hosts photography and videography workshop in Kenya.

WRIST-BAND DEVICE FOR ALCOHOL MONITORING WINS US PRIZE

SAN FRANCISCO: A San Francisco-based company has won a US government-sponsored competition with an alcohol monitoring device that can be worn on the wrist, the latest milestone in the development of wearable technologies that monitor and diagnose medical conditions.

BACtrack, a privately held medical device maker, took the \$200,000 top prize in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Wearable Biosensor Challenge on Thursday with its wristband monitor, which measures blood alcohol levels via sweat on the skin.

The product, dubbed BACtrack Skyn, has not yet been submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for marketing approval.

Dr. George Koob, head of the NIH's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, said he expected the device to be a valuable resource for alcohol research community. "It can help doctors accurately measure a patient's drinking history, and not just depend on the most recent tests," Koob said. "This can help a lot with the treatment." Medical, law enforcement and transportation officials have long sought better technology for detection of blood alcohol levels. Traditional portable breath alcohol testers (PBTs) are unwieldy and can cost over \$1,000,

and they don't provide ongoing monitoring of alcohol levels. "The blood alcohol monitoring devices used in legal and medical circles are big and bulky, like a ball and chain for the ones using it," said Keith Nothacker, president of BACtrack. "We wanted to make something people would want to wear."

The device in its current form will not, however, be a substitute for breathalyzers or blood tests used by law enforcement, because the device does not provide real-time blood-alcohol levels.

Nothacker said it takes about 45 minutes for ethanol to be transmitted through the skin, and that the device is designed to provide a recent history of alcohol use.

BACtrack has been experimenting with consumer-centric alcohol testing for several years. In 2013, it introduced the BACtrack Mobile Breathalyzer, which syncs with a smart phone to track blood alcohol content.

BACtrack beat seven other smaller companies to win the NIH competition. Milo, a Santa Barbara based technology startup, won the \$100,000 second-place prize for its design of a wearable alcohol content tracker that also uses a skin sensor and communicates with a smartphone using wireless technology. — Reuters

AIRBUS UNIT UNVEILS 3D-PRINTED ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE

BERLIN: What weighs 77 pounds, goes 50 mph (80 kph) and looks like a Swiss cheese on wheels? An electric motorcycle made from tiny aluminum alloy particles using a 3D printer. European aeronautics giant Airbus unveiled the 'Light Rider' in Germany on Friday. Manufactured by its subsidiary APWorks, a specialist in additive layer manufacturing, the motorcycle uses hollow frame parts that contain the cables and pipes.

The frame weighs just 13 pounds, about 30 percent less than conventional e-motorbikes. APWorks chief executive Joachim Zettler said the complex, branched hollow structure wouldn't have been possible with conventional production technologies such as milling or welding.

The company is taking orders for a limited run of 50 motorbikes, costing 50,000 Euros (\$56,095), plus tax, each. They'll have a range of 37 miles (60 kilometers). — AP



OTTOBRUNN, GERMANY: The CEO of Airbus, Tom Enders, left, and the head of APWorks, Joachim Zettler, present the first 3D printed electric motorcycle on Friday. — AP



MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA: People pose by Android lawn statues at Google's headquarters. — AP

WHY YOUR PHONE MAY NEVER GET ANDROID'S LATEST FEATURES IF YOU'RE AN IPHONE NONE OF THIS AFFECTS YOU

NEW YORK: Better graphics and the ability to run two apps side by side are coming to Google's latest version of Android, dubbed N. But chances are good that this free software update announced Wednesday won't arrive on your iPhone user, rest easy; none of this affects you.) So far, just 7.5 percent of active Android users have last year's version of Android, called Marshmallow. About a quarter are still on versions from 2012 or earlier. For that, people can thank smartphone makers or their wireless carrier - and maybe both. Last week, two federal agencies asked them to explain why they're so slow to update Android, as delays mean consumers aren't getting the latest security improvements.

They also deprive most Android users of the latest technologies. Marshmallow, for instance, introduced fingerprint sign-ons and other features, but so few people have it that some app makers haven't bothered to incorporate them. Citibank and Capital One, for instance, now let iPhone users sign into their apps with a touch of their finger; neither bank has brought that to Android yet.

There isn't an easy fix, either, although there are a few ways you can circumvent the bottleneck.

Android is not apple

Apple says 84 percent of iPhone users have the latest version of its basic operating software, iOS 9. Apple bypasses wireless carriers and sends updates directly to users. It also designs and manufactures all iPhones and releases just a handful of models at a time. Google, by contrast, deals with a variety of chip makers and phone manufacturers, each of which adapts Android to its liking. Many carriers also want to preload their own apps, something Apple forbids

on the iPhone. All this tweaking and testing takes resources these companies would rather devote to the most recent phones. Android models that are just two years old often won't make the cut. Apple, by contrast, still supports the 2011 iPhone 4S.

Streamlining updates ... But in small ways

Google has sped things up where it can. An app called Google Play Services now lurks in the background and handles automatic updates for core features such as location, maps and payments. In the past, Google would have had to wait for the phone to get the latest Android update. A new feature announced Wednesday, the ability to run Android apps over the Internet without installing them first, will also bypass Android and reach users directly.

Some phone makers are also bypassing wireless companies this way. HTC now delivers its camera app, lock-screen manager and other features as separate apps. But many core functions remain at the mercy of phone makers and wireless carriers. Google introduced a new system Wednesday for getting updates to users automatically, but each update needs to clear the usual hurdles first. And the phone must have the upcoming Android N version - so back to square one.

Becoming like apple

Outside of phones, Google is exerting more control - for instance, over Android versions designed for smartwatches and streaming TV devices. Makers of Android watches can customize the software only in limited ways, such as the choice of digital watch faces.

But this approach has its own drawbacks. Part of Android's appeal lies in its flexibility. Samsung's user

interface is distinct from those from LG and HTC. Samsung brought fingerprint sensors to phones even before Google made it official with Marshmallow. "A big reason for Android's success is the fact that it's open and customizable," says Geoff Blaber, an analyst with the research firm CCS Insight. "Google has to be very careful in maintaining a balance."

What you can do

The best way to get quick updates is to get a Google-designed Nexus phone. The Nexus models are a showcase for "pure" Android, and they get updates first. Motorola, formerly owned by Google, has also emphasized timely updates. It makes as few customizations as possible, though updates can still take a few months. That's because Motorola still needs to make thousands of small changes to tune Android for different hardware configurations, says Seang Chau, a senior vice president for software engineering. Otherwise your phone might run slower and chew through its battery faster.

Unlock android updates

Carriers often gum up the works by baking custom apps, derisively known as "bloatware," into Android. But they also have to verify that essential features like calling and wireless data work reliably. That means - you guessed it - more testing and tweaking. You can sidestep all that by getting an "unlocked" phone from manufacturers or retailers. HTC's Mohammed Versi says that in some cases, updates for these models take a few weeks rather than months. Because carriers are phasing out phone discounts with two-year contracts, you won't pay more for unlocked models. You'll just usually have to pay the full cost upfront. — AP

SOLAR-POWERED PLANE'S LATEST LEG: OKLAHOMA TO OHIO

TULSA: A solar-powered airplane last week is headed to Ohio on the latest leg of its around-the-world journey.

The Swiss-made Solar Impulse 2 took off from Tulsa International Airport before 5 a.m. yesterday with a destination of Dayton International Airport in Ohio. The flight was expected to take about 18 hours.

The aircraft took off from Phoenix Goodyear Airport in Arizona at about 3 a.m. on May 13 and landed in Tulsa about 20 hours later. It departed from northern California in the early hours of May 2 and landed at the airport southwest of Phoenix 16 hours later. Last month, it flew from Hawaii to California.

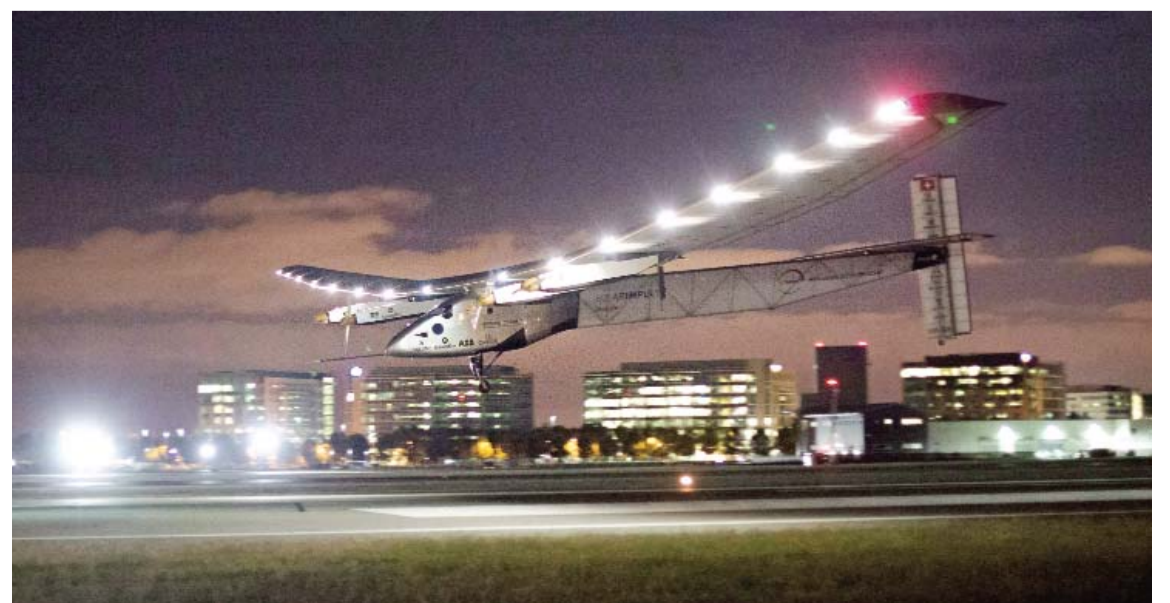
The globe-circling voyage began in March 2015 from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, and made stops in Oman, Myanmar, China and Japan. The plane was expected to make at least one more stop in the United States before crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Europe or northern Africa, according to the website documenting the journey.

The Solar Impulse 2's wings, which stretch wider than those of a Boeing 747, are equipped with 17,000 solar cells that power propellers and charge batteries. The plane runs on stored energy at night. Ideal flight speed is about 28 mph, although that can double during the day when the sun's rays are

strongest. The plane had a five-day trip from Japan to Hawaii and three-day trip from Hawaii to California's Silicon Valley. The crew was forced to stay in Oahu, Hawaii, for nine months after the plane's battery system sustained heat damage on its trip from Japan.

Project officials say the layovers give the two Swiss pilots - Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg - a chance to swap places and engage with local communities along the way so they can explain the project, which is estimated to cost more than \$100 million.

The solar project began in 2002 to highlight the importance of renewable energy and the spirit of innovation. — AP



MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA: Solar Impulse 2 lands at Moffett Field, completing the leg of its journey from Hawaii in its attempt to circumnavigate the globe. — AP

ROYAL SHIFA GROUP JOINS SHIFA AL JAZEERA GROUP TO LAUNCH MAJOR HEALTH CARE MOVE

ABU DHABI: Saudi Arabia based healthcare network Shifa Al Jazeera Group signed an agreement with HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to build five super specialty hospitals in the UAE. On the occasion held at Emirates Palace hotel, Abu Dhabi on Tuesday 17th May 2016, Dr. K. T. Mohammed Rabeeh Rabeullah, Chairman of Shifa Al Jazeera Group signed the Memorandum Of Understanding with HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"We are building the hospitals with same world class standard which UAE provides for its

people. On this occasion I thank the rulers of the UAE and its people for providing us the best opportunity to serve the country". Shifa Al Jazeera Group Chairman Dr. K.T. Mohammed Rabeeh Rabeullah stated in his comment.

On this occasion Shifa Al Jazeera Group announced charity works worth 100 million rupees in Indian state of Kerala for the coming three years. Education for poor children, medical care and home for the needy people, and food for all, are some of the projects planned in the charity activities.

Shifa al Jazeera group announces excellence

award Shifa Al Jazeera Group has also announced the 17th Shifa Excellence Awards. The winners list follows: Life Time Achievement Award: Padmabhushan Dr. K. J. Yesudas (Singer)

Other Awardees:
 Dr. V. P. Gangadharan (Renowned Oncologist and Philanthropist)
 Mr. M. Jayachandran (National Award Winning Music Director)
 Mr. Saleem Ahmed (National Award Winning Film Director)
 Mr. Sidhique (South Indian Film Actor).
 Dr. Uma Preman (Social Activist)

Mr. Kamal Varadoor (Sports Journalist)
 Mr. Anwar Moidheen (Journalist)
 Mr. Vava Suresh (Social Activist)

The award consists of a memento and five hundred thousand Indian rupees. Life Achievement award consists of a memento and one million Indian rupees. The award ceremony will be held at Muscat on 30th December 2016. Prominent political leaders such as P.K. Kunhalikutty, Kodyeri Balakrishnan, Mega star Padma Shri Mammooty, Dulqar Salman, Industrialist Dr. Anil Pillai are among the guests of honors.



SKINCARE FOR YOUR HAIR? YES

AL JOTHEN LAUNCHES KEVIN MURPHY IN KUWAIT

Kuwait: Al Jothan, one of the top distributors of world-leading professional beauty brands across the Middle East and in Kuwait, recently unveiled Kevin Murphy; the first hair care brand that uses skin care ingredients and regimens and adapts their practices into modern luxurious hair care treatments. The royal event was hosted at the Sky lounge roof top, Radisson Blu, in a magical setup on the 17th of May 2016 and was well attended by Kuwait's cherry picked top-notch salons categorized as A+. The event was also hosted by Kuwait's most influential bloggers in presence of the media in full coverage and the Kevin Murphy style masters whom have travelled all the way from Australia and USA to be part of the big launch.

A master of his profession, no one understands the transformative power of hair more than Kevin Murphy. His work has graced the covers of all major global publications and he has directed hair teams for countless high profile fashion houses. Today, the lack of products that performed as Kevin needed them to perform on a Vogue magazine shoot had forced him to go beyond the conventional hair care products and look into the advancements being made with skincare.

Working on a molecular level, Kevin Murphy treatments vow to improve the texture, shine, moisture and overall health of your hair and scalp. Think of this as a facial for your hair. Kevin Murphy treatments will slough away dead and rough particles using AHA's and replace lost moisture and strength to reveal soft touchable glowing healthy hair. During the event, the Kevin Murphy style masters unveiled Kevin's award winning hair care collections starting with repair, nourishment, color protection moving



Kevin Murphy professionals discussing the new range of products

forward to plumping & densifying, anti-ageing, thickening and strengthening. They have literally indulged attendants in a theoretical facial for their hair with a Kevin Murphy experience.

The launching was not over yet until the very next day as all invitees were also invited to be part of a full day Kevin Murphy workshop held at Jumeirah Messila on the 18th of May 2016. The purpose of the workshop was to cover the technical and theoretical perspectives of the

"Skincare for hair" Kevin Murphy concept; it was a full house!

Kevin Murphy in collaboration with Al Jothan believe in maintaining and developing the best professional hair products inspired by fashion, performance and nature. However this time, the products are not the traditional ones that we all know! They're twisted with skincare ingredients and regimens and will definitely take the world of hair care to ultimate levels!



CDC: VIOLATION FOUND IN 80 PERCENT OF POOL INSPECTIONS



ATLANTA: A sign marks the entrance to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. — AP

ATLANTA: A government survey has found at least one violation in nearly 80 percent of public pool and hot tub inspections from 2013 in five states.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it analyzed more than 84,000 inspections of nearly 49,000 public venues in Arizona, California, Florida, New York and Texas, the five states with the most public pools. The CDC says 1 in 8 inspections resulted in immediate closure because of serious health and safety violations. It says 1 in 5 kiddie pools were shut down.

The CDC says the most common violations involved improper pH levels, safety equipment and disinfectant concentration. The agency says nearly a third of local health departments don't regulate or inspect public pools. It says swimmers should be cautious before entering the water. — AP

CONGRESS WARMING TO IDEA OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR VETERANS

DENVER: Congress is showing an increased willingness to let VA doctors talk to veterans about medical marijuana in states where it's legal, although final approval is far from certain.

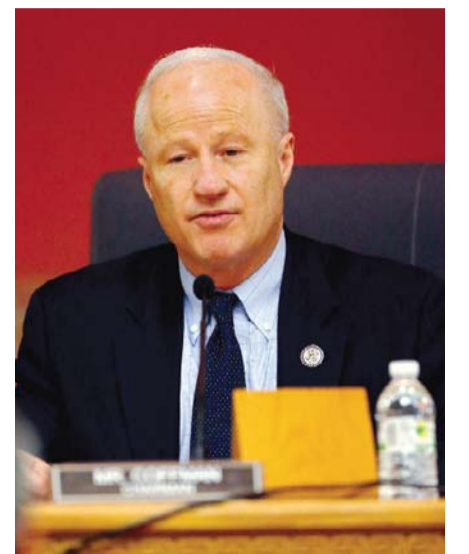
The House approved a measure this week that would let Veterans Affairs Department doctors help their patients sign up for state medical marijuana programs, something the VA now prohibits. "I'm certainly open to it," Rep. Mike Coffman, a Republican and former Marine from pot-friendly Colorado, said Friday.

A Senate committee approved a similar measure last month but the full Senate hasn't voted. Medical marijuana is now legal in 23 states and the District of Columbia, but pot remains illegal under federal law. Arguments for medical marijuana are getting a warmer reception from lawmakers amid nationwide concerns about overuse and abuse of prescription painkillers and psychotropic drugs.

Coffman, chairman of a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee on oversight and investigations, said he wasn't enthusiastic when his state first approved medical marijuana. But if the drug helps veterans deal with post-traumatic stress, it could reduce the use of stronger prescription drugs and save taxpayers money, he said.

The measures in Congress wouldn't permit the VA to provide patients with marijuana, Coffman said. It would only free doctors to talk about it with their patients. Rep. Earl Blumenaur, D-Ore., who sponsored the House measure, said medical marijuana could be safer and more effective than other drugs for veterans suffering from chronic pain or the stress disorder.

Providing access to pot as an alternative "is critical at a time when our veterans are dying with a suicide rate 50 percent higher than civilians and opiate overdoses at nearly double the national average," Blumenaur said in a written statement. Research on whether marijuana helps with PTSD has been contradictory and limited, and the VA



DENVER: US Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo, back, directs a question to a witness during a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee field hearing on VA hospitals and prescription drugs for veterans on Friday. — AP

has warned that increasing numbers of veterans who suffer from it have become dependent on pot. The VA didn't immediately respond Friday to a request for comment on the proposals in Congress.

Congress has killed similar measures in the past, but backers say the proposals are attracting more votes this time. Blumenaur's measure passed Wednesday 233-189, including 57 Republicans in favor.

Coffman's subcommittee held a hearing in Denver Friday on problems in the way the VA prescribes and keeps track of drugs. He cited the case of a pharmacy technician at the Denver VA Medical Center who officials said was found in an operating room trying to inject herself with a painkiller stolen from a hospital refrigerator. — AP

MAJOR CHANGE IN US FOOD LABELS LIKELY TO HELP HEALTHIEST THE MOST

NEWYORK: The biggest overhaul of US food nutrition labels in more than two decades is likely to help improve the diets of the most health-conscious consumers, but others may need more convincing.

Public health advocates welcomed the new rules but said some of the groups most at risk for obesity and diet-related illness may not change habits without other measures to discourage sugar consumption, such as taxes on sugar and food advertising warning labels.

The US Food and Drug Administration on Friday announced new Nutrition Facts packaged food label rules that include disclosure of how much sugar is added to thousands of processed foods ranging from soda to spaghetti sauce.

Curbing excess sugar consumption is key to whittling waist lines in the United States, where more than one-third of adults are obese, and to reducing the prevalence of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer.

Roughly two-thirds of adults already are trying to cut back on their sugar intake, said Darren Seifer, a food and beverage industry analyst for The NPD Group, a New York-based

market research company. "This might actually have an effect. Sugar is the focal point for consumers right now," Seifer said.

Food industry groups, many of which had fought the new rules, said they would comply with the changes. That included the Grocery Manufacturers Association, an industry group whose members include food and beverage companies, which said that consumers could be confused by the changes and would need education.

A review of research from several countries, published in the journal Public Health Nutrition in 2011, found a consistent link between the use of nutrition labels and healthier diets, but wide differentiation in how groups responded to labels. "It's a useful tool for those who are really educated and concerned, and has zero effect on the population most at need," said Barry Popkin, a professor of nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Popkin and Kelly Brownell, dean of the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, said labels would be more effective when combined with other measures. — Reuters

WATER CUT TO CHICAGO SCHOOL DUE TO ELEVATED LEAD LEVEL

CHICAGO: Water service to a Chicago public school has been cut after tests revealed an elevated lead level. Officials said Friday that water coolers have been delivered to Tanner Elementary School in the South Side Grand Crossing neighborhood.

The lead was discovered as the district tested water at 32 Chicago schools. Lead was found in the water of six schools at levels below

Environmental Protection Agency standards. Testing will now be done at 250 additional schools, most built before 1986.

Chicago Public Schools CEO Forrest Claypool says the district wide testing was being done in "an abundance of caution." Concern about lead in drinking water increased this year after the discovery of elevated lead levels in Flint, Michigan, water. — AP



TACOMA, WASHINGTON: Donna McNeal, of Orion Environmental Services, labels a water sample she collected for lead testing at Fawcett Elementary School on May 3, 2016. — AP

STRUGGLING NOVARTIS HEART DRUG BOOSTED BY NEW MEDICAL GUIDELINES

NEW YORK: New global guidelines on the treatment of heart failure strongly endorse the use of Novartis' Entresto, boosting the prospects for a drug that has struggled to gain traction since its launch last year.

US and European heart experts gave the highest "class 1" recommendation to Entresto for use in patients with heart failure, a debilitating condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood around the body.

The guidance in the key US market says that Entresto should replace two older types of drugs known as ACE inhibitors and ARBs in heart failure patients who have adequate blood pressure and tolerance to standard drugs. In Europe, doctors are recommended to switch their patients to the medicine if they fit the profile of a 2014 clinical trial that proved Entresto was better than standard treatment. "The guidelines read favorably. In fact, they are about as favorable as we could have hoped for," said Bernstein analyst Tim Anderson.



Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company based in Basel, Switzerland Novartis. — AP

Given Entresto's sluggish sales, investors were watching carefully to see what the guidelines said and when they would be issued, since this will influence prescribers. There had been concerns the announcements could be staggered and might only

recommend limited use. In the event, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and the European Society of Cardiology said they issued their guidelines simultaneously to "unify the message, minimize confusion, and improve and standardize the care of patients".

Novartis said the new guidance, published late on Friday, would redefine the standard of care for treating reduced ejection fraction heart failure. "We know patients with heart failure suffer reduced quality of life and remain at high risk of hospitalization or death, and these new guidelines are a strong call to action to ensure patients receive the most effective therapies," said Vas Narasimhan, chief medical officer for Novartis.

The guidelines do contain some expected caveats, with experts saying that Entresto should not be given together with an ACE inhibitor or used in patients with a history of a swelling condition known as angioedema. Experts also gave a "class IIa" recommendation to Amgen's new drug Corlanor for

use on top of beta blockers for certain heart failure patients who have a resting heart rate of at least 70 beats per minute. Servier sells the product outside the United States.

There have been few new drugs for heart failure and Novartis has touted Entresto as an eventual \$5 billion-a-year seller. Yet first-quarter sales of the medicine were just \$17 million and Novartis now predicts 2016 sales of a modest \$200 million, well below initial analyst forecasts.

The lack of specific guidelines from professional bodies until now will have contributed to reticence among some doctors to prescribe Entresto - but cost is also an issue. With a price tag of around \$4,500 a year, some physicians worry that patients might quit their medication.

Novartis on Thursday unveiled a battery of new clinical trials for Entresto designed to boost confidence in the drug and assuage doctors' concerns over switching patients to Entresto when they are stable on older medicines. — Reuters

AFTER GASTRIC BYPASS, USE OF PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS MAY RISE

NEW YORK: Although use of drugs to treat diabetes and other diseases related to obesity may decline after weight-loss surgery, use of neurological and psychiatric drugs may rise sharply, suggests a new study.

Based on thousands of patients in Denmark, researchers found that three years after gastric bypass surgery, patients' prescription drug use in general decreased, including blood sugar and cholesterol control drugs. But use of antidepressants and neuropathy drugs more than doubled.

It isn't clear why neuropsychiatric drug use rises after weight-loss surgery, but the reasons should be explored, the study team writes in *Annals of Surgery*. "It is well-known that weight loss induced by gastric bypass may improve e.g. type 2 diabetes and other metabolic diseases," lead author Dr. Sigrid Bjerre Gribsholt of Aarhus University Hospital told Reuters Health by email.

"But it is surprising that this improvement in metabolic diseases resulted in so pronounced reduction in medication for these diseases - such as more than 70 percent reduced use of drugs used for treatment of diabetes, 40 percent reduction for antihypertensive drugs, and 50 percent reduction for drugs against hyperlipidemia," Gribsholt said.

The researchers studied data from a group of more than 9,000 patients who underwent Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery in Denmark between 2006 and 2010 and compared them to more than 99,000 similar people in the general population who did not have the surgery. Based on medical records, the researchers compared prescription drug use six months before surgery and three years after the procedure.

Most surgery patients were women and an average of 40 years old when the study began. About 80 percent of those getting gastric bypass were taking a prescription drug at the beginning of the study period compared to 50 percent of those not getting the surgery.

Three years later, gastric bypass patients were using fewer prescriptions while those in the comparison group were using more. In the bypass group, use of blood sugar-lowering drugs, cholesterol drugs, blood pressure drugs and inhalers for obstructed airways all decreased substantially. But even before undergoing surgery, use of neuropsychi-

atric drugs like antidepressants and antipsychotics was twice as high in the gastric bypass group relative to the others, and rose further after surgery. "This indicates that bariatric surgery may not on the average have beneficial effect on psychological issues or psychiatric conditions," Gribsholt said.

Diabetes, high blood pressure and unhealthy cholesterol are closely related to profound obesity and are therefore cured in many patients after surgery, she said. "Right now there is no other procedure, drug, regimen, anything, that seems to be effective for allowing people who have already gained weight to lose it and keep it off," said Pierre Cremieux, Managing Principal of Analysis Group, Inc., an economic, financial, and strategy consulting firm in Boston, who was not part of the new study.

"The picture is pretty dire, and so far at least bariatric surgery seems to be the only intervention that works but of course, it is a fairly radical and irreversible decision for a patient," Cremieux told Reuters Health.

The new study involved many patients over the long term and yielded reliable results, but the situation in Denmark may not be applicable to other countries, he said. Previous studies had found that antidepressant and antipsychotic use stayed steady after bariatric surgery, while use of other drugs decreased.

"There may be less psychiatric treatment in Denmark," he said. When patients interact with the healthcare system for bariatric surgery, they may also be referred for mental health treatment that they weren't receiving before.

Drug use may reflect changes in underlying diseases and patients are generally informed that the use of drugs to treat diabetes often can be reduced immediately after the operation, Gribsholt said. "On the other hand, obesity surgery is not a cure for everything - for example, psychological problems or pain may still be present - or even arise - after surgery, necessitating medical treatment," she said.

"In the US there have been real efforts particularly at centers for excellence to make sure that there is a very careful mental health dimension to bariatric surgery processes," Cremieux said. — Reuters



RECIFE, BRAZIL: An *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is photographed through a microscope at the Fiocruz institute. — AP

PREGNANT WOMEN IN US WITH ZIKA SPIKES ON NEW COUNTING METHOD

NEW YORK: The number of pregnant women in the United States infected with Zika virus is suddenly tripling, due to a change in how the government is reporting cases.

Previously, officials had reported how many pregnant women had both Zika symptoms and positive blood tests. In a change announced Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's count will include all women who tested positive, regardless of symptoms.

There are now 157 pregnant women infected with Zika in the 50 states, up from the 48 reported last week under the old definition.

Experts emphasized that there does not appear to be any dramatic actual increase of pregnant women with the disease in recent months. There was a spike in diagnoses in February and March, but relatively few new cases since then, according to CDC data that includes women who experienced symptoms and those who didn't.

The Zika virus causes only a mild and brief illness, at worst, in most people. But in the last year, infections in pregnant women have been strongly linked to fetal deaths and to potentially devastating birth defects, mostly in Brazil.

The virus is spread mainly through the bite of a tropical mosquito called *Aedes aegypti*. It can be found in the southern United States, but there's no evidence that they've been spreading the virus in the US yet. All the 544 total cases in the 50 states so far have been people who had traveled to outbreak areas, or who had sex with someone who did.

Experts think mosquitoes on the US mainland will probably start spreading the virus in the months ahead, when hot weather hits and mosquito populations boom.

The sudden rise in the count of pregnant women with the disease in the US may seem jarring. But Dr. Neil Silverman, a UCLA professor of obstetrics who has been advising the California Department of Public Health on Zika issues, explained the change in method does not indicate a greater risk of infection.

When he gets calls from patients, he said, "About 90 percent of what we're doing is reassuring and calming people." Only an estimated 1 in 5 people infected with Zika develop symptoms - fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes - which usually last no more than a week.

Initially, doctors recognized the connection between the virus and birth defects only in women who had suffered symptoms during pregnancy. But reports published this year indicate some pregnant women with laboratory evidence of a recent Zika infection - but who never had symptoms - have delivered infants with these defects.

International health agencies have already been reporting Zika infections in women based solely on lab tests. Some experts have found it surprising that the CDC has been basing its official number on a more conservative case definition. However, CDC officials had voiced concerns that one kind of blood test is too prone to giving a false positive test result if a woman was infected

with a different but similar tropical virus.

CDC officials on Friday said it's possible the new count may include a few false positives, but they say the new count will offer a more complete picture of the effects of Zika in the US states and territories. CDC says doctors should consider testing pregnant women who have been to an area where Zika is spreading, whether or not they have symptoms. Doctors also are encouraged to ask pregnant women if their sex partner has been infected or traveled to an outbreak area.

The new counting "will give us a better idea of the correlation between a mom's symptoms and the effects on the baby," said Dr. Richard Beigi, an obstetrics expert at the University of Pittsburgh.

The agency also presented new numbers for pregnant women the territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands. It rose to 122 cases from 65. The CDC did not say how many Zika-infected pregnant women were believed to have been infected during travel and how many got it through sex. Officials said the count has includes diagnoses made over several months, and while many of the women in the count still are pregnant, some of the pregnancies have ended since the women were first diagnosed. The agency did not detail the outcomes of the pregnancies.

Also on Friday, President Barack Obama was briefed by top federal health officials about Zika. Administration officials have asked Congress for about \$1.9 billion in emergency funding for vaccine development and other Zika work. — AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
م. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



LuLu Exchange's 100th GCC branch being inaugurated by Sheikh Hasan Bin Khalid Bin Hasan Al-Thani in the presence of Mr. Yusuff Ali M.A., Chairman, LuLu Group International, Dr. R Seetharaman, Group CEO, Doha Bank, Mr. Adeeab Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Exchange and other dignitaries at Al Gharafa in Qatar.

LULU EXCHANGE OPENS 100TH GCC BRANCH

LuLu Exchange, the leading worldwide remittance and foreign exchange services provider opened their landmark 100th GCC branch at Al Gharafa in Qatar on Wednesday. The opening also marked Lulu Exchange's 3rd branch in Qatar.

The outlet at Al Gharafa was inaugurated in the presence of Sheikh Hasan Bin Khalid Bin Hasan Al-Thani, Mr. Yusuff Ali M.A., Chairman, LuLu Group International, Dr. R Seetharaman, Group CEO, Doha Bank, Mr. Adeeab Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Exchange, Mr. Mohamed Althaf, Group Director, LuLu Hypermarket and other dignitaries.

"It is indeed a moment of great pride that the opening of the third branch in Qatar coincides with it being the 100th branch in the GCC managed by LuLu Exchange. We are delighted to serve such a wide network of branches across the region and it has been a remarkable journey so far with the support and encouragement of our loyal customers. This important milestone is yet another proof of the strong customer confidence and base LuLu Exchange enjoys in the region," said Mr. Yusuff Ali M.A., Chairman, LuLu Group International.

The first LuLu Exchange in the region came into operation in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on September 2, 2009. The company soon

expanded its operations to other GCC countries viz., Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, along with India, Philippines and Seychelles.

"Starting from Abu Dhabi in 2009, the company has made great progress over the past seven years to enhance the range of services we are able to offer and we will stay committed to being the best in the industry. LuLu Exchange has received tremendous acceptance across all the countries where it has its presence. Bringing convenience to customers has always been a priority to us. This customer-centric approach has made us the most sought after organization in such a short period and also helped us grow at a fast pace," said Mr. Adeeab Ahamed, Managing Director, Lulu Exchange.

Along with upholding the very essence of trust while catering to its customers every day, the organization is also committed to promoting innovation in all its areas of service. The recent launch of the 'LuLu Now' platform, which allows immediate credit to designated bank accounts instantly, is a testimony of their commitment towards innovation that delights customers. The exchange house has strategic banking arrangements with leading banks and financial institutions around the world and is constantly working towards providing smoother, faster, and more reliable

modes of transaction. Besides remittances, customers can exchange foreign currency at competitive rates.

Enjoying unparalleled customer acceptance, LuLu Exchange is poised for remarkable growth over the next few years as the brand

consolidates existing operations and explores newer markets to widen its presence.



ACK ORGANIZES SUCCESSFUL SITE VISIT TO SABAH AL-SALEM KUWAIT UNIVERSITY CITY

The Civil Engineering department at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) organized a site visit to the Sabah Al-Salem Kuwait University City Project in Al-Shadadiyah.

Commenting on the visit, Engineer Ahmad As'ad, Teaching Assistant at ACK, mentioned that organizing the field trip comes in line with ACK's vision and strategy to focus on practical learning style rather than solely relying on theoretical engineering studies.

Engineer Asa'ad stated that the Sabah Al-Salem Kuwait University City Project was specifically chosen for the visit as it is one of the largest educational campuses in the world and the biggest construction site in the State of Kuwait covering approximately 6 million square meters in total. The visit also familiarized ACK students with the development's quality control systems, as well as the latest methods and techniques adopted in construction engineering and management, Eng. Asa'ad elaborated.

In conclusion, Eng. Asa'ad extended profound appreciations to Dr. Qutayba Rezuqi, Director of the Construction Program, Dr. Anwaar Al-Ebrahim, Assistant Director of the Construction Program, and the Public Relations Department of the Construction Program, for welcoming ACK students and for their efforts in making this site visit a success. He stressed that coordination and cooperation will continue between ACK and the Construction Program Management of the Sabah Al-Salem Kuwait University City Project moving forward.



The Civil Engineering department at the ACK on a field trip at Sabah Al-Salem Kuwait University City Project in Al-Shadadiyah.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN AT NBK HOSPITAL



The first step voluntary team organized entertainment for children at NBK hospital in Sabah area. Children were given gifts and prizes. Sebamed as one of the sponsors distributed gifts to children at the event and in the wards.

'AWARENESS DAY' AT THE DISCOVERY COMPLEX



Children's Surgery Department at Ibn Sina Hospital in cooperation with Children's Surgery Society held its first "Awareness Day" at the Discovery Complex, in the presence of

the head of Children's Surgery Department Dr Suad Abul, and doctors from various departments. The day included games and entertainment for children who received gifts and prizes,

as well as healthy meals.

Dr Abul said the Children's Surgery Department at Ibn Sina is considered the first of its type which presents an integrated protection to the child and

includes highly qualified doctors who carry out several surgeries ever year.

She said the goal behind the day is to orient parents with the principle of children surgery and who is the sur-

geon. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya and Sebamed were on hand during the event.



YIACO MEDICAL COMPANY AWARDS INNOVATIVE YOUTH PROJECTS IN STEP TO ADVANCE THE HEALTH SECTOR

YIACO Medical Company, one of the leading healthcare networks in Kuwait, recently awarded the participating youth at the First Conference for Youth to Invest in the Health Sector. The conference was hosted under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ali Al Obaidi, with the aim of involving youth in the development and advancements of the health sector in Kuwait.

The two day conference featured in-depth discussions and workshops presented by leading figures in the health industry. The conference was a platform to channel the youth towards understanding the importance of their essential role in further enhancing the industry through fully committing and investing their potential project innovation in both public and private sectors. A main segment of the conference focused on awarding the projects demonstrated by youth.

Commenting on YIACO's participation and sponsorship of the award, Dr. Bader

Alzaid Altrajji, CEO of YIACO Medical Company said, "This award presents an opportunity to reflect our support to the young minds of the society and encourage them to present their innovative ideas and share their projects. We believe that the youth show unlimited potential and we take pride in being part in unleashing these potentials through our sponsorship activity, which will encourage them to elevate their project standards and involvement to the next step, benefiting the society and its overall well-being."

The conference attracted a number of youth who are interested and capable of working in the health sector, and believe in its continuous development. The award, sponsored by YIACO Medical Company, received more than 20 participations and was presented to the top two finalists who successfully demonstrated innovative projects in bettering the healthcare system, and industry as a whole.



MAY IS LIKE NO OTHER WITH TSC!

ENJOY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTERS!

The Sultan Center (TSC) is providing its customers with continuous series of fun-filled events, designed especially for children during the month of May within TSC Salmiya and Hawally store.

On Fridays during May from 6-9pm, families shopping at TSC branches can have their children experience utmost joy with their favorite cartoon characters and a bundle of in-store entertainment activities including: tattoos, drawing & coloring sessions, face painting and photo booth through which

they can memorize the occasion with their favorite picture.

On May 13, the beloved Mickey, Minnie and Donald Duck were seen shopping in TSC Salmiya store!!! Kids were thrilled to meet their favorite characters, taking photos and enjoying the variety of fun-filled activities.

On May 20, Alaa El Dine and his magic lamp will be in TSC Hawally from 6-9pm, Moonies on May 28th will be visiting TSC Salmiya and on June 3rd Cinderella, Snow White and the Mermaids will be at TSC

Hawally. So watch out, you might just see your favorite character sliding down the aisle or shopping to your side. Save the moment; have your cameras ready, and your video cameras rolling and take pictures for your children with their favorite characters.

Throughout May at TSC, all family members are to experience unforgettable moments, lots of laughter and for sure an incredibly fun time!!!

AMC

- 03:55 Silent Witness
- 05:25 The Magnificent Seven
- 07:30 Dr. Goldfoot And The Bikini Machine
- 09:00 Geronimo: An American Legend
- 10:55 Fuzz
- 12:25 Island Of The Lost
- 13:55 Big Screen
- 14:10 Branigan
- 16:00 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
- 17:40 Dr. Goldfoot And The Bikini Machine
- 19:10 Overboard
- 21:00 Dracula 2000
- 22:40 Life Of Sin
- 00:30 Parked
- 02:05 Hurly Burly

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 04:15 Animal Cops South Africa
- 05:02 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 05:26 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 05:49 Gangland Killers
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dog TV
- 08:15 Gator Boys
- 09:10 Rugged Justice
- 10:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 11:00 Dog TV
- 11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 12:50 Mutant Planet
- 13:45 Wildest Islands
- 14:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 15:35 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 16:30 Speed Of Life
- 17:25 Wildest Islands
- 18:20 Life After: Chernobyl
- 19:15 Rugged Justice
- 20:10 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 21:05 Village Vets
- 21:35 Village Vets
- 22:00 Life After: Chernobyl
- 22:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 23:50 Gator Boys
- 00:45 Gator Boys
- 01:40 Mutant Planet
- 02:35 Wildest Islands

BBC FIRST

- 03:10 Wallander
- 04:45 Eastenders
- 05:15 Father Brown
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Eastenders
- 07:00 Death In Paradise
- 07:55 Father Brown
- 08:45 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2015
- 09:40 Doctor Who
- 10:45 Doctors
- 11:15 Eastenders
- 11:45 Father Brown
- 12:35 The Musketeers
- 13:30 Doctor Who
- 14:35 Eastenders
- 15:05 Doctors
- 15:35 Father Brown
- 16:25 Dickensian
- 17:10 Doctor Who
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 DCI Banks
- 21:00 DCI Banks
- 21:50 Southcliffe
- 22:45 Orphan Black
- 23:40 Doctors
- 00:10 Eastenders
- 00:50 DCI Banks
- 01:45 DCI Banks
- 02:40 Southcliffe

ci

- 03:00 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 03:30 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 04:00 Evil Up Close
- 05:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
- 06:00 The FBI Files
- 07:00 The FBI Files
- 08:00 The FBI Files
- 09:00 Evil Up Close
- 10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 11:00 The First 48
- 12:00 The First 48
- 13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 14:00 Evil Up Close
- 15:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 16:00 I Killed My BFF
- 17:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 18:00 Monster In My Family
- 19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 20:00 Private Crimes
- 20:30 Private Crimes
- 21:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 22:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
- 23:00 Crime Stories
- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
- 01:00 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 01:30 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 02:00 The Jail: 60 Days In

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
- 04:05 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
- 05:00 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
- 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 Edge Of Alaska
- 11:25 Ice Lake Rebels
- 12:15 Railroad Alaska
- 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 Diesel Brothers
- 18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
- 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls: Men
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Property Wars
- 21:00 Dual Survival
- 21:50 Dual Survival
- 22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Dual Survival
- 02:00 Dual Survival
- 02:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Evil Kin
- 03:48 Murder Among Friends
- 04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 05:24 California Investigator
- 05:49 California Investigator
- 06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
- 07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 12:00 The Perfect Murder
- 12:50 The Perfect Murder
- 16:10 I Was Murdered
- 21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 22:00 Disappeared
- 22:50 Murder Comes To Town
- 23:40 Evil Lives Here
- 00:30 The Haunted
- 01:20 The Haunted
- 02:10 Murder Comes To Town

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 03:29 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 04:16 Through The Wormhole
- 05:03 Food Factory
- 05:50 Food Factory USA
- 06:37 How Do They Do It?
- 07:23 Food Factory USA
- 08:08 Food Factory
- 10:23 Food Factory USA
- 10:45 Food Factory USA
- 11:08 How It's Made
- 14:57 How The Universe Works
- 16:31 Alien Mysteries
- 17:18 Secret Space Escapes
- 18:05 Through The Wormhole
- 19:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 21:15 Through The Wormhole
- 22:00 How It's Made
- 01:08 Invent It Rich
- 01:55 Kings Of Construction
- 02:42 Prototype This

Disney CHANNEL

- 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 Forever
- 09:20 Hannah Montana Forever
- 09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
- 10:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 10:35 Let It Shine: Rap Battle Edition
- 12:05 Violetta Recipes
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Jessie
- 12:45 Girl Meets World
- 13:10 Alex And Co
- 13:35 Best Friends Whenever
- 14:00 Gravity Falls
- 14:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 14:30 Shake It Up
- 14:55 Shake It Up
- 15:20 H2O: Just Add Water
- 15:45 H2O: Just Add Water
- 16:10 Liv And Maddie
- 16:35 Liv And Maddie
- 17:00 I Didn't Do It
- 17:25 I Didn't Do It
- 17:50 Violetta Recipes
- 18:00 Pixel Perfect
- 19:30 Evermoor Chronicles
- 19:55 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:20 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 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
- 01:15 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
- 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 PJ Masks
- 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 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Goldie & Bear
- 13:50 Doc McStuffins
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
- 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: Bionic Island
- 09:10 Toy Story
- 09:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 10:40 Annedroids
- 11:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 11:45 Mighty Med
- 12:10 Mighty Med
- 12:35 Mighty Med
- 13:00 Mighty Med
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 16:05 Mighty Med
- 16:30 Star Wars Rebels
- 16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Supa Strikas
- 18:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Annedroids
- 19:35 Star Wars Rebels
- 20:00 Mighty Med
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Supa Strikas
- 21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

EHD

- 03:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 04:10 House Of DVF
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:20 El News
- 09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 El News
- 14:05 Botched
- 16:00 Botched: Post Op
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 01:00 Live From The Red Carpet

food network

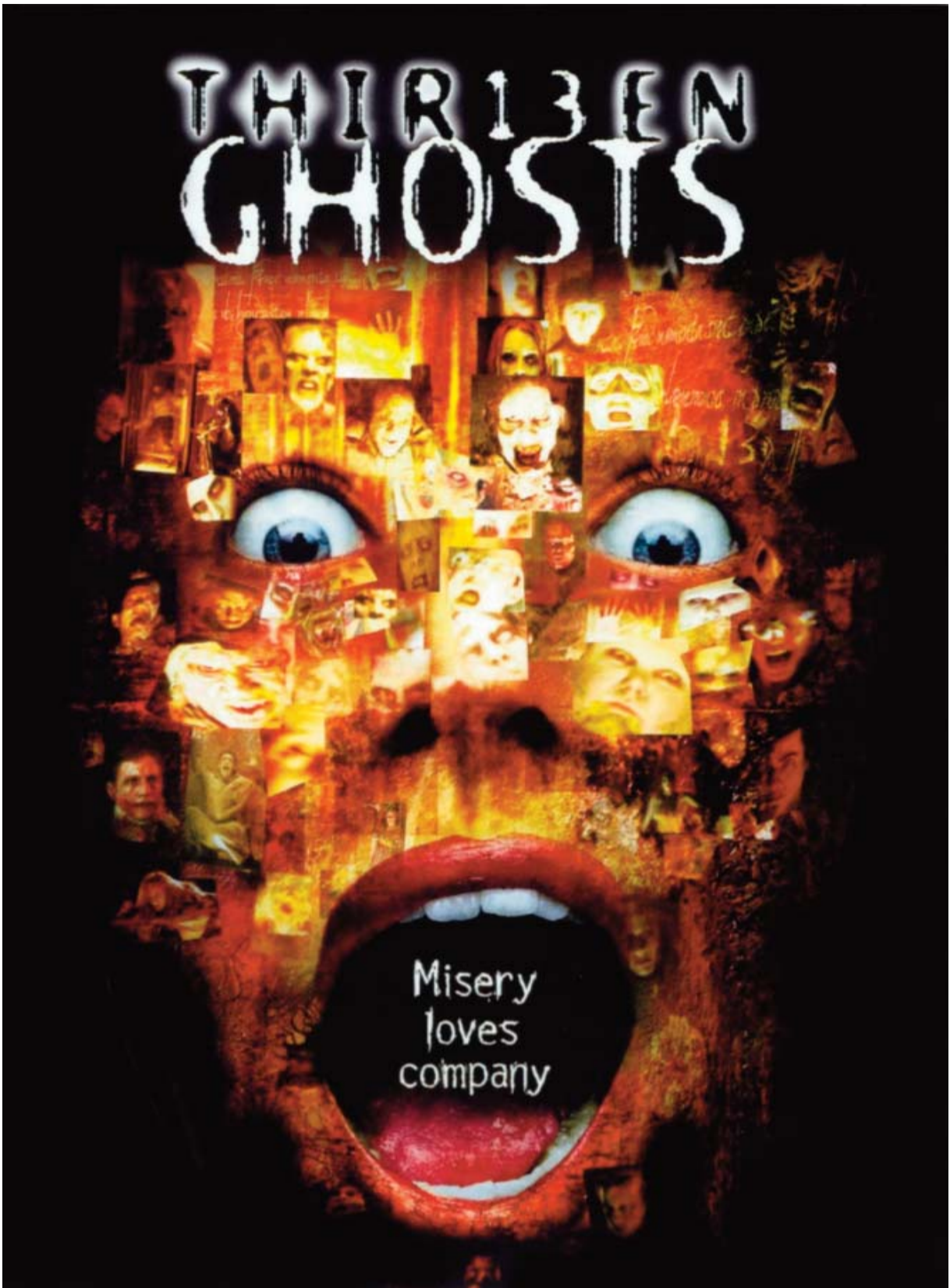
- 03:00 Man Finds Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Siba's Table
- 11:30 Siba's Table
- 12:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 12:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 13:00 Chopped
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Siba's Table
- 19:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 20:00 Chopped
- 21:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 23:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 00:00 Chopped
- 01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 02:00 Man v Food

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 03:00 Galavant
- 03:30 Dr. Ken
- 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 Galavant
- 09:30 Last Man Standing
- 10:00 Crowded
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 My Name Is Earl
- 12:30 Living With Fran
- 13:00 Better With You
- 13:30 Community
- 14:00 Dr. Ken
- 14:30 Last Man Standing
- 15:00 Crowded
- 15:30 Parks And Recreation
- 16:00 Suburgatory
- 16:30 My Name Is Earl
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 The Muppets
- 18:30 The Goldbergs
- 19:00 Grandfathered
- 19:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 20:00 Hot In Cleveland
- 21:00 Life In Pieces
- 21:30 Suburgatory
- 22:00 Family Guy
- 22:30 The League
- 23:00 Married
- 23:30 Hot In Cleveland
- 00:30 Life In Pieces
- 01:00 Suburgatory
- 01:30 Family Guy
- 02:00 The League
- 02:30 Married

OSN FIRST HD MORE

- 03:00 Ballers
- 03:30 Funny Or Die Presents
- 04:00 The Wire
- 05:00 Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight
- 06:00 In Vogue: The Editor's Eye
- 08:00 Lucky Louie
- 08:30 Flight Of The Conchords
- 09:00 Veep



THR13EN GHOSTS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 09:30 The Pentagon Wars
- 11:15 Too Big To Fail
- 13:00 No One Dies In Lily Dale
- 14:45 For Love Or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story
- 17:00 Too Big To Fail
- 19:00 An Apology To Elephants
- 20:00 Big Love
- 21:00 The Knick
- 22:00 Banshee
- 23:00 All The Way
- 01:15 Big Love
- 02:15 The Knick

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 04:00 Stranded
- 06:00 The Expendables 3
- 08:00 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark
- 10:00 47 Ronin
- 12:00 Jack The Giant Killer
- 14:00 The Expendables 3
- 16:00 The Malay Chronicles: Bloodlines
- 18:00 47 Ronin
- 20:00 Sabotage
- 22:30 DeJa Vu
- 00:15 Thir13en Ghosts
- 02:00 47 Ronin

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 03:00 The Mighty Ducks
- 05:00 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast
- 07:00 Inspector Gadget
- 09:00 Strange Magic
- 11:00 Flubber
- 13:00 Bolt
- 15:00 Ice Princess
- 17:00 Enchanted
- 19:00 White Fang
- 21:00 D2: The Mighty Ducks
- 23:00 Ice Princess
- 01:00 White Fang

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 03:00 The Good Lie
- 05:00 The Song
- 07:00 Transcendence
- 09:00 The Good Lie
- 11:00 The Theory Of Everything
- 13:15 Bears
- 14:45 The 7th Dwarf
- 16:15 The Judge
- 18:45 Jupiter Ascending
- 21:00 Catch Hell
- 23:00 Chocolate City
- 01:00 Little Accidents

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 03:45 The Preacher's Wife
- 06:00 What About Bob?
- 08:00 Mystery Men
- 10:15 The Preacher's Wife
- 12:30 Garfield's Pet Force
- 14:00 Sister Act
- 15:45 Mystery Men
- 18:00 The Love Punch
- 20:00 I Love You Beth Cooper
- 22:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2
- 00:00 Nothing To Lose
- 02:00 The Love Punch

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 03:15 The Savages
- 05:15 Anna Karenina
- 07:30 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 09:30 Tea With Mussolini
- 11:30 Anna Karenina
- 13:45 Black Nativity
- 15:45 Dr. Strangelove
- 17:30 Tea With Mussolini
- 19:30 At Any Price
- 21:15 Bugsy
- 23:30 Gainsbourg: A Heroic Life
- 01:30 Tea With Mussolini

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA+2

- 03:00 The Truth About Emanuel
- 05:00 Miss Meadows
- 07:00 The Dependables
- 09:00 Late Bloomers
- 11:00 Jack Strong

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 04:00 Son Of Batman
- 06:00 Step Up Revolution
- 08:00 50 To 1
- 10:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
- 12:00 For Better Or For Worse
- 14:00 Persecuted
- 16:00 50 To 1
- 18:00 The Age Of Adaline
- 20:00 5 To 7
- 22:00 The Necessary Death Of Charlie Countryman
- 00:00 The Wedding Ringer
- 02:00 50 To 1

STAR MOVIES HD

- 04:15 Sympathy For Delicious
- 06:00 Iron Man 3
- 08:15 John Rabe: Part 2
- 10:00 Muppets Most Wanted
- 12:00 Mrs. Miracle
- 13:45 The Recruit
- 15:45 Agora
- 18:00 Devil's Knot
- 20:00 Instinct
- 22:00 Staten Island
- 23:45 Iron Man 3
- 02:00 The Limits Of Control

STAR WORLD HD

- 03:00 The Walking Dead
- 04:00 The Walking Dead
- 05:00 Scrubs
- 05:30 Scrubs
- 06:00 Happy Endings
- 06:30 Happy Endings
- 07:00 Desperate Housewives
- 08:00 Bones
- 09:00 Bones
- 10:00 The Walking Dead
- 11:00 The Walking Dead
- 12:00 The Walking Dead
- 13:00 Scrubs
- 13:30 Happy Endings
- 14:00 Desperate Housewives
- 15:00 Da Vinci's Demons



47 RONIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (19/05/2016 TO 25/05/2016)

SHARQIA-1	Time
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	4:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	7:00 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:00 AM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	7:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	10:00 PM
WARCRAFT	10:00 PM
WED 25.05.2016	
WARCRAFT	12:30 AM
WED 25.05.2016	

SHARQIA-2	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	3:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	6:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM

SHARQIA-3	Time
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	8:15 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	10:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	12:45 AM

MUHALAB-1	Time
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:45 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	1:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	7:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:30 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	11:30 PM
WARCRAFT	11:30 PM

MUHALAB-2	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	1:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	7:00 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	10:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:00 AM

MUHALAB-3	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 AM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	2:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:45 PM

X-MEN: Apocalypse	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM

FANAR-1	Time
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:30 AM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	1:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	4:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	7:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:15 PM
WARCRAFT	1:15 AM
WARCRAFT	11:15 PM
WED 25.05.2016	

FANAR-2	Time
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	11:45 AM
KILLING SALAZAR	2:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:15 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	8:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	10:30 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	12:45 AM

FANAR-3	Time
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	3:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	6:45 PM
NO FRI+SAT+MON	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:45 AM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	3:45 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	6:45 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	9:45 PM

FANAR-4	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse-3D	3:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	6:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse-3D	9:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:30 AM

FANAR-5	Time
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:45 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM

MARINA-1	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	3:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	6:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM

MARINA-2	Time
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
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	8:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 PM
WARCRAFT	8:45 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM
WED 25.05.2016	

MARINA-3	Time
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:30 AM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	2:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:30 PM

AVENUES-1	Time
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	12:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	2:15 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	1:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	4:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	6:45 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	9:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	11:15 PM

AVENUES-3	Time
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	4:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	7:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	10:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	1:00 AM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	7:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	10:00 PM

360°- 1	Time
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	2:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	7:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	9:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:45 PM
WARCRAFT 3D	9:30 PM
WED 25.05.2016	
WARCRAFT	12:15 AM
WED 25.05.2016	

360°- 2	Time
KILLING SALAZAR	1:00 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:30 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	7:45 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	10:00 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	12:15 AM

WANTED

A Female Receptionist for a Catering Company
 Presentable, Fluent in English,
 Arabic will be an added advantage
 Well versed with Word & Excel
 and related computer knowledge
 Email your detailed CV with qualifications
 previous experience & photograph

CV TO BE SENT BY EMAIL:
diningdoctor@gmail.com

FOR RENT

Apartment in Salmiya,
 Amman street with two
 rooms + bathroom &
 Kitchen. Electricity,
 water and A/C at
 owner's expense.

Rent 180/- KD
 Mob: 97997766
 99878154

BUSINESS IN OMAN

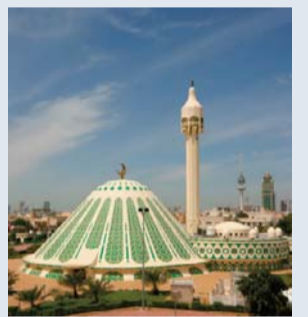
We Are Providing
 Visas, Registration,
 Local Sponsor,
 Business Partner,
 Document Clearing.
 Contact Us: 00968-98457638
 Email: Info@Eigllcoman.Com

EMERGENCY 112

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 ID card is
1 889988

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:21
 Shorook 04:52
 Duhr: 11:45
 Asr: 15:20
 Maghrib: 18:37
 Isha: 20:06



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

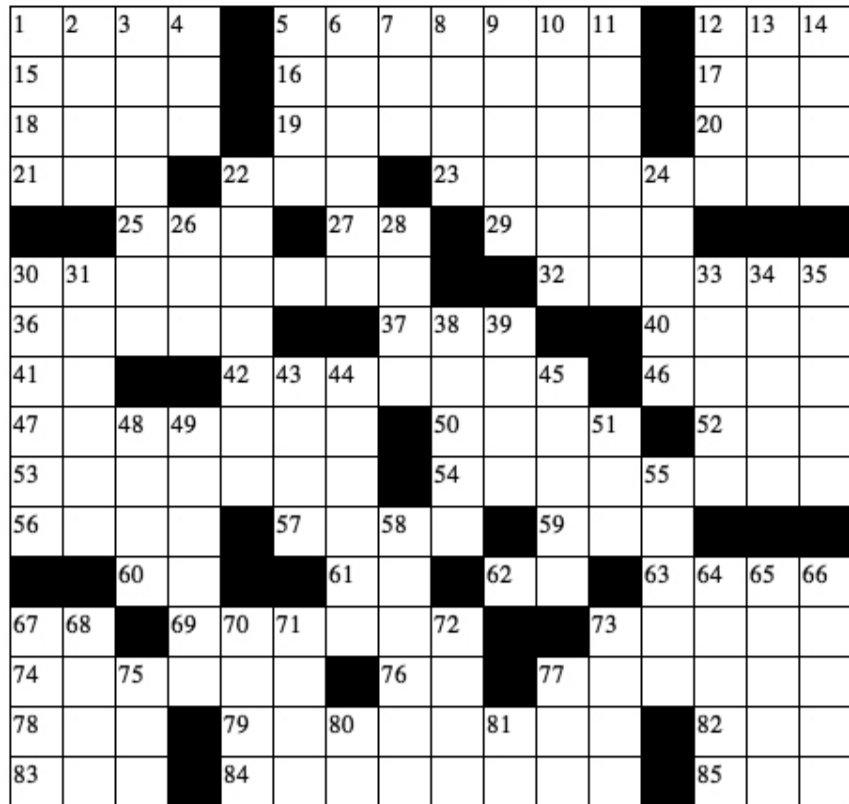


Arrival Flights on Sunday 22/5/2016		
Airlines	Flt	Route
THY	772	Istanbul
MSC	415	Sohag
JZR	267	Beirut
JZR	239	Amman
FDB	069	Dubai
KKK	6506	Istanbul
DLH	635	Doha
QTR	1086	Doha
JZR	539	Cairo
PGT	858	Istanbul
ETH	620	Addis Ababa
RJA	642	Amman
GFA	211	Bahrain
CEB	018	Manila
UAE	853	Dubai
JZR	185D	Dubai
OMA	643	Muscat
FDB	067	Dubai
MSR	612	Cairo
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi
QTR	1076	Doha
PGT	860	Istanbul
KAC	544	Cairo
LMU	510	Cairo
JZR	555	Alexandria
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh
DHX	170	Bahrain
THY	770	Istanbul
QTR	8511	Doha
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok
BAW	157	London
FDB	5061	Dubai
KAC	382	Delhi
KAC	346	Ahmedabad
KAC	206	Islamabad
KAC	302	Mumbai
FDB	053	Dubai
KAC	156	Istanbul
KAC	354	BLR
KAC	286	Dhaka
KAC	332	Trivandrum
KAC	352	Kochi
KAC	362	Colombo
UAE	855	Dubai
ABY	125	Sharjah
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi
IRC	528	Ahwaz
QTR	1070	Doha
IRA	665	Shiraz
FDB	055	Dubai
SAW	703	Damascus
UAE	873	Dubai
GFA	213	Bahrain
MEA	404	Beirut
JZR	561	Sohag
JZR	165	Dubai
FDB	075	Dubai
SAW	701	Damascus
MSR	610	Cairo
KAC	672	Dubai
QTR	1078	Doha
AXB	393	Kozhikode
FDB	057	Dubai
GFA	221	Bahrain

Time	SVA	500	Jeddah
00:10	KAC	742	Dammam
00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah
00:30	KNE	529	Jeddah
00:50	OMA	645	Muscat
00:50	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi
00:55	ABY	127	Sharjah
00:55	UAE	857	Dubai
01:00	RJA	640	Amman
01:15	FDB	051	Dubai
01:20	QTR	1072	Doha
01:40	JZR	535	Cairo
01:45	JZR	787	Riyadh
01:45	KAC	562	Amman
02:15	SYR	341	Damascus
02:20	SVA	510	Riyadh
02:25	GFA	215	Bahrain
02:40	JZR	177	Dubai
03:05	KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi
03:15	JZR	777	Jeddah
03:15	QTR	1080	Doha
03:15	JZR	483	Istanbul
03:25	MSR	620	Cairo
03:30	KAC	774	Riyadh
03:40	KAC	786	Jeddah
04:00	KAC	502	Beirut
04:15	KAC	542	Cairo
04:30	KAC	618	Doha
05:10	KAC	166	Paris/Rome
05:15	UAE	875	Dubai
05:15	GFA	217	Bahrain
06:30	FDB	063	Dubai
06:40	KAC	614	Bahrain
07:15	ABY	123	Sharjah
07:30	MSR	606	Luxor
07:35	JAI	572	Mumbai
07:40	KAC	674	Dubai
07:50	FDB	059	Dubai
07:50	KAC	102	New York/London
08:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt
08:00	KAC	514	Tehran
08:05	MEA	402	Beirut
08:15	OMA	647	Muscat
08:20	JZR	189	Dubai
08:20	QTR	1088	Doha
08:25	FDB	5053	Dubai
09:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi
09:05	UAE	859	Dubai
09:10	ALK	229	Colombo
09:20	KLM	417	Amsterdam
09:25	KAC	172	Frankfurt
09:40	QTR	1082	Doha
09:45	GFA	219	Bahrain
10:40	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi
10:40	JZR	125	Bahrain
11:00	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad
11:25	BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam
11:50	KAC	782	Jeddah
12:25	JZR	185	Dubai
12:35	THY	764	Istanbul
13:00	MSC	501	Alexandria
14:05	MSC	403	Asyut
14:05	JAI	574	Mumbai
14:10	MSR	614	Cairo
14:20	FDB	071	Dubai
14:20	PIA	205	Lahore

Time	Airlines	Flt	Route
14:30			
14:55			
15:00	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai
15:05	MSC	404	Asyut
15:10	JAI	573	Mumbai
15:10	JAD	302	Amman
15:35	MSR	615	Cairo
15:45	FDB	072	Dubai
16:00	MSC	416	Sohag
16:10	THY	773	Istanbul
16:15	DLH	635	Frankfurt
16:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa
16:35	THY	765	Istanbul
16:55	PGT	859	Amman
17:00	UAE	854	Dubai
17:15	OMA	644	Muscat
17:30	FDB	068	Dubai
17:45	KKK	6505	Istanbul
17:50	MSR	613	Cairo
17:50	PGT	861	Istanbul
17:55	QTR	1077	Doha
18:20	CEB	019	Manila
18:30	LMU	511	Cairo
18:35	JZR	560	Sohag
18:35	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa
18:55	RJA	643	Amman
18:55	QTR	1087	Doha
19:05	QTR	8512	Doha
19:05	THY	771	Istanbul
19:05	GFA	212	Bahrain
19:10	FDB	070	Dubai
19:10	JZR	164	Dubai
19:15	FDB	5062	Dubai
19:30	BAW	156	London
19:35	FDB	054	Dubai
19:45	KAC	171	Frankfurt
19:50	KAC	117	New York
19:55	JZR	534	Cairo
20:05	JZR	482	Istanbul
20:10	KAC	787	Jeddah
20:15	KAC	671	Dubai
20:20	ABY	126	Sharjah
20:25	UAE	856	Dubai
20:35	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi
20:55	IRC	529	Ahwaz
21:05	IRA	664	Shiraz
21:15	QTR	1071	Doha
21:20	FDB	056	Dubai
21:25	SAW	704	Damascus
21:50	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat
21:55	KAC	501	Beirut
22:00	KAC	561	Amman
22:10	GFA	214	Bahrain
22:15	KAC	741	Dammam
22:25			

CROSSWORD 1261



ACROSS

1. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
5. An ancient kingdom in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq.
12. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
15. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
16. Learn something again, as after having forgotten or neglected it.
17. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
18. Any tree or shrub of the genus Inga having pinnate leaves and showy usually white flowers.
19. Not having been satisfied.
20. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
21. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
23. Of a leaf or bean shape resembling the shape of kidney.
25. A rapid bustling commotion.
27. A New England state.
29. The basic unit of money on Malta.
30. (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.
32. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
36. A farewell remark.
37. The residue that remains when something is burned.
40. A rich soil consisting of a mixture of sand and clay and decaying organic materials.
41. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.
42. A republic in northeastern South America on the Atlantic.
46. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
47. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
50. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
52. The bill in a restaurant.
53. English cartoonist (1820-1914).
54. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
56. (used as a sentenced connector) Therefore or consequently.
57. A loud utterance.
59. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
60. Military action involving the use of electromagnetic energy to determine or exploit or reduce or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
61. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
62. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
63. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
67. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
69. A dry scab formed on the skin following a burn or cauterization of the skin.
74. Type genus of the Otariidae.
76. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
78. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
79. A state of violent disturbance and disorder (as in politics or social conditions generally).
82. A decree that prohibits something.

83. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
84. Open land usually with peaty soil covered with heather and bracken and moss.
85. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Type genus of the Amiidae.
2. The basic unit of money in South Africa.
3. Of or relating to or characteristic of Afghanistan or its people.
4. The cry made by sheep.
5. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
6. Roman statesman and philosopher who was an advisor to Nero (circa 4 BC - 65 AD).
7. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
8. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
9. Nocturnal badger-like carnivore of wooded regions of Africa and southern Asia.
10. Conducive to peace.
11. Small genus of evergreen trees of tropical America and western Africa.
12. A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
13. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
14. A small carriage in which a baby or child is pushed around.
22. Japanese painter whose work influenced the impressionists (1760-1849).
24. A deliberately false or improbable account.
26. Owed and payable immediately or on demand.
28. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
31. Someone who admires a young woman.
33. The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
34. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
35. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
38. Freshwater or marine or terrestrial gastropod mollusk usually having an external enclosing spiral shell.
39. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
43. United States chemist who discovered deuterium (1893-1981).
44. English courtier (a favorite of Elizabeth I) who tried to colonize Virginia.
45. New Zealand conifer.
48. English prelate noted for his pessimistic sermons and articles (1860-1954).
49. A person who knows or apprehends.
51. Above average in size or number or quantity or magnitude or extent.
55. Bringing death.
58. (South African) A camp defended by a circular formation of wagons.
64. Jordan's port.
65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
66. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
68. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
70. Perennial of wet and marshy places in the northern hemisphere.
71. The head of a branch of an organized crime syndicate.
72. Being or occurring in fact or actuality.
73. With no effort to conceal.
75. A flat wing-shaped process or winglelike part of an organism.
77. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..
80. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
81. A state in the eastern United States.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may wonder about the motivations of a friend today. Do not close your mind to your friend's quirks or way of doing things. You should try your best to communicate your needs and desires to friends and relatives so as to avoid misunderstandings. You create positive results from a negative situation today. You enjoy and value your own life situation at this time. A friend will bring you memorable moments of laughter and good conversation. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on greater importance. At this time it is wisdom, not knowledge, that counts most. Sports or some competitive activity with family or friends is best engaged in now. Help an elderly person learn some gentle exercises in order to keep tone in the muscles.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

After the chores this morning you look for ways to enjoy your work-free day. You seek deep, meaningful experiences that are photographic moments to ponder. A friend or relative may give you an update of his or her life or drama just to hear your reaction and comments. You enjoy probing and understanding the inner, intimate and philosophical side of life and others like to know your opinion. You can be very helpful without really realizing it. Today is anything but stressful as you enjoy your friends in some group play or competition. You usually attract positive people into your life. Your circle of friends just keeps enlarging and brings about a great deal of pleasure. You could find that you are appreciated more than you thought.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is a great deal of reflection this day about where your life is going. There may be a tremendous desire to cut loose and do something different. Your self-confidence and feelings of self-worth may be in review. You have the capability of making some really great changes in your life soon and you look forward to those changes. Take caution in mechanical work or repairs. Think about large purchases before first obligating your finances. The whole day would be best spent in going with the flow of progress. Many will want to join you in a celebration of life-make a wish. You will likely meet many pleasant people today and possibly attend an enjoyable social function-like your birthday party!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Yours is the most practical of environments. You can manipulate every idea or situation and put it to good use. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions and you may receive compliments along those lines. There will be opportunities to do some creative word play with friends or relatives in order to come up with some new job opportunities or in order to give recommendations to someone that would like a new job idea. Later today, you might decide to walk up or drive over to the nearest golf course, amusement club or park to meet your friends. You could be a bit restless this afternoon and may desire some fun time away from home.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You resist change and resent others prying into your personal affairs. You prefer things unchanged but you also know that people, including yourself, need to learn and grow. Self-analysis is an activity that you have learned to enjoy as you have seen yourself achieve more and more accomplishments and attained more goals than ever before. You may decide it is time for new goals. Make sure you continue to insert a few short-term goals with the long-range goals. The short-term goals help to build up confidence. You will help a friend this afternoon with some job they have taken upon themselves. You find a creative environment in which to enjoy friends this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You and your family may decide there is time this weekend to take a trip. This revelation may find one or two of you really shuffling around in order to leave at an early hour. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of practicality takes hold. A new piece of exercise equipment could be purchased today. This afternoon you will be able to spend some relaxing and enjoyable time with loved ones. You may feel unusually affectionate and physical this evening. Perhaps you will enjoy a camping trip before the weather becomes too hot and find the stars overwhelmingly beautiful as you sit beside your sweetheart. Whether you are with family, friends or with your sweetheart, this evening will be pleasant.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are apt to spend a great deal of time with co-workers and other people apart from work this day. Some type of competitive sports or team effort among co-workers is available. You have unwavering support from family members for whatever future plans are in question. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations. Innocent flirtations, a movie or theater matinee, or perhaps a stroll through an art gallery is favorably indicated. Watch your budget, but have fun. Chances are also good that you and your partner may be able to work through some things that have been going on under the surface. The mellow feeling this evening is perfect for easing any type of difficult relationship.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are so business oriented; you and your friends could get together when you are not in a work situation and agree to invest in some project. Plan together and set up the process toward a lucrative venture. A temporary program for this project would be best. The success, if it were to be kept short-term, is probable and most positive. You are feeling good. This will rub off on the folks around you and you will all have a good time; no matter what the activity. This is the right time to throw a party. This time brings positive thinking, mental stability, good feelings, relaxation and opportunity. This is a good time to make long-range plans, take advantage of further education, take a long-distance trip or take up philosophy or religious studies.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Real insight into your own inner workings or psychology could surface today and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for deep and penetrating conversations or thoughts. You may be very expressive or strong in speaking or communicating. People will understand just what you mean. A new job idea could be to hire teachers or instructors that would train other business employees in a number of technical subjects. This might include software programs, technical style and sales techniques. Find ways in which to nourish another person's self-esteem today. In turn, you will find your own self-esteem improves. Teach a child to respect his or her own ability to create positive results from his or her actions. Tonight, you enjoy a loved one.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your timing should be perfect at this time-those around you will find you to be most intuitive. Communicating with neighbors, friends and family is the forecast today. You could find yourself writing letters and making phone calls. Conflicts can be settled through your intelligent comprehension. You can be most persuasive. You have needs and you sense the needs of others; fitting the two together makes everything work well. This is perhaps a good time to catch up on your reading as you have a real appreciation for ideas and views of others. Selling property, collecting money and involving yourself in some sports activity are all favored this afternoon. Hug a tree.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Creative endeavors promote lots of attention and monetary rewards. This may mean you are showing off your talent in an art show or fair of some sort. You could show great sales ability and meet someone new in the process. This is a good day for ideas. You may receive some recognition or special attention regarding your particular skills and abilities. Friends enjoy your company today as much as you enjoy their friendship. You could be out enjoying some sports-related activity with your friends later today. This evening is a good time to spend with a loved one. Emotions are up and you may even find yourself pondering a bit on the meaning of life. You feel at one with your situation. Generally, this could be a potentially satisfying time.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Elevate your intake of healthy foods and supplements in order to stay alert and clear. You will want to feel good about yourself and the way you do things-this addition to your diet will certainly help. This is the time of the year to get outside and enjoy nature. Create some fun opportunities to do just that-open air and having fun with loved ones can lift everyone's spirit. Work, health and diet results provide a lot of satisfaction as a new life phase begins. You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in your speech. An exciting relationship is worth your time today. General good feeling and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. You may decide to cook up a new recipe this evening.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Cooking 1 - Word Search

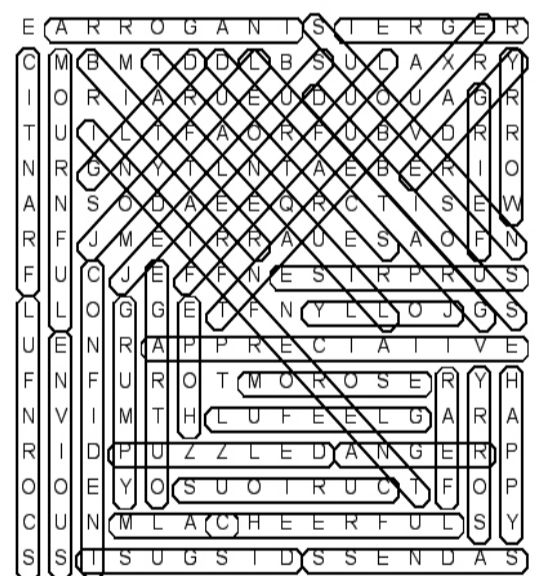
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

N B K X R I T S Y R G W O A G S D
 D R K F K V R E C G H C A O P L F
 P O V C D E F E S I A R B N D H N
 L W N E M N E R T C B S B O I L H
 B N G M C E I N Y R T H E R Z B D
 O L I Y R U Z R E T G R Z E S G M
 D S E U R L D A G J X E A S B N I
 I Y P N X A D E J D U D L C B O B
 F F H V D P E B R R C L G S T X D
 N I V W Q Z Q S O D O I I L Q I Z
 R R Q D R X A A B W A K A E C S K
 J A P S E A S O N E T H U E N Y F
 I L E T D T U V U T M I N C E N S
 G C E J G P O K L S R V D E J V E

- BLEND
- BOIL
- BRAISE
- BREAD
- BROWN
- CLARIFY
- COAT
- DICE
- FRY
- GLAZE
- GRIND
- JULIENNE
- MINCE
- POACH
- PUREE
- REDUCE
- ROAST
- SEAR
- SEASON
- SHRED
- SIMMER
- STEW
- STIR

Yesterday's Solution

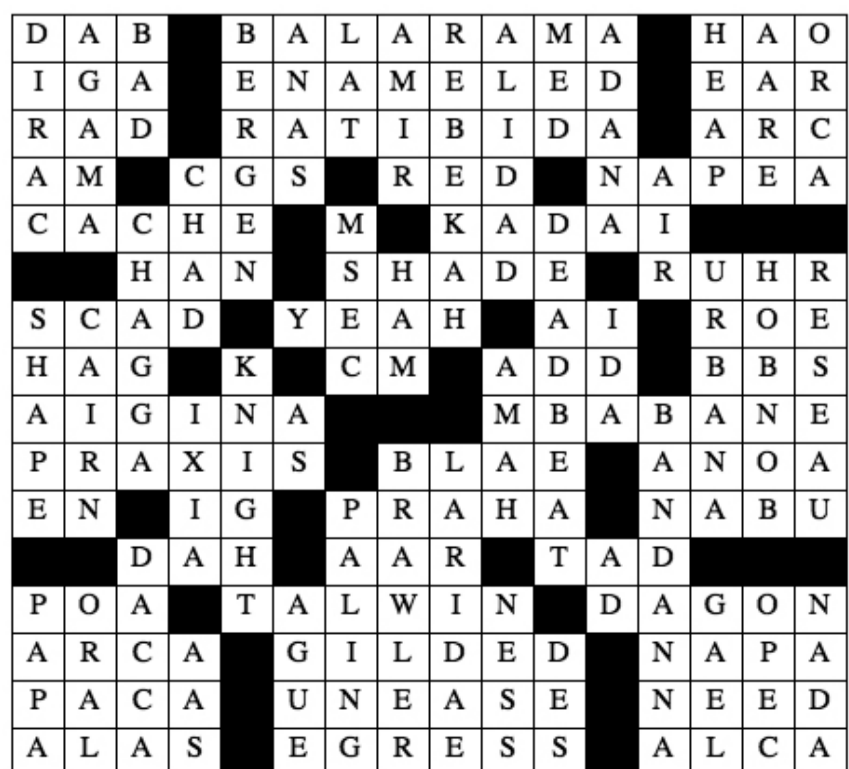
Moods & Emotions 3



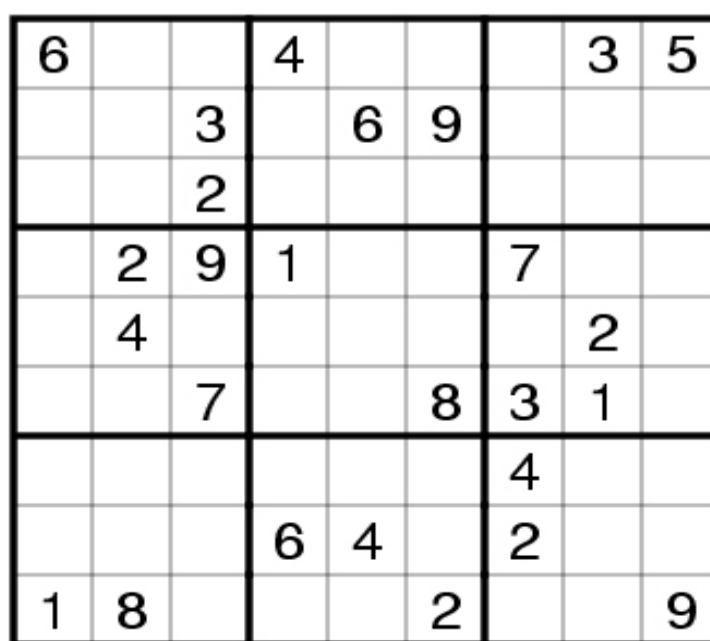
- ANGER
- APPRECIATIVE
- BITTER
- CALM
- CHEERFUL
- CONFIDENT
- CURIOUS
- DISGUST
- DUBIOUS
- EDGY
- ENVIIOUS
- EXUBERANT
- FEAR
- FRANTIC
- FRETFUL
- GLAD
- GLEEFUL
- GRATEFUL
- GRIEF
- GRUMPY
- HAPPY
- HOPE
- INDIFFERENT
- JEALOUS
- JOLLY
- JOYFUL
- MOROSE
- MOURNFUL
- NERVOUS
- OUTRAGE
- PUZZLED
- SADNESS
- SCARED
- SCORNFUL
- SORRY
- SURPRISE
- TRANQUIL
- WORRY

The hidden word is: EMBARRASSMENT

Yesterday's Solution

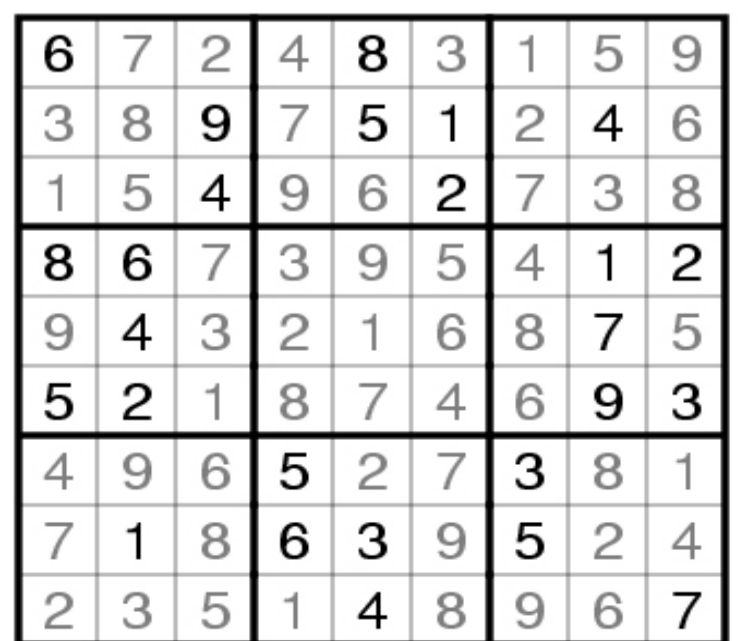


Daily SuDoku

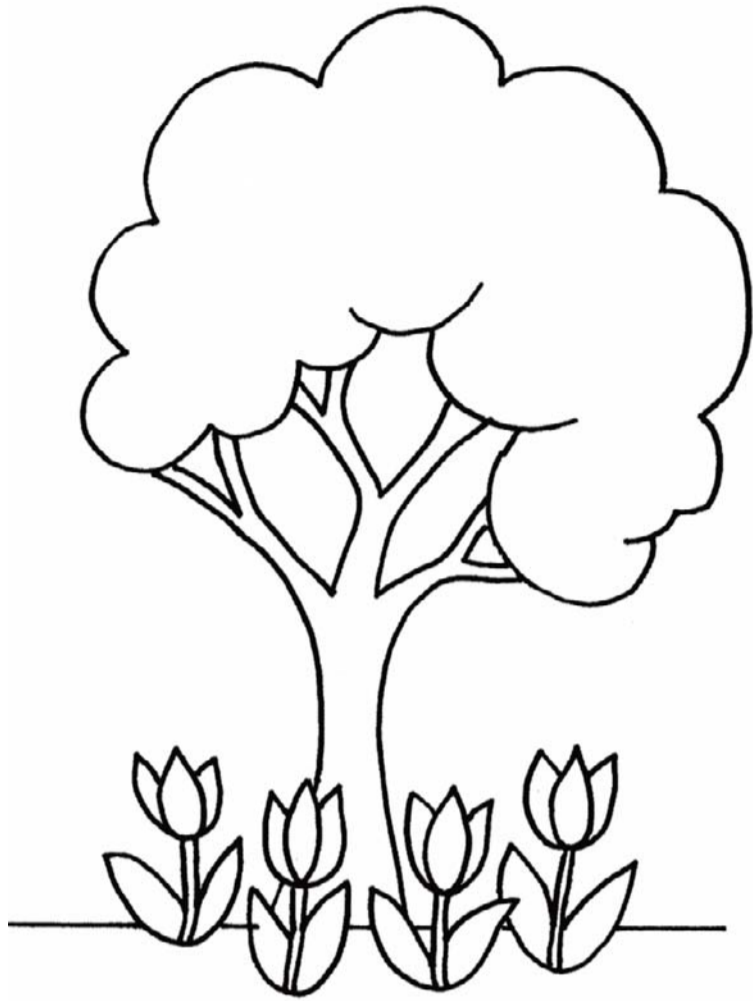


medium

Yesterday's Solution



hard



WORD SEARCH

Flowers

Find and circle all of the flowers that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

R M G C A L I L L D S M S
 L A N E T R A L A I K L D
 A R N F R S C F R R C L A
 L I I O T A F I E T O R I
 A G N E G O N W T D H F S
 I O R U D A O I I U Y S Y
 S L Y I T L R H U O L U E
 H D L L F E C D T M L I A
 C N I N I R P D P S O I P
 U Y U K O L R S R A H L E
 F S C A R N A T I O N C S
 L V I O L E T O Y P A S O
 S I T A M E L C F E A C R

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| ASTER | HOLLYHOCKS | PETUNIA |
| CARNATION | IRIS | ROSE |
| CLEMATIS | LILAC | SNAPDRAGON |
| DAFFODIL | LILY | SUNFLOWER |
| DAISY | MARIGOLD | TULIP |
| FUCHSIA | ORCHID | VIOLET |
| GERANIUM | | |

1	3			6		
	7	4		2	5	8
			5		3	
8			1			
			6		2	9
					4	3
			3		5	
9	3				7	4
			7	5	8	

SUDOKU

4	2	6	7	9	5	8	1	3
6	8	2	7	1	8	5	4	9
7	1	6	4	9	2	3	8	5
5	9	8	7	2	4	3	6	1
3	4	7	6	8	9	1	2	5
2	8	4	1	3	6	7	5	9
8	2	5	7	3	4	6	9	1
1	7	4	6	8	2	5	3	9
9	3	5	8	1	7	2	4	6

Crunchy Banana

What You Need

- o Peanut butter
- o 2 Banana
- o Popsicle stick
- o Cookie sheet
- o Wax paper
- o Freezer

Instructions

1. First unpeel your bananas and cut it a few slices
2. Spread peanut butter all over the banana.
3. Sprinkle some nuts over the banana and close it with another slice. Making a sandwich. Make a few of these.
4. Stick a popsicle stick through banana sandwich.
5. Place them on the cookie sheet that you line with wax paper.
6. Put the bananas in the freezer for about an hour. Enjoy!



Recipes for Kids

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



The Statue of Liberty (Liberty Enlightening the World) is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York City, in the United States. The copper statue, designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, was built by Gustave Eiffel and dedicated on October 28, 1886. It was a gift to the United States from the people of France. The statue is of a robed female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess, who bears a torch and a tabula ansata (a tablet evoking the law) upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. A broken chain lies at her feet. The statue is an icon of freedom and of the United States, and was a welcoming sight to immigrants arriving from abroad.

Bartholdi was inspired by French law professor and politician Edouard Rene de Laboulaye, who is said to have commented in 1865 that any monument raised to American independence would properly be a joint project of the French and American peoples. He may have been minded to honor the Union victory in the American Civil War and the end of slavery. Due to the post-war instability in France, work on the statue did not commence until the early 1870s. In 1875, Laboulaye proposed that the French finance the statue and the Americans provide the site and build the pedestal. Bartholdi completed the head and the torch-bearing arm before the statue was fully designed, and these pieces were exhibited for publicity at international expositions.

The torch-bearing arm was displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876,

and in Madison Square Park in Manhattan from 1876 to 1882. Fundraising proved difficult, especially for the Americans, and by 1885 work on the pedestal was threatened due to lack of funds. Publisher Joseph Pulitzer of the New York World started a drive for donations to complete the project that attracted more than 120,000 contributors, most of whom gave less than a dollar. The statue was constructed in France, shipped overseas in crates, and assembled on the completed pedestal on what was then called Bedloe's Island. The statue's completion was marked by New York's first ticker-tape parade and a dedication ceremony presided over by President Grover Cleveland.

The statue was administered by the United States Lighthouse Board until 1901 and then by the Department of War; since 1933 it has been maintained by the National Park Service. The statue was closed for renovation for much of

1938. In the early 1980s, it was found to have deteriorated to such an extent that a major restoration was required. While the statue was closed from 1984 to 1986, the torch and a large part of the internal structure were replaced. After the September 11 attacks in 2001, it was closed for reasons of safety and security; the pedestal reopened in 2004 and the statue in 2009, with limits on the number of visitors allowed to ascend to the crown. The statue, including the pedestal and base, was closed for a year until October 28, 2012, so that a secondary staircase and other safety features could be installed; Liberty Island remained open. However, one day after the reopening, Liberty Island closed due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy in New York; the statue and island opened again on July 4, 2013. Public access to the balcony surrounding the torch has been barred for safety reasons since 1916.

FACTS ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

- Total weight of the Statue of Liberty is 225 tons (or 450,000 pounds).
- During the restoration completed in 1986, the new torch was carefully covered with thin sheets of 24k gold.
- There are seven rays on her crown, one for each of the seven continents, each measuring up to 9 feet in length and weighing as much as 150 pounds.
- The face on the Statue of Liberty measures more than 8 feet tall.
- A tablet held in her left hand measures 23' 7" tall and 13' 7" wide inscribed with the date JULY IV MDCCLXXVI (July 4, 1776)
- Official dedication ceremonies held on Thursday, October 28, 1886
- At the feet of the Statue lie broken shackles of oppression and tyranny.

Wall Collage



What You Need

- o Old magazines
- o Photos
- o Posterboard
- o Scissors
- o Glue

Instructions

1. Spend some time clipping out pictures from your favorite magazines. These clipping should be interests of yours, and things that represent you.
2. Gather photos of you, family, friends, pets etc.
3. Glue the back of each clipping and photo one at a time and have fun pasting them onto your posterboard.
4. Don't be afraid to overlap pictures and have everything going off in different directions. This is what makes your collage so unique!





Lead singer Tom Yorke of the British band Radiohead performs on stage during a concert at the Heineken Music Hall in Amsterdam. — AFP

Radiohead offers old and new at first concert in four years

British alternative rockers Radiohead on Friday night served up songs from their new album mixed with old classics in their much anticipated first live performance since 2012. The Oxford-based group opened the tour to promote their ninth album, "A Moon Shaped Pool" at Amsterdam's Heineken Music Hall. Thom Yorke and the band kicked off the two-hour concert with a hard-rock rendition of the first track, "Burn the Witch" from the new record. The song set the tone for the evening, which also saw the band perform rock tunes including the powerful and growling "There, There," from the 2003 album "Hail to the Thief" and "Bodysnatchers" from the 2007 album "In Rainbows".

Throughout the evening attended by some 5,500 peo-

ple, Radiohead was backed by a visual display featuring six giant screens showing close-up camera shots of each member. Usually introspective and abstract, Yorke was in a playful mood and even cracked a joke or two with the audience, thanking them at one stage with a Dutch "Dank u wel," (Thank you very much).

Surprises

For diehard fans some of the most pleasant surprises of the evening were Radiohead's live performance of "My Iron Lung" for the first time in seven years and anthem "Paranoid Android" from their seminal 1997 album "OK Computer". And the fans had high praise afterwards. "I go to a lot of concerts and this is my fourth Radiohead concert," Jeffrey

Leeuwenhaag, 40, told AFP. "For me it's certainly one of the best ever. The band has achieved greatness," he said. Radiohead have one more performance at the Heineken Music Hall on Saturday night, before travelling to Paris for their next gig on Monday night at the Zenith.

In total 28 concerts are scheduled including at other European venues, Japan, Mexico and the United States. Radiohead was formed three decades ago and has become known for its maudlin rock tunes which featuring Yorke's trademark falsetto and various music styles including rock, electronic music, jazz and 20th century classical music. The group has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide. — AFP

'The Salesman'

One of the many reasons that Alfred Hitchcock is arguably the greatest filmmaker of all time—the quintessential filmmaker—is that his spirit and technique infuse the work of so many other directors (maybe all of them). He is, of course, the eternal god of anyone who has ever made a thriller. But he also hovers over those who could hardly be less "Hitchcockian." A perfect example is the masterly Iranian writer-director Asghar Farhadi. Farhadi makes dramas of domestic discord that refuse to heighten anything they show you; they are steadfastly observant,

unvarnished, specific, and real. Yet when you watch a Farhadi film like "A Separation" or "The Past" or his new one, "The Salesman," you're seduced, almost by a kind of invisible reverse trickery, into a situation of clear-eyed naturalism, except that you also start to realize you're caught in a gathering storm, and it has everything to do with the shifting interior sands of the people onscreen. You're caught up in something that

spacious flat built onto the roof of a nearby building. But the queasy karma of that nearly imploding structure carries over to the new place. The former tenant leaves half her stuff there and refuses to come get it. When they ask why, the answer hinges on the fact that she is, as it is euphemistically phrased in Tehran, a woman of many male companions (in other words, a prostitute). The inconvenience nags, and then something happens that nudges the annoyance into darker terrain.

Literature teacher

Rana, home alone, hears the intercom, and buzzes in the person she assumes is Emad, only he isn't. Later on, Emad returns, and as he walks up the stairs, he sees bloody footprints, and inside the apartment he finds Rana, who has been struck in the head by an intruder while she was in the shower. At the hospital, she receives stitches, and her prognosis is fine. Except

For a healthy stretch, "The Salesman" is even more low-key, minimal, and contained than the earlier Farhadi films. Yet the writer-director's technique is just as assured as before. Every shot is in place, every line leading to an outcome that feels quietly up for grabs. As Emad begins to investigate the crime, he finds a cell phone and a set of keys that open a pickup truck that was left on their block. For a while, none of this seems to go anywhere.

Moral purpose

"The Salesman" generates relatively little tension as a neorealist detective yarn. But that's all by design. Emad is only a so-so sleuth, but then he stumbles, virtually by accident, onto the person who, it appears, struck his wife in the shower. The perpetrator is not what we expect, and the revelation of who did it is not the point. The point is something far more saturated with emotional intrigue: Now that Emad has found the crook, what will he do with this knowledge? In a revenge film like "Taken," the hero, murderous with righteous passion, gets to enjoy the satisfaction of payback (as does the audience), but his machinations also serve a moral purpose: He's finding his daughter and getting her back. In "The Salesman," the psychology of vengeance is almost metaphysical in its complexity.

Emad wants to punish the man who has caused all these problems for him—and considering that the damage the man inflicted was bloody and dangerous, there doesn't seem to be much ambiguity about it. But the real problem that Emad is dealing with is the emotional withdrawal of his wife. That's what's making him angry; that's what he wants revenge for. Deep down (in a way that he has zero awareness of), he's getting back at her. And that's what makes the unfolding drama of "The Salesman" so tense and devastating. The film is beautifully acted by Shahab Hosseini, who makes Emad a knight with a control freak inside, and Taraneh Alidoosti, who suggests a woe-filled Iranian version of Marion Cotillard. But the great performance here is that of Babak Karimi, as the lumpy nobody who caused all this. At first, you look at him with a shrug, maybe a glint of contempt, but within 20 minutes, he may have you in tears.

The film's title, incidentally, refers to an amateur production of "Death of a Salesman" that Emad and Rana are both performing in. He's playing Willy Loman, and she plays his wife, the beleaguered Linda. It's a conceit that comes off as something of a contrivance—at least, until the very end, when the parallel between Emad and Willy at last hits home. They are good men who, through the tragedy of their choices, wind up letting down the people they love. Farhadi has fashioned a dramatic critique of what he portrays as the Iranian male gaze—a gaze of molten judgment and anger. As a filmmaker, though, his gaze is true. — Reuters



US actress and member of the Jury Kirsten Dunst (left) and Danish actor and member of the Jury Mads Mikkelsen pose as they arrive for the screening of the film 'The Neon Demon' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos



US actress Elle Fanning poses as she arrives for the screening of the film 'The Neon Demon' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP photos

Verhoeven's twisted rape tale hands woman the power at Cannes

A twisted rape thriller by "Basic Instinct" director Paul Verhoeven drew rave reviews Saturday in Cannes, where it was one of two films about a woman trying to prise back control from her attacker. As a psychological rape comedy-thriller, the Dutch director's latest work "Elle" had everything to set critics on edge before the screening. But the story of a powerful woman played by French actress Isabelle Huppert who is assaulted and embarks on a dangerous game with her attacker, was a surprise hit for its portrayal of a woman taking vengeance in her own, unexpected way.

Huppert, 63, who some critics said had delivered the performance of her career, told journalists that it was the fact that her character "does not react in a predictable manner that creates the tension." "There is a suspense in the character herself because you don't know exactly what she thinks," French website L'Express hailed the film and its "perverse ambiguity," which drew plenty of laughs from the audience.

"One can already hear screams of bloody murder about the unacceptable link between rape and pleasure. It has nothing to do with that," wrote its critic. The Guardian's Nigel Smith tweeted that the film was "perverse, hilarious and insanely pleasurable." The movie is based on the book "Oh..." by Philippe Djian, who dismissed views that Huppert's character had fallen in love with her attacker. "She is someone who tries not to obey all the codes of society. She feels this is really her own personal freedom, and that is a bit frightening because she is a woman and people don't want women to be free," he said.

Huppert said she was not worried about people's reaction to her bizarre relationship with her rapist, who she continues to draw into her life. "It's not a statement about a woman being raped and accepting it. It doesn't mean it happens to all women in the world. It happens to that woman in particular as an individual," said Huppert. — AFP



(From left) Iranian script-girl Parisa Gorgen, Iranian editor Hayedeh Safiyari, Iranian actor Farid Sajjadihosseini, Iranian director of photography Hossein Jafarian, Iranian actor Babak Karimi, Iranian actress Taraneh Alidoosti, Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, Iranian actor Shahab Hosseini and French producer and distributor Alexandre Mallet-Guy pose yesterday during a photocall for the film 'The Salesman (Forushande)' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

can only be called suspense, and it's galvanizing, but the suspense hinges purely on what's going on in the characters' hearts and minds.

"The Salesman," rather uncharacteristically for Farhadi, opens on a note of stark cataclysm. An apartment building in Tehran appears to be ready to collapse, and the residents, who include the film's married protagonists, Emad (Shahab Hosseini) and Rana (Taraneh Alidoosti), are rushing out of there as if for their very lives. In the end, the building stays standing, but it's a wreck, with gas leaks and giant cracks in the walls. Emad and Rana are forced to find another apartment, and they quickly do, moving into a shabby but

that everything is not fine. Stuff happens, and innocent people can get attacked in a big city, but the nearly random assault on Rana undercuts her well being. She is frightened...but she is also defensive. She wants Emad, a high school literature teacher, to stay home from school...but she also wants to be left alone. She's a bundle of nerves (understandably), but more than that, she's a bundle of contradictions.

And that eats away at his nerves. Emad comes off as a paragon of chivalry who wants only to soothe and support his wife. But the situation is so jangled with Rana's "unreasonable" feminine neurotic emotion that it won't allow him to. And he starts to grow impatient.

Landmark Group expands its presence in Kuwait launches Home Centre & ICONIC at Sama Mall, Fintas

Landmark Group, the region's leading retail and hospitality conglomerate, officially opened the doors of two of its stores: Home Centre & Iconic at Sama Mall, Fintas. Expanding its presence across the region, the lavish new stores opening was celebrated at an official ribbon cutting ceremony attended by senior officials of Landmark Group, top management of Home Centre, ICONIC and members of the press.

Speaking at the launch of the two stores Saibal Basu, Chief Operating Officer, Landmark Group Kuwait said: "Expansion has always played an important role in Landmark Group's growth strategy. We have achieved a significant milestone with the opening of our sixth Home Centre store and third ICONIC store in Kuwait. The opening of the new stores marks the beginning of major investments being made in the region and builds on our success

in the country by bringing best-in-class furniture and furnishings to the discerning home shopper as well as a range of products to the trendy shoppers."

Home Centre's new store spans over 3,600 square meters and spreads across two floors. The store reiterates the brand's commitment to the country and affirms its leading status as the preferred home shopping destination in the region. Home Centre hosts an expansive range of classic, contemporary and modern furniture along with an extensive choice of home accessories including gifts, kitchen and serve-ware, bathroom accessories and more.

The opening of Home Centre was headlined by famous blogger TheVeeView who spent time with customers and handed out gifts to the first 100 shoppers. Customers could also avail discounts up to 70% with Home Centre's ongoing Spring sale.

Speaking about the launch, Mederic Payne, CEO, Home Centre, said: "We are proud to open doors to our sixth store here in the country's latest shopping destination. Kuwait has always been an integral part of our expansion plan since we opened our first store in 1997. With the opening of this new store we are focusing on expanding our presence and we aim to fulfill the changing lifestyle demands of our customers in this city."

The swanky new ICONIC store will showcase ICONIC's trendy and fashion different pieces for men, women and kids. The brand represents a trendy spirit and is a destination where fashion, innovation and lifestyle meet. The store is located on the ground floor and will provide customers a great shopping experience and the latest the brand has to offer from its uber stylish Summer' 16 collection.

The summer collection is a treat for the fashion con-

scious with the best of the trends being translated into the pieces available. Women can alternate between looking chic in ladylike ensembles to sporting a preppy urban look, embrace the free spirited bohemian vibe to the ultimate beach girl vibes with the new collection. Men work the season with the classic nautical trend followed closely by the ever so cool tropical inspired range. Expect to see a bold fusion of exotic orient and Sicilian suave with the grand Asian enthused pieces as well. The exciting addition this season is the Vacation Nation range based on the idyllic lifestyle of California beaches and the perfect beachwear options. This season has never looked more stylish with ICONIC.





Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad and Cardiology consultant Dr. Mahmoud Khalil.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (left) and Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti are seen at the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN through children's eyes



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan is seen with visitors at the event.

Kuwait Beautiful & Green competition now is in its 11th edition and it is part of Kuwait Times' communal and social responsibility providing young talents with the proper avenue to enrich their skills and abilities. The event was sponsored by Zain Telecom, Al-Batel Watches, Arabian Business Machines and Marriott Hotel Kuwait. Also in attendance were Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khasti, JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait General Manager George Oun, Al-Batel Watches Co CEO Khaled Al-Batel, Deputy General Manager of Arabian Business Machines Rabee Abdulhassan and Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. The panel of judges include: Amara Ashkhanani, Abdulaziz Arti, Svitlana Ardnt and Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi. Here are the winners category from 15-17 years old.



Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad is seen at the event.



Visitors are seen at the event.



Teachers checking the paintings at the event.



A small girl checking the paintings at the event.



Visitors are seen at the event.



Visitors are seen at the event.



Visitors are seen at the event.



Sales Manager of Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya Ayman Al-Sharaa giving a Sebamed present to one of the contestants.



Sales Manager of Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya Ayman Al-Sharaa giving a Sebamed present to one of the visitors.





(From left) A group photo shows Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Ambassador of Australia to Kuwait Warren Hauck, Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi and Svitlana Ardnt .
—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Joseph Shagra



First winner, Anfal Basel Bo Hamed, Anfal Talented Group.



Second winner, Ahmed Mubarak, Khalifa School.



Third winner, Mishari Abel, Kuwait English School.



Jenan Safar, Manarat School.



Al-Batool Nour Al-Deen, Manarat School.



Faisal Hameed Naji, Khalifa School.



Amena Al-Khlfan, Fawzeyia Al-Sultan.



Fares Bassam Al-Khlfan, Manarat School.



Anfal Naser Ahmed Al-Sekhan, Kuwait Academy School.



A teacher from Khalifa School receiving an award on behalf of Al-Shafeih Mohammed Osman, Khalifa School.



Narges Ebrahim Essa, Kuwait Academy Educational School.



Abed Alteef Anwar, Hope School.



Farah Abdulsalam, Kuwait English School.



Haya Solaiman Al-Shayee, Manarat School.



A teacher receiving an award on behalf of Abdulla Carl Yakolom, Kuwait Academy Educational School.

Special Needs Category

First winner
Anfal Basel Bo Hamed , Anfal Talented Group.

Second winner
Ahmed Mubarak , Khalifa School.

Third winner
Mishari Abel, Kuwait English School.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Jenan Safar
Manarat School. | 5. Fares Bassam Al-Khalfan
Manarat School. | 9. Abed Alteef Anwar
Hope School. |
| 2. Al-Batool Nour Al-Deen
Manarat School. | 6. Anfal Naser Ahmed Al-Sekhan
Kuwait Academy School. | 10. Farah Abdulsalam
Kuwait English School. |
| 3. Faisal Hameed Naji
Khalifa School. | 7. Al-Shafeih Mohammed Osman
Khalifa School. | 11. Haya Solaiman Al-Shayee
Manarat School. |
| 4. Amena Al-Khalfan
Fawzeyya Al-Sultan. | 8. Narges Ebrahim Essa
Kuwait Academy Educational
School. | 12. Abdulla Carl Yakolom
Kuwait Academy Educational
School. |



(From left) The four best of the best artists are Sheikha Abdulaziz Issa from Maeath Al-Adawya School, Roseanne Ismail from the British School of Kuwait (BSK), Jumana Kamal Al-Jahed from Al-Ekhlal School, and Yousab Atteya from Al-Nesser School (not seen in the picture).



Painting by Jumana Kamal Al-Jahed, Al-Ekhlal School.



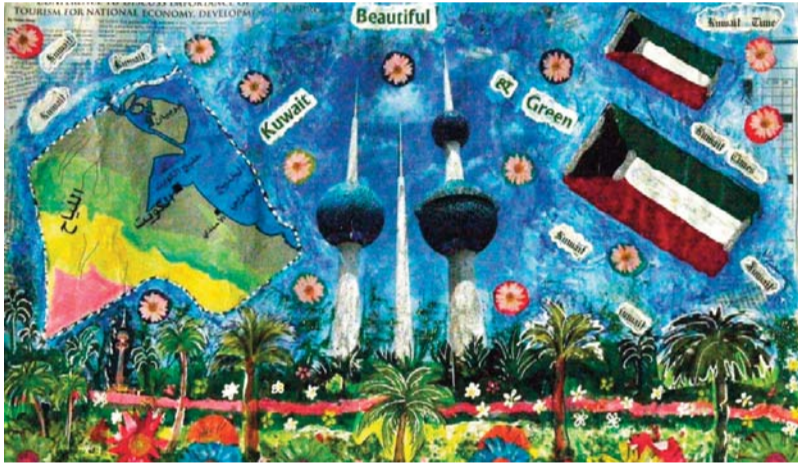
Painting by Roseanne Ismail, the British School of Kuwait (BSK).



Painting by Sheikha Abdulaziz Issa, Maeath Al-Adawya School.



Painting by Yousab Atteya, Al-Nesser School.



Painting by first winner Anfal Basel Bo Hamed , Anfal Talented Group.



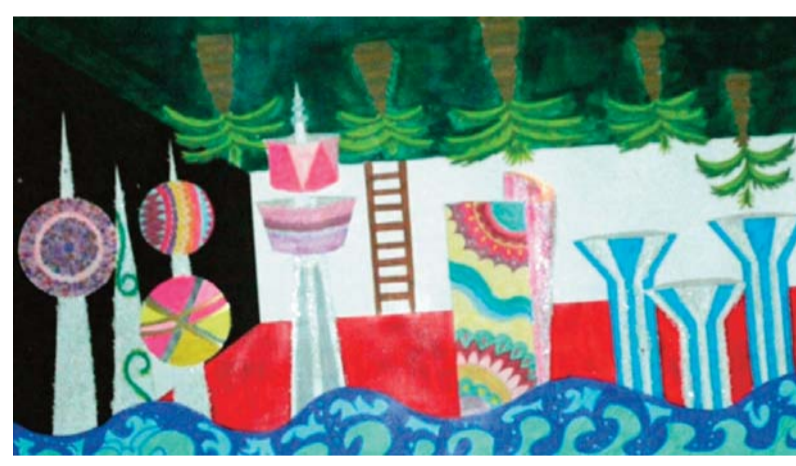
Painting by second winner, Ahmed Mubarak , Khalifa School.



Painting by third winner, Mishari Abel, Kuwait English School.



Painting by Jenan Safar, Manarat School.



Painting by Al-Batool Nour Al-Deen, Manarat School.



Painting by Faisal Hameed Naji, Khalifa School.



Painting by Amena Al-Khalfan, Fawzeyya Al-Sultan.



Painting by Anfal Naser Ahmed Al-Sekhan, Kuwait Academy School.



Painting by Al-Shafeih Mohammed Osman, Khalifa School.



Painting by Narges Ebrahim Essa, Kuwait Academy Educational School.



Painting by Abed Alteef Anwar, Hope School.



Painting by Farah Abdulsalam, Kuwait English School.



Painting by Haya Solaiman Al-Shayee, Manarat School.



Painting by Abdulla Carl Yakolom, Kuwait Academy Educational School.



Painting by Fares Bassam Al-Khalfan, Manarat School.



Children play with inflatable balls in the Light Ball Orchestra pit at the TeamLab Islands: Dance! Art Museum, Learn & Play! Interactive Theme Park in Bangkok. TeamLab are a group of Japanese technology, engineering, architecture and graphic design experts who exhibit digital installations worldwide. — AFP

St Louis teen continued to model as she fought cancer



Zaria McDonald has her make up done by Christine Shadrack, of Kirkwood.



Zaria McDonald, 17, of St Louis, walks the runway during the Lindenwood University Fashion Design program fashion show at Mercedes-Benz St Louis. óAP photos



Kendra McDonald jokes with her daughter, Zaria McDonald, 17, both of St Louis, about the good fortune she has to have a nice shaped head before the beginning of the Lindenwood University Fashion Design program fashion show.

Within a month, Zaria McDonald, 17, had surgery, started chemotherapy, signed with a modeling agency and appeared on the cover of a magazine. The teen's diagnosis with a rare form of cancer came as a devastating shock but also vindication. McDonald had been complaining about an ache in her right knee since she was 7. Last year, a curious lump developed there, and her aches could no longer be explained as "growing pains." She was diagnosed with an extremely aggressive form of cancer. Since then, her life has become as unpredictable and exhilarating as a roller-coaster.

Now bald, McDonald recently became a social media sensation by embracing a "no hair, don't care" attitude. Images of her going to prom April 23 in a St Louis designer's gown went viral. If the high school senior, who graduates May 24, is overwhelmed or frustrated by the attention, the belated cancer diagnosis or her future, she doesn't show it. Style Week was where McDonald impressed Gail Lasater of West Model and Talent Management. Lasater wanted to add her to the agency's model roster but needed McDonald to grow another inch. By October 2015, McDonald was 5-foot-9.



Models Zaria McDonald, left, 17, Sami Vedula, and Dalila Kahvedzic, all of St Louis, discuss the formation they will make on the runway during rehearsals.

All that growing, and hours of daily dance classes at Grand Center Arts Academy seemed like plausible explanations for McDonald's knee swelling. But doctors eventually diagnosed a synovial sarcoma tumor. They concluded that it had probably been there all along. No one knows why. The malignant soft tissue cancer affects fewer than three people in a million.

"All I thought about was 'what does it mean for cancer to be aggressive?' How aggressive?" McDonald recalled. But she didn't

want to think the worst, so she didn't. Instead, she prepared for a party. The next day was her school's homecoming dance. "It was kind of a bummer," McDonald said, but she knew that she would feel worse if she didn't go.

She wore a dress designed by Barbara Bultman, whom she met at Missouri Style Week. The St. Louis designer created a minimalist gown that was sleeveless, backless and deep burgundy. McDonald wore her hair in long cascading curls extending to the small of her back. Within a month, she'd lose all of her hair.

Cancer and coincidence

That same month, McDonald appeared on the cover of *Gazelle* STL Magazine, founded by Hall. It was an eerie coincidence that the October issue was dedicated to breast cancer awareness and included articles on various types of cancer, early detection and survivors. "I got chills when we found out a few weeks later that Zaria had cancer," Hall said. "But I knew right away that she would be impactful. And she is. She carries herself with such dignity. There's no way that she's not destined for greatness."

McDonald is already a muse to designer Nasheli Juliana Ortiz Gonzalez. McDonald modeled her look in a St Louis Fashion Week art-inspired design competition for which Gonzalez won a \$5,000 grand prize. "There's this strong, powerful look to her. I just love her," Gonzalez said. Gonzalez, an assistant professor at Lindenwood University with the fashion design program, discovered McDonald in 2013 at a model audition for the school's annual fashion show. Gonzalez was immediately charmed by the teen's maturity. She had no idea McDonald was a sophomore in high school.

"She had such confidence and such a great walk that I put her in the collection (of a designer) who did a lingerie and swimwear line," Gonzalez said. "I think her mother almost died when she saw her (and her mother, Kendra McDonald, confirms that she nearly did), but Zaria was great. I didn't find out until later her age, and I felt so guilty." Gonzalez has hired the teen to be in every runway show she's produced since, including the most recent Lindenwood University student fashion show May 7.

"She's one of the few models who can go from full hair to bald and look fantastic. I mean she is even missing a (ligament) in her knee, and she still has the great walk in those high heels," Gonzalez said. "She's incredible." McDonald looks the picture of health. She said people often assume she's bald by choice.

"Sometimes I see people staring, and I'm like, 'Why are they staring?' And then I remember, 'Oh, yeah, I have no hair,'" McDonald said laughing over a meal at City Diner in Grand Center. "It's weird, but I guess it's a good thing. One guy walked up and said, 'You have the perfect bald head,' and I was like, 'Um, thanks.'" McDonald didn't lose much weight from chemotherapy and remains naturally slim at 125 pounds and 5-foot-9. She fin-

ished her last chemo treatment in April, just in time for senior prom. McDonald wore a dress designed by Gonzalez.

Fairytale gown

Her sleeveless gown had a sheer illusion bodice nearly the color of her skin embellished with coffee-colored pearls and brown applique florals. The skirt was a billowing mass of chocolate tulle. She looked like someone transformed by a fairy godmother.

And just like a typical teen, she had her friends snap a few photos of her wearing the magical gown and promptly posted them to Facebook and Instagram. Within 24 hours, tens of thousands of people shared her images with inspired messages and praise. Someone with the Twitter handle @blackgirlswinni said, "Cancer can't stop you from slaying #prom2K16" along with a trio of smiley-faced emoticons with heart-shaped eyes. That posting attracted 32,000 likes and 21,000 shares. There was a seemingly endless ripple of shares, likes and reposts.

"It was a shock because I didn't expect anything like that. I mean, I was just going to prom," said McDonald, who went with a date she described as a friend. "But I'm really glad that some people found it inspirational." Kendra McDonald said that she's thrilled that her daughter hasn't missed a beat pursuing her dream to model and has maintained a high grade point average, but she's still praying because they aren't out of the woods yet. They have to wait until December to see if doctors clear her for surgery to replace the ligament in her knee.

"All along, I found this much harder than she did," her mom said. "But all along, Zaria handled it like a champion, so I just followed her lead," Kendra McDonald said. "Without her strength, I would have been in the corner somewhere bawling." Now they are celebrating. On April 25, the Monday after prom, McDonald was declared cancer-free. She will start college in the fall and plans to keep modeling.

"I knew it wasn't just your typical growing pains; growing pains shouldn't last for years, but that's what they said," McDonald explained. "I didn't want to argue with the doctors about it and make a big deal. I know you can't test for everything."

Something was growing

Growing pains was a plausible explanation for what she had been feeling. She'd always been tall for her age. She started modeling for Lillian Jones' Laha children's clothing line when she was 14, but felt uncomfortable standing head and shoulders above her counterparts. At 5-foot-8 and the age of 15, she modeled adult clothing at the first Missouri Style Week in 2013.

"There was something special about her," said Cillah Hall, co-founder of Missouri Style Week. "She was so confident and beautiful. It was something that came from deep inside." — AP

Diego Rivera painting sells privately for \$15.7 million

A Diego Rivera painting has sold privately for \$15.7 million, setting a world record price for any Latin American work of art, Phillips auction house said Friday. The price for "Dance in Tehuantepec" nearly doubles the figure paid at auction last month for a painting by Frida Kahlo, Rivera's wife whom he later divorced. Her "Two Nudes in the Forest (The Land Itself)" set a new auction record for Latin American art. The private sale was facilitated by Phillips.

The buyer, Argentinian collector Eduardo Costantini, told The Associated Press that he has waited 20 years to acquire "Dance in Tehuantepec," which he unsuccessfully tried to purchase in 1995 when it came up at auction at Sotheby's. It has been out of public view since then. "I always wondered who had bought the painting and where it was," Costantini, founder and president of the Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires (MALBA), said in a phone interview from Buenos Aires.

"Dance in Tehuantepec," created in 1928, depicts a group of dancers performing the folk dance "zandunga" under a banana tree. It is one of the largest canvases the acclaimed Mexican muralist painted during his lifetime. It measures 79 inches by 64 1/2 inches. Costantini said he plans to exhibit the painting at his museum next March. Prior to that it will be shown at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in the fall and at the ARCO Madrid next February.

The painting is the most important Rivera work in private hands outside of Mexico, said August Uribe, deputy chairman of the Americas at Phillips. It first appeared in 1930 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and was included in a major Diego Rivera retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York a year later. Uribe said the painting shows Rivera's efforts "to establish a national identity by breaking from European modernism and embracing Mexicanism." — AP



This undated photo provided by the Phillips Auction House shows Diego Rivera's 'Baile en Tehuantepec.' — AP