

Subaih: Quota muller for each expat nationality



Dozens hurt as lightning hits Paris park, German pitch



Pakistani PM to undergo open heart surgery in UK



Ronaldo gives Real Madrid shootout win over Atletico



FEARS FOR TRAPPED CIVILIANS IN STRIFE-HIT IRAQ AND SYRIA

COALITION PRESSES OFFENSIVES AGAINST IS IN FALLUJAH, RAQQA



Min 27°
Max 43°
High Tide 05:37 & 16:03
Low Tide 10:48 & 23:35

KUWAIT REPATRIATES 47 IRANIAN INMATES



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has repatriated 47 Iranian prison inmates serving sentences in Kuwaiti correctional facilities to Iranian authorities, a ministry press statement said yesterday. This step has been taken in implementation of a bilateral agreement for prisoner exchange between Kuwait and Iran, said the statement. It noted Kuwait's commitment to human rights and in support of doing justice to prison inmates and their psychological wellbeing. The statement said prisoners can serve the remainder of their sentences in a correctional facility in their home countries close to their families, as the case is with the 47 Iranian inmates. — KUNA

BAGHDAD: Iraq's elite forces deployed around Fallujah yesterday, marking a new phase in efforts to retake the jihadist bastion, as concern grew for trapped civilians there and in Syria. After almost a week of shaping operations around Fallujah, the arrival of the counter-terrorism service (CTS) signaled that an assault on the Islamic State group inside the city proper may be imminent. The deployment of Iraq's best-trained and most battle-tested fighting unit came as US-backed forces pressed simultaneous offensives against IS in both Iraq and Syria.

"CTS forces, Anbar emergency police and tribal fighters... reached Tareq and Mazraa camps" south and east of Fallujah, the top commander in charge of the Fallujah operation, said. "These forces will break into Fallujah in the next few hours to liberate it from Daesh," Abdelwahab Al-Saadi said, using an acronym for IS. Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, is one of the two remaining major Iraqi cities still in IS hands. CTS spokesman Sabah Al-Noman would not comment on the timing of an assault.

IS also advanced in Syria's northern Aleppo province and further east as a Kurdish-Arab alliance backed by the US-led coalition pressed an offensive against Raqqa, the jihadists' de facto capital in Syria. Raqqa is home to an estimated 300,000 people and residents have been paying smugglers \$400 each to try to flee after IS tightened restrictions on people leaving, the activist group Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently has said. Around 165,000 displaced Syrians are also trapped between the closed Turkish border and the town of Azaz, sparking UN concern.

Continued on Page 13

DEMONSTRATORS FACE OFF AT TRUMP RALLY IN CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO: Thousands of pro- and anti-Donald Trump demonstrators faced off Friday outside a rally for the presumptive Republican presidential nominee in San Diego. Authorities said 12 people were arrested, including one for trying to climb over a railing, but there was no major violence or mass arrests as at Trump rallies in other cities. Following the real-estate magnate's speech inside the city's convention center, police ordered the crowd to disperse, judging it an unlawful assembly.

But many demonstrators from both camps refused to leave hours after the event was over. Skirmishes erupted as both sides jeered and heckled each other, with some protesters throwing water bottles and rocks. One pro-Trump demonstrator was seen using pepper spray against another demonstrator. Dozens of police officers in riot gear and carrying batons stood between the two groups and at one point moved in to force the crowd to leave the area around the convention center.

One anti-Trump supporter who apparently refused to heed police calls to clear the area was seen being tackled to the ground before being handcuffed and dragged away. Authorities



FRESNO, California: A frozen food item hits a girl in the face after Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump finished speaking at a nearby rally on Friday. — AFP

in San Diego earlier designated separate demonstration zones for the two sides to prevent them mixing. Protests in New Mexico turned violent on Tuesday, prompting fears of a similar outbreak of violence at Trump's campaign appearances in California this week. "I am opposed to the hateful,

bigoted, racist language of Donald Trump and his arrogance and intolerance," Martha McPhail, one of the protesters in San Diego, told the local City News Service (CNS). "I'm for all of our people - all races, sexes, genders, military veterans - and he's divisive."

Continued on Page 13

SHARK ATTACKS MAY HIT NEW RECORD

NEW YORK: As the summer beach season opens in the United States, at least one expert is predicting an increase in shark attacks around the world this year that will surpass last year's record number. "We should have more bites this year than last," George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File at the University of Florida, said in an interview shortly before the Memorial Day holiday weekend that signals the unofficial start of America's summer vacation - and beach - season. In 2015, there were 98 shark attacks, including six fatalities, according to Burgess.

Why the increased bloodshed? Shark populations are slowly recovering from historic lows in the 1990s, the world's human population has grown and rising temperatures are leading more people to go swimming, Burgess said. Still, the university notes that fatal shark attacks, while undeniably graphic, are so infrequent that beachgoers face a higher risk of being killed by sand collapsing as the result of overachieving sand castle builders.

With their fearsome teeth and dorsal fins the inspiration for hit movies, TV series and beach-town souvenirs, it is hard to believe that a century ago American scientists did not believe sharks would fatally attack humans in US temperate waters without provocation. That changed in July 1916, when four people were killed in



CAPE TOWN: A great white shark breaches the water in False Bay in this undated file photo. — AP

attacks near the New Jersey shore, a series of deaths blamed on a sea turtle until a great white shark with human remains in its stomach was captured nearby.

Since those attacks, public opinion of sharks has changed dramatically, with swimmers' fears fanned by fiction, from the 1975 Academy Award-winning film "Jaws," based on Peter Benchley's book about a giant man-eater, to the Discovery Channel's modern "Shark Week" summer television series.

Continued on Page 13

MOBILE BANKING

BLINKING TO BANK

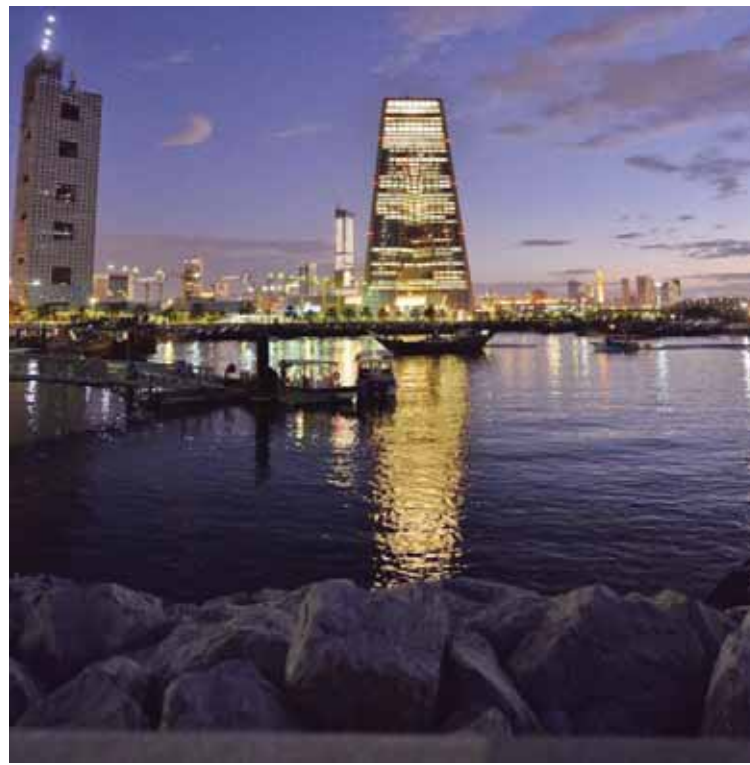
Middle East's First Face Recognition Mobile Banking App

- Mobile and online banking are now more secure with latest technology
- Manage accounts by blinking, smiling and a few taps
- Simple and fast navigation
- Schedule automatic payments
- Track and redeem Gulf Points...and much more

Download the NEW Gulf Bank App now

e-gulfbank.com • 1 805 805

بنك الخليج GULF BANK



KUWAIT: The new headquarters of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). —KUNA

CBK HEADQUARTERS WINS 2016 MEED QUALITY AWARDS FOR PROJECTS

KUWAIT: The new headquarters of Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has won the 2016 MEED Quality Awards for Projects as the best landmark in the country. This took place during a MEED summit in Dubai on May 25, in the presence of a host of construction experts across the globe, CBK said in a press statement yesterday, adding that its representative attended the events.

The new headquarters of CBK won the award as it contains unique designs, constructions and techniques as well as developed engineering. The tower has become a new main landmark of Kuwait; it shows the State's strong economy and big contributions in the region. It is one of the best achievements of major institutions, and the most creative and technical one in the area of construction in the world.

The building reflects designs and engineering of Kuwait's traditional architecture. It is characterized by the latest technology equipment with the applications of smart buildings, which include the latest information technology of facilities (IST), in line with world-class standards. Due to its technical properties, the building deserves to be awarded by major institutions of engineering and architecture evaluation across the globe. CBK's administration supervised



The 2016 MEED Quality Awards for Projects.

directly the process of tender and following up construction. The MEED awards don't only recognize the construction element of project delivery but also consider the value and quality

of a project throughout its entire life-cycle, from the design concept through to engineering and construction and its wider contribution to society and the environment. — KUNA

KUWAIT TAKES QUANTUM STEPS TOWARDS PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

KUWAIT: Kuwait has made quantum and significant strides in legislation germane to the ownership of intellectual property, punctuated by the country's approval of a copyright law earlier this month. At a time when copyright infringement, particularly, in the educational, commercial and healthcare sectors, has become prevalent, it is imperative to generate social awareness on the importance of protecting intellectual copyrights.

Moreover, laws aimed at preserving intellectual copyrights have been enacted as far back as 1962, as such laws have become a trusted resource for information on actions taken to criminalize copyright infringement.

In addition, copyright infringement took a perilous turn in the healthcare sector when counterfeit medications were introduced to the healthcare market, subsequently posing a grave health risk to consumers.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has always been cognizant of the significance of protecting intellectual property, as evidenced by the country's signing of numerous agreements designed to ratchet up international collaboration to protect intellectual copyrights. In a move that showcased Kuwait's commitment to protecting literary copyrights, the country's Ministry of Information formed, in 2001, a special department tasked with ensuring the protection of intellectual property in the country.

Kuwait Society for the Protection of Intellectual Rights Sheikh Salman Dawood Al-Sabah said that the society has asked to form an independent entity assigned to handle laws pertinent to the protection of intellectual copyrights.

"We have all suffered from copyright infringement, and consumers sometimes find it difficult to distinguish between what is authentic and what is not," Sheikh Salman Dawood noted. He also added that such fraudulent behavior has taken place in the food market as well, pointing out that children are the most susceptible to such deceit.

The country will continue to work to develop copyright protection laws, which would in turn, "boost confidence in the national economy due to the fact that investors often look for laws that protect them," Sheikh Salman said. "Kuwait has forged a solid reputation due to a highly transparent and efficient stock exchange, in addition to an active central bank and a stable currency," he added.

Sheikh Salman Al-Dawood also pointed to measures taken by the western world to protect agricultural production, where companies have recently been instructed to provide intricate details behind their products, so as to familiarize consumers with what they purchase.

Focal point

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti writer Talib Al-Refaie noted that intellectual ownership has been

the focal point of the literary world for quite some time, due to the wealth of information it encompasses, which includes social media websites, which facilitate the spread and exchange of information. Moreover, Refaie added that developed nations have strived to maximize protection of intellectual rights by supporting sole ownership, a method that protects works from potential theft or infringement. He also underscored that copyright laws in the Arab world are not on par with international standards, saying that intellectual theft has become pervasive in the region.

Another writer, Laila Ahmad, said that "copyright laws are applicable in Kuwait, but there exists a state of legislative chaos." She also added that in order for such laws to be in full effect, certain official procedures should be in place.

Issued in 1999, a law aimed at protecting intellectual rights covers all material in literature and arts, regardless of their form or category. In addition, a person is deemed an inventor if he comes up with any idea and registers it under his or her name, or any other way that cites their ownership.

According to one of the clauses of the law, all those found guilty of copyright infringement will be either incarcerated for a period of one year, or fined with a sum of at least KD 500. The court also has the right to confiscate any monetary gains such offenders could have amassed through fraudulent means. — KUNA

KUWAIT EAGER TO STREAMLINE TELECOM, IT SECTOR: OFFICIAL



GENEVA: Kuwaiti Telecommunications and Information Technology Public Authority's President Salem Al-Uthaina (second from right) during the meeting. — KUNA

GENEVA: Kuwait has taken upon itself to do all that is needed to improve the telecommunication and IT sector as it assumes prominence in numerous aspects of the nation's economic development plans, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. This statement was made by Kuwaiti Telecommunications and Information Technology Public Authority President Salem Al-Uthaina, addressing a meeting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), whose functions began last Wednesday and is due to continue through next Thursday.

In a step to upgrade the telecommunication sector, Kuwait has established a Telecommunications and Information Technology Public Authority (which he heads) to keep abreast of the latest applications of communication that would be of use to the Kuwaiti public, said Uthaina. The telecom market in Kuwait forms at this time about five percent of the nation's GDP, with a percentage of public usage topping a whopping 220, he said. This means that an individual in Kuwait possesses no less than two phone lines of the caliber of G3 and G4, launching Kuwait to be the second nation worldwide in the percentage of usage of telecom services, he pointed out. As for smart phones, he indicated that their usage in Kuwait has reached 70 percent of the market which, he said, is a high percentage and indicative of the Kuwaiti public's penchant for high tech communication devices. — KUNA

SHEIKH SALMAN RECEIVES ATHLETES, SPORTS OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah received yesterday President of Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf Fahad Abu Shaiba and Chairman Ismail Karam as well as a number of officials and athletes.

Sheikh Salman met with these officials and athletes to congratulate them on snatching the second place in a recent international soccer championship in France and bagging about 25 varied medals; nine gold, seven silver and nine bronze. The minister lauded efforts exerted by officials and players.

Meanwhile, the officials confirmed that support provided by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs was behind chalking up these achievements. Sheikh Salman also received MP Abdullah Al-Mayouf who was accompanied by former national team's players Saad Al-Houti,



Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah

Na'im Saad, Mohammad Karam and other athletes. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S MILITARY ATTACHE ELECTED DEAN OF DEFENSE ATTACHE CORPS IN BELGIUM

BRUSSELS: Kuwait's Military Attaché in Belgium, Brigadier General Khaled Al-Ragem, has made history by becoming the first Attaché from an Arab country to be elected as Dean of the Corps of Defense Attaches in a European country.

"It is my pleasure to become the first Defense Attaché from an Arab country to hold such an important position, as a representative of Kuwait, and the Arab and Muslim worlds," he said. "This could not be possible without the guidance and directives of His Excellency the Minister of Defense of Kuwait Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, who taught us perseverance at work to achieve higher horizons," said Ragem.

"During my tenure I will do my best to explain to my European colleagues the situation in the Arab world and also try to remove the misunderstanding and misconceptions about Islam created by groups like IS (Daesh)," explained the Kuwaiti Brigadier General. This position will be an opportunity to meet officials in Belgium, to bring and discuss new ideas, he noted. This will also open doors to create stronger cooperation between the Arab world and Europe and to increase the exchange of information, expertise, and organize military exercises, said



Brigadier General Khaled Al-Ragem

Ragem, who will take over the responsibilities from the current Dean of military attaches in Belgium, Lieutenant Heino Matzken from Germany, during a handover ceremony in Brussels on June 3. The duration of this post is four years. There are 67 Defense Attaches based in Belgium and they include Military, Naval and Air Attaches who are accredited to the Kingdom of Belgium.—KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Fund for SME Development and UAE's Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development officials shake hands after signing the memorandum of understanding. —KUNA

KUWAITI, UAE FUNDS SIGN MOU TO ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Fund for SME Development and UAE's Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (KFED) signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) bolstering bilateral cooperation in supporting small and medium enterprises or SMEs.

KFED's CEO Abdullah Al-Darmaki said that for the past eight years KFED has been goading UAE youth to tap the private sector to start their business ventures there through easy term loans from KFED. He said that the MoU signing augments efforts by Gulf countries to encourage young entrepreneurs to take the plunge into starting their own small and medium size businesses.

Further, he said KFED has a capital of two billion Emirati Dirham and focuses its business on giving Emiratis loans to start

SMEs, especially to those whose loan requests have been turned down by banks. In that sense, KFED has so far funded no less than 1,200 SME projects in the UAE, and seeks to do more of that in Kuwait in view of today's signing of the MoU. The signing of the MoU came on the sideline of a meeting of the Higher Advisory Board of the National Fund for SME Development which has KFED as a board member. National Fund Chairman Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair talked about the importance of developing the country's entrepreneurial culture and encouraging and supporting small and medium enterprises in Kuwait. He added that the Fund's main objectives are to increase SME participation in the economy and help create a business-friendly environment for small and medium enterprises and Kuwait's entrepreneurs. — KUNA





KUWAIT: A municipality inspector checks food items during one of the tours.



Packs of marijuana busted with a passenger at Kuwait International Airport yesterday.



A firefighter tackles a blaze reported in the basement of a Maidan Hawally building.

Local Spotlight

DELAY IN PROJECTS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

MUNICIPALITY CONDUCTS FOOD INSPECTIONS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality launched several inspection campaigns in Mubarakiya, Shuwaikh, Sharq, Granada, Khaldiya, Yarmouk and Sulaibikhat to inspect various co-ops, restaurants and foodstuff outlets. The campaign resulted in filing 25 citations for various violations including handling foodstuff without a health certificate, working in a restaurant without holding a health license, and lack of cleanliness.

Smuggling foiled

An Asian man was arrested on arrival at Kuwait International Airport with two packages of marijuana hidden inside tamarind bags, said security sources. The man was taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Dead baby

A 25-day-old baby died at KOC Hospital after it was taken there unconscious, said security sources, noting that the

baby boy had no injuries and had not even been named yet. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Vehicle robbed

A citizen reported that his vehicle was stolen and that he later saw it parked outside a house in Jahra. Security sources said on checking with the house owner, he denied knowing anything about it, and called his father to ask him. Later, the father arrived with two people - a bedoon and a Saudi. The sources added that one of the two men tried to flee on foot on seeing the police and hid inside one of the houses, before he was arrested. He admitted to stealing the vehicle and selling it to the father.

Contrabands caught

A 23-year-old female citizen was arrested with 18 illicit pills, said security sources, noting that the suspect was also under the effect of drugs.

Liquor 'factory' busted

A place used for brewing liquor was busted in Mahboula. Security sources said police found 54 barrels of liquor, three cartons of yeast, six sugar sacks, a metal barrel used for evaporation, a cooking gas cylinder and a filter.

No injuries in fire

A fire broke out in a 500-sq-m basement of an 11-storey building in Maidan Hawally that had been used for storing stationery. Security sources said firemen from Salmiya and Hawally rushed to the scene and managed to evacuate the building, ventilate it and control the fire without any casualties.

Jet skiers rescued

Salmiya marine rescue spotted two jet skis flipped over and two people trying to swim to shore. Security sources said divers rescued the two and towed the jet skis, before they were dispatched to rescue a third skier who suffered a similar mishap in a different spot.

The issue of delays in construction projects is occupying a great deal of public attention because these projects are related to their daily lives, their country and future. This delay in the completion of projects is an unfortunate, dangerous and negative phenomenon, and is becoming a matter of concern and criticism by everyone.

In an official statement that was published last week, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Hind Al-Subaih said more than 70 percent of the delays in planned development projects were due to the executors rather than the monitoring bodies. They did not finish the required job.

The delay in projects is reflecting negatively on the people, and creates dependency and poor motivation to accomplish things on an individual level. Slow implementation and corruption in development and construction projects, infrastructure, housing and cities, roads and bridges in the country over the past years because of obstacles has led to undermining our business reputation. There are many examples, such as Jaber Hospital and the metro project, and even the maintenance of bridges.

The resentment of citizens is logical because they have not seen any grand projects or real developments despite the financial surpluses achieved by Kuwait in the years that witnessed rises in oil prices. It is been a decade without the completion of the university in Shadadiya, which still needs additional years to be ready, if it survives the annual fires. The project has turned into a joke.

In her press conference, Subaih explained that some projects faced problems because no lands were allocated for it. So it was decided that no future projects would be included in Kuwait's development plans until land is allocated. She also explained that some projects have been delayed for more than 15 years due to changes in budgets, conditions or other basic elements.

She commented on the issue of accountability of those who are responsible for the delays, saying it is the minister's task to report to the Cabinet in order to take proper measures against them. Delays in the completion of projects creates multiple problems in the community, because a delay in the completion of a residential city will cause problems for those waiting to get housing, and will add extra pressure on a family that will have to stay longer in rented flats. Delays in the completion of roads may cause problems for motorists and lead to traffic jams.

There have been multiple studies on the reasons for delays in the completion of major projects. Contractors are the main reason for the delay, along with the failure of planning and construction programs. Ambiguity in the goals of many construction projects in terms of quality, cost and time is also part of the main reasons causing the delay.

Kuwait needs foreign technology and needs to attract investment companies, but this cannot be done without the provision of facilities to get visas, serious implementation of laws and fighting corruption and bribery. Otherwise, the future will not be as bright as some believe.

MPs CONDEMN GOVT'S LACK OF VISION ON SILK CITY

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliament's public facilities committee is due to discuss a proposal to establish a public authority for Silk City and Boubyan Island in a meeting today. Informed parliamentary sources said MPs were dissatisfied with the government's lack of vision about the Silk City project and stressed that the bill would not be passed this term because the government still needs to provide the committee with more information about the project.

Bills to be debated

MP Faisal Al-Shaye stressed that a number of bills were expected to be passed before the end of the National Assembly's 14th legislative term, including those on public tenders, regulating the profession of pharmacists, amending the real estate registry law and the parliamentary elections law.

Violations

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi is due to preside a meeting of heads of municipal sectors next week to discuss preparations to combat and end violations.

KRCS TO PROVIDE IFTAR MEALS TO SYRIAN FAMILIES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday that it would distribute iftar (breaking-fast) meals to about 30,000 Syrian refugee families across Lebanon during the holy month of Ramadan, which falls in June. Concluding a delegation's visit to Lebanon, KRCS' head Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said in a statement that the society would also hand out clothes of Eid Al-Fitr to more than 2,000 Syrian refugee families in Lebanon.

KRCS organizes these campaigns for the fourth year in a row, he said, adding that they are seeking to improve standards of living of Syrian families suffering from tough conditions. The aid is part of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Humanitarian Leader, aiming to support Syrian people, he noted. Sayer reiterated Kuwait's keenness to constantly provide such a humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees. He pointed out that the delegation's visit was successful, indicating that a deal was signed with International Committee of the Red Cross to treat and rehabilitate amputees, and another one was inked with Qatar Red Crescent Society for treating premature babies. Kuwait is a major country supporting Syrian refugees in a number of countries, mainly Lebanon, since the outbreak of the crisis. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Environment police, Environment Public Authority (EPA) and municipality inspectors yesterday raided a sheep pen in Rai that was used as a slaughterhouse without a license. Officials said following the operation that the pen's owner was going to be summoned for questioning. — Photos By Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: The Environmental Police carried out an inspection tour at the coastline in Khairan and Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City yesterday, in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority (EPA). It came to inspect constructions' compliance with the environmental impact assessment (EIA) system. The officers also checked over individuals' commitment to protecting the environment, as well as their compliance with the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) agreement that Kuwait signed.

In Brief

YEMEN TALKS

KUWAIT: UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad met with the delegations of Ansarullah movement and General People's Congress (GPC) in Kuwait yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed several main issues, primarily militant withdrawal mechanisms, handover of weapons, resumption of political dialogue, restoration of state facilities and release of prisoners and detainees. They also addressed necessary safeguards and assurances for the application of agreements and deals reached by Yemeni rivals within the framework of agreed terms of reference. — KUNA



CRIME PREVENTION

VIENNA: The UN's Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on Friday concluded its 25th session in Vienna with significant resolutions. Discussions covered various topics, topped with criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the financing of terrorism, and technical assistance in support of the implementation of relevant international conventions and protocols, Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations Sadiq Marafi said. — KUNA



FIELD TRIPS

TUNIS: Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Subaih, on Friday, made field trips to rehabilitation centers for people with special needs, with the view to examine the methods Tunisia follows in the rehabilitation process. "It is possible that we in Kuwait could draw from the experiences of Tunisia in running such rehabilitation centers," she said in a statement to the media. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Visitors walk by inside the Shaheed Park in Kuwait City with skyscrapers in the background. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

KRCS HANDS OUT AID TO 1,200 DISPLACED FAMILIES NEAR IRBIL



IRBIL: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed yesterday humanitarian aid to about 1,200 internally displaced families near Irbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region. Kuwait's Consul General in the region Dr Omar Al-Kandari said that the aid is part of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah seeking to alleviate suffering of the displaced families.

Yesterday's assistance is the fifth phase of a humanitarian campaign launched by the society this year to aid Iraqi families in the region, he said. The aid was mainly given to those who are facing tough conditions in terms of a lack of services and humanitarian supplies, and living outside camps, numbering 90 percent, he added.

As part of getting acquainted with these conditions, the

consul noted that he met with some internally displaced families, revealing that many are in a dire need of health services and humanitarian supplies. He reiterated that the campaign will continue providing aid to needy people across Iraq, mainly the region.

Meanwhile, Yousef Al-Meraj, head of KRCS' disaster and emergency management, told KUNA that the aid, in collab-

oration with some Iraqi charities, was distributed to the displaced families in the cities of Al Anbar, Mosul, Saladin, Diyala and others. The campaign aims to provide aid and supplies to the displaced families before the holy month of Ramadan, he said. He stressed that the society has a comprehensive and an ambitious program aiming to relieve those who did not benefit from the previous aid. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Argentinian Ambassador to Kuwait Jorge Omar Antonio Biga hosted a ceremony recently to celebrate Argentina's National Day. Kuwaiti government officials led by Housing Minister Yasser Abul, ambassadors and other dignitaries attended the event, which took place at Crowne Plaza Hotel. — Photos by Joseph Shagra.



LEXUS CERTIFIED CAR OFFERS

LOW MILEAGE GUARANTEED

MINIMUM ONE YEAR WARRANTY

FULL LEXUS SERVICE HISTORY AT AL-SAYER

COMPREHENSIVE 75 POINTS CHECK

TRADE IN OFFER AVAILABLE

SEDAN MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
ES350	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	30,215	11,500
ES350	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	44,213	11,000
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	41,045	10,250
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	52,715	9,750
GS350	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	38,503	12,750
GS350	2013	Crimson CS. GF	Beige	49,199	11,750
IS350	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	14,592	11,500
IS350	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	45,782	11,000
IS300C	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	54,701	8,500
LS460	2015	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	31,286	22,500
LS460	2015	Fire Agate M.M	Tan	16,939	24,500
LS460	2015	Starlight Black GF	Beige	11,190	20,000
LS460	2014	White Pearl CS	Tan	20,938	21,750
LS460	2014	Fire Agate M.M	Beige	21,805	17,750
LS460	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	40,673	17,000
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF	Tan	44,989	18,000
LS460	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Tan	63,648	16,500
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	34,919	18,500
LS460	2013	Fire Agate M.M	Beige	28,989	17,500
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	58,548	17,500
LS600h	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	17,324	18,750
RC F	2015	White Nova GF	Beige	13,070	19,000

SUV MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
GX460	2015	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	9,173	17,000
GX460	2013	SS Gray M.M	Beige	73,526	12,000
GX460	2013	Fire Agate M.M	Beige	24,023	12,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	30,269	22,500
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	18,364	23,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	29,823	23,750
LX570	2015	Starlight Black GF	Beige	25,724	23,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	23,731	24,000
LX570	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	64,864	20,750
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	32,027	22,500
LX570	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	40,790	21,750
LX570	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	25,773	22,000
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	22,047	22,500
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	49,525	22,500
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	21,293	22,500
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	66,119	20,000
LX570	2014	Mercury Gray MC	Beige	56,314	20,500
RX350	2015	Mercury Gray MC	Tan	31,890	12,750
RX350	2015	Starlight Black GF	Beige	32,184	13,500
RX350	2013	Starlight Black GF	Tan	54,154	11,750
RX350	2013	Mercury Gray MC	Beige	22,291	10,500
RX350	2013	Quartz White CS	Beige	40,134	11,750

Cars mentioned in this advert might vary upon availability



القبريس

Al-Qabas

JUDAISM AND US

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The number of Jews around the world is no more than 15 million, and despite their small number, their presence internationally and their influence - politically, scientifically, technically and economically - is manifold their number.

It is not known, accurately, why they are so vastly distinguished and superior compared to others, as they are the best educated and live longer compared to other minorities. It is thought that their superiority is due to certain aspects, and there is nothing abnormal in these aspects, and not because of their wish to be isolated. Their mixing and intermarriage with others in Europe was normal, before Hitler came and separated them and sought to eradicate them. It is also not possible to say that their refusal to marry others, out of religious considerations and avoiding having their offspring remain less mixed with the blood of others, is the reason behind their superiority, because the opposite is more accurate.

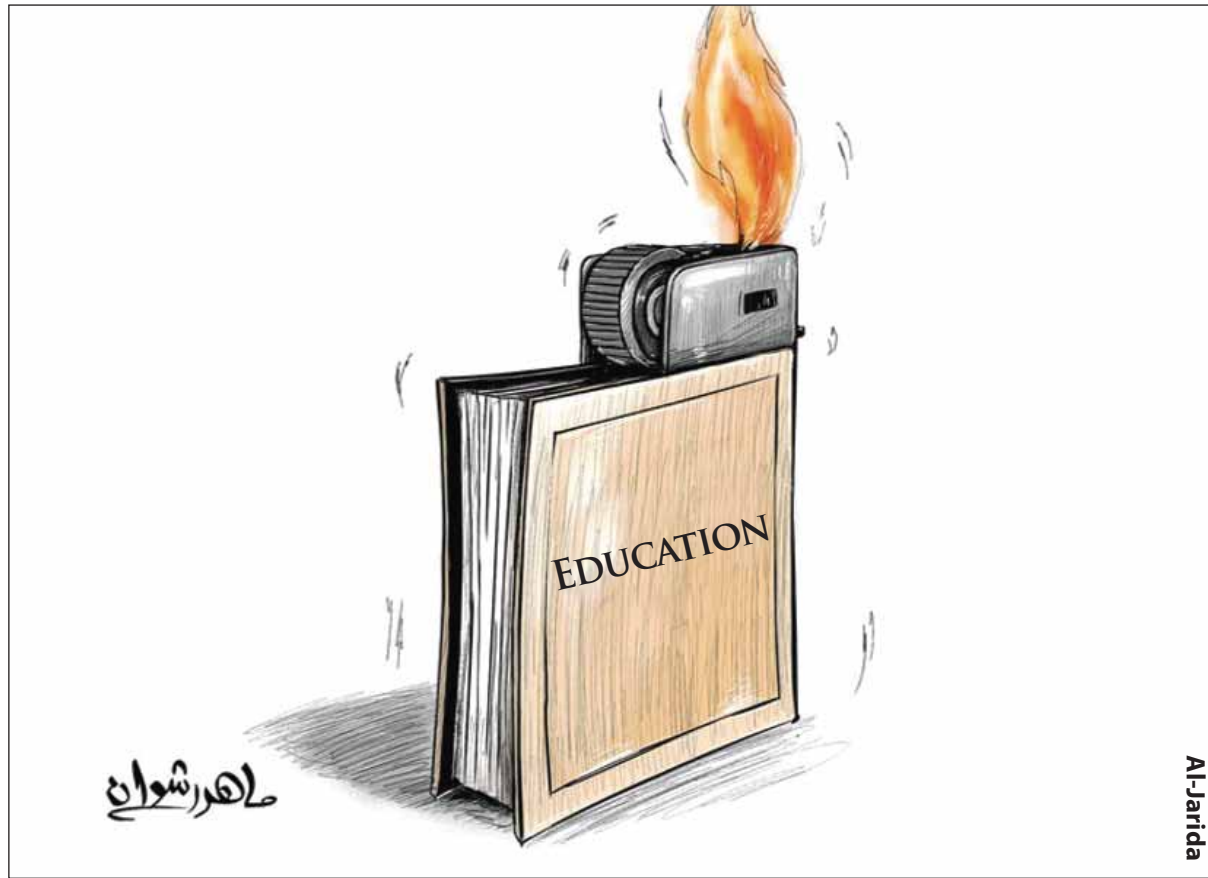
So, there only remain reasons that go to their historic belief that they are, as a race that follows a certain religion, better than others, because they discovered early the idea of heavenly religion, which is more complicated compared with the religions of that era, which were less complicated in their content and core. They also lived in worry among their societies, and this prompted them to seek education and learn, and be superior to others and protect their race.

So, it is not strange to notice the advanced status of universities and research centers in Israel, which was established less than 70 years ago, over their Arab counterparts, which go back 1,000 years, and do not have any scientific status to be mentioned. So, the Jews' superiority can be attributed to their love of freedom and knowledge. They benefited from the environment of freedom and scientific knowledge in controlling the nerve of power at the international level, which is building wealth, and concentrated and developed it.

There is also another reason for their superiority other than the extreme interest in sciences, which has an important role, which is their belief in freedom, and the religious one in particular. Most notable Jews in the world, especially during the past two centuries, were mostly not religious. So, Jews winning 180 Nobel prizes in various sciences is not an accident or due to the strength of the Zionist lobby, or the West's support for them - rather it is because religious and intellectual freedom allows them a vast space for creativity without fear of punishment.

So, it is not strange for us to be less able to create knowledge or spread it, as the late researcher Abdelwahab Al-Meseeri said in his encyclopedia. Despite the majority of Jews' conviction in the correctness of their beliefs, they are not affected by the criticism and ridicule they and their religious symbols receive, and the portrayal of them comically by the most famous comedians of the world, mostly Jews. Despite this, their religion has survived over 3,500 years! But for us, we find that a simple drawing drives us crazy and makes our blood boil, which does not boil even a day over all this backwardness that we are going through.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



الجزيرة

Al-Jarida

280

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

I still insist that our problems in Kuwait are not political, but rather the result of systematic cultural deterioration planned by the state and its allies. Over decades, they managed to deform the true Kuwaiti identity that relies on diversity, openness, creativity in various fields and the resulting development, before the government made allies with the powers of 'darkness'.

Kuwait will never get back on the development and evolution track. I repeat, it will NEVER get back - by one or four votes, with an elected or appointed government, or with one or 50 electoral constituencies - under the present circumstances. Our crisis is one of ethics, not organization. So, what will ever change if we focus on political reform without enhancing communal awareness of right and wrong?

Wasta, violating public funds with the excuse of getting overseas treatment or building a house committing construction violations, getting a traffic ticket written off, faking sickness to take sick leaves, turning blind eyes to thieving relatives or selecting lawmakers according to their tribal or religious affiliations are all mistakes that can only be solved by culture and boosting awareness.

This I believe is doable with the presence of someone like NCCAL's Secretary General Ali Al-Youha in

office. I know for sure that bringing this man to office was not the result of government wisdom, but just like what happened with several others, it was accidentally done, and yet they managed to develop the sectors or establishments they ran.

A few weeks ago, a local daily said that Kuwait hosted 280 cultural activities since the beginning of the year, ie three activities per day including weekends and holidays. This is absolutely high according to international statistics and might even be the highest. This number does not include the usual cultural festivals held in Kuwait.

This huge amount of culture in our society and the diversity of cultural activities hosted by Kuwait prove two things. First, it shows how thirsty Kuwaitis are for culture, and secondly, how far officials responsible for cultural activities in Kuwait believe in the real meaning of social reform based on diversity and openness. I am not only talking about NCCAL. Other bodies such as Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya, LOYAC, Noqat and many other centers are following in the same footsteps.

Finally, I can only say that these centers and people are the true essence of reclaiming and reforming our society.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

TRANSFERS TO BE CANCELLED IF NOT FINALIZED WITHIN A MONTH

KUWAIT: The Public Manpower Authority recently issued some decisions to organize the local labor market, including cancelling visa transfers if workers do not complete the needed procedures within a month. A directive circulated by the manpower authority to various labor departments explained that employees on open-ended contracts working for

monthly payments have to respect a three-month resignation notice period, and a one-month notice period by other workers. The authority also explained that upon employers' approval, workers could pay instead of working during the notice period, and if employers refuse, workers would have to prove this at the labor department relations unit. — Al-Anbaa

KUWAITI IS MEMBERS, FROM JAHRA TO RAQQA

KUWAIT: According to records, many Kuwaitis have fled their homes and abandoned their families in Kuwait to join the Islamic State terrorist organization in Raqqa, the capital of the so-called caliphate in Syria, and pledged allegiance to its leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. Some of these Kuwaitis returned and returned to Kuwait full of regret, others are still in the quest for winning the company of 'hours' in heaven, while some have perished in suicide bombings or executions.

Jihadists have revealed that dozens of Kuwaitis are fighting with IS, and that 2014 witnessed the biggest exodus of Kuwait's to join IS. The recruits were mainly from Jahra, but recently, Kuwaitis from urban areas have started joining IS as well. A friend of a repentant Kuwaiti IS member who fled back to Kuwait said that his friend had a military background and was subjected to a seven-month training

camp, before he was appointed as a military trainer and operations commander.

But he once saw Syrian fighters fly above IS troops without bombing them, and this raised many questions in his mind, that were responded to by throwing him in prison. The friend added that the prison was attacked by Jaish al-Islam militants to free a Saudi, and they helped him reach Turkey, where he was arrested and handed over to the Kuwaiti embassy.

Another recruit was Abu Monzer (Fahd Al-Enezi), who was executed by Jaish al-Islam for accusing other Muslims of being non-believers. Yet another recruit was Abu Anwar Al-Kuwaiti (Abdul Aziz Anwar Al-Mass), who grew up in South Surra and travelled to the US to study technology, but ended up heading to Turkey to join IS after contacting them on social media. He eventually blew himself up in an attack on an Iraqi military convoy. — Al-Rai

QUOTA FOR EACH EXPAT NATIONALITY: SUBAIH

KUWAIT: Kuwait's demographic imbalance problem has not been resolved yet, and it seems that some of the suggested solutions involve setting quotas for each nationality according to their numbers in Kuwait. Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih said that the Cabinet discussed a study during its last meeting on Kuwait's demographic structure and referred it to the educational ministry committee to prepare a final report.

"We have been preparing the study for long," Subaih noted, adding that it took time to make sure the plan would help organize the labor market, especially with the increase in the numbers of marginal laborers. Subaih added that the Cabinet is still waiting for the final report detailing each community's population compared to that of Kuwaitis, so that a quota could be set per nationality.



Minister Hind Al-Subaih

Notably, the report showed that citizens were only 31 percent of the population according to the 2014 census, because recruiting expats was not being done according to a specific demographic policy. — Al-Rai

JUDICIARY INQUIRES ABOUT CITIZENSHIPS' WITHDRAWAL

KUWAIT: The administrative court recently asked the Fatwa and Legislation Department whether the Kuwaiti citizenships of Kuwaitis with dual nationality can be withdrawn without giving them the option to choose which one to keep. This inquiry was made during hearing a case filed by a citizen whose citizenship was withdrawn for having a Saudi one as well, said security sources, noting that the man's children did not hold Saudi

citizenship, and thus they became stateless.

Informed sources added that the citizen's children said that their father had not been questioned or given a choice to choose one of the citizenships before his Kuwaiti citizenship was withdrawn, as stipulated by law. The sources added that the Fatwa and Legislation Department had been asked the same question five times this year without any response so far. — Al-Qabas

PRIVATE SCHOOL FEES

KUWAIT: The parliament's educational committee meets this week with private school owners and the association of parents of private school students in order to discuss the fees' issue as the panel prepares to finish the private education law. Committee Chairman MP Dr Oudha Al-Ruwa'ie reiterated the need for a mechanism that includes certain criteria and specifications based on which the fees' increase process would be controlled. This week's meeting attempts to reach a common ground between the parties involved regarding these criteria, Ruwa'ie said, adding that the panel is also set to meet Education Ministry officials led by minister Dr Bader Al-Essa in two weeks to discuss the draft law. — Al-Anbaa



MP Dr Oudha Al-Ruwa'ie



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently celebrated the graduation of the second batch of personal banking employees from the CBK Academy in Faihaa.

Crime

Report

Thieves escaped after failed ATM robbery

KUWAIT: Burglars failed in stealing an automated teller machine (ATM) from Qashaniya co-op and abandoned it after dragging it out of the co-op, said security sources. Case papers indicate that someone reported the theft and policemen immediately rushed to the scene to find that the burglars had broken open the co-op door, tied the ATM to a 4x4 vehicle and dragged it out for about 10 m before they decided to dump it, thinking that someone had spotted them. Policemen had to use videos from surveillance cameras of surrounding shops because there were none at the co-op. A case was filed and a search is on for the suspects.

Domestic violence

A woman filed a complaint against her husband, accusing him of assault and breaking her nose, said security sources. The wife explained that she found that her husband had only married her because he was after her money. She added that he had been asking her to give him a power of attorney for a while and when she refused, he assaulted her. A case was filed and the husband is being summoned for further investigations.

Inspection campaigns

Security sources recently launched several inspection campaigns in various areas that resulted in arresting gamblers, absconders, drug abusers, liquor traffickers, wanted people and illegal residents, said security sources.

Burglar in custody

A citizen with a criminal record was arrested for stealing several handbags and purses women had left in their vehicles before going for a job, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected someone weaving amongst parked vehicles in a suspicious way, and on approaching him, he ran, but was chased and arrested. The thief initially claimed that he had been jogging, but later confessed that was getting ready to break open a vehicle and steal its contents. The suspect admitted that he was new in the 'business' and that he had only stolen five women's bags.

Accusations

A citizen and three board members of a co-op society exchanged accusations of assault and robbery, said security sources. Two cases were filed and further investigations are in progress.

Maid charged with theft

A female citizen reported that her Asian housemaid had stolen KD 690 from her bedroom and fled the house, said security sources. A case was filed and a search is on for the suspect.

Brothel busted

A brothel was stormed in Rabiya, where security men arrested a pimp and four Asian prostitutes. Security sources said policemen also found a large amount of aphrodisiacs.

Home robbery

An Iraqi man reported that burglars had broken into his house in Taima in Jahra and stolen three million Iraqi dinars and a number of passports, said security sources.

Beggar arrested

A female Gulf national was arrested while begging in a Fahaheel market, said security sources. She was taken to the proper authorities for further action. — Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

News

in brief

Airport contract to be signed tomorrow

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Dr Ali Al-Omar is set tomorrow to sign the contract for the new airport project (Terminal 2) with Limak - the Turkish company that won the project's tender. After the deal becomes official, the first stage of the project - which is expected to take nine months - would include diggings for the building's main infrastructures. — Al-Qabas

'Awqaf' employees questioned

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry summoned a number of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs employees for questioning to reveal how a swindler managed to collect cash donations inside mosques in violation of the law. A Jordanian man was recently arrested after collecting thousands of dinars while giving religious sermons dressed as a religious cleric and asking for donations. The Awqaf ministry employees in question face punitive action if they were found guilty of negligence. — Al-Qabas

Construction laws

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality plans today to disconnect power from properties found in violation of construction laws, such as banning the building of floors over the three-story maximum limit. Director of the municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi urged municipality officials during a recent meeting to continue their campaigns which started last week and include taking strict measures against violators without exceptions. — Al-Qabas

Staff attendance

KUWAIT: A study recently confirmed that around 80 percent of state departments have committed violations pertaining with activating the fingerprints' system for staff attendance. As a result, the cabinet reportedly formed a committee to monitor the process of enforcing the system and take punitive actions stat officials who refuse to comply. — Al-Qabas

Farm owners compensated

KUWAIT: The government plans soon to form a committee to study proper ways to compensate owners of farms that would be removed to make way for the metro and railway projects, which will be constructed as part of the GCC railway project. Possible options include paying farm owners cash compensations or giving them alternative farms in locations that do not conflict with the project's route, an informed source said. — Al-Anbaa

No blackouts

KUWAIT: Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar asserted that this summer is not expected to feature any blackout as a result of consumption overload, after the ministry prepared with a maximum daily production capacity of up to 15,000 megawatts. — Al-Jarida

Kuwait Times International

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016



Small WWII-era airplane crashes in Hudson River

Page 9

HEZBOLLAH MINISTERS, MPs COULD BE HIT BY NEW US LAW

Page 8



FLORIDA: Travelers stand in line as they prepare to be screened at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. — AP

AIRPORT TRADE GROUP OPPOSES NEW CHECKPOINTS

MONTREAL: The United Nation's aviation agency should avoid creating new checkpoints outside airport terminals as it draws up proposed global guidelines to improve security in the wake of recent attacks on travelers, the head of Airports Council International said on Friday. Angela Gittens, director general of the global airport trade group, said she did not want external checkpoints, which are being debated as a way to deter attacks on airports, to become part of a proposed global security standard for public areas because the additional lineup could create a new target.

The UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) last week discussed creating a new standard that could push countries to come up with security rules for public sections of airports. Security in these so-called landside areas is run by a patchwork of local and state authorities, depending on the country. "Most airports were not built to have people congregate at doors," Gittens said in her first interview on the proposed standard. "And every time you stop people, you're interfering with what airports were supposed to be doing. You're trapping people in a line where if something did happen these people would not be able to scatter."

Montreal-based ICAO sets standards that its 191 member states typically adopt as regulatory requirements. The agency's council would vote on any proposed changes to airport security only at year's end, or in 2017, two sources familiar with the confidential talks said on condition of anonymity. While global security guidelines already exist for closed areas limited to passengers with boarding passes, the ICAO has not set standards for public sections of airports. Even before a March attack on a Brussels airport, the agency was already discussing ways to improve security after a Metrojet plane crashed in Egypt last year. A US congressional panel heard this week that more than 70,000 American Airlines customers missed their flights this year and 40,000 checked bags failed to be loaded on scheduled flights because of airport screening delays. — Reuters



RENAULT
Passion for life

Renault DUSTER

Complete peace of mind for **10** years

with a chance to win back your car in Ramadan*

Starting from
3,800 KD



+ FREE

- 10 Years warranty / 500,000 km
- 2 Years service / 40,000 km
- Free registration & 3rd party insurance
- Raffle Draw on 1 Car (Win Your Car Back)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUOTATION, VISIT OUR RENAULT STORE AT AL-BAYT OR WWW.RENAULT.KW

© 2016 Renault. All rights reserved.



1 804 888
Customer Care Center

شركة عبد المحسن عبد العزيز البابتين
Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. WLL



LARGEST US MUSLIM CENTER TARGETS SPIKE IN ISLAMOPHOBIA

LANHAM: Sitting on a red and green carpet inside a mosque in a suburb of Washington, Nabill Abdulle describes an invisible force. You can't see it, he says, but "it's there." Islamophobia haunts the Muslims of Lanham, Maryland - 30 minutes north of the US capital-as the country's divisive election campaign fuels fears already heightened by Islamic State group attacks in Brussels and Paris. So hopes are riding high on the inauguration of the town's new Islamic center, and its ability to help win over Americans' trust.

The Diyanet Center of America is the largest such facility in the country, a massive complex surrounding a mosque built in 16th-century Ottoman style. The Turkish government financed and built the \$110 million center. At its inauguration last month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan devoted half his speech to denouncing the "anti-Muslim atmosphere" in the United States during an election campaign dominated by the rhetoric of Republican presumptive nominee Donald Trump, who has proposed banning all Muslim visitors.

The new center, Erdogan promised, could reverse the trend. Abdulle has

never visited the complex in person, but hopes the Turkish leader is right. "Christians in general don't know a lot of Muslims personally," says the 24-year-old. "It's just a lack of understanding." His own mosque, five minutes from the new center, opened in 1994 in a single-story red-brick building that also houses the Prince George's County Muslim Association and still serves the majority of Lanham's Muslim community. "We talk about Islamophobia a lot because this is an escalating issue," the association's religious director Ahmad Azaari says from his office facing the prayer hall, his thick salt-and-pepper beard flowing down his chest. He blames Trump's "incessant" diatribes against Islam. "The issue of Islamophobia is one of the main points of our agenda for six months now." Azaari aims to teach Muslims to practice Islam "in a way that will tell American people that we are American like you, that we love this land, we respect the laws of this land, we love this soil," he says. He says Muslims in the United States-who are estimated to number around 3.3 million according to the Pew Research Center-have to constantly prove themselves to be patriotic. The new Islamic center

could help, he says, by acting as a bridge between communities.

Operation Seduction

It's had a promising start. In a residential area surrounded by expensive houses, construction of the Diyanet Center prompted no hostility in an area known for strong reactions to much less ambitious projects. Built by the Turkish government, the new center is "completely different" from other mosques in the United States, which are typically built by local Muslims, Azaari says. Decorated with gardens designed for tourists as well as locals, the center includes a museum of Islamic art, Turkish bath, Olympic-sized swimming pool, sports fields and a library, all aimed at attracting visitors.

The fight against Islamophobia is "one of the objectives," says Diyanet secretary general Ahmet Aydilek at the entrance of the mosque whose marble pillars, inlaid gold writing and stained glass recall the splendor of the Ottoman Empire's golden era. To that end, the center has hosted no fewer than 400 visits by groups representing various beliefs in the past six months. It also hosts "inter-religious activities,"



WASHINGTON: Rep Keith Ellison (D-MN) speaks during a press conference about Islamophobia at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. — AFP

inviting local synagogue and church members to use the center's extensive facilities.

All that "maybe has sent the right message," Aydilek says. "All these messages about Islamophobia and the bigotry and hateful messages especially brought by the politicians are happening during the election cycle," he says. "We are thinking and hoping that these

are all temporary." Residents living near the center agree. "This is wonderful for tourism and also to have an interfaith type of situation where people can learn about each other," Louise Werner says. Were Trump to visit, Aydilek says, he would be welcome. His presence would "send the right message to the Muslims in this country," and provide an opportunity to bury the hatchet.— AFP



DALA: Moe La Htike, 8 (center) carries drinking water collected from a pond in Dala township, south of Yangon, Myanmar. — AP

MYANMAR PINS HOPES ON SUU KYI AS LINES FORM FOR WATER

DALA: Every year at this time, the ponds and wells go dry. People walk for hours to fill their plastic buckets at a lotus-filled pond that is the only clean source of drinking water in this community outside Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon. The dry season, which typically runs from April through May, has been compounded this year by an El Niño-induced drought that added several months to the water shortage affecting Dala township. But this year's dry season has also ushered in a new sense of hope.

The arrival of Aung San Suu Kyi's government on April 1 opened a new chapter in Myanmar. The Nobel Peace laureate heads the first civilian government after a half-century of military control, meaning the people have great expectations and the democracy crusader has an enormous list of challenges. "I hope we can get away from this trouble under the new government," said 35-year-old villager Aye Aye Tin, a mother of seven who lined up with dozens of others at the pond, which is fenced off and padlocked. It opens to the public between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., because there's only so much water to go around.

Suu Kyi's government has been digging wells for villagers facing water shortages across the country, as part of the government's plan for its first 100 days in office. But the needs are still enormous, and many communities, including Dala, have yet to receive much help. "I am very tired at the end of the day from carrying heavy buckets of water back and forth. I cannot even move at night, but this is how we have to survive," Aye Aye Tin said. Myanmar is one

of the poorest nations in the world. Decades of military rule have devastated the country's infrastructure.

Unemployment and economic stagnation have become the norm. Droughts, floods, pest infestations and limited agricultural supplies have contributed to the country's desperate need for food and water. A quasi-civilian government in power from 2011-2015 implemented nascent democratic reforms that have resulted in a development boom, with the World Bank and others pouring billions of dollars into the country of 60 million as it starts to open up to the world. But so far, it is mostly the big cities that are seeing the benefits.

The current drought has hit Myanmar hard, along with neighboring countries in Southeast Asia. "Myanmar has faced water shortages for more than a decade, but it was never this bad before," said Tun Lwin, an independent meteorologist and former director of the Department of Meteorology. "This year about 2,000 villages are facing water shortage problems, about triple the number usually affected."

Most ponds in Dala township dried up in February. And communities in the area fear their access to water will become even more limited before the rains come. The rainy season usually starts in mid-May but is late this year. "If there is no rain and if the water level of the pond goes down a lot, we will have to ask people to collect water only a few days in a week instead of allowing them an hour every day," said Hla Myit, secretary general the village's reservoir conversation committee.— AP

ELITE S AFRICAN MINE RESCUE SQUAD RISKS ALL TO SAVE LIVES

CARLETONVILLE: In a dark, smoke-filled mine shaft, a group of South African rescue trainees heave and gasp after crawling through a narrow steel pipe-but commands shouted by an instructor urge them onwards. "Number four, what is your oxygen reading?" he yells. "170, captain," comes the muffled answer from behind an oxygen mask, the exhausted trainee at pains not to sound weak.

Few make it into the elite squad of the Mines Rescue Services (MRS), dedicated to saving lives in a country with the deepest mines in the world. The trainees have only one shot at becoming a "brigadesman", as the rescuers are known. There is no second chance if you fail the initial one-week training course. The eight candidates, already down by two men, are linked at the waist by a harness. They navigate along the claustrophobic, winding pipe on their stomachs, with 14.8 kilogram of breathing apparatus on their backs, testing their tolerance for confined spaces and ability to work in a team. Other drills involve climb-

ing steep stairs underground in full rescue kit and throwing 25 kilogram sandbags and steel bars over a 1.5 meter wall. "We usually start with a group of about 10 or 12 guys, but only about six or seven finish the course," said assistant superintendent Gerrit Beukes. The gruelling training could be mistaken for army exercises, preparing the recruits for precarious rescue missions underground where they fight fires and retrieve mineworkers trapped by rockfalls and other disasters. "We are working with people's lives, there is no room for mistakes, that is why we cannot lower the training standards," Beukes said.

In a country dotted with gold, platinum, coal and diamond mines, MRS members are regularly called out to help. It's a voluntary service that requires fierce fitness and mining expertise, which is why all brigadesmen are required to be active mineworkers and to take regular refresher courses. There are about 900 of them across the country, ready to be activated at a moment's notice during times of disaster.—AFP

TURKISH MUSLIMS DEMAND RIGHT TO PRAY IN FORMER BYZANTINE CHURCH

IMAM LEADS PRAYER IN FRONT OF HAGIA SOPHIA

ISTANBUL: Thousands of Muslim worshippers descended yesterday on Istanbul's world famous Hagia Sophia, the towering former Byzantine church that is now a museum, to demand the right to pray there, Turkish media reported. An imam led a prayer in front of the vast building that was once a Greek Orthodox basilica, then a mosque and now a museum before crowds called for it to be restored as a Muslim place of worship.

"Let the chains break, open Hagia Sophia," chanted the crowds who gathered on the plaza in front of the museum, according to Turkey's Dogan news agency. "In the name of

thousands of our brothers we demand to be allowed to pray inside the Hagia Sophia mosque," said Salih Turhan, the president of the Anatolia Youth Association which organized the demonstration coinciding with celebrations for the anniversary of the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople. Built in the sixth century, Hagia Sophia, which means Holy Wisdom in Greek, was converted to a mosque in 1453 when the Ottomans conquered what was then called Constantinople.

After the Ottoman Empire crumbled and modern secular Turkey was founded on its ruins, the mosque was transformed into a

museum in 1935. The edifice, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture, features an immense dome supported by huge pillars, its walls sheathed with marble and decorated with mosaics. After the city fell to the armies of Sultan Mehmet II The Conqueror, four minarets were added to the structure and the interior was decorated with Islamic art. Since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's conservative ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002, advocates of Turkish secularism have feared that the Hagia Sophia could be transformed back into a mosque.— AFP

LIFE BETTER IN DUTERTE'S DRUG HEARTLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES

DAVAO: Life in the slums of Davao became much easier after a fearsome drugs crackdown enforced by mayor-turned president Rodrigo Duterte, awed residents say, offering an insight into what the Philippines can expect under its new leader. Fernando Totor, who for two decades has scraped by selling coconut wine, used to watch his neighbors in their seaside shantytown openly trade crystal methamphetamine-a hyper-addictive drug known locally as "shabu". "The drug problem here was huge, it was sickening," Totor, 55 said as glassy-eyed men sat on wooden benches at sunset drinking his ultra-cheap drink out of plastic cups. "Now it's okay. It's better." Totor lives in Isla Verde, a slum for thousands in the southern city of Davao that firebrand lawyer Duterte has ruled as mayor for most of the past two decades.

Duterte won last week's presidential election in a landslide largely on a pledge to roll out his city's law-and-order policies nationally. The controversial and acid-tongued politician captivated millions of Filipinos, and enraged his critics, with vows of ruthless tactics to end crime within six months. Duterte warned security forces would kill tens of thousands of criminals, and forget human rights as he eradicated the scourge of drugs that many voters rated their top concern. Duterte's campaign threats were backed by his rule in Davao, where he has been accused of running or tolerating death squads that killed more than 1,000 suspects.

Discipline welcomed

But while critics howled at imminent bloodshed and human rights abuses, many residents in Isla Verde-one of Davao's longtime drug hotspots-felt no such concerns. "He has done a great job in instilling discipline here," said Totor, complaining only that residents still dumped their garbage outside their shanties. Totor said the crackdown a few years ago scared him and many others, as heavily armed police raided shanties looking for drug traffickers. One man with a pistol who resisted arrest was shot dead, according to Totor, although he said the police were in general polite and orderly. Another longtime resident, mother-of-three Analyn Pilpa, also embraced the crackdown, similarly saying it had not extinguished the drug trade but at least made life bearable.

"It's relatively OK now, the drugs have lessened," said Pilpa, whose husband earns less than \$100 a month driving a rubbish collection truck and doing handyman jobs. "Now at least I feel I can walk around at night." In another Davao slum, a mother who lost four sons to what she and rights groups believe were the death squads has warned of the dangers of a Duterte presidency. The squads-made up of police and hired assassins-killed people suspected of serious and petty crimes, according to rights groups. Clarita Alia's sons-who had been involved in run-ins with police-were aged between 14 and 18 when they were

killed. "He has no morals," Alia said before the election.

No apologies

After the election, Duterte confirmed he would make the war on crime his top priority. "Those who kill my country will be killed. Simple as that. No middle ground. No apologies. No excuses," he said on Monday. Duterte also pledged to roll out less controversial but still ultra-strict Davao law-and-order policies, such as a late-night ban on serving alcohol and a curfew for children. Pilpa, the young mother, said those rules, as well as a late-night ban on the national passion of karaoke, had dramatically calmed the Isla Verde community.

Sitting alongside Pilpa on concrete steps of a ramshackle building facing the ocean, 67-year-old Gnaro Sumading said he voted for Duterte in the elections. Sumading said his eldest son, now aged 43, was in jail on drugs charges and had been beaten badly by police when arrested in Isla Verde a couple of years ago. Sumading insisted his son was innocent. Yet he did not blame Duterte for the perceived injustice, and instead praised him for fighting drugs in the community. Sumading, who earns about \$4 a day doing menial jobs, also recalled Duterte's personal touch in the aftermath of a huge fire in 2014 that destroyed many homes. "He came here and gave people money and rice," said Sumading. "He helps the poor."—AFP



TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (right) meets with members of the family, including the son Ali (2nd right) of Mustafa Badreddin, a top Hezbollah commander who was killed in an attack in Syria. Hezbollah has accused Islamist extremists of killing Badreddine, but did not name any single group. —AFP

HEZBOLLAH'S MINISTERS, MPs COULD BE HIT BY NEW US LAW

BEIRUT: Ministers and members of parliament belonging to Lebanon's Hezbollah could be sanctioned under a new US law targeting the group's finances, a US Treasury official said. The US Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act (HIFPA) passed in December threatens sanctions against anyone who finances Hezbollah in a significant way. It has ignited an unprecedented dispute between Lebanon's most powerful group - the heavily armed Hezbollah - and a central bank widely seen as a pillar of the otherwise weak and dysfunctional Lebanese state.

When asked in an interview with television

channel LBC if the law could be applied to Hezbollah ministers and MPs in Lebanon, the US Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing Daniel Glaser said: "We don't make a distinction among Hezbollah members." Iran-backed Hezbollah, whose fighters played a major role in forcing Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in 2000, enjoys strong support in the Lebanese Shiite community. Its members include government ministers, MPs, and local councilors.

Classified as a terrorist group by the United States, Hezbollah wields enormous political influence in Lebanon and its powerful military

wing is playing a major role in the Syrian conflict. The Lebanese central bank and US officials have repeatedly said the law does not target ordinary Lebanese citizens, or the Shiite community in particular, and will not adversely affect the country's financial sector. "We understand the difference between Hezbollah and the broader Shiite community," Glaser said. "We are implementing this law world wide. Obviously it has specific impact here in Lebanon because Hezbollah has a big presence here in Lebanon. But Hezbollah is the target of this legislation, not the Shiite. And I can't say that strongly enough," he said.—Reuters

IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS, TRUMP STOKES INTERNAL RIVALRIES

WASHINGTON: When Donald Trump acquired a pair of Atlantic City casinos in the mid-1980s, he pitted his managers against each other in a ferocious competition over everything from booking entertainers to attracting high-rolling gamblers. That one of those managers was his wife, Ivana Trump, didn't earn her any slack. "His tactic there, as our success surpassed the Castle's in 1987, was to shove the Plaza's performance in Ivana's face, like a mirror, holding it up for her to see the reflection of a less than successful manager," John O'Donnell, Ivana Trump's rival in the casino wars, wrote in a 1991 book.

Trump's penchant for encouraging rivalries is now roiling his presidential campaign just as he's captured the GOP nomination, creating deep uncertainty among Republicans about his preparedness for a complex and costly general election campaign. The tensions boiled over last week with the abrupt ouster of political director Rick Wile, who left the campaign after just six weeks.

Wiley found himself caught between Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, one of the businessman's original campaign staffers, and Paul Manafort, a veteran Republican hand who was brought in to bolster the operation in March. While Wiley was originally hired by Lewandowski, he aligned himself with Manafort's vision of a more robust and expensive campaign operation - a vision Trump does not appear to have fully bought into.

He also was seen as being unwilling to fill top jobs in battleground states with people close to Lewandowski, according to people familiar with the decision. Wiley did not respond to requests to discuss his tenure with the Trump campaign. Trump aides would not make the candidate avail-

able for an interview, but they did not dispute the notion that the real estate mogul encourages internal competition. "Of course there's competition because you want the best," Lewandowski said. "That's the type of mindset you have to have in the federal government."

Sam Nunberg, a former Trump aide who was fired last year, put the dynamic more bluntly: "He loves playing people against each other." Still, Nunberg said he appreciated the competitive environment, crediting it with keeping staffers creative and committed to the organization. But for other Trump aides, the businessman's cutthroat style led to mistrust and paranoia. "You can't trust the other guy's people," said Stuart Jolly, who resigned as Trump's campaign field director after Manafort and Wiley were given more power. Jolly confirmed Friday that he is joining the pro-Trump group Great America PAC as its political director.

Some current and former Trump advisers blamed the businessman for withholding information about staff changes from his team, sometimes leaving them to learn about internal developments in the media. Some have taken to shopping negative stories about their rivals to the press in a bid to undercut each other in the eyes of the boss - even if the stories reflect poorly on Trump.

Even more concerning for Trump as he eyes a likely faceoff with Democrat Hillary Clinton is the uncertainty the internal friction has created about the direction of the campaign. People close to the campaign say there are major questions about battleground state hiring, voter targeting efforts and super PAC fundraising. Those close to the campaign insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the campaign publicly. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: A woman wearing a female gender symbol attends a protest against the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AP

GANG-RAPE INTERNET VIDEO SHOCKS BRAZIL

POLICE INVESTIGATE GANG-RAPE OF 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian police were investigating the gang-rape of a 16-year-old girl whose attackers boasted about it by posting an online video that has horrified the country. Online social networks erupted with outrage over the video posted on Wednesday featuring the girl naked on a bed and the apparent rapists bragging that she had been raped by more than 30 men. They are suspected of assaulting her on May 21 in Rio de Janeiro, a city stricken by violent crime and which will host the Olympic Games in August. The authorities have promised to bring the men to justice. "Those who committed this heinous crime will be found, will be imprisoned and condemned," Justice Minister Alexandre de Moraes told a news conference in Rio Friday night.

Police have identified four of the men suspected of taking a "direct or indirect" part in the rape or the posting of the video, Rio police chief Fernando Veloso told reporters. "We cannot say whether there were 30 attackers, 33 or 36. The investigations will determine that," he said. Brazil's acting president Michel Temer and

other senior figures reacted with outrage. "I condemn most forcefully the rape of the teenager in Rio de Janeiro," he wrote on Twitter. "It is absurd that in the 21st century we should have to live with barbaric crimes such as this." The authorities are working "to find those responsible and rigorously punish the authors of this rape and the publishing of this criminal act on social networks," he said.

Brazil's 'culture of rape'

The UN women's rights agency condemned the case along with another recent alleged gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl in the northeastern state of Piaui. "Apart from the fact that these are young women, these barbaric cases are similar in that the teenagers were lured by their attackers in premeditated plots," UN Women in Brazil spokeswoman Nadine Gasman said on Thursday.

"They were violently attacked in a context of illegal drug use," Brazilian police recorded a sexual assault in the country every 11 minutes in 2014, the Brazilian non-governmental organiza-

tion Public Safety Forum said in a study, estimating that half a million such assaults take place overall each year. "This case is not unusual," said Luise Bello, spokeswoman for women's rights group Think Olga, of the Rio gang-rape. "The culture of rape is very strong in Brazil. It is part of our daily life, although people deny it." Top officials were meeting to discuss new measures to stop violence against women, Temer said.

He took over as interim president earlier this month from suspended leftist leader Dilma Rousseff, who faces an impeachment trial for allegedly fiddling government accounts. Rousseff, Brazil's first female president, also expressed outrage over the Rio case. "Once more I reiterate my condemnation of violence against women," she wrote on Facebook. Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in downtown Rio Friday night waving signs saying "Machismo Kills" and "No means no." In Sao Paulo, protesters erected a mural with messages including "My body is not yours," and "I like to wear necklines, that's not an invitation to rape me." — AFP



PALM BEACH, Florida: In this March 15, 2016 photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to supporters at his primary election night event at his Mar-a-Lago Club as campaign manager Corey Lewandowski listens at left. — AP

COLOMBIAN REBELS FREE 3 JOURNALISTS

BOGOTA: The Colombian rebel group ELN freed a prominent Spanish-Colombian journalist and two local TV reporters Friday after holding them for days. The Spanish-Colombian correspondent, Salud Hernandez-Mora, confirmed she was abducted and held by the communist guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN) and thanked the Catholic Church for facilitating her release.

Two other reporters, for the Colombian TV network RCN, were also freed, RCN said via Twitter. Hernandez-Mora, who works for the Spanish newspaper El Mundo and Colombia's El Tiempo, went missing Saturday while reporting in a region of northeast Colombia dominated by guerrilla groups and drug traffickers. Her colleagues Diego D'Pablos and Carlos Melo of RCN were then attacked and detained Monday while covering her disap-

pearance. They were freed Friday, too. Defense Minister Luis Carlos Villegas blamed the ELN for all three abductions, but the rebels have not claimed them.

Hernandez-Mora was handed over to a delegation from the Catholic Church and was traveling in a church vehicle toward the town of Ocana in the department of Norte de Santander, an editor at El Tiempo, Andres Mompotes said. He said she told him she had been treated well in captivity. Hernandez-Mora said she was "doing splendidly" in brief comments to television channel Caracol. "Thank you very much to the Catholic Church, thank you very much to all my colleagues," the 59-year-old journalist said. "Everything has happened very quickly. But my return won't be quick because, as we know, the roads in rural Colombia are a disaster."

Talks hanging in balance

The three journalists went missing in the remote and restive region of Catatumbo. Details about what happened to them have been sketchy partly because communications with the area are poor. President Juan Manuel Santos said Hernandez-Mora's release "fills us with happiness." The ELN, the country's second-largest rebel group, after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), recently agreed to begin peace talks with the government. The government says it is close to signing a peace deal with the FARC. But negotiations with the ELN have been held up by ongoing hostilities and the issue of ransom kidnappings - long the guerrillas' main source of funding. The Colombian conflict, which started as a peasant uprising in the 1960s, has drawn in various armed groups and gangs over the decades, leaving 260,000 people dead and 45,000 missing. — AFP

SMALL WWII-ERA AIRPLANE CRASHES IN HUDSON RIVER

NEW YORK: A small World War II vintage plane taking part in celebrations of its 75th anniversary flew a partial loop while smoke spewed from it and then crashed in the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey on Friday, and divers recovered a body from its sunken wreckage, police and witnesses said. The single-seat plane, a P-47 Thunderbolt, crashed on a part of the river near where a US Airways commercial jet carrying 155

people splash-landed safely in 2009 in what became known as the Miracle on the Hudson. A witness to the P-47 Thunderbolt crash, Hunter College student Siqi Li, saw smoke spewing from the plane and thought it was doing a trick.

"It made kind of a U-turn, and then there was a stream of smoke coming from it," Li told the Daily News. "It was tilting down toward the water. I thought they were doing some sort of trick. I didn't

realize it at first, but it was a plane crash." Scuba divers recovered the body of a 56-year-old man from the submerged plane about three hours later, New York Police Department Detective Michael Debonis said. Police hadn't confirmed the body was that of the pilot, the only person who was aboard the plane. The body was taken back to the New York shore via police boat. Several police officers carried a stretcher to the dock.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft, which went down near the George Washington Bridge around 7:30 pm, was among three planes that had departed from Republic Airport in Farmingdale, on Long Island, just east of New York City. The other two aircraft returned to the airport and landed safely. The American Airpower Museum is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the P-47 Thunderbolt this weekend. Museum spokesman Gary Lewi said the plane was kept at the museum and was taking part in an air show at nearby Jones Beach this weekend. "Apparently the aircraft suffered an inflight engine failure," Lewi said. "I'm told the aircraft is at the bottom of the Hudson."

The three planes, the P-47, a P-40 and a photo plane, had been flying over the Hudson to shoot promotional material for the Jones Beach air show, Lewi said. The identity of the pilot of the plane that crashed was being withheld, he said. North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue co-director Jeff Welz told The Jersey Journal that firefighters and the Coast Guard responded after the Friday night crash. He said the plane sank "pretty quickly." The P-47-Thunderbolts were the heaviest single-engine fighter planes used by Allied forces in World War II. They first went into service in 1942, with the 56th Fighter Group based on Long Island. The one that crashed in the river flew periodically, including to other air shows, Lewi said. — AP



NORTH BERGEN: Officials remove a plane out of the Hudson River a day after it crashed in North Bergen, NJ. — AP

Required

For Reputed Digital Printing Press

Senior Graphic Sales Representative

- Candidates must be with a minimum 3-5 years Experience in the same industry.
- Excellent Knowledge in graphics production process.
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills.

Salary negotiable based on Experience and skills

Please send your cv to:

hrd.graf@gmail.com

FACULTY REQUIRED

A leading private university in Kuwait is seeking highly qualified candidates (for one of its projects) to fill the position of English Language Instructor:

- Native English speaker
- BA degree in English or related discipline
- Professional certification in teaching English language (i.e. CELTA, DELTA, TESOL, ESL, ..)
- Minimum 4 years of full-time English teaching experience

If you meet the above requirements you are kindly requested to submit the following documents to: Projectmgmt@gust.edu.kw

- Updated Resume
- Certificate of the qualification listed in the CV
- Copy of Passport
- Experience Certificates

PUTIN WRAPS UP GREEK TRIP WITH RUSSIA MONASTERY VISIT



MOUNT ATHOS: Russian President Vladimir Putin bows in front of an icon of Virgin Mary in Karyes, in the Mount Athos yesterday. — AFP

KARYES, Greece: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday visited the monastic community of Mount Athos, one of Orthodox Christianity's holiest sites, on the last leg of a two-day visit to Greece.

Putin, who has often talked about his strong Orthodox faith, joined celebrations for the 1,000th anniversary of the Russian presence at the ancient, all-male monastic community of Mount Athos, in northern Greece. State TV ERT showed Putin arriving at the little port of Daphne, near the coastal Russian monastery, after 1100 GMT on a yacht escorted by a small flotilla of security vessels.

Underscoring the private nature of his visit—his first to the region since 2005—he wore no tie and immediately removed his jacket before briefly posing for photographs at the port.

A broadly smiling Putin then attended a welcome ceremony at the Protaton, the oldest church of the Mount Athos administrative capital of Karyes, where he was greeted by ringing church bells. The Russian leader lit a

candle and kissed the Axion Esti, a revered icon of the Virgin Mary, ERT footage showed.

"Important work on moral foundations and moral values is done on Mount Athos," he said.

He later told a gathering of abbots: "Whoever enters this land of prayer experiences special feelings." The role of Mount Athos is particularly important to Russian Orthodoxy," he said, adding that over 11,000 Russian faithful visit the area annually.

Putin was joined on his visit by Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, a former Communist who clashed with EU peers last year over the Ukraine crisis, arguing that the bloc should avoid "spasmodic" moves against Russia.

Accompanied by Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Putin then visited the Russian monastery of St Panteleimon on the west coast of the Halkidiki peninsula.

Media coverage of the Mount Athos trip was restricted and Putin's Russian monastery

visit was entirely off bounds. Russia and Greece are both largely Orthodox Christian countries and share close religious ties. Mount Athos is an enclave of 20 monasteries including one apiece for Russia, Serbia and Bulgaria—that has enjoyed autonomy since Byzantine times.

On Friday, Putin signed several economic deals with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in Athens during a visit aimed at reinforcing a relationship with one of his few friends in the EU at a time of tension with the West. The visit, Putin's first to the EU since December, comes at a low ebb in relations between Russia and Europe over the conflict in Ukraine that broke out in 2014, with sanctions still in force against Moscow. It also comes as Athens desperately seeks to emerge from recession, with Greek officials saying increased trade with Russia could play a part in recovery efforts. EU leaders will next month discuss whether to renew sanctions on Russia's banking, defence and energy sectors that expire in July. — AFP



DIYARBAKIR: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a rally in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, yesterday. — AP

ERDOGAN SLAMS US SUPPORT OF KURDISH MILITIAS IN SYRIA

PHOTO SHOWS US TROOPS IN SYRIA WEARING INSIGNIA OF YPG

DIYARBAKIR: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday condemned the United States' support of Kurdish fighters in Syria after AFP pictures revealed US commandos wearing the insignia of a militia branded a terror group by Ankara.

"The support they give to... the YPG (militia)... I condemn it," said Erdogan. "Those who are our friends, who are with us in NATO... cannot, must not send their soldiers to Syria wearing YPG insignia." Erdogan's comments came after an AFP photographer captured images of US troops in Syria wearing insignia of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). Ankara regards the YPG as a terror group, accusing it of carrying out attacks inside Turkey and being the Syrian branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has fought an insurgency against the Turkish state for over three decades.

"The PKK, the PYD, the YPG, Daesh (Islamic State), there is no difference. They are all terrorists," Erdogan said. It had long been public knowledge that around 200 US commandos are in northern Syria helping local militia target the

Islamic State extremist group's de facto capital Raqqa and guiding in coalition air strikes. Erdogan, speaking in the majority Kurdish city Diyarbakir, accused the US of being dishonest because of its support for the militia and its political wing the Democratic Union Party (PYD).

"I believe that politics should be exercised with honesty," he said. The US, seeking to avoid a rift with ally Turkey, had announced Friday that special operations troops in northern Syria would henceforth stop wearing the badge of the YPG guerrillas. However the State Department played down the spat, insisting that Washington and Ankara remain close partners in the broader fight against the Islamic State, despite disagreements about the role of the YPG.

'These people are atheists'

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu accused the United States of "hypocrisy" and "double standards" and said the American soldiers might just as well have worn the logo of Al-Qaeda, the IS group or Boko Haram. The United

States has blacklisted the PKK as a "foreign terrorist organisation" but regards its Syrian-based sister group the YPG as a useful ally in the face of the Islamic State threat.

US military officials say they will continue to work with the YPG, which provides the bulk of the so-called "Syrian Democratic Forces" fighting the IS group.

Erdogan pledged yesterday to pursue Turkey's military operations against the PKK, who he dubbed atheists. "Haven't they destroyed our mosques? These people are atheists... They do not act according to our values," he said, promising to "see through to the end" the fight against PKK.

Erdogan and his new Prime Minister Binali Yildirim made a symbolic visit to Diyarbakir, which is the heart of the southeastern region that has been shaken by the resumption of fighting between government and rebel Kurdish forces. Yildirim became prime minister last week following the shock resignation of Ahmet Davutoglu who had feuded with the president over several issues. — AFP

INJURIES AS LIGHTNING HITS PARIS PARK, GERMAN PITCH

PARIS: Dozens of people including many children were injured yesterday as freak lightning strikes hit a Paris park and a football pitch in Germany. In Germany, 35 people were injured in the western village of Hoppstaeden when lightning struck the pitch at the end of a children's football match. Three adults were gravely injured including the referee, who was hit directly and was rushed to hospital by helicopter, DPA news agency reported.

In Paris, 11 people, eight of them children, were injured when lightning struck as they were celebrating a birthday party in Parc Monceau in the city's northwest. Paris police said six of the victims were seriously hurt, with three of the children and one adult suffering life-threatening injuries. The children were around nine years old, fire service spokesman Eric Moulin said, adding that the group had rushed under a tree to shelter when it began to rain. "It was while they were heading for shelter, when they were still near a tree, that the lightning fell," Moulin said.

No Warning

Witnesses to the German lightning strike said it came out of the blue. "There was no rain and the sky wasn't dark," a police spokesman told DPA. Thirty children aged between nine and 11 were lightly injured and were taken to hospital for tests, along with five adults. In Paris, fire service spokesman Moulin said it was an off-duty firefighter who had given the first aid, after hearing the commotion and rushing to help.

Emergency services were on the scene, with 29 fire engines mobilised.

The injured were taken to Paris hospitals including Necker hospital, a specialist children's facility. Authorities at Necker have set up a psychological and medical support cell to assist the families of the victims. The area of the park where the lightning struck was fenced off with caution tape, while two kids' jackets, still soaking wet from the rain, could be seen hanging on the fence. Local official Vincent Baladi, speaking to iTELE television, said the injuries included burns. "We hope they will all pull through," said Baladi, who handles security matters in Paris' eighth arrondissement where the park is located. Located in a well-heeled neighborhood of the city's northwest, Parc Monceau is popular with families at the weekend.

'Lightning Rod Effect'

While lightning usually strikes individual people, it is possible for whole groups to be struck at once. Michel Daloz of weather agency Meteo-France told AFP that between 100 and 200 people are struck by lightning every year in the country, killing between 10 and 20 people. He stressed that people should never head under trees during storms - as the group did in the Parisian park - as they often attract lightning. "It's what we call the 'lightning rod effect,'" said Daloz. In the case of Parc Monceau, he added, "the floor was wet, so it conducted much more strongly." Victims of lightning strikes can suffer lasting cardiological and neurological effects, Daloz said. — AFP



PARIS: Vehicles of firefighters are parked near the Parc Monceau yesterday in Paris after eleven people including 10 children were struck by lightning in the park. — AFP

GREEN LEGACY OF WWI CARNAGE: THE RICHES OF VERDUN FOREST

VERDUN, France: The little blue flowers that have grown for a century now in France near the graves of the war dead at Douaumont can easily be mistaken for local forget-me-nots. In fact they are a foreign import, an American flower brought as seeds on the hooves of the US army horses used at Verdun during World War I.

"They call it the blue-eyed grass from Montana," says Patrice Hirbec of the National Forests Office (ONF). *Sisyrinchium montanum*, best known simply as American blue-eyed grass, is part of a rich legacy left by the carnage of World War I in France's Forest of Verdun: a unique mix of flora and fauna.

The Battle of Verdun was one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the war. Launched in February 1916, it lasted 300 days, killing in this region alone more than 300,000 soldiers and making Verdun synonymous with the wanton slaughter that characterized that war. Jean-Paul Amat, geography professor at the Sorbonne University in Paris, says the fighting caused so much upheaval that the soil went through the equivalent of 10,000 years of natural erosion.

"The flowers and plants there simply adapted to the turmoil," Hirbec says. In some places the soil was so dry that thyme started to grow, while elsewhere pear trees sprang up, a reminder of the orchards destroyed in the fighting, or perhaps a clue to the soldiers' diet. On the other side of the battle lines, the Germans made their own contribution, says Stephanie Jacquemot, an archaeologist with the region's cultural affairs section.

That is why gentian, a flower not normally found in the region, grows there. Perhaps the German soldiers used it to make gentian eau-de-vie, a spirit normally found in Alpine

regions. Lurking in the craters left by the shell impacts are crested newts-as well as yellow-bellied toads, which are even rarer.

And bat colonies inhabit abandoned fortifications. In addition, "There are 15 species of ferns," Hirbec says as he stoops to pick up a shell fragment, adding that orchids bloom in May and June.

A forest shroud

The fort at Douaumont offers a panoramic view of the forest below, studded with pines that were planted after the war. Some 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of the Meuse region had been devastated and needed to be replanted.

The day after the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, France decided that no one would ever be allowed to live there. Millions of shells had wreaked havoc on the land, robbing the soil of the humus that makes it fertile. Thousands of hardy Austrian pine trees were planted, using saplings Vienna gave as part of its war reparations.

Between 1923 and 1931, 36 million trees were planted along the German and French fortifications, around the trenches and around the bodies of the dead.

Even today, some 80,000 soldiers rest among the orchards and the pines. — AFP

"This forest is their shroud," Hirbec says. To visit these sites, as well as caring for them, is to honor the fallen, he adds. The ONF has joined forces with the local authority and France's Fondation Patrimoine (Heritage Foundation) to raise funds for a network of trails winding through the trenches, ruined villages and what is left of the fortifications, to keep the memory of the war alive. — AFP

EX-CHAD RULER FACES VERDICT 25 YEARS AFTER REIGN OF FEAR

DAKAR: A special court will hand down the verdict in the landmark war crimes trial of former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre on Monday, with prosecutors hoping for a life sentence. Habre, 73, was president of the central African country from 1982-1990, during which time he is alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and torture, with thousands of victims.

He went on trial last July in the Extraordinary African Chambers (EAC), established in Dakar by the African Union under a deal with Senegal. Special prosecutor Mbacke Fall said the "apparatus of repression began to operate under the direction of Hissene Habre," in closing arguments in February

during which he called for a maximum life sentence. Led by a judge from Burkina Faso, the historic case is the first time that an African leader accused of serious abuse of power has been tried by another country on the continent.

Often dressed in combat fatigues complementing his "desert fighter" nickname, Habre fled to Senegal after he was ousted in 1990 by Chad's current President Idriss Deby. Habre has declined to address the court and refuses to recognise its authority. Neither he nor his legal team will be in court for Monday's hearing, they confirmed to AFP Friday.

His court-appointed lawyers will attend the hearing and are hoping for an acquittal. "We have devel-

oped our arguments sufficiently well to prove that Hissene Habre is innocent," said Senegalese lawyer Mbeye Sene. "If the law is correctly applied, we will go straight to an acquittal for Mr Habre," added Sene.

Life with hard labor

Investigators found that at least 40,000 people were killed during his rule, which was marked by fierce repression of opponents and the targeting of rival ethnic groups. Witnesses have recounted the horror of life in Chad's prisons, describing in graphic detail the abusive and often deadly punishments inflicted by the Documentation and Security Directorate (DDS). Habre's feared secret police.

Victims were subject to electric shocks and waterboarding while some had gas sprayed into their eyes or spice rubbed into their genitals, the court heard. Massa Moire, who was detained by the DDS for three years, was released in 1990. "I still don't know the reason for my arrest. My wish would be to see Habre sentenced to death. He brought so much pain to so many families," he said, speaking at the headquarters of a victims' association in Chad's capital, N'Djamena.

Habre's defence team has sought to cast doubt on the prosecution argument that their client was an all-knowing, all-powerful head of the DDS, suggesting he may have been unaware of abuses on the ground.

The former dictator lived freely for more than 20 years in an upmarket Dakar suburb with his wife and children, swapping his military garb for billowing white robes and a cap. The African Union asked Senegal to try Habre in July 2006, but the country delayed the process for years under former president Abdoulaye Wade, despite an agreement to create the special court. — AFP



NAGOYA: Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno (third left) speaks at Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (third right) during their talks in Nagoya, central Japan, yesterday. — AFP

UNESCO CHIEF SEES THREAT FROM CULTURAL DESTRUCTION

KABUL: The world community has yet to find an adequate response to cultural destruction as shown by the deliberate wrecking of ancient sites in Syria and Mali by Islamist radicals, the head of the UN's cultural organization said. Irina Bokova, director general of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said it took some time for authorities to respond to the significance of what extremist groups were doing.

Such groups typically sought to clear the ground to persecute minorities and consolidate power by "cultural cleansing", removing traces of other cultures, she told Reuters in an interview in Kabul.

Fifteen years ago, the Afghan Taliban provided one of the most notorious recent examples when it

blew up two giant ancient statues of the Buddha in 2001, decreeing they were un-Islamic.

But the razing of medieval shrines in Timbuktu by Malian jihadists in 2012 and then the destruction by Islamic State militants in Syria of parts of the ancient city of Palmyra last year brought the danger home, said Bokova, among candidates to become UN Secretary General later this year. "I have to say that at the beginning of the Syrian crisis we were not taken that seriously when we started denouncing this destruction," said Bokova, a former acting foreign minister of Bulgaria who is among candidates to become UN Secretary General later this year.

"Now I think people see what the danger is. I know it is not easy but now everybody takes seriously the

destruction of heritage and culture as part of this extremist strategy. Probably the most visible embodiment of this, even," she said. But she said the world was still grappling with how to deal with the problem, which had pushed matters once the preserve of museums firmly into the strategic sphere.

"I think it is a new type of phenomenon that is emerging and we are seeking a response." Last year's UN Security Council Resolution 2199, which specifically targets the illegal trade in antiquities alongside oil and hostages as a means of shutting off funding to groups like Islamic State and Al Qaeda, was one example, she said.

The trial of the radical Islamist Ahmad Al-Faqi Al-Mahdi in the International Criminal Court over the

destruction of the religious sites in Timbuktu was another. Bokova on Friday signed a culture trust fund agreement with the Afghan government, aimed at bolstering efforts to promote cultural industries and re-affirm the importance of cultural and national identity. How far such programs can hope to succeed in countries torn by competing visions of social, religious and cultural identity remains open. In Afghanistan, a country with more than 30 languages and multiple different ethnicities which has undergone civil war and conflict for most of the past four decades, the notion of cultural identity remains particularly fluid. "I don't say it's easy," Bokova said. "But it is necessary and we have to start from somewhere." — Reuters



Members of a breakaway faction of the Taliban fighters guard during a patrol in Shindand district of Herat province, Afghanistan. — AP

PAKISTANI SUPPORTERS HOLD PRAYERS FOR TALEBAN CHIEF



Mullah Mansour

PESHAWAR: Supporters of the slain Taliban chief have held funeral prayers across Pakistan for Mullah Akhtar Mansour, killed in a US drone attack last week.

Some 400 Jamaat-ud Dawa members held the ceremony Friday in the northwestern city of Peshawar. Similar ceremonies were also held in Quetta, Hyderabad and Karachi.

Jamaat-ud Dawa is a terror organization widely believed to be front group for Lashkar-e-Taiba, blamed for the 2008 attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai. The funeral prayers took place even though Mansour's body is still in the hands of Pakistani authorities for DNA testing. The crowd in Peshawar also chanted US slogans burned an American flag. The group's leader, Ghazi Inamullah, told the gathering that "after the humiliation in Afghanistan, US forces are now targeting Pakistan with drone attacks." — AP

PAKISTANI PM TO UNDERGO HEART SURGERY IN LONDON

GOVT BANS AIRING OF CONTRACEPTIVE ADS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will undergo open heart surgery in London on Tuesday, his family and office said, in what will be his second cardiac operation in five years.

Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on her official Twitter account that the surgery would be for "perforation of the heart", a complication from an earlier procedure in 2011. "Prayers are the most effect & potent medicine. Millions will pray for him," she tweeted late Friday night.

A statement from the Sharif's office yesterday said the prime minister was continuing to oversee state affairs in the days before his surgery. "It is however natural and understandable that the Prime Minister will be off from any activities when is actually operated on by the doctors," the statement said.

"God willing soon after the surgery, the Prime Minister will be supervising State's affairs with the same spirit and energy." Sharif has frequently travelled abroad for medical treatment in the past year.

His last public statements were on Sunday, after the US drone strike that killed Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan, an attack Sharif condemned as a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Sharif

well yesterday. "My best wishes to PM Nawaz Sharif Sahab for his open heart surgery on Tuesday. And for his speedy recovery & good health," said a tweet from Modi, who made a surprise visit to Sharif in December as a gesture of conciliation between the two nuclear-armed rival states.

Banning

Pakistan has banned advertisements for contraceptive products on television and radio over concern that they expose inquisitive children to the subject of sex, local media reported yesterday. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) said it was acting in response to complaints from parents and its ban covered all contraceptive, birth control and family planning products. "(The) general public is very much concerned (about) the exposure of such products to the innocent children, which get inquisitive on features (and) use of the products," it said in a statement.

The ban came despite a government initiative to encourage birth control in Pakistan, a conservative Muslim country of 190 million people where talking about sex in public is taboo. It is unclear whether it will extend to the government's own family planning publicity efforts. Provincial population welfare departments regularly run campaigns

to educate citizens on the benefits of various forms of birth control.

Advertisements for condoms and other forms of birth control are rare in Pakistan. Contraceptive use in Pakistan is already low and fell by a further 7.2 percent last year, according to government statistics on the country's Couple Years of Protection (CYP), an internationally used metric for contraceptive use. Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with a population growth rate of 1.92 percent, according to the government. Its population is projected to increase to more than 227 million by 2025.

"Reduction in population growth is one of the top priorities of the government of Pakistan to maintain balance between country's resources and population," said the government's annual report on contraceptive use. The lack of use of contraceptives may also have implications for the spread of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS, which United Nations data show claimed over 2,800 lives in Pakistan last year. Television channels and radio stations that do not comply with the ban will face "legal action under PEMRA laws", the statement said, although no specific punishment was mentioned. PEMRA did not respond to a request for comment. — Reuters

THAI RESCUERS BATTLE ROUGH SEAS IN SEARCH FOR MISSING BRITISH TOURIST

BANGKOK: Thai rescue workers battled rough seas yesterday as they resumed the search for a British man missing after a speedboat accident that left three foreign women dead, police said.

The boat, which was carrying 32 tourists plus four crew, capsized Thursday afternoon after it was slammed by a wave near a rocky stretch of coast on Koh Samui, a popular island in the Gulf of Thailand.

Thai officials say three women from the United Kingdom, Germany and Hong Kong — died in the accident, which threw all of the passengers overboard, trapping some under the ship's hull.

Forty rescue workers continued searching yesterday for a missing British man, said an officer from the island's tourist police force. "The obstacle for today is the rough seas, but we will try our best," Thanakorn Pattananun told AFP. The tourist was travelling with his wife, who survived the accident, he added. The boats that ferry tourists around Thailand's popular beaches are notoriously reckless and life vests are often in short supply. Police have charged the Thai captain who drove the tour boat with negligence leading to deaths and injuries, a crime that carries up to 10 years in prison.

Britain's Foreign Office said yesterday it was in touch with Thai authorities and the victims' families. Although tourism remains a key source of income for Thailand, the kingdom's reputation as the "Land of Smiles" has suffered in recent years amid a string of deadly bus and boat accidents and crimes against foreigners. In January a speedboat struck and instantly killed a French tourist while she was snorkelling in waters reserved for swimmers off a Thai island in Krabi province. — AFP

100 SRI LANKANS MISSING IN LANDSLIDES ARE DEAD

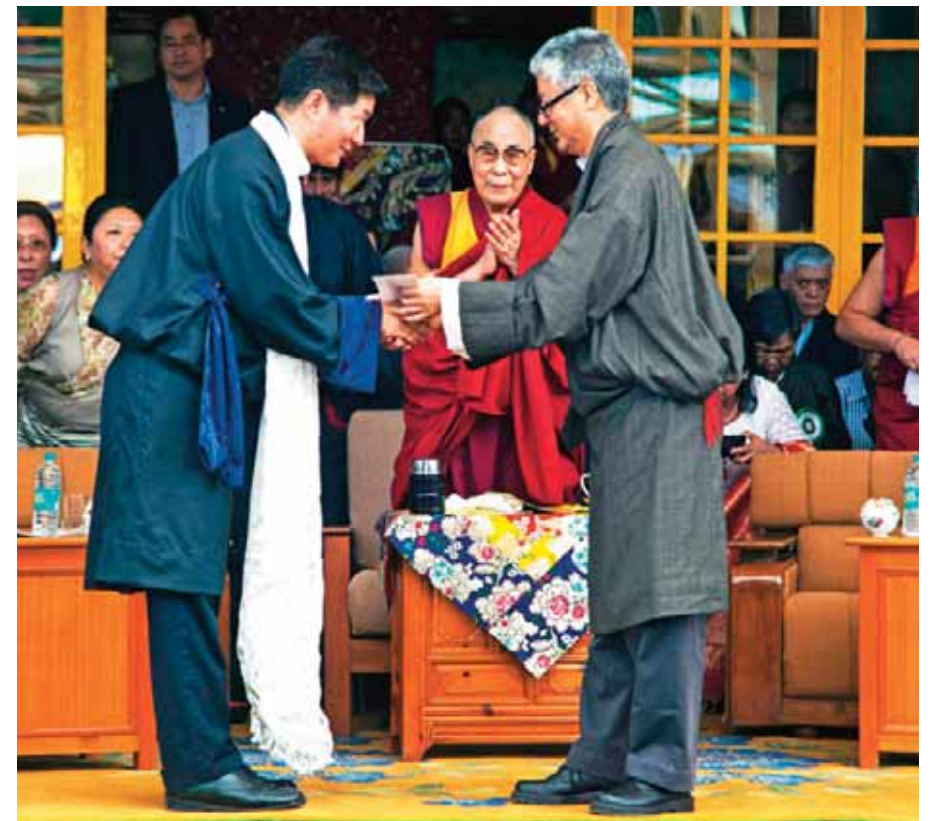
COLOMBO: Around 100 people still missing following landslides in Sri Lanka last week are believed dead, authorities said yesterday after failing to find signs of life under tons of mud.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said 67 bodies had been recovered from the worst hit central district of Kegalle where 99 people were still listed as missing following the rain-triggered May 17 disaster. "The military is keeping up a search, but there is no hope of finding anyone alive now," DMC spokesman Pradeep Kodippili told AFP. "The 99 people missing in the landslides are believed to be dead."

Heavy rains also triggered floods across much of the country last week and claimed 37 lives in addition to those killed in the landslides, according to the DMC. A military official in Kegalle, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north-east of Colombo, said search operations were hampered by continuous rain in the region.

The government has said floods and landslides caused by heavy rain drove over 600,000 people from their homes, but most of them have since returned with water levels subsiding.

Sri Lanka has received emergency aid from other countries, including giant neighbor India which dispatched two naval ships and an aircraft loaded with supplies. — AFP



DHRMASALA: Lobsang Sangay, front left, is sworn in as Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile for the second five-year term, by the Tibetan Chief Justice Commissioner Kargyu Dhondup in Dharmasala, India, on Friday. — AP

LOBSANG SANGAY SWORN IN AS PM OF TIBETAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

DHRMASALA, India: Lobsang Sangay was sworn in for his second term as prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile Friday and said he will make maximum efforts to achieve regional autonomy for Tibet during his five-year term, but will prepare a strategy for the next 50 years if it's unsuccessful.

Hundreds of Tibetans filled the compound of the Tsuglakhang temple in northern India's Dharmasala, the hill town that has been the headquarters of the government-in-exile, where the oath-taking ceremony took place in the presence of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Tibetans.

They clapped when Lobsang Sangay arrived with his wife and daughter and greeted him with ceremonial white silk scarves. Sangay prayed and prostrated in front of the statues of Tibetan deities before he went to receive the Dalai Lama at his residence near the temple compound.

"In the next 50 years China will change. It has to change. And then Tibetans will get their basic freedom. We need to strategize in order to strengthen and sustain our cause for the next 50 years," Sangay said in his speech.

He called his long term strategy "five-fifty," where his government would make every effort to achieve the Dalai Lama's stated goal, of greater autonomy for Tibet under Chinese rule, during its five-year term but prepare for the next 50 years. "I stand in solidarity and express my sincere appreciation for the patriotic fervor that continues to burn in Tibet," said Sangay.

He said that the sacrifices made by 144 Tibetans who have immolated themselves protesting Chinese rule since 2009 "will not go in vain."

Sangay prostrated in front of the Dalai Lama before beginning his address. He also apologized to the religious leader of the Tibetan Buddhists for not meeting the high moral standards set by him during the election campaign.

Sangay was referring to bitter comments made by the prime ministerial candidates as they looked for support among Tibetan settlements across the diaspora. "There have been a series of unfortunate events that went counter to the Tibetan tradition of humility and good conduct. This has greatly saddened and disappointed His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We ceaselessly beg His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his forgiveness," Sangay said.

Tibetan exiles across the world voted to re-elect Sangay to a second term in March. The results were announced last month. Both Sangay and his main rival, the speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, both supported the "middle path" proposed by the Dalai Lama, which seeks regional autonomy under Chinese rule.

Some groups have been advocating full independence for Tibet as little progress has been made in the dialogue with China.

China says Tibet has historically been part of its territory since the mid-13th century, and the Communist Party has governed it since 1951. But many Tibetans say the region was effectively independent for most of its history. — AP



KUALA LUMPUR: A Syrian migrant family arrives at Subang Air Force base in Subang, outside Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Malaysia yesterday received 68 Syrian refugees including 31 children out of a total of 3,000 it hopes to allow into the predominantly Muslim country with hundreds more expected soon. — AP

N KOREA THREATENS SOUTH'S SHIPS AFTER SEA BORDER CHASE

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday threatened to fire at South Korean warships if they cross into its waters, a day after the South's navy fired warning shots to chase away two North Korean ships that briefly crossed a disputed western sea boundary. In a statement released through state media, the General Staff of North Korea's Korean People's Army called the South's action a "reckless military provocation" meant to kill the chances for dialogue between the countries.

The KPA said that the North Korean ships were unarmed and within the North's sea territory when "many armed ships" from the South approached them and fired without warning. The South had said one navy ship issued an audible warning before firing five rounds of warning shots to repel a North Korean military vessel

and a fishing boat that briefly crossed into South Korea-controlled waters Friday morning.

The KPA said it will directly fire without warning at South Korean warships if they intrude into the North's waters by "even 0.001 millimeters." "This reckless military provocation was evidently prompted by a premeditated sinister plot to bedevil the North-South relations and further aggravate the tension on the Korean Peninsula," the KPA said about Friday's incident.

Minor incidents are not unusual on the western sea boundary, which was drawn unilaterally by the American-led U.N. command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War and which the North does not recognize. However, the Koreans have also fought three bloody naval skirmishes in the area since 1999.

The South had also fired warning shots after a North Korean patrol boat moved south of the boundary in February.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff released a statement saying that the country's military followed proper procedures to chase away the North Korean ships and called the KPA's claim of the response being a military provocation "ridiculous." Since North Korea held a rare ruling party congress earlier this month, it has been demanding the South accept its calls to resume talks after months of animosities touched off by Pyongyang's nuclear test in January and long-range rocket launch in February. South Korea has rejected the overture, saying the North must show tangible commitment to nuclear disarmament first. — AP



PAJU: South Korean army soldiers at a military check point watch march by South Korean activists during 2016 Women Walk for Korean Peace at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom, in Paju, South Korea, yesterday.—AP



OKINAWA: US Marine Corps Lt Gen Lawrence D. Nicholson (C), the Okinawa Area Coordinator and Commanding General of III Marine Expeditionary Force Commander, offers a silent prayer for a murdered Japanese woman during a press conference at Camp Foster in Okinawa yesterday.—AFP

US MILITARY RESTRICTS TROOPS AFTER MURDER IN OKINAWA

TOKYO: The US military in Japan is restricting celebrations and off-base alcohol consumption in Okinawa after the arrest of a former Marine suspected of killing a woman on the southern Japanese island. The Marine Corps commander in Japan said yesterday the measures are not punishment but an effort to show respect for the victim's family and mourn with the people of Okinawa. "We should not be out shooting fireworks. We should not be out having large celebrations and parties while the Okinawan people are in mourning. If we really believe we are part of the Okinawan community, then we too must be in mourning. And we do," Lt Gen. Lawrence Nicholson said at a news conference at a US base in Okinawa. The 30,000 US troops will not be allowed to drink alcohol off-base, and visiting clubs and bars is prohibited. Upcoming festivals and concerts on bases

are being postponed until later in the summer. The restrictions took effect Friday and will last until June 24.

Police say they arrested 32-year-old Kenneth Shinzato on May 19 after he told investigators where they could find a 20-year-old woman's body abandoned in a forest. Under Japanese law, he can be held for 21 days before charges are filed. The former Marine had married a Japanese woman and was working for a contractor that provided services to US bases on Okinawa.

The arrest comes as tensions are already high over a plan to relocate a Marine Corps air station to a less-populated part of Okinawa. About half of the US troops stationed in Japan are on the island, and many residents resent the burden they bear for the defense of Japan and the region. They want the air station moved off Okinawa all together.—AP

ARRESTS AFTER VIOLENT SCUFFLES AT AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION RALLY

SYDNEY: Violence erupted in Australia's second biggest city yesterday after two opposing immigration rallies clashed in the streets, with police arresting seven people. Victoria state police condemned the behaviour of both anti-racism and anti-immigration demonstrators involved in the melees in the Melbourne suburb of Coburg. Hundreds of police attempted to keep the groups apart, and were quick to quell the clashes, but five people were arrested, with a further two held on weapons offences.

"There was riotous behavior and it was appalling," Commander Sharon Cowden told reporters adding there were only minor injuries. "I understand the need and the right to protest... but what we can't have is this violence in our community. "We saw inappropriate and often cowardly behavior, people wearing masks."

Footage showed protesters using Australian flags on poles to beat other demonstrators, and police moving in to stop the violence. Demonstrators from the anti-racism group hurled abuse such as "Nazi scum, off our streets" at the opposing rally at which one sign read "No refugees, our home, our future", the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Asked about the opposing groups, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull stressed that the multicultural nature of Australian society was "one of our great achievements". "We are united, we have so much in common, and we are stronger and more prosperous as a nation because of that diversity," he told reporters. The United Patriots Front (UPF) organized a "Stop the Far Left" rally while anti-racism protesters marched under

the banner "Moreland says No to Racism", in reference to a Melbourne district. Fears of young Australian Muslims being inspired by militants such as Islamic State and travelling to fight in Iraq and Syria have underpinned support for rightwing groups like UPF and Reclaim Australia.

Former prime minister Tony Abbott made blocking migrants trying to reach Australia by boat a key plank of his victorious election campaign in 2013.

TV footage showed UPF members with Australian flags on poles and their faces covered by bandanas wrestling with leftwing militants, many of whom were hooded and had black cloths over their faces. On one occasion, a UPF protester who fell to the ground was kicked several times by two anti-racism activists.

"I understand the need and the right to protest ... but what we can't have is this violence in our community," Victorian state Police Commander Sharon Cowden told Sky. "We saw inappropriate and often cowardly behaviour, people wearing masks."

ABC said two people were arrested for weapons offences before the trouble flared despite a large police presence.

Two people were arrested for rioting, one for assaulting police, one for hindering police and another for robbery, ABC said. Turnbull, responding to comments by opposition leader Bill Shorten that racism was rife in Australia, said Australia was not "entirely" blameless.

"But I have to say we are the most successful multicultural society in the world," Turnbull told reporters. "There is more work to do. This is not something to be complacent about. This is a work in progress." — Agencies

OBAMA'S SURPRISE VISIT LEAVES BOMB SURVIVORS GUESSING

WONDER, GRATITUDE AND SKEPTICISM IN HIROSHIMA

HIROSHIMA: The survivors of the world's first atomic bomb attack are used to hearing grand vows to rid the world of nuclear weapons. They just don't usually come directly from the leader of the country that dropped the bomb on them in the first place.

Yesterday, a day after Barack Obama left, there was gratitude - wonder, even - that he had become the first sitting US president to visit the place where the nuclear age began. But there was also clear-eyed recognition that the realities of a dangerous, fickle world may trump Obama's call for nations, including his own, to have the "the courage to escape the logic of fear" of nuclear weapons stockpiling.

Hiroshima cherishes its survivors - a grove not far from the atomic bomb's hypocenter proudly displays signs announcing that these "A-bombed Trees" still thrive - but there's also some skepticism when faced with yet another anti-nuclear call, even from the leader of the world's sole superpower.

"The world paid attention to what happened here, even if just for a while, because someone as important as (Obama) came to Hiroshima. So perhaps it could make things a little bit better," Kimie Miyamoto, 89, a bomb survivor, said in an interview. "But you never know if it will really make a difference, because so much depends on what other countries are thinking as well." Asked if Obama's visit could inspire those countries to abandon nuclear weapons, she shook her head. "I don't think so," she said, "because there are so many (bombs) in the world."

Long after Obama left for Washington, people here were loath to let go of his whirlwind trip. Into the night, a line at Peace Memorial Park stretched from an arched stone monument that honors the 140,000 who died from the Aug. 6, 1945, bombing to a museum that tells the stories of some of those dead, about 200 meters (yards) away. People stood patiently, inching forward and waiting for their chance to take pictures of the wreath Obama had left behind.

People around Hiroshima were still talking about their glimpses of Obama as they lined the streets to watch his motorcade speed by or watched the media coverage that documented nearly every single moment of the two hours he spent in Hiroshima in a carefully choreographed political performance meant to close old wounds without inflaming new passions.



HIROSHIMA: Atomic bomb survivor Kimie Miyamoto, 89, speaks during an interview at a retirement home she shares with other bomb victims, in Hiroshima, Japan yesterday.—AP

Beneath the thrill that lingered from Obama's star power, there was also a widespread desire to keep momentum going. "We should not let President Obama's Hiroshima visit be just a ceremony," the left-leaning Mainichi newspaper said in an editorial yesterday. "He will be in office only eight more months. We hope the president will use the remaining time effectively to take concrete steps to leave a political legacy that will pave the way for a world without nuclear weapons." Some anti-nuclear activists worry that Obama's Hiroshima speech could turn out like his 2009 speech in Prague that helped secure him a Nobel Peace Prize: After the buzz dies down, there will be a return to business as usual. "The world needs more than words," Derek Johnson, executive director of Global Zero, an anti-nuclear group, said in a statement. "President Obama must take urgent action to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons being used again." In an interview at the retirement home she shares with other bomb victims, Tsuyako Hiramatsu, 90, flipped through the pages of a book with a photograph of smiling

young World War II pilots holding a puppy on its cover. She marveled at Obama's political and military power, but said she had seen too many Japanese leaders who have said one thing in public and another in private to believe that there will ever be a world without war.

Since Obama received the Nobel for his anti-nuclear agenda, he has seen uneven progress and criticism over plans for a big, costly program to upgrade US nuclear stockpiles.

Another bomb survivor, Michiko Kimoto, 87, also had doubts that Obama's visit would ever lead to a world without nuclear weapons. "You can never tell how people's minds work," she said. One of the two survivors who met directly with Obama, 91-year-old Sunao Tsuboi, was more optimistic. Tsuboi, like some other survivors, thought Obama had spent too little time in Hiroshima to fully understand the extent of the tragedy. But Obama's presidency, he told reporters, has pushed the world "a step or two forward" to the goal of nuclear disarmament. "I think he has the strong leadership abilities to make it happen," he said. —AP

PHILIPPINE POLICE, VIGILANTES SHOOT DEAD 6 DRUG SUSPECTS

MANILA: Philippine police shot dead four suspected drug dealers while unknown men gunned down two others, officials said yesterday raising the death toll for narcotics suspects to 14 this week after president-elect Rodrigo Duterte vowed a war against crime.

Police killed eight other suspects in the country's north including two in Manila during the past week as civil rights monitors warned the government against taking illegal shortcuts to fight crime.

Authorities have insisted the drug suspects were killed lawfully, with the officers firing back after being shot at during separate raids. Four more drugs suspects were shot in the southern city of General Santos late Thursday after they fired at undercover police during a sting operation, regional police spokesman Superintendent Romeo Galgo said yesterday.

"The suspects were wounded and were brought to (hospital) but were all declared dead on arrival by the attending physician," Galgo said in a written report. He did not report any police casualties in what he described as a short fire-fight. Duterte, the long-time mayor of the southern city of Davao, won the May 9 presidential election in a landslide largely on a pledge to roll out his city's law-and-order policies nationally.

The controversial and acid-tongued politician captivated millions of Filipinos, and enraged his critics, with vows of ruthless tactics to end crime within six months. The mayor warned security forces would kill tens of thousands of criminals and ignore human rights as he eradicated the scourge of drugs that many voters rated as their top concern.

Duterte's campaign threats were backed by his rule in Davao, where he has been accused of running or tolerating death squads that killed more than 1,000 suspects. He takes office on June 30.

Davao police reported yesterday that unknown gunmen shot and killed two suspected drug dealers this week. One victim, attacked

at an Internet shop on Wednesday, had been out on bail on a drug-related offence. The second man was gunned down by two suspects outside a university campus on Friday.

Three petty thieves were also killed in a single

attack by motorcycle-riding gunmen in another area of Davao also on Wednesday. "We are doing our best to identify and arrest the suspects," city police spokeswoman Chief Inspector Milgrace Driz told reporters. —AFP



MANILA: National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents escort suspect Joshua Habalo during a press conference at the NBI headquarters in Manila yesterday.—AFP



Iraqi pro-government forces drive their vehicles in an area between the village of Sejar and Fallujah yesterday as they take part in a major assault to retake Fallujah from the Islamic State (IS) group. — AFP

FEARS FOR TRAPPED CIVILIANS IN STRIFE-HIT...

Continued from Page 1

"Fleeing civilians are being caught in crossfire and are facing challenges to access medical services, food, water and safety," the UN refugee agency said. Concern is also mounting for an estimated 50,000 civilians thought to be trapped inside Fallujah. "We are receiving hundreds of displaced Iraqis from the outskirts of Fallujah who are totally exhausted, afraid and hungry," said a statement from Nasr Muflahi, country director for the Norwegian Refugee Council. "Thousands more remain trapped in the center of Fallujah, cut off from aid and any form of protection." The estimated 1,000 jihadists still in Fallujah are suspected of using civilians as human shields, but the UN refugee agency also said Iraqi forces had blocked supply routes, preventing people from leaving. Fallujah is the first city to fall out of government control even before IS swept through Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland in June 2014, and is one of IS's most iconic strongholds. Tens of thousands of Iraqi forces, including the Hashed al-Shaabi umbrella group dominated by Tehran-backed Shiite militias, began a huge operation on May 22-23 to retake it. Hashed al-Shaabi forces ("Population Mobilization" in Arabic), as well as army and police forces have so far focused on areas east of Fallujah, without entering the city itself. Noman said the CTS plans to "break into the city", and the operation was now "shifting to urban warfare after Iraqi forces completed the siege of the city". Iraqi forces evacuated 460 people - mostly women and children - on Friday, a senior police officer has said.

Fallujah and Mosul are the two major Iraqi cities still controlled by IS. In Syria, heavy fighting between IS and rebels gripped the outskirts of the opposition-held town of Marea yesterday, a monitor and activist said. IS attacked mainly from the east and north using tanks and two car bombs, said Maamoun Khateeb, a journalist and activist from Azaz. "The situation of the displaced in the Azaz area is really bad" and will not improve as long as Turkey keeps its border closed to refugees, he said. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the fighting had encircled some 13,500 people in the town. IS swept through rebel-held territory in Aleppo province early Friday in a shock offensive, cutting off the main road between Marea and Azaz to the northeast. The two towns have been vital stops along a rebel supply route from Turkey since falling to opposition forces in 2012. Further east, US-led coalition warplanes targeted IS positions north of Raqqa city, killing 45 IS fighters, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group. But the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Kurdish-Arab alliance fighting IS, was struggling to make further progress on Saturday, five days into its offensive, he said. Turkey's president meanwhile condemned US support for the alliance after AFP pictures revealed US commandos wearing the insignia of its Kurdish units, which Ankara has branded a terror group. "Those who are our friends, who are with us in NATO... cannot, must not send their soldiers to Syria wearing YPG insignia," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. — AFP

SHARK ATTACKS MAY HIT NEW RECORD

Continued from Page 1

Years before the attacks near the northern Jersey Shore town of Keyport, millionaire businessman Hermann Oelrichs offered a \$500 prize in 1891 (more than \$13,000 in today's dollars) to anyone who could prove that a shark ever bit a human in nontropical waters. The reward was never claimed. Well-regarded scientists at the American Museum of Natural History in New York pointed to Oelrichs' wager as proof that no shark would bite a human, according to Michael Capuzzo's 2001 book "Close to Shore". Even the New York Times in a 1915 editorial titled "Let Us Do Justice to the Sharks" cited Oelrichs' offer and said, "That sharks can properly be called dangerous in this part of the world is apparently untrue." While those attacks gave oceangoers pause for decades, "Jaws" turned the hunter into the hunted, Burgess said. "Every red-blooded American man felt obliged to go out and catch sharks, which were readily capturable," said the University of

Florida's Burgess, noting that they can be caught offshore and from small boats. "It became the blue-collar marlin." Sharks were being killed by sportfishing fleets as well as commercial fishermen seeking steaks for US grocery stores and Asian markets for shark fin soup, regarded as an aphrodisiac in some cultures. By the late 1980s, shark populations were crashing, and scientists sounded the alarm. The first law protecting sharks was passed in the 1990s in Florida - the home to the largest shark population of any US state - and limited the daily catch to one shark per person, according to Burgess. Federal safeguards followed, as well as more state efforts like the shark fin ban that has gone into effect in 10 states and is under consideration in Rhode Island. Conservation efforts have introduced the public to another side of sharks: Their vital link to the ocean ecosystem, their typically curious and shy nature, even the human-like birth of their offspring rather than laying eggs like other fish. —

DEMONSTRATORS FACE OFF AT TRUMP RALLY...

Continued from Page 1

Riley Hansen, a 19-year-old Trump supporter who was selling T-shirts of the candidate, said it was time America voted for a businessman. "My dad always told me you need a businessman as president," he told CNS. "I like his policies." Earlier on Friday, hundreds of demonstrators had also gathered at another Trump campaign appearance in Fresno,

in central California, during which the bombastic candidate reiterated his vow to build a wall to prevent undocumented immigrants from entering the United States from Mexico. News reports said two women were arrested after refusing to leave the area following the rally. Trump is arguably one of the most divisive politicians in recent American history and his rhetoric against Hispanics, women, Muslims and others has prompted widespread outrage. — AFP

Kuwait Times Premier Brands To see your ad here, call: +965 248 35 616 / 617 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net ads@kuwaittimes.net Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Great Offers for SUMMER SHARP Japan's No.1 Brand

<p>LC-50LE275X AQUOS</p> <p>50" FULL HD 1080P</p> <p>139 Price</p>	<p>LC-55LE570X AQUOS</p> <p>Camera SMART TV</p> <p>55" FULL HD 1080P</p> <p>259 Price</p>	<p>LC-60LE660X AQUOS</p> <p>SMART TV</p> <p>60" FULL HD 1080P</p> <p>299 Price</p>
--	---	--

best.com.kw 1809 809

Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

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

Washington Watch

FRENCH PM STAKES
POLITICAL CAREER
ON UNION FIGHT

By Marie Wolfrom

Engaged in a fierce tug of war with unions and some of his own party over labor reforms, France's embattled Prime Minister Manuel Valls has staked his political career on staring down the crisis. Valls finds himself in a devilish position, says Frederic Dabi of polling firm IFOP. "If he withdraws the law, he will no longer count for anything," said Dabi. But the alternative is standing his ground and risking that the unions keep up their paralyzing unrest through to June 10, when France will start hosting the Euro 2016 football championships.

"Despite his drop in opinion polls, Valls still has an image of strength, an image of authority - maybe a bit too much," said Dabi. Only 26 percent of French voters support the prime minister's tough line, while 69 percent want the labor reform bill withdrawn "to avoid a blockage of the country". Three months of protests against reforms have led to strikes and blockades at fuel depots and refineries, as well as multiple strikes across the transport sector that could seriously impact the smooth running of Euro 2016 in 10 venues around the country.

"Valls has his back against the wall. If he withdraws the bill, he can't stay in his job," said an MP from the ruling Socialist party, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The prime minister has been through a rough few months, becoming a hate figure for the more militant leftwing of his party who say the reforms are too liberal and give too many powers to employers over workers. "How long can he stand firm?" asked the front page of rightwing newspaper Le Figaro on Friday. It followed an eighth day of protest marches in little more than two months, with between 150,000 and 300,000 people taking to the streets on Thursday. Another is due on June 14.

'A Crucial Moment'

When Valls took over as head of the government in March 2014, the Catalan-born prime minister was known for his stormy character and stern demeanor from his stint as interior minister - not attributes that lend themselves easily to the diplomacy required in the current crisis. "This country sometimes kills itself with its conservatism, from the impossibility of reform. That's why we are at a crucial moment," Valls told parliament on Thursday.

In a moment of reflection last month to magazine Society, he admitted some "errors" in the "moment and the way" in which the labor reforms were presented. Valls launched an ambitious attempt to win over sceptics in his party and on the streets with amendments that curved some of the bill's sharper edges, but in the end he had no choice but to force the bill through parliament without a vote.

That brought accusations of being anti-democratic and did nothing to stop the momentum of protests, leading some in the government - including Finance Minister Michel Sapin - to start calling for a renegotiation of its most contentious aspects. "Am I about to withdraw the text? Or rewrite an article that is the very heart of its philosophy?" retorted Valls sardonically.

It marks a sharp dip in fortunes for the prime minister who, for a while last year, was tipped as a likely successor to the unpopular President Francois Hollande, with a presidential election due in May 2017. But Valls has been leapfrogged as a contender by his own economy minister, Emmanuel Macron, who launched a new political movement last month as a possible first step towards declaring his candidacy.

Having gone this far, polling expert Dabi says Valls has little choice but to push it to the end. "There are fewer blows to take from keeping the bill, while leaving the door open to modifications and adjustments," said Dabi. Valls himself says he has no intention of falling on his sword as the labor crisis deepens. "Just because the CGT (union) is blockading the country does not mean I am about to leave, or that I am going to fold," he said. — AFP

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

OBAMA IN HIROSHIMA



Washington Watch

THE SANDERS PHENOMENON

Dr James J Zogby

There is a Sanders phenomenon. It is real and the factors that have prompted its emergence need to be addressed and understood. When this year's presidential primary began, many dismissed the Democratic Party contest as a "done deal". It was assumed that Secretary Clinton would be the inevitable nominee - with the primaries and caucuses being a bothersome but required pro forma affair that Clinton would have to endure, until she had accumulated enough delegates to be declared the nominee.

One year ago, Clinton was leading the rest of the Democratic field by between 50 to 60 points with none of her opponents believed to be serious challengers - especially the 74 year old socialist Senator from Vermont. Back then, Sanders support came largely from a core group of progressive activists who were driving his campaign. A year later, much has changed with the gap between Clinton and Sanders, among Democrats, having been narrowed to single digits.

When the preferences of all voters (Democrats, Republicans, and Independents) are considered and Clinton and Sanders are matched separately against the GOP's nominee, Donald Trump, a very different picture emerges. The average of this month's polls show Trump beating Clinton by slightly less than 1 point. The same polls averages show Sanders beating Trump by about 11 points. And polls in key battleground

states show much the same - with Clinton and Trump running neck and neck and Sanders beating Trump in every state.

That's what happened, but the question that needs to be answered is why? Several factors point the way. Part of Secretary Clinton's problem is that she is running for president in a year when voter distrust of and even anger at the political and economic establishments has come to define the national mood. Many voters do not believe that politicians and corporate leaders consider the public's wellbeing in their decision-making. Given this setting, Clinton's claim of experience and her long-standing ties to Wall Street investors have become liabilities.

Authenticity

In the contest between Clinton, the ultimate "insider", and Sanders, the ultimate "outsider", Sanders has a decided edge. Then there are the matters of authenticity and trust. Polls demonstrate that voters, especially the young and the growing number of those who declare no affiliation with either party, are drawn to Sanders because they see him as authentic and they trust him. Among voters under 45, Sanders beats Clinton by a margin of 2 to 1. And when all voters are asked who they trust more, Sanders wins by 3 to 1.

These two factors, distrust of the establishment and the yearning for a leader who is authentic and can be trusted, form the underpinnings of the Sanders phenomenon. The "meat on the bones" are the issues he has championed. America is, without a

doubt, a wealthy nation. The GDP and the performance of the stock market, despite an occasional dip, appear to suggest a healthy economy. But in spite of this, real incomes for the middle class have been stagnant for decades leaving most Americans struggling to make ends meet.

When Sanders points out that the top 1 percent in the US control more of the nation's wealth than the bottom 90 percent and when he notes that the American middle class controls a smaller percentage of our nation's wealth than the middle class in any other industrialized country, that message resonates. As does his broader message of economic justice and a reordering of political/economic priorities.

Phenomenon

While Sanders' calls for "healthcare for all", tuition-free higher education, and his proposal to pay for these programs by imposing stiffer taxes on the wealthiest 1 percent are dismissed as unworkable and "socialist", they have been embraced by young and working class voters who are hungry for change. And when he criticizes the corrupting influence of "big money" in our politics, voters respond in agreement.

As this election is entering its final round, it is clear that the Sanders phenomenon must be taken seriously. Despite the view of media pundits and the Democratic establishment that the contest is over (a form of voter suppression) and calls that Sanders should withdraw from the race, he continues to demonstrate electoral strength - winning 2 out of the last 3 and 12 out of the last 20 states.

At this point, Sanders can legitimately claim the support of about one-half of the Democratic Party's base. This cannot be dismissed. Nor can his observation that he outperforms Clinton with Independents and fares better against the GOP in national and battleground state polls. Democrats would be making a mistake to ignore both the "meta issues" of distrust of the establishment and the voters' desire to have a candidate they can trust, as well as Sanders' far-reaching agenda for political and economic reform.

I believe that should he win in California, Sanders can make a strong case urging the party's super-delegates to support his candidacy. It is this group - many of whom had endorsed Clinton before this election had even begun - that have made her margin over Sanders appear to be insurmountable. But even if he does not win, what he represents cannot be dismissed or reduced to any single issue, as many of the press reports on his platform picks attempted to do this past week. What Sanders represents and the far-reaching change in domestic and foreign policy he has advocated and that many voters have endorsed should not be ignored.

Responding to voters deeply felt needs, Sanders has given birth to a true progressive movement that, if understood, embraced, and, most importantly, sustained, can, as he has noted, bring revolutionary change to America. It is a phenomenon.

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

WILL TRUMP CONTINUE TO DOMINATE MEDIA?

By David Bauder

During the height of the primary season, a sense of Donald Trump overload in the media united a divided electorate. Now, as things pivot toward a general election campaign almost certain to match Trump against Hillary Clinton, television news producers will be watched to see whether traditional notions of fairness and equal time will take hold in a political season that has been anything but traditional.

The expected Republican nominee so dominated campaign coverage that by late March a Pew Research Center survey found that 75 percent of Americans said the media had given him too much attention. "Donald Trump does make news and he does drive ratings," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. "He's invariably interesting, in the same way that watching the Indy 500 is interesting. You're never exactly sure what's going to happen, but there's always the possibility of a crash."

Evening news programs on ABC, CBS and NBC spent more than twice as much time on the Republican primary campaign as on the Democrats this year through the end of April, according to the Tyndall Report, which follows the content of those broadcasts. Trump tallied 425 minutes of coverage, and Clinton had 117. During a four-week period in March and April, the conservative watchdog Media Research Center found that CNN spent 730 minutes on the Republican race and 214 on the Democrats. Trump had 331 minutes of coverage and Clinton had 110, the MRC said.

CNN has drawn particular attention because its ratings have risen faster than its rivals and, unlike Fox News Channel and MSNBC, both parties are more likely to work with the network. Some CNN employees have expressed concern, through internal channels, about Trump's airtime. Yet it fits the playbook of CNN chief executive Jeff Zucker, who believes in lavishing attention on big stories, be they missing planes or politics. Zucker, who declined an interview request, has vigorously defended CNN's coverage and said neither the network nor Trump should be punished for his accessibility.

Now that the primaries are ending, "the sort of free-for-all season is over," said Frank Sesno, a journalism professor

at George Washington University and former CNN Washington bureau chief. "All news organizations have an obligation to get serious and sober about how they are going to cover this, about the equity with which they cover it," Sesno said. These discussions are already taking place informally and each day's coverage is planned with fairness in mind, said one television news producer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity. The producer predicted the party nominees would get equal time or close to it. "You're going to see more coverage than you can handle of both of them," the producer said.



Coverage

History shows how coverage changes with a campaign's focus. During the first four months of 2008, the novel candidacy of Democrat Barack Obama received 243 minutes of coverage on the broadcast evening newscasts compared with Republican John McCain's 138 minutes, Tyndall said. Between Labor Day and Election Day, McCain had 212 minutes of coverage and Obama 185, Tyndall said. During the last three presidential elections featuring no incumbent (2008, 2000 and 1988), the eventual loser had more coverage time, although it was virtually even in 2000 - like the election itself. That's probably because the underdog takes more chances toward the end, said news consultant Andrew Tyndall. Trump's accessibility and media consciousness - he recently called the CNN newsroom to point out an interview done on Fox News - is a complicating factor. "The problem for the networks is you have one candidate who is far more wary of the media than she ought to be and you have another candidate who is far more eager to be in the media than the media ought to allow," Jamieson said. Sesno said Clinton needs to "rip off the Bubble Wrap and engage" the media far more than she's probably comfortable with.

News organizations need to be careful with the extent to which they let Trump drive the agenda, he said. "The rule book has been shredded," he said. "I'm concerned that the echo chamber of horse race, personality and charges and countercharges will eclipse the serious conversation about candidates and policies that we should be having."

This past week provided fresh evidence that there's a lot more to coverage decisions than counting minutes. Newsrooms were faced with a decision when Trump attempted to tie Clinton to 1990s-era controversies - the Whitewater real estate investigation and the suicide of a White House aide - where the Clintons were investigated and no wrongdoing found. "The way Trump works is to lay a lot of things out there on the assumption that he's not going to be held accountable for them, but you'll tally them up to a distrust of Hillary Clinton," Jamieson said. Journalists need to weigh a responsibility not to publish misleading information and play into Trump's strategy, with an obligation to report on the activities of the Republican candidate for president and report on examples of how he thinks, she said. — AP

FIFA DISMISSES 'LUDICROUS' MEDIA REPORT ABOUT SCALA

MILAN: An alleged plot by FIFA President Gianni Infantino to oust the official who oversaw the salary offer he refused to accept has been dismissed as "ludicrous" by world soccer's governing body. FIFA responded to reports in Saturday's edition of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung which the German daily said were based on leaked details of FIFA Council meetings held this month. Infantino told council members a proposed salary of 2 million Swiss francs (\$2 million) was insulting, the newspaper claimed. The offer was a significant cut on the \$3 million base salary that Sepp Blatter was paid as FIFA president in 2015.



The Infantino-chaired ruling panel then discussed ways to remove FIFA audit committee chairman Domenico Scala, who oversaw the salary offer before the presidential election in February, the reports claimed. British FIFA vice president David Gill led criticism of the alleged tactics to undermine Scala, according to leaked details of the meeting. Scala resigned in Mexico City two weeks ago, one day after FIFA member federations decided to give Infantino's Council power to fire elected leaders of independent audit and ethics committees.—AP

SPURS TO PLAY EUROPEAN MATCHES AT WEMBLEY

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur will play their European fixtures at Wembley Stadium next season, the club and the Football Association announced yesterday. The 2016/17 season will be the last Spurs spend at their White Hart Lane home in London, with work on a new purpose built £400 million (\$585 million, 526 million euros) home close to their existing ground having already started. That means Tottenham will need a venue with increase capacity for their European fixtures having qualified for the Champions League with Wembley, not far from their current north London base, an ideal option. The FA have also given Tottenham the option to play at Wembley, England's national stadium, for the entire 2017/18 season. Spurs chairman Daniel Levy seems set to take up that offer given the club's new 61,000-capacity stadium is scheduled to be ready for the start of the 2018/19 season. "We are delighted that...we have been able to reach this agreement," said Levy. "Given the current reduction in capacity at White Hart Lane for next season and the ticketing requirements for Champions League, playing at Wembley will mean that we can continue to accommodate all of our existing season ticket holders.—AFP

THORNTON, MATTHEWS AMONG FINAL WORLD CUP ROSTER PICKS

NEW YORK: Joe Thornton, whose 20-year wait to reach the Stanley Cup Final ends tomorrow, was among four NHL finalists selected Friday to complete rosters for the World Cup of Hockey. The 36-year-old San Jose Sharks center, whose Cup final wait through 1,367 regular-season games and another 150 playoff contests is the third-longest among active players, was chosen for Team Canada along with teammate Brent Burns, a defenseman. The Sharks will visit the Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday to begin the NHL's best-of-seven championship series. Sweden selected Pittsburgh forwards Carl Hagelin and Patric Hornqvist for their lineup for next September's eight-team showdown in Toronto ahead of Friday's deadline for final 23-man roster selections. Finland, Sweden, Russia, Canada, the Czech Republic, the United States, a European all-star squad and an under-23 North American squad will compete from September 17 to October 1. Auston Matthews, an 18-year-old American center who plays for the Zurich Lions and is expected to be the top pick in next month's NHL Draft by the Toronto Maple Leafs, was picked for the North American under-23 side as each team added seven final players.—AFP



CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles Angels relief pitcher Cam Bedrosian throws during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros on Friday, May 27, 2016. — AP

TANAKA LEADS YANKEES TO VICTORY

DEAN OUTSHINES HERNANDEZ AS TWINS DOWN MARINERS

ST PETERSBURG: Alex Rodriguez homered for the first time since coming off the disabled list and Japan's Masahiro Tanaka pitched seven shutout innings as the New York Yankees beat Tampa Bay 4-1 on Friday night. Rodriguez returned Thursday after missing three weeks with a strained right hamstring. His sixth homer of the season and 693rd overall off Chris Archer came during a three-run sixth. Tanaka (3-0) scattered two hits and struck out four to run his career-best unbeaten streak to 11 consecutive starts, dating to last season. Kirby Yates allowed Steve Pearce's two-out solo homer in the ninth before Aroldis Chapman got the final out. Carlos Beltran homered in the eighth for the Yankees. Archer (3-6) allowed four runs - one earned - and four hits in eight innings for the Rays.

the 19-year-old after 2 2/3 innings in his major league debut. But in a non-save situation, Familia (2-0) failed to hold a 5-1 lead. New York moved back into the NL East lead, by percentage points over Washington.

CUBS 6, PHILLIES 2

Jorge Soler, David Ross and Kris Bryant hit long home runs to back Jon Lester and lead Chicago to a victory on a rainy afternoon. The big drives helped the Cubs win their third straight after dropping eight of 12, and they came before two late delays - for 56 minutes in the top of the seventh inning and for 37 minutes at the start of the ninth. Soler broke a 1-1 tie with his shot halfway up the video board in left leading off the

Buck Showalter woke up a slumbering offense that scored nine runs in its losing streak. Dylan Bundy (1-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings for his first major league win. Zach Britton pitched a perfect ninth for 13th save. Cleveland scored in the second, fourth and fifth to tie the game, but Machado doubled off Zach McAllister (2-2).

ROYALS 7, WHITE SOX 5

Eric Hosmer had three hits, including a home run, and drove in four runs as Kansas City rallied. The White Sox used five pitchers in the Royals' four-run seventh with Matt Albers (1-4) taking the loss. The inning included Brett Eibner's double, his first major league hit, and Whit Merrifield's two-run single. Royals starter Danny

one out in the ninth. Cam Bedrosian gave up a two-run single to Colin Moran. Right-hander Matt Fiers (3-3) took the loss.

PIRATES 9, RANGERS 1

Jonathon Niese outpitched Cole Hamels with six strong innings, ending the Texas left-hander's career-best winning streak at 12 games in Pittsburgh's interleague victory. Andrew McCutchen had one of four home runs for the Pirates, who won their fifth straight and spoiled Jeff Banister's first game against the organization he spent his first 29 years in pro baseball with before becoming Texas manager last season. Hamels (5-1) gave up eight hits and six runs - five earned - in 4 2/3 innings, his shortest outing since the start before throwing a no-hitter in his final appearance for Philadelphia last July 25. He came to the Rangers in a trading deadline deal six days later. Niese (5-2) threw five shutout innings before Adrian Beltre's leadoff homer in the sixth.

BRAVES 4, MARLINS 2

Nick Markakis hit a tie-breaking, two-run single off third baseman Martin Prado's glove with two outs and the bases loaded in the eighth inning to give Atlanta a rare home win. The Braves snapped a four-game losing streak and improved to only 3-20 in home games. They began the day tied with Minnesota for the majors' worst record. Ian Krol (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth inning and Aroldys Vizcaino pitched the ninth for his sixth save in seven chances. Only an overturned call kept the eighth inning alive and made the decisive at-bat by Markakis possible. His liner off David Phelps (3-3) was initially ruled an error on Prado before it was changed to a hit.

BREWERS 9, REDS 5

Aaron Hill hit two solo homers and Jonathan Lucroy added a solo shot and drove in three runs as Milwaukee outslugged Cincinnati, handing the Reds their 11th straight loss. The Brewers chipped away at an early three-run deficit before surging ahead with a four-run fourth. Hill homered to left off John Lamb (0-3) to lead off the inning, and Lucroy capped the scoring with an RBI ground-rule double. Hill's second homer came in the fifth off reliever Dayan Diaz for a three-run lead. Hill and Jonathan Villar both had three hits, two runs and two RBIs to support starter Zach Davies (2-3).

ROCKIES 5, GIANTS 2

Tyler Chatwood threw seven masterful innings and Charlie Blackmon had one of Colorado's three run-scoring doubles to help the Rockies beat San Francisco to end the Giants' 10-game winning streak against NL West teams. It was San Francisco's longest streak versus the

division since capturing 10 straight in August 1982. Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story had RBI doubles in a game that was delayed 42 minutes at the start by weather. San Francisco starter Matt Cain left in the second inning with a strained right hamstring. He was replaced by Albert Suarez (1-1), who took a grounder off the left leg in the third but stayed in the game. Chatwood (6-3) found success at Coors Field after being so dominant on the road. He scattered four hits, walked none and allowed one unearned run.

PADRES 10, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Yangervis Solarte homered from both sides of the plate and the San Diego Padres used 18 hits to rout the Arizona Diamondbacks and snap a four-game losing streak. Matt Kemp and Derek Norris each hit a home run and drove in three, and Wil Myers added an RBI double for the Padres, who won for just the third time in their past 11 games. Christian Friedrich (1-1) threw seven shutout innings, allowing three hits with five strikeouts and a walk for San Diego. Arizona starter Robbie Ray (2-4) lasted only 4 2/3 innings, allowing five runs and nine hits with two walks and eight strikeouts. Brandon Drury and Jake Lamb homered for Arizona, which has dropped four straight.

TIGERS 4, ATHLETICS 1

Nick Castellanos homered and Cameron Maybin doubled in a run, giving rookie Michael Fulmer more than enough support in the Detroit Tigers' victory over the Oakland Athletics. James McCann and JD Martinez also drove in runs for the Tigers, who have won nine of 11. Ian Kinsler was a home run shy of the cycle. Fulmer (4-1) retired 14 of the first 15 batters he faced, with Kris Davis' single with two outs in the second inning the only smudge of an otherwise dominating performance. He gave up three hits over 7 2/3 innings, walking one and striking out three. A's starter Sean Manaea (1-3) gave up three runs on nine hits in six-plus innings.

TWINS 7, MARINERS 2

Robbie Grossman's bases-loaded double keyed a five-run third inning and Pat Dean pitched effectively for seven innings for his first major league victory to pace the Minnesota Twins past the Seattle Mariners. Dean (1-1) allowed two runs on four hits and struck out eight and walked none in his second start and fourth appearance since being called up May 11. Seattle ace Felix Hernandez (4-4), who entered with a 2.21 ERA, was tagged for six runs on eight hits in six innings. Miguel Sano and Joe Mauer each had solo homers for the Twins, while Franklin Gutierrez homered for Seattle in the first inning.— AP

MLB Results/Standings

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

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	29	19	.604	-	NY Mets	28	19	.596	-
Baltimore	27	19	.587	1	Washington	29	20	.592	-
Toronto	25	25	.500	5	Philadelphia	26	22	.542	2.5
NY Yankees	23	24	.489	5.5	Miami	25	23	.521	3.5
Tampa Bay	21	25	.457	7	Atlanta	13	34	.277	15
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	27	22	.551	-	Chicago Cubs	32	14	.696	-
Cleveland	25	21	.543	0.5	Pittsburgh	28	19	.596	4.5
Kansas City	25	22	.532	1	St. Louis	25	24	.510	8.5
Detroit	24	23	.511	2	Milwaukee	22	26	.458	11
Minnesota	13	34	.277	13	Cincinnati	15	33	.313	18
Western Division					Western Division				
Seattle	28	19	.596	-	San Francisco	30	20	.600	-
Texas	27	21	.563	1.5	LA Dodgers	25	24	.510	4.5
LA Angels	22	26	.458	6.5	Colorado	23	24	.489	5.5
Houston	20	29	.408	9	Arizona	21	29	.420	9
Oakland	20	29	.408	9	San Diego	20	29	.408	9.5

fourth. Ross added a three-run homer off the Nueven sign beyond the left-field bleachers in the inning to give the Cubs a 5-1 lead, and Bryant chased Adam Morgan (1-3) with a towering shot to start the fifth. Lester (5-3) rebounded from his shortest start of the season by giving up two runs - one earned - and six hits while pitching into the seventh.

ORIOLES 6, INDIANS 4

Chris Davis' RBI double broke a seventh-inning tie and Manny Machado went 4 for 5 as the Baltimore Orioles ended a four-game losing streak. Mark Trumbo followed Davis' clutch hit with a two-run homer, his AL-leading 15th of the season, and a lineup tweak by Orioles manager

Duffy retired the first 16 batters he faced on 59 pitches before giving up five runs on his next 17 pitches. Peter Moylan (2-0) picked up the victory with a scoreless seventh.

ANGELS 7, ASTROS 2

Mike Trout had a three-run double and Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer in a big third inning to help the Los Angeles Angels beat the Houston Astros. The home run was the 570th of Pujols' career, moving him past Rafael Palmeiro and alone into 12th on baseball's all-time list. Pujols is now three behind Harmon Killebrew for 11th. Matt Shoemaker (3-5) struck out 11 without walking a batter, holding the Astros to seven hits, all singles. He left after allowing two hits with

BLUE JAYS 7, RED SOX 5
Josh Donaldson hit two home runs and drove in five runs as Toronto snapped a five-game home losing streak. The reigning AL MVP was 4 for 5, starting the scoring with a first-inning solo shot, and then providing the winning margin with a two-run drive, his 13th of the year in the eighth. Justin Smoak added a solo shot in the fifth inning. Joe Biagini (2-1) got four outs and Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 11th save. Japan's Koji Uehara (2-2) worked the eighth inning for the Red Sox, allowing Ezequiel Carrera - starting for the suspended Jose Bautista - to reach on a bunt before surrendering the home run to Donaldson.

CARDINALS 6, NATIONALS 2

Stephen Piscotty hit a grand slam off Max Scherzer during a five-run third inning and Jaime Garcia nullified the Washington Nationals lineup as the St. Louis Cardinals won on the road. Coming off consecutive ineffective starts, Garcia (4-4) held Washington to two runs and seven hits over seven innings. Scherzer (5-4) allowed two earned runs in each of his previous three starts including his 20-strikeout gem on May 11 in a victory over Detroit. That version didn't show early against St. Louis. He walked four batters and allowed five runs, all by the third inning. Danny Espinosa's second home run in as many games broke up Garcia's shutout bid in the fifth. Bryce Harper went 1 for 4 after hitting the go-ahead home run in Washington's 2-1 series-opening win Thursday. Greg Garcia homered for St. Louis.

METS 6, DODGERS 5

Curtis Granderson homered leading off the bottom of the ninth to give New York the victory. Chase Utley, who was booed all night in his return to Citi Field, hit a tying three-run double off Jeury Familia with two outs in a four-run ninth inning for the Dodgers. New York took a 3-0 lead in the first against Julio Urias and chased

FARAH OPENS OUTDOOR SEASON WITH WORLD-LEADING MARK

EUGENE: Britain's double Olympic champion Mo Farah surged into the lead with 60 meters remaining to claim victory in the fastest 10,000 meters of the year at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League on Friday. Farah shook off a valiant challenge by Kenyan William Sitonik to win his first outdoor race of the year and kept alive a five-year winning streak at the distance as he clocked an Olympic-qualifying time of 26 minutes, 53.71 seconds. "I don't want to lose here," said the Briton, who trains in near-

Portland, Oregon. Sitonik finished second in a lifetime best 26:54.66 with Ethiopian Tamari Toga third in 26:57.33 as five runners broke 27 minutes. Though Farah claimed victory on a crisp, cool evening, the 33-year-old Olympic favorite was not overly delighted with his performance. "It was good to run sub-27 (minutes)," he said. "But honestly, I was kind of disappointed. I was hoping to run a lot faster than that. "Sometimes, you know, it's your first race and then I have to make the decision to continue

pushing... or try and win the race." He also was a little disappointed that the race had not attracted a stronger field in which to open his outdoor season.

No gap

Farah, who said he was in great shape, stayed near the front until slightly past mid-race before dropping a little behind the leaders. He worked his way back to the head of affairs with less than three laps to go and led at the bell before the 22-year-old Sitonik, the 2012

5,000 meters world junior bronze medalist, surged past Farah with 250 meters remaining. Sitonik was never able to open up a significant gap when he kicked for home, however, as Farah moved up a gear and eased back past his rival on the home straight.

"I felt good at the beginning. Then about mid-race, I kind of felt like, not sluggish, but didn't quite get moving," Farah added. "It was hard to pick it up. "Farah will continue his preparations for the Rio Games with a 3,000m in

Birmingham, England next week as he looks to defend both his 5,000m and 10,000m titles in August. In another highlight, US world champion Joe Kovacs uncorked the three longest outdoor throws of the year to win the shot put, hitting 22.13 meters on his final attempt. Kovacs finished a heart-breaking fourth in the 2012 US trials to miss the Olympic team but is hoping things will be different this year. The meeting continues with key sprints and hurdles races topping the bill.— Reuters

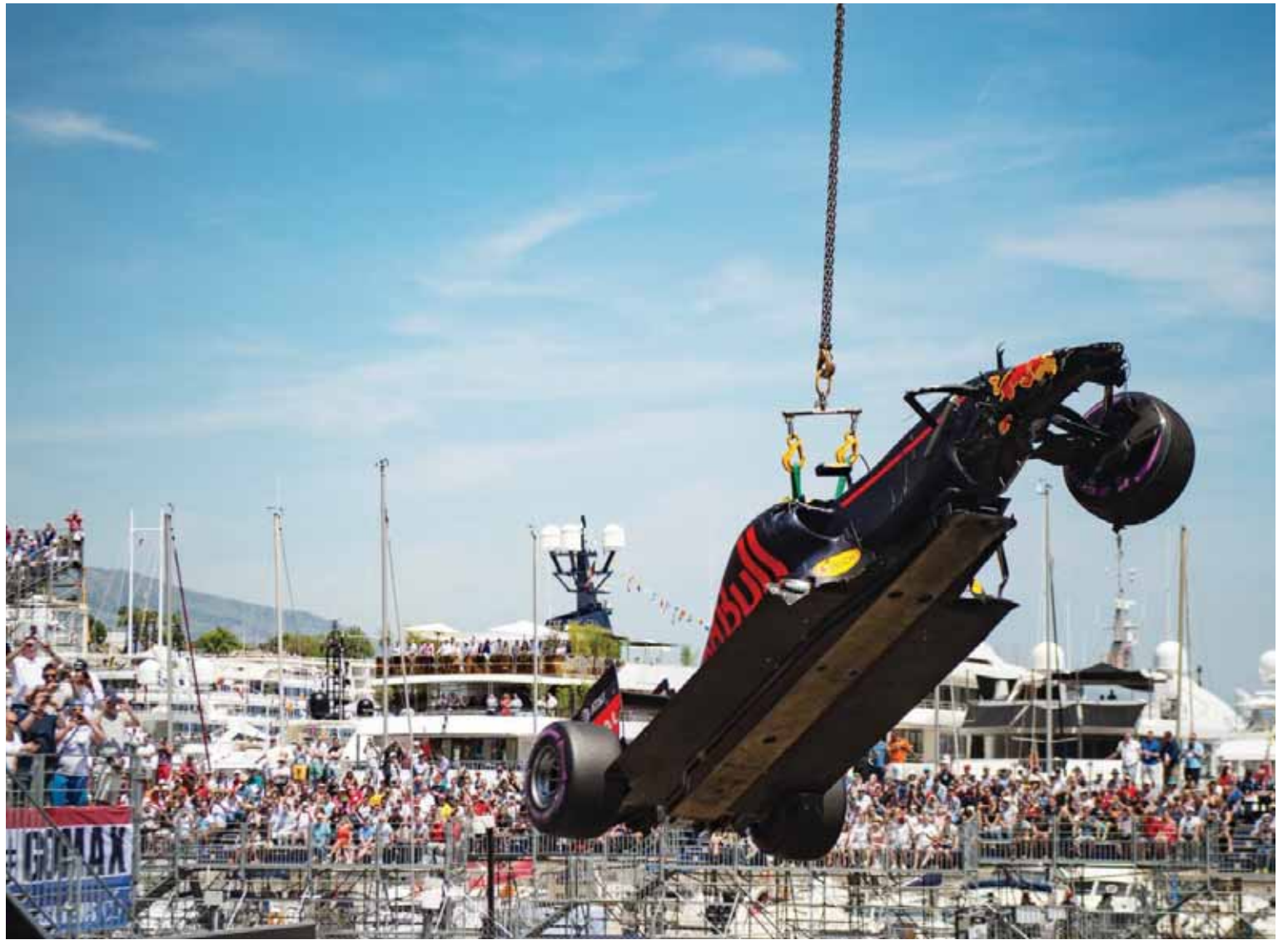
NIBALI SNATCHES PINK ON PENULTIMATE GIRO STAGE

SANT'ANNA DI VINADIO: Vincenzo Nibali all but secured a second Giro d'Italia success with a brave ride to sixth place yesterday's 20th and penultimate stage. Starting the day second at 44sec behind leader Esteban Chaves, Italian Nibali put 1min 36sec into the Colombian to snatch the pink jersey. Today's flat, final stage from Cuneo to Torino is little more than a procession. "I thought maybe everything was lost but also maybe that it still wasn't over," said Nibali, who had come in for severe criticism in the Italian press while struggling earlier in the race.

"The last week can change and I thought something could happen. "I'm very headstrong, I never give up. Last year at the Tour (de France) I had bad days but I always try and come back. "It was a crazy Giro. A difficult, exhausting one for me. I started as the favorite and felt all the pressure. "I had a lot of pressure on my shoulders but I've put on this great show, so I'm happy." Two days ago, Nibali was fourth and 4min 43sec off the lead but the 'Shark' went on the attack in the high mountains in what was always likely to provide the most decisive stages of the race. He won Friday's 19th stage as then-leader Steven Kruijswijk's hopes disintegrated when he crashed on a

fast descent, breaking a rib in the process. It left Chaves in the pink jersey with a 44sec lead to defend but once Nibali went on the attack with 15km left, he couldn't respond. Even with compatriot Rigoberto Uran helping him despite not riding for the same team, Chaves could not hold onto his lead and finished the day 52sec behind Nibali. "Esteban gave it everything. Nibali has had a very strong two days. We're still very proud of Esteban—he did all he could and that's all we can ask of him," Chaves's Orica team manager Matt White told Eurosport.

"It's a great experience for him. We were fifth at the Vuelta, now we're second at the Giro behind one of the best Grand Tour riders of recent years. There's no disgrace in that." Kruijswijk, who battled on despite his broken rib, struggled up the first category Colle della Lombardia alongside Chaves and lost his place on the podium to Spain's Alejandro Valverde. The Movistar leader finished just 13 seconds behind Nibali and that was enough to take him above Dutchman Kruijswijk into third at 1min 17sec. Estonia's Rein Taaramae won the 134km 20th stage from Guillestre to Sant'Anna di Vinadio from Colombia's Darwin Atapuma with American Joe Dombrowski third.— AFP



MONACO: A crane lifts the car of Infiniti Red Bull Racing's Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen after his crashed during the qualifying session at the Monaco street circuit yesterday. — AFP

RICCIARDO TAKES FIRST F1 POLE IN MONACO

VERSTAPPEN CRASHES IN FIRST PHASE

MONACO: Australian Daniel Ricciardo seized the first pole position of his Formula One career at the Monaco Grand Prix yesterday with world championship leader Nico Rosberg joining him on the front row for Mercedes. "High time," shouted the Red Bull driver over the team radio after being told the news. The pole, in a time of one minute 13.622 seconds, was the team's first since Sebastian Vettel at the Brazil Grand Prix in November 2013. It was also the first time since 2012, when Ricciardo's compatriot Mark Webber was on pole for Red Bull, that Mercedes did not secure the top slot in Monaco.

Triple world champion Lewis Hamilton qualified third, a remarkable recovery after his car suffered a fuel pressure problem at the start of the final session and had to be pushed back along the pitlane. Ferrari's Vettel will join the Briton on the second row for the season's showcase race, where the harbourside track winds through twisty metal-fenced streets and overtaking is extremely difficult. Ricciardo, who won three races in 2014 and has made three starts from the front row in his career,

came to Monaco with a new and more powerful Tag Heuer-branded Renault engine. "I knew coming into the weekend we would have a shot at it," said the Australian.

"I have been driving well but haven't quite got maximum rewards so I came into this weekend with a lot of confidence and a lot of belief I could be in this position now." While Ricciardo celebrated, there was disappointment in the other half of the garage with 18-year-old Dutch driver Max Verstappen crashing in the opening session. The teenager, whose victory on his Red Bull debut in Spain two weeks ago made him the sport's youngest winner, will start on the back row. "I turned in a bit too early, broke the suspension and then couldn't recover from it. It's a case of misjudgment," he said after hitting the kerb and smashing into the barrier at the exit to the swimming pool section.

Hamilton's hopes of pole suffered a big blow at the start of the final 12-minute session when Mercedes told him to stop at the end of the pitlane as he headed out. Mechanics ran to recover

er the car, which was fixed in a frantic flurry of activity in the garage. He then had to abort his first attempt at a quick lap, slowing to avoid being caught in traffic, before setting the third-best time. "I don't really know what to say at the moment but the good thing is I did get out to do a lap at least," said Hamilton, whose disappointment was plain to all. "It was as bad as some of the races I have been in, in respect of the engine problems, so I'm grateful to be up in third. Pole was there for the taking but I will do what I can in the race to salvage what I can."

Rosberg leads Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen, who qualified sixth but has a five-place grid penalty due to a gearbox change, by 39 points after five races. The German has won the last three Monaco Grands Prix. Hamilton is 43 points behind his team mate, who started the season by winning four races in a row. Germany's Nico Hulkenberg qualified fifth for Force India. Verstappen's crash and a blown engine in Brazilian Felipe Nasr's Sauber meant red flags were waved twice to stop the session in the opening phase.—Reuters



VINADIO: Pink jersey Colombian Esteban Chaves (right) of Orica GreenEDGE, Italian Vincenzo Nibali (2nd left) of Astana pro team and Luxembourg's Bob Jungels (left) ride during the 20th stage of the 99th Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy, from Guillestre to Sant'Anna di Vinadio yesterday. — AFP

BIG BROTHER STILL PART OF WILSON'S INDY 500 DREAM

INDIANAPOLIS: Dreams can come true but so do tragedies and Stefan Wilson will deal with both on Sunday when he takes his place on the starting grid for the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500. Racing at the Indy 500 has been a lifelong dream for Wilson, but it was one that included his big brother Justin.

Last August that dream was shattered when the hugely popular Justin was struck in the head by flying debris during a race on Pocono Raceway's high speed tri-oval leaving a dark cloud over the IndyCar Series that still lingers. While Justin may be gone he is certainly not forgotten, particularly by Stefan who will honor his brother's memory by wearing a

helmet that will feature his design on half and his brother's on the other side - the side facing the massive crowd that some have estimated will be close to 400,000.

The Indy 500 rookie will also be in car No 25, the same number Justin had last year when he was killed. "It was always a dream of mine to join Justin here on the grid and it's really bittersweet that I am able to be here and Justin is not able to join me," Wilson said. "We were able to run the split livery on my helmet this year which is going to be half my helmet design and half his. "It is a great honor to be part of this event. The only thing missing is to be able to take advice off Justin."—Reuters



ZERO EMISSION NISSAN CARS ELECTRIFY MILAN AT CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

DUBAI: Nissan, the global leader in all electric vehicles, will be electrifying the UEFA Champions League Final in Milan this weekend. As the official global automotive sponsor of Europe's most prestigious football competition, Nissan will supply more than 100 electric vehicles to UEFA and associated sponsors to transport guests and officials during the final weekend. The company will also have the honor of transporting the iconic UEFA Champions League trophy in a specially designed e-NV200 all electric trophy van to the fan festival at Duomo di Milano where it will remain until the big match. Ahead of the final, a unique Nissan LEAF will then take the trophy to the San Siro stadium as part of the UEFA Trophy Parade.

As a gift to Milan and its surrounding airports, Nissan in partnership with A2A is installing 17 public EV rapid chargers, 13 of which will remain free of charge following the UEFA Champions League Final weekend. Gareth Dunsmore, Director of Electric Vehicles for Nissan Europe said: "The final in Milan this weekend marks the climax of another exciting year partnering with the UEFA Champions League - the most prestigious football tournament in the world. We began this journey last season and we were delighted to provide electric vehicles and charging points in Berlin, a journey we look to continue at the final this year in Milan.

The great relationship we have with UEFA means we have been able to provide some-

thing long lasting and positive to both cities during our first two seasons as a sponsor of the UEFA Champions League. "Poor air quality and increasing greenhouse gas emissions are very real challenges facing cities all over the world, including Milan. Zero emission vehicles provide a tangible solution to these challenges, and the fast charge stations built by Nissan in Milan will be decisive regarding the take up of all-electric mobility and will be left behind after the final for the public."

Today's announcement marks an important step in the brand's commitment to making zero emission technology accessible to all and paves the way for Nissan's Intelligent Mobility vision, a 360-degree approach to a smart automotive future announced at this year's Geneva

Motor Show. Pursuing a goal of zero emission vehicles and zero fatalities on the road, Nissan's 'Intelligent Mobility' vision is designed to guide Nissan's product and technology pipeline, anchoring critical company decisions around how cars are powered, how cars are driven, and how cars integrate into society.

Nissan's project in partnership with A2A promotes clean, sustainable mobility in a significant metropolitan area of Europe by offering one of the most advanced infrastructure networks. Last week the Milan Town Council inaugurated the Nissan project for the installation of 12 rapid chargers on municipality area in partnership with A2A. The initiative represents the largest fast charge infrastructure installation in a single city in Italy. This week 2

rapid chargers will be installed at Malpensa airport and a further 3 at Linate airport, one of which will remain after the UEFA Champions League Final.

Nissan was the first automaker to launch a mass-market, 100 percent electric vehicle with the introduction of the Nissan LEAF in 2010. Fast forward to 2016, and the Nissan LEAF remains the best-selling all-electric vehicle of all time, globally. Earlier this year, Nissan reaffirmed its status as a leader in the development of zero emission technology with the launch of the Nissan LEAF 30 kWh which goes 26 percent further than the previous model, delivering up to 250km of driving range on a single charge, beating all of its competitors within the segment.



OOREDOO 'PROUD TO SUPPORT' ATHLETE ABDULAZIZ AL-RASHED

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, announced that it is proud of sponsoring young Kuwaiti triathlete Abdulaziz Al Rashed. The young Kuwaiti sports champion has won the first place in San Diego Tri Rock Series - USA earlier this

week. Commenting on this, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're proud of our young athlete Abdulaziz Al Rashed for his achievement in Miami, and we're certain that he will make more achievements in the future

with the right support. Our sponsorship from Abdulaziz stems from our deep-rooted belief in enabling youth to reach their potential."

Abdulaziz Al-Rashed recently won first place in Kuwait's Triathlon which was held at the Corniche Club. He also won the third

position in Sharm El-Sheikh ALAMEDA Triathlon, which represents the pinnacle of triathlon competitions in Egypt, providing recreational triathletes with a once in a lifetime opportunity to compete on the same course as Africa's and Arabs' known champi-

ons. The tournament attracted hundreds of audiences to watch both the amateurs and the professionals including Africa's best players. Al Rashed has also earned the silver medal in a triathlon that took place in Miami earlier this month.

ARIYA GRABS LPGA LEAD IN BID FOR 3RD WIN IN A ROW

CHICAGO: Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn, seeking her third consecutive victory this month, fired a four-under par 68 Friday to seize a two-shot lead after the second round of the LPGA Volvik Championship. The 20-year-old from Bangkok, who opened with a 65 Thursday, remained bogey free through 36 holes to stand on 11-under 133 in the inaugural edition of the event at Ann Arbor, Michigan. "Today was pretty good," Ariya said. "I didn't hit my iron that good but still OK and I started to make some putts on the back nine." South Korea's Ryu So-Yeon and Americans Marina Alex and Christina Kim shared second on 135 with Italy's Giulia Molinaro and Americans Jessica Korda and Brittany Lincicome next on 137.

Ariya became the first Thai player to win an LPGA event when she captured the Yokohama Tire Classic and followed up by capturing the Kingsmill Championship last week. A victory this week would make Ariya the first LPGA player to win three events in a row since South Korean Park In-Bee in 2013, but the rising Thai star is trying not to ponder that possibility yet. "Right now I'm really happy with it and I really enjoy playing golf right now, so I'm not thinking about, I'm going to win, I'm going to lose," Ariya said. "I want to just have fun and keep playing good." Ariya parred the entire front nine in the second round

before starting the back nine with a birdie. She added birdies at the par-3 12th and par-5 14th holes to seize the lead, then closed with a birdie at the par-5 18th to double her margin at the top. After rising as high as 15th in the world before shoulder surgery in 2013 sidelined her for eight months, Ariya stumbled as low as 124th in the rankings but has now battled back to 13th. Alex, never better than ninth in an LPGA event in her fourth tour season, shot 67 to stay among the leaders. "I've been making a ton of swing changes in the off-season and now they are starting to feel more comfortable," Alex said. "Everything is starting to feel like it's mine and I own it."

Kim fired a 71 after opening with a sizzling 64 to seize the 18-hole lead. "Everything was great, just the ball wasn't in the hole," Kim said. "It wasn't like I was backing off putts after I hit them trying to figure out how did I miss that break or anything like that. "It was just a matter of just burning the edges and just, I mean, not even really being a degree off. So I'm still very confident going into the weekend." Ryu seeks her first win since 2014 and has three top-10 efforts in her past four events. "The final round wasn't good enough to get the trophies so I was really disappointed," Ryu said. "But the good thing is I just kept in contention, kept fighting. I really want to keep my positive mind until today." — AFP

SPIETH SIZZLES WITH 66 AS SIMPSON LEADS IN TEXAS

WASHINGTON: World number two Jordan Spieth fired a four-under-par 66 Friday to stand second in the clubhouse at the storm-hit US PGA Dean and Deluca Invitational. The reigning US Open champion, who defends that title next month at Oakmont, waited out bad weather that delayed the start of the second round at Colonial for 5 1/2 hours. "Really made the most of the round," said Spieth, a back-nine starter who birdied four of the first five holes after making the turn. "All in all, it was a fantastic (second) nine that we played."

American Webb Simpson fired a 67 to cling to the clubhouse lead at 8-under 132 with Spieth one shot adrift. "It's only halfway done," Simpson said. "I've got a lot of work to do." Darkness halted play with 61 of 121 players still on the course and needing to finish their second rounds Saturday morning. American Bryce Molder birdied five of the first eight holes but a double-bogey at the 12th hole left him on nine-under, only one ahead of Simpson with four holes to finish. Patrick Reed was level with Spieth at 7-under through eight holes, moving up with birdies at the first and fifth, while India's Anirban Lahiri was on 6-under after 11 holes.

Spieth has been trying to work his game into shape since a back-nine Sunday meltdown last month cost him a Masters title and he missed the cut earlier this month at the Players Championship. A last-round fade cost him a title chance last week at the Byron Nelson Championship in his hometown event, but this nearby tournament could produce the boost he needs ahead of his defending the US Open crown. "I would say (my confidence) is up there close if I

want to have it 100 percent trust by major time," Spieth said. "It's creeping up. Big step up from last week. It's getting close."

"I feel very comfortable over the ball this week. I felt like we put in some good work from Sunday to Thursday," Spieth began with a three-putt bogey at the 10th hole, answered with a three-foot birdie putt at the par-5 11th and birdied the par-3 13th, dropping his tee shot five feet from the cup. After lipping out from 13 feet for a birdie at 15, Spieth three-putted for bogey at the par-3 16th. "The greens were up and it just took me a little while to adjust," Spieth said. Spieth blasted out of a green-side bunker to five feet at the par-5 first and made his birdie putt, then sank a 20-foot birdie putt at the par-4 second, an eight-foot birdie putt at the par-3 fourth and a 14-foot birdie putt at the fifth.

Simpson grinds it out

Simpson opened with a birdie, blasting out of a bunker and sinking a three-foot birdie putt, but took a bogey at the par-4 seventh when he couldn't duplicate the feat, missing a four-footer after escaping the sand. "It was kind of a grind," Simpson said. "I had to get up-and-down a few more times today and guess out of the rough what the ball was going to do into the green, but it felt great. I managed my game and I think I only made one bogey and made a couple birdies coming in, so that was nice." He answered with a 17-foot birdie at the par-3 eighth and took the lead on late birdies at 16, where his tee shot landed three feet from the cup, and 18, closing his day with a 14-foot putt to edge in front of Spieth. — AFP



TORONTO: Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan (10) is fouled by Cleveland Cavaliers guard J.R. Smith (5) during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals on Friday, May 27, 2016. — AP

CAVALIERS BEAT TORONTO RAPTORS TO REACH FINALS

NEW YORK: LeBron James scored 33 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers booked their place in the NBA finals with a 113-87 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Friday. James contributed six assists and 11 rebounds as the Cavs completed a 4-2 series victory to advance to the finals for a second year running. The Cavaliers will face either the Golden State Warriors or the Oklahoma City Thunder in next week's finals. Oklahoma City currently lead the Western Conference series 3-2 ahead of Game Six on Saturday. James will be playing in the NBA finals for the sixth straight year. The Cleveland star reached the finals for four years in a row with the Miami Heat before returning to Cleveland in 2014. "I knew this was going to be tough game coming to this building-I just had to bring my game, I had to be in attack mode from the beginning, trust my shots," said a delighted James. "I knew once my shots started going in I could start getting my teammates involved and they were able to carry me down the stretch."

The Cavaliers' appearance in the finals caps a rollercoaster season which saw head coach David Blatt fired in January and replaced with Tyronn Lue. James himself had earlier in the season voiced doubts as to whether the Cavaliers had the ability to challenge for the title-reservations which seemed a distant memory in the afterglow of Friday's win. "We've covered a lot of ground and I still believe we can get better," James said. "We've had our ups and downs. But take nothing away from what we've done-our guys are unbelievable, our coaching staff are unbelievable." The Cavaliers had taken a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series against Toronto before being jolted by back-to-back defeats as the Raptors leveled at 2-2.

'Big-time leadership'

But Cleveland reasserted their superiority on Wednesday to regain the initiative with a win in Game Five before ramming home their advantage to silence the home crowd in Toronto on Friday. It was James' first 30-point game of the 2015 postseason, with the Cavaliers also benefiting from big contributions from Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love. Irving finished with 30 points with Love adding 20 as well as 12 rebounds and four assists. Toronto meanwhile brought the curtain down on their first ever appearance in the Eastern Conference finals with a 35-point display from Kyle Lowry, while DeMar DeRozan added 20 points. James is looking forward to having

Irving and Love firing on all cylinders after the bitter memory of last season, when both players missed the bulk of the NBA finals against Golden State with injuries. "I'm so proud of those two guys," James said. "They worked their tails off through adversity to get back. Big-time performances and big-time leadership from those two guys and I'm happy to be a part of it." Cavs coach Lue meanwhile said he was looking forward to challenging in the finals with a full complement of players. "Getting back to the championship with everybody healthy, it's our chance to really show what we can do," said Lue, praising James for helping the Cavaliers get off to a solid early

start with a 14-point display in the first quarter. "We needed LeBron to set the tone for us early and I thought he did that," Lue said. "I needed him to take charge and take the lead in that first quarter. He really did that for us tonight. He's just a great player. He's a proven winner. Love attributed the Cavs' victory to team unity. "We all have trust in each other, we all have each other's back," he said. "We've grown throughout the season. We're back where we want to be but we've got a lot of work to do." Love's sentiment was shared by Lue. "The biggest thing that I'm proud of is that we came together. We trusted," Lue said. "You could see that on the floor. It's beautiful to watch." — AFP

AUSSIE PILLEY - THE BIGGEST SURPRISE IN OVER A DECADE

DUBAI: Cameron Pilley, a 33-year-old Australian, who has never been ranked in the world's top ten, made himself one of the sport's most surprising success stories even before contesting yesterday's final of the PSA World Series finals. Previously best known for striking the ball at a world record 175 miles an hour, and with a relatively modest 13 tour titles, the ultra-tall Pilley added to his startling appearance in the tour's flagship event show-down by the manner in which he reached it. It involved a semi-final win over Mohamed Elshorbagy, the runaway world number one from Egypt, after getting past two other top ten players during the group stages - and managing it all by not really thinking about it.

"In the past I have made mistakes by focusing too much on the outcome of matches, on the end result rather than how to get there. So I make a conscious effort not to think about the goals at all," he explained matter-of-factly. "So think about what I can control. That's my game and how to get better." Pilley will know that his wins have been achieved with short-ended scoring-the best of three games and not five-and that Elshorbagy was impatient and inconsistent after playing more matches this year than any other leading player.

Nevertheless he is rightly pleased that he has been superbly accurate, particularly with wall-clinging drives during the sparring which goes on down the backhand side, and that

has taken his chances calmly and well. "I feel like I have been playing the best of my career," he acknowledged. "Physically I am feeling really good. Mentally I am still keen. "I made a couple of changes last year, a couple of technical things, and freshened up my training methods, and that gave me a wake-up call too, because I had been having average results. Since then I have been pleased with my form."

It has been good enough to accumulate just enough World Series points to squeeze into last place among the eight qualifiers while remaining still outside the top ten in the world rankings. Few expected him then to go on to qualify from his group. It is reasonable to suggest therefore that by reaching Saturday's final Pilley has caused the biggest surprise since another Australian, Paul Price, and a Welshman, David Evans, neither top level players, contested a British Open final more than a decade and a half ago, in the year 2000.

"Feeling pleased is an understatement, considering I just scraped in to get here," Pilley admitted, before suggesting that losing in the group stages to Gregory Gaultier, the world champion from France - his opponent again in the final - had actually been helpful. "I was thumped by Greg and I think that did me good, because since then I have been seeing the ball well I think that sharpened me up and gave me a wake up call," he said. — AFP



TEXAS: Jordan Spieth makes a birdie putt on the fifth green during the Second Round of the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational at Colonial Country Club on May 27, 2016. — AFP

FRENCH OPEN

WANT MORE SPOTLIGHT? GET BETTER, BACSINSZKY TELLS WOMEN

PARIS: Timea Bacsinszky has a simple message for women players wanting more of the media spotlight—get better. The Swiss eighth seed is used to living in the shadow of Roger Federer and reigning French Open champion Stan Wawrinka although she made headlines last year at Roland Garros when she reached the semi-finals before losing to Serena Williams. With Federer ruled out of the French Open this year and nine-times champion Rafael Nadal withdrawing on Friday with injury some of the regular storylines are missing.

"If you want people to talk more about yourself, play better. Be better. You can't expect anything else," she said after beating France's Pauline Parmentier 6-4 6-2 to reach the last 16 yesterday. Parmentier, ranked 88, made a tongue in cheek complaint earlier in the week when three French women

players' photos were featured on the front cover of the tournament's daily magazine *Quotidien*, but not her, despite reaching the second round. It sparked a wider debate about whether the women's game receives enough attention and the eloquent Bacsinszky had some interesting thoughts on the matter.

"What I expect is not to be in the spotlight. To be in the spotlight, you have to deserve it," the 26-year-old said. "I'll never think, 'why are they talking more about Stan and Rog when I've just won a match?' 'Being ranked 50th in the world, I wouldn't expect anybody to praise my games.' The current men's era is regarded as the best ever with classic rivalries between the top four or five players, a situation not repeated on the women's side where Serena Williams currently has no obvious peer. World

number nine Bacsinszky acknowledged that the same "buzz" does not surround the women's game but says she does not lose too much sleep about her global standing in tennis.

"If people talk about me, that's good. If nobody talks about me... I think in French we say, 'to live happily you have to live in the dark.'" Parmentier, one of three French women to reach the third round, admitted that the men's game was 'more enticing.' "Of course from time to time we wish we could get more media coverage, especially when there are good matches," she said. "But I'm not asking newspapers and media to sell dreams. I will be clear about that. I mean, men's tennis is more attractive than women's tennis." Bacsinszky plays either Venus Williams or another Frenchwoman, Alize Cornet, in the fourth round.—Reuters



PARIS: Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky returns the ball to France's Pauline Parmentier during their women's third round match at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open in Paris yesterday. — AFP



PARIS: Romania's Simona Halep serves the ball to Japan's Naomi Osaka during their women's third round match at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open yesterday. — AFP

HALEP SURVIVES SCARE FROM 'A CHILD OF THE INTERNET'

PARIS: Simona Halep avoided the embarrassment of falling victim to a teenager who calls herself "a child of the internet" as she huffed and puffed her way into the fourth round of the French Open with a 4-6 6-2 6-3 win over Naomi Osaka on Friday. It seemed as if the Romanian's name would be splashed across the World Wide Web as the latest high-profile casualty in the French capital after she was totally bamboozled in the opening set by a Japanese opponent ranked 101st in the world.

However, the sixth seed made sure she did not suffer the same fate as Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber, fifth seed Victoria Azarenka or twice Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova. "A year or two ago, I would lose this match because the tight matches are not easy to win," Halep told reporters. "So today I was fighting till the end and I'm really happy with my performance." Even after Halep lost four games in a row to surrender a 4-2 lead in the first set, she kept her wits about her despite the barrage of winners flying off Osaka's racket. The 18-year-old's winning groundstrokes in the opening set drove Halep to take out her frustration on her racket as she went set point down. She earned a code violation from the umpire for

turning her racket into a mangled mess after repeatedly hammering the frame against the red dirt. It was too late to save the first set, but releasing her anger certainly produced the desired result in the second set. The 2014 Roland Garros finalist saved a break point in the opening game before leveling the match. Osaka, who was born in Japan but raised in the United States by her Haitian father and Japanese mother, was not one to give up easily. She fought back from 3-1 down in the third set to 3-3, again raising the prospect of an upset.

However, by this stage, Halep had had her fill of close calls for the day. She ran off with the last three games to wrap up victory. "She has more experience than me... I'm not the greatest player ever, so I can't be upset that I lost," Osaka told reporters. The teenager who once declared "I feel like I'm a child of the Internet, and the Internet has raised me" may have failed to create the headlines she wanted, but Halep set up an intriguing fourth-round showdown with 2010 runner-up Sam Stosur. "It's my second time in the fourth round here at the French Open. So it's a good result and I have to believe that I can just keep going," said the 24-year-old.—Reuters

TIME TICKING FOR NADAL, FEDERER

PARIS: Grand Slam warhorses Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are bracing for a battle against time, as well as the all-powerful figure of Novak Djokovic, if they are to add to their haul of majors. Nadal on Friday sent shockwaves through the French Open when he withdrew with a tendon injury in his left wrist with just two rounds played. It came just a year after the nine-time champion was defeated in the quarter-finals by nemesis Djokovic—his second ever defeat at the French Open.

Tellingly, the hammer-blow also comes just a week away from his 30th birthday. At least Nadal had the comfort of making it to Paris this year. Federer, 34, pulled out on the eve of the tournament with a back injury, ending a run of 65 consecutive Grand Slam appearances stretching back to the 1999 US Open. Both men insist they are not finished with careers that have brought 17 majors for Federer and 14 for Nadal. "I remain as motivated and excited as ever and my plan is to achieve the highest level of fitness before returning to the ATP World Tour for the upcoming grass court season," said Federer when he withdrew from Paris. Federer's great-

est triumphs have come at Wimbledon where he is a seven-time champion.

However, the Swiss, who has played just four tournaments in 2016, will be 35 in August and history is against him. Arthur Ashe was the oldest man to win at the All England Club just a month short of his 32nd birthday in 1975. Ken Rosewall was 37 when he became the oldest Slam winner of all time at the 1972 Australian Open. But Ashe and Rosewall belong to a very different era when the sport was played at a more sober pace in the infancy of the professional age. Federer has not won a Slam since Wimbledon in 2012 whereas Nadal's most recent major was in Paris in 2014. Nadal will be almost 31 in 2017 if he returns to play the French Open, the tournament where he captured his first Slam as a 19-year-old in 2005.

He may be encouraged by the fact that the oldest winner in Paris was Andres Gimeno who was well past 34 in 1972. But for Federer and Nadal it's all a far cry from the days when their combined 31 Slams came from the 44 played between the Swiss star's 2003 Wimbledon breakthrough and Nadal's ninth French Open two years ago.—AFP

SERENA ROARS INTO FOURTH ROUND, TEARS FOR TSONGA

PARIS: Thunderclaps, rain delays, an inspired home favorite roared on by a partisan crowd—it was all in a day's work for reigning champion Serena Williams as the world number one roared into the second week of the French Open yesterday. The 34-year-old American needed all her experience and tenacity to fight off France's Kristina Mladenovic 6-4 7-6(10) in an absorbing contest to set up a last-16 clash with Ukraine's Elina Svitolina who beat 2008 champion Ana Ivanovic 6-4 6-4.

There was further French disappointment later when popular sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was forced to retire against unseeded Latvian Ernests Gulbis leading 5-2. Tsonga, who has come closer than anyone to emulating Yannick Noah, the last home man to win the French Open in 1983, walked off with tears in his eyes after appearing to hurt his knee. Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, last year's semi-finalist Timea Bacsinszky and unseeded Kazakh Yulia Putintseva all booked their fourth-round spots before the rains came.

As did rising Austrian Dominic Thiem, the 13th seed, who continued his fine claycourt season to beat German teenager Alexander Zverev 6-7(4) 6-3 6-3 6-3. The 22-year-old will face Marcel Granollers next, not more illustrious Spaniard Rafael Nadal who rocked the tournament on Friday when he withdrew because of a left wrist injury. With Roger Federer back in Switzerland with a back injury and twice women's champion Maria Sharapova provisionally banned pending the outcome of an anti-doping hearing, the tournament is already missing some of its star turns.

So there was already tension in the air as 21-times grand slam champion Williams stepped on court to face the hard-hitting Mladenovic for the first time in her long career. Everything seemed to be going to plan as Williams took the opening set despite some impressive play from her opponent who used the drop shot to great effect throughout. As the sky darkened and fat rain drops began landing on the clay late in the second Williams seemed anxious to finish the contest but Mladenovic stayed strong and forced a tiebreak just at the moment the heavens opened.

When the contest resumed two and a half hours later Williams made a hash of the first few points and trailed 2-5. She recovered to lead 6-5 but made an ugly mess of an overhead on match point, then on her second chance to close it out she walloped a forehand long after pouncing on a loopy Mladenovic drop shot that sat up begging. Williams saved a set point with a swing volley before another match point came and went but she could finally produce her victory roar when her opponent sent a forehand wide at 10-11. "It was very difficult today she played really well," Williams, bidding for a fourth French Open title, said. "She forced me to play my best



PARIS: US player Serena Williams returns the ball to France's Kristina Mladenovic during their women's third round match at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open yesterday. — AFP

tennis today." Spain's ever-reliable David Ferrer reached the last 16 for the sixth consecutive year by beating compatriot Feliciano Lopez. Top seed Novak Djokovic was initially moved from the Court Philippe Chatrier to the smaller Suzanne Lenglen Court as organizers re-jigged the pro-

gram because of the rain, before Tsonga's misfortune sent him back to the main arena. The Serb took to court at 7.15pm local time (1715 GMT, 1:15 PM ET) and was facing a race against the clock to beat Britain's Aljaz Bedene before light failed.— Reuters

GERMAN PLAYER MULLS LAWSUIT OVER CORNET CRAMPING STORM

PARIS: Germany's Tatjana Maria is considering legal action after her controversial defeat to Alize Cornet at Roland Garros, insisting the Frenchwoman broke the rules over treatment for cramping. Cornet cramped up in her right leg during the second set tiebreak of her second round clash against Maria on Thursday. She needed a medical timeout as well as regular treatment from the physio throughout the third set of the tie which Cornet won.

But Maria insists the rules, which forbid treatment for cramping, were broken while she was equally furious that the trainer and the tournament supervisor physically helped Cornet to her chair after she collapsed in agony on the court. Maria claims that Cornet also exceeded the 20-second rule between points as she tried to ride out the cramping. "We want this (legal action) because it was simply not fair in the match. I think that's important for the sport. It's not

about the defeat. I accept that," the 28-year-old Maria told SID agency, a subsidiary of AFP. Maria said her husband Charles Edouard had already consulted a French lawyer with expertise in sports litigation.

There are more meetings planned in the coming days, she added. However, she admitted that they are not certain who they will sue - the International Tennis Federation, the WTA or the French Open. Maria said she would not pursue action against Cornet. The German added that she had received widespread backing for her complaints from other players in the dressing room. "Even French players have told me that they are behind me. That was nice to hear, because the defeat hurt," she said. Maria had a degree of revenge for her loss when she teamed up with Madison Brengle of the United States to defeat Cornet and Poland's Magda Linette in the doubles Friday. Cornet, 26, insisted she did not seek treatment for cramping but had developed pain in her left hip and called for the trainer before completing her 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 win. She said she was mystified by Maria's frustrations. "I didn't understand so much why she was so mad at me. She even told me when we shake hands that she thought I was not fair play," said Cornet, the world number 50 who faces American veteran Venus Williams for a place in the fourth round yesterday. "I didn't choose to cramp at the end of the second set, and I didn't choose to have this pain in my leg, and I needed a treatment for that. I didn't take a treatment for my cramp because I know the rule, and I respect it."— AFP



France's Alize Cornet

RASHFORD'S RISE NO SURPRISE FOR ENGLAND BOSS HODGSON

SUNDERLAND: Roy Hodgson insisted Marcus Rashford's dream debut for England came as no surprise after the Manchester United sensation staked his claim for a Euro 2016 place with a record-breaking strike in a 2-1 win over Australia. England manager Hodgson had claimed the world would be watching to see if Rashford could cope with the pressure of what amounted to a one-game audition for a place in his final 23-man squad for the Euros.

And Rashford took just 135 seconds to deliver an emphatic response as the teenage striker's lethal volley opened the scoring in Friday's Euro 2016 warm-up at the Stadium of Light. No player of such a tender age had ever found the net on his England debut and at the age of 18 years and 209 days, Rashford is behind only former Liverpool star Michael Owen (18 years and 164 days) and United captain Wayne Rooney (17 years 317 days) in the list of the youngest scorers in an England shirt.

Rashford's meteoric rise is starting to resemble the memorable performances delivered by both Owen and Rooney early in their England careers. Both made their names by dazzling as teenagers at major tournaments—Owen at the 1998 World Cup and Rooney at Euro 2004 — and Rashford looks capable of following in their footsteps after netting at the same venue where Rooney scored his first England goal 13 years ago. Hodgson, who has until May 31 to axe three players from his 26-man provisional squad, wouldn't confirm Rashford had done enough to seal his seat on the flight to France.

But his glowing response to questions about the youngster suggested he can dig out his passport. "The subject of Marcus Rashford, I guess, will chop a few trees down tomorrow," Hodgson said. "I was asked if I was nervous about putting him and if he could handle the situation. I wasn't nervous or surprised with how he played. "He tired a little in the second half but that's normal for

your debut. I asked in the build-up if he was up to playing at international level and we got a resounding yes from him. "I'm pleased. We changed from the diamond (formation) to see if he could play in the wider positions and that was a further advantage. "He was always one of the players who was seriously competing for a place in the 23 and he's done his chances of travelling with us no harm."

Game changer

Just three months ago, Rashford, who earns only £1,500-a-week (\$2,200, 2,000 euros) and drives a relatively modest Audi, was an unknown yet to play a professional game as he strove to emerge from the youth ranks at Old Trafford. But he has seized his chance in remarkable fashion, scoring eight goals in 18 United appearances and helping the team win the FA Cup. Rashford, from the unassuming Manchester suburb of Wythenshawe, has now scored with his first shot in the Premier League and with his first attempt in an England shirt, making him the kind of game-changer Hodgson sounds keen to harness. Rashford's cause is helped by the calf injury that ruled Liverpool forward Daniel Sturridge out of the Australia match.

Sturridge has struggled with injuries to such an extent that he has played only 58 minutes for England since 2014 and, with Rooney, Harry Kane and Jamie Vardy guaranteed of their spots, he could miss out on the Euros if Hodgson decides to take just four strikers. Sturridge will attempt to save his berth by taking part in a full training session on Monday and Hodgson said: "Nothing changes. I will have two or three more sleepless nights before I submit my list on Tuesday. "I know Daniel Sturridge. If it turns out that the injury would keep him out for the (Euro 2016) game against Russia, that might make a difference, but I have no indication it's that serious."—AFP



SAN JUAN: Argentina's forward Lionel Messi is assisted after being injured during a friendly football match against Honduras at Bicentenario stadium in San Juan on May 27, 2016. — AFP

ARGENTINA DOWN HONDURAS 1-0 AMID MESSI INJURY SCARE

SAN JUAN: Lionel Messi was taken to hospital after suffering an injury scare on Friday as Argentina defeated Honduras 1-0 in their only warm-up game before next month's Copa America Centenario in the United States. A first-half goal from in-form Napoli striker Gonzalo Higuain settled a low-key encounter in San Juan, with two-time world champions Argentina dominating possession and shots.

But the result was overshadowed by an alarming incident involving Messi midway through the second half that forced the Barcelona superstar to leave the field clutching his lower back in pain. The five-time FIFA World Player of the Year appeared to be hurt after a heavy aerial collision with an opposing player in the 59th minute. Messi grimaced and rubbed his lower back after the challenge and required treatment on the field for several minutes before he was swiftly substituted by Ever Banega.

Messi was taken to hospital to assess the

nature of the injury, the Argentina Football Association said in a statement. "Messi suffered trauma to his lower back on the left side and ribcage in the same area. He is being examined in a local hospital for a more thorough diagnosis," the statement said. He had suffered a "nasty blow to the lower back," Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said. "It's too early for me to say anything more at this stage," Martino told a post-match news conference. However, any injury to Messi will be a huge blow to Argentina as they prepare for their opening Copa America Centenario match against Chile in California on June 6.

Messi is crucial to Argentina's hopes of winning a first major tournament for 23 years, and was player of the tournament at last year's Copa America and the 2014 World Cup. The 28-year-old Argentina captain missed two months of last season's club campaign for Barcelona after suffering a serious knee injury in September. Messi

is also due to return to Spain this weekend to attend a hearing in his tax fraud trial, before then jetting off to California to reunite with the Argentina squad. Earlier in Friday's match, Higuain's goal in the 31st minute had settled the encounter for the hosts.

The striker produced a sublime Cruyff turn to wrongfoot defender Maynor Figueroa before lifting a delicate finish over goalkeeper Donis Escobar. Argentina had earlier threatened the Honduras goal when Messi played in Angel Di Maria only for the Paris Saint-Germain forward to shoot over the bar. Manchester City defender Nicolas Otamendi also went close on 28 minutes, volleying just wide from Di Maria's corner. Higuain fired the Argentinians ahead just after the half hour, and only a fine close-range save from Escobar prevented Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo from making it 2-0 on 39 minutes, his shot from Erik Lamela's pass parried away at the near post.— AFP

IRELAND KEEP MOMENTUM IN EURO BUILD-UP DRAW

DUBLIN: Ireland maintained their Euro 2016 momentum with a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands at Lansdowne Road in Dublin yesterday night. Martin O'Neill's side were ahead at half time thanks to Shane Long's 16th international goal, and looked set for victory only for substitute Luuk de Jong to head home a late equalizer. Ireland have lost just once since November 2014, and De Jong's goal was just the fourth they've conceded at home in eight games.

It was not the victory O'Neill desired, but there were enough positive performances to give him a testing weekend, mulling over his final 23-man squad. The Netherlands, who failed to qualify for the European Championships this summer, travelled without some big names, but could still field stars like Jasper Cillessen in goal, Virgil Van Dijk and Memphis Depay. Ireland, on the other hand, had plenty at stake, with O'Neill using this game as a penultimate audition for the Euros squad. The warm-up against Belarus in Cork on Tuesday will be D-day for the Irish squad, but this game was a key one for players on the fringe.

Blackburn Rovers defender Shane Duffy, Bournemouth midfielder Harry Arter and Ipswich forward David McGoldrick were the three fighting to prove their worth, along with Reading's Stephen Quinn, who was a constant in away games during qualification. Quinn was an energetic presence in midfield but O'Neill will have had his head turned more by the showings of Duffy, Arter and McGoldrick. The latter, dropping deep and linking play instead of staying up front, played a key role in the

opening goal, showing great composure and awareness. Collecting the ball near the Ireland box, he twisted and turned out of company and, spotting right back Seamus Coleman storming up the wing, lofted a glorious ball over the Dutch defense.

A corner was earned and, not for the first time, Robbie Brady showed his set piece qualities. The Norwich star curled in a beautiful delivery that, having outwitted Van Dijk, John O'Shea thumped towards goal. Vincent Janssen appeared to handle on the line, but while O'Shea was appealing for a penalty, Long forced the ball home to halt the protestations, and start the celebrations among the 42,438 crowd. The Dutch hogged possession but the hosts created the better chances but the hosts created the better chances but the hosts created the better chances but the hosts created the better chances

Duffy was a constant threat in attack and went close with three headers, with the boot of Brady once more delivering top quality ball to attack. Both sides emptied their benches as the clock ticked by, and eventually the Dutch got the goal they may believe their play warranted. Unfortunately for Duffy, it was he who switched off to allow sub De Jong to nod home Jetro Willems's cross, ending Ireland's seven-game run of clean sheets in Dublin. A lesson learned for the young defender perhaps, and O'Neill will be thankful it came here, and not in Paris.— AFP



DUBLIN: Republic of Ireland's Eunan O'Kane (right) takes a shot at goal as Netherlands' striker Luuk de Jong challenges during the friendly football match between Ireland and the Netherlands at the Aviva Stadium on May 27, 2016. — AFP

GERMANY TURN TO YOUTH IN SLOVAKIA EURO TUNE-UP

BERLIN: World champions Germany are set to blood a crop of rising stars in today's friendly at home to Slovakia as head coach Joachim Loew fine-tunes his Euro 2016 squad. Loew purposefully chose Slovakia, who will make their debut at a European championships in France, as they are expected to play in a similar style to Germany's Group C opponents Ukraine, Poland and Northern Ireland.

Slovakia "will try to knock us out of our rhythm" in Augsburg, according to Loew, who wants to see how some of the new blood in the Germany squad cope with senior football. Uncapped Joshua Kimmich of Bayern Munich, Dortmund's Julian Weigl, Leverkusen's Julian Brandt and Schalke's Leroy Sane, none of whom have yet turned 21, are all set to make their debuts. The fleet-footed Sane is a star in the making having been linked to both Bayern Munich and Manchester City.

The quartet, who have all been outstanding for their respective clubs this season, are set to get at least 45 minutes to impress in Augsburg. "They are all able to compete at the required level and are in the extended squad with the idea that they can do the job," insisted Loew. This is the first of two pre-Euro 2016 friendlies for the Germans who host Hungary in Gelsenkirchen next Saturday. Loew's charges were in erratic form in March as they threw away a two-goal lead in their 3-2 defeat to England in Berlin, then hammered a lacklustre Italy 4-1 four days later in Munich.

This is Loew's last chance to look at certain options before finalizing his 23-man squad. Four names must be cut from Germany's 27-strong current group by midnight next Tuesday. Of the 14 World Cup winners in his squad, nine will be missing. Real Madrid's Toni Kroos was involved in the Champions League final yesterday, while Lukas Podolski scored Galatasaray's goal in their 1-0 win over Fenerbahce on Thursday in the Turkish Cup final. Mats Hummels and Bastian Schweinsteiger are both recovering from injury. Sami Khedira and Mario Goetze, who scored in Germany's 7-0 win over their Under-20 team in a practice game on Thursday, are lacking match fitness.

First-choice stars Thomas Mueller and Mesut Ozil will both be rested. Germany's world-class goalkeeper Manuel Neuer will also sit the Slovakia test out by Bayer Leverkusen's Bernd Leno to make his debut. Loew will not take anyone to France who is carrying an injury. "I will not take any chances", leaving the likes of Hummels and Schweinsteiger to prove their fitness in training. Jan Kozak's Slovakia, who face Wales, England and Russia in Group B, drew with Latvia and the Republic of Ireland in their March friendlies. Napoli's Marek Hamsik is the key to the Slovakian midfield, while 34-year-old Robert Vittek, his country's all-time top-scorer, and Viktoria Plzen's Michal Duris are battling for the striker berth.— AFP



BELFAST: Northern Ireland's supporters celebrate as their team beat Belarus 3-0 during an international friendly football match between Northern Ireland and Belarus at Windsor on May 27, 2016. — AFP

NORTHERN IRELAND EXTEND UNBEATEN RUN WITH A WIN

BELFAST: Northern Ireland's record-breaking unbeaten streak was stretched to 11 matches with a 3-0 victory over Belarus at Windsor Park on Friday as Michael O'Neill's team continued their impressive preparations for Euro 2016. Kyle Lafferty scored six minutes into his 50th international appearance, Conor Washington claimed his second in three games just before halftime and substitute Will Grigg netted two minutes from time as the Irish claimed a sixth win in 11 games. That run includes an eight-game unbeaten spell in qualifying for the finals that saw Northern Ireland book a place at a major championship for the first time in 30 years, with the team due to face world champions Germany, Poland and Ukraine next month.

"The game couldn't have gone any better for us really," said O'Neill. It was good to make the substitutions... we were able to work with the team and we were able to play about with things a bit and all-in-all in was a perfect night for us. "What we're trying to get in this team is flexibility, the ability to change. We asked (central defender) Jonny Evans to play for the last 20 minutes as left back and (midfielder) Stuart Dallas to play out of position (on the left flank).

"It was a great performance from us tonight. I thought (Manchester United centre back) Paddy McNair was magnifi-

cent tonight. What we did tonight was fantastic." Goalkeeper Roy Carroll, 38, started for the second game in a row while McNair won his seventh cap alongside Corry Evans and Steven Davis in midfield as O'Neill took a final look at his options before naming his final 23-man squad yesterday. Lafferty opened the scoring with his 17th international goal when he reacted quickest after Egor Filipenko failed to clear Dallas's low cross into the six-yard box, thumping the ball into the bottom corner of Andrei Harbunov's goal.

Another defensive error led to Ireland's second just over a minute before the break when another Dallas cross from the left caused problems and Harbunov's attempted punch looped into the air to allow Washington to head into the unguarded net. The visitors' poor defending gave Grigg, a 61st minute substitute for Lafferty, the chance to add a third in the 88th and the Wigan Athletic man slotted home his first goal for his country with a right-foot shot from 12 meters. Belarus rarely threatened, ensuring the hosts a comfortable send-off in front of a typically boisterous Windsor Park crowd. O'Neill's team have one more friendly against Slovakia on June 4 - before their debut at a European Championship against Poland in Group C on June 12 in Nice.—Reuters

Sports

Cavaliers punch
Toronto Raptors
to reach finals



Argentina down
Honduras amid
Messi injury scare



SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016

SERENA ROARS INTO FOURTH ROUND, TEARS FOR TSONGA Page 18



MILAN: Real Madrid's players hold the trophy after winning the UEFA Champions League final football match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at San Siro Stadium in Milan yesterday. — AFP

REAL CROWNED EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

RONALDO SEALS REAL MADRID SHOOTOUT WIN

MILAN: Cristiano Ronaldo added the finishing touches as Real Madrid were crowned kings of Europe for an 11th time with a 5-3 penalties victory over Atletico Madrid, after a 1-1 draw in the Champions League final yesterday. Two years after reviving Real's bid for a 10th title, captain Sergio Ramos struck the opener after just 15 minutes at a packed San Siro. But the match was pushed into extra time when Belgian Yannick Carrasco came off the bench to level on 79 minutes.

After two, scoreless periods of extra time the match went to penalties. And when defender Juanfran's effort blasted off the bottom of Kaylor Navas's upright, it gave Real the advantage. Ronaldo stepped up and made no mistake, securing the trophy for the second time in three years to leave a dejected Atletico with the crumbs again after an agonizing defeat. Real, inaugural winners of the competition in 1956, claimed their 10th title two

years ago in Lisbon when a late Ramos leveller pushed the match into extra-time.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone had pledged his side, two-time Europa League winners in 2010 and 2012, would end their wait to finally win Europe's premier competition. But it took only six minutes for Real to start knocking on the door. Gareth Bale won a free-kick on the edge of the area and although Benzema got a touch to the Welshman's delivery, goalkeeper Jan Oblak produced a great point-blank save. It was an early warning but the threat was real. When Atletico gave away a free-kick on the left, it was far enough not to warrant immediate anxiety.

But when Toni Kroos's well-struck delivery was back-headed by Bale, it fell dangerously close to the goal line where Ramos appeared to get the slightest of touches before the ball squirmed under Oblak for the opener. It

took a shell-shocked Atletico some time to recover and when the opportunities did arise they were rarely on target. Juanfran blasted a half-volley over and although Koke's cheeky through ball for Fernando Torres was inviting, it was snuffed out by central defender Pepe. Worse, Atletico were giving possession away cheaply and almost paid the price on the half-hour when Casemiro intercepted to set up Benzema, who forced a fine one-handed parry from Oblak to stop his cross.

Before half-time Atletico were restricted to an Antoine Griezmann shot that fizzed wide of the upright, but they were handed a lifeline seconds after the restart when Pepe barged into Torres from behind. English referee Mark Clattenburg had no hesitation pointing to the spot but Griezmann, with seven goals in the competition this season, smashed his effort off the underside of the crossbar. After Bale skewed an effort wide, Atletico got back on

their feet to see Saul Niguez turn on Carrasco's cross and send a half-volley wide of the post. It prompted Simeone into some frantic arm-waving, but instead fans were left breathing huge sighs of relief as Real piled on the pressure. Luka Modric sent Benzema clear but he found the chest of onrushing Oblak with the goal at his mercy.

Modric was involved again when Ronaldo shot straight at the keeper from 25 yards, and Atletico survived a huge scare when Oblak stopped Ronaldo's effort, then had Stefan Savic to thank for clearing Bale's follow-up off the line. The match was turned on its head moments later when Belgian Carrasco muscled his way through Real's central defense to smash Juanfran's perfectly-weighted cross past Navas and send the red half of the stadium wild. But in the end penalty misses from Juanfran and Griezmann left Atletico coming up short. — AFP



LONDON: Hull City's English defender Michael Dawson (4th left) lifts the trophy during the presentation after Hull City won the English Championship play-off final football match between Hull City and Sheffield at Wembley Stadium. — AFP

HULL CITY SECURE EPL PROMOTION

HULL WINS SOCCER'S RICHEST MATCH

LONDON: Hull secured an immediate return to the English Premier League and a minimum \$250 million cash bonanza by beating Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 in the League Championship playoff final yesterday. Mohamed Diame's goal was worthy of winning soccer's richest single match, the Senegal midfielder collecting the ball 25 meters out and curling a right-footed shot into the top-right corner in the 72nd minute. "That little bit of quality to decide a big game," Hull manager Steve Bruce said. "Diame has produced a bit of magic and it's won us the match." Wednesday goalkeeper Kieren Westwood had produced a string of excellent saves to keep

dominant Hull at bay at Wembley Stadium, and got his fingertips to Diame's shot. He couldn't keep it out.

Hull bounces back into England's lucrative top division at the first attempt under the ownership of Egyptian-born businessman Assem Allam, who is seriously ill and wasn't at Wembley for the game. Allam saved Hull from falling into financial ruin when he took over the northeast England club in 2010, following its relegation from the Premier League. Promotion is worth at least \$250 million in future earnings to Hull, with the Premier League's new domestic and international TV

deals starting next season and worth a record \$12 billion over three years.

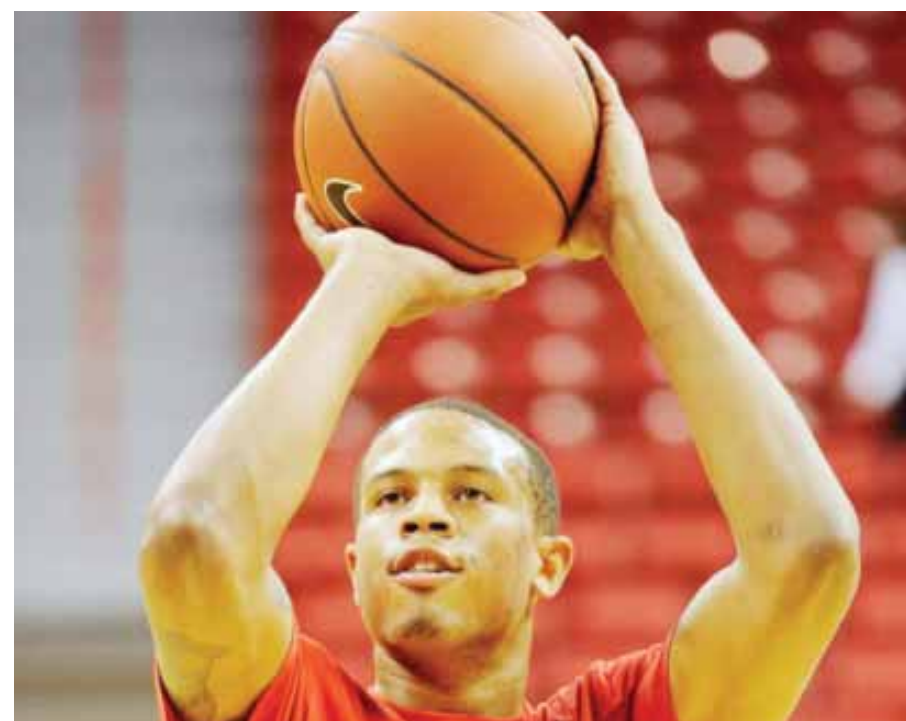
Wednesday was seeking a return to the Premier League after a 16-year absence, and was a shock qualifier for the playoff final. But the Thai-owned team appeared to freeze on the big occasion, with Hull creating most of the best chances. "We seemed to have so many good chances," Bruce said. "Thankfully Diame has come up with a wonder strike. My big players today performed excellently." Bruce became the first manager to achieve four promotions to the Premier League. Hull finished the regular season nine points ahead of Wednesday. — AP

NBA PLAYER DEJEAN-JONES KILLED IN DALLAS SHOOTING

DALLAS: Rookie New Orleans Pelicans basketball player Bryce Dejean-Jones died after being shot early yesterday in a Dallas apartment, police said. The National Basketball Association team issued a statement confirming the 23-year-old shooting guard's death. Dejean-Jones, a native of Los Angeles, had signed a multi-year contract with the New Orleans club in February. "We are devastated at the loss of this young man's life who had such a promising future ahead of him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bryce's family during this difficult time," the team said.

Dallas police said officers responded to a 3:20 am call at an apartment, where the resi-

dent told them that an intruder kicked open his front door while he was asleep in his bedroom and failed to respond when the resident called out. The man then grabbed a handgun and opened fire when the intruder kicked his bedroom door, the police statement said. The intruder left the apartment and collapsed in the breezeway, later dying at a local hospital. The police statement identified the dead man as Dejean-Jones. A 6-foot-6-inch (1.98-meter) guard from Iowa State University, Dejean-Jones had averaged 5.6 points and 3.4 rebounds in 14 games with the Pelicans. He made his NBA debut in January. — Reuters



Bryce Dejean-Jones

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016

Financial results of KSE-listed companies in Q1 disappointing Page 23

KSE indices advance positive sentiment Page 24



Chinese developer Wanda opens theme park to take on Disney Page 22

X-CITE WINS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Page 26



PARIS: Members of the French government and representatives of the oil sector attend a meeting at the Hotel Matignon yesterday in Paris. In France petrol storages depots blocked by opponents to the project of labour law have been unblocked, except from the one in Gargenville said French Junior Minister for Transport. — AFP

FRANCE KEEPS UP TOUGH LINE ON UNREST PETROL SHORTAGES EASE DESPITE ESCALATING STRIKES

PARIS: The French government maintained a hard line yesterday ahead of a fresh wave of protests over a bitterly-disputed labor law that has seen demonstrators blockading oil refineries and strikes paralyzing the transport network.

The escalating unrest, which has gathered pace over the last week sparking petrol shortages that forced the government to dip into strategic fuel reserves, comes just weeks before football fans flood into the country for the Euro 2016 championships. At issue is a controversial labor law which the government forced through parliament without a vote aimed at freeing up France's famously-rigid labor market and bringing down high unemployment.

Unions say the changes favor companies at the expense of workers' rights and are demanding that the new labor law be scrapped. Despite the protests, the government has remained defiant, with riot police on Friday moving in to clear blockades outside petrol depots, and President Francois Hollande vowing not to give in to union demands.

All but one of the depots were successfully unblocked, according to the transport ministry. Hollande's tough line was

echoed Saturday by Prime Minister Manuel Valls ahead of talks with bosses in the oil and transport industries, the two sectors worst hit by the protests.

"My responsibility as head of government is to ensure that people can buy petrol and that businesses won't be penalized by the blockages," he said, pledging to defend the law "to the end". "We will continue clearing these sites with determination," he said, insisting that withdrawing the controversial law would be a "bad thing for working people".

'Petrol situation improving'

Saturday's talks were aimed at taking stock of the petrol shortages following the partial or total closure of six of the country's eight refineries. Several of the sites have been operating at reduced capacity due to the ongoing union action. Hoteliers and restaurateurs have reported "major cancellations" in Paris and in the west over the strikes and petrol shortages. With most of the depot blockades cleared by police on Friday, the situation was much improved although the government said around 20 percent of petrol stations were still

suffering shortages. However Transport Minister Alain Vidalies cautioned yesterday, that it was too early to say the petrol crisis had been resolved. Francis Duseux, head of the Ufip oil industry federation, saw progress: "Over the past two days the situation has considerably improved." Nonetheless further protests are expected next week with strikes expected to hit the rail network, the Paris Metro and civil aviation on Tuesday. With petrol in short supply, many disgruntled motorists were forced to wait in long queues at service stations.

Despite the disruption, polls suggest two out of three people-or 66 percent-are in favour of a withdrawal of the text "to avoid the country grinding to a halt".

Union 'blackmail'

After a day of major protests on Thursday which authorities said brought 153,000 people on to the streets-organizers put the figure at 300,000 — the eight unions opposing to the law urged demonstrators to "step up the mobilization".

The stoppages are part of a wave of strikes and mass demonstrations that have seriously disrupted France, sparking

sometimes violent confrontations with the police. Earlier this week, France's civil aviation body appealed to airlines to fuel up abroad before arriving in Paris from European destinations to ensure they could make the return flight, in a move that Air France insisted was merely precautionary.

Strikes also continued at nuclear power stations-which provide three-quarters of the country's electricity-but have so far failed to affect supply, authorities said. The employers' federation, Medef, expressed anger over the effect the strikes are having on France's fragile economic growth, urging the government to resist the unions' "blackmail". Tourist bookings were also hit, with hoteliers nervous that Euro 2016 visitors may be put off by the industrial action. The CGT union that has led the protests has called for rolling strikes on the Paris Metro network to start on June 10, the day Euro 2016 begins, giving the organizers new headaches on top of security concerns sparked by last November's jihadist attacks in Paris. The strikes come a year ahead of an election in which Hollande is considering standing again despite poll ratings that are among the lowest for a French leader in modern history. — AFP

JAPAN SHARES G7 PUSH FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH WITH ASIA AND AFRICA

NAGOYA, Japan: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is sharing a push by the Group of Seven advanced industrial nations to promote inclusive growth across the globe in meetings with leaders of seven developing countries. The bilateral summit meetings with leaders of Bangladesh, Chad, Indonesia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam in this central Japanese city yesterday followed a gathering with G7 leaders after their annual summit, which was held in a nearby seaside resort. Chad's President Idriss Deby was representing the African Union at the meetings in Japan.

At that session, the leaders agreed to promote infrastructure development to help boost growth, Japanese officials said. They also voiced their support for the G7's stance on the need for peacefully settling territorial disputes according to law - a reference to frustrations over China's growing presence in areas of the South China Sea also claimed by its neighbors.

Laos, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea are among the poorest nations in Asia. Vietnam and Indonesia are two of the fastest-growing developing economies. During the summit, Abe expressed strong concern over slowdowns in China and some other emerging economies that have sapped global growth at a time when Japan and European nations are struggling to keep their own recoveries on track. A more than 50 percent plunge in commodity prices was a key signal of the risks to growth, Abe said. "What we are concerned about the most is contraction of the world economy," Abe said.

Japan has pledged to increase its development assistance, help finance an insurance fund for health emergencies in the developing world and to offer training to thousands of people in the developing world as part of its own contri-

but to bridging economic disparities.

The G7 meeting also endorsed an effort to help 500 million people in developing countries escape hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Collective action

The leaders of the Group of Seven rich economies pledged Friday to "collectively tackle" major risks to global growth, including direct political threats to the international order from terrorist attacks, violent extremism and refugee flows. Meeting at a seaside resort with expansive views of a scenic bay and emerald-green islands, G-7 leaders wrapped up their annual summit

Friday in central Japan claiming a "special responsibility" for leading international efforts to cope with those challenges. They also committed to a cooperative approach in beefing up policies to stimulate and sustain growth of their sluggish economies.

"Weak demand and unaddressed structural problems are the key factors weighing on actual and potential growth," they said in a declaration. "We have strengthened the resilience of our economies in order to avoid falling into another crisis and to this end commit to reinforce our efforts to address the current economic by taking all appropriate policy responses in a timely

manner." "We remain committed to ensuring that growth is inclusive and job-rich, benefiting all segments of our societies," it said. The wording of the leaders' declaration glosses over differences on the issue of fiscal stimulus by saying each will take into account "country-specific circumstances" in committing to stronger policies to support their economies. Germany, in particular, has balked at committing to expansionary fiscal policy.

In a nod to such concerns, the communique includes a reference to the need to ensure debt is "on a sustainable path." While Japan is moving toward more public spending, and the likely postponement of a sales tax increase next year, to revive faltering growth, its own gross public debt is more than twice the size of its economy.

The G7 host, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appealed to his fellow leaders to act to avert another global crisis, comparing the current global economic situation to conditions just before the 2008 financial crisis.

Vigilance is crucial for averting a relapse, he said: "We learned a lesson that we failed to respond properly because we did not have a firm recognition of the risks." President Barack Obama backed Abe's call, saying it was crucial not just to put people back to work but also raise wages and maintain the momentum of the recovery. "We've all got a lot of work to do and we agreed to continue to focus on making sure that each country, based on its particular needs and capacities, is taking steps to accelerate growth," Obama said. G7 countries denounced protectionism and trade barriers. They also noted the negative impact from overcapacity in some industries and government subsidies and other incentives that tend to make such problems worse.—AP



TOKYO: Vietnam Airline's President and CEO Pham Ngoc Minh (front L) shakes hands with Japan's ANA Holdings president and CEO Shinya Katanozaka (front R) on their conclusion of a business alliance, while Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (rear R) and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (rear L) look on at Abe's official residence in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

NEPAL UNVEILS \$9BN BUDGET FOCUSED ON QUAKE RECONSTRUCTION

KATHMANDU: Nepal's government yesterday unveiled the first budget drawn up since the country introduced a new constitution last September, with a focus on funding reconstruction and reviving the battered economy. Millions continue to live in temporary shelters after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the Himalayan nation in April 2015, killing nearly 9,000 people.

Finance minister Bishnu Prasad Poudel outlined a \$9.78 billion budget, allocating over \$1 billion to rebuilding efforts, while directing funds for infrastructure development and agriculture across the country. "We will speed up the post-quake reconstruction efforts and complete it within stipulated time... I have made provisions to make sure that the required resources are not scarce," Poudel said. According to Kathmandu's estimates, the Himalayan nation will need around \$8.4 billion to fund rebuilding, with donors pledging \$4.1 billion in aid.

The country's economy, already weakened by the disaster, faced another blow when protesters angry at the terms of a new national constitution mounted a blockade at the Indian border, creating crippling shortages that lasted for months. "The objective of the budget of the coming fiscal year is to... revive the economy affected by the earthquake and the obstruction of the supplies," Poudel said.

Poudel vowed to accelerate distribution of aid to the earthquake survivors and announced interest-free loans of up to \$3,000 for reconstruction of homes.

Nepal-one of the world's poorest countries even before the disaster-was devastated by the quake and the blockade, which sent growth prospects plummeting in crucial sectors like agriculture and tourism. The current growth rate is forecasted at 0.77 percent, the lowest since 2002 when the country was in the middle of a civil war. However, the finance minister said he hoped to accelerate annual economic growth to 6.5 percent.—AFP

Bayt.com weekly report

WHY REGIONAL JOB SITES ARE HOTTER THAN EVER

As regional online habits change and evolve, top specialized regional job sites are emerging stronger than ever thanks to an uncanny versatility, a focused business approach, a commitment to innovation and a sound familiarity with the regions they serve. In fact, according to the Bayt.com 'Recruitment Practices in the Middle East and North Africa' poll, May 2015, 22 percent of professionals said they have found their current job through an online professional network or job site, such as Bayt.com.

Beyond accessing the largest selection of top regional jobs and top regional employers, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you just a few of the other reasons it makes more sense today than it ever did to post your CV online:

1. Recruiter budgets are shrinking

The atmosphere of cautious cost-consciousness in the recruitment arena continues to favor the low-cost, top-quality dynamics only the top regional job sites can afford to provide. The recent economic slowdown allowed even those recruiters who were sitting on the fence to experience that top regional job sites, like Bayt.com, are the fastest, easiest, most effective and most cost-efficient means to recruit top talent while receiving timely market intelligence and localized customer care. Simply put: Top regional job sites, like Bayt.com, are where cost-conscious recruiters looking for top talent are today.

2. You can create your own Public Profile

Bayt.com was the first regional job site to allow a full-fledged public profile platform whereby professionals registered on Bayt.com can allow their CV to be transformed to a public profile that can be searched by top employers using search engines. In an age where sophisticated personal branding really matters, a public profile takes you that extra step closer to being professionally approached by not only prospective employers, but also peers, business partners and clients.

3. You can measure the effectiveness of your CV

Today's personal job search dashboards on leading job sites are increasingly sophisticated. Bayt.com's Dashboard, for example, allow you to measure how complete your CV is, how often your CV was searched, how often your CV was viewed, how popular the jobs you applied to were, what industries are demanding your skills, and even what skills you currently need to shift to a new target industry.

4. You can compare your salary to others

Bayt.com's Salaries platform, the first pan-regional platform of its kind, allows you to compare your salary to peers in your company and industry and to determine what the market is currently paying for your skillset and career level. Before you sign a new offer letter or agree to a raise it makes sense to check out market compensation levels and ensure you are paid right.

5. The jobs will find you

While many thousands of fresh, current jobs are advertised on any given day on top job sites such as Bayt.com, a similar number are filled through the Search functionality without ever being advertised. You need simply to post your CV online and if an employer is looking for your skillset, they will approach you. According to the Bayt.com 'Recruitment Practices in the Middle East and North Africa' poll, 36 percent of employers feel that searching through millions of CVs with an easy and quick search tool is the easiest way to hire top candidates.

6. Job sites like Bayt.com cater to everyone

Job sites may have been first adopted by the young and web savvy; however, today they are increasingly also the domain of senior level executives with C-suite jobs. Different levels of confidentiality allowed on a job site, such as Bayt.com, mean that confidentiality is no longer an issue and even seasoned professionals in the top corporate echelons are harnessing the power of the best job sites to network with peers on Bayt.com Specialties and other top networking platforms, and see what special professional opportunities beckon today or further down the line.



NANCHANG: Visitors make their way toward the Nanchang Wanda Park theme park during its grand opening day in Nanchang in southeastern China's Jiangxi province yesterday.— AP

CHINESE DEVELOPER WANDA OPENS THEME PARK TO TAKE ON DISNEY

CHINA'S RICHEST MAN JIANLIN DECLARES WAR ON DISNEY

NANCHANG, China: China's largest private property developer, the Wanda Group, opened an entertainment complex yesterday that it's positioning as a distinctly homegrown rival to Disney and its \$5.5 billion Shanghai theme park opening next month. Wanda executives unveiled their \$3 billion "Wanda City" in the southeastern provincial capital of Nanchang to thundering music reminiscent of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" theme and hailed the center as a representative of Chinese entertainment culture in the face of encroaching foreign influences.

Wanda's massive site includes an \$800 million China-themed park filled with twirling "porcelain teacup" rides and bamboo forests, an indoor shopping mall with cinemas, restaurants, hotels and the world's largest ocean park. Disney is set to open its own resort in Shanghai - the largest Disneyland in the world - in June. As a leading player in Chinese firms' globalization push, the property group has invested heavily in the film and cinema business and has spoken openly about its nationalistic mission to fend off Disney in the Chinese market and become an entertainment brand recognized around the world. In remarks at yesterday's opening, Wang Jianlin, Wanda chairman and China's richest man, did not mention Disney by name but said Chinese people "fawned" over Western imports.

"Chinese culture led in the world's for 2,000 years, but since the last 300 years, because of our lagging development and the invasion of foreign cultures, we have more or less lacked confidence in our own culture," Wang said. "We want to be a model for Chinese private enterprise, and we want to establish a global brand for Chinese firms." Earlier this month he told Chinese state television in an interview that Disney's foray into China would crumble under more competitive pricing from his group, and warned that the "the frenzy of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and the era of blindly following them has passed." Wanda's dealmaking has been similarly aggressive as it quickly diversifies away from China's weakening real estate market.

The group purchased US-based AMC Theaters cinema chain in 2012 for \$2.5 billion and paid \$3.5 billion for Legendary Entertainment - the Hollywood studio behind the Batman franchise - earlier this year as it ramped up its international push.

Seeking to capitalize on China's rising middle class, developers are planning dozens of Chinese theme park, along with projects from US firms like Universal Studios, DreamWorks and Six Flags. But instead of seeking to capture China's top tier cities like Beijing or Shanghai, Wanda has built parks in smaller but still massive cities like Wuhan, where it regularly presents the "The Han Show" - a Cirque du Soleil-style acrobatic performance that's based on the traditional culture of the Han, China's largest ethnic group.

Even so, there were signs of Disney's presence in Wanda City. Tourists who opted against paying 198 yuan (about \$30) for the theme park and headed for the shopping mall were



NANCHANG: People visit the newly open theme park "Wanda City" in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi province yesterday.— AFP

greeted by what looked like a woman in a Snow White costume as well as storm troopers, the armored soldiers from the Star Wars franchise owned by Disney. A Uniqlo store was fully stocked with Disney merchandise and sold stacks of Mickey

Mouse T-shirts for about \$12 each. In response to a question about the presence of Disney characters, Wanda said in a statement that the company "does not control the promotional activities of retailers."— AP

EGYPT GDP GROWTH EDGES LOWER

CAIRO: Egypt's economy grew 4.5 percent in the first half of 2015/2016, down from 5.5 percent growth in the previous year, the planning minister said yesterday. Total GDP for first half of fiscal year 2015/2016, which began in July, was 1.4 trillion Egyptian pounds (\$158 billion) in the first half compared with 1.275 trillion pounds in the same period last year, minister Ashraf al-Arabi told a news conference.

Second quarter growth for 2015/2016 was 3.8 percent, down from 4.3 percent a year earlier. Al-Arabi said that his government is targeting less than 4.5 percent growth in second half of the current fiscal year and a total of 4.4 percent of 2016, due to militant attacks that hit the tourism industry and other problems that had affected the economy. A series of setbacks including the crash of an EgyptAir flight into the Mediterranean

last week have affected Egypt's ailing economy. Egypt's tourism industry, a cornerstone of the economy and a critical source of hard currency, has struggled to rebound since the 2011 uprising that ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule ushered in a period of political and economic upheaval. Al-Arabi said Egypt was targeting 5.2 percent growth in 2016-2017 and 5 percent in the following year. The government is also targeting a budget deficit of 9.8 percent for 2016-2017 and 9 percent for 2017-2018. Egypt has lurched from crisis to crisis in recent months, straining the tourism sector and the economy as a whole. The number of tourists fell 40 percent in the first quarter of 2016 compared to last year due in large part to the suspected bombing of a Russian plane carrying 224 people from a Red Sea resort in late October.—Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.747
Indian Rupees	4.515
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.070
Nepali Rupees	2.814
Singapore Dollar	220.990
Hongkong Dollar	38.984
Bangladesh Taka	3.860
Philippine Peso	6.490
Thai Baht	8.510

GCC COUNTRIES

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

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.484
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	145.900
Jordanian Dinar	426.740
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	31.536

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	340.590

Sterling Pound	445.040
Canadian dollar	234.420
Turkish lira	103.330
Swiss Franc	307.670
Australian Dollar	220.400
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD

20 Gram	245.630
10 Gram	125.740
5 Gram	63.710

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	232.835
Sterling Pound	443.675
Euro	337.825
Swiss Frank	302.415
Bahraini 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	2.063
Indian Rupees	4.514
Pakistani Rupees	2.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.486
Cyprus pound	577.120
Japanese Yen	3.740
Syrian Pound	2.375

Nepalese Rupees	3.820
Malaysian Ringgit	74.840
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.470
Thai Bhat	9.450
Turkish Lira	102.530

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.437176	0.446176
Czech Korune	0.004535	0.016535
Danish Krone	0.041522	0.046522
Euro	0.0332255	0.0340255
Norwegian Krone	0.032605	0.037805
Romanian Leu	0.086889	0.086889
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Swedish Krona	0.032549	0.037549
Swiss Franc	0.297658	0.307858
Turkish Lira	0.097693	0.107993

Australasia	America
Australian Dollar	0.229735
New Zealand Dollar	0.197230
Canadian Dollar	0.227551
US Dollars	0.298800
US Dollars Mint	0.299300

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003444
Chinese Yuan	0.044673

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036981	0.039731
Indian Rupee	0.004188	0.004578
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002681	0.002861
Kenyan Shilling	0.003115	0.003115
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070434	0.076434
Nepalese Rupee	0.002886	0.003056
Pakistan Rupee	0.002694	0.002974
Philippine Peso	0.006343	0.006623
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217343	0.223343
South African Rand	0.013506	0.022006
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001698	0.002278
Taiwan	0.009184	0.009364
Thai Baht	0.008145	0.008695

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796879	0.804879
Egyptian Pound	0.028001	0.033119
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423217	0.430717
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020848	0.044848
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.082488	0.083701
Saudi Riyal	0.079887	0.080837
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.142415	0.150415
Turkish Lira	0.097693	0.107993
UAE Dirhams	0.081543	0.082692
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF KSE-LISTED COMPANIES IN Q1 DISAPPOINTING

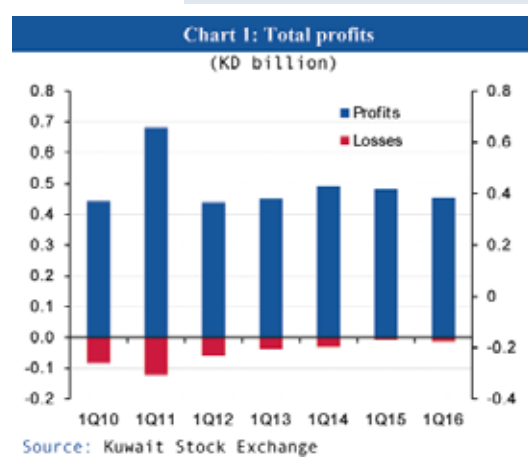
NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: The financial results of companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) for 1Q16 were disappointing. Low oil prices seem to have taken a toll on the corporate sector with signs that nonoil activity is cooler than it would have been, had oil prices remained above \$100. Signs of softness were prevalent in most sectors but more pronounced in non-bank financial services and real estate. Meanwhile, profit announcements seemed to have minimal effect on stock prices, which have been largely driven by an improvement in oil prices.

The earnings of 151 listed Kuwaiti companies totaled KD 427 million in 1Q16, down by 7 percent from 1Q15. Reported losses were also up, totaling KD 12.8 million, up by 48 percent year-on-year (y/y). The number of loss-making companies also increased to 27 from 20.

Banks contributed most to the decline in total profits, with the sector's bottom line down by 8.5 percent y/y. However, the decline was primarily due to a one-time gain on the sale of an asset at one bank in 1Q15. Excluding this exceptional 2015 gain, bank profits show a decent 6 percent y/y rise; but even after the adjustment, profits of all listed companies would still show a 1 percent y/y decline.

Banking results were mixed, with some banks registering double-digit growth just as others saw



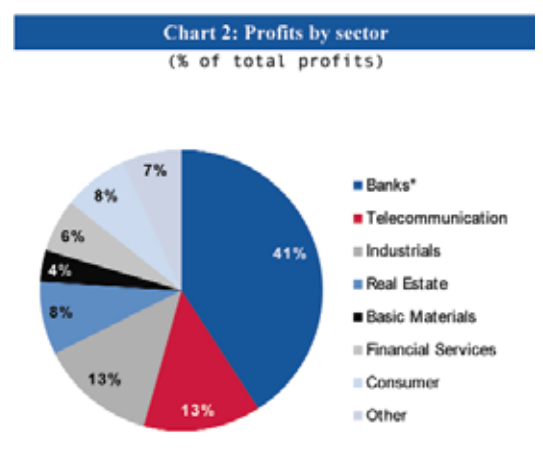
notable declines in earnings. Nonetheless, banks continued to show resilience given the current environment of low oil prices and concerns in Kuwait and the region that economic growth might be moderating. Indeed, asset growth remained healthy despite some moderation while asset quality continued to improve.

Earnings of non-bank financial services and real estate companies signaled more genuine vulnerabilities. The poor performance of Kuwaiti and

regional equities in 1Q16 appeared to weigh on the portfolios of investment companies. As a result, financial services companies saw profits decline by 36 percent y/y. Declines were broad-based, with more than half of reporting companies seeing profits down and nine showing losses compared to four in 1Q15. Real estate companies suffered a similar fate in 1Q16 as oil price volatility appeared to weigh on the real estate market, and activity declined 18 percent y/y. Nearly half of the reporting companies saw profits decline while total sector profits were down 27 percent y/y. Eight companies suffered losses compared to five in 1Q15.

Even the more resilient consumer sector showed signs of softening. Profits of consumer services and consumer goods companies dropped by 5 percent and 2 percent y/y, respectively. Half of the companies in the sector saw declines in profits.

Meanwhile, results of most of the other sectors were far from impressive. The oil and gas sector saw the biggest jump in profits, but the increase was primarily due to a restructuring of debt into capital at one company. Meanwhile, the telecom sector continues to face a challenging environment as intense competition from within the sector and from non-traditional providers eats into profit margins.



The impact of profit announcements on stock prices was relatively muted. The KSE, like all other GCC stock markets, continued to be driven primarily by the movement of oil prices which have recovered by more than 70 percent from their January low. As of May 25th closing, the KSE value-weighted index was up 1 percent on the quarter in line with regional markets.

VENEZUELA: POLL FINDS SHORTAGES TO EXCEED 80%

CARACAS: More than 80 percent of basic consumer products including food and medicine are now in short supply in Venezuela, a poll says. Stores are facing greater shortages than households, president of pollster Datanalisis Luis Vicente Leon said Friday.

But the company's latest study, with data from April, saw a jump in that index as the oil-rich country grapples with political and economic crisis.

"The deterioration has been exponential over the last two months," Leon said. "We are seeing indices worsen in a really dramatic way." Datanalisis expects inflation of 450 percent, and predicts purchasing power will drop by at least 40 points compared to 2015.

The latest official inflation figures from December 2015 reported a 180.9 percent

increase in prices. The combination of shortages and inflation plaguing Venezuelans has forced at least two-thirds of the population to rely on the black market for basic goods.

Around 86 percent of Venezuelans polled pinned blame on President Nicolas Maduro's leftist government. Maduro claims that a conspiracy of entrepreneurs are waging "economic war" on his country, and also says the collapse of prices of oil-a commodity that accounts for 96 percent of Venezuela's hard currency revenue-has provoked the crisis. According to Datanalisis, 71.8 percent of Venezuelans think Maduro's "economic war" theory as "little or no credibility." The study surveyed 800 people in eight major Venezuelan cities of varying socioeconomic status. The margin of error was 3.46 percent. — AFP

YELLEN: FED COULD RAISE RATES IN COMING MONTHS

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Friday that an interest rate hike would be appropriate in the coming months if the economy keeps improving.

While economic growth was relatively weak at the end of last year and beginning of this year, it appears to be picking up now based on recent data, Yellen said during a discussion at Harvard University. She said she expects the Fed to "gradually and cautiously increase" its key interest rate "and probably in the coming months, such a move would be appropriate."

Anticipation of a rate hike at either the next June meeting or in July have been rising since the Fed last week released the minutes of its discussions at its April meeting. The minutes showed that Fed officials believed the strengthening economy might warrant a rate hike in June.

The minutes caught investors by surprise because they had come to believe the Fed would not move that quickly. Many private economists still believe a June rate hike isn't very likely. The gathering will take place only

a week before British voters decide whether to support a move to leave the European Union. The Fed may be reluctant to raise rates in advance of the British vote. These analysts believe a hike at the July 26-27 meeting is more likely.

Yellen's comments came during an appearance at Harvard University where she was honored with the Radcliffe Medal. She was interviewed by Harvard University economics professor Gregory Mankiw.

Yellen's appearance had been widely anticipated because it was the first time she had spoken publicly since April 8 in New York. The Fed raised its key policy rate for the first time in nearly a decade in December, pushing the rate from a record low near zero to a range of 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent.

But after increased global weakness and financial market turmoil in January and February, the Fed has kept rates unchanged so far this year. And the Fed indicated in March that it was trimming its estimate of possible rate hikes this year from four to just two. — AP



MADRID: A tourist poses for photos behind a bullfighting costume in Madrid's Plaza Mayor in Spain. With sunny days getting longer and lazier, sparkling beaches warming up and terrorism fears driving customers away from other Mediterranean destinations, Spain and Portugal are reaping an economic bonanza from tourism. — AP

TOURISM BOOM FIRES IBERIAN ECONOMIES, LEAVES SOME COLD

BARCELONA: With sunny days getting longer and lazier, sparkling beaches warming up and terrorism fears driving customers away from other Mediterranean destinations, Spain and Portugal are reaping an economic bonanza from tourism.

While most in the cash-strapped nations are welcoming the influx, some locals have been exasperated by the crowds of tourists. In the first two months of this year, the number of holidaymakers arriving in Spain was up more than 11 percent on the same period in 2015. Authorities predict that Spain is on course for its fourth straight record-breaking tourism year. ABTA, the United Kingdom's largest travel association and Iberia's main market, reports that bookings to Portugal are 29 percent up compared to last year, and are 26 percent higher for Spain.

That's broadly seen as good news for the two Iberian economies, which nosedived during Europe's recent financial crisis. But not everyone is cheering.

With the boom showing no signs of slowing and the summer vacation season approaching, some locals are fed up with throngs of tourists clogging the narrow streets of the peninsula's centuries-old cities and crowding its celebrated beaches.

In Palma, capital of the popular Spanish island of Mallorca, graffiti in English appeared on city walls last month saying, "tourist you are the terrorist" and "tourist go home." In Barcelona, complaints about overcrowding have grown so much that residents elected a mayor last year who is making good on promises to put a brake on new hotel construction and is exchanging ideas with New York City officials on how to cope with the crush.

Meanwhile, on the opposite coast, residents in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon grumble about packed sidewalks and heavy traffic. Tourism analysts say security concerns are helping drive busi-

ness toward the western Mediterranean areas and away from Europeans' other traditional summer hotspots, especially Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey. "The threats from terror have come into play," says Rochelle Turner, director of research at the World Travel and Tourism Council in London, a forum for industry businesses.

Turkey's visitor count in April was down nearly 30 percent compared to a year earlier, the tourism ministry said Friday. Spain, Europe's most popular destination after France, hosted 68.1 million tourists last year - almost 5 percent up on the previous year - with the United Kingdom, France and Germany sending most visitors. The tourist trade brought in 67.4 billion euros (\$75.3 billion) in 2015, the national statistics agency says.

In the first three months of this year, tourism created almost 89,000 new Spanish jobs. In a country with 20 percent unemployment, that's a welcome development. But some say the surge has to be better managed. "We cannot just keep growing at breakneck speed in terms of volume, filling or exceeding the capacity of some destinations," Exceltur, a nonprofit group formed by the chairmen of the 25 leading Spanish tourist groups, has warned.

The people of Barcelona may agree. The Catalan capital of 1.6 million people received 4.2 million tourists in 2005. Last year, that number reached 7 million, triggering alarm.

"I'm all for a concept of sensible tourism ... but the truth is we have been invaded, and Barcelona's own success is its own worst enemy," said retiree Rosa Maria Miguel, 65, from the Barceloneta district - a historic fishermen's quarter that nowadays boasts an exclusive marina for glamorous mega-yachts.

Aime Bwakira, a 41-year-old financial analyst from Toronto, likes Barcelona so much that he recently

made his third visit, though he acknowledges the influx of tourists like him can be "overwhelming."

"I can certainly sympathize with local frustrations because, while we bring money to the local economy, we also crowd the streets, push prices up and bring noise and rowdiness," he said. "I don't know what the right balance is, but it's not an easy one."

Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau is determined to find that balance. "Barcelona has consolidated itself as one of the world's prime destinations, which has its obvious benefits, but also entails high-impact risk that unregulated growth could eventually make the bubble burst," she said recently. Her administration has imposed a moratorium on new hotel accommodation and is mulling the introduction of a "tourist tax" on visitors, with revenue being spent on other sectors in order to spread the benefits. While Barcelona seeks to slow things down, in Lisbon there's a dash to keep up with surging demand. More than 50 new hotels opened in 2015.

Portugal last year received more than 17 million tourists - a 9 percent increase on 2014 and a record - and in the first quarter of this year, the number of guests increased by almost 15 percent. The visitors are seen as a tonic for Portugal's feeble economy.

But as the novelty of being in fashion wears off, grumbles are being heard. One downtown Lisbon parish council official has described the city's residents as "collateral damage" in the boom, as they are squeezed off busy sidewalks and out of popular restaurants. In the medieval Lisbon neighborhood of Alfama, a constant stream of tourists in tour buses, taxis and motorized rickshaws called "tuk-tuks" thread their way through narrow, cobbled streets up to St. George's castle. The picturesque neighborhood is increasingly handing over its homes to lucrative tourist accommodations. — AP



CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks during a news conference after the Federal Open Market Committee meeting in Washington. — AP

US ECONOMY SHOWING SIGNS OF LIFE AFTER SLOW START TO YEAR

WASHINGTON: The US economy is showing signs of more life after a less-than-stellar start to the year. The government said Friday that first-quarter growth, while disappointing, wasn't as bad as first thought. And a number of more recent indicators are showing decent gains in key areas like consumer spending and housing. All the signs point to an economy that has probably doubled its momentum this quarter. But faster growth also raises the prospect that the Federal Reserve will want to nudge interest rates higher.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen said exactly that at an appearance Friday at Harvard University. She noted that after weak growth in the fourth quarter of last year and the first three months of this year, it "looks to be picking up from the various data that we monitor."

She said if the growth continues and the labor market keeps improving, then "probably in the coming months, such a move (rate hike) would be appropriate." Yellen, who stressed that the Fed's plan is to raise rates "gradually and cautiously," did not specify when exactly a rate hike might occur. But many economists believe it could come as soon as the Fed's next meeting on June 14-15. Expectations of a possible

June hike have been climbing since the central bank surprised investors last week with the release of the minutes of the April meeting. The minutes showed that Fed officials were prepared to raise rates at the June meeting if the economy kept improving.

The Fed boosted rates by a quarter-point in December after leaving them at a record low near zero for seven years. At the time, it indicated that four more rate hikes could occur this year. But it has so far put further increases on hold in the wake of financial market turbulence in January and February triggered by unexpected weakness in the global economy.

Yellen's remarks Friday came after the Commerce Department reported that the gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, grew at an annual rate of 0.8 percent in the first quarter. That was slightly better than the initial estimate of 0.5 percent but still marked the second straight quarter in which growth has slowed. The GDP increased at a modest 1.4 percent rate in the fourth quarter.

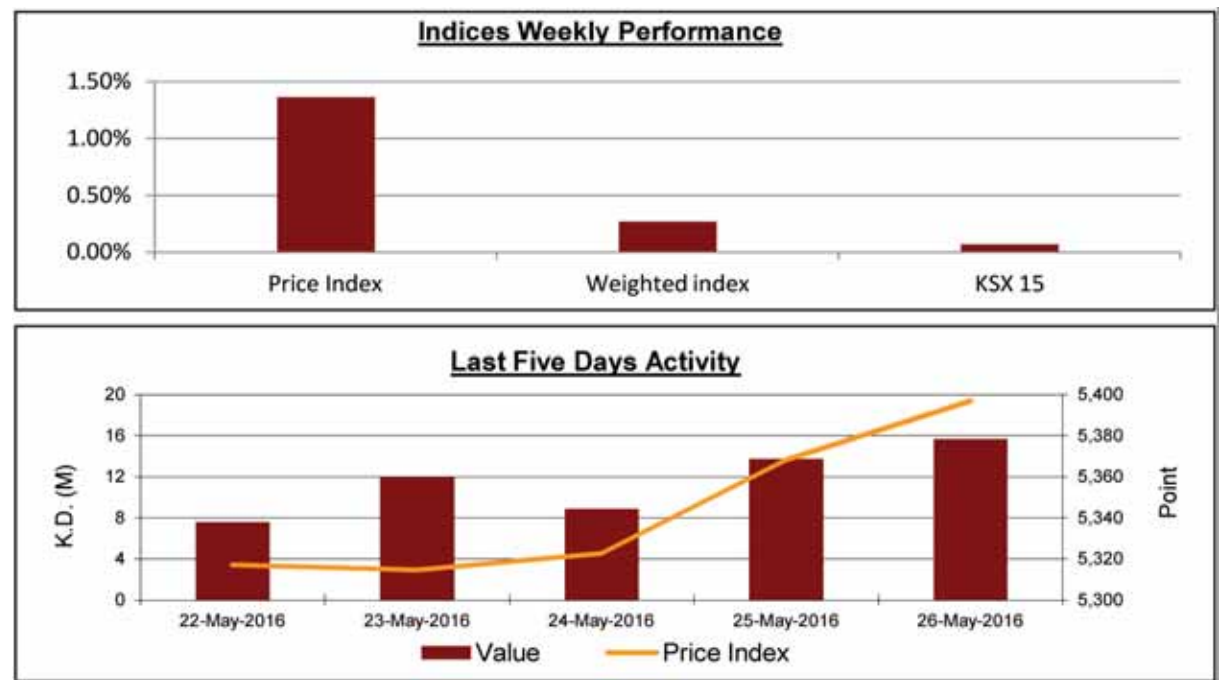
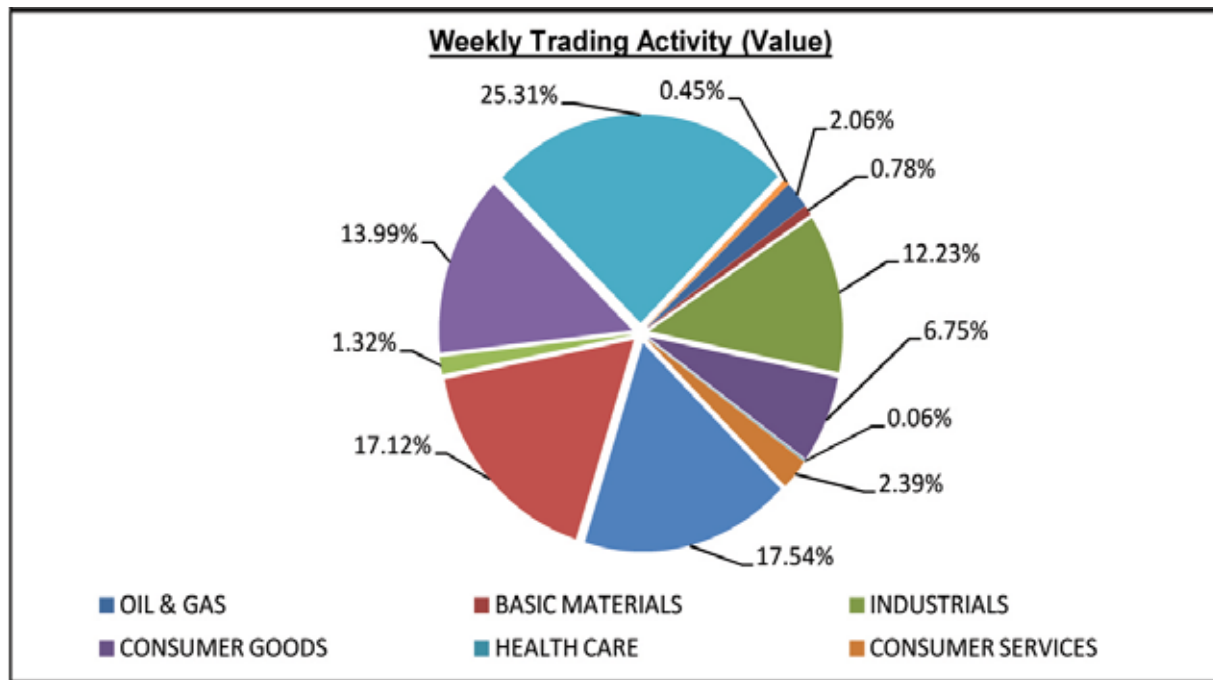
Economists, however, are forecasting a rebound. Based on recent better-than-expected reports, they have been revising their second-quarter growth esti-

mates higher, up from less than 2 percent to around 2.5 percent. After the new GDP report, some economists said growth could hit 3 percent in the current quarter. The optimism stems from hopes that strong employment gains will boost household incomes and fuel consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity. For the first quarter, consumer spending grew at a rate of 1.9 percent, the weakest showing in a year. But recent strength in retail sales, points to a second quarter rebound. And a separate report Friday showed that the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment survey rose to 94.7 in May, the highest level in nearly a year. The revision in the GDP report came from slightly less economic drag from the trade deficit and a less severe slowdown in inventory growth, as well as stronger gains in housing that initially reported a month ago.

Business investment remained weak with investment in structures falling at a rate of 8.9 percent, slightly less than the 10.6 percent plunge that was first reported. This category has suffered because of sharp cutbacks in drilling and exploration by energy companies. — AP



BOSTON: Shoppers carry their bags through the Downtown Crossing of Boston. The University of Michigan issued its monthly index of consumer sentiment for May on Friday. — AP



KSE INDICES ADVANCE POSITIVE SENTIMENT

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,396.67 points, up by 1.36 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.27 percent after closing at 357.67 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 831.50 points up by 0.07 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 2.26 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 11.56 million, whereas trading volume average was 166.54 million shares, recording an increase of 51.07 percent.

The stock market witnessed a positive performance that enabled it to end the weekly trading activity in the green zone, especially the Price Index which was the most gainer compared to the Weighted and KSX-15 indices that recorded some gains by the end of the week, where such variance in the indices performance indicates a trading concentration on the small-cap stocks in general while the activity on the leading companies' stocks was relatively weak during the last week. On the other hand, last week witnessed an important positive factor, which is a noticeable increase in the trading volume compared to the previous week's sessions, despite the drop in the liquidity levels by the end of the week, whereas the average daily volume increased by more than 50 percent from its levels in the previous week, while the average value decreased by around 2 percent.

As per the daily trading activity, the Sunday's session witnessed a gradual decrease for the market to end it with a grouped loss for the three indices, and was accompanied by a noticeable decrease in the total value and volume and number of deals. On the second day, the red zone was also over controlling the trading activity amid a noticeable increase in the three trading indicators, which pushed the market indices to record losses due to the selling operations that included many of the listed stocks, especially the leading ones. On Tuesday's session, the market was able to reverse its direction upward, and the three indices were able to end the session in the green zone, amid a decline in the trading activity.

In light of the noticeable growth in the three trading variables, the market was able to realize good gains on Wednesday's session, benefiting from the active purchasing trend witnessed by many stocks of different weights, and the collection operations witnessed by the investment groups. Also, the market witnessed in the last session of the week a mixed performance for the three indices, whereas the Price Index continued its positive performance amid a continued purchasing activity on some small-cap stocks, enhancing by this its gains recorded at the beginning of the week,

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,396.67	357.67	831.50
	Previous week	5,324.05	356.71	830.91
	Change (Point)	72.62	0.96	0.59
	Change (%)	1.36%	0.27%	0.07%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-218.45	-24.03	-68.93
	Change (%)	-3.89%	-6.30%	-7.66%

while the profit collection operations executed on some leading stocks pushed the Weighted and KSX-15 indices to record limited losses by the end of the session, which relatively limited its weekly gains.

Moreover, the market capitalization for the stock market reached KD 23.37 billion by the end of last week, up by 0.39 percent compared to its level in a week earlier where it reached KD 23.28 billion; however on the annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 7.50 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then K.D. 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 3.89 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 6.30 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 7.66 percent loss.

Sectors' Indices

Ten of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other two recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 3.68 percent growth rate as its index closed at 990.98 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Consumer Goods sector's index closed at

1,118.55 points recording 3.38 percent increase. The Industrials companies sector came in third as its index achieved 2.30 percent growth, ending the week at 1,055.77 points. The Banks sector was the least growing as its index closed at 817.01 points with a 0.18 percent increase.

On the other hand, the Basic Materials sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 1.40 percent to end the week's activity at 970.57 points. The Oil & Gas sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.01 percent, closing at 781.25 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 295.16 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 35.45 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 21.87 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 182.15 million shares.

On the other hand, the Financial Services sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 14.63 million or 25.31 percent of last week's total market trading value. The

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	832,697,094	551,215,931	51.07%
Value (K.D)	57,779,551	59,116,708	-2.26%
Deals	17,619	13,874	26.99%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %
	23,369,700,000	23,279,000,000	0.39%
			-7.50%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
HUMANSOFT	1,340.00	1,060.00	280.0	26.42%
HITSTELEC	41.00	33.50	7.5	22.39%
FIRSTDUBAI	66.00	55.00	11.0	20.00%
FUTUREKID	110.00	95.00	15.0	15.79%
DANAH	116.00	102.00	14.0	13.73%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
GGMC	325.00	385.00	-60.0	-15.58%
MARAKEZ	21.50	24.50	-3.0	-12.24%
ARGAN	144.00	160.00	-16.0	-10.00%
MRC	59.00	64.00	-5.0	-7.81%
SANAM	33.00	35.50	-2.5	-7.04%

Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 10.13 million representing 17.54 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	27,156,582	3.26%	1,189,164	2.06%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,552,651	0.19%	448,055	0.78%
INDUSTRIALS	66,584,353	8.00%	7,065,724	12.23%
CONSUMER GOODS	24,782,856	2.98%	3,900,351	6.75%
HEALTH CARE	163,773	0.02%	33,020	0.06%
CONSUMER SERVICES	25,559,537	3.07%	1,381,720	2.39%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	169,838,520	20.40%	10,131,895	17.54%
BANKS	35,663,058	4.28%	9,892,399	17.12%
INSURANCE	1,218,609	0.15%	764,370	1.32%
REAL ESTATE	182,151,648	21.87%	8,085,379	13.99%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	295,159,371	35.45%	14,625,573	25.31%
TECHNOLOGY	2,866,136	0.34%	261,903	0.45%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	781.25	789.19	-1.01%	-4.58%
BASIC MATERIALS	970.57	984.33	-1.40%	-1.60%
INDUSTRIALS	1,055.77	1,032.04	2.30%	1.22%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,118.55	1,082.02	3.38%	2.16%
HEALTH CARE	990.98	955.82	3.68%	7.09%
CONSUMER SERVICES	935.42	915.66	2.16%	-7.26%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	608.35	597.55	1.81%	1.62%
BANKS	817.01	815.57	0.18%	-9.93%
INSURANCE	1,023.69	1,018.53	0.51%	-9.17%
REAL ESTATE	854.12	842.41	1.39%	-9.21%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	571.78	568.16	0.64%	-3.96%
TECHNOLOGY	982.75	975.23	0.77%	19.82%

STOCKS JUMP TO WRAP UP A STRONG WEEK AS BANKS RISE

NEW YORK: US Stocks rose Friday to wrap up their strongest week in almost three months. Banks gained ground after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said the central bank intends to keep raising interest rates provided the economy continues to improve.

Stocks turned higher over the last few hours of trading to finish at their highest levels of the day. Banks made the largest gains, as they stand to make bigger profits on lending if interest rates rise further. Phone companies traded higher after Verizon reportedly agreed in principle to a new contract with striking employees. Alphabet led technology stocks higher.

Yellen said it will be "appropriate" to raise interest rates in the next few months if the economy continues to improve, and emphasized that the Fed will move slowly and carefully. There were signs of that improvement throughout the week, including increased home sales, leading to big gains for stocks. On Friday the Commerce Department said the US economy grew a bit more in the first quarter than it previously estimated. In recent months stocks have slumped when investors thought the Fed might be about to raise interest rates. That may have changed this week.

"Both inflation and growth are on an upward trend," said Jon Adams, senior investment strategist for BMO Global Asset Management. He said investors may be worrying a bit less about the Fed's plans because the economy could be getting onto more solid footing, but the central bank must remain careful in dealing with investor expectations.

"The Fed's kind of walking a tight rope here," he said. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 44.93 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,783.22. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 8.96 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,099.06. The Nasdaq composite index picked up 31.74 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,933.50.

The Commerce Department said the US economy was a bit stronger in the first quarter than it initially believed. The agency said the gross domestic product grew 0.8 percent in the first three months of the year, above its original estimate of 0.5 percent. That's still sluggish, but experts think the economy will grow about 2 percent in the current quarter.

Bank stocks were led higher by Bank of America, which rose 18 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$14.88, and Citigroup, which picked up 47 cents, or 1 percent, to \$46.58. Bank stocks have struggled this year because the Fed has pushed back plans to raise rates. Bond prices dipped and yields rose, another sign investors expect interest rates to increase. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note rose to 1.85 percent from 1.83 percent. The yield on the Treasury note is closely tied to interest rates.

Labor Secretary Thomas Perez said Verizon and its unions agreed in principle to a new four-year contract. About 39,000 landline and cable employees in the Eastern US went on strike in April. They had been working without a contract since August. Verizon gained 46 cents to \$50.62.

Google's parent company Alphabet rose after a federal jury said the company did not need permission to use tools made by Oracle when it built its Android software. Oracle said Google stole its intellectual property and sought \$9 billion in damages, and it plans to appeal the ruling. Alphabet stock added \$10.67, or 1.4 percent, to \$747.60. Benchmark US crude oil lost 15 cents to \$49.33 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, gave up 27 cents to \$49.32 a barrel in London.

Machinery maker Terex dropped after Chinese heavy equipment maker Zoomlion abandoned its effort to buy the company. Zoomlion offered to buy Terex at the start of the year, after Terex accepted an offer from

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

Finland's Konecranes. Terex backed out of that deal and will instead sell its crane business to Konecranes. Terex stock sank \$3.44, or 14.1 percent, to \$20.89.

Scientific equipment maker Thermo Fisher said it will buy electron microscope maker FEI for \$107.50 per share in cash, or about \$4.2 billion. The deal comes about two months after

Thermo Fisher paid \$1.3 billion to buy Affymetrix, a company that makes equipment to analyze genetic codes. FEI stock climbed \$13.55, or 14.3 percent, to \$108.13 and Thermo Fisher added 93 cents to \$152.13.

The price of gold fell \$6.60 to \$1,213.80. Gold has slipped about 5 percent over the last two weeks. Silver fell 7 cents to \$16.27 an ounce. Copper rose 1 cent to \$2.11 a pound. Wholesale gasoline rose 1 cent to \$1.63 a gal-

lon. Heating oil fell 1 cent to \$1.49 a gallon. Natural gas rose 2 cents to \$2.17 per 1,000 cubic feet. Germany's DAX and the FTSE 100 in Britain both rose 0.1 percent, and France's CAC 40 gained a bit less than that. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent and South Korea's Kospi gained 0.6 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng climbed 0.9 percent. The dollar rose to 110.38 yen from 109.72 yen. The euro dipped to \$1.1114 from \$1.1191. — AP



NEW YORK: Oct. 2, 2014, file photo, shows a Wall Street sign adjacent to the New York Stock Exchange. US stocks are bouncing back early Thursday, May 12, 2016, as companies, including agribusiness giant Monsanto, are climbing on reports of possible buyouts. Retailers got more bad news as department store Kohl's reported disappointing first-quarter results. — (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File).

IS THERE A SKILLS GAP? YES, THERE IS IN SOFT SKILLS

BAYT.COM AND YOUNGOV SURVEY

KUWAIT: The recent Bayt.com Skills Gap in the Middle East and North Africa survey, conducted by Bayt.com and YouGov, explores the skills employers are looking for across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), comparing them to skills in supply. The study covers aspects such as availability of new talent, what positions organizations are hiring for, which skills they rate as most important during recruitment, and which skills new talent lack most.

Across the MENA region, just over half (56 percent) of employers surveyed feel comfortable their company has sufficient skilled employees to achieve this year's goals. Meanwhile, over 1 in every 4 surveyed employers (28 percent) are unsure, while 16 percent feel their company does not have sufficient skilled employees to meet their goals.

Skills Demand in the MENA: What Are Employers Looking For?

Among employers looking to hire in the MENA, highest demand can be seen for entry-level positions (junior executives and executives, at 52 percent and 30 percent, respectively). A healthy 10 percent of employers surveyed are currently searching for director-level candidates. While GCC employers show a greater need for senior executives, coordinators, and managers, the higher demand for entry-level positions was largely consistent across the region.

In terms of job roles, sales positions are most in demand (20 percent of employers say they're looking for "Sales Executives" and 16 percent say they're looking for "Sales Managers"). Other in-demand positions are: project managers (15 percent); engineers (14 percent mechanical and 13 percent electrical); accountants (12 percent); and administrative assistants (12 percent).

Results suggest that, aside from a couple of exceptions, demand for most positions is generally highest among GCC employers (being especially high for sales executives (25 percent) and project managers (19 percent)). When asked to rate the importance of various skills when looking to hire for senior versus mid-level or junior positions, employers across the region have higher expectations of senior hires.

Collaboration/teamwork (88 percent), efficiency (87 percent), communication skills (85 percent), overall personality and demeanor (85 percent), leadership qualities (84 percent), the ability to work under pressure (84 percent) and planning/organizational skills (84 percent) are regarded as the most important attributes in a senior hire. These skills were also among the most valued for mid- to junior-level positions, however, to a lesser degree: efficiency (81 percent), communication skills (80 percent), collaboration/teamwork (80 percent), and the ability to work under pressure (79 percent).

The biggest gap in expectations between senior and mid-to-junior-level positions are seen

for planning/organization skills (84 percent regarded it as important for senior level positions vs. 70 percent for mid-to-junior level); relevant industry experience (78 percent for senior level positions vs. 67 percent for mid-to-junior level); negotiation skills (78 percent for senior level positions vs. 68 percent for mid-to-junior level); overall personality and demeanor (85 percent for senior level positions vs. 75 percent for mid-to-junior level).

In terms of industries, engineering and design (11 percent) is most likely to be looking for skilled candidates this year.

Employers Have Their Say: What Skills Are Lacking?

Employer feedback in the survey suggests it can be challenging to find candidates with the required skill sets, with the difficulty being experienced for both senior and mid-to-junior-level positions.

When asked about the difficulty of finding specific skills in senior candidates, MENA employers say that creative thinking (63 percent), critical thinking and problem solving (63 percent), adaptability/managing multiple priorities (60 percent), international work experience (60 percent) and leadership skills (59 percent) were the top skills that candidates lack.

Interestingly, 'technical skills' are seen as posing the least challenge, with only 50 percent finding these skills difficult to find in senior candidates.

Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com, said: "It is really interesting that the skills gap in the Middle East is not one of technical skills, but of soft skills. To add to the challenge, it's much easier to assess and qualify a candidate based on his or her technical skills, as opposed to soft skills. At Bayt.com, we have been

designing solutions to help employers find the most suitable talents and help job seekers highlight their non-technical skills for years, redefining the online recruitment landscape in the region. Over the past few years, the Bayt.com Specialties platform has evidently addressed an urgent need by our users to express their skills and expertise beyond the confines of the CV document. It empowers professionals to tell the stories that go far beyond a CV, while also helping employers discover these stories, and learn what these professionals are really all about. Often, the classic markers of competence, such as work history, education, credentials, and the

like, are not the only pointers to professional leadership. It is well-thought-out, intelligent and original content related to areas of interest and expertise that can make people shine. That's what Bayt.com Specialties is all about: helping professionals, at all career levels and in all industries and roles, to highlight their unique abilities and truly shine."

Masri continued: "Another product we have that helps employers assess soft skills is Bayt.com Tests. Job seekers can choose from over a hundred tests designed by experts and showcase their results on their CVs. These tests cover a wide array of topics, from EQ to negotiation skills to business communication."

Job Seekers in Kuwait: What They're Looking For

Banking/Finance (28 percent), Real Estate/Construction/Property Development (20 percent), Engineering/Design (18 percent), Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations (18 percent), Business Consultancy/Business Management/Management Consulting, Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals, Human Resources and Hospitality/Recreation/Entertainment (16 percent each) emerged as the most popular industries with job seekers in Kuwait. Most of them are looking for mid-career or junior positions (64 percent): 34 percent were looking for

Executive positions, 33 percent for Senior Executive positions, and 30 percent for Junior Executive positions. A smaller proportion was looking for more specialized or senior positions (15 percent and 13 percent were searching for Analyst and Director positions, respectively).

When people seeking employment for senior positions in Kuwait are asked about the skills they possess, they rated 'collaboration/teamwork' as their strongest skill (100 percent). This was followed by 'ability to work under pressure' and 'overall personality and demeanor' (98 percent and 96 percent, respectively).

Similarly, when people seeking employment for junior-to-mid-level positions are asked about the skills they possess, they rated 'collaboration/teamwork' as their strongest skill (94 percent), followed by 'overall personality and demeanor' (92 percent).

Despite their generally positive view of their own skill level, approximately half of the job seekers surveyed in Kuwait find it difficult to secure a job with their current skills (53 percent),

with 13 percent claiming it is 'very difficult'. Job seekers also rated the importance of various skills in improving their chances of finding a job. Most candidates looking for senior positions place 'collaboration/teamwork' at the top of the list (94 percent), followed by 'creative thinking', 'communication skills', 'ability to work under pressure' and 'efficiency' (92 percent each). Those looking for mid-level/junior positions believe that 'collaboration/teamwork' (87 percent), followed by 'ability to work under pressure' (86 percent), are the most important skills that will improve their chances of finding a job.

In order to keep their skills current, job seekers in Kuwait are committed to self-improvement and rated reading articles and journals (53 percent), reading books (51 percent), attending company trainings (43 percent) and researching industry best practices (37 percent) as the most popular methods to achieve this.

"In today's dynamic and ever-evolving job market, candidates need to be constantly looking for new ways to enhance their skills in order to differentiate themselves, optimize their profile and effectively navigate complex work environments," said Joao Neves, Senior Research Director, YouGov.

"Ideally, to maximize the impact of their efforts, industry leaders, educational institutions and governments should work together to provide job seekers with clear guidance on future growth areas in the region and most desirable skills to succeed."

The Skills Gap in the Middle East: Perceptions and Solutions

Although the large majority of job seekers (80 percent) are very committed to continuously acquiring new skills, over half (55 percent) of MENA respondents still feel that there is a clear skills gap in the region. Evidence shows that it is challenging for employers across the MENA region to find candidates with the required skills. This difficulty is especially accentuated when recruiting for senior positions, with over two-thirds (70 percent) of respondents claiming they find it either 'very difficult' or 'difficult' to find candidates with the required skills. The situation seems to be slightly easier when recruiting for junior positions, although almost half (49 percent) of the employers surveyed still rated the hiring process as 'very difficult' or 'difficult'. Currently, a little over half (56 percent) of the employers surveyed in the MENA felt comfortable that their company had sufficient skilled employees to achieve this year's goals.

Top 5 skills perceived as most important for candidates to succeed - Employer vs. Job seeker perspective.

Employer perceptions

Job seeker perceptions
1. Collaboration/Teamwork (88 percent)

1. Efficiency (90 percent)
2. Communication skills (87 percent)
2. Collaboration/Teamwork (89 percent)
3. Efficiency (86 percent)
3. Communication skills (89 percent)
4. Ability to work under pressure (85 percent)
4. Overall personality/ Demeanor (89 percent)
5. Critical thinking/ Problem solving (84 percent)
5. Ability to work under pressure (88 percent)

Across the region, when respondents were asked to select the main reason why they felt job seekers have difficulties in finding jobs matching their skills, the fact that 'job seekers do not know what employers are looking for' (34 percent) and that 'educational institutions do not teach students the skills they need to enter the job market' (22 percent) topped the list. When looking at country-specific responses, results suggest 'job seekers not knowing what skills employers are looking for' is more of an issue in the UAE (42 percent) and Qatar (42 percent), while those in Egypt were the most likely to claim that 'educational institutions do not teach students the skills they need to enter the job market' (30 percent).

When asked about the best solutions for the perceived skills gap, respondents across the MENA listed that 'companies should provide enough training opportunities to employees' (42 percent); 'companies, educational institutions and governments should work together to predict future skills needs' (40 percent); and 'companies and educational institutions should work together to provide students with the skills they need to enter the job market' (39 percent) as the most ideal solutions.

Masri concluded: "It is a compelling and fundamental issue nowadays for job seekers to be able to ensure their prominence with the right set of skills for their target job. Employer consideration of both online and offline skills is rapidly expanding, and here, at Bayt.com, it's a part of our mission to empower jobseekers with the right tools to achieve their career goals and to ensure employers that our number 1 site offers unparalleled services to train employees and help them reach their full potential at the workplace." A total of 5,345 interviews were conducted for this study. For the report, analysis was split across two main stakeholder groups, namely, those working (full-time or part-time), involved in hiring decisions for their company and whose companies are currently hiring (referred in the report as 'Employers'), and those 'actively' or 'passively' seeking for a job (referred to in the report as 'Job Seekers'). All interviews were conducted online via Bayt.com's database between March 3rd and March 22nd, 2016. 62 percent of the respondents were GCC residents, one-quarter (27 percent) were from North Africa, and the remainder from the Levant (11 percent).

Just under two-thirds of employers in the Middle East claim it is difficult to find candidates with creative thinking, critical thinking and problem-solving skills

SHARJAH ISLAMIC BANK REPAYS \$400M SUKUK

SHARJAH: Sharjah Islamic Bank (SIB), a leading shariah compliant commercial bank in the UAE, has successfully repaid a \$400 million sukuk. The Sukuk had been raised in May 2011 under challenging market circumstances. The funds raised under the sukuk were used for general corporate purposes and business expansion of SIB.

Mohamed Abdulla, CEO of SIB, thanked the investors of the Sukuk for their trust in SIB as a strong regional credit, holding investment grade ratings of A3 by Moody's and BBB+ by S&P and Fitch Ratings. He said "SIB believes that the capital markets to be an opportunity for growth for Islamic Banks and we, at SIB, would look to tap the markets at appropriate times. Sukuk allow us to diversify our funding sources and engage with investors on various opportunities."

Ahmed Saad, Deputy CEO of SIB commented that "The bank's liquidity remains strong whereas asset quality measured through coverage ratio and NPLs are in line with peers. SIB chose to repay the sukuk through its internal sources evidencing our excellent liquidity position and would look to engage with capital markets investors, under the USD 3 billion sukuk programme in the future. SIB has been tapping Sukuk markets since 2006, being one of the earliest sukuk issuers in the world"

SIB currently has two Sukuk of USD 500 million outstanding which are set to mature in 2018 and 2020 respectively. Sharjah Islamic Bank was established in 1975 and is a public listed company on Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange ("ADX"). The Bank is regulated by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates.

Headquartered out of Sharjah, and operating with 31 branches throughout the UAE, the Bank offers its clients commercial banking services including deposits, loans and credit cards; asset management services including wealth, fund and portfolio management; investment banking services including corporate finance and investment advisory on mergers and acquisitions all according to Islamic principles.

SIB is the largest bank in the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE and has a 31.3 percent shareholding by the Government of Sharjah and 20 percent by Kuwait Finance House with the balance held by the public.

As at 31 March 2016, SIB posted a 22.9 percent year-on-year increase to attain a net profit of AED 131.9 million with total assets at AED 30.15 billion and shareholders' equity at AED 4.6 billion. SIB is rated A3 by Moody's, BBB+ by Standard & Poor's and BBB+ by Fitch with all three carrying a Stable outlook.



ETIHAD AIRWAYS IS 'MOST INNOVATIVE AIRLINE OF THE LAST TEN YEARS'

KUWAIT: Etihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, has been presented with the title of 'Most Innovative Airline of the Last Ten Years' at the Telegraph UltraTravel Awards, which were held at the London Savoy Hotel.

The awards are known as the ULTRAS and are conducted by an annual survey where readers of The Telegraph's luxury-travel magazine Ultratravel and The Telegraph's luxury website recognise their favourite brands currently operating in the travel sector today. The airline was particularly recognised for having redefined the premium flying experience with the launch of The Residence, its ultra-premium cabin on the Airbus 380 and a focus of the airline's 'Flying Reimagined' campaign.

Peter Baumgartner, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, said: "I'm delighted that readers of the Telegraph and particularly followers of the ULTRAS have recognised the commitment to innovation of the airline over the last ten years. It's been a remarkable period of growth as we have looked to build the best airline brand operating in the skies today. "What we have offered to date is just the beginning of our story and we aim to surpass what's been delivered so far and continue to meet the high expectations of travellers who are looking for that special experience right across all cabin classes."

As well as additions such as the Smart Economy, Business Studios, First Apartments and the Residence to the A380 fleet, Etihad Airways also launched new premium products including new First Class Suites on its growing fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners. As part of a wider rollout, the airline has invested heavily in new uniforms, aircraft livery and on-board

products in business, first and economy. While on the ground, guests have been welcomed to new premium lounges at New York JFK and Melbourne and will shortly open a new flagship first class lounge in Abu Dhabi.

In addition Hollywood film star, Nicole Kidman, has been at the forefront of the company's campaigns on the screen and also in virtual reality. Kidman has been the face of the 'Flying Reimagined' campaign, which has been a focus of the airline's recent promotional activity. The vision aims to rewrite the rule book through reimagining flying, breaking away from convention and leading the way in innovation, design, style and hospitality.

The award recognised the significance of The Residence, which was designed as a unique and bespoke travel experience, delivered with complete discretion and limitless hospitality. With a living room, separate bedroom and ensuite shower room, it is the only three-room suite on a commercial airline, designed for two people travelling together or an individual.

On board, guests are served by a Savoy-trained Etihad Butler and onboard chefs qualified to ensure a tailored experience, looking after passengers from before take-off to touchdown. Etihad Airways currently offers The Residence on its A380 services to London Heathrow, New York, Mumbai, Sydney and Melbourne. Etihad Airways has expanded its portfolio of services over the years and is today part of a wider aviation group. The group is aiming to expand and provide the same premium services in the air as it does on the ground across Etihad and its partners, as well as related travel and distribution businesses.



NISSAN AL-BABTAIN OFFERS YOU OVER KD 500,000 THIS RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company, the exclusive authorized dealer of Nissan in Kuwait, announced the launch of one of the largest campaigns for the holy month.

Upon receiving the car being purchased with Ramadan's special prices, All customers will receive instant gift vouchers from the Emirates airlines. In addition, all customers will enter a draw that will take place on August 7th; where five winners will enjoy the opportunity to receive 1000 KD each in vouchers allowing them to choose the flight that they would like on the wings of the Emirates.

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company congratulates all its customers on the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, wishing to contribute that their strong promotion and the high level of services that they offer will increase and strengthen confidence in its brand and maintain its position as a leader in the local and regional automotive markets.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to celebrate the Ramadan atmosphere within its widespread showrooms around Kuwait and learn about the details of the offers. Nissan Al-Babtain is known to being keen to constantly provide the best deals to its customers throughout the year, as well as after-sales service to meet the growing demand for

Nissan rate and achieve the company's goals to always remain at the forefront of leading automotive brands.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area.

Today Al-Babtain Group Today Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al-Babtain Group's business, which owns some of the bestselling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipments. The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co and Trading and Contracting Company is proud to be the exclusive agent and distributor of many Japanese, Chinese, and European (French) vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Renault, Citroen, Infiniti.



X-CITE WINS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

ARABIAN BUSINESS KUWAIT AWARDS

KUWAIT: X-cite was selected as the Consumer Electronics Company of the Year at this year's Arabian Business Kuwait Awards. The awards ceremony and gala dinner took place at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel Kuwait's Badriah Ballroom.

The award comes in recognition of the company's outstanding performance as the leading consumer electronics company in Kuwait over the course of the past year. Samer Sayegh, President - Retail, F&B, and Distribution, Robert Etman, Chief Financial Officer, and Dari Albader, Vice President - Corporate Affairs & Chief of Staff, accepted the

award on behalf of X-cite and Alghanim Industries.

On this occasion, Samer Sayegh, President - Retail, F&B, and Distribution commented: "We are proud of the recognition, by one of the region's premier magazines. Our continuous efforts to enhance and excel in customer service, customer experience and product offerings set us apart from our competitors. X-cite will continue to place the customer first and we are grateful to Arabian Business for this honor". X-cite has also expanded its operations to Saudi Arabia. Last year, they opened three branches in Riyadh.

X-cite has always been committed to evolving to cater to the market's ever-changing needs. Apart from providing the best products in the market, X-cite is dedicated to offering superior promotions especially during seasons and major occasions such as Ramadan, summer and end-of-year. Each year, the Arabian Business awards celebrate the very best in business achievement, both on a corporate and individual level. The awards ceremony covered a wide range of categories, including Businesswoman of the Year, Special CSR Award, Bank of the Year, Energy Company of the Year, and many others.

WIN UP TO 10 KILOS OF GOLD THIS SUMMER WITH MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the prominent jewellery retailer unfolded the details of its much awaited campaign to celebrate the onset of summer. This Campaign will run at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds' outlets located in the GCC until 6 August.

The campaign launching this season gives customers a chance to win up to 10 kilos of gold with purchase of gold and diamond jewellery. With every purchase of gold jewellery worth KD40, customers get a chance to enter raffle draws to win 1/4 kg of gold each in a week. Those who buy diamond jewellery worth KD40 will get two raffle coupons, doubling their chances to win.

Adding to the above, customers can update any of their old ornaments purchased from GCC with the brand new enticing collection without any loss. Any 22K old gold ornaments purchased from GCC can be exchanged with Malabar Gold & Diamonds designs by paying only making charges ensuring they do not lose any value on the rate of gold.

Customers can also buy 22K 8gm gold coins with absolutely no making charges from any of Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in GCC during this period. Additional services such as unique exchange offers, buyback policies, lifetime free repair and maintenance service for all their products can be availed.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds' have incorporated the latest designs in their collections to suit the tastes of their multi-cultural customer segments. Customers can buy their favorite jewellery by using their credit/debit cards without paying any additional charge. Malabar Gold & Diamonds offers exquisite and beautiful jewellery as a part of various brands presented namely, Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine - Indian Heritage jewellery, Precia - Precious Gem Jewellery, Solitaire One - An exclusive solitaire brand, NV - Trendy 18K Gold jewellery, Ago Bay - Pearl jewellery and Starlet - Kids jewellery.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate. Established in 1993 in Indian state of Kerala, Malabar Gold & Diamonds today has a strong retail network of 146 outlets spread across 9 countries, 10 wholesale units in addition to offices, design centers and factories spread across India, Middle East and Far East. With an annual turnover of \$4 billion, the company currently ranks among the world's top five jewellery retailers in terms of annual turnover and is the largest jewellery retailer of Indian origin.



AHLI UNITED BANK SPONSORS ZWARA EXHIBITION

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank-Kuwait- (AUBK) announced yesterday its recent sponsorship of the Zwara expo introducing the latest trends in ladies fashion. The event is taking place between the 25th until the 28th of May at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The Bank's participation reflects its keen commitment to provide a wide range of special offers that have been tailored to accommodate their different financial needs.

The Bank's sponsorship aims at connecting with the wide social fabric of the local community to continue providing the latest information on its banking products, services and finance features.

AUBK's representatives are available throughout the exhibition to manage customers' questions across all banking prod-

ucts and services, including the QARD Hassan which provides customers who transfer their salaries to the Bank a QARD Hassan up to KD 8,000 with an instalment period that reaches up to 36 months with 0% interest. The Bank's Hassad rewards saving Islamic program, offers the largest value of prizes to participants, a key trait that has contributed to becoming the leading rewards program in Kuwait that is in line with the Islamic Sharia. The Hassad program provides a high value on its prizes that reach KD 3.4 million annually. The Bank also includes real estate finance programs with great flexibility and record breaking time frame to complete all procedures, a key feature that AUB has always been renowned for.



GULF BANK'S RED ACCOUNT HOLDERS ENJOY EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is announcing exclusive discounts for its Red customers to watch the latest movies at all Cinescape for only KD 2 instead of the usual KD 3.5 rate seven days a week. To benefit from the offer, red account holders need to just use their Red ATM cards to purchase cinema tickets from ticket kiosks in all Cinescape cinema theatres.

The new 2016 red(tm) account is designed for high school, college and university students aged 15 to 25 years old and offer them monthly cash draw prizes of KD 1,000 and quarterly car draws for lucky winners to win a

new 2016 Cadillac every quarter. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or a minimum balance charge.

Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red(tm) customers with the right promotions that are tailored to meet their specific needs. For further information about the Red account and draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services can also be found at the Bank's website www.e-gulfbank.com

FOUR KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA WEEKLY DRAWS FOR MAY

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced four lucky winners in Al-Jawhara weekly draws during the month of May. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce Representatives.

Abdullah Jassem Al-Hebeli, Zainab Bader Al-Haddad, Abdulla Abdullatif Al-Rabah and Tala Jamal Al-Shalabi each won KD 5,000. The winners expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions. NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to

one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to al Jawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al-Jawhara account.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw. Al-Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.

AIRBUS HELICOPTERS DENIES GEARBOX MAY HAVE CAUSED CRASH

PARIS/OSLO: Airbus Helicopters has acted to allay concerns over the safety of its Super Puma aircraft after Norwegian investigators declined to rule out a repetition of past gearbox problems being the cause of a crash that killed 11 oil workers and two pilots.

Norway's accident investigation authority AIBN said in a preliminary report on Friday that it was examining three possible causes for the April 29 crash near Bergen, in which the main rotor section separated from the aircraft. These included the struts that attach the rotor head to the helicopter and two parts linked to the gearbox that drives the

blades - the 'epicyclic module' and the main gearbox housing.

Britain and Norway have grounded commercial Super Puma flights, a workhorse of the oil industry, amid concerns over a repeat of gearbox problems linked to previous accidents.

In an unusual move during an investigation, Airbus Helicopters issued a statement narrowing the probable cause to the attachment of the struts, known as 'suspension bars,' rather than the gearbox. It also pinpointed the aircraft's maintenance.

It said its own analysis had produced seven potential theories to explain why the main rotor

detached. "Out of these seven scenarios, only one - the failure of the attachment of a suspension bar - can be assessed as probable by Airbus Helicopters, based on the information available to date," it said.

"Analysis of the helicopter's maintenance history has just started and should provide a better understanding of the most likely causes," it added. Operator CHC reiterated the three areas for investigation listed in the report and warned against speculation. "As we move forward in this process, it's important we avoid speculation and maintain a factual focus on the details as they emerge," it said.—Reuters

BURGAN BANK OFFERS YOUTH CUSTOMERS FREE TICKETS FOR GCC 'DREAMS & NIGHTMARES'

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank announced yesterday that it is offering two free tickets for each Youth customer to attend the highly anticipated and one of the largest illusion shows in the GCC region entitled 'Dreams & Nightmares'. The event is set to be held from 2nd until 3rd June 2016, at the Himilly Theater in Al-Jabriya - Kuwait, featuring 12 astounding acts by Kuwaiti illusionist Abdulwahab Al-Failakawi.

The bank has allocated exclusive seats for "Youth" customers entitling each customer to collect their 2 free tickets from 'Pencilvent' - the organizing company's office located in Kuwait City, Mubarak Al Kabeer Street, Block 6 (behind Al-Sadeq Mosque) - Al Mustathmir building 2, 7th floor. Youth customers are requested to present their Borgan Bank "Youth" ATM card at the office, in order to receive the free tickets. (Limited Seating)

Borgan Bank's strives to offer youth customers with exclusive benefits, promotions, and added-value services to support and meet their financial needs in line with their lifestyles, and today's offer is a clear indication of that. Customers can follow Youth Instagram account @Borgan_Youth to get the latest updates on promotions and event campaigns.

It is worth mentioning that Abdulwahab Al-Failakawi received the 'Best Comedy Illusion Show in the World' award in 2015 from the International Magicians Society and is the only 'Best Magic Designer in the Middle East' titleholder. Al-Failakawi is also a member in

the International Magicians Society and the Society of the American Magicians.

Established in 1977, Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

SNAPCHAT MAY ALREADY BE BIGGER THAN TWITTER

LOS ANGELES: Snapchat didn't just file SEC documents for a massive new \$1.8 billion round of funding this week, the company also had its pitch deck leaked, revealing some interesting insights into the company's usage and revenue. Particularly striking: Snapchat may already have more daily active users than Twitter. The pitch deck, which was obtained by Techcrunch this week, shows that Snapchat had 110 million daily active users in December of 2015. Unfortunately, Twitter stopped releasing metrics for daily active users some time ago, instead focusing on monthly active users.

However, Twitter CFO Anthony Noto said earlier in 2015 that the company's ratio for daily actives vs. monthly actives was 44 percent, meaning that slightly less than half of the company's monthly active users returned to the service every day. (A Twitter

spokesperson denied that the 44 percent ratio is currently accurate, but declined to provide any additional details on daily actives. "We don't report DAUs on a regular basis," she said.)

Twitter had 305 million monthly active users in Q4 of 2015. Using that ratio for some back-of-the-envelope math, one arrives at an approximate number of about 134 million daily active users - still notably more than Snapchat's 110 million in December. But Snapchat has one key advantage over Twitter: Healthy growth. The pitch deck that leaked this week shows an average user growth of 65 percent year-over-year over the last eight quarters. Twitter's growth problems on the other hand have been well documented; in Q1 of 2016, its number of monthly actives grew just 3 percent year-over-year. Based on the same ratio of daily actives vs. monthly actives, this

would equal about 136 million daily active users for Twitter in Q1. Assuming that Snapchat's growth holds steady, the company may have reached as many as 134 million daily active users by March of 2016, and could be on track to reach 147 million daily active users by the end of next month. In other words: Snapchat may already be bigger than Twitter, at least with regards to daily active users. It's worth noting that these projections aren't exact science. Twitter's ratio of daily actives vs monthly actives could have changed. In fact, for much of 2014, the rate was at 48 percent.

Snapchat's growth could have also slowed down, even though the company's ability to raise massive funding rounds from investors suggests otherwise. A Snapchat spokesperson declined to comment on the company's current metrics as well as the leaked pitch

deck, and instead reiterated that Snapchat has more than 100 million daily active users - a number that the company released late last year.

Twitter also maintains that its reach goes far beyond logged-in users. Including logged-out users that read tweets on Twitter.com as well as embedded on third-party websites, Twitter reaches more than 800 million users every month, according to financial filings. Still, Snapchat's explosive growth should bother Twitter and its investors, especially if Snapchat succeeds at selling its users to brands that would have otherwise advertised on Twitter. Snapchat only just begun its monetization efforts, but the leaked data suggests that revenue is also growing at a significant rate. In Q4 of 2015, Snapchat brought in \$33 million, according to the pitch deck, compared to just 17 million in Q3, \$5 million in Q2 and \$4 million in Q1. — Reuters

NASA TRIES AGAIN TO INFLATE SPARE ROOM ON SPACE STATION

WASHINGTON: NASA tried again yesterday to inflate an add-on room at the International Space Station, after the first attempt ran into problems due to too much friction. Efforts to inflate the flexible habitat, known as the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM), got under way at about 9 am (1300 GMT). Space scientists monitoring the expansion at mission control in Houston, Texas early yesterday expressed optimism that they were having early success this time around, as images on NASA television showed the module slowly expanding after receiving three initial bursts of air.

"BEAM (is) continuing to slowly expand," said NASA spokesman Daniel Huot. "Everything going smoothly so far this morning, seeing good expansion both along the length and the diameter of BEAM. The pressure is well within what was expected." NASA is testing expandable habitats astronauts might use on the Moon or Mars in the coming decades. Operations to expand the module were led by NASA astronaut Jeff Williams. A first attempt on Thursday was not successful.

NASA said that after a series of leak checks and other preparations, space station astronauts will enter the habitat through the station's Tranquility module. The US space agency said astronauts will re-enter the module several times a year, throughout the two-year technology demonstration, to retrieve sensor data and assess conditions inside the unit. Bigelow, which developed the first-of-its-kind habitat as part of an \$18 million contract with NASA, said it supported the decision to pause the expansion.

Fully expanded, the module should reach a

size of 13 feet long by 10.5 feet wide. The initial plan was for astronauts to venture inside multiple times over the next two years to take readings from sensors inside the pod and to test how well it might protect against space radiation. NASA said that if the expansion runs into problems in these first tests in space, the astronauts may deflate the habitat and try again in the coming days.

Astronauts were scheduled to enter the oblong structure for the first time on June 2, according to the initial timeline. The plan called for the crew on board the space station to venture into the module several times a year to collect data from interior sensors - particularly to see how well it protects people against radiation in space. The inflation process may be better described as "unfolding" since it takes very little air to bring the pod to full size, experts said.

The space station crew was to expand BEAM by introducing a small amount of air from the orbiting lab via a manual valve on the BEAM bulkhead. Only about 0.4 pounds per square inch (psi) was supposed to be needed to expand BEAM to its full shape. Eight air tanks inside BEAM, once activated, were set to bring the pod to full pressure, requiring about 42 pounds of air to fully pressurize BEAM's internal volume of 565 cubic feet.

Expandable habitats' benefit lies in the little space they take up in spacecraft's cargo holds while providing greater living and working space once inflated. But key questions that remain to be answered include how well pods would protect people against solar radiation, space debris and the temperature extremes of space. — AFP



ANN ARBOR, Michigan: In this July 20, 2015 file photo, a pedestrian crosses in front of a vehicle as part of a demonstration at Mcity, used to test driverless and connected vehicles, on the University of Michigan campus. — AP

MICHIGAN BILLS EXPAND USE OF DRIVERLESS CARS BEYOND TESTING

LANSING, Michigan: The US auto industry's home state of Michigan is preparing for the advent of self-driving cars by pushing legislation to allow for public sales and operation - a significant expansion beyond an existing state law that sanctions such vehicles for testing only. While widespread use of driverless cars may be years away, lawmakers and transportation leaders say the technology is progressing so rapidly that Michigan must stay ahead of the curve or risk losing automotive research and development to other states.

Under a newly introduced package of bipartisan bills that would update 2013 laws to allow for the operation of autonomous cars on public roads without anyone at the wheel, tight "platoons" of smart commercial trucks could travel in unison at coordinated speeds. Also, the Detroit Three - General Motors, Fiat Chrysler and Ford - and other auto manufacturers would be authorized to run networks of on-demand self-driving vehicles.

It is a nod to the manufacturers' increasing efforts to reinvent themselves as "mobility" companies. GM this year invested \$500 million in ride-hailing company Lyft and bought a startup that makes autonomous-vehicle software. Toyota recently announced an investment in Lyft's rival, Uber. Google, which is opening a self-driving tech development in the Detroit suburb of Novi, is partnering

with Fiat Chrysler to test software in 100 minivans.

"It's coming. It's coming fast," Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle said of the merging of Silicon Valley and Motor City technology. "The technology is at a point where it will be incorporated into something that is mass-produced." Michigan is among seven states with laws related to autonomous cars, while Arizona's governor has issued an executive order. Nevada was the first state to authorize self-driving vehicles in 2011, and California, Florida, North Dakota, Tennessee and Utah followed.

Google, based in California, has said it wants to make cars available to the public around the end of 2019, assuming its data shows the time is right for deployment. Already next month, a convoy of autonomously driven Army trucks will be tested along a stretch of Interstate 69 in the state's northern "Thumb" region. Someone will be at the wheel of each vehicle, as currently required by state law, as a precaution.

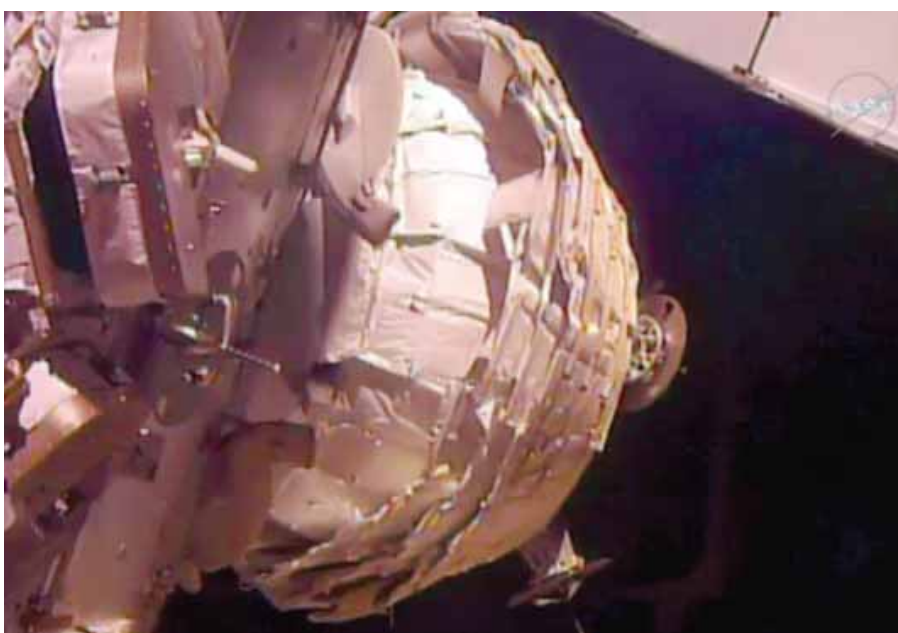
State Support

Michigan's DOT worked with legislators to develop the bills, which also have support from the state's economic development officials. Gov Rick Snyder is "very supportive" of the concept, a spokesman said. "We're working with the industry and MDOT so that

once these vehicles are on the road you can rest assured that they are safe," said the lead sponsor, Republican Sen Mike Kowall, who lives near a GM testing facility in suburban Detroit. "I see the autonomous vehicles being tested on the road every day. It's weird. But it's what's going to move the auto industry into the 24th and 25th century."

He expects a Senate panel to begin considering the bills this summer. Consumer Watchdog, a California-based advocacy group that has voiced safety and privacy concerns over autonomous vehicles, criticized the Michigan legislation. President Jamie Court said a "line needs to be drawn" to ensure that a human driver can take control if something goes wrong. "It's foolhardy to rush into this without a plan just because it seems to be a way to stimulate jobs," Court said. Self-driving cars have a "long, long way to go" in part because "robots and humans don't communicate," he said.

One of the Michigan bills would end the human operator requirement, while another would help create a facility to test autonomous and wirelessly connected cars at highway speeds at the site of a defunct GM plant that once churned out World War II bombers. "We're going to lead on this. That's very important," said Steve Arwood, the state's top economic development official. "It's not good enough to just be good enough." — AP



In this image taken from NASA video yesterday, the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM, is in the process of being inflated. — AP

GAWKER LAWSUIT EVOLVES INTO BATTLE OF BILLIONAIRES

SAN FRANCISCO: Billionaire media owner Pierre Omidyar is backing news and entertainment web site Gawker Media in its lawsuit against wrestler Hulk Hogan, adding a new twist to a case pitting technology money against press freedom. Omidyar, owner of The Intercept publisher First Look Media, is asking other media outlets to file legal briefs in support of Gawker, First Look said in a statement on Friday. First Look said its goal was to protect constitutional rights.

"The possibility that Gawker may have to post a bond for \$50 million or more just to be able to pursue its right to appeal the jury's verdict raises serious concerns about press freedom," said Lynn Oberlander, general counsel at First Look,

in a statement. Gawker is battling an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit brought by Hogan, who won a \$140 million judgment against it - enough to cripple the company, which this week said it was exploring financial options. In 2012, Gawker had published a sex tape of Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea.

The saga has become a lightning rod for debate about the role of money in the legal system and civic affairs. Omidyar, who made a fortune co-founding online auction site eBay, would support Gawker in its legal fight financially as well as via the court briefs, a person familiar with the situation said. But Omidyar has no interest in buying a stake in Gawker itself, the person said. Gawker said in a statement it wel-

comed the support from First Look, but did not provide details. Media outlets including Dow Jones, the New York Times Co and Turner Broadcasting did not immediately respond to requests for comment on whether First Look had approached them. A previous motion to intervene in the case was supported by several news outlets, First Look said, including Turner's Cable News Network and the AP. Earlier this week, Peter Thiel, an early backer of Facebook and a co-founder of PayPal, acknowledged that he had played a lead role in financing Bollea's litigation.

Gawker posted a 2007 article about Thiel entitled, "Peter Thiel is totally gay, people." Omidyar, a long-time liberal, said on Twitter his actions were not personal. Thiel is backing presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump for US president. "Also, I've never met Peter, respect his work as VC, and obv disagree on Trump and press, there is no 'bad blood,'" he wrote in response to a Twitter comment. A spokesman for Thiel declined to comment on Omidyar's backing of Gawker.

Many in Silicon Valley rushed to Thiel's defense once news broke of his support of Hogan. "Click bait journalists need to be taught lessons. Far less ethics and more click chasing in press today. I'm for #thiel," tweeted another prominent venture capitalist, Vinod Khosla, on Thursday. Khosla is fighting his own legal battle over whether the public may access the beach on property he owns in San Mateo County, California. Thiel has donated to the Committee to Protect Journalists, which advocates for journalists who encounter beatings, threats, and other intimidation. The New York Post first reported the news of Omidyar's latest push to support Gawker. — Reuters



SAN JOSE, California: In this May 21, 1999 file photo, eBay chief executive officer Meg Whitman (left) and Pierre Omidyar, eBay's chairman of the board, leaf through a magazine at the company's headquarters. — AP



ALAMANA INDUSTRIES UNVEILS VERSANT 80

KUWAIT: Reinforcing its leadership position in the digital printing industry, Almana Industries (Xerox - Kuwait) unleashed its new entry level production printing press - the "Versant 80", with the presence of key customers from different industries such as printing presses, education, oil and gas, government and others. A seminar followed by a live demonstration executed by the Xerox team that has joined from Xerox Middle East and Africa HQ left an impeccable impression on all delegates.

The event started with General Manager Ayman Mattar welcoming everyone and expressing Almana's continuous commitment to bringing to the Kuwaiti market future technologies and solutions and be always ahead of the curve. With the Versant 80, they made digital printing available and affordable for all customers that are looking to better serve their customers.

He added: "The Versant 80 is a future-proof investment in performance, quality and versatility. When we talk about versatility, we're talking about it being adaptable, capable, and scalable. It is ultimately truly impressive. He then expressed his deep belief that the Versant 80 will have an effective role in meeting current and future needs of his clients."

He stated that for 25 years, Almana Industries (Xerox - Kuwait) has been creating memorable client experiences ranging from desktop to print-shop that are always enhanced to insure that they continue providing the same unparalleled service and products.

Ayman continued to point out the key advantages of the new Xerox Versant 80, which include:

- Print in color at blazing speeds 80 ppm/up to 350 gsm for faster turnaround, higher efficiency and no slowdowns using various media types.
- Achieving unprecedented results by combining our 2400 x 2400 dpi imaging resolution with up to 1200 x 1200 x 10-bit rendering resolution (four times more pixels than the press standard), built with a single-pass duplex scanning at 200 images per minute (ipm) to produce an Ultra HD resolution of up to 1200 x 1200 x 10 bit RIP, with an unmatched input paper capacity allowing up to 8,000 sheets and multiple Finishing options.
- Unlimited applications can be produced on the Versant 80 such as business cards, flyers, brochures, invitation cards, envelopes, calendars, labels, training materials, books, magazines, manuals, with its ability to personalize every document it produces.

CDC URGES SPEED ON ZIKA AS HOUSE NEGOTIATES FUNDING

WASHINGTON: The US must act more quickly to protect pregnant women from birth defect-causing Zika, a top health official said Thursday even as the House left town for its Memorial Day recess with no visible progress toward a congressional compromise on emergency funding to battle the virus.

"In a public health emergency, speed is critical. A day, a week, a month can make all the difference," Dr Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told the National Press Club. It has been three months since the Obama administration requested \$1.9 billion for Zika, and Thursday the GOP-controlled House moved to officially begin talks with the Senate on how much of that request to grant.

Funding aside, Frieden said there's no reason to cancel or delay the Olympics in hard-hit Brazil. The risk to athletes and delegations attending the Olympics "is not zero," he said in response to a question. But, "the risk is not particularly high other

than for pregnant women." Zika can cause severe birth defects including brain damage, and the CDC for months has been telling pregnant women not to travel anywhere that it is spreading - whether it's for the Olympics or any other reason.

What about worry that other Olympics attendees might bring the virus home? With 40 million US travelers to Latin America and the Caribbean each year anyway, Olympics visitors will bring too tiny a fraction to make a difference, Frieden said.

Broader bills

In Congress, the Senate has approved a measure that combines \$1.1 billion to fight Zika with broader spending bills for transportation, housing and veterans. The House has approved \$622 million but cuts other spending to defray its costs. Republican leaders have struggled with how to deal with Obama's request. Thursday's House vote

was to begin a conference committee with the Senate to settle the difference. "At the end of the day, the amount of resources that are necessary will be made available. The only difference here is one side wants to pay for it and not add to the national debt," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "It is also shameful to exploit a crisis for political gain."

Cole said the administration hasn't been hamstrung in any way so far in the Zika battle. But Democrats say it's affecting the ability of US health officials to control mosquitoes over the long term, study how Zika is harming fetuses and how to protect them, and to purchase diagnostic tests to tell who's been infected with a virus that can cause harm even if the pregnant woman noticed no symptoms.

Democrats are fighting for the full \$1.9 billion request. "Anything less will severely damage our ability to respond to this virus, and endanger Americans across the country," said House

Minority leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, who calls the GOP bills a "reckless and frankly indefensible effort to shortchange the fight against this deeply frightening Zika virus."

In fact, the \$1.1 billion Senate measure and the Obama request are fairly similar when it comes to how much money to spend on Zika; the main difference is that the administration wants back the almost \$600 million it diverted last month from the Ebola battle and other accounts.

Frieden said he desperately needs to recoup the money the CDC had to borrow for Zika. That includes \$44 million in emergency preparedness grants that states use for crises ranging from flu to hurricanes, plus funds intended to tamp down Ebola flare-ups in West Africa and help developing countries spot other brewing outbreaks before they spread. "We can't be letting down our guard in one place to fight another battle," Frieden said. — AP



WASHINGTON: This Wednesday, Feb 19, 2014 file photo shows a display of cell phones during a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) mobile tracking demo. — AP

CELLPHONE RADIATION RAISES CONCERNS DESPITE LOW RISK

POTENTIAL RISKS REMAIN SMALL DESPITE HOLES IN STUDY

WASHINGTON: A new federal study of the potential dangers of cellphone radiation, conducted in rats, found a slight increase in brain tumors in males and raised long-dormant concerns about the safety of spending so much time with cellphones glued to our ears.

But the study had enough strange findings that it has caused other federal scientists to highlight flaws in the research, and experts said these findings and those from other studies continue to suggest the potential risk from cellphone radiation is very small.

The National Institutes of Health study bombarded rats with cellphone radiation from the womb through the first two years of life for nine hours a day. It found tumors in 2 to 3 percent of male rats, which the study's authors called low. But females weren't affected at all and, strangely, the rats not exposed to the cellphone radiation died much faster - at double the rate - of those that were.

The results were preliminary, and only part of what will ultimately be released. They were made public before they were officially published - and despite strong criticism from other NIH scientists - because the results were similar to other studies that hint at a potential problem, said study author John Bucher.

\$25 million effort

The study is part of a seven-year, \$25 million effort conducted by the National Toxicology Program at the request of the Food and Drug Administration. It looked at the specific type of radiation that cellphones transmit, called non-ionizing radiofrequency.

"This is the first study to actually show that non-ionizing radiation (causes) cancer," said Dr. Otis Brawley, the American Cancer Society's chief medical officer. The cancer society in a statement

praised the study for "evidence that cellphone signals could potentially impact human health" but notes that it doesn't quite address real risk to people. "If cellphones cause cancer, they don't cause a lot of cancer," he said in an interview. "It's not as carcinogenic as beef." He said people should be far more concerned about "distraction caused by cellphone," which he said causes more deaths.

Both Brawley and Bucher said this would not change how they use their own personal cellphones. While the study found what Bucher called a likely cause of cancer in rats, he cautioned that how that applies to humans "is not currently completely worked out. This may have relevance. It may have no relevance," he said.

Since about 1986, US brain cancer deaths have not increased or decreased, Brawley said. That suggests that whatever effect cellphones may have it is so small as to be undetectable amid regular cases of brain cancer. Also, Brawley and others point out that cellphone technology has improved so much in recent years to emit less radiation than medical studies simulate. Bucher said the levels the rats were subjected to would be considered "heavy."

The study also found a slight increase in a very rare type of heart tumors in the male rats exposed to cellphone radiation. The same NIH scientists looked at mice, but those results won't be ready until next year. Some of the study's own reviewers had trouble accepting the results because of the odd factors, such as rats in the group that wasn't exposed didn't contract what would be the normal number of brain tumors for that population.

Strange factor

"I am unable to accept the authors' conclusions," wrote outside reviewer Dr Michael Lauer, deputy director of NIH's office of extramural research. "I suspect that this experiment is substantially underpow-

ered and that the few positive results found reflect false positive findings." The fact that the rats exposed to radiation survived longer than those that weren't "leaves me even more skeptical of the authors' claims," Lauer wrote. Four other study reviewers - three from NIH - also raised questions about the way the study was conducted and its conclusions.

Bucher said he couldn't explain that strange factor, nor could he explain why females were not affected. Brawley said it could be the female hormone estrogen is offering some cancer protection as has been seen in some other cancers.

George Gray, a risk and environmental health expert at the George Washington University School of Public Health, said one key part of the study is not the data itself, but how it is being interpreted. And he said the study seems to focus on the small increase in tumors in males, not the absence of them in females "and does not reveal the level of scientific uncertainty in applying these data to people using their phones."

If people are truly worried, they should use Bluetooth or headsets, Brawley said. In 2011, a working group of the International Agency for Research on Cancer said cellphones are possibly carcinogenic. But numerous studies over the years, before and after that listing, have found little evidence of a problem. Among the largest, a survey of 13,000 people in 13 countries found little or no risk of brain tumors, with a possible link in the heaviest users that the study's authors found inconclusive. And a large Danish study that linked phone bills to a cancer registry found no risk even in longtime users. Gray said a study like this needs to stand up to challenge and fit in with other research. "This is a high profile topic that hits close to home for most of us," Gray said in an email. "It is really important to realize that a single study like this does not provide the answer." — AP

DR HEIMLICH PERFORMS HIS MANEUVER TO SAVE WOMAN

CINCINNATI: The 96-year-old retired chest surgeon credited with developing the namesake Heimlich maneuver has used it to save a woman choking on food at his senior living center. Dr Henry Heimlich was in the dining room at the Deupree House in Cincinnati, where he lives, when an 87-year-old woman sitting next to him began choking Monday night.

The dining room maitre d', Perry Gaines, told The Cincinnati Enquirer that Heimlich dislodged a piece of hamburger from the woman's airway and she quickly recovered. Heimlich said he was having dinner when he looked over at the woman sitting next to him and could see that her face was growing pink and she was obviously choking. He said he got up behind her and began the technique.

"As soon as I did the Heimlich maneuver, a piece of meat with a bone in it immediately popped out," he said. Choking victim Patty Ris said Friday that she couldn't breathe and Heimlich rushed over to stand her up and dislodge the food. "I definitely would have died right then and there," said Ris, who said she felt fine Friday and had no after-effects. "There was

no doubt about it." Ris said that after she regained her breath Heimlich explained to her what he had done. She told him afterward: "God put me in this seat next to you."

Heimlich said in interviews Friday that it was the first time he'd used his maneuver, and his son Phil Heimlich said he believed that was accurate. But the doctor said in at least one previous account, a 2003 interview he did with BBC News Online, that he had applied his emergency technique three years earlier. The Heimlich maneuver involves abdominal thrusts applied to a choking person in an effort to lift the diaphragm and force air from the lungs to dislodge any object.

Heimlich has said he developed the maneuver after reading accounts of people choking in restaurants, with many of them dying. Through the years, he appeared on radio and television shows including "Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" to discuss and demonstrate the technique. Heimlich's views on how and when the maneuver should be used have put him at odds with some people in the health field. — AP

BRAIN SCANS REVEAL HIDDEN CONSCIOUSNESS IN PATIENTS

NEW YORK: A standard brain scanning technique is showing promise for helping doctors distinguish between patients in a vegetative state and those with hidden signs of consciousness. A study released Thursday is the latest to investigate using technology to help meet the challenge of making that distinction, which now is generally based on a doctor's bedside exam.

Patients in a vegetative state have open eyes and show periods of sleep and wakefulness, but they are unaware of themselves or others and unable to think, respond or do anything on purpose. Patients in a minimally conscious state show only intermittent and minimal signs of awareness of themselves or their environment.

Distinguishing between those two conditions is important because patients with even minimal awareness can be treated to help them communicate and to prevent suffering.

They respond much better to stimulation from medication or sounds, touch, music and odors.

In the new research, released by the journal *Current Biology*, researchers from Denmark, Belgium and Yale University investigated using so-called FDG-PET scans to measure the brain's consumption of blood sugar, which brain cells use as fuel. They sought to establish a specific level of consumption that could distinguish between the two groups of patients. They studied 49 vegetative patients and 65 minimally conscious ones, diagnosed by standard bedside procedures. They found that using a particular cutoff for PET scan results, they could correctly identify patient status 88 percent of the time.

The researchers checked the patient status again a year later. They found that 8 of the 11 vegetative patients who had scored above the cutoff, which had been associated with minimal consciousness, had in fact recovered consciousness. The other three had died. — AP



ST LOUIS: This photo provided by Washington University shows associate professor of neurology at Washington University School of Medicine Beau Ances MD, PhD, right, and Matthew Brier an MD/PhD student at the university, examining PET (positron emission tomography) scans of Alzheimer's disease patients. — AP

RUSSIAN ACTIVISTS STRUGGLE TO RAISE HIV AWARENESS AS EPIDEMIC GROWS

MOSCOW: Vadim Pokrovsky stunned hundreds of students at a conference in Moscow last week when he reached into his pocket and took out a condom. "And you, the young generation, how do you protect yourselves from HIV?" said Pokrovsky, the 61-year-old head of Russia's federal AIDS centre. "I always have a condom on me. Today even a 90-year-old can contract the virus."

The audience fell silent for a moment before breaking into applause. Despite the efforts of activists like Pokrovsky, the total number of registered HIV cases in Russia exceeded one million in late 2015, with authorities struggling to contain an epidemic that experts say could be curbed by increased funding and more awareness campaigns. Pokrovsky has been openly critical of the Kremlin's policies promoting traditional family values, saying they have failed to halt the spread of the deadly virus. "In 2015 alone, some 100,000 new HIV cases were reported in Russia," Pokrovsky told AFP. "This is a very high rate, maybe the highest in Europe."

Faithfulness vs condoms

The Russian government's policy focuses on treatment while neglecting prevention drives such as sex education in schools, with the number of people infected with the virus soaring as a result, say experts. A pub-

lic health campaign in Moscow last year urged people to be faithful to their partners, rather than promoting condom use.

"Young people here often don't even know what HIV is and don't understand its dangers," said Moscow-based student Darya Belimova who joined Pokrovsky to address more than a thousand young people at the conference. The gathering was part of the "Stop HIV/AIDS" prevention campaign spanning more than 200 universities.

And although the Russian health and education ministries support "Stop HIV/AIDS", activists and volunteers say they are fighting a lonely battle against Russia's AIDS epidemic as the virus increasingly affects the heterosexual population.

The World Health Organization last year said that Russia accounted for 60 percent of all HIV diagnoses in Europe in 2014, with heterosexual sex the main route of transmission of the virus which is spread through contact with contaminated body fluids. The number of HIV-positive minors - which stood at 9,792 in 2015 - has also jumped 8.5 percent compared to the previous year.

In most of these cases an HIV-positive mother transmitted the virus to the child at birth, said Pokrovsky. "In Russia, there is not enough public financing to support the fight against HIV at a national scale, and HIV prevention programs for drug addicts practically don't exist," he said. — AFP

SCIENTISTS FIND VAN-SIZED SPONGE, WORLD'S LARGEST

HONOLULU: Researchers in Hawaii have been absorbed by a sea creature they discovered last summer, and their findings are pretty big. The team of scientists on a deep-sea expedition in the waters off Hawaii discovered what they say is the world's largest known sponge.

The creature, roughly the size of a minivan, was discovered about 7,000 feet down in a marine conservation area off the shores of the Northwestern

Hawaiian Islands. The rare sponge, with a bluish-white color and brain-like appearance, stunned scientists when it appeared in the remote cameras attached to their underwater rover. Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Hawaii studied the sponge for about a year before releasing their findings.

"The largest portion of our planet lies in deep

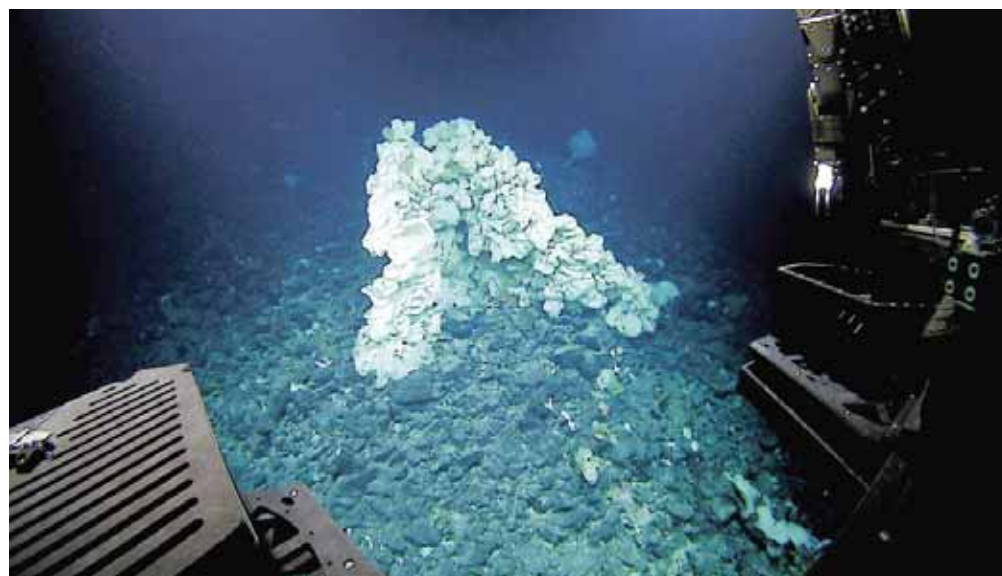
waters, the vast majority of which has never been explored," Papahānaumokuākea research specialist Daniel Wagner with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries said in a statement released Wednesday. "Finding such an enormous and presumably old sponge emphasizes how much can be learned from studying deep and pristine environments."

First time encounter

A study published this week in the scientific journal *Marine Biodiversity* described the massive creature. The animal was found in the waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which is the largest protected conservation area in the United States and one of the largest in the world. It covers an area that is bigger than all the other US national parks combined.

Christopher Kelley, program biologist at the Hawaii Undersea Research Lab, who helped lead the expedition with Wagner, said the crew captured images of the sponge with remote underwater cameras that were positioned above their underwater research vehicle. They then used laser points to measure parts of the sponge and also carefully measured the vehicle and compared those dimensions to the images they had of the sponge and vehicle together to determine its size.

Kelley said they took samples of a sponge of the same species they found the day before the larger one and sent them to the world's top experts, and no one could identify what genus the sponge belongs to. "Here's this animal that has presumably never been encountered before and it's enormous and that kind of brings up a little intrigue for deep water and what else exists down there," he said. — AP



HONOLULU: This Aug 12, 2015 photo provided by NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research/Hohonu Moana 2015 shows a massive sponge photographed at a depth of about 7,000 feet in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument off the shores of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. — AP



CAPE CANAVERAL: In this image released by SpaceX, an unmanned Falcon rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. — AP

SPACE X PULLS OFF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ROCKET LANDING

CAPE CANAVERAL: SpaceX pulled off another rocket landing Friday, the third in just under two months. The first-stage booster of the unmanned Falcon rocket settled vertically onto a barge 400 miles off Florida's east coast, eight minutes after the late afternoon liftoff. Cameras on the barge provided stunning, real-time video.

"Falcon 9 has landed!" said a SpaceX flight commentator. The touchdown occurred after the rocket launched an Asian communications satellite. Like the last successful landing, this one was especially difficult given the speed and heat of the incoming 15-story booster. SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk said via Twitter that the rocket's landing speed was close to the design maximum, thus the back and forth motion. He said it was probably OK, "but some risk of tipping." No one was aboard the barge at touchdown for safety reasons.

SpaceX's first booster landing actually occurred in December - on land at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The California-based company followed up with a successful touchdown on its floating platform in the Atlantic in early April, then again May 6. All three of those recovered boosters are now side by side, horizontally, in a SpaceX hangar. The second recovered booster will be tested and should fly on another mission later this year.

Musk wants to recycle boosters to lower launch costs and open space up to more payloads and people. These first-stage boosters normally are discarded in the ocean. SpaceX is the only one ever to land the stages left over from orbital missions. NASA is a major customer; SpaceX flies cargo to the International Space Station and aims to transport astronauts, too, by the end of next year. A glitch in the rocket's engine system prevented liftoff Thursday. — AP

PROBE CONFIRMS CHEMICALS CONTAIN LIFE IN COMET'S HALO

BERLIN: Scientists have found further evidence supporting the theory that some of the building blocks for life may have come to Earth from outer space. Using instruments aboard the European space probe Rosetta, researchers detected glycine and phosphorus in the dusty halo around a comet.

Glycine is an amino acid, one of the molecules needed to make proteins, while phosphorus is essential for DNA and cells. Their presence in the coma enveloping comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko "supports the idea that comets delivered key molecules for prebiotic chemistry throughout the solar system and, in particular, to the early Earth," according to the study published online Friday by the journal *Science Advances*.

Scientists say adding a high concentration of those molecules to a body of water could have produced the "primordial soup" that gave birth to life on our planet more than 4 billion years ago. "The beauty of it is that the material in the comet was formed before the Sun and planets formed, in the cold environment of the star forming region (known as the) molecular cloud," said Kathrin Altwegg, a physicist at the University of Bern, Switzerland, who led the study.

'Right position'

"That means what has happened a long time ago in the cloud from which our solar system emerged could happen in all clouds," Altwegg told *The Associated Press* in an email. "Then you just need another planetary system forming with a planet at the right position and

you could have another go at life. It may not be successful, but as there are billions of stars and as we now know billions of planets, chances are good."

Jonathan Lunine, director of the Center for Astrophysics and Planetary Science at Cornell University, said scientists had expected to find glycine in comets. "This is because glycine is so simple and easy to make," said Lunine, who wasn't involved in the study. In fact, glycine has already been detected in meteorites, and NASA's Stardust mission collected samples of dust from comet Wild 2 that were found to contain glycine. Because those samples were processed on Earth, however, there was a possibility that the glycine could have resulted from contamination. Scientists used a technique known as isotopic analysis to conclude that the molecules had likely come from a comet. "Our detection is a very direct measurement with no human interference directly at the comet," said Altwegg, adding that phosphorus has never previously been confirmed in a comet.

Lunine said confirmation of glycine on 67P would provide a useful comparison for future space missions to ocean worlds like those of Enceladus and Europa - moons of Saturn and Jupiter respectively - that some scientists think could harbor life. Altwegg said the two molecules were first detected more than a year ago, but researchers wanted to be absolutely sure about their discovery before announcing it. The team has already found further, even more complex molecules and hopes to publish its findings on them once they have been thoroughly checked, she said. — AP



SUNDERLAND: In this photo taken Wednesday May 18, 2016 wildlife biologists Evan Grant, right, and Adrienne Brand gather red-spotted newts, from Beebe Pond. (INSET) In this Aug 1, 2003 file photo a spotted newt (type of salamander) crawls in the rain. — AP photos

SAVING SALAMANDERS: SEARCHING FOR SIGNS OF A DEADLY FUNGUS

FUNGUS HAS RAVAGED ITS BRETHREN IN PARTS OF EUROPE

SUNDERLAND: Holding a sandwich bag containing a squirming, Eastern red-spotted newt, Evan Grant inspects its shiny skin for signs of a killer. If he finds what he's looking for, a gruesome fate awaits the amphibian. Ulcers would cover its body, eating away the skin and killing it outright or leaving it vulnerable to infection. Breathing would come with difficulty, and the lizard-like creature couldn't absorb through its skin the water and minerals it needs.

Death would follow, not just for the specimen Grant holds at a pond in Vermont, but for any salamander afflicted by a fungus that has ravaged its brethren in parts of Europe. There's no sign it has yet reached North America, home to 190 of the world's 655 salamander species, but scientists aren't taking chances.

Possible wipeouts

Fearing the fungus could reach the United States through the pet trade, Grant and an army of fellow wildlife biologists with the US Geological Survey, the lead federal agency in the fight, are checking salamanders nationwide. The goal is to take samples from 10,000 salamanders - including red-spotted newts from Maine and New Hampshire down to Virginia and over to Louisiana; Pacific newts in California and Oregon; and the flatwoods salamander in Florida, among others.

"We have the highest biodiversity of salamanders in the world," said David Hoskins, assistant

director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's fish and aquatic conservation program. "We were concerned that once the fungus reaches the United States - if it was introduced into wild populations - it could become established and spread and potentially wipe out important species of salamanders."

They may be small, hard to spot and overlooked compared with tigers and polar bears. But salamanders are critical indicators of environmental health, and their roles in wetlands, lakes and forests are critical in controlling insect populations and providing food for other animals. Anything that harms them stands to harm other species. The USGS hasn't yet found the fungus in any of the nearly 1,000 salamanders it has sampled across the country. But there are many more salamanders than biologists looking for them. Researchers believe the fungus, related to one that has decimated frog populations around the world, likely arrived about seven years ago in Europe through the pet trade and was released in the wild when captive animals escaped or were abandoned. It has since been found in captive populations of fire salamanders, Europe's best-known species, in the United Kingdom and Germany. There have also been outbreaks in wild populations in Belgium.

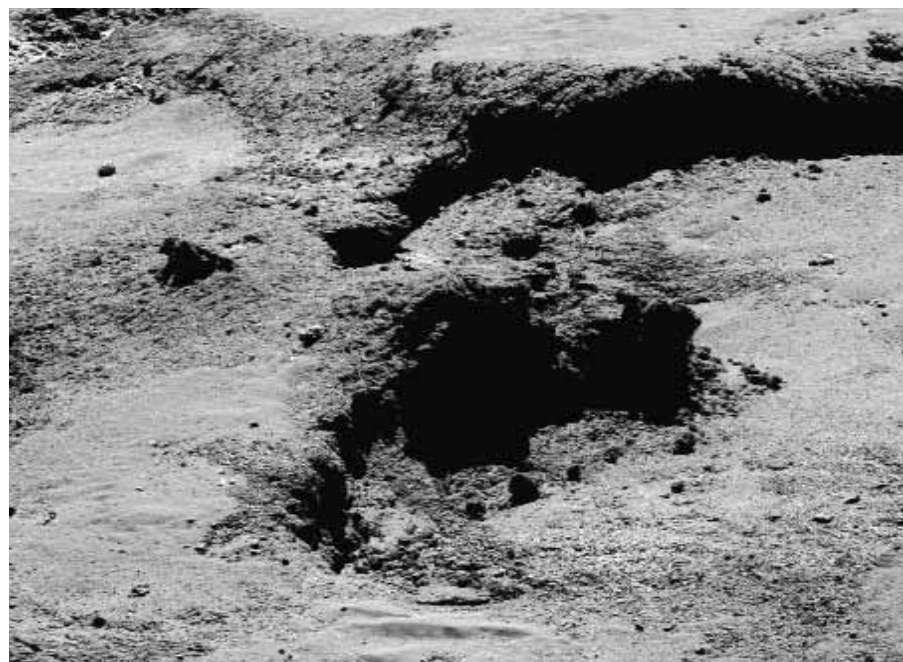
End result is not good

Wherever the fungus has been found, the end result is not good. In the Netherlands, the fungus has wiped out almost all fire salamanders. The loss

of what's known as a "sentinel species" - the proverbial canary in the coal mine - could "disrupt the equilibrium of the ecosystems" across Europe, said An Martel, a Belgian professor who discovered the fungus on salamanders in the Netherlands. "Very few animals are left," Martel said. "It has had a huge impact. The populations where the fungus is present are almost gone. We don't find any salamanders anymore."

The US Fish and Wildlife Service, whose role is regulating the trade in amphibians and other species, in January prohibited 201 salamander species from being imported or traded across state lines, which should put a dent in a pet industry that saw 2.5 million salamanders imported between 2004 and 2014. The move aims to get ahead of the fungus and avert the problems that came with combating the frog fungus, which wiped out several species before action plans started, Hoskins said.

At the pond in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest, the shoreline teeming with red-spotted newts, Grant and colleague Adrienne Brand trapped as many as 30 in small nets or wire traps resting on the lake bottom. The pair measured the newts, recorded sex ratios and looked for signs of the fungus, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, commonly called Bsal. Then they swabbed the creatures' hands and underside for any evidence of Bsal and put the samples in a test tube for freezing and shipment to the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, for analysis. — AP



BERLIN: The May 21, 2016 photo released by the European Space Agency ESA shows the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. — AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Dr. Fabad Al-Mukhaizeem
م.فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAFP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) held its 2nd annual ceremony to honor outstanding students from gifted students' classes for the 2015/2016 school year. Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa attended the ceremony, during which 172 sixth and seventh grade students were honored.



'LEADING WITH A PURPOSE': ICSK AMMAN CONDUCTS SENATE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The Indian Community School Kuwait, Amman organized a magnificent investiture ceremony of the school senate 2016 - 2017 in the school auditorium on 12th May, 2016. Principal of Indian Educational School, T Premkumar graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The auspicious ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, Principal, Vice-Principal, Senate Advisor and Section Supervisor.

Investiture Ceremony is an occasion when the school acknowledges the upcoming leaders and reposes trust in them. It was a defining moment and indeed an occasion of great pride and honor for the newly inducted senate members, house captains and prefects.

Principal Rajesh Nair extended a very warm welcome to the guests and parents. He reminded the students about their duties and responsibilities during the tenure in the senate. The musical rendition of "Yesterday's Dream" by the students added charisma to the ceremony.

Chief Guest, T Premkumar invested the members of the Core Senate with the badges followed by Principal and Vice Principal. House Mentors pinned up the badges for the prefects. The oath was administered by Principal Rajesh Nair. The newly elected senate comprises the senate President Tania T Cherian, Vice-President Tobias J Saju, Sports Captain Aadrian Boby, Assistant Sports Captain Beneeta Ann Jacob, Arts Club Secretary Jayantika and assistant Arts Club Secretary Mriga Arora.

House Captain (Seva) Siddarth M Nair, Assistant House Captain Arpita Patnaik, House Captain (Santosh) Jemy George, Assistant House Captain Akash Ajay, House Captain (Sahyog) AsthaThakkar and Alefiya Husain, Assistant House Captain Manoj Kumar A, House Captain (Shanti) Sidra Husain Dalvi, Assistant House Captain Jessica Serrao were also invested.

The Investiture Ceremony also witnessed the launching of the House Clubs and the release of club manuals. Vice-Principal Dr. Mary Isaac, in her address, briefed about the objectives of House clubs and the importance of having clubs in schools. The various clubs and their division is : Seva House Arts, Craft and Heritage Club, Santosh House Sports and IT Club, Sahyog House Literary and Career Club and Shanti House Ecology Club.

The chief guest Premkumar exhorted the students to dream more about their ambitions so that they can be made a reality. Senate Advisor Mrs. Aleyamma Satheesh in her speech, advised the Senate members not to have any personal interest while shouldering the responsibility assigned to them. Further, she added that the contribution, aim and interest of every senate member should be only one and that is to serve the school. The newly invested senate President Tania T Cherian delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the senate. Vice President Tobias J Saju proposed the vote of thanks.

TSC REWARDS CARD PROGRAM ADDS AQUA PARK AS A NEW PARTNER

In order to enhance the TSC Rewards Card Program offering for its customers, The Sultan Center has recently added Aqua Park as a partner in its Rewards Card Program. The new partnership comes in time with the customers' need to refresh during summer time while spending quality time with family and friends. Aqua Park is considered to be one of the largest aqua parks in the region featuring a variety of activities for all members of the family to enjoy. According to TSC Rewards Program Manager, Mohammed Jalloul, "TSC is pleased to announce the addition of Aqua Park to our program giving our customers more options to redeem their points and exchange them for great rewards. Currently, TSC has up 16 partners in its program with more partners joining soon". He added: "Through TSC's unique Rewards Program, we wish to thank our customers for choosing us and we strive to continue satisfying and meeting their expectations

with endless choices." Stated Jalloul. Kuwait Aqua Park is a family entertainment destination catering to young children, teens and adults. The park features a range of activities for the entire family to enjoy; starting from the Kiddy Pool Area for kids below 8 years old that contains a swimming pool with octopus's slide and floating toadstools, moving to the lazy river where you could just pull out a tube and float around the park in the river reaching to the Waves Pool, ending with the Adventures Area which offers 14 rides, targeting all age groups.

To fuel up for the adventurous and fun activities at Aqua Park, there's a cafe offering a nice selection of sandwiches, ice creams and soft drinks where visitors can have a small break and relax. With the new addition to TSC Award Card partners, customers can choose from a full d range of rewards that would grant them leisure, fun and entertaining lifestyle.

STRONG BONDS BETWEEN ABK AND KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL



Stewart Lockie, Regional Manager of Al-Ahli Bank (ABK) and James Vincent of ABK came to Kuwait National English School (KNES) recently to lecture our students from Year 11 and Year 12 and then also to Key Stage 3 about options for careers and university programs. Both these gentlemen were successful in motivating students about working in the banking and finance fields. Our students responded very well and were engaged in the lecture, asking appropriate and thought provoking questions in order to choose the right options in the British system to support their future career goals out of the many clubs and activities available at KNES.





JORDANIAN COMMUNITY HOSTS HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

As part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's celebration of its 70th Independence Day and 100th Anniversary of the Arab Revolt, the Jordanian community in Kuwait held an open awareness day on Thursday titled 'your health in Ramadan,' in cooperation with the Kuwait Health Promotion Department of the Ministry of Health, and International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO).

Jordan's Deputy Ambassador to Kuwait Shaker Al-Omouh, head of Jordan community in Kuwait Eng Ghassan Thiyab and a large number of community members attended the event.

In his speech, Omouh said the Jordan community is keen to participate in all programs and activities that are of interest to individuals and the society in the state of Kuwait,

out of its keenness in the importance of increasing knowledge and benefiting from exchanging expertise between brothers.

He said this activity comes within the health promotion services presented by Kuwait Health Ministry in cooperation with civil community establishments to spread health awareness in the society, and particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

Omouh thanked the Health Ministry and IICO for hosting the health awareness day, and lauded the efforts of the Jordan community members to ensure the success of the day.

Meanwhile, Thiyab said the health day featured lectures that included nutritional tips for fasting persons, fasting children, pregnant women's health and chronic diseases during the fasting period.

There was an exhibition that was held with

participation of pharmaceutical companies and health centers in the private sector in Kuwait. Thiyab said that cooperation between the Jordan Community Council, Health Ministry and IICO comes within the framework of "health is a joint societal responsibility," and strengthens the brotherly relations between Kuwait and Jordan.

Director General of IICO Dr Bader Al-Sumait said meanwhile that the organization always cooperated with the government and civil organizations out of its belief in the partnership and cooperation values, adding that it has a special focus on health projects in its program, which includes building hospitals, warehouses and mobile medical convoys in cooperation with Health Ministry as well as humanitarian, regional and international organizations.



BIRTH KUWAIT CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF SUCCESS

The Birth Kuwait group led by its President Heba Al-Ali held a gala dinner at the Sheraton Hotel on the occasion of the conclusion of its activities for the season 2015/ 2016. Many dignitaries, doctors, consultants, bloggers and owners of active social media attended the ceremony. Representatives of companies as well as guests interested in the group's activities were also among the crowd enjoying engaging segments of the ceremony along with Birth Kuwait's members and volunteers.

During the ceremony, Birth Kuwait thanked all its supporters and Sponsors, as keynote speaker Dr Mona Al-Sumaia, Head of the Community Nutrition Promotion Supervisory and of the infant and children Nutrition Program at the Ministry of Health, Pediatrician specialized in Nutrition and an IBCLC, highlighted the benefits of breastfeeding for babies and the importance of supporting mothers through this journey.

The non-profit volunteer organization 'Birth Kuwait' has spent five successful years serving families and the community, and

linking them with specialists in the field of maternal and infant care. They provided families with services and support through The Breastfeeding Support Program and The Newborn Care Program (led by Dr Fatma Bujarwa), The Childbirth Education Program (led by the vice president of the organization Zuzana Nadova), The 'Super Moms' support group gathering and the monthly lectures led by specialists from several fields.

Over the past 5 years, Birth Kuwait has been able to establish a network of over

100 community health professionals locally and internationally. In the coming seasons 'Birth Kuwait' will continue to graduate certified consultants and educators in breastfeeding, childbirth education, newborn care specialist and doulas to spread across the country and the region creating a better future of healthier children and happier, more satisfied families.



AMC

04:30 Island Of The Lost
06:00 Natural Causes
07:30 Solarbabies
09:05 Beat Street
10:50 The Great Escape
13:40 Movers And Shakers
15:00 Rich Kids
16:35 Beauty Shop
18:20 Troll (Epic)
19:40 The Sharkfighters
21:00 The Birdcage
23:00 Nightwatch
00:40 Wolf
02:45 52 Pick-Up

Disney Channel

03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
06:00 Mouk
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
07:40 And Cat Noir
08:05 Hank Zipzer
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
10:35 Sharpay's Fabulous Adventure

EHD

03:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
04:10 House Of DVF
05:05 House Of DVF
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
08:25 El News
09:15 Kourtney & Kim Take New
12:05 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 Fashion Police
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 Botched
02:20 El News

OSN FIRST HD

03:00 Agent X
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Unforgettable
07:00 CSI
08:00 Prison Break
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Criminal Minds
11:00 CSI
12:00 Prison Break
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 CSI
15:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Unforgettable
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Prison Break
19:00 Bones
20:00 Complications
21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
22:00 House Of Cards
23:00 Satisfaction
00:00 Bones
01:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
02:00 House Of Cards

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Natural World
04:15 Animal Cops South Africa
05:02 Shamwari: A Wild Life
05:49 Gangland Killers
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dog TV
08:15 Giant Pandas Go Wild
09:10 Rugged Justice
10:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
11:00 Dog TV
11:55 Night
12:50 Mutant Planet
14:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marvin

03:15 The Suite Life Movie
19:30 Evermoor Chronicles
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 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

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
12:00 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 MOVIES HD ACTION

04:30 Armageddon
07:15 Forget And Forgive
09:00 The A-Team
11:15 Fast & Furious 6
13:30 Armageddon
16:15 Hercules Reborn
18:00 The A-Team
20:15 Edge Of Tomorrow
22:15 The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day
00:15 The 13th Warrior
02:00 Forget And Forgive

BBC FIRST

03:10 Wallander
04:40 Eastenders
05:15 Father Brown
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Eastenders
07:40 Death In Paradise
08:00 Father Brown
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:45 Death In Paradise
10:40 Doctors
11:10 Eastenders
11:45 Father Brown
12:35 The Musketeers
13:30 Death In Paradise
14:25 Eastenders
14:55 Doctors
15:30 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 Silent Witness
22:45 Orphan Black
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Eastenders
00:50 DCI Banks

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

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:00 My Father The Hero
06:00 Hope Springs
08:00 Green Card
10:00 Chef
12:00 The Other Sister
14:15 500 Days Of Summer
16:00 Green Card
18:00 Rush Hour
20:00 Lay The Favorite
21:45 Let's Be Cops
23:45 Deliver Us From Eva
01:45 The Other Sister

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:00 My Father The Hero
06:00 Hope Springs
08:00 Green Card
10:00 Chef
12:00 The Other Sister
14:15 500 Days Of Summer
16:00 Green Card
18:00 Rush Hour
20:00 Lay The Favorite
21:45 Let's Be Cops
23:45 Deliver Us From Eva
01:45 The Other Sister

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA+2

03:00 Sunshine On Leith
05:00 Kill The Messenger
07:00 Mood Indigo
09:15 The Giver
11:00 Breathe In
12:45 Mood Indigo
15:00 Fast Feet
17:00 Barefoot
19:00 Breathe In
21:00 Every Day
23:00 The Double
01:00 Nightcrawler

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA+2

03:00 Sunshine On Leith
05:00 Kill The Messenger
07:00 Mood Indigo
09:15 The Giver
11:00 Breathe In
12:45 Mood Indigo
15:00 Fast Feet
17:00 Barefoot
19:00 Breathe In
21:00 Every Day
23:00 The Double
01:00 Nightcrawler

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

03:15 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets
05:15 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
07:00 Annie
09:00 Coraline
11:00 The Santa Clause
13:00 Eight Below
15:00 Big Miracle
17:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
19:00 The Gabby Douglas Story
21:00 Blank Check
23:00 Big Miracle
01:00 The Gabby Douglas Story

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

03:15 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets
05:15 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
07:00 Annie
09:00 Coraline
11:00 The Santa Clause
13:00 Eight Below
15:00 Big Miracle
17:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
19:00 The Gabby Douglas Story
21:00 Blank Check
23:00 Big Miracle
01:00 The Gabby Douglas Story

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

04:30 Baby Genies And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
06:00 Yellowbird
07:45 Miffy The Movie
09:30 Goat Story 2
11:00 Tarzan
12:45 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
14:30 Baby Genies And The Treasures Of Egypt
16:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
18:00 Goat Story 2
20:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
22:00 Baby Genies And The Treasures Of Egypt
23:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
01:30 Miffy The Movie

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

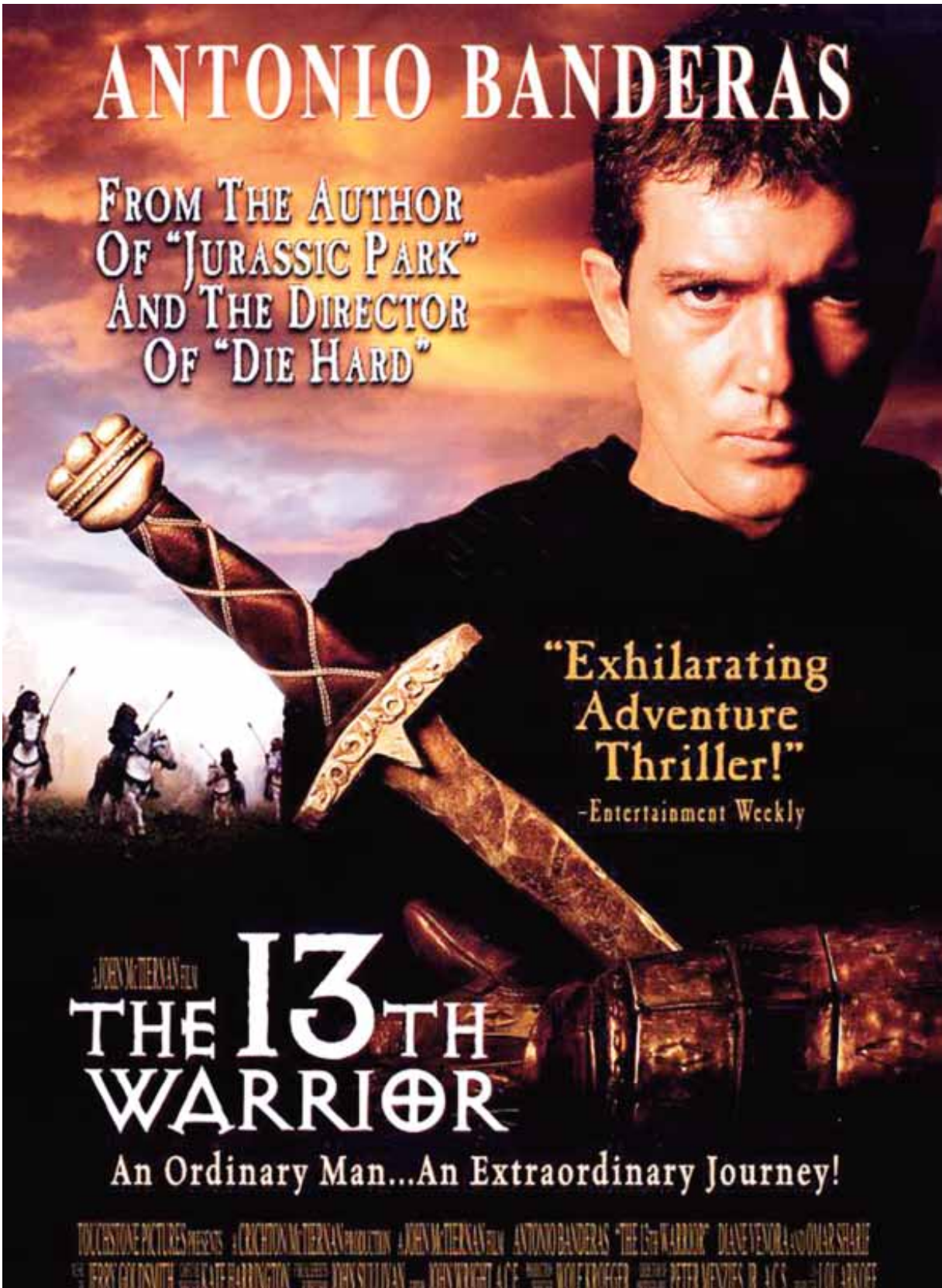
04:30 Baby Genies And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
06:00 Yellowbird
07:45 Miffy The Movie
09:30 Goat Story 2
11:00 Tarzan
12:45 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
14:30 Baby Genies And The Treasures Of Egypt
16:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
18:00 Goat Story 2
20:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
22:00 Baby Genies And The Treasures Of Egypt
23:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
01:30 Miffy The Movie

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

03:15 True Colors
05:15 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados
07:00 October Sky
09:00 Second Coming
11:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados
13:00 Diana
15:00 The Doctor
17:15 Second Coming
19:00 Walk The Line
21:30 What's Love Got To Do With It
23:30 Mobius
01:30 Second Coming

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

04:45 Miss Julie
07:00 Boychoir
08:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
11:00 Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back



THE 13TH WARRIOR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

STAR MOVIES HD

11:00 Philomena
13:00 The Last Days On Mars
15:00 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time
16:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
17:00 Mortdecai
21:00 Manglehorn
23:00 Fifty Shades Of Grey
01:15 Dark Places

STAR MOVIES HD KIDS

04:30 Signs
06:30 The Hurricane
09:00 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
11:30 A Heartbeat Away
13:15 Surrogates
15:00 Pearl Harbor
18:15 Coyote Ugly
20:00 The Sixth Sense
21:45 Dark Water
23:30 Jack
01:30 Hurricane Season

STAR WORLD HD

03:00 The Walking Dead
05:00 Scrubs
06:00 Happy Endings
07:00 Desperate Housewives
08:00 Bones
09:00 Bones
10:00 The Walking Dead
13:00 Scrubs
13:30 Happy Endings
14:00 Desperate Housewives
15:00 Da Vinci's Demons
16:00 Lost
17:00 Lost
18:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager

SUNDANCE CHANNEL

03:20 Emma
05:20 Proof
07:00 Lock Chamer
08:20 Shirley Adams
09:55 Love, Lust And Lies
11:25 Colin Fitz Lives
12:55 The Prospects
14:20 Movie Talk
14:45 The Crash Reel
16:35 Lock Chamer
17:55 Shirley Adams
19:30 Movie Talk
20:00 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
20:30 Colin Fitz Lives
22:00 Babylon
23:00 The Red Road
00:00 The Prospects
01:25 California Solo

TLC HD

03:06 Long Island Medium
03:30 Love At First Swipe
03:55 Randy's Wedding Rescue
04:20 Randy's Wedding Rescue

OSN MOVIES HD

05:10 Randy's Wedding Rescue
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Super Soul Sunday
07:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
07:57 Two In A Million: Boys On Fire
08:45 Something Borrowed, Something New
09:08 Something Borrowed, Something New
09:32 Little People, Big World
09:57 Little People, Big World
10:20 Secret Eaters
11:10 Cake Boss
11:35 Oprah's Lifeclass
12:25 Super Soul Sunday
13:12 Fat Chance
14:00 Our Little Family
14:50 Little People, Big World: Big Changes
15:40 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:30 Secret Eaters
17:17 Cake Boss
17:40 Something Borrowed, Something New
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 World's Worst Mum
19:20 Cake Boss
19:45 Cake Boss
20:10 Super Soul Sunday
21:00 Cake Boss
21:25 Cake Boss
21:50 Love At First Swipe
22:15 Love At First Swipe
22:40 7 Little Johnstons
23:05 7 Little Johnstons
23:30 Long Island Medium
23:55 Cake Boss
00:20 Cake Boss
00:45 Love At First Swipe
01:10 Love At First Swipe
01:31 7 Little Johnstons
01:55 7 Little Johnstons
02:19 Long Island Medium
02:42 Secret Eaters

Discovery Channel HD

03:15 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
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 Carfellas
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 Carfellas
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

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 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
10:00 Supa Strikas
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Annedroids
11:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
11:45 Mighty Med
12:10 Mighty Med
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:05 Mighty Med
16:30 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
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA

OSN MOVIES HD

03:00 Pompeii
05:00 Ashes
07:00 Life Of A King
09:00 Pompeii

OSN MOVIES HD

03:00 Pompeii
05:00 Ashes
07:00 Life Of A King
09:00 Pompeii



STAR WARS - EPISODE V - THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK ON OSN MOVIES PREMIER HD

Discovery Family

03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
03:50 You Have Been Warned
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Doki
07:50 Kids vs Film
08:40 You Have Been Warned
12:00 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
17:00 Ultimate Survival
18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
19:30 Prehistoric
20:20 How The Earth Works
21:10 Wild Hawaii
22:00 Untamed & Uncut
00:30 Strangest Weather On Earth

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 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
10:00 Supa Strikas
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Annedroids
11:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
11:45 Mighty Med
12:10 Mighty Med
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:05 Mighty Med
16:30 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
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Winx Club
05:24 Sanjay And Craig
05:48 Sanjay And Craig
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Sanjay And Craig
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Breadwinners
09:00 Get Blake
09:24 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 The Loud House
17:48 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants

CLASSIFIEDS



Flight Schedule

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

Arrival Flights on Sunday 29/5/2016				Departure Flights on Sunday 29/5/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
JZR	185D	Dubai	02:45	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	06:00
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	PEG	934	Sohag	06:00
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	8512	Doha	06:40
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	1541	Cairo	06:55	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	Istanbul	482	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	787	Dubai	09:30
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	Bahrain	214	Bahrain	11:35
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	103	London	12:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
FEG	961	Sohag	12:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	PEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	513	Tehran	15:40
RJA	640	Amman	16:00	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	562	Amman	16:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	562	Dammam	17:00	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	341	Damascus	17:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
CCE	345	Sohag	17:35	KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	NIA	252	Alexandria	17:50
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	SYR	342	Damascus	18:00
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	JZR	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	UAE	860	Dubai	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	CCE	342	Alexandria	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	618	Doha	18:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
MSR	606	Luxor	19:30	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	102	New York/London	19:55	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	353	Doha	20:55
KAC	514	Tehran	20:10	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:50	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:35
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	GFA	205	Islamabad	23:00
AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	KAC	220	Bahrain	23:00
BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	22:40	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	782	Jeddah	22:50	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
MSC	501	Alexandria	23:00				
MSC	403	Asyut	23:10				
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20				
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30				
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35				
PIA	205	Lahore	23:40				

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

REQUIRED

F & B

Sales Officer

with capability to run store
with accounting background
Age: 25 to 30
Preferably Arabic
speaking and English

Send cv: Abdullah@zamcokw.com

FOR RENT

A compound consist of
22 flats, each one with 3
bedrooms, 5 bathrooms
and big living room.

*The compound is near the sea.
Preferably VIP foreigners.*

25736466
Tel: 94976434

NOW HIRING

**Creative individuals who have a talent for physical
fitness instruction and love working with kids.**

Skills:
Fluent in English - Good memory skills, Microsoft program knowledge and background
in arts, child development and/or gymnastics are a plus. Must be open to coaching.

Please send your CV to:
mygymkuwait@yahoo.com

CHANGE OF NAME

This is to certify that Ms.
Vivian Aquino Villancio and
Ms. Vivian Villancio Mowrey a
Filipino national, of legal age,
and holder of Philippine
Passport No. EC7537682
issued on 27 Apr 2016 at the
Phil Embassy Kuwait refers to
one and the same person.
Phil address: Purok 14
Poblacion Magsaysay DVO
Del Sur. (C 5173)



BUSINESS IN OMAN

**We Are Providing
Visas, Registration,
Local Sponsor,
Business Partner,
Decoument Clearing.**

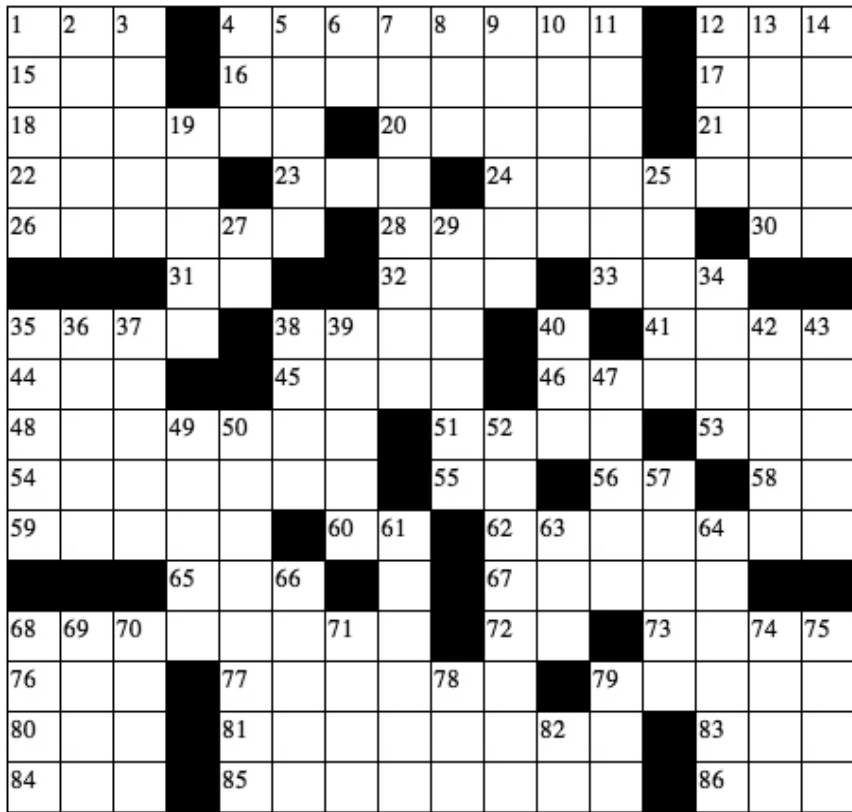
Contact Us: 00968-98457638
Email: Info@Eigllcoman.com



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/05/2016 TO 01/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1 MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM	WARCRAFT	2:30 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	1:30 PM	WARCRAFT 3D	5:00 PM
MONEY MONSTER	3:45 PM	WARCRAFT	7:30 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:45 PM	WARCRAFT	10:00 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	8:00 PM	WARCRAFT	12:30 AM
MONEY MONSTER	10:15 PM		
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM		
		FANAR-5	
SHARQIA-2		X-MEN: Apocalypse	1:15 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:00 PM
WARCRAFT	2:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:15 PM
WARCRAFT	4:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:30 PM
WARCRAFT	7:15 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:45 PM
WARCRAFT	9:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM
WARCRAFT	12:30 AM		
		MARINA-1	
SHARQIA-3		MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM
Hepta	12:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	1:30 PM
Hepta	2:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	3:30 PM
Hepta	5:00 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:30 PM
Hepta	7:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	8:30 PM
Hepta	10:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	10:30 PM
Hepta	12:45 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:30 AM
		MARINA-2	
MUHALAB-1		WARCRAFT	11:30 AM
Hepta	11:45 AM	WARCRAFT	2:00 PM
Hepta	2:15 PM	WARCRAFT	4:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:45 PM	WARCRAFT	7:00 PM
Hepta	6:45 PM	WARCRAFT	9:30 PM
Hepta	9:15 PM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM
Hepta	11:45 PM		
		MARINA-3	
MUHALAB-2		Hepta	12:45 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:15 PM
MONEY MONSTER	3:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:00 PM	Hepta	7:45 PM
SARBJIT (H			

CROSSWORD 1268



ACROSS

1. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
4. Any of 16 white and 16 black pieces used in playing the game of chess.
12. The compass point that is one point south of due east.
15. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
16. Type genus of the Gentianaceae.
17. Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.
18. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
20. The fourth or lowest deck.
21. Fiddler crabs.
22. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
23. The last (12th) month of the year.
24. Reprehensible acquisitiveness.
26. (formal) By means of this.
28. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
30. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
31. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
32. The corporate executive responsible for the operations of the firm.
33. A master's degree in business.
35. Fossil fuel consisting of carbonized vegetable matter deposited in the Carboniferous period.
41. Highly excited.
44. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
45. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
46. Any of various rich and elaborate cakes.
48. A selfish person who is unwilling to give or spend.
51. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
53. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
54. A language of Australian aborigines.
55. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
56. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
58. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
59. A fertile tract in a desert (where the water table approaches the surface).
60. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
62. Decreasing in amount or intensity.
65. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
67. Widely known and esteemed.
68. (Babylonian) in older pantheon.
72. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
73. Type genus of the Nepidae.
76. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
77. Highly seasoned fatty sausage of pork and beef usually dried.
80. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
81. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
83. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
84. Temporary military shelter.
85. (ophthalmology) Impaired eyesight resulting

usually from irregular conformation of the cornea.
86. (informal) Of the highest quality.

DOWN

1. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
2. The beach at a seaside resort.
3. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
4. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
5. Extremely exciting as if by alcohol or a narcotic.
6. Half the width of an em.
7. Boxcar with latticed sides.
8. Term of address for a man.
9. The capital and largest city of Equatorial Guinea on the island of Bioko in the Gulf of Guinea.
10. A statistical method for making simultaneous comparisons between two or more means.
11. Gasoline jelled with aluminum soaps.
12. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
13. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
14. French romantic writer (1766-1817).
19. Of or relating to or involving an area.
25. The capital of Morocco.
27. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
29. A mythical Greek warrior who was a leader on the Trojan side of the Trojan War.
34. Advanced in years.
36. A member of a people in India living in Orissa and neighboring areas.
37. Kindly endorsement and guidance.
38. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
39. A spoon-shaped vessel with a long handle.
40. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
42. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
43. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
47. At right angles to the length of a ship or airplane.
49. Norwegian composer whose work was often inspired by Norwegian folk music (1843-1907).
50. The value of a coordinate on the horizontal axis.
52. Affirm once again.
57. Comb-plate or locomotor organ consisting of a row of strong cilia whose bases are fused.
61. Large South American evergreen tree trifoliate leaves and drupes with nutlike seeds used as food and a source of cooking oil.
63. The cry made by sheep.
64. Deciduous round-headed Asiatic tree widely grown in mild climates as an ornamental for its heart-shaped leaves and fragrant yellow-green flowers followed by hanging clusters of fleshy orange-red berries.
66. When two dice are thrown and both come up showing one spot the results is called 'craps' or 'snake eyes'.
69. An Eskimo hut.
70. American political cartoonist (1840-1902).
71. A thin strip (wood or metal).
74. Meat from a domestic hog or pig.
75. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
78. The number that is represented as a one followed by 6 zeros.
79. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
82. Being one more than one.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Be wise in the use of your time while helping someone today. Sometimes one can overdo the generosity of time and effort and perhaps money. There are lessons to learn. You may have problems holding on to your money just now. Be cautious during the next few days and carefully determine what you might need to help you move forward. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation or feel especially kind towards a friend or loved one. If you have young people in your family you may want to create some fun time around the family dinner table that will encourage talking. Youngsters learn almost as much at the dinner table as they do in school-particularly manners, communication skills and ethics.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Professional associates push you to be the best you can be. You surpass the competition easily. The focus now is on your goals and the goal is one that is for the benefit of many and not the few. You have far-reaching visions with worldviews and group participation of all kinds. You carry a lot of power with your words. With a real determination to get things accomplished-you are successful. There is a tendency to give up much superficiality in favor of in-depth learning and self-discipline. This could mean you are making great headway in teaching, lecturing or some sort of work that puts you in the driver's seat, so to speak. You may be hard pressed to stick to a budget just now, so plan ahead when it comes to expenses.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you are involved in commercial activities, now is the perfect time to conclude those transactions, especially if they involve buying or selling products. If you are not busy, this time is the perfect time for a trip to the countryside. Yes, there is an urge to move to the country and grow your own food and perhaps some chickens. Suggestion: take a botanical class at a nearby college. You will enjoy creating a healthy environment for you and your family. A few of your friends may follow your example. You are very much aware of the beauty that surrounds you and you are encouraged to move others into a healthier lifestyle. A lighthearted get together with friends this evening winds up a most perfect day.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may race ahead of others today with a determination to get things accomplished. Avoid making impulsive decisions. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste. You are very motivated when it comes to philosophies, religion and all things essential. With no superficiality, you find new ways to get past the fluff and into what is really important. Your insights into truth and the eternal make you independent and somewhat of a loner-also a little psychic. If money is available, you will find yourself planning to travel. An inner urge to find the very heart of truth in all things may propel you endlessly.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It is usually easy for you to work with those in authority-those older and more experienced than you. However, do not be surprised if you are not in top mental gear this morning. You could find yourself struggling to communicate until the noon hour. By the afternoon, your distractions are solved and you are accomplishing much more than you thought you would as this day began. You make headway in the fashion industry and may be able to advise the most outstanding and unusual personalities with new styles or different combinations. Easy does it. This afternoon you and your friends can relax and enjoy each other's company. You are very much a social animal.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There are hard work and responsibility, both in salvaging some endeavors that appear to be failing and in branching out in new directions. Others may try to tempt you to work for someone other than your present employer and you may find many interruptions, keeping you distracted. You do not seem to lose your sense of humor through all of this and you may want create some witty ditty. Everything points to your taking the initiative to complete projects and find answers to the subject of these interruptions. You have lots of drive to accomplish just about anything; do not overextend yourself. Someone is counting on you to fulfill a promise this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your essence gives off the feeling of inner peace. Rely on your own abilities now to succeed without pulling in the assistance of someone that could end up doing most of your work. The flow of work progresses well with little or no difficulty. Don't be too surprised when an old school friend shows up later, in the afternoon. Lots can be talked about and fond memories relived. You may have become quite active in your community and topics such as newcomers' day or plant-a-flower-day may be talked about and planned. You could come up with new ideas of how to encourage neighbors to participate in local activities or neighborhood improvements. You show your cheerful self to all and are very popular. A love relationship deepens.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This may be the day of a sudden change of fortune for the better. This day is considered to be one of your lucky days. This day may also manifest as a need for inner search, for meaning. There could be changes in your daily activities. If an unusual opportunity presents itself, go for it right away. You will help someone find a job today. You may also try to help your neighbors understand that the more involved they are with each other, the fewer problems they have with vandalism or thieves. There is a great deal of laughter and fun times this afternoon. You may find that by enjoying the evening meal with your loved one, the two of you enjoy a wonderfully relaxed time. You can catch up on your reading, writing or communication later tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your sharp mind today will give you a quick understanding of a business opportunity. You are able to grasp the main idea quickly and respond accordingly. Perhaps a news story is in need of compiling and completing before a deadline. Emotional seriousness, a sober orientation and a practical awareness of the nature of time are keynotes to your deepest feelings. Your ambition is intensified and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance. You are innovative but you could meet with an irresistible force. There is a lot of force available for disciplined work, but push too hard and you could break something. Breathe and enjoy the fresh air this evening. This would be a good time to begin or to nurture a garden.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your imagination can be a wonderfully positive influence for you, but you can also worry unnecessarily about the smallest things. Make the old saying of turning lemons into lemonade work for you by turning any negatives in your life around to positives; you set good examples. The energies are also positive for a new avenue of work... Meaning different responsibilities. Today you try your authority out on your team to see if you can handle the work. There is a tendency to dismiss frustrations but it would be good to keep notes for review later. Financial savvy and a practical turn of mind are qualities that take on a greater importance in your life.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are able to cut through and get at what is beneath and behind a problem today. Solving problems seems an easy task. Be resolved that overstatements, overdoing and overconfidence are outdated. Your flamboyant personality expresses itself in your work-allow yourself time to play and enjoy your favorite hobby or creative endeavor after the workday is over. There are opportunities to talk about psychological and spiritual matters. The idea of a little personal self-analysis on the deepest possible level could be exciting to you. Carl Jung enjoyed discovering things about the personality. It will give you opportunities for personal expression. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You will enjoy being the center of attention today, as others will compliment you on your recent good works. Your creative accomplishments will put you in the spotlight. You should enjoy great success through your profession. Outshining your fellow workers may instill a humble mood. You take the time to see where work can best help others. You may also spend a great deal of time communicating with co-workers and people apart from work this afternoon. You may be sought after for your advice regarding some very personal and emotional issues as well as work issues. The people you support and encourage show you respect. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Spring - Word Search

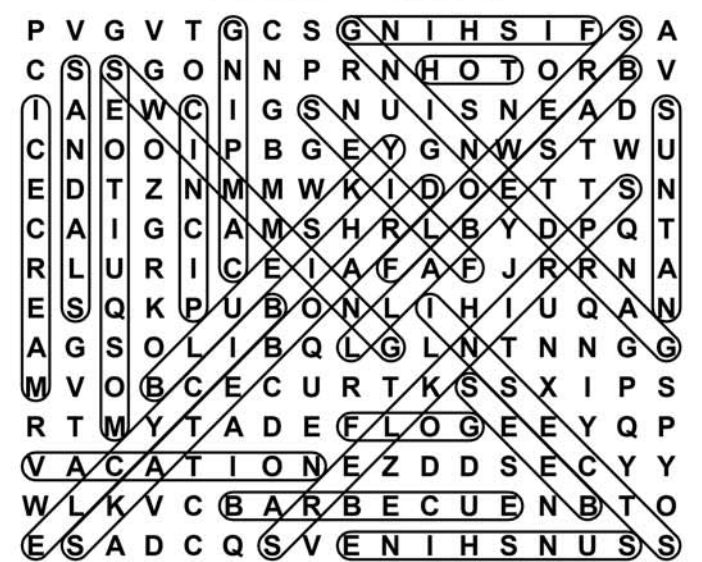
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| APRIL | GOLF | RAIN |
| BASEBALL | GREEN | ROBINS |
| DAFFODILS | GROWTH | SEASON |
| EARTHWORMS | INSECTS | SNOWMELT |
| EASTER | LILIES | TULIPS |
| EQUINOX | MARCH | WARMER |
| FLOWERS | MAY | WET |
| FROGS | PLANTING | |

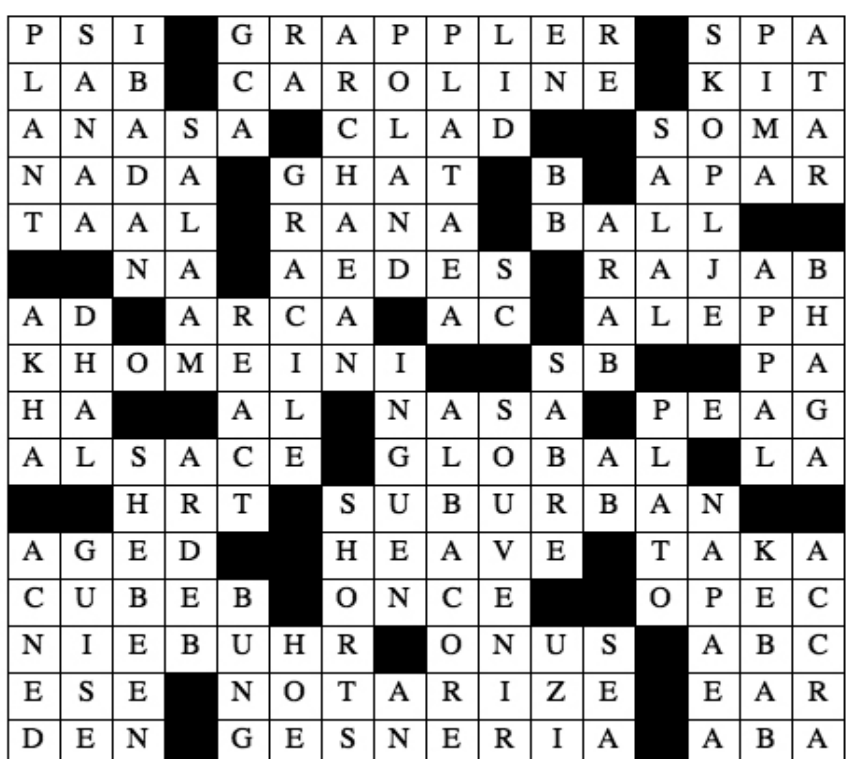
Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Summer - Solution

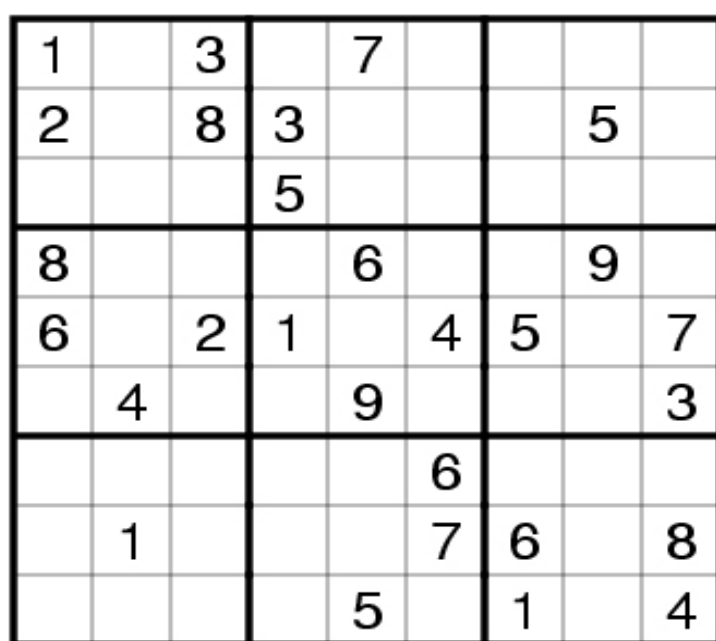


- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| BARBECUE | FLOWERS | SANDALS |
| BASEBALL | GARDENING | SKATEBOARD |
| BEEES | GOLF | SPRINKLERS |
| BICYCLE | HOT | SUNSHINE |
| BLUE SKY | ICE CREAM | SUNTAN |
| CAMPING | INSECTS | SWIMMING |
| FISHING | MOSQUITOES | VACATION |
| FLIES | PICNIC | |

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



medium

Yesterday's Solution



very hard



1	3	2			9
4	8				
		1	8		
2					3
			7	2	8
	9		4		7
	7	2		5	9
9	4				
5	6		7		1

SUDOKU

4	1	3	7	9	6	8	2	5
7	2	8	3	6	5	4	1	9
6	9	5	1	2	4	7	8	3
2	7	2	4	6	9	3	5	8
8	5	9	3	1	4	6	7	2
1	5	8	2	7	9	3	4	6
3	4	6	5	8	1	9	2	7
5	6	4	8	3	2	1	7	9
9	8	7	2	3	1	5	4	6



Junk Jewelry

What You Need

- o Plastic Bag (best if thin and small)
- o Packaging or masking tape
- o Colored paper or paint
- o Glue

Instructions

1. Roll up your plastic bag (roll starting with the longest side).
2. When the bag is tightly rolled up, wrap tape around it.
3. When it is completely taped up, form the rolled bag into a bracelet shape and tape the ends closed.
4. You can decorate the tape with any colors or decorations of your choice.
5. You now have a piece of funky jewelry to wear!

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun. It has the third-largest planetary radius and fourth-largest planetary mass in the Solar System. Uranus is similar in composition to Neptune, and both have different bulk chemical composition from that of the larger gas giants Jupiter and Saturn. For this reason, scientists often classify Uranus and Neptune as "ice giants" to distinguish them from the gas giants. Uranus's atmosphere is similar to Jupiter's and Saturn's in its primary composition of hydrogen and helium, but it contains more "ices" such as water, ammonia, and methane, along with traces of other hydrocarbons. It is the coldest planetary atmosphere in the Solar System, with a minimum temperature of 49 K (224.2 °C), and has a complex, layered cloud structure with water thought to make up the lowest clouds and methane the uppermost layer of clouds. The interior of Uranus is mainly composed of ices and rock.

Uranus is the only planet whose name is derived from a figure from Greek mythology, from the Latinized version of the Greek god of the sky Ouranos. Like the other giant planets, Uranus has a ring system, a magnetosphere, and numerous moons. The Uranian system has a unique configuration among those of the planets because its axis of rotation is tilted sideways, nearly into the plane of its solar orbit. Its north and south poles, therefore, lie where most other planets have their equators. In 1986, images from Voyager 2 showed Uranus as an almost featureless planet in visible light, without the cloud bands or storms associated with the other giant planets. Observations from Earth have shown seasonal change and increased weather activity as Uranus approached its equinox in 2007. Wind speeds can reach 250 meters per second (900 km/h, 560 mph).

HISTORY

Like the five classical planets, Uranus is visible to the naked eye, but was never recognized as a planet by ancient observers because of its dimness and slow orbit. Sir William Herschel announced its discovery on 13 March 1781, expanding the known boundaries of



Uranus

the Solar System for the first time in history and making Uranus the first planet discovered with a telescope.

ATMOSPHERE

Although there is no well-defined solid surface within Uranus's interior, the outermost part of Uranus's gaseous envelope that is accessible to remote sensing is called its atmosphere. Remote-sensing capability extends down to roughly 300 km below the 1 bar level, with a corresponding pressure around 100 bar and temperature of 320 K. The tenuous corona of the atmosphere extends over two planetary radii from the nominal surface, which is defined to lie at a pressure of 1 bar. The Uranian atmosphere can be divided into three layers: the troposphere, between altitudes of 7300 and 50 km and pressures from 100 to 0.1 bar; the stratosphere, spanning altitudes between 50 and 4000 km and pressures of between 0.1 and 10¹⁰ bar and the thermosphere/corona extending from 4,000 km to as high as 50,000 km from the surface. There is no mesosphere.

JOKES!

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Canoe.
Canoe who?
Canoe help me with my homework?

-Knock, knock
Who's there?
Merry.
Merry who?
Merry Christmas!

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Orange.
Orange who?
Orange you going to let me in?

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Anee.
Anee,who?
Anee one you like!

-Knock, knock
Who's there?
Iva.
Iva who?
I've a sore hand from knocking!

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Dozen.
Dozen who?
Dozen anybody want to let me in?

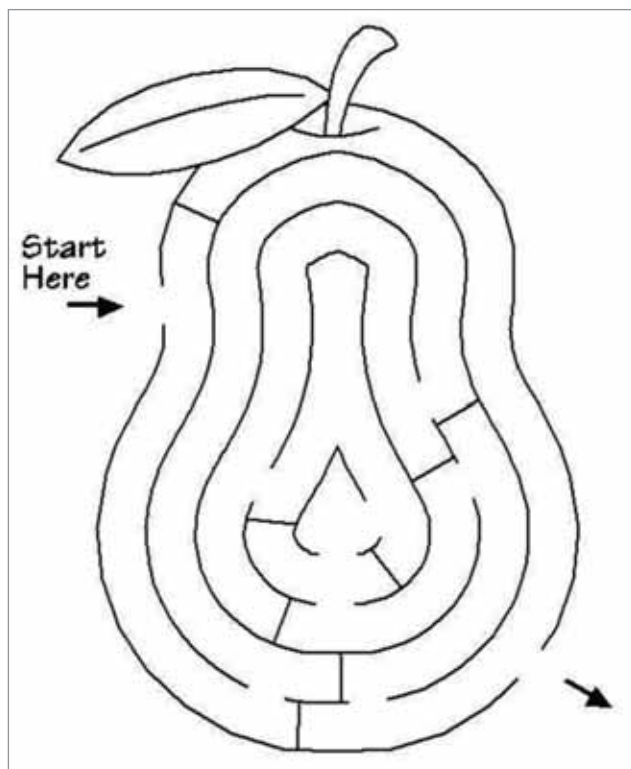
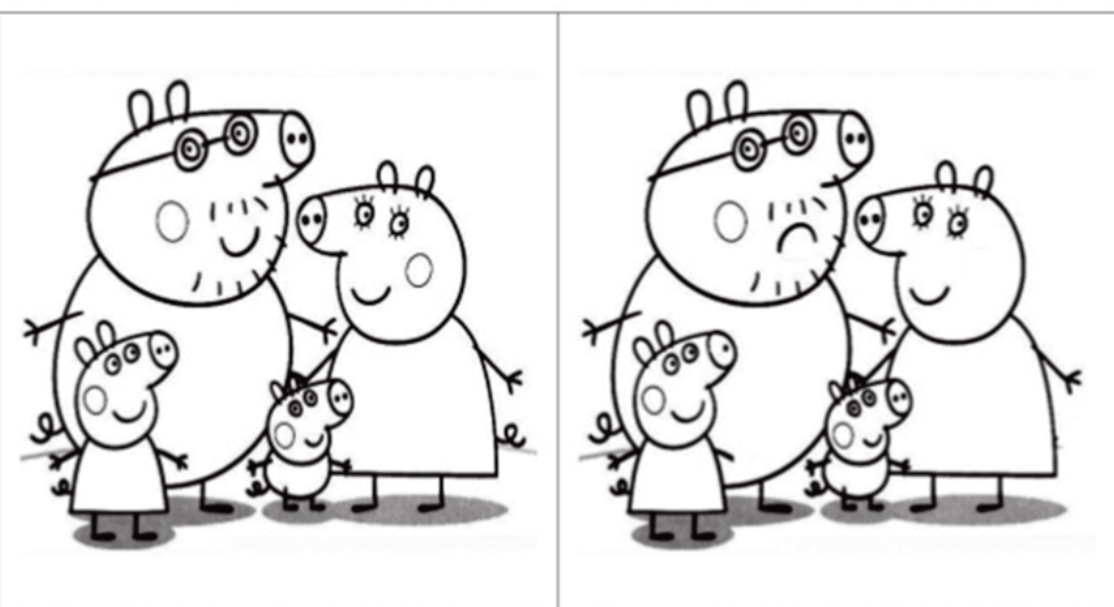
-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Needle.
Needle who?
Needle little money for the movies.

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Henrietta.
Henrietta who?
Henrietta worm that was in his apple.

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Avenue.
Avenue who?
Avenue knocked on this door before?

-Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Harry.
Harry who?
Harry up, it's cold out here!

spot 5 differences



Lopez splashes out \$28m on new Bel Air home

The 46-year-old actress and singer bought the eight-acre estate - which comes with a lake and a beach - from actress Sela Ward, who originally wanted \$40 million for the property. TMZ also reports that the house is 13,000 square feet and can be accessed by walking across a covered bridge. Last year Jennifer put her Hidden Hills home on the market for \$17 million but dropped the price to \$12.5m earlier this year. She originally snapped the home up in 2010 for \$8.2 million when she was still married to Marc Anthony. Jennifer reportedly first decided to sell the property because it was too far from the studios she was taping 'American Idol' in. A source said: "She felt it was too far from where the studios are. To go to the set of 'American Idol' is like an hour drive. It just became too much." However, 'American Idol' has recently finished and Jennifer is now being kept busy with a Las Vegas residency. 'Jennifer Lopez: All I Have' is sched-

ule to run at The Axis at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino until December and while it has been a huge success so far, she admitted that when she performed the whole thing together for the first time with her dancers, they ended up throwing up. She said: "I love what I do. When I put it together, I thought I'd put it together section by section and then I thought this is a great section, this is a great section, this is a great section. "And then all of a sudden we had all these sections and when we did them back to back all the dancers were throwing up and it was so hard and I was like, 'Oh my God! What have I done?' But then everybody was like, 'It's amazing!'"



Craig 'exhausted' from playing James Bond

It was reported earlier this month that Daniel, 48, has turned down a £68 million offer to play the suave super-spy in two more movies and his former co-star Judi Dench, who played M opposite Daniel three times, believes he needs a break. She told the Daily Mail: "I should think he is exhausted, absolutely exhausted." But when asked who she believes should replace Daniel, Judi, 81, whose character was killed off in 'Skyfall', said: "I don't know really. It's nothing to do with me, it's up to [producers] Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson!" Daniel reportedly rejected the huge offer, which is thought to be made up of profit shares, endorsements and a role as co-producer, from MGM studio and told bosses he is "done" playing the spy. A Los Angeles film source said: "Daniel is done - pure and simple - he told top brass at MGM after 'Spectre'. They threw huge amounts of money at him, but it just wasn't what he wanted." He had told people after shooting that this would be his final outing, but the film company still felt he could come around after 'Spectre' if he was offered a money deal." The Hollywood actor's future as Bond has been the subject of much

speculation in recent months. Just recently, British actor Tom Hiddleston was spotted meeting with Bond director Sam Mendes and producer Barbara Broccoli in London, amid reports he could be the next 007. An onlooker said at the time: "At first it was Barbara, Tom and another good looking young man. Then Sam Mendes joined them at about 11pm and they stayed until around 1am ... There was lots of laughter; they all looked to be having a very jolly time." This prompted some bookmakers to suspend betting on Tom taking on the role next, but the actor insisted earlier this month that he hadn't been offered the part and wasn't aware that Daniel - who is married to actress Rachel Weisz - had hung up his Bond tuxedo. He said: "The thing is, the position isn't vacant as far as I am aware. No one has talked to me about it." I think the reports have all come about because in the 'Night Manager' I play a spy and people have made the link."



Celine Dion's children honor their dad every morning

The 48-year-old singer has five-year-old twins Nelson and Eddy, and 15-year-old son Rene-Charles, with Rene Angelil, who died of throat cancer in January aged 73, and the youngsters pay their respects to their dad on a daily basis. She said: "Sometimes we send up some balloons with messages for Papa and - this was Eddy's idea - every morning we kiss the door handle and say, 'Good day Papa.' "Celine revealed her twins also wish their late father goodnight and kiss a photo of him every evening before bed time. She said: "By the bed there is a photo of their pap after his first cancer. It carries this inscription, 'Everything will be OK.' The twins kiss it. I finish by saying, 'Goodnight my love.' "The little ones say together, 'Goodnight Papa, I love you my darling.' "Celine likes to watch TV in her huge bed with her youngest sons to make them feel

relaxed before bed time and before they go to sleep the siblings spend time being thankful for everything that has happened to them that day. The 'Think Twice' singer added to Paris Match magazine: "I put a series of happy bedtime rituals in place to make bedtime a happy time for the kids. "First, I make sure Rene-Charles is OK, then the twins come into my room, where the bed is enormous, disproportionate even. "They sleep with me. We watch a bit of Disney on the TV then I turn off the light. I've had two little lamps installed that project stars onto the ceiling. "Nelson, Eddy and I, we count them. Then comes the series of goodnights to all the people they love - Rene their papa, Grandma, Rene-Charles ... they might also thank the chef for their biscuits, the pool they dived into and the sun that warmed them."

Jolie devotes 'almost every day' to her work with refugees

The 40-year-old actress-and-director was named a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations (UN) 15 years ago and now acts as a special envoy to the UN Refugee Agency, and as well as taking part in high-profile meetings and debates, she also does a lot behind the scenes. She said: "Some part of almost every day in my life is devoted to international issues, whether talking with my colleagues about the news, the underlying factors, what we think needs to be said or done next on the issues we're working on, preparing field visits or speeches. "I often try to meet people with interesting and opposing viewpoints so I can learn." Angelina raises children Maddox, 14, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, nine, and seven-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne with husband Brad Pitt and is proud her kids are taking an interest in her work with refugees, with her eldest son

even helping her on her latest directorial project, 'First They Killed My Father', which is based on Loung Ung's account of the Khmer Rouge's regime in Maddox's native Cambodia. She told Britain's HELLO! magazine: "Maddox has known Loung since he was a baby. It was his urging that pushed me to make the film. "He has been with me every step of the way, from script to post-production. "Shiloh asked to travel with me to Lebanon after I told her of a little Syrian girl named Hala. "She wanted to meet her and she and Pax have shown interest, like most kids do, in what their mom does. So they asked. "I'd never push them to be involved. It's something I believe each person must come to on their own. It has to be an honest and real connection."



Kardashian's happy for Khloe's divorce proceedings

The 31-year-old reality TV star called off her divorce from the 36-year-old sportsman last year in order to help him recover following his collapse at a Nevada brothel but has now filed the papers again and is ready to move on. A source told PEOPLE: "Everyone in her family is happy that she is moving on. She has all the support possible." Khloe is also "at peace" with her decision and although she was happy to provide emotional and financial support for Lamar following his collapse after a drugs and alcohol binge, she wants to focus on her own life. Another insider added: "It was always the plan to go through it. The divorce has never been officially off. Khloe was waiting for the timing to be right. "She never wanted to file for divorce in the first place, and it's not easy the second time around either. But she knows it's the right thing for her. "She took care of Lamar out of love, but she is ready to move on now. "She wants to remove her-

self from the situation a bit. She wants to focus on her own happiness now. She was loyal for a long time and taking care of him, but she's not a babysitter and needs to move on with her life." Khloe married Lamar in 2009 following a whirlwind romance and first filed for divorce four years later after discovering he had been cheating on her and taking drugs. She has cited irreconcilable differences as the reason behind their split and has drafted in Laura Wasser, who is currently representing Johnny Depp in his divorce, to help deal with her case. The curvaceous TV star and the retired basketball player do not have a pre-nup and they have already reached an agreement about their properties, meaning they must now wait six months for the divorce to be legally finalised in the state of California



Frankie Bridge targeted by social media trolls

The Saturdays singer has revealed she has been abused online and said she sympathizes with One Direction star Louis Tomlinson, after he threatened police action against one particular online pest who made threats to his baby son Freddie. The 27-year-old beauty - who has battled with depression in the past - explained: "Louis Tomlinson is going to call the police to track down a vile troll who he recorded saying, 'I hope your baby dies' on the phone, and I don't blame him. "Nobody should be getting away with things like this! If someone said to me in the street, 'I hope your baby dies' or, 'I'm going to kill you', then that would be taken seriously, and this is no different." Frankie said online trolls think there is anonymity that comes with abusing people over the internet and she insisted it is a perception that needs to change. The brunette beauty - who is married to retired soccer star Wayne Bridge, with whom she has sons Parker, two, and Carter, nine months - wrote in her column for OK! magazine: "People also think that because they're online, they can say or do what they want but it's not the case. Social media is becoming such a crucial part of everyone's lives that there has to be a line drawn. "Luckily, I haven't had any verbal threats, but I've had horrible things written. I used to block those people but now, I don't even bother reading it."



Teresa Palmer is pregnant with her second child

The 'Point Break' actress took to Instagram to reveal that she and husband Mark Webber, who already have son Bodhi, two, together, are expecting another baby. She wrote: "And just like that my heart grew bigger. Welcoming baby number 2 in to the family. Can't believe our little Bodhi is going to be a big brother!" Mark also posted a picture of his wife in a bikini, which revealed her baby bump, and captioned it: "There's a baby in there." The director - who has a son Isaac from a previously relationship - previously gushed about his love for Teresa. He said: "What an incredible feeling to look at a picture of your love and get washed over with feelings of pure joy, hope, excitement, inspiration and unconditional love." Mark and Teresa tied the knot in Mexico in 2013 and later held a ceremony in California. The pair met on Twitter when Teresa got in touch about a movie he had directed and soon began corresponding over email. Mark, 35, previously said: "We made a pact that we weren't going to speak until we met each other in person [back in LA]. So for 40 days all we did was write." Teresa added: "I wish I could tell all my single girlfriends to fall in love over email. Not only are you forced to look at yourself, but you really get to know a person without physicality or sex getting in the way."



Nick Jonas no longer speaks to his exes

The 23-year-old singer had his first kiss with Miley almost 10 years ago and went on to date her for 18 months and Nick split from Miss Universe Olivia in 2015 after two years of dating but says he doesn't keep in touch with either of them. Speaking about Olivia, he told Entertainment Weekly: "I haven't heard from her in a year. I don't know if I'll hear from her again. I'm not sure." And when asked about Miley, 23, who recently rekindled her romance with Liam Hemsworth, Nick said: "I don't have a relationship with her now really, but that's not because we have any bad blood-we just sort of run in different circles. I love 'Wrecking Ball' so much. I still think it's one of the best pop songs of the last 10 years. And you know, she's always been outspoken and authentic to who she is, so it was only a matter of time before she really owned that, and I'm proud of

her. ... It's a lot like watching your high school crush do well, just on a bigger scale." Nick also revealed that Olivia inspired a number of tracks on his latest album 'Last Year Was Complicated', and he often wonders if she has heard it and what she thinks. He said: "I've thought a lot about whether she's heard it, and I'm sure she's heard 'Champagne Problems' at this point. The concept of the song, which maybe doesn't stand out on first listen, is, 'You're amazing, you're all the things I hope to find with somebody, but timing, circumstances, all these things play into it not being right.' Champagne is amazing; it tastes delicious but gives you a really bad hangover. That's the idea..."



Carter has compared Sacha Baron Cohen to a child

The pair previously co-starred in 'Les Misérables' and most recently worked together on 'Alice In Wonderland: Through The Looking Glass' and while Helena loves filming with Sacha, she admitted he can be exhausting. Speaking to the Sydney Morning Herald, she said that Sacha, 44, is "totally unpredictable, like a hyperactive child sometimes [but] I'm not saying that, I'm not". She added: "He is very inventive, and he's fun, but ... I'm pretty direct with him. Sometimes I think what Sacha doesn't appreciate is that he's just telling a story. The weight isn't always on his shoulders. A lot of the time it's just playing the scene, not inventing the scene. He comes from such an improvisational background. He can't but help improvise. It's interesting." Helena, 50, plays the Red Queen in the new movie, while Sacha

portrays Time and she admitted filming on a huge soundstage against a green screen for CGI made things difficult. She explained: "There was not much atmosphere. You know the problem is this room is huge, and you see everything. It's generalized lighting, so there's no sense of focus, there's no sense of, 'OK we're imagining'. "On most sets you realize where the drama is. What's in front of, what's the imagined reality and what's off, but here there was no demarcation between me and Sacha trying to work in, and seeing absolutely every other member of the crew basically bored out of their head, I don't blame them for playing Sudoku. It was hard because it was completely sterile."

Kylie Jenner has been with Party Next Door for months

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star split from boyfriend Tyga earlier this month but had been friendly with the 22-year-old rapper - also known as Jahron Anthony Brathwaite - for over eight weeks. A source told Us Weekly magazine: "He actually began courting Kylie two months ago. They were friends but now they're definitely together. He's a good guy and very chill. Kylie was really over being the joke of this whole Blac Chyna-Tyga situation." Meanwhile, it was previously revealed that the 18-year-old television personality's romance with PartyNextDoor was quite sudden. A source said at the time: "Their relationship started quite suddenly but it just feels right. They are mad for each other. She doesn't know why she wasted time with Tyga. "Kylie's family found the eight-year age gap with Tyga a bit weird, especially as they got together before she turned 18 last year. PartyNextDoor is much better as he's only four years older than her." Meanwhile, Kylie and Tyga are said to have split because she could no longer trust him. A source revealed: "He was lying repeatedly to her face and she just couldn't take it anymore. She couldn't trust a word he said. They were fighting a ton over stupid, petty things over the last few months, and she was over it."



Nia Guzman unhappy with co-parent Chris Brown

The model - who has two-year-old daughter Royalty with the 'Yeah 3X' hitmaker - has criticized her former lover, insisting he always knew about the baby. She said: "Well, the world didn't find out about her until a year ago. He always knew about her, he just wasn't ready to deal with the situation. But, it's been quite the experience. I can't say anything positive about it ... at all. Nothing positive." The pair's feud escalated recently when Chris accused Nia of "sexualizing" their daughter when she posted a photograph of Royalty on her way to ballet class in a tutu. Referencing the incident, she said: "I mean the fact that I had just spoken with him. He had already seen a video of her on her way to ballet class. To make that remark online, was totally insane to me. Because I have a phone. I have a phone, and I tried over and over and over to co-parent, to try and get this right. "She always dresses like that to dance class ... It was a funny moment, and she was leaned back looking at me because she was totally p**sed off, because it was time to go ... but she didn't want to leave." And Nia also hit back at claims she tried to get his access time reduced. She told Latina magazine: "I didn't go back to court to limit his time, at all ... What's in place right now, his days that he gets her, was agreed upon ... It wasn't court ordered or anything like that... all I wanted was a set nanny in place ... She's only two, and she's a lot of work. I just wanted a nanny in place when she was with him, and it be agreed upon."



Gomez regrets not being able to go to a high school prom

The 'Heart Wants What It Wants' hitmaker was homeschooled for most of her life after starting her acting and singing career in 2002 and says she is sad she never got the chance to attend the end of school dance. She told Australian radio station Nova 96.9: "I wanted to go to prom and people are like, 'Oh, you'd be disappointed.' But I was like, 'I want to go to prom!' "There's a balance to life that I think is normal and I think what we do and what I love is, for me, normal. But it isn't actually when you look at it. That is not how people should be brought up or raised, especially if you're younger. So yes, sometimes [I miss having a normal life] but I don't know any different." Meanwhile, the 23-year-old singer previously admitted she didn't have the "opportunity" to figure things out when she was growing up. She shared: "I didn't have an opportunity to figure out my life without people having an opinion every step of the way. I chose this. So I'm not gonna sit here and say, 'Oh, my God, poor

me, I didn't have a normal childhood.' I don't give a crap about that." And the 'Good For You' beauty also recently revealed she plans to "give up" social media one day. She shared: "I'm utilizing social media right now because of my age and because, to be honest, everybody else in the world was talking about me, so I wanted a say. "I honestly had to, because I didn't really expect my life to be as public as it was. Is this going to destroy me or make me? I still have to make that choice on a daily basis. In a few years, I'll give all of it up. "I don't understand all of that sometimes. I think about things very realistically, because I feel like some of those accounts probably don't even actually exist. I also get very weird about that stuff. I'm like, 'Well, why isn't like everybody selling 40 million albums?"



Hathaway never planned on announcing her baby news

The 'Devil Wears Prada' star - who has two-month-old son Jonathan with her husband Adam Shulman - has admitted she was never going to reveal she was expecting a child until she spotted the paparazzi snapping photos of her and wanted to be the first person to break the news. She said: "I hadn't planned on ever confirming it and then I just, I had seen a photographer while I was on vacation, taking a photo, and I just thought, 'It's such a joyful and a sacred experience, you know, carrying life.' "And I just thought, 'I don't want the first version of this to be out there with me covering or scowling at someone.' You know, that's not representative of the experience, so I chose a photo that I was happy with, and I put it out there." And the 33-year-old actress opened up about how motherhood was altering her schedule. She added to Good Morning America: "I'm sorry. I am a new mother and I didn't time the feeding schedule - well, like I have any control over it. My kid was hungry, I had to feed him, I missed the first 20 minutes so I can't tell you about the begin-

ning of the movie." Meanwhile, Anne is said to be "enjoying every second" of parenthood. A source said at the time: "Anne is just enjoying every second with her baby boy. They are loving every minute being new parents. He is such a sweet and happy baby. He looks like a mixture between Anne and Adam. Adam has been such a great husband and really supportive to Anne. "They have many friends and family coming in and out of their home in LA this past two weeks. Anne and Adam's parents have been very helpful with the baby. Anne plans on breastfeeding and wants to experience and feel everything about being a new mother. The new parents have been taking turns taking care of their son during the nights." — Bangshowbiz

Depp ordered to stay away from wife over abuse claim



Actress Amber Heard leaves Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday, May 27, 2016, after giving a sworn declaration that her husband Johnny Depp threw her cellphone at her during a fight Saturday, striking her cheek and eye.— AP

Johnny Depp was hit with a restraining order on Friday after his wife appeared in court with a black eye, accusing the Oscar-nominated star of assaulting her. Amber Heard, who filed for divorce in Los Angeles earlier this week and is seeking spousal support from the 52-year-old "Pirates of the Caribbean" star, says she is the victim of repeated attacks by Depp.

Heard submitted pictures to the court showing a bruise on her face that she claims was inflicted during a fight between the couple on Saturday and said she feared Depp might harm her. "During the entirety of our relationship, Johnny has been verbally and physically abusive to me," she said in a sworn statement. She added that Depp has a "totally acknowledged public and private history of drug and alcohol abuse" and that she was scared of his temper.

Celebrity news website TMZ published a picture showing Heard with bruising around her right eye. It reported that the actress says it was taken shortly after Depp hurled his iPhone at her face on Saturday night. "Heard claims after he allegedly hit her, he offered her money to stay quiet, but instead she filed for divorce first thing Monday morning," TMZ said.

A spokesman for the LAPD told AFP that officers who showed up at their residence were not asked to take a complaint, nor was there any "evidence provided by the victim that warranted a report." "The police investigators concluded a crime had not occurred," he said.

Ordeal

TMZ said Heard alleges she is facing an immediate threat of harm from Depp, even though the actor is in Europe promoting his new film "Alice Through the Looking Glass," which was released on Friday. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carl Moor ruled after reviewing 40 pages of evidence behind closed doors that Depp was banned from coming within 100 yards of Heard. The order will be reviewed on June 17. Another of Heard's attorneys, Joseph Koenig, said in a courthouse hallway that his client was dealing as well as possible with her recent ordeal. "She's having a hard time, it's been a long few days," Koenig said. Heard stayed in an attorney conference room around the corner from the courtroom while she awaited the ruling.

Depp's attorney, Laura Wasser, declined to comment other than to say the petition was granted in part and denied in part. She did not elaborate. The couple's separation came less than a week after the death of Depp's mother, Betty Sue Palmer, at the age of 81. The pair, who have no children together, have been embroiled in a spat with Australian Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce since Heard failed to declare the couple's two dogs when they arrived in Queensland state a year ago. Joyce, who is also the agriculture minister, threatened to have Pistol and Boo put down unless they "buggered off back to the United States" for breaking Australia's strict quarantine laws.

Bisexual past

Actress-model Heard last month admitted falsifying her immigration arrivals card and was placed on a \$720 one-month good-behavior bond. Her divorce petition asks that she keep the couple's house, a Range Rover and custody of the dogs, TMZ said. The petition listed their date of separation as Sunday, two days after Depp's mother died. "Given the brevity of this marriage and the most recent and tragic loss of his mother, Johnny will not respond to any of the salacious false stories, gossip, misinformation and lies about his personal life," People magazine quoted Depp's representative as saying in a statement. "Hopefully the dissolution of this short marriage will be resolved quickly."

Depp and Heard met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary," when Depp was still in a relationship with the French actress Vanessa Paradis, mother of his son Jack and daughter Lily-Rose. They married in a small, private ceremony in Los Angeles in February of last year before celebrating with a larger event on Depp's private island in the Bahamas. Celebrity news website Page Six, citing unnamed sources close to the pair, said the marriage hit the rocks after just three months. Depp "quickly grew tired of Heard's enchantment with Hollywood glitz," it said, and became increasingly suspicious over her bisexual past and closeness to her lesbian friends.— AFP

'Warcraft' opens in first in 11 international markets

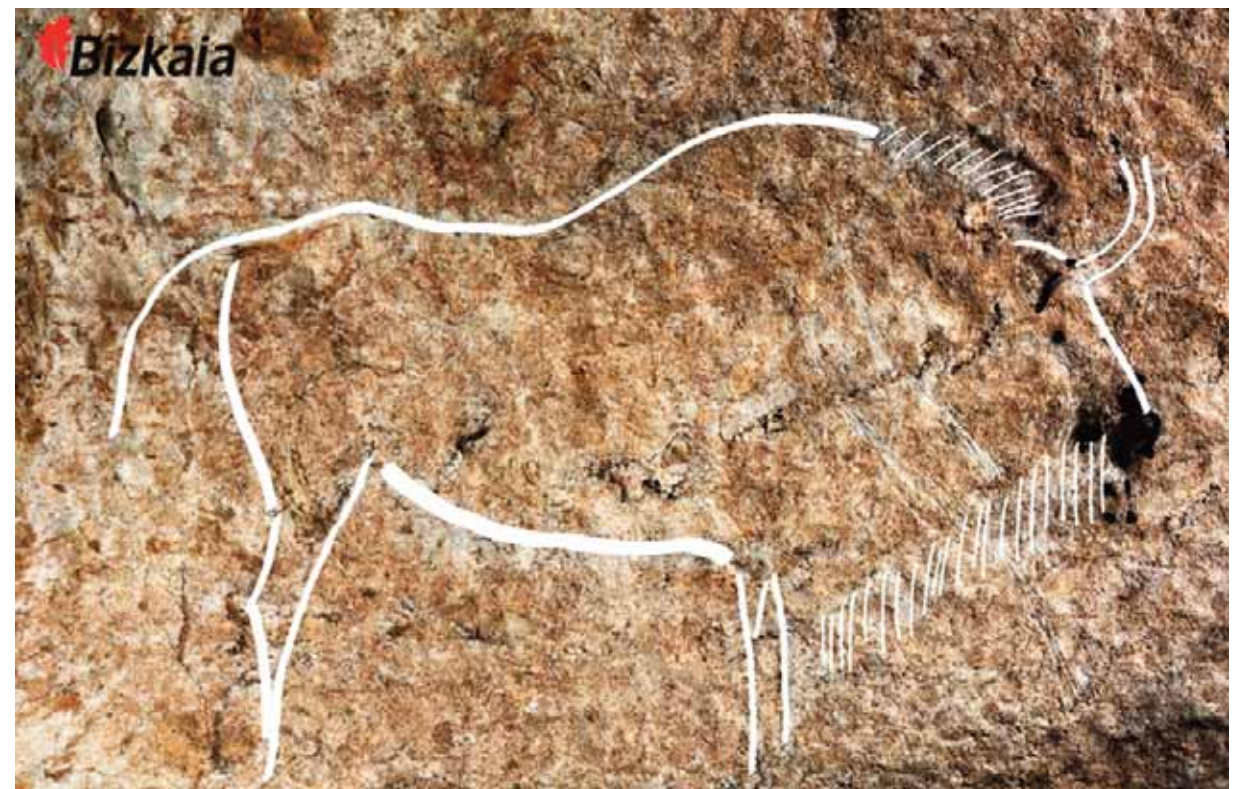
Legendary-Universal's fantasy action film "Warcraft" has opened solidly with \$9.3 million and first-place finishes in 11 international markets—two weeks ahead of its US and China launches. Germany opened No 1 on Thursday with \$2.2 million for the biggest opening day of the year with a 50% market share.

Russia generated a first-place launch with \$2.8 million, which marks the second-biggest opening day of 2016 behind only "Deadpool." It is the seventh-biggest opening day of all time in Russia and the fifth biggest non-holiday opening day ever. France saw a first-place launch on Wednesday with \$983,000. The two-day total has hit \$1.5 million. Austria opened Thursday with \$280,000 and a 48% market share.

"Warcraft" also opened No 1 in Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. The film, which carries a \$160 million price tag, will also launch this weekend in Norway and Sweden. "Warcraft" is based on Blizzard Entertainment's

multi-player game and centers on the peaceful realm of Azeroth standing on the brink of war as its civilization faces a fearsome race of invaders: Orc warriors fleeing their dying home to colonize another.

It's directed by Duncan Jones and written by Jones and Charles Leavitt. The movie stars Travis Fimmel, Paula Patton, Ben Foster, Dominic Cooper, Toby Kebbell, Ben Schnetzer, Rob Kazinsky and Daniel Wu. "Warcraft" is a Legendary Pictures, Blizzard Entertainment and Atlas Entertainment production. The producers are Charles Roven, Thomas Tull, Jon Jashni, Alex Gartner and Stuart Fenegan. Jillian Share, Brent O'Connor, Michael Morhaime and Paul Sams serve as executive producers. Prospects are mixed in the US, where tracking is showing a \$25 million opening weekend, well behind the \$40 million-plus projection for "The Conjuring 2." — Reuters



An archaeologist points towards a cave drawing.

Cave art trove found in Spain 1,000 feet underground

Spanish archaeologists say they have discovered an exceptional set of Paleolithic-era cave drawings that could rank among the best in a country that already boasts some of the world's most important cave art.

Chief site archaeologist Diego Garate said Friday that an estimated 70 drawings were found on ledges 300 meters (1,000 feet) underground in the Atxurra cave in the northern Basque region. He described the site as being in "the Champions' League" of cave art, among the top 10 sites in Europe. The engravings and paintings feature horses, buffalo, goats and deer, dating back 12,500-14,500 years ago. But Garate said access to the area is so difficult and dangerous it's not likely to be open to the public.

The cave was discovered in 1929 and first explored in 1934-35, but it was not until 2014 that Garate and his team resumed their investigations that the drawings were discovered. Experts say while it's too early to say if the discovery ranks alongside Spain's most prize prehistoric cave art site, the Altamira Caves - known as the Sistine Chapel of Paleolithic Art - Atxurra looks promising.

"No one expected a discovery of this magnitude," said Jose Yravedra, a prehistory professor at Madrid's Complutense University. "There a lot of caves with drawings but very few have this much art and this much variety and quality." Altamira and other major sites in Spain and France have several hundred cave-art images.

Garate highlighted one buffalo drawing, which he said must have the most hunting lances stuck in it of any such drawing in Europe. He said most hunting drawings have four or five lances but this had almost 20 and it's not clear why.

Yravedra said given the cave's hidden location and the number, variety and quality of its drawings, the site was being classified as a "sanctuary," or special Paleolithic meeting ritual place, like those at Altamira or Lascaux in France. Regional officials hope to set up a 3-D display of the art so that the public can appreciate it.— AP

Max announces 10th store opening In Kuwait

Max, the largest value fashion brand chain across the MENA region recently announced a new 27,000sq.ft store located in Salem al Mubarak Street, Salmiya (near Olympia mall). The opening of this store marks Max's 10th store in Kuwait.

The store will stock Max's label of women's, men's and children's fashion—as well as home, footwear, toys, cosmetics and accessories. The store will also offer the latest Summer/Ramadan collection from Max.

"With the addition of our Salmiya location - our 10th store opening in Kuwait - we are able to continue to offer a unique shopping experience for our customers in Kuwait by delivering the latest styles and trends at affordable prices. We are delighted with the new location, it's fresher and brighter and

it is located on one of the oldest and largest shopping districts of Kuwait" said, Mr Ramanathan Hariharan, CEO of Max.

The new store will be introducing Max's Summer 2016 range featuring a mix of bright, pastels and earthy neutrals. The home grown value fashion brand continues to represent the 'Fashion For Real People' campaign with its summer collection. The latest Summer/Ramadan collection is available at all Max stores across Kuwait located in Hawally, Fahaheel, Shuwaikh, Salmiya, Khaitan, The Avenues, Jahra, Fintas, Farwaniya and now Salem al Mubarak Street, Salmiya. Max loyalists can support the new campaign by using the hashtag #BeReal across social media platforms.





Models wear the creations of Australian fashion designer Dion Lee during his show for Australian Fashion Week in Sydney.

Australian Dion Lee a designer for all seasons

Fashion retail is experiencing a seismic shift: The audience is global, seasons are increasingly irrelevant and the rise of social media means consumers don't want to wait for runway styles. Designer Dion Lee, the breakthrough star of Australian fashion who has worked with Kanye West and whose clothes are worn by the likes of Jennifer Lawrence and Cate Blanchett, understands such challenges better than most.

Lee launched his brand in Sydney—which has opposing seasons to the fashion capitals of Europe and North America. "We're obviously very conscious of the seasonality differences between Australia and the northern hemisphere so that's something that... we design into," the 30-year-old tells AFP. "I think the geography is a challenge. It is not a challenge that is insurmountable," adds Lee.

One of his solutions is to ensure his collections—known for their precision lines, fine tailoring and sculptural forms—have a core which does not change regardless of the time of year. He is not alone—British design house Burberry recently announced it will switch to 'seasonless' collections, with items suitable for wear year-round available at its outlets worldwide soon after they appear on the fashion week runways.

The rise of online shopping and social media has meant fashion is having to adapt away from the traditional seasonal approach, where consumers wait months to buy trends from the catwalk. Lee says: "There's been a global conversation I suppose about

the relevance of seasons and how the model has really changed and is starting to evolve with the rise of online being so prevalent and e-commerce being a large part of our business." "I think that it does break down that notion of seasonality because it's always one season somewhere in the world. You have designers that are selling swimwear 12 months of the year," he adds.

International interest

This approach—and the fact his clothes are available on internationally lauded fashion sites such as net-a-porter.com has boosted his global profile. Sales in North America—Lee's biggest foreign market accounting for 35 percent of wholesale—are expected to be up 90 percent in the year to June 30. Asia is also a growing market although currently only accounts for 16 percent of total wholesale sales.

Lee is fresh from Fashion Week Australia, a showcase of the country's best designers which this year centred on 'resort' wear—a focus that saw bikinis and bright, billowing prints hit the runways at events attended by local retailers and international buyers. Held on a rooftop overlooking Sydney, Lee's collection showed another side of fashion and featured sharp-edged suit jackets and full, structured skirts, prompting Vogue Australia to praise his "urban inflected shapes and sharps and those clever twists and turns in his tailoring".

The magazine's editor-in-chief Edwina McCann,

says Lee's aesthetic appeals to young, urban customers the world over. "I think in the modern world it doesn't really matter as much where a designer actually comes from," she says. "And Dion—and I think many of our designers are benefitting from that now—that their clothes are appealing to a certain customer who is global rather than national."

Kanye, Cate and J-Law

He launched his brand of wearable womenswear in 2008 soon after leaving design school, a move he now jokes was "slightly naive, slightly stupid". "Some of my early shows in Sydney were really impactful in terms of establishing the international profile for the brand," he says.

He has a fiercely loyal following in Australia and has built up a reputation in New York and London—even attracting the attention of Kanye West. The singer reportedly went on to design some shoes for Lee's UK runway show in 2012. Lee says seeing stars such as Blanchett, Lawrence, and singer Selena Gomez wearing his clothes is "surreal... especially when it's people that you really respect".

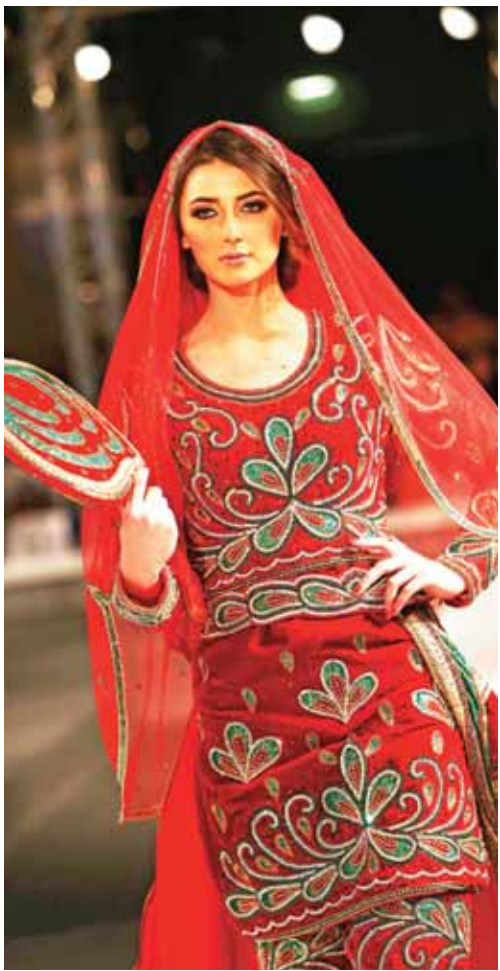
"But it's also seeing people that aren't famous wear your clothes that you have respect for," he adds. "I think there's something really nice about seeing women feel empowered when wearing your clothes." American Vogue said he had "come of age as a New York fashion designer" in a review of his February show during the city's prestigious fashion week. He



will return there this week for another showcase and spends much of his time in the city, but Lee still sees himself as an Australian designer. "Growing up here, going to college here and spending the first years of my career here, I think that has definitely had an influence on how I've developed the aesthetic for the brand." — AFP

This photo taken on May 20, 2016 shows Australian fashion designer Dion Lee in his shop in the trendy suburb of Paddington in Sydney. — AFP photos

Ladies a La Mode fashion show in Oman



Models display the creations of Omani and Lebanese designers during the launch of the 4th edition of the Ladies a La Mode fashion show, on May 27, 2016, in the capital Muscat. — AFP photos



A young Muslim woman hands out roses during an operation called "A Rose for Peace" in Washington, DC. — AFP



Iranian visitors look at a painting of famed late Iranian artist Sohrab Sepehri on display a day prior to go to Tehran Art Auction at the Azadi Hotel in Tehran. — AP photos



An unidentified art collector points to a painting of famed late Iranian artist Sohrab Sepehri.

Iranian art auction sees \$7.4m in sales

An annual art auction in Tehran drew record sales of \$7.4 million Friday, a sign of Iran's emerging arts market that buyers hope will be buoyed by the recent nuclear deal with world powers. The sale at Tehran's high-end Azadi Hotel - the former Hyatt near Evin Prison - drew celebrities, collectors and businessmen hoping to walk away with the artworks there. Total sales were 12 percent higher than the previous year, though this year's auction saw only 79 items sold, as opposed to 126 then.

Prices continue to rise for Persian pieces, and many hope that only will accelerate after the lifting of international sanctions. Iranian "artworks should be introduced at the international level after the sanctions," said Saeed Nikbkhat, an art collector looking at the pieces ahead of the sale. "Iranian art is a unique and precious art. I think world-class museums are interested in having them."

Art lovers

The items for sale at the Tehran art show shied away from politics, instead offering abstracts, Farsi calligraphy and pastoral images in the thick-paint impasto style. Portraits and sculptures were also on the block, along with paintings of ancient scenes of the Persian Empire or the mosques of Isfahan, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Works by the famed late artist Sohrab Sepehri, also known for his poetry, sold for \$873,000. Last year, three of his untitled paintings sold for \$875,000. Works by the internationally known sculptor Parviz Tanavoli had a starting price of about \$100,000.

Among images of the art in a glossy magazine to accompany the sale were advertisements for Porsche and Samsung flat

screen televisions. Those companies and more hope to expand their markets into Iran after the deal, which saw the Islamic Republic limit its ability to enrich uranium in exchange for the lifting of some economic sanctions. Since the sanctions took hold, Iran's wealthy have used art as an investment opportunity as international markets were off-limits. That's seen art sold at the auctions, held every year since 2012, raise more and more money. Last year, the auction saw \$6.6 million in sales. "Most of the buyers are art collectors as far as I know," said Rahim Rajabi, an art lover.

'Driving forces'

Even moderate President Hassan Rouhani has praised the power of Iran's art scene in powering the Islamic Republic's economic engine. That's after even music was banned briefly in Iran following its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Culture and arts are the driving forces for production and economy," he said in May. In a sign of support, Culture Minister Ali Jannati briefly appeared at the auction Friday. Foreign customers were able to bid through local connections paying of their behalf. That's despite Iran's banking system still not being fully connected to the international market due to technical problems.

The identity of buyers is traditionally not revealed, but likely did not include any Americans, as other sanctions still largely bar US citizens from engaging in any business in the country. But asked if the lifting of the nuclear sanctions had an effect on sales, auctioneer Hossein Pakdel simply said: "Do not have any doubt." — AP



Iranian auction workers hold a painting of famed late Iranian artist Parviz Kalantari.



Iranian auction workers hold a painting of late Iranian artist Mehdi Vishkai as Hossein Pakdel, right, takes a bid.



Secretary of Iran's General Culture Council cleric Hossein Shahmoradi, who is also an art collector, attends Tehran Art Auction.