

Alghanim Industries sponsors Tmkeen



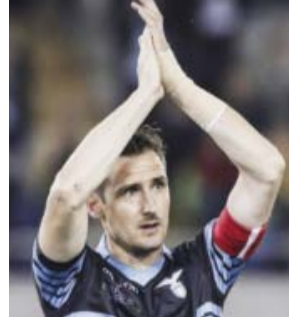
Palestinian lawyer fights for women, one divorce at a time



Mel Gibson: 'It's time Hollywood forgave me'



World Cup top-scorer Klose retires at 38



47 CANDIDATES DISBARRED FROM CONTESTING ELECTION

HOPEFULS TO CHALLENGE DECISIONS IN COURT



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BADER AL-KHARAFI SPEARHEADS INNOVATION AT ZAIN

ZAIN INVESTS IN DIGITAL FRONTIER AS PART OF STRATEGIC FUTURE

KUWAIT: Telecom providers across the globe are under pressure from a bevy of today's disruptive technologies, especially emerging over the top (OTT) services like WhatsApp, Viber and others. The result has become an inflection point for multinational telecom operators. Some are shifting toward becoming, in effect, local utilities providing digital services, but meanwhile holding fast to a diminishing population of traditional customers.

Zain: The digital frontier
Zain, Kuwait's biggest telecom operator by subscribers, is at the forefront of this strategic mind shift. Tackling with the winds of change is never easy, especially for a multibillion-dollar multinational with operations in eight countries across the region. But as one of the only privately-held telecom providers in the region, Zain is more agile and flexible when it comes to responding to challenges.



KUWAIT: Emre Gurkan, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer at Zain, speaks to Kuwait Times. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait Times sat down with Emre Gurkan, Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer at Zain, to learn more about the telecom's strategy and vision for the future. Zain's strategy for the future rests on six pillars, said Gurkan: "Customer experience, operational effectiveness, value management, business-to-business (enterprise), talent

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By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The legal committee reviewing applications filed by candidates to contest the National Assembly polls later this month decided yesterday to bar 47 candidates from the race due to a variety of reasons. A number of candidates said they were informed by the committee of its decision and vowed they will challenge the decision today at the administrative court.

The list includes former opposition MPs Bader Al-Dahoum and Safa Al-Hashem, the only member of the ruling family to contest, Sheikh Malek Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and controversial former MP Abdulhameed Dashti, who has been sentenced to 31 years and six months in jail.

Dahoum said on his Twitter account the election authority decided to ban him from contesting the Nov 26 polls without stating any reason. He said he will immediately challenge the decision. Dahoum's lawyer Adel Abdulhadi said his client was barred over an apparently minor reason and he plans to fight it in court.

Hashem, a member of the dissolved house before she resigned over a year ago, said she received a letter informing her that she cannot run due to a court verdict against her. She said she will fight the ban. Hashem was previously convicted of slander against former Islamist

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News

in brief

Saudi chief of major Islamic body resigns

JEDDAH: The world's largest pan-Islamic body, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said its Saudi chief resigned Monday, days after infuriating Egypt over a remark that mocked President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. OIC Secretary-General Iyad Madani "has resigned for health reasons", the Jeddah-based organization said in a statement, two days after Cairo condemned the comment that provoked outrage among Egyptians.

Saudi Arabia has nominated its former minister of social affairs, Youssef Al-Othaymeen, to replace Madani, the statement said. Egypt's foreign ministry said it supported the nominee, "appreciating the important role Saudi is doing in the support of the activities and goals of OIC".



Iyad Madani

Internet to be affected due to maintenance of cable

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Communications yesterday said Gulf Bridge International (GBI) would be carrying out maintenance to the underwater Internet cable in the Arabian Sea from Nov 2-6, which would affect Internet services in Kuwait and GCC countries. The ministry, in a brief statement, urged local Internet providers in Kuwait to seek alternative international cables during the maintenance period to prevent slow service.

Saudi finance minister replaced by royal decree

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Monday replaced its veteran finance minister as the kingdom undergoes a major economic restructuring because of lower oil revenues. Ibrahim Al-Assaf "has been removed from his position", said a royal decree, one of a series of orders from King Salman, published by the official SPA news agency. Assaf, who held the post for 20 years, was replaced by Mohammed Al-Jadaan, head of the Capital Market Authority which regulates the stock market. Assaf, who has a doctorate in economics, was reassigned as a minister of state and will remain in the cabinet. Jadaan, a lawyer, had led the CMA since January last year. No replacement for him at the market regulator was immediately named.

Qatar to grow 16,000 trees for World Cup

DOHA: Desert state Qatar is to grow 16,000 trees for the 2022 football World Cup to plant round stadiums as part of the tournament's "legacy", organizers announced yesterday. The trees will be grown at an 880,000-sq-m nursery in the northern part of Qatar, then replanted close to the football stadiums in the run-up to the tournament in six years' time. More than 60 types of trees will be used, most prominently the sidra, which has grown in the harsh Qatari desert for many generations, but also ficus and acacia. Water will be supplied by a sewage treatment site close to the nursery in Al-Shamal.

KUWAIT WORKING TO FREE STUDENT DETAINED IN US

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CHINA'S SECRETIVE STEALTH FIGHTER UNVEILED IN FLYBY

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IRAQI FORCES BATTLE IS INSIDE MOSUL

BAGHDAD: Iraqi forces fought their way into Mosul yesterday, the military said, as a top commander declared the "true liberation" of the city from the Islamic State group had begun. Just over two weeks into the massive offensive to retake Mosul - IS' last major stronghold in Iraq - the army said its forces had managed to push within city limits. Troops had "entered the Judaidat Al-Mufti area, within the left bank of the city of Mosul," the Joint Operations Command said in a statement. Mosul is split by the Tigris River, with the eastern half of the city known as the left bank. Judaidat al-Mufti is on the southeastern side of the city.

Artillery and air strikes pounded the city, still home to 1.5 million people, and residents of the eastern neighborhood of Al-Quds said the ultra-hardline militants had resorted to street fighting to try to hold the army back. Residents speaking to Reuters by telephone said they heard the sounds of heavy clashes since dawn. One inhabitant of Al-Quds said bullets were fizzing past and hitting the walls of houses, describing the explosions as "deafening and frightening". Many people in the area have stayed indoors for the last two days. "We can see Daesh (Islamic State) fighters firing towards the Iraqi forces and moving in cars between the alleys of the neighborhood. It's street fighting."

One witness said he saw nine cars, laden with families and furniture, heading from the eastern half of the city to the west bank of the Tigris River to escape the encroaching frontline. Away from the eastern fringe of the city, however, traffic was relatively normal, markets were open, and Islamic State fighters were patrolling as usual.

Elite Iraqi forces had also recaptured the key village of Gogjali and taken control of a television station building belonging to a local affiliate of Iraqiya state TV on the eastern edge of the city.

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QAYARA, Iraq: Displaced people stand on the back of a truck at a checkpoint near this town south of Mosul yesterday. — AP

SHOCK POLL PUTS TRUMP AHEAD

WASHINGTON: An explosive new poll showed Donald Trump leading the race for the White House yesterday, amid an avalanche of revelations and allegations a week before Election Day. An ABC News/Washington Post tracking poll showed the Republican leading his rival Hillary Clinton 46-45 percent, with news of a renewed FBI probe apparently devouring the Democrat's long-held lead. Experts caution not to put too much stock in any one poll, especially one well within the statistical margin of error.

Clinton is still the overwhelming favorite, thanks to the quirks of the US electoral system, which tallies the winner based on weighted state-by-state races. The New York Times' statistical model gives Clinton an 88 percent chance of winning, while respected website FiveThirtyEight says 74 percent. But the shock ABC poll caps a series of surveys that point to a race which is narrowing in the final sprint.

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KING OF PRUSSIA, Pennsylvania: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump gives a thumbs up to a reporter while stopping for snacks at a Wawa gas station yesterday. — AFP

EMIR: QATAR MUST TACKLE 'CULTURE OF CONSUMPTION'

DOHA: Qatar's emir yesterday said that the super-rich Gulf state must tackle its "culture of consumption" as it deals with the sharp decline in world energy prices. In a speech to mark the opening session of Qatar's Advisory Council, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani also called for the elimination of "extravagance and waste" as the emirate faces its first budget deficit in 15 years.

Sheikh Tamim said that Qatar would complete all infrastructure projects connected with the 2022 football World Cup but would strive for greater efficiency in government spending in a new five-year plan to be launched next year. This new approach would incorporate the development of a "culture of planning, work and achievement", as well as cultural changes, especially aimed at the country's young.

"There are challenges that we should tackle, which are related to the goals and values of young people and the impact of the culture of consumption on these goals and values," the official Qatar News Agency quoted the emir as saying. "Without that we cannot move forward - wealth alone is not sufficient." The emir's comments echo an address he gave last year in which he told Qataris the government could no longer provide "for everything" and urged the young to pursue different career paths. — AFP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmad Abu Al-Gheit. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with UAE's Ambassador to Kuwait Rahma Hussein Al-Zaabi.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Benin Abdo Kabasi.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir meets with Chairman of Kuwait Banking Association and Chairman of Burgan Bank Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, as well as BNP Paribas' Chairman Jean Lemierre and his accompanying delegation.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Bahr Al-Ulum.

AMIR RECEIVES INVITATION TO ATTEND UNESCO SUMMIT HIS HIGHNESS MEETS ARAB LEAGUE CHIEF, AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a joint invitation at Bayan Palace yesterday from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and President of France Francois Hollande to attend a UNESCO-hosted summit for launching an initiative to

boost international cooperation in protecting heritage during armed conflicts and of terrorism, to be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, next December. UAE's Ambassador to Kuwait Rahma Hussein Al-Zaabi and Ambassador of France to Kuwait Christian Nakhle handed the letter.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmad Abu Al-Gheit and his accompanying delegation. His Highness also received Chairman of Kuwait Banking Association and Chairman of Burgan Bank Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, as well as BNP Paribas' Chairman Jean Lemierre and his accompanying delegation. The two meetings

were attended by Deputy Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Amir received the outgoing ambassadors of Benin Abdo Kabasi and Iraq Mohammad Hussein Bahr Al-Ulum. Later, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Bahr Al-Ulum in presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-

Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Protocols Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah was present at the meeting. In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister met separately with Abul Gheit and Bahr Al-Ulum, in presence of officials from the Foreign Ministry and His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Murat Tamer hosted a reception recently to celebrate the Republic Day of Turkey. Senior state officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



MANAMA: IICO Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq is honored during the Seventh Annual Conference for Effective Partnerships and Information Sharing for Better Humanitarian Action. —KUNA

MAATOUQ URGES GLOBAL ACTION TO END HUMAN SUFFERING IN CONFLICT ZONES

MANAMA: Chairman of the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Organization Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq has urged the international community to act swiftly to end suffering of traumatized people in hot spots around the world.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Seventh Annual Conference for Effective Partnerships and Information Sharing for Better Humanitarian Action, currently held in Manama, Maatouq called for the enforcement of relevant international laws to protect civilians in conflict zones.

Violators of international laws should be held accountable to their actions, he accentuated. Al-Maatouq, also UN Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs and Advisor to the Kuwait Amiri Diwan, called for increasing efforts to share the burden of Syrian, Iraqi and Yemeni refugees with the hosting countries. He stressed the

need for innovative and sustainable solutions to help people affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

Meanwhile, Maatouq expressed gratitude to Sheikh Nasser Al-Khalifa, representative of Bahrain's King for charitable action and youth affairs, for honoring and awarding him Sheikh Nasser Prize for Humanitarian Action on Monday.

The prize is granted to figures and institutions providing humanitarian and charitable services for needy people. Up to 250 officials working in humanitarian action, and charitable and relief institutions are taking part in the two-day event.

The conference aims to boost information sharing and partnerships amongst humanitarian organizations in the Middle East region as well as share initiatives and ideas regarding settling disputes, and empowering youth and females. —KUNA

KUWAIT DONATES \$4 MILLION TO UNICEF'S ACTIVITIES IN SYRIA

NEW YORK: Kuwait announced it has donated \$4 million in support of the activities of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Syria and surrounding countries. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that he handed the Executive Director of UNICEF Anthony Lake the donation to alleviate the sufferings of Syrian people in need without being biased to any particular party.

Kuwait's humanitarian contributions reflect the strong bond with UN and its vari-

ous organizations, he said. Since the outbreak of the crisis in the war-torn country six years ago, Kuwait offered vital and sufficient relief materials through the UN bodies, he added.

The UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa in brass remarks expressed his appreciation as being one of the largest donor to children affected by the Syrian crisis. With the largest Kuwaiti donation estimated at nearly \$5 million, the total donations offered to UNICEF hit USD 139 million since 2013, he said.

Kuwait offered great funding and humani-

tarian aid to the Syrian crisis in the fields of education, health, nutrition, he affirmed. UNICEF along with its partners succeeded in offering aid to 14 million people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Egypt, he added.

UNICEF offered social and psychological support through the initiative of 'No Lost Generation' for more than one million Syrian children, he said. The role Kuwait played in rallying international support to the Syrian crisis deserves great appreciation, he added. —KUNA



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi hands over the donation's check to the Executive Director of UNICEF Anthony Lake. —KUNA

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS OFFICIAL LAUNCH

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Alternative Medicine Association (KAMA) held a ceremony to mark its official launch on Monday, after it was set up by ministry decree no 67/2015. The registration of memberships to this association was also announced.

Dr Ziben Al-Otaibi, Chairman of KAMA, said the founding of this association realized the dream of specialists in various fields of alternative medicine to have a group uniting them. "This is the first association of its kind in the Gulf region. I call upon public and private institutions that are related to alternative medicine to cooperate with us to find treatment solutions for people in need from Kuwait and outside the country," he said during the ceremony.

Alternative medicine involves various techniques. "When treating a patient, we take into consideration his physical, psychological and behavioral condition. We don't only treat the suffering part of his body, but we try to find the reason behind his illness through his brain, body and spirit, as all these make one complete system. We use natural treatments to return the original body equilibrium and natural energy to get well. The self-curing

system of the body fixes the failure and beats the disease," explained Otaibi.

Alternative medicine has become more popular recently around the world due to its unexpected results. "Demand of alternative medicine is increasing. In Korea for instance, alternative medicine treatment has gone up by 86 percent, in Germany by 80 percent, France 75 percent, Canada 70 percent, Switzerland by 49 percent, US 42 percent and in the United Kingdom by 40 percent. In China, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Finland, Sweden and Brazil, alternative medicine is merged with national healthcare. So the public health sectors in many countries have set alternative medicine as one of the main pillars of medical treatment," he pointed out.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has 194 member countries including Kuwait. Due to the increasing use of alternative medicine, WHO set the first strategy for alternative medicine for 2002-2005, and developed it for 2014-2023. After setting this strategy, WHO assured that it's time for cooperation between national healthcare and alternative medicine to fight chronic diseases. I call on authorities in charge to issue a law organizing alternative medicine and to add this service to medical insurance," concluded Otaibi.



Omar Alghanim with his guests.

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES CONCLUDES SPONSORSHIP OF YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

CEO OMAR ALGHANIM RECEIVES EVENT SPEAKERS

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, concluded its strategic sponsorship of the 5th annual Tmkeen Youth Symposium, which was held under the patronage of the His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on the 25th and 26th of October 2016.

During the second day of the symposium, Alghanim Industries CEO, Omar Kutayba Alghanim, received two of the event speakers: Jeremy Liew, a Partner at Lightspeed Venture Partners and a key investor in Snapchat; and Jennifer Boulanger, Head of Global Recruitment at Booking.com. The guests took a tour in the company's open offices in Al-Hamra Tower and enjoyed the view of Kuwait City from the 73rd floor.

Speaking to his guests, Omar Alghanim said: "One of the reasons we are strong supporters of the Tmkeen symposium is the impact it leaves on the youth of Kuwait. We are a nation of entrepreneurs. This is made evident through our rich seafaring history. I believe that empowering the younger generation is a shared responsibility between the public and the private sector - to inspire youth to take the first step and to start owning their future economic success. Tmkeen is doing a great job by presenting some of the best success stories from around the world here in Kuwait, and we are proud to be part of this initiative."

The two-day symposium held



A picture from the symposium.

in Arraya Ballroom started with a seminar on "Innovation and Future of Technology", in which the Head of Public Policy at WeWork, Corey Owens and Vice Chairman of Zain Group, Bader Al-Kharafi discussed their perspectives. Following that, a group of local business leaders participated in a panel discussion on "Leadership Lessons for Entrepreneurs". And the day was concluded with the Head of Global Recruitment in Booking.com, Jennifer Bolanger, giving a seminar titled "Getting a Startup Team Right".

The second day of the symposium

had a group of young local entrepreneurs engage in a panel discussion titled the "SME's Journey to Global Success". And the day was concluded with a seminar titled "Keys to a Successful Viral Startup App" given by the first investor in Snapchat, Jermey Liew.

CEO of Tmkeen Youth Symposium, Ali Al-Ibrahim said: "As we celebrated our 5th anniversary this year, we are humbled with all the support we have been getting from the private sector in Kuwait. Alghanim Industries is one of the companies we turn to for support because we share similar goals of

youth empowerment and education. We thank them for believing in us and look forward to more partnerships with them in the coming years."

Sponsoring the Tmkeen symposium comes as part of Alghanim Industries' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which is committed to giving back to the community, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship. It is worth mentioning that the company is the largest supporter for INJAZ-Kuwait, as it encourages its employees to volunteer regularly in INJAZ's different programs.



KUWAIT: An official is honored during Kuwait Alternative Medicine Association's inauguration ceremony. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ATTACK ON MAKKAH PROVOKES MUSLIMS' FEELINGS: JARALLAH

KUWAIT HOPES LEBANESE PRESIDENT ELECTION PAVES WAY FOR STABILITY

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Monday said Houthis' firing of a long-range missile against the holy city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia, was a "provocation of feelings of Muslims." This act "is a serious challenge to the will of the international community and all efforts aimed at

the national day. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Executive Committee would hold a meeting to discuss Houthis' attack on Makkah, which brought condemnation from Arab and Islamic countries.

Jarallah said Kuwait would partici-

parties to create a common ground. He said Kuwait was ready to host the signature of a peace agreement in Yemen. Kuwait hosted UN-sponsored Yemeni talks between April 21 and August 6, but no agreement was reached.

On ties with Germany, Jarallah cited first Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's recent successful visit to Berlin. "We are looking for further promoting relations with Germany at all levels, and we must not forget that Germany is an economic strategic partner and there are huge Kuwaiti investment there," he said. Jarallah said Kuwait and Germany were coordinating efforts against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Jarallah expressed hope that the election of Michel Aoun as President of Lebanon would pave way for stability for Lebanon and its people. "We have followed the historic parliamentary session in Lebanon, and followed the voting process to elect his excellency the President," he told reporters as he congratulated the Lebanese people for the election of Aoun, ending two years of presidency vacuum. The Lebanese parliament has elected Aoun with 83 MPs in favor while 36 abstained and seven ballots were invalid. —KUNA



KUWAIT: (From left) Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner and the ambassador's spouse cut the cake at a ceremony to celebrate Germany's national day. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

reaching a peaceful solution that guaranteed security and stability for the Yemeni people," Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah told reporters on sidelines of a reception held by the German Embassy marking

pate in the Executive Committee meeting, calling upon all countries around the world to condemn the attack. He said UN Secretary General envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmad was mandated with contacting all Yemeni



Higher officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event.



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'ARISTO DEVELOPERS' PROMOTES INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CYPRUS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Aristo Developers from Cyprus held a presentation recently at the Holiday Inn Hotel about investment opportunities in Cyprus, promoting attractive projects for both Kuwaitis and expats. The investments also bring many benefits for investors, including citizenship or residency in Cyprus. "We represent the biggest developer in Cyprus, and this is our first event in Kuwait," Andronicos Antoniou, Sales and Marketing Manager, told Kuwait Times.

Why invest in Cyprus

"Investment in real estate in Cyprus is open to all nationalities without exceptions. Cyprus is located in a strategic location connecting three continents - Europe, Asia, and Africa. Also, we are very close to the Middle East and there are direct flights from Kuwait - about two and half hours in duration. We have a very close business relationship with Kuwait and other countries of the region," Antoniou said.

"Cyprus is a European Union member since 2004, which makes it attractive for many people to do business in Cyprus or other European countries through Cyprus. Cyprus has the lowest crime rate in Europe and is the fifth safest country in the world. The standard of living is high, and the country has good infrastructure in terms of highways, telecommunication system, modern international airport, and luxury marina.

"The health system is also very advanced. The education system is of very high quality, both public and private universities, which attracts many foreign stu-

dents to come and study in Cyprus. And we have one of the highest literacy rates in the world (99.1 percent). Even the workforce is highly skilled and multilingual.

"Cyprus has a rich cultural history that goes back to over 10,000 years, with many ancient archaeological sites. Cyprus has the most blue-flag beaches per coastline in the world, and it has the cleanest bathing waters in Europe. Cyprus is also known for its exclusive golf resorts. Furthermore, there are significant natural gas reserves in Cyprus, in addition to high-quality tourist facilities.

"Cyprus is a very attractive business center. It has the lowest corporate tax regime in the European Union (12.5 percent). It has an attractive tax system, with double taxation agreements with 52 countries. There are numerous international banking units and multinational companies operating in Cyprus, including Kuwaiti banks. Cyprus has a competitive, modern and transparent legal, financial and regulatory framework. We have the 10th largest shipping fleet globally," Antoniou told Kuwait Times.

Real estate

Residential prices for houses and flats have increased by 1.5 percent and 1.2 percent respectively. Total property sales in 2015 increased by 8 percent compared to 2014. Total property sales for 2016 are projected to increase by 25 percent compared to 2015, while 2016 Q3 sales are up by 31.5 percent. Property sales to foreigners in 2015 increased by 13 percent compared to 2014. Property sales to foreigners for 2016 are projected to increase by 9 percent compared to 2015, while 2016 Q3



KUWAIT: Andronicos Antoniou, Sales and Marketing Manager, Aristo Developers gives his presentation. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

sales are up by almost 17 percent.

The Cyprus government has introduced a number of additional measures to boost the real estate sector. This includes a 5 percent reduced VAT policy, 0 percent capital gains tax, 0 percent inheritance tax and 0 percent transfer fees.

Citizenship

Many foreigners invest in Cyprus to apply for citizenship, by investing 2 million euros in realty. They become European citizens within six months, and dual citizenship is allowed. This applies for the whole family, and is for life. So they can work and travel to other European countries.

There is another program for perma-

nent residency, which can be acquired by investing 300,000 euros. This is a fast and simple process done in only 60 days. It's also valid for life, and they only have to visit Cyprus every two years, and it applies to the whole family too.

Aristo Developers

Having delivered infrastructure throughout Cyprus and Greece for over three decades, Aristo Developers assures its services are built on the cornerstones of quality and commitment. Its successful performance is supported by an extensive client base, and ability to deliver quality and service.

As a reputable developer, Aristo Developers has been recognized for its

high-level, quality product by a plethora of local and international organizations. Having been acknowledged by the International Finance Magazine as "Best Real Estate Cyprus Developer 2016" in terms of innovation and performance, Aristo Developers was also the first property and construction developer in Cyprus to be endorsed by the International Standards Organization (ISO 9001) for quality. Its status as a "CLASS A" Construction and Property Development Company - the highest category awarded to companies who have a reputation for high quality construction and building infrastructure, allows it to undertake and execute projects of unlimited number, size and value.

Aristo Developers offers peace of mind when buying property abroad. Its guarantee for delivery dates and title deeds subscribes to its principle of establishing reliable partnerships with its clients. Aristo Developers has also been a pioneering force behind large-scale developments, having developed two 18-hole signature championship golf courses, including the Venus Rock Golf Resort - set to become the largest beachfront golf resort in the southeastern Mediterranean. Other landmark projects include the Aphrodite Waterpark, the International School of Paphos and the Kings Avenue Mall - the most contemporary shopping mall on the island of Cyprus.

With over 265 island-wide developments and 50 new projects currently in the market, Aristo Developers seeks out the finest locations across Cyprus to develop an impressive range of unique, freehold properties - ranging from apartments, villas and townhouses to luxurious



GHIRAS HONORS ABK FOR SUPPORTING ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has been honored for its support of the latest anti-drug initiative from Kuwait's National Awareness Project Against Drugs (Ghiras). The campaign, called "My Drawing.. My Prevention", was run in collaboration with Mentor International. In recognition of its involvement, the Bank received an appreciation trophy at a special ceremony organized by Ghiras held at the National Library of Kuwait, on 22 October 2016.

The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty the Queen of Sweden in her role as Chairman of Mentor International, representatives from Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry for Youth Affairs, and His Highness prince Turki Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. ABK was represented by Fawzy Al-Thunayan, General Manager, Board Affairs.

Commenting after the ceremony, Thunayan emphasized ABK's continued enthusiastic support for this initiative and the Bank's broader commitment to contributing to the development of youth. Recent support from ABK has included the provision of training courses and job opportunities, as well programs to encourage young people to achieve their potential and create a bright

and successful future for themselves.

The 'My Drawing.. My Prevention' program was developed in conjunction with Mentor International under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Education. The campaign was aimed at school students aged 9-15 and was introduced across all government schools in Kuwait to ensure maximum reach and impact. It was presented in the form of a competition, and was designed to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs amongst children before they come across them in real life. More importantly, the campaign also focused on encouraging children to invest in something positive and productive, such as art.

Students were given a two-week time frame to finalize and present an art creation which related to dangers of drugs. Over this period a team from Ghiras toured the schools and spoke to students about the dangers of drug misuse, while enthusing and encouraging their creativity in the competition. After the competition finished a Ghiras judging panel selected one hundred and twenty creations for awards. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

IBTIKAR COMPETITION FOCUSES ON DISCOVERING STUDENTS' TALENTS



KUWAIT: It is important to develop the Ibtikar competition in ways that help discover students' talents, develop their creativity and scientific research skills, and instill loyalty and patriotism within them, an official said yesterday.

Speaking during an awareness meeting with students and their teachers held at the Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative's head office, Board Chairperson Sheikhha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah indicated that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's patronage puts a great deal of responsibility upon organizers of the competition that the initiative organizes for the 16th consecutive year. She added that the 'Ibtikar Competition' was inspired by the values of 'His Highness the Amir of Humanity'.

Sheikha Fadia also stressed that in response to His Highness the Amir's call to encourage youth, the initiative focuses on empowering the women of tomorrow through investing in school girls today, in order to prepare them to take part in the process of developing Kuwait according to the 2030 development plan.

In addition, Sheikha Fadia affirmed that Ibtikar was a non-profit educational and training initiative meant to support Kuwait's efforts in improving education, encouraging creativity amongst students, developing knowl-



Sheikha Fadia Al-Saad Al-Sabah



Fatima Al-Hashem

edge-based economy using modern technology and developing e-curriculums with the ultimate goal of meeting the educational requirements of the 21st century. Moreover, Sheikha Fadia said that training sessions held as part of the initiative would take place after school and that trainers would explore the girls' own ideas and help develop their skills.

Meanwhile, Director General of Ibtikar Dr Fatima Al-Hashim highly valued the cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MOE), and explained that Ibtikar's competition for high school girls would adapt the latest international trend of integrating the study of science, math and geometry, which is currently used by the American University of Beirut (AUB).



KFH PARTICIPATES IN BREST CANCER AWARENESS LECTURE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in a breast cancer awareness lecture themed 'Together, We Can Defeat Cancer' as part of its social responsibility and in efforts to educate people on the danger of this disease and how it affects the community, yet to raise the importance of prevention and early detection of breast cancer. Delivered the lecture were Head of Kuwait Society of Nuclear Medicine Dr Fahad Marafi, with participation of Dr Rania Azmi, while hosted the lecture was an inspiring lady who has beaten breast cancer and spoke about her experiences to the audience in the lecture hall.

KFH's participation in lecture was a culmination of several contributions and events held in the breast cancer awareness month, October. KFH has lately announced its sponsorship and support to the National Breast Cancer Awareness campaign for the second consecutive year in collaboration with the Kuwait Cancer Control Center.

The campaign included a variety of awareness events and discussion sessions meant to spread awareness among women in the society. Moreover, KFH presented a number of awareness programs in social media platforms.



KUWAIT WORKING ON RELEASE OF STUDENT DETAINED IN US

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Embassy in the US, the ambassador and the embassy lawyer are closely following the case of a Kuwaiti student who is currently detained at a US prison, high-ranking sources at the foreign ministry stressed. Nayef Al-Rasheedi could possibly face a nine-year prison sentence for having some images and videos on his mobile phone that were deemed by US authorities as 'suspicious'. The sources added that serious attempts

are underway to reduce Rasheedi's sentence or have him released under guarantees from the embassy.

The sources urged all Kuwaitis traveling to the US or other countries not to have any suspicious images or videos on their mobile phones in order to avoid legal accountability, especially since many countries are under threat from terrorist groups. Earlier, bloggers had urged the foreign ministry to intervene in solving the problem and have the Kuwaiti student released, reminding that

he is only 19 and has been in prison for five months now.

Health insurance

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has not paid its expat employees' health insurance to the health ministry for seven months, from January till the end of August 2016, said the assistant undersecretary for financial affairs Yousef Al-Najjar. Najjar urged MoH undersecretary Khaled Al-Sahlawi to provide him with the overdue sums to pay them. Separately, and

on instructions from Education Minister Bader Al-Essa to amend Arabic curricula to tackle students' weakness in learning Arabic, MoE's public education sector approved including stories and novels in Arabic curriculums in intermediate and secondary schools. MoE also asked the fatwa and legislation department to review a related tender and report back with any remarks.

Sports complex

The Public Authority for Applied

Education and Training (PAAET) yesterday announced that its sports complex would open by Nov 6 under the auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah.

PAAET's students' affairs dean Dr Hussein Al-Mukaimi said the complex includes a main football stadium with a capacity of 8,000 fans, multipurpose courts and an Olympic-sized swimming complex, which would enable the complex to host several championships.



KUWAIT: Parliamentary candidates' headquarters designed decorated in such a way to attract potential voters. — KUNA



Snacks being served at parliamentary candidates headquarters.



'Fancy' serving of juices to potential voters.

ELECTION HOPEFULS KICK OFF CAMPAIGNS WITH MUCH GAIETY

KUWAIT: Parliamentary candidates across the nation kicked off their election campaigns amid a palpable democratic atmosphere, many of them employing unconventional forms of entertainment in a bid to entice voters.

Away from political rhetoric, candidates have spared no expense with designing their campaign bases, equipped with air conditioning, bright lights and the ever ubiquitous phone

chargers, which have become a necessity in today's ultra-connected world. Moreover, many candidates have partnered with confectionary companies to dole out sweet preparations such as fruit and candy, in addition to coffee and tea, all in an effort to keep visitors satisfied. To put things in perspective, work to erect these campaign bases has cost anywhere from KD 15,000 to 45,000, however, voters seem to be divided on whether such

measures are warranted. Dana Al-Kharaz, one of many voters who will head to the polls on November 26, described these campaign bases as a link between the candidates and the electorate, rather than mere acts of "showmanship."

Similarly, another voter, Mohammad Jassim, said that the bases help forge a 'first impression' of the candidates. As a soccer aficionado, Jassim is elated that many of these bases con-

tain large television screens that display the latest games and championships.

Meanwhile, Nada Al-Hajji's remarks were in sharp contrast to those of Jassim and Al-Kharaz, as she put much emphasis on the ideologies of the candidates vying for a seat in parliament. "What matters is what candidates do after they are elected," she quipped. — KUNA

MOTORCYCLE TRAVELER RETURNS HOME AFTER 2 MONTHS ON ROAD TO RUSSIA

KUWAIT: After two months of travelling on his motorcycle to the Russian far east, Abdulmohsen Taher Al-Baghli returns home today after his trip being cut short due to freezing conditions in Siberia, Russia. Baghli said yesterday that he was forced to quit his road trip where he planned to reach the farthest point in the Russian far east due to freezing temperatures.

The cold weather made him shift his path to go to Moscow instead to store his motorcycle and come back to Kuwait. However, this trip is far from being over. Baghli said that he will come back to his bike in spring to continue his travels. He expressed his appreciation to the great welcome he received at all Kuwaiti embassies in the many different countries he has been to during his journey.

Baghli is coming home tomorrow, leaving more than 14,000 kilometers behind, Al-Baghli has begun his road trip early September from Kuwait, through the Gulf region and across Iran to reach eastern Europe; his sole purpose is to spread knowledge about his country, Kuwait.

Harsh climate conditions haven't deterred the Kuwaiti adventurer from reaching his ultimate destination: Russia. Even though mother nature was harsher than he has ever thought and has forced him to put his journey on the back burner, yet he is determined to go back and finish what he has started.

During his trip, Al-Baghli handed out Kuwaiti flags to many individuals and media personnel he has come across his road trip, giving them a briefing on his trip

and the many unpaved and less travelled roads he has been on; he has been on some roads where he lost connection on his GPS; he has been forced to rely heavily on a compass and paper maps to find his way to his next destination. This trip is his second longest, following one which he made in 2013 where he reached the far west that ended him up in Ireland.

Baghli will attempt to pick up his trip where he has left it from in April to reach the farthest point in the Russian far east, to a Russian city called Vladivostok. Vladivostok is located at the head of the Golden Horn Bay, not far from Russia's borders with China and North Korea. The city is the home port of the Russian Pacific Fleet and the largest Russian port on the Pacific Ocean. — KUNA



Sager Al-Bader

KHAIRAN HOSTS 8TH CONSECUTIVE BAGHLI AWARD FOR GRATEFUL SONS

KUWAIT: The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) is very keen on keeping in touch with visitors of all of its facilities, as well as on coordinating with all concerned bodies and establishments. TEC also supports activities held by other establishments, including Al-Baghli Award for Grateful Sons, said Public Relations Manager Sager Al-Bader announced, adding that the event takes place for the 8th consecutive year at Al-Khairan Resort under the patronage of the Chairman of Board of the Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli Charity Organization.

On celebrating this year's award, TEC will organize a special open day activity

at Al-Khairan Resort to host participants and guests, Bader added. Speaking on the occasion of announcing plans to hold this year's awarding ceremony on Friday, November 4th, Bader thanked Al-Baghli Organization and the award's organizers for choosing the resort as a venue for the eighth consecutive year. He also noted that the open day activity, which takes place from 10:00 am until midnight, would be dedicated to residents of geriatric houses, senior citizens receiving special care at their own houses and the volunteers serving them including scouts, high school graduates, their families, as well as the resort's visitors.

UNION DEMANDS BETTER TREATMENT OF KUWAIT AIRWAYS EMPLOYEES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Airways and its subsidiary companies' employees syndicate, Captain Fuad Ashour Abbas, strongly criticized what he described as frivolity and futility in dealing with the fate of Kuwait Airways employees and pilots in a way that wastes considerable public funds.

Abbas also accused the former parliament of letting down Kuwait Airways' pilots, as transferring pilots and employees to some ministries was done regardless of the articles and clauses stated in law number 6/2008, which conditions turning Kuwait Airways into a shareholding company to do so. In addition, Abbas said that the public sector had no suitable vacancies for the transferred employees and that they had been replaced by non-Kuwaiti staff. He also said that many of the pilots' rights were lost in the process.

Minister

The Cabinet issued a decision yesterday to grant the Municipal Council's President the degree of minister.

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Crime

Report

10 KG MARIJUANA SMUGGLING FOILED

KUWAIT: Air cargo customs officers caught an Egyptian man who attempted to smuggle 10 kg of marijuana in a shipment of food he imported from India. Information was received about the shipment, so officers followed it until it arrived at Kuwait International Airport. The suspect went to receive it, but customs officers were waiting for him. When the container was unloaded, 10 kg of marijuana was found in hard-to-find places, a security source said. The man said he imported the drugs with intention of trafficking, so he was sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DGCD) for further action.

Stray dogs

Hawally detectives returned some dogs to their owner who promised to care for them, after they escaped from his house and went to a girls' school in Salwa, which scared students and teachers. A security source said the school principal called operations about the presence of dogs at the school, so police went there and took the dogs to Salwa police station. Detectives were then surprised by a citizen claiming that the dogs were his and expensive, and had escaped from his house in the morning. Police took an undertaking from him and returned the dogs after the school principal opted against filing a complaint.

Officer insulted

A man who went to Maidan Hawally police station to complain against his ex-wife ended up in jail, charged with threatening and insulting a public employee. A security source said that a sergeant told the investigator that an Egyptian man entered the police station to complain against his ex-wife, but when asked what had happened, he started screaming at the officer and swore at him. He then banged his head against the wall, than after he was calmed down, he hit himself with the desk. He is being questioned.

By-elections

Security sources said several citizens are wanted to appear before the prosecution for organizing and participating in by-elections in the fourth constituency. Detectives' investigations revealed that some tribes are organizing by-elections in diwanis and behind closed doors.

Toys stolen

Jabriya police station investigator ordered an Indian man's name be placed on the wanted list after he stole 31 toys, each valued at KD 18. A security source said a citizen, a toy shop owner, told them his employee had disappeared, then when he checked the inventory, 31 toys were missing.

Theft

Police arrested a bedoon who posed as a detective and stole KD 50 in addition to a computer from Asian workers in industrial Shuwaikh. The bedoon entered the shop where the Indians work with a stick and asked them for money, but they refused. He stole a wallet that was on the table with KD 50 in it and the computer. The Indians caught and tied him up, and he was arrested by police.— Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



الجريدة Al-Jarida

THE COMING PARLIAMENT'S TENURE

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

Is it logical to judge the coming parliament and predict its term in office even before candidate registration is over? Is it politically reasonable to pre-judge the parliament even before its formation is clear? Will such analyses enhance hopes of achieving political stability or will they trigger more frustrations?

There are a number of political indicators carrying certain and clear meanings to observers and those interested in public concerns. Objective assessment of such indicators might lead to much optimism. To start with, the strange sudden manner in dissolving the 2013 parliament might lead some parties to file cases at the constitutional court on grounds that what happened was political frivolity and governmental abuse to annul the legislative power without any clear justification, which might confuse the entire political scene and take us all back to square one.

The second indicator lies in the fact that many of the former boycotters rushed to run for the coming elections amid accusations of breaking their promises and principles, especially since they all called for boycotting the elections after the constitutional court passed its verdict. Initial statements made by some of them are the same politically and sectarian provocative ones that had played on people's emotions. This takes us back to ballot boxes in an atmosphere of sectarianism and tribalism at the expense of national and reform calls and those making them.

The next parliament will most likely witness the very same silly and theatrical showoff attempts while major and more important decisions and the corrupt legislations passed by the annulled parliament will be neglected and remain effective to drain citizens' budgets, limit their liberties and politically intimidate them.

The third indicator lies in the best possible scenario of a large number of candidates supported by the angry public opinion winning parliamentary seats with intentions to mercilessly hold the government accountable, namely the premier, whether Sheikh Jaber remains in office or Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed returns to office, according to some leaks. The mere success of 25 members who had not been in the previous parliament would suggest it will not last long and get annulled by a court order or by dissolving it very early.

However, if the new parliament is clear in shape and formation to that of 2013, it will be politically useless and thus the government will benefit, because lawmakers will be too busy with personal issues and side conflicts, while decisions related to e-crimes, political suppression, precautionary detention, security restrictions, and increasing fuel and electricity prices will surely remain in effect to complete the horrifying economic reform package including increasing fees, cutting salaries and selling some state assets in the coming period and overwhelming privatization plans.

The government will also benefit by involving some boycotters in political life by temptations of senior positions, while others will become part of the futile political scene, and thus use up whatever public support they still have. The situations remain very bad.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

THE MOST DANGEROUS PARLIAMENT

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

The upcoming parliament due to be elected within a month will be one of the most dangerous assemblies ever elected in Kuwait's history. Therefore, we must not take selecting its members lightly or in the same manner we used to do with all previous parliaments. It is a parliament seeking revenge, through which some candidates and political powers wish to move time backwards and to rebuild a temple they had destroyed according to their wishes because they believe that the temple is theirs and that no one has the right to share it with them.

They are not even driven by clearly defined national Kuwaiti agendas. They are the followers of suspicious foreign organizations that do not value nations and people's interests. On the contrary, they are working to destroying nations and displace peoples, which was very clear in what the Muslim Brotherhood is doing in Egypt, what IS is doing in Iraq, Syria and Libya and what Iran is doing in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

We do not wish to make our country part of those violent, cruel and bloody scenes happening in other countries. We do not want our parliament to echo or voice the Muslim Brotherhood or Iran. We want to be a

pure Kuwaiti one clear of sectarianism, doctrinism, tribalism and profiteering. Unfortunately, many of those preparing to run for the elections come with endless ideas of either this or that string-puller and are preparing for a war each party anticipates it will win, regardless of the possible consequent losses Kuwait and Kuwaitis might suffer.

For these reasons, and for so many other reasons we cannot mention, voters have full responsibility to maintain and protect Kuwait by denying such candidates access to the coming parliament, because they carry agendas that have been prepared by others and are flocking out of Kuwait's mainstream. Such a demand is not too much nor does it include exaggerations. Fears are very real.

NGOs have to be fully active from now and till election day to enhance voters' awareness about how dangerous the coming period and how critical the situation are. They should organize awareness seminars and reach people everywhere in all areas. Emotions, kinship and personal interests have to be put aside when selecting candidates.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

KIB STRATEGIC SPONSOR FOR SIDRA'S AWARENESS MEETING

'I'M STRONGER THAN CANCER'

KUWAIT: As part of its continued strategic partnership with Al-Sidra Association for the Psychological Care of Cancer Patients, and in honor of International Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently sponsored Al-Sidra's Third Annual Awareness Meeting entitled 'I'm Stronger Than Cancer'. Held under the patronage of Sheikha Azza Jaber

this annual awareness event aimed to shed light on the importance of early detection in breast cancer, with a special focus on the importance of mental health and maintaining a positive outlook during the treatment journey, in order to maximize the body's response to treatment. The meeting included a number of lectures addressing different topics related to the disease, avail-

able treatment methods and the challenges facing patients during their treatment journeys. Speakers included writer and cancer survivor Dalaa Al-Mufti, professionally trained life coach Ali Dashti, and cancer survivor and awareness

ambassador Sharifah Al-Haqbani. The meeting also featured a discussion panel moderated by Dr Shafika AlAwadhi, Head of the Chemotherapy Department at Kuwait Cancer Control Center and President of Al-Sidra Association. Within this context, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "KIB's sponsorship of this event comes in line with its efforts to play an active role in raising awareness across Kuwait about the different facets of breast cancer; especially the importance of regular screening and the need to be self-aware when it comes to symptoms - given that early detection can increase the chances of successful treatment."

He further added: "Our strategic partnership with Al-Sidra comes as a result of our strong belief in the important role they play as a safe haven that provides patients with the necessary psychological tools to face this disease and hopefully beat it. We are also appreciative of their efforts to create a positive environment for cancer patients to help them better adapt to their conditions and ultimately enhance their response to treatment." Najia also pointed out that under the auspice of its leading social responsibility program, KIB offers strategic support to Al Sidra throughout the year, sponsoring all of the Association's different activities and initiatives. KIB also provides support to Al-Sidra in its efforts to provide patients and their families with comprehensive treatment and awareness services across all stages of the disease, through a program of educational initiatives and psychological support groups provided by its network of mental health professionals.



BURGAN BANK CONCLUDES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently held its breast cancer awareness campaign in collaboration with Al-Seef Hospital, which was curated specifically for employees. Dr Noha Al-Saleh, Consultant for General Surgery and Surgical Oncology from Al-Seef Hospital presented methods to help raise consciousness of breast cancer between the employees.

She spoke about how to help prevent the disease, what the common risk factors are, how to deal with them, and different

screening methods that everyone should know. Breast Cancer is a wide spread disease that is considered to have a high death rate amongst women worldwide and especially in Kuwait. However, it can be treated and cured if detected at an early stage. The breast cancer early detection awareness initiative is part of the continued development of Burgan Bank's successful contributions to raise awareness about the disease, and to encourage women to conduct preventive check-ups.



Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Al-Sidra Association, the meeting took place at Al-Shaheed Park and featured a number of experts and activists in the field of breast cancer awareness. The third edition of

able treatment methods and the challenges facing patients during their treatment journeys. Speakers included writer and cancer survivor Dalaa Al-Mufti, professionally trained life coach Ali Dashti, and cancer survivor and awareness



KUWAIT: Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) organized a training course recently for Kuwait National Guard backup unit officers at the liquefied natural gas plant in Shuaiba.



Explosion in Alabama kills one; five injured

AT LEAST 19 KILLED IN THE LATEST INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER CLASH



BANDA ACEH: A 20-year old Muslim woman gets caned after being caught in close proximity with her boyfriend in Banda Aceh on October 31, 2016. Aceh is the only province in the predominantly Muslim country that applies sharia law, and public canings for breaches of Islamic code happen on a regular basis and often attract huge crowds. — AFP

INDONESIAN MEN DON MINI-SKIRTS IN PROTEST
 A CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

JAKARTA: Syaldi Sahude recalls how he was left speechless eight years ago when he came across a study that showed 85 percent of Indonesian women who have suffered violence at the hands of their partners remain in the relationship. Astonished, Sahude discussed the subject with his friends as he sought an explanation - and then he realized something was missing.

"There were women's empowerment, legal aid and trauma programs for survivors but the root cause of this is men," said Sahude, who was working at a women's rights group at the time. More discussions followed with like-minded activist friends, and a year later a campaign group Aliansi Laki-laki Baru - or the New Men's Alliance - was born. The men-led campaign has taken on eliminating violence against women as their mission - challenging a deep-rooted and often hidden issue in Indonesia's patriarchal society.

Mini-skirt protest

Through online campaigns, public rallies, discussions and counseling targeted at men, they challenge misconceptions about masculinity and broach subjects such as sexual identity, rape and consent. While the activities are also open to women, their main targets are men and boys, groups that women's rights campaigners have traditionally had difficulties reaching, Sahude said. "Many Indonesian men still think women have no rights to tell them this or that, that women are inferior to men," the 37-year-old co-founder of the group said. Violence against women has come under the spotlight in Indonesia this year after the brutal gang-rape and murder of a schoolgirl, which prompted the government to introduce harsher punishments for sex offenders including the death penalty and chemical castration.

Activists say cases of violence against women have

been on the rise although the real scale remains hard to gauge in the Southeast Asian country of 250 million people. There were 321,752 such cases in 2015 - including domestic violence and sexual assaults - a threefold surge from 105,103 in 2010, according to the government-backed National Commission of Violence Against Women. The commission said the figure, compiled mainly based on complaints lodged with religious courts, was just the tip of the iceberg as many women lack the resources or are too afraid to report abuse.

A nationwide online poll in July found 90 percent of rape cases go unreported, with activists blaming social stigma for many women's unwillingness to go to the authorities. Sahude said the stigma surrounding victims of sexual abuse is an issue his group wants to tackle. Some

men in the group, for instance, have donned mini-skirts to protest a senior government official's suggestion that women should not wear short skirts on public transport to avoid being raped. "Too often it's about the way women dress or the way they behave. So we thought if it's really about mini-skirts, how about men wearing them?" Sahude asked.

'Agents of change'

A 2013 United Nations study in Asia showed nearly half of 10,000 men interviewed in six countries - including Indonesia - had used physical or sexual violence against a female partner, while nearly a quarter had raped a woman or girl. The tendency towards sexual violence is common in cultures where male toughness is celebrated and men

have a sense of sexual entitlement, it found. Risyia Kori, a gender equality expert from the Indonesian office of the UN Population Fund, one of the UN agencies which sponsored the 2013 study, said involving men in the fight to end violence against women would have "positive effects".

The New Men's Alliance initiative is one of many around the world aimed at engaging boys and men to tackle violence against women. In Colombia, for example, the Men and Masculinity Collective uses theatre and music to challenge gender stereotypes. And in Mozambique, another approach has been to get thousands of boys and men in kitchens and cooking to confront machismo. The needs are great in Indonesia, as many practices that violate women's rights are considered "normal", Kori told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. — Reuters

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TURKEY TO NAME CUSTODIANS TO REPLACE KURDISH MAYORS

ERDOGAN DETERMINED TO 'DRAIN THE SWAMP' IN SOUTHEAST

DIYARBAKIR: Turkish authorities will appoint unelected administrators to run the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, officials said yesterday, after detaining its two mayors last week in a crackdown on unrest in the southeast of the country. Separately, police detained 30 officials from the opposition Democratic Regions' Party (DBP) in dawn raids in three towns in the restive region, security sources said.

Turkey's Western allies are worried about due process and a deteriorating human rights situation in the southeast as a crackdown against Kurdish militants widens to include politicians and journalists. President Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to "dry the swamp" to end a three-decade insurgency that has killed more than 40,000 people, mainly Kurds. The state will name the administrators - who will either be led by the deputy governor or a district official - as soon as possible under powers enacted via decrees during emergency rule, imposed after a failed military coup in July, officials told reporters on condition their names were not used.

"It is expected the Interior Ministry will assign new mayors to the municipality after the mayors were dismissed for terrorism links and arrested,"

Diyarbakir Governor Huseyin Aksoy said in a statement. All governors in Turkey are appointed. A prosecutor accuses Gultan Kisanak, Diyarbakir's first female mayor and a former parliamentarian, and her co-mayor Firat Anli of terrorist links in connection with public statements they made about the need for greater autonomy for Kurds, who make up about 20 percent of a population of 79 million people.

Kisanak and Anli, both members of the DBP, deny direct ties with the armed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), listed as a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union. The EU, to which Turkey has applied for membership, has called the arrests "deeply worrying." But Erdogan has said the removal of elected officials and civil servants accused of links to the PKK is a vital part of the battle against it, as thousands have been killed since the collapse of a ceasefire in 2015.

In October alone, authorities jailed 98 DBP officials, the party said. The DBP dominates the southeast and is the sister party of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), parliament's third-biggest grouping, which has Kurdish roots. Turkey on Saturday closed 15 newspapers, news

agencies and magazines that report from the southeast, bringing the total number of media outlets and publishers closed since the coup to about 160. The closure of the remaining Kurdish media and the appointment of trustees to run Diyarbakir silences opposition voices and "denies thousands of Kurdish voters their right to local political representation," US-based Human Rights Watch said. Authorities have also blocked the Internet in cities across the region for most of the past week.

Death penalty

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said yesterday that Turkey is considering reinstating limited use of the death penalty if there is an agreement between political parties. "If there is consensus with other political parties on this demand of the people... limited arrangements can be made," Yildirim said in a speech in Ankara. He said it would not be used retroactively, but did not elaborate further. Turkey abolished capital punishment in 2004 as part of reforms introduced in its bid to join the European Union. It has not executed anyone since 1984.

But President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had suggested Turkey could bring back the death penalty in the wake of the failed July coup. And hundreds of people have chanted "we want the death penalty!" at government rallies. But Brussels has warned any return could mean the end of Ankara's talks to join the 28-member bloc. Erdogan said at the weekend his government would ask parliament to consider reintroducing the death penalty to punish the plotters behind the coup bid. His comments drew the ire of European politicians including Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz who said it was "a cruel and inhumane form of punishment".

The Council of Europe has also condemned any move to reinstate the death penalty, saying it was "incompatible with membership of the Council". Despite Erdogan's comments, Yildirim told lawmakers from his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP): "I want it to be known that that this (death penalty) would not be applied retroactively." Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli told his lawmakers that he was ready to support the AKP on the issue. "Since there is a need for the death penalty and since our nation wants this... there is no need to discuss this unnecessarily. If the AKP is ready, the MHP has always been ready," Bahçeli said.— Agencies



AL HOCEIMA: Protesters hold the Amazigh (Berber) flag in the northern city of Al Hoceima, following the death of fishmonger Mouhcine Fikri, who was crushed to death on October 28 in a rubbish truck in Al Hoceima, as he reportedly tried to protest against a municipal worker seizing and destroying his wares. — AFP

MOROCCO AUTHORITIES CHARGE 11 OVER FISHMONGER'S DEATH

RABAT: Moroccan authorities have charged 11 people over the death of a fishmonger who was crushed in a garbage truck while trying to stop police from destroying his stock, in a case that has ignited public anger. The death of Mouhcine Fikri in the northern city of Al-Hoceima on Friday has prompted thousands to take to the streets in four days of protests, among the biggest in Morocco since pro-reform demonstrations broke out during the 2011 Arab Spring. Protest chants and a frenzy of angry postings on social media have blamed the Makhzen, a term used to describe the royal establishment.

In an effort to calm tensions, King Mohamed, currently on a tour of Africa, ordered the interior minister to visit the victim's family and present royal condolences. The general prosecutor said on Tuesday that 11 people had been referred to an investigating judge, including two interior ministry officials, two local fisheries officials and the veterinary chief in Al-Hoceima, on charges of involuntary manslaughter. Fikri bought 500 kg (1,100 lb) of swordfish, for which fishing is banned from Oct 1 to Nov 30 every year, according to a prosecutor's statement published by state news agency MAP.

A police officer guarding the port gates called the security services, who impounded Fikri's truck later inside the city. The veterinary doctor decided the fish was unfit

for consumption because of a lack of documents. But the local committee had already prepared the legal paperwork to destroy the fish before seizing it, which amounts to forgery of public documents, the statement said. According to local media and authorities, Fikri jumped inside the trash truck that police used to destroy the confiscated fish in a desperate attempt to stop them, and was caught inside the crusher.

Activists accused police officers at the scene of ordering garbage men to crush Fikri but the police denied those accusations, and the prosecutor said the investigation had shown there was no order to harm the victim. The statement did not say who pressed the button of the crusher. Protests were held in Al-Hoceima and other towns in the surrounding Rif region, as well as in Casablanca and the capital Rabat, where hundreds gathered chanting "Mouhcine was murdered, Makhzen is to blame".

Large-scale political protests are rare in Morocco, where the king still holds ultimate sway, although unemployed graduates have long demonstrated for jobs across the country. Demonstrations are heavily policed, reflecting official nervousness over popular unrest. While leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya were swept from power in 2011, King Mohamed defused protests in Morocco that year by devolving some of his power to the elected government. — Reuters



ISTANBUL: Turkish riot police officers fire rubber bullets to disperse pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP) supporters during a demonstration in Istanbul, following the arrests of the two co-mayors in Diyarbakir. — AFP

TURKEY REJECTS EUROPEAN 'RED LINE' ON PRESS FREEDOM AFTER DETENTIONS

ISTANBUL: Turkey's prime minister said he had no regard for Europe's "red line" on press freedom yesterday and warned Ankara would not be brought to heel with threats, rejecting criticism of the detention of senior journalists at an opposition newspaper. Police detained the editor and top staff of Cumhuriyet, a pillar of the country's secularist establishment, on Monday, on

accusations that the newspaper's coverage had helped precipitate a failed military coup in July.

The United States and European Union both voiced concern about the move in Turkey, a NATO ally which aspires to EU membership. European Parliament President Martin Schulz wrote on Twitter that the detentions marked the crossing of 'yet another red-line' against free-

dom of expression in the country. "Brother, we don't care about your red line. It's the people who draw the red line. What importance does your line have," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told members of his ruling AK Party in a speech in parliament.

"Turkey is not a country to be brought in line with salves and threats. Turkey gets its power from the people and would be held accountable by the people." Prosecutors accuse staff at Cumhuriyet, one of few media outlets still critical of President Tayyip Erdogan, of committing crimes on behalf of Kurdish militants and the network of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based cleric blamed for orchestrating the July coup attempt. Journalists at the paper were suspected of seeking to precipitate the coup through "subliminal messages" in their columns before it happened, the state-run Anadolu agency said.

Cumhuriyet vowed "we will not surrender" in a front-page headline. Dozens of people staged a vigil in front of its Istanbul offices overnight, some wrapped in blankets as they slept on benches while police guarded barriers outside. "Even if Cumhuriyet's executives and writers are detained, our newspaper will continue its fight for democracy and freedom to the end," it said in a defiant editorial which described the arrests as the start of an attempt to close the paper. It said its pages had repeatedly warned that Gulen's movement represented a danger to the Republic and wanted to abolish secularism. The paper said it had in the past been targeted by prosecutors and judges aligned with Gulen.

Enemies of the state

Turkey's authorities have bristled at the Western reaction to the abortive coup, in which rogue soldiers used fighter jets and tanks to attack parliament and other key buildings, killing more than 240 people, many of them civilians. They see European leaders as quick to condemn widescale purges of suspected plotters, but reluctant to accept the gravity of the putsch and the threat to the state. "We have no problem with press freedom. This is what we can't agree with our European friends. They always bring up press freedom when we take steps in our fight against terrorism," Yildirim said.

He said Turkey could draft a "limited measure" to bring back the death penalty if a political compromise could be reached on the issue, a move that could spell an end to its efforts to join the European Union. Crowds have repeatedly called for

the re-introduction of capital punishment, which Turkey abolished in 2002 as part of the EU accession process, and Erdogan has said he would approve it if parliament voted for it.

Turkey has classified Gulen's network of followers as the "Gülenist Terror Organization" (FETO), ranking it as an enemy of the state alongside the Kurdish PKK militant group, which has waged a three-decade armed insurgency, and Islamic State. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, denies involvement in the coup attempt. More than 110,000 of Gulen's suspected followers have been sacked or suspended and 37,000 jailed pending trial since the coup attempt. Rights groups say the scale of the purges show Erdogan is using the coup attempt to crush all dissent.

No access to lawyers

The latest detainee on Monday evening was veteran Turkish journalist Kadri Gursel, who began writing for Cumhuriyet in May, bringing the number of those held to 13, the paper said. Three more staff targeted by the investigation are abroad. It said the detainees, some of whose computers and phones were confiscated, were not being allowed to speak to lawyers for five days under emergency rule imposed after the putsch.

The staunchly secularist paper was established in 1924 by a confidant of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk just six months after he established the Turkish Republic. Political violence has dogged its history. Seven of its writers have been assassinated since 1978 and some were among those jailed after coups in 1971 and 1980. Cumhuriyet's previous editor, Can Dundar, was jailed last year, convicted of publishing state secrets involving Turkey's support for Syrian rebels. The case sparked a major assault on Friday, backed by car bombs and salvos of rockets, to end the regime's three-month encirclement of the city's eastern districts. He said there were only around 300 Nusra fighters in eastern Aleppo out of around 20,000 rebels-numbers that differ wildly from a UN estimate of around 8,000 rebels in the besieged part of the city, including some 900 who belong to Fateh Al-Sham.

Since the attempted coup, 170 newspapers, magazines, television stations and news agencies have been shut down, leaving 2,500 journalists unemployed, Turkey's journalists' association said in a statement on Monday. "We are not going to learn from you what press freedom is. We support it all the way," Yildirim said of European criticism.

"But we won't see criminals, their accomplices, and supporters of the separatist (PKK) and FETO terrorist organizations as innocent. Let the judiciary do its job. If there is nothing on them, then it will come out." — Reuters



ALEPPO: Rebel fighters from the Jaish Al-Fatah (or Army of Conquest) brigades fire mortar shells towards western government-controlled districts at an entrance to Aleppo, in the southwestern frontline neighborhood of Dahiyet Al-Assad. — AFP

SYRIA OPPOSITION SAYS 'IMPOSSIBLE' TO REFUSE JIHADIST HELP IN ALEPPO

GENEVA: People stuck in war-ravaged Aleppo do not have the luxury of refusing help from jihadists, a high-level member of Syria's main opposition said, lashing out at international "inaction" in breaking the siege. Damascus and its Russian ally have used the presence of fighters with former Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham Front-previously called Al-Nusra Front-to justify their offensive on rebel-held eastern Aleppo. The top UN envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has also called on the fighters to leave the city to help enable aid to reach the estimated 250,000 civilians living under siege.

But Khaled Khoja, a top negotiator with the High Negotiations Committee (HNC) opposition umbrella group, insisted that trapped and desperate residents and the armed rebels trying to defend them had been left with no option but to accept help from the Islamist fighters. "The inaction of the international community in terms of breaking the siege of Aleppo allowed al-Nusra to intervene in this battle," he told AFP in Geneva late Monday. "You cannot ask the people who are suffering inside Aleppo because of the siege to refuse the help from anyone," he said.

His comments came after opposition factions allied with jihadists launched a major assault on Friday, backed by car bombs and salvos of rockets, to end the regime's three-month encirclement of the city's eastern districts. He said there were only around 300 Nusra fighters in eastern Aleppo out of around 20,000 rebels-numbers that differ wildly from a UN estimate of around 8,000 rebels in the besieged part of the city, including some 900 who belong to Fateh Al-Sham.

Not targeting civilians

Khoja rejected widespread criticism of opposition fire on civilians in western Aleppo, stressing that "as HNC we don't accept civilian targets". According to the

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, heavy rebel rocket fire since Friday has killed 51 civilians, including 18 children. Khoja acknowledged that there had been civilian casualties as the rebels struggle to break the siege, but blamed international backers like the United States who had refused to provide accurate weapons. He said the rebels "are not targeting civilians, they are targeting the regime, but... the bombs they are using are not perfect bombs". On the other side, he said, "the Russians are targeting civilians, the regime is targeting civilians. It's incomparable." Khoja also voiced hope that the US election next week would push Washington to more actively support the opposition in Syria. "We heard (Democratic presidential candidate Hillary) Clinton talking about civilian protection, no-fly-zones, which is something we welcome and that we demand," he said.

He was more wary of a possible win by Republican candidate Donald Trump, who he said came across as "very close to (Syrian President Bashar Al-) Assad and to the Russians." But he said that once Trump received more information about the Syrian conflict "we hope he can change his attitude". Developments in Washington aside, Khoja voiced little optimism that the UN-backed peace talks could resume soon. "We can't talk about a political process unless we alleviate the suffering of the people on the ground. They are suffering from sieges, from starvation, from bombing and shellings," he said.

But in a small sign of progress, he and other HNC negotiators were back in Geneva for the first time since they walked out of talks six months ago amid soaring violence on the ground. Khoja said they were in the Swiss city not for political talks but for technical discussions with de Mistura's staff on the issue of detainees. — AFP

ETHIOPIAN RESHUFFLE OFFERS CONCESSIONS TO PROTESTERS

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's prime minister yesterday reshuffled his cabinet to create a more ethnically diverse team after an unprecedented wave of protests. Hailemariam Desalegn had promised the reshuffle after imposing a six-month state of emergency in October. In the reshuffle, Hailemariam gave senior roles to two politicians from the Oromo people who have spearheaded sometimes deadly anti-government protests over the last year, reducing the dominance of the minority Tigrayans. The new ministers of foreign affairs and of communications-Workneh Gebeyehu, a former transport minister, and Negeri Lencho, a journalism professor-are Oromos, replacing the Tigrayans who previously held the posts.

Speaking to AFP after his appointment Negeri, who is also now government spokesman, said the changes were necessary in the light of the protests and subsequent state of emergency. "So many challenges have been raised by the public. There has to be a change," he said. "This new cabinet is ready to respond and provide a better service with professionals from many directions." Nine of the previous 30-strong cabinet retained their posts, among them long-standing party loyalists Siraj Fegessa, in charge of defense, and Debretsion Gebremichael who runs telecommunication and information technology, as well as Hailemariam's deputy, Demeke Mekonnen. The new government, which includes just three women, was immediately approved by parliament in which every seat is held by Hailemariam's ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Until his dismissal, former government spokesman Getachew Reda had been considered a "rising star" within the EPRDF but was unpopular among the public. Hailemariam had promised the reshuffle would be based on skills rather than "party loyalty". — AFP



ANKARA: Participants hold placards reading 'Free press can't be silenced' (center) and 'Do not touch Cumhuriyet' (right) outside the headquarters of Turkish newspaper Cumhuriyet in Ankara, during a protest against the detention of the newspaper's editor-in-chief and a dozen journalists and executives. — AFP

HOW CLINTON'S CHILDHOOD AFFECTED HER POLITICS

PARK RIDGE: The two-storey brick house where Hillary Clinton grew up still stands at a street corner in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge. Nearby, a sign reads "Rodham Corner" - an acknowledgement of the place in history occupied by this small hamlet near the city's O'Hare airport. It is a place that impacted and shaped a young Hillary Rodham - before she went off to college, married Bill Clinton, and became the Democratic Party's presidential nominee in 2016. "My childhood in the 1950s and the politics of the 1960s awakened my sense of obligation to my country and my commitment to service," Clinton wrote in her 2003 memoir "Living History."

During that period after World War II, Park Ridge - a suburb that was all-white, Republican and conservative - was the center of Clinton's world. "My parents felt comfortable in Park Ridge among all the other veterans who chose it for its excellent public schools, parks, tree-lined streets, wide sidewalks and comfortable family homes," Clinton wrote. As a child, she was exposed to both traditional Republican beliefs and competing viewpoints from the outside - especially from the civil rights movement. "My favorite memory is walking home from school with Hillary, and the many opportunities we had to talk,"

said Ernest Ricketts, who attended kindergarten through high school with the former secretary of state. "She was always very interested in current events. She was interested in history." Clinton's critics often criticize her consistency on the issues, saying she is a chameleon who changes her beliefs based on political winds. But her childhood in Park Ridge offers a clue into Clinton's worldview, which evolved through discussions and debates with those on both sides of the ideological spectrum.

Clinton's parents

Clinton's father Hugh Rodham was a staunch Republican. The owner of a drapery business and the product of a working-class family, he believed in small government, individual responsibility and working hard for what you get. Clinton's mother Dorothy Rodham was a Democrat. Abandoned by her parents as a child and forced to start working at the age of 14, Dorothy instilled in Clinton empathy for people caught up in circumstances outside their control. At the dinner table, Clinton's parents debated the issues, with young Hillary often politically in the middle. "I grew up between the push and tug of my parents' values, and my own political beliefs reflect both," Clinton wrote in her memoir. She

admired her father's sense of "rugged individualism," she told The Washington Post in 2007, during her first run for president - a primary battle she lost to Barack Obama. "But it didn't explain enough for me about the world, or the world as I would want it to be," she said.

Mother a 'huge influence'

Clinton's mother was a voracious consumer of books, and encouraged the same intellectual curiosity in her daughter. "Hillary's mom was a huge influence," said Clinton's childhood friend Judy Osgood. "Her mom was just always there and interested in what we were doing." Clinton's parents encouraged their daughter to think beyond the narrow path young women of their time were expected to pursue. She was pushed to follow her intellectual interests, as well as play sports an endeavor dominated by boys. Her mother's difficult past inspired Clinton's work as a politician. "Learning about my mother's childhood sparked my strong conviction that every child deserves a chance to live up to her God-given potential," Clinton said in her memoir.

Another big influence was her childhood minister Don Jones, who exposed Clinton to the social

issues of the day - taking her and her church youth group in 1962 to hear civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr speak in Chicago. "He gave us a worldview that we didn't have before," Ricketts said of Jones' efforts to expose Park Ridge's middle class children to the larger world. Clinton maintained ties with Jones until his death in 2009, and considered him a major influence. She also still maintains contact with several of her childhood friends in Park Ridge. "She's very much the same person, especially with all of her high school friends," said Mike Andrews, who attended Maine South High School with Clinton. But the impact of decades in the public eye, and the various controversies swirling around her including the revived FBI interest in her use of a private email server while at the State Department - have taken a toll on her image, even in the city where she grew up. Earlier this year, in her first visit to Park Ridge in more than a decade, Clinton drew hundreds of supporters, but also some protesters. "Traditionally, this has been a Republican town, and there are people here who are diehard Republicans," longtime resident Teresa Nuccio told the Chicago Tribune at the time. "Being from Park Ridge doesn't necessarily mean everyone will support you." — AFP

EXPLOSION IN ALABAMA KILLS ONE; FIVE INJURED

HELENA: Colonial Pipeline Co shut down its main gasoline and distillates pipelines on Monday after an explosion and fire in Shelby, Alabama, killing a worker and sending five to the hospital - the second time in two months it had to close the crucial supply line to the US East Coast. A nine-man crew was conducting work on the Colonial pipeline system at the time of the explosion, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley told a briefing. Seven of the crew members were injured, with two evacuated by air.

The explosion occurred when a contract crew hit the gasoline pipeline (Line 1) with a trackhoe, igniting gasoline, Colonial said in an e-mailed statement late on Monday. One worker died at the scene and five individuals were taken to Birmingham-area hospitals for treatment, the company said. Four were taken to the UAB hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, hospital spokesman Adam Pope said. A segment of pipeline was undergoing maintenance on Monday afternoon when it exploded. The fire had been contained as of around 9 pm, according to local media reports. Crews built a 8-foot tall dirt dam to contain burning fuel, Bentley said on Twitter late on Monday. The explosion sparked wildfires, burning 32 acres, the governor said. Colonial said company personnel and emergency

crews were responding to the incident. The US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, said it had personnel on the way to the site. Bentley's office said on Twitter the site was about a mile west of a massive leak last month that closed the gasoline pipeline for over 12 days. A 3-mile area around the site had been evacuated, the governor said. A temporary flight restriction is in effect in the area around the pipeline explosion, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency said on Twitter. Colonial, the biggest refined products system in the United States, is responsible for supplying about one-third of the 3.2 million barrels per day of gasoline consumed on the East Coast, according to US Energy Department data. Colonial was working to restart a section of pipeline damaged after its biggest leak of gasoline in nearly two decades on Sept. 9, which released as much as 8,000 barrels of gasoline in Shelby County. The restart was planned for mid-November after removal of a bypass line installed after the September leak. The pipeline closure drove up gasoline prices at the pump in the US Southeast and on futures markets. On Monday, US gasoline futures jumped as much as 13 percent to \$1.6351 a gallon, their highest since early June, following news of the explosion. — Reuters

FRUSTRATED EUROPE HOPES A CLINTON VICTORY CAN SPUR ELUSIVE IRAN DEALS

POLITICAL RISKS STILL CLOUDING WEST'S DEAL WITH IRAN

BERLIN: After a year of disappointment, European businesses are hoping a victory for Hillary Clinton in the US election next week may help break the logjam that has prevented large-scale Western investments in Iran since the opening of its economy. While no one in Europe is predicting a flurry of new deals should Clinton defeat her Republican rival Donald Trump on Nov 8, a win for the Democrat would remove some of the political clouds hanging over last year's nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Business groups say this could help fuel a more aggressive push into the Iranian market in 2017, especially in the second half of the year, if a Clinton victory is followed by the re-election of moderate Iranian President Hassan Rouhani next May. "If Clinton and Rouhani win, then we will have a political window of opportunity that is much bigger than we have now," said Matthieu Etourneau, who advises French firms on the Iranian market for MEDEF International, the French employers group. "This is



NEW YORK: US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton boards her campaign plane at the Westchester County Airport in White Plains yesterday. With one week to go until Election Day, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were barnstorming battleground states yesterday, as the Democratic nominee tried to pivot away from attacks on her protection of US secrets. — AFP

what the European banks and companies are waiting for," he said.

Back in January, when the United States and Europe lifted sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program, the excitement in Europe's business community was palpable. With a population of 78 million and annual output higher than that of

to Paris and Rome to promote his country to eager investors. But within months the euphoria had vanished, replaced by frustration on both sides.

Biggest obstacle

The biggest obstacle for European firms seeking to do business in Iran has been the reluctance of the continent's largest banks to finance deals out of fear they could run afoul of US sanctions and incur massive penalties down the line. The United States has taken steps to reassure the banks. Last month the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued new guidance to allay concerns about doing US dollar transactions with Iran. But Secretary of State John Kerry acknowledged at a think-tank event in London this week that banks remained skittish. German officials raised their concerns about the hurdles during a recent visit by US sanctions coordinator Daniel Fried. This caution is likely to persist, regardless of who is sitting in the White House. — Reuters



ZHUHAI, China: Two J-20 stealth fighter jets fly at the China's International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Guangdong province yesterday. — AP

CHINA'S SECRETIVE STEALTH FIGHTER UNVEILED IN FLYBY

ZHUHAI, China: China showed its Chengdu J-20 stealth fighter in public for the first time yesterday, opening the country's biggest meeting of aircraft makers and buyers with a show of its military clout. Airshow China, in the southern city of Zhuhai, offers Beijing an opportunity to demonstrate its ambitions in civil aerospace and to underline its defense ambitions. China is set to overtake the US as the world's top aviation market in the next decade.

Two J-20 jets, Zhuhai's headline act, swept over dignitaries and hundreds of spectators and industry executives gathered at the show's opening ceremony in a flypast that barely exceeded a minute, generating a deafening roar that was met with gasps and applause and set off car alarms in a parking lot at the site.

Experts say China has been refining designs for the J-20, first glimpsed by planespotter in 2010, in the hope of narrowing a military technology gap with the United States. President Xi Jinping has pushed to toughen the armed forces as China takes a more assertive stance in Asia, particularly in the South China and East China seas. "It is clearly a big step forward in Chinese combat capability," said Bradley Perrett of Aviation Week, a veteran China watcher.

It was China's second successive display of a new stealth jet at the biennial

Zhuhai show, following the 2014 debut of the J-31.

Questions Unanswered

After arriving as a pair at low-level, one of the J-20s quickly disappeared over the horizon, leaving the other to perform a series of turns, revealing its delta wing shape against bright subtropical haze. But analysts said the brief and relatively cautious J-20 routine - the pilots did not open weapon bay doors, or perform low-speed passes - answered few questions. "I think we learned very little. We learned it is very loud. But we can't tell what type of engine it has, or very much about the mobility," said Greg Waldron, Asia Managing Editor of FlightGlobal. "Most importantly, we didn't learn much about its radar cross-section."

A key question whether the new Chinese fighter can match the radar-evading properties of the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor air-to-air combat jet, or the latest strike jet in the US arsenal, Lockheed's F-35. The F-22 Raptor, developed for the US Air Force, is the J-20's closest lookalike. But the mere display of such a newly developed aircraft was a revealing signal, others said. "It's a change of tactics for the Chinese to publicly show off weapons that aren't in full squadron service yet," said Sam Roggeveen, a senior fellow at the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, "and

demonstrates a lot of confidence in the capability, and also a lot of pride."

C919 Passenger Jet Absent

It remained unclear whether or how the J-20 would be displayed at the airshow after the flypast. Aircraft that are officially scheduled to be on display alongside the latest Chinese weapon systems, radar and drones include the Xian Y-20 strategic airlifter, and what organizers say is the largest amphibious plane now in production - the AG600.

The flying boat is officially promoted as a fire-fighting or search and rescue plane. But analysts note the AG600 - first unveiled 10 days after a Hague tribunal ruled against China's claim to parts of the South China Sea in July - is well suited to resupplying military outposts in the disputed area. Notably absent from the airshow schedule is the 150-seater COMAC C919 passenger jet. Designed to compete with Europe's Airbus Group and Boeing Co of the United States, the rivals who dominate the global supply of airliners, the much-delayed C919 is now running three years behind original plans. COMAC said at the show that China Eastern Airlines will be the launch customer for the C919, which may take its first test flight later this year or early 2017, and that it had clinched 23 new orders for its C919, taking total orders to 570. — Reuters



KUWAIT - SALMIYA

Holiday Inn Kuwait - Salmiya Is Currently Seeking

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Male:

- Ability to conduct group exercises for Adults & Kids
- Experience in Martial Arts

Female:

- Ability to conduct group exercises for Adults & Kids
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- Fitness Certificates Is A Must
- Transferable Visa (Article 18)



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News

in brief

Ugandan rebels hack six
Congo civilians to death

GOMA: Six civilians were hacked to death in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo in an attack by Ugandan Islamist rebels, local officials said yesterday. Fighters from the Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked a small village in North Kivu province on Monday, an administrator in the Beni region, Amisi Kalonda said. "The provisional toll is six dead, all civilians (killed) with machetes, two injured and a medical centre plundered," Kalonda said of the raid in the village of Kitevya. Noella Katsongorwaki, Beni's civil society president, speaking by telephone from Goma, the capital of North Kivu, said two men and four women were killed. Captain Mak Hazukay, the local region's army spokesman, confirmed there had been an attack but did not comment on the casualties. Around 700 people have been killed, mostly hacked to death, in attacks in the troubled region since October 2014. The Congolese government and the MONUSCO United Nations mission in the country both blame the attacks on the ADF, a group of rebels dominated by puritanical Ugandan Islamists.



BALTIMORE: In this frame from video, emergency personnel work at the scene of a fatal school bus and a commuter bus crash in Baltimore yesterday. — AP

Six dead after school,
city bus collide in US

WASHINGTON: At least six people were killed when a school bus, that was carrying no children at the time, collided with a commuter bus in the US city of Baltimore yesterday, police said. Photos posted online showed the yellow school bus with its front end crumpled into the middle of the commuter bus. First responders could be seen on the scene, which was strewn with debris. "There were no children on the school bus, however, there are six fatalities," the Baltimore Police Department posted on Twitter. Baltimore chief media relations officer TJ Smith tweeted that authorities "are in the process of gathering information on the bus crash. We will advise once we have more. Understand this is a fluid situation." The accident occurred at approximately 6:30 am in the eastern city located some 40 miles north of Washington.

Holy icons, dazed dog
saved from the rubble

ROME: Firefighters pulled a dog alive from the rubble of Italy's strongest earthquake in decades and salvaged religious statues and paintings from churches that crumbled in Sunday's tremor. Video released late on Monday showed rescuers, guided by their own sniffer dog, digging into the rubble to free a dog that emerged covered in dust and looking dazed but unharmed. A statue of a religious figure was wrapped in a protective casing and wheeled out into the street in the medieval town of Norcia, which was close to the epicentre of the quake which measured 6.6 according to the US Geological Survey. No deaths or critical injuries have been reported after the quake, Italy's strongest since one measuring 6.9 struck near Naples in 1980, killing 2,735 people. Many people had left the affected areas after a smaller quake in August killed almost 300, and most of Norcia's homes appeared to have withstood the new quake, with residents lauding years of investment in anti-seismic protection.

Kremlin denies British
spy chief's allegations

MOSCOW: The Kremlin yesterday dismissed as baseless claims by a British intelligence agency chief that Russia is acting in "increasingly aggressive ways" and using new technologies against the West. The head of Britain's MI5 intelligence agency Andrew Parker, on Monday said Russia is "using its whole range of state organs and powers to push its foreign policy abroad in increasingly aggressive ways-involving propaganda, espionage, subversion and cyber-attacks." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday that Russia "could not agree" with Parker's claims. "We have repeatedly commented on cyber-attacks: as long as someone does not provide evidence, any statements-be they by the head of MI5, the president of the United States and other decision-makers-we will consider unfounded and baseless," Peskov said. "We cannot take any of these unfounded allegations into account." Peskov added that Russia is using methods to "promote and defend its interests abroad" but they were in line with international law and focused on building "good and mutually beneficial relations with all partners".

Eleven dead, 59 wounded
in ship-breaking accident

GADANI: At least 11 people were killed and 59 wounded yesterday when a gas cylinder exploded and started a fire inside an oil tanker being broken up for scrap in southern Pakistan, officials said. The accident happened at the Gadani shipbreaking yard in the southwestern province of Balochistan, some 50 kilometers west of Karachi. "A gas cylinder explosion caused a huge fire in the ship which was being dismantled," Balochistan home secretary Akbar Harifal said, ruling out a deliberate attack. "We have recovered at least 11 bodies so far and shifted 59 injured to Karachi," Zulfikar Ali Shah, the deputy commissioner of the area said.

JAKARTA: Indonesia is in talks to buy "nine or 10" Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, an Indonesian defense ministry official said yesterday, without giving a timeline for any deal. "We are still negotiating," Leonardi, head of the defense facilities at Indonesia's defense ministry who goes by one name, said by telephone. "We are still bargaining, 'how much do you want to sell them for?'" Indonesian defense minister Ryamizard Ryacudu said in May the Southeast Asian country would buy eight Russian Sukhoi Su-35 jets this year, but the planned purchase has not materialized. Rival Western companies are still trying to wrest the deal to supply Indonesia with fighter jets away from Russia's Sukhoi, two people familiar with the talks said, asking not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The award has not been finalized and it is seen as a test for efforts by Indonesian President Joko Widodo to

enforce more transparency in big-ticket deals, they said. Hundreds of companies including Lockheed Martin of the United States, Sweden's Saab and Indonesian state weapons maker PT Pindad will be represented at an Indo Defense exhibition, which will be held in Jakarta from Nov 2 to Nov 5. The country's biggest annual defense show will come weeks after Indonesian warplanes staged large-scale exercises on the edge of a South China Sea area claimed by Beijing.

While Indonesia is not part of the dispute over the South China Sea, it objects to China's inclusion of waters around the Natuna Islands within its 'nine-dash line', a demarcation line used by China to show its claims there. Indonesia's total defense spending has risen 77 percent over the last four years to 108.7 trillion rupiah (\$8.3 billion), though it is expected to dip to 108.0 trillion rupiah next year, according to official data. Indonesia had signed a con-

tract with Lockheed Martin for 24 F-16 jets, of which 14 had been delivered and 10 more expected by early 2018, the defense ministry's Leonardi said. He declined to disclose the value of the deal.

Research firm IHS Markit predicts that Indonesia will spend more than \$20 billion on procurement between 2016 and 2025 - the fifth fastest-growing defense budget in the world-and it will increasingly seek to diversify its suppliers.

South Korea, Russia and France are expected to hold a combined market share of 53 percent between 2009 and 2018, while the other half will be shared by about 30 countries, many with less than one percent, IHS said. "This reflects Indonesia's wariness about dependency of a supplier or a set of suppliers, as well as the intention to 'shop around' for the best defense deals, spurring competition," said IHS analyst Jon Grevatt. — Reuters

GERMANY'S EX-COP IN
CANNIBALISM WEBSITE
KILLING BACK IN DOCK

BERLIN: A German ex-police officer convicted of murdering a willing victim he met on a website for cannibalism fetishists went on trial again yesterday after the verdict against him was overturned on appeal. Detlev Guenzel, 58, was last year sentenced to eight years and six months in jail by a regional court in the eastern city of Dresden, which found him guilty of killing Polish-born Wojciech Stempniewicz in 2013. Guenzel had cut the body into small pieces in a slaughter chamber he built in his cellar, before burying them in his garden, the court found. There was no evidence that he ate any part of his victim.

But the Federal Court of Justice overturned the verdict, arguing that the regional court had failed to sufficiently probe whether the victim had actually killed himself through strangulation-as the accused had claimed. It also disputed the sentence imposed by the Dresden court as too lenient for a murder conviction, and ordered a retrial. The Dresden court had taken into account the death wish of the victim and imposed a sentence that is just above half of the maximum 15 years for murder. The victim's wish "did not open the possibility to reduce the penalty," said the appeal court. A verdict of the retrial is expected in January at the earliest.

'S&M slaughter studio'

Guenzel, a three-decade veteran of the police force, had met Stempniewicz in October 2013 on a website for slaughter and cannibalism fantasies billed as the "#1 site for exotic meat" and boasting more than 3,000 registered members. His defense team argued that Stempniewicz had hanged himself in Guenzel's custom-designed "S&M studio" before Guenzel took a knife, then an electric saw, to the gagged-and-bound man.

Soon after the death, Guenzel admitted to detectives that he killed the victim by cutting his throat. But he later retracted his confession. Investigators had testified in the first trial that they could not definitively determine the cause of death due to the state of the corpse. Guenzel and Stempniewicz had had extensive contact online and by telephone before finally arranging the fatal date on November 4, 2013. Their emails bore the title "Schlachtfest", the German word for a country feast after the slaughter of a pig. Guenzel called himself "Caligula 31", Stempniewicz logged on as "Heszla-Longpig".

A 50-minute video Guenzel made was played during the trial and showed him at one point covered in blood as he mutilated the corpse, muttering, "I never thought I would sink so low." The presiding judge at the Dresden court had said that the expression of faint regret seen in the video made it unlikely Guenzel would repeat such an act. She said this differed from the infamous case of German cannibal Armin Meiwes, who admitted to killing, mutilating and eating the flesh of a lover in 2001 after meeting him on the Internet via an advertisement looking for a "slaughter victim". He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2006. — AFP



Detlev Guenzel



South African President Jacob Zuma

MANDELA FOUNDATION BLASTS ZUMA,
JOINS CALLS FOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE

JOHANNESBURG: The foundation set up to guard the legacy of the late Nelson Mandela yesterday blamed South Africa's President Jacob Zuma for the "wheels coming off" Africa's most industrialized nation and urged a change in political leadership. Since coming to power in 2009, Zuma has survived a string of corruption scandals almost unscathed.

But South Africa has had to bear the cost of his antics as investors worry about its political stability, business climate and rule of law. The non-profit Nelson Mandela Foundation, whose board consists of ten prominent South African academics, politicians and journalists, called on the African National Congress (ANC), the liberation movement once headed by Mandela and now led by Zuma, to change its leadership.

"We call on the governing party to take the steps necessary to ensure that the vehicle of state be protected and placed in safe and capable hands," it said in a rare statement entitled: "Time to account for crippling the state". Zuma's spokesman did not answer a phone call seeking comment. Several ANC members have called for the 74-year-old to quit but the ANC's top echelons have backed him. In August municipal elections the ANC suffered its worst losses since taking power when apartheid fell in 1994. Opposition parties and civic groups are planning to march in the capital Pretoria on Wednesday to demand, among other things, that he resign. In a blow to Zuma and the ANC, Ndileka Mandela, a grandchild of Mandela, backed the foundation's stance. "As Grandad always said, if the ANC does what the apartheid government did, you have every right to do what we did to the apartheid government," she said. "That statement could never be more

true than now with what we are seeing happening."

'Failed'

But Zuma has shown no signs of stepping down before his second and final term as president is up in 2019, despite corruption scandals damaging him both financially and politically. In March, the Constitutional Court ordered him to repay some of the \$16 million spent on enhancing his Nkandla home in rural KwaZulu-Natal province. But Zuma weathered a motion of no-confidence in parliament over the scandal and has since paid back more than \$500,000.

The Mandela Foundation said the court ruling over Nkandla was an example of how Zuma had failed to uphold the constitution. "It is increasingly a national consensus that he has failed the test," it said. Zuma is also entangled in a scandal around the alleged political influence of a trio of wealthy brothers. About a hundred protesters chanted slogans against Zuma outside a court in Pretoria where his lawyers were trying to delay the release of a report on the matter.

The president also faced accusations of meddling after fraud charges against Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan were unexpectedly dropped on Monday. Near record unemployment and a stagnant economy have exacerbated discontent with Zuma's government, which also failed to end weeks of often violent student demonstrations over the cost of university education. The Mandela Foundation said it had seen a weakening of law enforcement bodies under Zuma and supported "the demand to hold to account those responsible for compromising our democratic state and looting its resources." — Reuters

IRAN COURT ISSUES VERDICT IN EMBASSY ATTACK

BEIRUT: Iran's judiciary has issued verdicts for 20 people accused of storming Saudi diplomatic missions in January and will announce them in the near future, an official was quoted as saying by the judiciary news agency yesterday. Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic relations with its Shiite Muslim rival Iran after protesters stormed the kingdom's embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhad in response to Riyadh's execution of a prominent Saudi Shiite cleric. The Iranian government condemned the assault and President Hassan

Rouhani, keen to improve Tehran's long-strained relations with its neighbors and the West, asked the judiciary to punish the protesters and prevent further attacks. The Mizan news agency quoted a judge as saying that the verdicts for 20 defendants had been issued and "will be announced soon." He did not give the names of the 20 and did not say whether they had been convicted or not. Iran's judiciary announced in April that more than 100 suspects had been arrested over the attack on the Saudi missions and 48 charged. — Agencies

POPE GREETS CATHOLIC MINORITY IN SECULAR SWEDEN

MALMO: Pope Francis held a public mass yesterday for the Catholic minority in Sweden, a Lutheran but secular country where same-sex marriage is allowed even for priests. The Argentine pontiff addressed an estimated 15,000 members of the country's Roman Catholic minority, many of them converts or migrants, at a stadium in the southern Swedish town of Malmo, home to a large immigrant population.

"Meekness is a way of living and acting that draws us close to Jesus and to one another. It enables us to set aside everything that divides and estranges us, and to find ever new ways to advance along the path of unity," Pope Francis said, according to an official translation of his remarks. "One very eloquent sign of this is that here in your country, marked as it is by the coexistence of quite different peoples, we are jointly commemorating the fifth centenary of the Reformation," the pope said before he headed

back to Rome. A fervent advocate of Christian unity, Francis visited the southern city of Lund on Monday for an ecumenical service marking the start of a year of celebrations for the Reformation-the dramatic 1517 event that created a Protestant branch of Christianity which rebelled against papal rule. The event in Lund, where the Lutheran World Federation was founded in 1947, also marked 50 years of reconciliatory dialogue between the Catholic Church and Lutheranism, a tradition once fervently hostile to the authority and teachings of the Vatican. Together with Sweden's female archbishop Antje Jackelen and other Lutheran leaders, the pope expressed deep regret over the schism and called for unity. Hailed as "a breath of fresh air" by Lutheran leaders, Francis raised hopes early in his papacy that he might steer the Church towards greater acceptance of homosexuality, and in June he said Christians "must apologize" to gays and lesbians for their past treatment. Anders Arborelius, bish-

op of the Roman Catholic Church in Stockholm who himself converted from Lutheranism, said the pope's approach had been one of continuity, despite a "progressive" image compared to his predecessors. "Pope Francis comes from another continent and has a different way of expressing things, but one cannot say that he has changed anything in the teachings," he said.

'We need women priests'

Sweden's Lutheran Church is among the most liberal in Christendom. A pioneer in women's and LGBT rights, it has been appointing female priests since 1960, a step the Catholic Church is still reluctant to take. "I think the Catholics have to change. We need women priests," Ingeborg Stenstrom, a Catholic and retired doctor from Germany who lives in Sweden said. Figures released in 2010 showed that 45 percent of Sweden's nearly 4,500 priests were female. — AFP



MALMO: Pope Francis greets a handicapped well-wisher as he arrives at the Swedenbank Stadium in Malmo, Sweden, where he held a mass. — AFP

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CHINA PRIESTS' FEARS OVER VATICAN'S BEIJING OLIVE BRANCH

BEIJING: Secret talks between the Vatican and Beijing are raising hopes of a "historic" rapprochement after six decades of estrangement, but some Chinese clergy fear that Rome will accept a Communist stranglehold over the country's Catholics. Since becoming head of the Holy See in 2013 Pope Francis has tried to improve relations with the Chinese government in the hope of reconnecting with Catholics in China who are divided between two denominations, loyal to either Rome or Beijing.

But opponents among them the respected Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen say the agreement risks abandoning loyal believers and amounts to a deal with the devil. Since January, Chinese and Vatican officials have met at least four times, including in Rome, to try and resolve the delicate issue of the appointment of bishops—the heart of the dispute. Each side has long insisted that it should have the final say on the issue the Vatican as God's representative

on Earth, and the Communist party as the final arbiter on all issues in China.

"We're hoping for a very important, historic agreement that we've been waiting for nearly 70 years," said Jerom Heyndrickx, a Belgian priest who has been involved with Chinese Catholics since the 1950s and is closely following the discussions. "A Chinese delegation will head to Rome at the beginning of November for a last round of negotiations," said Heyndrickx, acting director of the Ferdinand Verbiest Institute in Leuven, which studies Catholicism in China.

China and the Vatican have not had diplomatic relations since 1951. The country's roughly 12 million Catholics are divided between the government-run Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association (CPCA), whose clergy are chosen by the Communist Party but sometimes accepted by Rome and an unofficial church where bishops named by the Vatican are not recognized by Beijing, but sometimes tolerated.

But earlier this year the pope sent greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping and said he was an admirer of Chinese civilization. Xi responded in September with a gift of a silk print of an 8th-century stele—a nearly three-meter tall carved stone tablet—from Xian, the earliest known trace of Christianity in China. The agreement is currently expected to see the Vatican recognize four out of the eight CPCA bishops it does not currently acknowledge, according to Father Heyndrickx. Beijing could also name two new bishops in Shanxi and Sichuan provinces with Rome's blessing.

The two would also agree on how to select future bishops. "Rome could accept a situation in which the final nomination is made by the pope," Heyndrickx adds. But it was not clear whether the Vatican would have a choice of candidates. Crucially, the agreement will not address the 30 bishops consecrated by Rome but rejected by Beijing. "Their fate will certainly

not be resolved in the near future," said Father Heyndrickx. Even if Beijing agreed to recognize them, he predicted, "I am convinced that they would refuse to join the Patriotic Association."

'Reality is cruel'

Chinese Catholics are divided over the prospect of an agreement, with Cardinal Zen—who spent seven years teaching in the official church in the 1990s—the most high-profile opponent. The Chinese Communist party is officially atheist and Zen said of the CPCA: "They don't believe in God, they don't understand what is the church. They only have political considerations." He contrasted the Pope's approach with that of his predecessor John Paul II, who lived under both Nazi and Communist rule in Poland and played a key role in the advent of democracy in eastern Europe. "Communism is a terrible totalitarian regime and people who haven't experienced that find diffi-

culty to understand that," Zen said from Hong Kong. Pope Francis, he said, "wants to make peace with everybody, that's very good, but sometimes I think the reality is cruel".

For Francesco Sisci, a researcher at Renmin University who has been following Vatican issues for decades, the split in the Catholic church in China is more than political. "The Catholic church is split between factions that hate each other," he explained. "In the same area, you have two bishops rivaling for power, for money." Zen described the CPCA's members as "puppets of the government" who have profited from their positions. If Rome recognized it, he added, Beijing could feel emboldened to "eliminate" the underground church, whose members would be left "desperate." Vatican authorities "say they hope that by this agreement, the people may live their faith peacefully," Zen said. "But if there is no freedom there is no peace." —AFP

LIVING AMONG THE DEAD IN THE PHILIPPINE DRUG WAR

US STOPS PHILIPPINES RIFLE SALE

MANILA: In a small mausoleum in Manila's largest cemetery, Judith Castell and her family get ready for another night next to the graves of her husband and her mother-in-law. The cemetery has been Castell's home for 40 years and where she first met her husband, Emmanuel, who was killed in a police drug-bust operation in September as part of President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs. "I really can't accept what happened, that he would suddenly disappear. I realize that it's hard. It's like losing a hand and a foot," Castell, 47 said.

Castell said she is a supporter of Duterte but hopes police will stop indiscriminate killings that have seen almost 2,300 people killed since he took office less than four months ago.

The widow, who lives with more than 20 members of her family, makes a living tending to tombs and graves in the 54-hectare cemetery, where an estimated 10,000 people live among the dead. Castell normally makes about 100 pesos (\$2) a day tending the graves, but expected to earn up to 5,000 pesos (\$110) yesterday, with Filipinos flocking to the

cemetery for All Saints Day, a Roman Catholic holiday which pays homage to saints. "He's gone and we can't do anything about it. I still have to help feed my family," she said.

In another development, the US State Department halted the planned sale of some 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippines' national police after Senator Ben Cardin said he would oppose it, Senate aides said. Aides said Cardin, the top Democrat on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was reluctant for the United States to provide the

weapons given concerns about human rights violations in the Philippines. News of the thwarting of the weapons sale was met with disappointment among the Philippine police and government yesterday, but they said alternative suppliers would be found. Police spokesman Dionardo Carlos said the Philippines had yet to be notified about the sale being stopped.

The relationship between the United States and the Philippines, a long-time ally, has been complicated lately by President Rodrigo Duterte's angry reaction to criticism from Washington of his violent battle to rid the country of illegal drugs. More than 2,300 people have been killed in police operations or by suspected vigilantes in connection with the anti-narcotics campaign since Duterte took office on June 30. The US State Department informs Congress when international weapons sales are in the works. Aides said Foreign Relations committee staff informed State that Cardin would oppose the deal during the department's prenotification process for the sale of 26,000-27,000 assault rifles, stopping the deal.

US State Department officials did not comment. Ronald dela Rosa, the Philippine national police chief and staunch supporter of the war on drugs, said he liked the American rifle, but suggested China as an alternative small-arms provider. "We really wanted the US rifles because these are reliable," he told broadcaster ABS-CBN. "But if the sale will not push through, we will find another source, maybe from China." In October, Duterte told US President Barack Obama to "go to hell" and said the United States had refused to sell some weapons to his country, but he did not care because Russia and China were willing suppliers. —Agencies



MANILA: Thousands of crosses are lit with candles to pay tribute to the departed soldiers in observance of All Saints Day at the Heroes Cemetery yesterday in suburban Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines. Families bring flowers. Relatives seek out graves of departed soldiers. Tombs across the Philippines get cleaned up. —AP

PAKISTAN'S KHAN BACKS OFF FROM THREAT TO SHUT DOWN ISLAMABAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani opposition leader Imran Khan backed down from a threat to paralyze the capital today, a move likely to ease tension that has spilled over into violence in the run-up to the planned protests. Khan's vow to "shut down" Islamabad to press a demand for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign or face a corruption inquiry had sparked a citywide ban on gatherings and the arrests of hundreds of opposition activists accused of defying the ban.

Instead of the protest, Khan yesterday said he would hold a "celebratory" rally, following a decision by the Supreme Court to pursue a case linked to Sharif. "On the Supreme Court's advice, we have decided that tomorrow we will thank God and celebrate a day of thanks at (Islamabad's) parade ground," Khan told media, speaking outside his home in Islamabad.

In a bid to resolve the crisis, the Supreme Court said it would hold daily hearings on a petition challenging Sharif's eligibility for public office, claims linked to graft allegations stemming from the "Panama Papers" leaks about his family's offshore wealth. Khan had previously rejected the possibility of holding his protests on Islamabad's parade ground, as ordered by the city's High Court, and vowed to paralyze the capital with a turnout of a million protesters. The tension unleashed fears Pakistan's economic recovery could be jeopardized if there were a prolonged crisis that could even draw in the powerful military, which has a history of meddling in politics and overthrowing civilian governments.

In the lead-up to today, there have been daily clashes between police and supporters of the cricketer-turned-politician, while

the government has cracked down on workers of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Authorities have arrested scores of party supporters and shut major motorways into Islamabad. Pakistan's soaring stock market, which took a hit in recent days on the prospect of the protests, bounced sharply after Khan's decision to call them off.

Khan's challenge in the Supreme Court stems from the Panama Papers revelations and he has repeatedly demanded an independent investigation into the corruption

allegations. Documents leaked from the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm in April appeared to show that Sharif's daughter and two sons owned offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands. Sharif's family denies wrongdoing. Holding offshore companies is not illegal in Pakistan, but Khan has implied the money was gained by corruption. Khan admitted in May that he himself used an offshore company to legally avoid paying British tax on a London property sale. —Reuters



SWABI: Activists of Pakistan's Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party gesture as they travel in a vehicle at Swabi, after listening to an address from party leader Imran Khan. —AFP



JAMMU: Indian volunteers and officials carry an injured villager into The Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu yesterday, after she was injured in cross-border shelling in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. —AFP

AT LEAST 19 KILLED IN THE LATEST INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER CLASH

SRINAGAR: India and Pakistan yesterday tallied at least 19 deaths in recent firing across their disputed border in Kashmir, where the nuclear-armed neighbors are engaging in increasingly intense artillery duels. Tension over the Himalayan region has run high since a September cross-border raid on an army base killed 19 Indian soldiers, prompting what New Delhi called retaliatory "surgical strikes" against Islamist militants in Pakistan.

Each accuses the other of repeatedly violating a 2003 ceasefire. On the diplomatic front, already chilly relations have gone into the deep freeze following recent tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats. Both sides also dispute each other's version of events that come against the backdrop of heightened tension in Indian-ruled Kashmir after security forces killed a separatist field commander in July.

Pakistan officials said at least four people were killed and five injured in its part of Kashmir on Monday, as the arch-rivals exchanged heavy fire concentrated in Pakistan's Nakyal sector along the Line of Control. "It appears as if a full blown war is

going on between India and Pakistan," said Mohammad Saeed, a resident of the village of Mohra in the region. "Please have mercy and stop it," he said, speaking to Reuters by telephone amid the sound of gunshots. Six people were killed and 10 injured in Nakyal and the adjacent Tatta Pani sector last Friday and Saturday, Pakistan has said.

On the Indian side of the Line of Control, seven people - including three women and two children - were killed on Tuesday, in Pakistani shelling along the Ramgarh sector in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said. On Monday, an Indian soldier and a civilian were killed along the line of control in Kashmir in the Rajouri sector on the Line of Control, an Indian army spokesman said. The increasing cross-border firing is raising fears that military escalation could trigger a potentially devastating nuclear exchange over Kashmir, the bone of contention that has sparked two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since partition and independence from Britain in 1947. —Reuters

SOUTH KOREAN PROSECUTORS ARREST WOMAN AT CENTRE OF POLITICAL CRISIS

SEOUL: The woman at the centre of a scandal that has plunged the South Korean presidency into crisis was held for a second day yesterday after being detained overnight to answer allegations of exerting inappropriate influence in state affairs. Prosecutors have said they are investigating whether Choi Soon-sil used her friendship with President Park Geun-hye to gain access to classified documents that enabled her to influence government matters and benefited personally through non-profit foundations.

The growing scandal has sparked public anger and sent Park's approval rating to a record low, with thousands of protesters gathered in Seoul on Saturday night calling for her to step down. Park accepted the resignations of eight of her top aides over the weekend. Choi, 60, arrived at the prosecutor's office yesterday morning in handcuffs and a surgical mask and wearing a dark coat, escorted by correctional officers.

A prosecution official and her lawyer said she had been detained late on Monday. Although Choi was being questioned at another location, a man used a heavy construction excavator to smash the front entrance of the Supreme Prosecutors' Office building in Seoul, injuring a security guard, in an apparent act of protest against Choi. He was arrested by police. According to Han Jeung-sub, a senior official at the Seocho Police Station, the 45-year-old man told police: "Choi Soon-sil said she had committed a crime she deserves to die for, so I came here to help her die."

Prosecutors have asked eight banks for documents related to Choi's financial transactions, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported, citing unnamed financial industry officials. Worried that Choi may be a flight risk and could destroy evidence, prosecutors placed her under emergency detention without a warrant late on Monday, Yonhap reported. Under local law, a suspect can be held without a warrant for up to 48 hours.

Better class of cell

Choi was being held at the Seoul Detention Center, where the single cells for high-profile inmates are equipped with floor heating, a television, a folding mattress and toilet, according to media reports. Choi had returned to South Korea on Sunday from Germany via London under intense pressure to answer the allegations against her. Park, 64, and Choi have known each other for decades, and the president said in a televised apology last week that her friend had helped her through difficult times. Park's father Park Chung-hee led South Korea for 18 years after seizing power in a military coup in 1961.

Park Geun-hye served as acting first lady after her mother was killed by an assassin trying to shoot her father, who was himself murdered by his disgruntled spy chief in 1979. Park is in the fourth year of a five-year term and the crisis threatens to complicate policymaking during the lame-duck period that typically sets in towards the end of South Korea's single-term presidency. The scandal has weighed on the South Korean currency and stocks, as investors fret about political uncertainty, with the won falling 0.9 percent last week while stocks slipped 0.7 percent. Choi begged forgiveness when she arrived to meet prosecutors on Monday. —Reuters

BADER AL-KHARAFI SPEARHEADS INNOVATION...

Continued from Page 1

development and most importantly for the future, Zain Digital Frontier Innovation." ZDFI is the brainchild of the Zain board of directors' subcommittee charged with Zain's evolution. Led by Zain Vice Chairman Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain has established an executive-level subcommittee tasked with implementing a group-wide focus on innovation, shareholder value and the future as part of ZDFI. ZDFI will lead the charge in transitioning the telecom provider's transition to a digital, data-centric future through a multi-tiered platform. First, Zain will focus on capturing relevant technologies through an 'innovation funnel' that identifies current and future trends in the market - both regionally and globally - and develops opportunities through acquisitions, development or partnerships.

A second effort will focus on the development of digital verticals across a broad spectrum of segments including video streaming, VoIP, e-commerce, financial and tech services and healthcare. Zain has inked partnerships with FOO, a mobility solutions developer and consultancy firm as well as global games provider Zeptolab (Cut the Rope game) and booking.com

A third pillar of the ZDFI strategy will be corporate ventures. Zain will take developing an entrepreneurial platform to a whole new level with a corporate venture strategy that gives Zain access to a broader portfolio of investments and helps it identify potential opportunities relevant to the region. Already, Zain has invested in three venture capital firms including MEVP, EarlyBird and Wamda.

Shareholder value

"The Internet is about building scale," explains Juha Korhonen, Innovation and Digital Services Director at Zain. The business logic is changing, with cooperation in digital services and more cooperative business models.

Cooperation and collaboration are key to Zain's

strategic plans. The multinational is not only identifying potential existing opportunities, but is also spearheading an entrepreneurs' network that will establish an entire digital ecosystem for the region.

Another initiative by Kharafi is the Zain Innovation Campus, known as ZINC. The first campus, established in Jordan two years ago, is already enjoying successes, and Zain will now open a similar one in Kuwait. The entrepreneur network will bring together all the components needed to swiftly bring profitable and exciting new digital ideas to market, including venture capitalists, a start-up incubator, the infrastructure and an already established customer base, focus groups and the talent and experience of a multinational corporation.

At Zain's recent two-day Digital Innovation Forum, leadership from across the group converged in Kuwait to share strategies, experiences and best practices and identify important developments in e-commerce, OTT, digital content and e-health.

A sort of digital town hall, the forum, like the Zain Digital Innovation Frontier program itself, is part of a larger reorientation taking place at Zain. Rather than relinquishing the pitch to younger, faster but relatively inexperienced players in the new digital era, Zain is leveraging its decades of experience, established customer base, entrepreneurial network and a cutting edge innovation strategy to reinvent itself.

The strategy that will position the company not only to continue earning profits but build value for shareholders, shape the future digital landscape of the region and respond effectively to global disruptive technologies. "Innovation and flexibility are the lifeblood of modern technology companies with digital disruption offering huge growth opportunities that will benefit many of our stakeholders including customers," explained Gurkan. "Continuous transformation is a must in modern businesses and Zain is well on its way to transforming itself to become a digital lifestyle provider."

47 CANDIDATES DISBARRED FROM CONTESTING..

Continued from Page 1

opposition MP Mubarak Al-Duwailah and was fined KD 150. Duwailah said he does not wish to see any candidate barred for minor verdicts.

Sheikh Malek made no comment on the decision to exclude his candidacy. He was the only ruling family member to file his nomination papers. Dashti, who has been living outside Kuwait since March, managed last week to obtain a court order to allow his son to file nomination papers on his behalf. The government has appealed against the order, and yesterday the appeals court said it will issue its verdict on the case next Tuesday. The government lawyer told the court that

Dashti must submit his own nomination papers in person, and accordingly he must be present at the election department. Dashti's lawyer submitted at the court a medical certificate showing that he was receiving medical treatment and could not travel. Other candidates who were barred include controversial former MP Mohammad Al-Juwaihel.

Of the candidates barred, 31 were banned because they had been convicted in court, while the remaining 16 did not complete required procedures. They can all challenge the decision in court and get orders to be re-registered. A total of 454 candidates, including 15 females, filed applications to contest the 50-seat Assembly polls scheduled for Nov 26.

IRAQI FORCES BATTLE IS INSIDE MOSUL

Continued from Page 1

Fighters from the US-trained Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) had pushed into the area amid heavy fighting on the eastern front over the past two days. "Now is the beginning of the true liberation of the city of Mosul," Staff General Taleb Sheghati Al-Kenani, the commander of the CTS, told Iraqiya from Gogjali.

Soldiers from Iraq's 16th Division also retook a series of villages north of Mosul, according to the Joint Operations Command, while pro-government paramilitaries said they captured villages southwest of the city. Backed by air and ground support from a US-led coalition, tens of thousands of Iraqi fighters have been converging on Mosul. Since the offensive was launched on Oct 17, federal forces and Kurdish peshmerga fighters have retaken a series of villages as they advance on the city from the north, east and south. As his forces advanced, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi warned the jihadists they would have no place to run. "We will close in on (IS) from every place," he said on state television on Monday, dressed in a camouflage uniform. "They don't have an exit, they don't have an escape, they can only surrender - they can die or they can surren-

der," Abadi said. Some 4,000 to 7,000 militants are believed to be in and around Mosul, where IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a cross-border "caliphate" after the group seized control of large parts of Iraq and neighboring Syria two years ago. For now the militants do have an escape route - to the west towards IS-controlled territory in neighboring Syria.

Paramilitary forces from the Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization), an umbrella organization dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militia, launched an assault at the weekend to cut off that route. They have been advancing north, their sights set on the town of Tal Afar which commands the city's western approaches. On the northern and eastern sides of Mosul, peshmerga forces from the autonomous Kurdish region have taken a series of villages and towns and consolidated their positions. — Agencies

To the south, federal forces, backed by coalition artillery units stationed in the main staging base of Qayyarah, have been pushing north. They have the most ground to cover and are still some distance from the southern limits of Mosul. Iraqi forces are expected to try to open safe corridors for the million-plus civilians still believed to be inside. — Agencies

SHOCK POLL PUTS TRUMP AHEAD

Continued from Page 1

The idea that the 70-year-old Trump is still in with a chance will surprise many and prompt jitters among Democrats and the financial markets. The bombastic reality TV star has been pummeled by allegations that he groped several women and has shady ties to Moscow. A week ago pundits were rushing to declare the election over. Now, voices on Wall Street are warning that markets have not taken the prospect of a Trump presidency seriously enough.

"A Trump win could lead to a 11-13 percent sell-off" on the S&P 500 share index, analysts at Barclays warned clients yesterday. That would be a bigger crash than the day Lehman Brothers went bust in Sept 2008, the nadir of the financial crisis. Simon Johnson, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, warned such a shock "would cause the stock market to crash and plunge the world into recession".

The tumultuous two-year race - featuring suggestions of sexual assault, Russian espionage and financial wheeler-dealing - may have few twists and turns left in store. On Monday Trump was hit by fresh allegations, revealed in The New York Times, that he not only dodged paying income tax, but did so in a legally dubious way.

Clinton and Trump spent yesterday barnstorming battleground states. Trump - somewhat out of character - went to the oddly named town of King of Prussia in

Pennsylvania to deliver a policy speech on healthcare. "Our tax plan will provide a 35 percent tax cut to middle class families with two kids," he told supporters. "Our middle class has not been properly respected. That I can tell you." Critics question how Trump would pay for his proposed cuts.

Meanwhile the Democratic nominee tried to steer attention away from her handling of US secrets and on to Trump's treatment of women. The 69-year-old Clinton's level of support among women, who make up the majority bloc of voters, is as likely as anything else to decide who wins the election. Her campaign spent days berating FBI director James Comey for revealing that the bureau is looking anew at her use of a private email server while secretary of state.

Clinton and her supporters were furious that Comey made his announcement without providing any new evidence of wrongdoing but, after three days of rage, Clinton took a more mollified tone Monday. "I made a mistake. I'm not making any excuses," she said, inviting the FBI to pursue its probe and suggesting that the agency would find, as it did in July, that she has no case to answer. "It wasn't even a close call," she said. "I think most people have moved on. They're looking and focused on 'OK, who is going to be the next president and the commander-in-chief?'" With no sign anything concrete will come of the FBI probe before polling day, Clinton believes she can face down the challenge and return to the issue of Trump's fitness to lead. — AFP



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Focus

NEWEST WEAPON IN
US HUNT FOR INSIDER
TRADERS PAYING OFF

When plumber Gary Pusey pleaded guilty in May to insider trading, it was a victory not just for New York prosecutors but for a little-known squad inside the US Securities and Exchange Commission that uses data analysis to spot unusual trading patterns. Formed in 2010, the Analysis and Detection Center of the SEC's Market Abuse Unit culls through billions of rows of trading data going back 15 years to identify individuals who have made repeated, well-timed trades ahead of corporate news.

The new strategy is starting to show results, enabling the SEC to launch nine insider trading cases, around 7 percent of cases the agency brought since 2014 against people who trade on confidential corporate information. It signals a shift in how the agency initiates insider trading probes, which more often are launched based on referrals from Wall Street's self-regulator Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or an informant's tip.

"It's essentially the new frontier," said Andrew Ceresney, the SEC's enforcement director. "We have tremendous amounts of data available to use, and we've been developing tools to take advantage of that." That data was key to spotting trades by Pusey ahead of at least 10 deals from 2014 to 2015 involving Barclays Plc, where his friend Steven McClatchey worked. The SEC has also used data mining in a high-profile probe of traders who it says made more than \$100 million using information obtained by Ukrainian hackers.

Others charged include former employees of law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and investment bank Goldman Sachs Group Inc. In August, former Perella Weinberg Partners banker Sean Stewart was convicted in a case credited to the SEC unit. He denies wrongdoing and is expected to appeal.

10 Billion Rows of Trading Data

The cases have come at a time when other US and European regulators have increasingly looked to find ways to take advantage of Big Data in order to strengthen their enforcement operations and market surveillance. The United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority has in recent years taken steps to develop technology to analyze large amounts of data to pursue market abuse cases. For the SEC, the six-year data-push has had the benefit of giving it some extra autonomy in pursuing insider trading probes beyond the inquiries and referrals that self-regulatory organizations like FINRA produce for the agency.

"Why wait to do a referral when you could do it proactively?" said Daniel Hawke, a former chief of the SEC's Market Abuse Unit now at the law firm Arnold & Porter. The SEC does not have a direct feed of the markets' trading data. Instead, it mines 10 billion rows of "blue sheet" data of trades executed by brokerages that the agency gathered in various investigations.

Analysts use a home-grown program called Artemis to analyze patterns and relationships among multiple traders. Joseph Sansone, a co-chief of the Market Abuse Unit, said the SEC in particular mines data to identify individuals who repeatedly buy stock ahead of mergers, enabling the agency to focus on repeat offenders. "The ability to see pattern of multiple trades over a matter of months or years gives us confidence to invest resources into investigations," he said.

The SEC also uses software from privately-held Palantir Technologies, which identifies links between individuals and entities by connecting pieces of information from multiple data sources. In 2015, the agency awarded a \$90 million, five-year contract to Palantir.

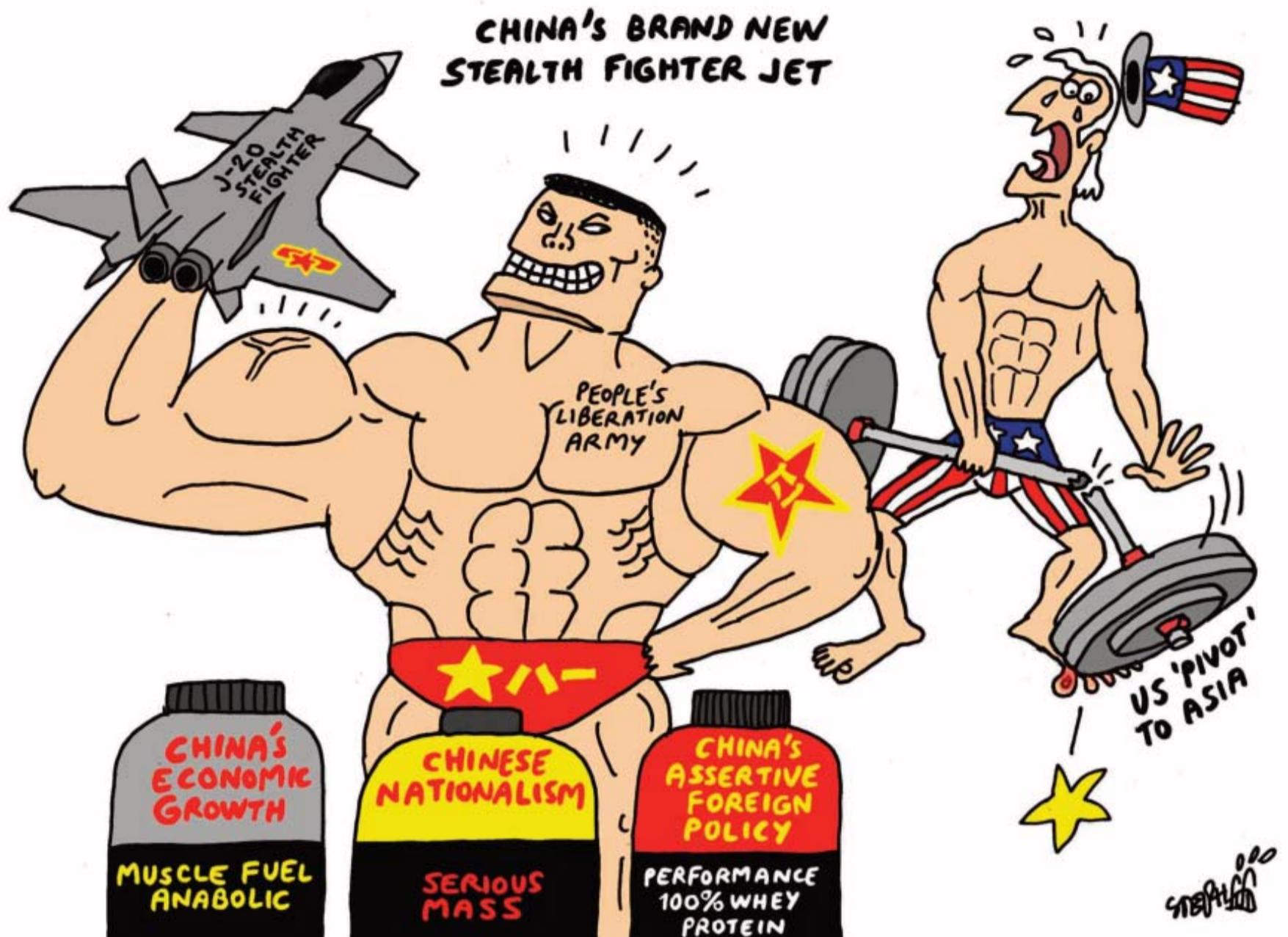
Plumber's Scheme

In Pusey's case, the SEC said that the data unit "detected an illicit pattern of trading" by the plumber, who successfully traded ahead of mergers involving companies that included Entropic Communications Inc and CVS Health Corp. In all of the deals, the target or acquirer were represented by Barclays. The SEC referred the case to federal prosecutors in Manhattan and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In Dec 2015, Pusey, 47, began actively cooperating with them, providing "detailed information" about his source, according to court papers. In May, the FBI arrested that source, McClatchey, a close friend of Pusey's who worked as a director at Barclays. McClatchey, 58, pleaded guilty in July to tipping Pusey in exchange for money. He agreed to not appeal any sentence of five years in prison or less and to forfeit \$76,000.

Both men are set to be sentenced later this year. Lawyers for the defendants did not respond to requests for comment. To be sure, even with data mining, traditional investigative techniques like enlisting cooperators and issuing subpoenas for documents remain key to building out a case. The SEC has in the past acknowledged that it faces a challenge to keep up with technological advances in the securities markets it regulates, where spending by a number of financial firms can surpass the agency's own expenditures. —Reuters

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SPELLING ERROR COULD COST YOU YOUR VOTE

Voting is no easy task for Roland Gilbert. The 86-year-old retired Ohio lawyer, who is legally blind, completes his absentee ballot with help from a machine that magnifies the print. So the registered Democrat was not completely surprised to learn he had made an error in filling out his 2014 ballot, entering that day's date in the birthdate field. What surprised him was that it cost him his vote. Local election officials rejected it because it did not perfectly match his registration information on file. "It didn't seem right," Gilbert said. "I felt foolish for making a silly mistake."

Laws passed by the Republican-led Ohio state legislature in 2014 require voters to accurately fill out their personal information on absentee or provisional ballots or they will be rejected - even if the votes are otherwise valid. The laws are being applied in a presidential election for the first time this year. A Reuters analysis found that where a voter lives can determine whether their provisional or absentee ballot counts in Ohio. The law requiring a perfect match on information such as name, address, birthdate, signature and ID number has been enforced unevenly county to county, federal data and court documents show, with local officials sometimes using wide latitude in applying the standards. The disparity could hurt Democrats in Ohio, a vital battleground in the Nov. 8 election between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. The 14 Ohio counties with the most restrictive enforcement accounted for 53 percent of Ohio's total vote in 2012 and gave Democratic President Barack Obama 60 percent of the votes he won in Ohio. More than half of the provisional and absentee votes discarded for minor errors in 2014 came from five large, Democratic-dominated urban counties: Lucas, home to the city of Toledo; Cuyahoga, which includes Cleveland; Franklin, home to the state capital, Columbus; Summit, which includes Akron, the fifth-largest city in the state; and Hamilton County, home of Cincinnati.

While the number of votes rejected for technical

reasons was small in the 2014 congressional election, when nearly 3,000 absentee and provisional ballots were thrown out, those totals are likely to swell in a presidential election, when more people will vote. The number of discarded ballots could go even higher in Ohio after a court ruled that tens of thousands of voters who had been purged from the state voter rolls can cast provisional ballots, expanding the possible pool of disputed votes. A provisional ballot is used to record a vote when there are questions about a voter's eligibility. Election boards, split evenly between Republicans and Democrats in Ohio, then examine the provisional ballots to determine if the vote should count.

Court Challenge

"There are going to be thousands of indisputably registered and eligible voters in Ohio who are going to be disenfranchised solely because they made trivial, immaterial errors and omissions on forms," said attorney Subodh Chandra, who has led a court challenge to the laws on behalf of a homeless coalition and the Ohio Democratic Party.

A federal district judge threw out the provisions requiring a perfect match on personal information as discriminatory earlier this year, but most were later restored by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeals court did remove the requirement that voters accurately fill in their address and birthdate on the absentee form in their vote cast by mail or in person prior to Election Day - but kept the requirement for the other fields on both types of ballots.

The US Supreme Court on Monday rejected without explanation a request for an emergency stay of the appeals court ruling that would have allowed ballots with those technical mistakes to be counted. A spokesman for Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted, a Republican, said the 2014 laws were aimed at finding a balance between making it "easy to vote and hard to cheat" and that officials were striving to be more consistent in the law's application. —Reuters

AMERICANS WORN OUT

The US presidential election is only a few days away, but for most Americans worn out by the vicious campaign, the vote can't come soon enough. "People are always somewhat stressed during elections but I've never seen it this extreme," said Judi Bloom, a Los Angeles-area psychologist. According to a recent Harris Poll on behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), more than half of Americans are stressed out by one of the most adversarial contests in recent history.

For months, Donald Trump, the Republican candidate vying for the White House, has hammered away at President Barack Obama's policies on healthcare, Syria or trade, denouncing them as a "disaster" and warning that his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton would lead the country to "catastrophe". He has also warned that hordes of migrants, described as "rapists" and "criminals", are seeking to slip into the United States through the border with Mexico - where he wants to build a wall - and that militants are hiding among Syrian refugees.

Clinton for her part has also gone for the jugular, denouncing her rival as "unstable" and capable of unleashing nuclear war "just because somebody got under his very thin skin". She has lashed out at him over allegations of groping women and sexual assaults - charges he has denied. "It's a very negative campaign, with candidates accusing each other of lying, saying the election is rigged and it generates a sense of hopelessness, of 'this is the end my friend,'" Bloom said. "I get a lot of 'I'll move to Canada.'"

Robert Bright, a psychiatrist in the western state of Arizona, said not since the Sept 11, 2001 attacks or the financial crisis has he seen

this level of anxiety among Americans. "Just yesterday, I saw a woman who had trouble sleeping at night," he told AFP. "Another patient who is very ill joked that the good thing about dying is that he will not have to watch any more political commercials." Rather than using campaign slogans such as Obama's rallying cry of "Yes We Can", the 2016 frontrunners in the race have played up the Fear Factor which has increased voter angst.

'Stop Catastrophizing'

"People fear for their financial safety, for the national security, terrorist attacks, there's a fear of the 'other,'" Bright said. He added that Republicans especially are concerned about the future makeup of the US Supreme Court, where the next president will potentially appoint three or more new justices to lifetime seats. Added to that, Republicans are also fearful of losing control of both houses of Congress and are fretting over the future of their party, which has been left in tatters.

The campaign has meanwhile often sunk below the belt amid lurid sex scandals and hyperbole. Trump has repeatedly labeled Clinton "crooked" and appeared with women who have accused his rival's husband - former president Bill Clinton - of sexual assault. He has also talked about the size of his penis and, in a lewd 2005 recording that upended the campaign, bragged about grabbing women's genitals and making unwanted advances. "Those words, images, created a feel of lack of safety for women in general," Bright said. "And for those having had sex aggression, it absolutely triggered things, reactivated traumas, gave them nightmares." —AFP

LAWYER FIGHTS FOR WOMEN, ONE DIVORCE AT A TIME

In a divorce court where a man's testimony is worth twice a woman's, victory for lawyer Reema Shamasneh is rare and often bittersweet. On this morning, a young nurse is desperate to end her marriage to a truck driver who she says beat her, doused her with scalding tea and kept her from seeing her dying mother. But her husband will only agree if she forgoes all alimony, including the \$14,000 stipulated in the marriage contract.

Eager to escape and claim her young son, she says yes. The man stands before a copy of the Holy Quran and repeats after an Islamic judge: "You are divorced." Shamasneh blinks back tears of relief and frustration, and then quickly composes herself. "This is not a big victory," the 39-year-old lawyer says with an air of quiet determination. "I gave her what she wanted, but at the same time I am not happy because she gave up her rights." Dressed in the headscarf and long robe of a devout Muslim, Shamasneh fights for Arab women in the most intimate arena of their lives: Marriage and divorce. While countries such as Tunisia and Morocco have introduced reforms, brides in others must still be represented by male guardians who sign marriage contracts. Men can divorce on a whim, while women must prove cause. And polygamy is legal only for men.

Such notions enjoy strong support, even among women. In a 2013 poll by the Pew Research Center, large majorities in seven Arab countries said a woman should obey her husband, from 74 percent in Lebanon to 87 percent in the Palestinian territories and 93 percent in Tunisia. "We cannot copy the Western laws because the Western societies are different and they have very complicated problems," says Maryam Saleh, a representative of the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas in the now-defunct Palestinian parliament.

Discrimination

But Shamasneh believes the laws are the way they are because they were passed by men. "They were raised in a certain culture that says men are better than women, and this is reflected in the laws," she says. As a girl in the farming village of Qatana, Shamasneh would see women get the leftovers at wedding feasts, after the men. And while her four brothers could come and go, she and her five sisters had to account for their limited movements. "Until now, there is discrimination, even with simple things," she says. "This makes me angry."

However, her father Mohammed, a retired contractor, want-

ed all his children, including the girls, to get an education. Shamasneh chose law, a profession that turned out to be a good fit for her pragmatic, analytical nature. Her 74-year-old mother Amneh, sitting across from Shamasneh, says she is proud of her daughter's success. But her mother was against her studies, Shamasneh interjects. "At the time, it was shameful for a woman to study and have a job," Amneh says apologetically.

Amneh herself was married off at age 13, without her consent, and had her first child at 15. Four of Shamasneh's sisters married in their 20s. A fifth was forced into an arranged match at 16 and endured a prolonged divorce two years later. Shamasneh was a child at the time. She says the bitter experience, including the lack of empathy displayed by her sister's male lawyer, fueled her interest in law.

As a single woman, Shamasneh's only socially acceptable option is to continue living with her parents. She says she would move out if she wanted to, but she likes spending time with her parents. In her childhood bedroom, law books are lined up on a shelf above her dresser. She is fiercely protective of her relative independence. For her, this means not getting married. "I can take care of myself," Shamasneh says. "I am a strong woman. I hate traditional marriage."

On a typical day, Shamasneh arrives before 9 am at the Islamic courthouse in Ramallah. One recent morning, she meets a 25-year-old client, a thin, pale woman in a frayed green robe who says she wants a divorce from her abusive husband. Her father is also there to testify on her behalf, but her brother didn't turn up because he was sick. Shamasneh sternly cautions her client that this may hurt her case, because the court usually requires two male witnesses or a man and two women. In a small victory, the judge rules later that day that the case can move forward.

The growing presence of female lawyers like Shamasneh has helped create more empathy for women going through divorce. When Shamasneh began practicing 15 years ago, female lawyers were rare. Now women occasionally outnumber men in the courthouse. There's even a female judge.

Kholoud Al-Faqeeh defends the law in principle, saying that it reflects different gender roles, and that women sometimes fail to exhaust their legal rights.

Opposition

Still, the judge occasionally reins in men appearing before her. When a witness in a custody hearing portrays a sister-in-law as an unfit mother because she holds down two jobs, the judge, a mother of four, snaps: "Palestinian women work. Do you want us all to give up our children?" On another day, Shamasneh challenges a male colleague's claim that Islamic law gives the same rights to men and women seeking divorce. She refuses to give in. When he appears to run out of arguments, he resorts to "It's in the Quran." Mahmoud Habbash, the head of the Islamic courts in the West Bank, warns that the views advocated by Shamasneh and other activists could lead to the collapse of society. He argues that men and women are different by nature and require different rules. "The problem is that in the West, you don't understand how we treat women," Habbash says. "We treat them like queens."

Only one-third of Palestinians support a wife's right to divorce at all, according to the Pew survey. Across the region, support for divorce rights for women is even lower in Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, but is backed by a majority in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Some countries allow "khula" divorce, where a wife pays the husband compensation to get out of a marriage.

With so much opposition, Shamasneh knows that a long road lies ahead. Progress on legal reform has stalled, because the Palestinian self-rule government has limited authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. At home, her village remains deeply conservative. The local mosque preacher, Yacoub Al-Faqeeh, says that while he respects Shamasneh, he sharply disagrees with demands for equal marriage and divorce rights. "If women are free in divorce, they will divorce every day because they are emotional, while men are rational," he says.

Shamasneh could emigrate and join two brothers in Douglasville, Georgia. She has visited the area seven times, traveling without a male chaperone. "People talk, but I don't care," she says. Yet life in the West holds no allure. Everything is too easy, she says. The struggle for women in her community gives her life meaning, and she couldn't imagine doing anything else. "People in the village are resisting change," she says. "Therefore, I invest my energies in the court." —AP



Reema Shamasneh

SMITH GETS TWO-MONTH BAN OVER ISLAM 'MOCKERY'

LONDON: Olympic medallist Louis Smith was given a two-month ban by British Gymnastics yesterday for appearing to mock Islam. Online footage that appeared last month showed Smith, 27, and former gymnast Luke Carson laughing whilst pretending to pray and shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great). This year's Olympic Games in Rio saw Smith win a silver medal on the pommel horse, with British team-mate Max Whitlock taking gold. Smith has since apologised for his conduct, with the four-time medallist also visiting mosques rather than taking part in the London victory parade and subsequent Buckingham Palace reception for Britain's Rio medallists that took place last month. "Louis Smith admitted his behaviour was a breach of the Standards of Conduct," said a British Gymnastics statement. "The (disciplinary) panel upheld the allegation and taking into account a previous breach of the Standards of Conduct heard in June this year (where it also was made clear to Louis the consequences of any further breach), the panel determined a cumulative penalty was appropriate and ordered a two-month period of suspension." — AFP



ENGLAND TO DISCUSS WAR VETERAN TRIBUTE WITH FIFA

LONDON: England are negotiating with FIFA over whether they can wear a poppy tribute to war veterans when they play Scotland on Armistice Day on November 11, officials said. The Sun newspaper said FIFA had refused to let England and Scotland display poppies on their shirts during the game because it would be a political statement. However a FIFA spokesperson told AFP: "Fifa is in touch with the English FA on this matter." The English Football Association said: "We are working closely with the Royal British Legion (a charity for ex-servicemen) once again this year to honour and remember the sacrifices made by those serving in the armed forces." "In recent weeks, the FA has led remembrance discussions with FIFA to allow the England team to show its support for the poppy appeal during the World Cup qualifier with Scotland." A spokeswoman for British Prime Minister Theresa May told reporters at the House of Commons: "Fifa and the FA are talking about it at the moment. "The prime minister herself got her poppy yesterday (Monday), and she thinks that it is important that people across the country can pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of servicemen and women killed in conflict and wear their poppies with pride." — AFP

MOURINHO TO DISCOVER FATE FOR SENDING-OFF

LONDON: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho could discover if he has been given a touchline ban after he was sent to the stands during last weekend's goalless draw home to Burnley. The Portuguese, no stranger to disciplinary hearings during his two spells at Chelsea, had until Monday to respond to a separate Football Association charge of misconduct over comments about referee Anthony Taylor ahead of United's recent goalless draw against arch-rivals Liverpool. But Saturday's incident at Old Trafford threatens to land Mourinho with a far more severe punishment. Mourinho was sent to the stands at half-time for protesting too vehemently to the officials, having seen Matteo Darmian denied what the United boss felt was a penalty. United finished the match with 10 men after midfielder Ander Herrera was sent off in a result that added to the growing pressure on Mourinho, with the Red Devils without a win in four league games and eight points behind the leaders. — AFP



LONDON: File photo of British boxer Anthony Joshua as he holds up his belt after defeating US boxer Dominic Breazeale in their IBF heavyweight title bout at the O2 Arena in London. Joshua will make the second defense of his IBF world heavyweight title in a fight against American boxer Eric Molina on Dec 10. — AP

JOSHUA TO FIGHT MOLINA IN SECOND DEFENSE OF IBF TITLE

MANCHESTER: Anthony Joshua will make the second defense of his IBF world heavyweight title in a fight against American challenger Eric Molina on Dec. 10.

Joshua's promoters announced the fight yesterday. It will take place at the Manchester Arena in northern England, a rare fight outside London for the unbeaten British boxer.

It is the 34-year-old Molina's second world title fight, after losing to compatriot Deontay Wilder for the WBC belt in June last year. Molina beat Tomasz Adamek in

the 10th round of their fight for the IBF inter-continental belt in April.

Joshua, whose 17 straight professional wins have all come inside the distance, won the world title by knocking out Charles Martin in the second round at London's O2 Arena in April. He successfully defended the IBF belt with a seventh-round win over Dominic Breazeale, also in London.

Joshua had hoped to fight former world champion Wladimir Klitschko in December, but the bout was postponed after the Ukrainian picked up an injury. — AP

RUSSIAN DOPING MIGHT KEEP YARNOLD FROM SKELETON WORLDS

LONDON: Olympic women's skeleton gold medalist Lizzy Yarnold is considering skipping this season's world championships in Russia, citing doping concerns. In interviews with the BBC and other British news agencies Monday, Yarnold said she's also calling upon the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation - the sport's governing body - to consider holding the competition elsewhere. "I just want the IBSF to be strong enough to make a decision that defends the true values of clean sport," Yarnold told the BBC.

Yarnold won gold at the Sochi Games on the same track where worlds are scheduled to be held this winter. Many athletes from those games - including Latvian men's skeleton silver medalist Martins Dukurs and US women's skeleton veteran Katie Uhlaender, who was fourth and finished behind a Russian slider - have expressed similar concerns since Russia's state-sponsored doping program was exposed earlier this year.

"I think athletes have been pretty vocal about possibly competing against athletes who were cheating," USA Bobsled and Skeleton CEO Darrin Steele told The Associated Press on Monday. "It's not surprising. I don't think one athlete going public is a surprise. I think there's been some pretty strong statements

made, not necessarily with a call to action but from athletes in general who have pretty strong feelings about this - as they should."

Yarnold said she does not want to expose herself to racing against cheaters, and in a place where she will wonder "what is going to happen to my doping samples?" "I'm not sure whether I want to compete in Sochi or can compete in Sochi if I don't know if it's a clean playing field," Yarnold said.

But time concerns might make it impossible to move the world championships, even if athletes want to see it happen. The second report from the investigation led by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren into Russia's doping program is not expected until early December - a little more than two months before worlds are set to begin.

McLaren was appointed by the World Anti-Doping Agency to investigate corruption claims, and his first report in July detailed a plot to swap out Russian athletes' doping-tainted urine samples from 2011 through 2015. "The world of sport is going through a huge upheaval and massive doping issues," Yarnold said. "All international sport is. And skeleton is by no means clean. That's the problem at the moment - we don't necessarily know who is doping and how to catch them." — AP

TOKYO DETAILS VENUE CHANGES, COST CUTS FOR 2020 GAMES

TOKYO: The rowing and canoeing venue for the 2020 Olympics should either be moved to a site hundreds of miles (kilometers) away in northern Japan or downgraded to a temporary facility in Tokyo, a city government cost-cutting panel said yesterday.

The recommendation came as officials of the International Olympic Committee, Tokyo's city government and other key parties gathered to review the cost of the games.

The panel has said the cost of the Tokyo Olympics could exceed \$30 billion - four times the initial estimate - unless drastic cuts are made. In a final report presented to Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, the panel said another option is to stick with the original plans for the Sea Forest venue in Tokyo Bay but to find ways of cutting the costs.

Last month, the panel came up with the option of moving rowing and canoeing to the Naganuma site in Tome city, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Tokyo. That came after the projected cost for the Sea Forest venue soared to nearly 50 billion yen (\$480 million), seven times the initial estimate.

Yesterday, the panel of academics and business consultants hand-picked by Koike said moving to Naganuma would be the most cost-efficient solution. Panel chairman Shinichi Ueyama said the Naganuma site is the only realistic out-of-town alternative to the Sea Forest venue, considering the time needed for additional construction and other preparations.

The relocated venue would require up to 20 billion yen (\$190 million) in construction costs to meet Olympic standards. Additional costs related to security, transportation and other infrastructure could add up further. An earlier cost estimate for the Naganuma site was 35 billion yen (\$330 million).

Downgrading the Sea Forest venue to a temporary facility could bring the estimated construction and running costs down to 45 billion yen (\$430 million), the panel said. Alternatively, continuing with the permanent Sea Forest facility could cost about 70 billion yen (\$670 million), even with further cost-cutting efforts, the report said. Koike was to present all options in the report to the officials from the IOC, Japanese



TOKYO: Tokyo Gov Yuriko Koike looks over a report during an expert panel at the Tokyo Metropolitan government office in Tokyo, yesterday. A Tokyo metropolitan government panel reviewing costly Olympic venues has proposed downgrading the expensive rowing and canoeing site for the Tokyo Games to a temporary facility, or moving the events to an existing site in northern Japan. — AP

organizers and the central government during the four-party talks beginning Tuesday. The officials are expected to hold several rounds of talks before reaching a conclusion.

"We have to decide by the end of November at the latest, considering the time needed for revisions to the design and construction of the venues," Koike told reporters. "We must make sure to get everything ready in time." The Naganuma site is part of the area still recovering from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which Koike says fits the theme of the region's reconstruction from the disaster.

The IOC, as well as international and Japanese rowing and canoeing organizations have opposed moving the venue outside of Tokyo. IOC President Thomas Bach, who was in

Tokyo last month, supported further cost-cutting measures, however.

The city panel also proposed moving two other sports - volleyball and swimming - from planned new venues to existing ones in Tokyo. "There is a demand for good facilities, but who takes care of them after the event? We have to think carefully if they serve positive legacies," Ueyama said. Gaining tax payers' understanding is crucial for a successful Olympics, he said, criticizing "secrecy" among Japanese organizers and bureaucracy. Tokyo organizers have yet to formally disclose the total cost for the games and breakdowns. Ueyama urged Japanese organizers to follow the example of London, which disclosed cost estimates from five years out before the 2012 Games. — AP



MELBOURNE: Almandin, front, with jockey Kerrin McEvoy board wins the Melbourne Cup horse racing at the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. Heartbreak City, rear, came second. — AP

10/1 ALMANDIN WINS MELBOURNE CUP THRILLER

MELBOURNE: Almandin pipped Heartbreak City in a thrilling finish to the Melbourne Cup yesterday, giving Australian owner Lloyd Williams a record fifth win in the "race that stops a nation". The former German galloper, starting at 10/1, edged Ireland's Heartbreak City (18/1) after a stirring run at Flemington to give jockey Kerrin McEvoy his second Melbourne Cup, 16 years after his first.

The 9/2 race favourite Hartnell, one of five Godolphin runners, was third, 4-1/4 lengths back in the Aus\$6.2 million (US\$4.7 million) international race over 3,200 metres (two miles). It was a second Cup triumph for local trainer Robert Hickmott, who nursed Almandin back to racing health after 18 months out following a tendon injury after acquiring the seven-year-old gelding in Germany.

McEvoy, who won his first Melbourne Cup with Brew in 2000, got Almandin home from the Tony Martin-trained Irish stayer Heartbreak City, ridden by Hong Kong-based Brazilian jockey Joao Moreira.

"Lloyd, he knows what to do in these staying races. It's just a dream. It's great to be part of it again for my second Cup," McEvoy said.

His wife Cathy Payne, who sister Michelle became the first female jockey to win on Prince of Penzance in last year's Melbourne Cup, is due to

give birth to the couple's fourth child and he thanked her for "putting up with me the last few weeks". The win made Williams, 76, the founder of Melbourne's Crown Casino, the most successful owner in Melbourne Cup history following his previous successes with Just a Dash (1981), What a Nuisance (1985), Efficient (2007) and Green Moon (2012). He passed Frenchman Etienne de Mestre, Australian John Tait and Malaysian Dato Tan Chin Nam to set a new record for winners over the race's long history.

'QUITE EMOTIONAL'

It was the first time Williams had been at a Melbourne Cup for 20 years, and he had not been trackside to watch one of his horses win since What a Nuisance was first past the post in 1985.

"This horse (Almandin) had a tendon (injury) and he was broken down so I'm quite emotional about this one," Williams said. "The boys at Macedon (Lodge) have done a fabulous job getting this horse back." The 156th running of Australia's iconic race produced one of its great finishes, with both horses burning off Hartnell at the 200m (full-long) before going stride for stride to the finish.

McEvoy managed to get that ounce more out of

Almandin to squeeze home and just after crossing the line, Moreira sportingly reached out to congratulate his victorious rival.

"I couldn't win on him today, but I'm going home not disappointed or upset," Moreira said.

"In the last 50m I knew my horse was starting to get tired. Giving the best of himself for a long way. So the other one had a bit extra left and he got me on the line." It was more Melbourne Cup heartbreak for the global Godolphin stable, which again failed to win the race despite peppering the field with five runners. Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed's racing empire has now gone almost 20 years without tasting victory at Flemington despite three second placings. "I'm extremely proud of him," Hartnell's trainer John O'Shea said. "He was wide for much of the race and he still put himself into it."

Another Godolphin runner, Qewy, was fourth, with Who Shot Thebarman fifth. English stayer Big Orange finished 10th with another well-supported Godolphin runner Oceanographer 12th. Irish contenders Bondi Beach was 13th and Wicklow Brave 22nd in the 24-horse field. Jameka, the only Australian-bred horse in the race and the lead-up Caulfield Cup winner, was well beaten down the home straight and finished 15th. — AFP

RAY ALLEN, TOP 3-POINT SHOOTER IN NBA HISTORY, RETIRES

MIAMI: Ray Allen won championships in Boston and Miami, made one of the most memorable shots in NBA Finals history and has more 3-pointers than anyone who ever played in the league.

More than two years after his last game, he's decided that was enough. Allen announced his retirement yesterday in a post on The Players' Tribune website. Allen spent 18 seasons in the league with Milwaukee, Seattle, the Celtics and the Heat, averaging 18.9 points in 1,300 career regular-season games and appearing in 10 All-Star Games. "I write this to you today as a 41-year-old man who is retiring from the game," Allen said in his post, which was in the form of a letter to his younger self. "I write to you as a man who is completely at peace with himself."

Allen entertained thoughts about a comeback over the last two years and had plenty of opportunities from title-contending teams. But nothing ever lured him back, although the door always remained a tiny bit open - until now.

"Basketball will take you far away from

that school yard," Allen wrote. "You will become far more than just a basketball player. You'll get to act in movies. You'll travel the world. You will become a husband, and the father of five amazing children." Allen starred in the 1998 Spike Lee film "He Got Game," portraying Jesus Shuttlesworth, a top-ranked basketball prospect, whose father (played by Denzel Washington) is in prison for killing his wife. On the court, teammates and coaches raved about Allen's famed work ethic and commitment to fitness - which now takes a different form, after he and his wife, Shannon, recently opened an organic fast-casual restaurant in Miami. Allen was almost always on the floor for a workout three hours before games, shooting on some occasions before the arena lights were even turned on.

Allen had the record for 3-pointers in a season for seven years, his mark of 269 standing until Stephen Curry of Golden State made 272 in 2012-13 - a record Curry has topped twice. In all, Allen made 2,973 3-pointers in regular-season games, which



MIAMI: In a Friday, May 30, 2014 file photo, Miami Heat guard Ray Allen gestures after scoring a three-point basket during the first half Game 6 in the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals against the Indiana Pacers, in Miami. Allen announced his retirement from the NBA yesterday, ending a career that saw him make more 3-pointers than any player in league history and win championships with Boston and Miami. — AP

doesn't even count the one that was his most unforgettable.

His 3-pointer from the right corner with 5.2 seconds left in Game 6 of the 2013 NBA Finals for Miami sent the Heat to overtime against the Spurs in a win-or-else game, and helped them go on to win the title in seven games. Chris Bosh got an offensive rebound and passed to Allen, who was backtracking toward the corner.

Allen, without even needing to look down to ensure that he was behind the line, elevated over Tony Parker and connected to tie the game - even as arena workers kneeled around the court, holding the rope that they presumed they would soon be called upon to cordon things off for the Spurs' championship celebration. On his way back to the bench to prepare for overtime, Allen gestured to those workers, shouting to put the rope away.

"It's going to be a shot that I'm going to remember for a long time," Allen said that night. "There's a lot of shots that I've made in my career, but this will go high up in the ranks." — AP

BATH'S FORD RISKS ENGLAND CAREER

PARIS: Bath flyhalf George Ford can waive his England career goodbye if he makes the switch to French rugby to link up with his father Mike at Toulon, national coach Eddie Jones has said.

According to French media reports, Toulon owner Mourad Boudjellal has expressed an interest in bringing the 23-year-old to the top 14 side, where Mike is head coach. With English rugby's governing body (RFU) prohibiting players from outside the domestic set-up to be selected for the national side, Jones said the choice for Ford was clear.

"It's an easy choice - you either sign for an English club or you sign for a French club. If you sign for a French club, you don't play for England," Jones told British media.

"Obviously we don't want to lose George, but ultimately he's got to make a decision about whether he wants to play for England. He's responsible for his own decision. "We want him to play for England. He knows that we want him to play for England, but he's got to want to play for England. "Let's get one thing straight here,

we want to be the number one team in the world. To be the number one team in the world we need players who absolutely desire to play for England."

Since Jones took over the England reigns from Stuart Lancaster after a dismal World Cup campaign last year, Ford has started in eight of the nine matches under the Australian.

Jones backed the RFU's policy of excluding players based on foreign clubs.

"It protects English rugby for the long term. You've only got to look at what's happened in France, where foreign players have been allowed to escalate to over 50-60 percent, and you have massive problems for the national game," Jones said.

"You take some short-term pain for the long-term gain. This is not an Englishman talking. For the long-term future of the game we need to look after the Premiership." England's autumn series begins against South Africa at Twickenham on Nov. 12. England also play Fiji on Nov. 19, Argentina on Nov. 26 and Australia on Dec. 3. — Reuters



NEW YORK: Jimmy Butler #21 of the Chicago Bulls drives around a pick against the Brooklyn Nets during the second half at Barclays Center on Monday in New York City. — AFP

INDIANS HOPE TO EMULATE CAVALIERS TITLE BASH

CLEVELAND: Memories of the Cleveland Cavaliers' NBA championship celebration parade last June inspire the Cleveland Indians as they try to complete their first Major League Baseball title run since 1948. The Indians lead the Chicago Cubs 3-2 in the best-of-seven World Series with game six Tuesday in Cleveland, where a seventh game if needed would be played today.

No major Cleveland sports team had won a crown since the 1964 NFL Browns until LeBron James led the Cavaliers over Golden State in the NBA Finals. People jammed city streets to glimpse the victory parade.

Now the city could have another one just over four months later. "I watched a little bit of the parade," Indians pitcher Josh Tomlin recalled. "It was tough to get here. The city was in full support of what they accomplished. What they accomplished was huge and it was cool to watch. "The support the city has given us all year long has been huge. So it would be an honor for us to be able to have another parade and to see that support that the Cavs got as well. But our main focus right now is to try to win this thing so we can have a parade."

While the Cubs famously own America's longest sports title drought, having not won the trophy since 1908, and had not reached the World Series since 1945, the Indians have baseball's second-longest futility streak and had not reached a World Series since 1997.

"A lot of guys have been here a long time and never got to experience anything like this," Tomlin said. "It's something that we're humbled to be able to do."

"We understand it's not just about getting here. It's about trying to win as well. There's nobody in that clubhouse that's complacent. It's not like we have a 3-2 lead, it's just going to happen. That's not the mindset we take at all."

They know better. After all, the Cavaliers were down 3-1 before rallying to win the

last three games of the NBA Finals, an unprecedented feat. In the World Series, six teams of 46 that had the chance have won the crown by taking the last three games.

"We're here for a reason, and we understand that," Tomlin said. "We're good. We don't have to do anything more than what we've been doing and it should be good enough."

TICKET PRICES BELOW CHICAGO

Fan support has not translated into huge resale ticket prices like those in Chicago, where \$20,000 ticket purchases were made. For game six, the cheapest seats were going for \$700 with standing room nearly as much, the bulk of seats were going for between \$3,000 and \$4,000 and some hopefuls were pricing tickets near \$10,000 — all about half what the cost had been in Chicago.

That doesn't mean people are not into the Indians. Fans filled their home stadium to watch telecasts of Indians games in Chicago. And a huge celebration last Tuesday greeted both Cleveland teams as the Tribe played the first World Series opener ever seen in the city at the same time the Cavaliers raised a championship banner before their home opener, a party reminding people of the June parade that Indians manager Terry Francona watched from the upper deck of the stadium.

"It was wonderful for the city. It was hard not to get caught up in it," he said. "From that vantage point, I think they were expecting 700,000 and I think they about doubled it. And from up in the upper deck you could see the people coming across the bridge in droves."

"Also you saw how the Cavs reacted. There was sheer joy, but the way the Cavs handled it - they were so outgoing with the fans - it was really cool. "It's hard for me to understand how people get so caught up in baseball sometimes, except that when it's another sport, I get that way." — AFP

LOS ANGELES: The Chicago Bulls ran roughshod over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday, producing an explosive offensive effort in a 118-88 victory that has them off to a 3-0 start in the NBA.

It's Chicago's first 3-0 start since the 1996-97 season, and it comes despite feats that off-season changes including the departure of Derrick Rose and arrival of Dwyane Wade might see the Bulls take some time to click.

The Bulls connected on 50.6 percent of their shots from the field, including 40.7 from three-point range. Seven Bulls players scored in double figures, led by Jimmy Butler's 22 points.

"Our intensity out of the gate has been really good," said coach Fred Hoiberg, whose Bulls scored 38 points in the opening quarter and never trailed after the opening three minutes.

They led by double digits most of the night. Wade scored 12 points in his first road game with the Bulls. That included a slick crossover move on the Nets' Bojan Bogdanovic in the fourth quarter that drew some appreciative gasps from the crowd.

"I always get great support when I come here," Wade said. "The fans are amazing. It feels like home. I don't know if they cheer like that for me at home when I got the ball. So it was great to be out there."

Nikola Mirotic collected 16 points and 10 rebounds, Isaiah Canaan added 15 as the reserve duo combined to hit seven of Chicago's 11 three-pointers. Taj Gibson added 14 and 11 rebounds, Doug McDermott contributed 12 while Rajon Rondo had 10.

Bogdanovic led the Nets with 15 points while Jeremy Lin added 14 and Brook Lopez had 13 in 22 minutes after resting Saturday.

"I just think we didn't have that normal pop or that explosiveness or the normal hunger that we normally have on the defensive end, actually just in general," Lin said.

CLIPPERS, HAWKS UNBEATEN

The Los Angeles Clippers and Atlanta Hawks also improved to 3-0 with wins on Monday. Chris Paul scored 18 of his 24 points in the second half as the Clippers routed the winless Phoenix Suns

116-98 in Los Angeles.

Paul also had eight assists and five rebounds. Blake Griffin added 21 points, 11 rebounds and five assists for the Clippers.

Clippers center DeAndre Jordan didn't seem to show any ill effects from a sprained right thumb suffered in Sunday's win over the Utah Jazz, finishing with 19 point and 11 boards.

"The thumb? It would be hurting if we lost, but we won so it feels a lot better," he said. Jamal Crawford added 14 points and J.J. Redick scored 13. The Suns were without guard Devin Booker, who sat out with a sore right big toe. Booker apparently aggravated the injury in Sunday's 106-100 loss to Golden State.

Brandon Knight started in Booker's place and led the Suns with 18 points. The Clippers broke the game open in the third quarter. Two free throws by Knight allowed the Suns to close with 56-55 with 7:12 left in the period.

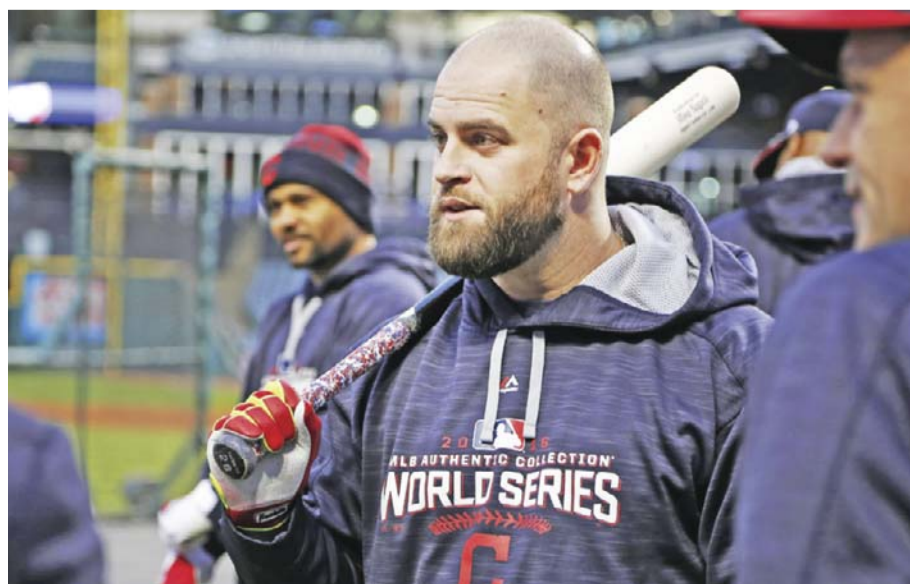
But the Clippers put together a 22-9 scoring run for a 78-63 lead and the Suns couldn't respond. "We started off slow again," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "I thought we missed open shot after open shot."

"I think they stayed engaged defensively and they just kept trusting and eventually (shots) started to fall. Once the basket opened up, the way we were defending we were in great shape."

The Hawks improved to 3-0 with a 106-95 victory over the Sacramento Kings in Atlanta.

Paul Millsap and Dwight Howard both posted double-doubles for the Hawks, who led by double digits but needed a fourth-quarter surge to win after letting the Kings back into it.

Millsap finished with 13 points and 14 rebounds and Howard had 18 points and 11 rebounds. Four other Atlanta players scored in double figures for the win in a bruising contest in which the teams combined for 54 fouls. — AFP



CHICAGO: Cleveland Indians' Mike Napoli, center, and Coco Crisp, left rear, participate in an optional team workout at Progressive Field, Monday in preparation for baseball's upcoming World Series Game 6 against the Chicago Cubs tonight in Cleveland. — AP

NBA results/standings

Toronto 105, Denver 102; Chicago 118, Brooklyn 88; Atlanta 106, Sacramento 95; LA Clippers 116, Phoenix 98.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	2	1	.667	-	Oklahoma City	3	0	1.000	-
Toronto	2	1	.667	-	Portland	2	1	.667	1
NY Knicks	1	1	.500	0.5	Utah	1	2	.333	2
Brooklyn	1	3	.250	1.5	Denver	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	0	2	0	1.5	Minnesota	0	2	0	2.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Chicago	3	0	1.000	-	LA Clippers	3	0	1.000	-
Cleveland	3	0	1.000	-	Golden State	2	1	.667	1
Detroit	2	1	.667	1	Sacramento	2	2	.500	1.5
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	2	LA Lakers	1	2	.333	2
Indiana	1	2	.333	2	Phoenix	0	4	0	3.5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	3	0	1.000	-	San Antonio	4	0	1.000	-
Charlotte	2	1	.667	1	Memphis	2	1	.667	1.5
Miami	1	2	.333	2	Houston	2	1	.667	1.5
Washington	0	2	0	2.5	Dallas	0	3	0	3.5
Orlando	0	3	0	3	New Orleans	0	3	0	3.5

NO QUICK FIX TO ENGLAND'S BATTING WOES, SAYS COACH BAYLISS

DHAKA: England coach Trevor Bayliss knows there is no quick fix to his side's batting problems against spin but hopes that their recent exposure to conditions in Bangladesh will help them in a five-test series against India, starting next week.

After a narrow win in the opening test against Bangladesh in Chittagong, England suffered an astonishing collapse on the third

day of the second match at Dhaka, losing 10 wickets in a single session in their second innings to be all out for 164. Next up for Alastair Cook's men is a testing series in India, starting on Nov. 9, on spin-friendly pitches similar to those England struggled with against Bangladesh. "I think, from a batting point of view, there's been some good signs during this series," Bayliss told Sky Sports. "We

don't come across those types of wickets very often at all, or at all.

"The only thing you can do is experience it more often. There's no quick fix but, as we saw, there were batters in the two tests that were able to bat for a period of time and score runs.

"If they can do it once they've got it in them but it's just about doing it more often and

more consistently and learning from those innings." In four innings in Bangladesh, Joe Root's average of 24.50 was the highest of England's top five in the order, with Cook, Ben Duckett and Moeen Ali all averaging in the low 20s. Gary Ballance could muster only 24 runs in total, recording single-digit scores, and the 26-year-old's position at four in the order would come up for discussion, according to Bayliss.

"I'm sure that will be one of the things we discuss," said the 53-year-old.

"It was one of the things we discussed before the series started, the different options we have available to us going forward, so that we weren't surprised by anything. There will be a number of players that we will be discussing and what we might think is our best and strongest team." — Reuters



SHARJAH: Pakistani batsman Sarfraz Ahmed (C) plays a shot as West Indies' wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich (R) and teammate Darren Bravo look on during the third day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and West Indies at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in Sharjah yesterday. — AFP

BRATHWAITE, HOLDER LIFT WINDIES IN THIRD TEST

SHARJAH: Kraigg Brathwaite became the fifth West Indian batsman to carry his bat with an unbeaten hundred before Jason Holder took 3-10 to leave Pakistan under pressure in the third Test in Sharjah yesterday.

Brathwaite held West Indies' first innings of 337 with a resolute 142 not out before Holder jolted Pakistan with three wickets in 17 balls to give his team a strong position at the end of the third day. At close Pakistan were struggling at 87-4 with opener Azhar Ali 45 not out and Sarfraz Ahmed 19 not out, leading only by 31 runs with six wickets intact and two days to play.

Pakistan needed a big effort after conceding a 56-run lead but from 37-0 they lost four wickets in the space of 11 runs with Holder firing on all cylinders and their batsmen playing rash shots. Holder forced Sami Aslam (17) to hook straight into the hands of deep fine-leg, then in his next over had Asad Shafiq caught in slip fending a short ball for nought, his second in the match.

An over later Holder had Younis Khan caught behind for zero and from the other end Misbah-ul-Haq holed out off spinner Roston

Chase for four. West Indian paceman Shannon Gabriel had Ahmed caught in the slip for nine only to see the umpire calling a no-ball, allowing the stand to reach 39 by close.

If West Indies pull off a win it will be their first in 13 Tests since beating England at home in May last year while Pakistan will spoil a good chance of a 3-0 whitewash after winning the first two Tests in Dubai (56 runs) and Abu Dhabi (133 runs).

The highlight of the morning session was Brathwaite's knock. He held the innings with 11 boundaries and for the first time in the series lifted West Indies into a rare lead.

Brathwaite added an invaluable 60 runs for the eighth wicket with Devendra Bishoo who made a solid 27 to leave Pakistan spin-cum pace attack frustrated. In the end it was left to the lively pace of Wahab Riaz to take the final three wickets for his second five-wicket haul in Tests, finishing with 5-88 in 26.4 overs of hard work.

Riaz, whose first five-wicket haul came in his debut Test against England at The Oval in 2010, had Bishoo caught behind before dismissing Alzarri Joseph (six) and Shannon Gabriel

(nought) to warp up the innings. Pace partner Mohammad Amir took 3-71 while the spinners Yasir Shah and Zulfiqar Babar took a wicket apiece.

It was Brathwaite who defied the bowling, emulating illustrious West Indians Frank Worrell, Conrad Hunte, Desmond Haynes (thrice) and Chris Gayle in remaining not out throughout a Test innings.

Brathwaite had a lucky escape when wicket-keeper Ahmed failed to hold a sharp, rising edge off spinner Mohammad Nawaz when he was on 121. In the same over, Bishoo was given out off a sweep shot but he successfully reviewed English umpire Michael Gough's decision as the ball had hit fielder Ali's helmet before he took the catch.

Resuming at 244-6, the West Indies were looking for a good lead. Brathwaite hit Amir for his 11th boundary off the day's first ball, and then on-drove him towards mid-wicket for two to reach his hundred off 211 balls.

Pakistan took the second new ball with the total on 251 and Amir struck instantly, clean-bowling Holder with a sharp incoming delivery for 16. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates: Scoreboard at close on the third day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and England at Sharjah stadium yesterday:	
Pakistan first innings 281 (Sami Aslam 74, Misbah-ul-Haq 53, Younis Khan 51, Sarfraz Ahmed 51; D. Bishoo 4-77)	(Blackwood), 5-151 (Chase), 6-234 (Dowrich), 7-263 (Holder), 8-323 (Bishoo), 9-333 (Joseph)
West Indies first innings (overnight 244-6)	Bowling: Amir 25-5-71-3 (5nb), Riaz 26.4-1-88-5 (3nb), Shah 26-2-80-1, Babar 21-3-56-1, Nawaz 11-2-20-0, Ali 6-0-16-0
K. Brathwaite not out 142	Pakistan 2nd innings
L. Johnson lbw b Riaz 1	Sami Aslam c Joseph b Holder 17
D. Bravo c Amir b Babar 11	Azhar Ali not out 45
M. Samuels lbw b Shah 0	Asad Shafiq c Bravo b Holder 0
J. Blackwood c Shafiq b Amir 23	Younis Khan c Dowrich b Holder 0
R. Chase c Younis b Amir 50	Misbah-ul-Haq c Bishoo b Chase 4
S. Dowrich b Riaz 47	Sarfraz Ahmed not out 19
J. Holder b Amir 16	Extras: (nb2) 2
D. Bishoo c Ahmed b Riaz 27	Total: (for four wkts; 39 overs) 87
A. Joseph c Shah b Riaz 6	To bat: Mohammad Nawaz, Yasir Shah, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir, Zulfiqar Babar
S. Gabriel c Ahmed b Riaz 0	Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Aslam), 2-41 (Shafiq), 3-41 (Younis), 4-48 (Misbah)
Extras: (lb6, nb8) 14	Bowling: Gabriel 8-1-14-0 (2nb), Joseph 6-1-16-0, Holder 9-4-10-3, Brathwaite 1-0-5-0, Chase 13-1-39-1, Bishoo 2-0-3-0.
Total: (all out; 115.4 overs) 337	
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Johnson), 2-32 (Bravo), 3-38 (Samuels), 4-68	



PARIS: Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych returns the ball to Portugal's Joao Sousa during their second round tennis match at the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 indoor tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

BERDYCH BEATS SOUSA TO REACH PARIS THIRD ROUND

PARIS: Tomas Berdych avoided another early exit by beating Joao Sousa 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 yesterday to reach the third round of the Paris Masters. At 4-4 in the deciding set, Berdych trailed 15-40 and saved two break points.

Although Berdych won the Shenzhen Open in China last month, the Czech player's form dropped sharply with first-round exits at the Japan Open and the Erste Bank Open in Vienna. In between, there was a second-round loss at the Shanghai Masters.

Losing so many ranking points forced Berdych out of the top 10 for the first time since reaching the 2010 Wimbledon final. It also leaves him needing to reach the semifinals in Paris to have a chance of qualifying for the season-ending ATP finals in London - a difficult task considering he could face Andy Murray in the quarterfinals.

Berdych, the 2005 champion, had 14 aces against Sousa. He will next face either 10th-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut or Gilles Simon.

Seven players vying for the two remaining spots in London.

Dominic Thiem and Marin Cilic, who won the Swiss Indoors on Sunday, held the last two places before this week. David Goffin, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Lucas Pouille and Bautista Agut are the other contenders playing in Paris.

John Isner had 14 aces as he reached the second round by beating Mischa Zverev 7-6 (8), 6-4. Isner saved the only break point he faced in the first set and broke Zverev's serve early in the second.

Isner will next play 15th-seeded David Ferrer, who has beaten the big-serving American seven times in eight meetings. Isner's only win, however, was in the quarterfinals in Paris five years ago.

Also in the first round, French veteran Nicolas Pietrangeli beat Martin Klizan 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, while Viktor Troicki saved two match points before defeating Adrian Panatta 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5). — AP

KARUNARATNE TON EDGES SRI LANKA OUT OF SIGHT

HARARE: Dimuth Karunaratne's fourth Test century helped Sri Lanka build a formidable lead before rain thwarted their victory push over Zimbabwe in the first Test on the fourth day at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Karunaratne backed up his half-century in the first innings with 110 in the second, which allowed Sri Lanka to progress to 247 for six when the rain arrived just 3.5 overs into the final session. With a lead of 411, the tourists would have hoped to declare and have a bowl at the Zimbabwean top order, but while the rain lasted less than an hour the light failed to improve and so no further play was possible. The game will restart half an hour earlier on the final morning, at 09:30am local time. "We have a whole day tomorrow and we'll give a good fight," said Karunaratne.

The Zimbabweans were able to restrict the Sri Lankan scoring early on the fourth morning as the tourists resumed on five without loss, with fast bowler Carl Mumba bowling Kaushal Silva in the seventh over of the day. But Karunaratne gradually opened up, and added 55 brisk runs for the second wicket with Kusal Perera.

"It wasn't easy to start with against the new ball this morning, but once you get in you can play your natural game on this wicket, which is what I did," said Karunaratne.

"After the Australia series I played a couple of A games against West Indies and scored a couple of big scores, so I felt in good form before this Test and had faith in my ability."

Although Perera fell for 17 when he edged a delivery from Malcolm Waller to slip, and Mumba dismissed Kusal Mendis and Upul Tharanga either side of the lunch break, Karunaratne was able to maintain a steady scoring rate with Dhananjaya de Silva, who made 64 in 82 deliveries. Karunaratne was eventually caught and bowled by Chris Mpofo in the lead-up to tea, while De Silva became Mumba's fourth victim shortly after the break, giving the debutant figures of 4 for 50. — AFP



HARARE: Zimbabwe's captain Graeme Cremer fields off his own bowling during the fourth day of the test cricket match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club in Harare, yesterday. This is Zimbabwe's 100th test match since their international debut in 1992. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka yesterday:	
Sri Lanka first innings 537 all out (K. Perera 110, U. Tharanga 110, K. Silva 94, G. Cremer 4-142)	U. Tharanga c Moor b Mumba 1
Zimbabwe first innings 373 all out (G. Cremer 102 not out, P. Moor 79, S. Lakmal 3-69, R. Herath 3-97)	D. de Silva c Waller b Mumba 64
Sri Lanka second innings	A. Gunaratne not out 16
D. Karunaratne c & b Mpofo 110	D. Perera not out 1
K. Silva b Mumba 7	Extras (6b, 5lb, 1nb) 12
K. Perera c Masakadza b Waller 17	Total (6 wkts, 61.5 overs) 247
K. Mendis c Cremer b Mumba 19	Fall of wickets: 1-17 (Silva), 2-72 (Perera), 3-111 (Mendis), 4-117 (Tharanga), 5-211 (Karunaratne), 6-241 (de Silva)
	Still to bat: R. Herath, S. Lakmal, L. Kumara
	Bowling: Mpofo 16-2-42-1, Cremer 14-0-67-0, Mumba 111.5-2-50-4, Tiripano 8-0-33-0, Waller 5-0-17-1, Williams 1-0-5-0, Masakadza 6-1-22-0.

MANAGERS STAR IN PREMIER LEAGUE, PLAYERS SHINE IN SPAIN

MADRID: The English Premier League boasts some of the top managers in the game but to see the best players in the world you have to watch Spanish soccer, Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu said.

While much of the focus in England is placed on managers such as Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho, Arsene Wenger, Juergen Klopp and Antonio Conte, Bartomeu said La Liga revolves around

players like Lionel Messi. "That's why La Liga is making a lot of effort as a league. But when we talk about La Liga I am very happy because the best players in the world play here—Messi, number one," Bartomeu said in an interview with The Daily Telegraph. "For me, Neymar, number two, Cristiano Ronaldo, number three ... So the best players in the world are playing in La Liga. "The stars who are players are

here, and maybe, right now, in the Premier League the stars are the coaches. Not the players. So there are different ways of going to the world and showing our sport."

With the Premier League's 5.14 billion pounds (\$6.28 billion) domestic television rights deal kicking in this season, Bartomeu said English clubs have more financial muscle than their Spanish rivals.

"Right now the Premier League is doing

things correctly- the last few years every club is having more and better possibilities with their economic capacity," the 53-year-old said. "Not only bringing people to the stadium, on finding sponsorship, rights. The Premier League is now our rival because when we are going abroad, when we go for a sponsor or TV rights, we find the Premier League there all the time. "When we try and find new players you

find teams like Arsenal, Tottenham, Man City, United, Chelsea... But if I look at it football-wise then La Liga is still the best." With Messi's contract expiring after the 2018 World Cup, Bartomeu said Barcelona were set to begin talks over the Argentine's future at the Nou Camp.

"Not yet. But we will have the negotiation with Messi in the next couple of months," he added. — Reuters

BUFFON SAYS JUVENTUS STILL FAR FROM THE FINISHED PRODUCT

MILAN: Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon is demanding more of his team, even though they are top of Serie A and lead their Champions League group.

A win at home to Olympique Lyonnais will take Juventus into the last 16 of the Champions League with two games to spare but Buffon said they also need to think about the more difficult challenges that lie ahead. "We need to realise the current level won't be enough, so we need to take steps forward," he said after Saturday's 2-1 win over Napoli.

"If we go into the next round in Europe, it will get really tough from March and we'll have no more time to work on it then. We need to make those improvements now."

Juventus have won the last five Serie A titles but, although they reached the 2015 Champions League final, their performances in Europe have not matched the standards set by Italy's top teams in the past.

They were knocked out in the round of 16 by Bayern Munich last season, also lost to the Bavarians in the quarter-finals in

2012/13 and failed to make it past the group stage in 2013/14.

"We want to build a bright future and one that lasts as long as possible, both in Italy and in Europe," said the 38-year-old Buffon. "(Gonzalo) Higuain's arrival has made us stronger but it depends how far we want to go.

"This mentality is maybe enough if the idea is to win the title again in Italy. If I think about a quarter-final, semi-final or a Champions League final against the likes of Bayern Munich or Barcelona, then this is not enough." Juventus, who have yet to concede a goal in Group H, have seven points from three games, ahead of Sevilla on goal difference, and four clear of their French opponents.

They will defend an 18-match unbeaten home record in Europe, a run stretching back to their 2-0 defeat by Bayern Munich more than three years ago. They have not lost at home in any competition since Udinese beat them on the opening day of last season in August last year. — Reuters



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (C) attends a training session at Tottenham Hotspur's Enfield Training Centre, northeast of London yesterday. Tottenham will play Bayer Leverkusen in a UEFA Champions League group stage match today. — AFP

KANE OUT OF LEVERKUSEN CLASH BUT IN LINE FOR DERBY RETURN

LONDON: Harry Kane has been ruled out of Tottenham Hotspur's Champions League tie against Bayer Leverkusen at Wembley today but the England striker could return in this weekend's North London derby against Arsenal.

Damage to ligaments in his right ankle has seen Kane sidelined for just over six weeks but he did take a reduced role in first-team training yesterday. He is due to be involved in full training tomorrow and could now feature in Sunday's derby clash at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium. When asked on Tuesday about the 23-year-old Kane's prospects, Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino said: "Tomorrow (Wednesday), no, not on the bench."

"It's good because you can see him today warming up with the team to be involved in some exercises. But no, for tomorrow he is not ready. "Sunday? Maybe, maybe." Spurs defender Toby Alderweireld is still out of action with a leg injury, while Erik Lamela remains doubtful to

face Leverkusen because of a hip problem.

Should Kane feature in some capacity against Arsenal it would bolster his chances of being called up for England duty later this month.

England face old rivals Scotland in a 2018 World Cup qualifier at Wembley on November 11, four days before a home friendly against Spain. While some in the Spurs' hierarchy might prefer it if Kane were spared England appearances so soon after an injury lay-off, Pochettino said he will not stand in his way if he is selected by England interim manager Gareth Southgate.

"If he is available to play Sunday against Arsenal then it will be difficult for us to stop him if the national team call him," Pochettino said.

"We are pro-national team always for all the players. If Harry is available we are not stupid to say 'no, Harry is out,' to try to protect him so that after two weeks he can be with us.

"We want the best for the team and for the

player. It's true that maybe it makes more sense for the national team to say: 'Okay, stay at home. Stay with Tottenham and train for two weeks. It's important to build Harry's fitness and be better after.' But, if they consider that they need Harry to play for the national team and he is available to play against Arsenal then we cannot stop."

Tottenham may be the only unbeaten team left in this season's Premier League but they have not won any of their last five matches in all competitions and have not scored in open play in their last four fixtures.

German club Leverkusen are third in Group E, just a point behind Spurs, and Pochettino said: "It's important to win. Leverkusen is a very good team with very good players. I think it will be tough." "We need to be more clinical in our offensive situation. We need to be determined and aggressive in the last third," the Argentinian added. — AFP



TURIN: From left, Juventus' Gonzalo Higuain, Leonardo Bonucci and Moise Kean attend a training session ahead of today's Champions League, Group H soccer match against Lyon, in Turin, Italy, yesterday. — AP

STRUGGLING DORTMUND TARGET LAST 16 SPOT

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund are looking to hold top spot in Group F with a win over Sporting Lisbon today to put them in the Champions League's knock-out stages.

Dortmund enjoyed a 2-1 win at Sporting a fortnight ago with goals by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and midfielder Julian Weigl, his first for the club, to leave them top of the group on goal difference from defending champions Real Madrid.

Dortmund will book a last 16 place with victory at their Signal Iduna Park against third-placed Sporting, who are four points behind both Borussia and second-placed Real Madrid. Dortmund's final group match at Real on December 7 is likely to settle who will win the group, but for now the focus is on Sporting.

"We need to put the whole package on the pitch," said Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel. "Anything else would be light-hearted and unprofessional. I'm counting on Sporting showing their best side."

However, Jorge Jesus-coached Sporting have a miserable record in Germany. They have never won in Germany with one draw and 11 defeats, while Dortmund have a 100 percent home record against Portuguese sides in Europe with four wins in four games.

But Tuchel's Dortmund have struggled of late. They are winless in their last four Bundesliga match, dating back to late September, and were held to a goalless league draw at home by rivals Schalke on Saturday in the Ruhr derby.

"It feels very tough, as if you were to

fight very hard for every little thing," fumed Tuchel.

Their only wins in October were at Sporting and last week's penalty shoot-out victory over second division Union Berlin in the second round of the German Cup.

World Cup-winner Mario Goetze has said recent results have left a bad feeling. "We have to reward ourselves better," he added. The reason for their dip in form has been a horrific run of injuries. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (calf), Marc Bartra (groin) and Christian Pulisic (ill) missed the penalty shoot-out win over Union last Wednesday, but were involved in Saturday's goalless draw with Schalke. Aubameyang and Pulisic played in the Ruhr derby while Bartra was an unused substitute. Club captain Marcel Schmelzer has been out since October 14 with a groin injury, while Andre Schuerrle and Raphael Guerreiro both made substitute appearances on Saturday after injury spells.

Sven Bender (ankle), Marco Reus (groin), Neven Subotic (ribs) and Erik Durm (knee) are all long-term absentees.

Reus is back in full training, but will not feature against Sporting. Director of sport Michael Zorc says the priority is to beat Sporting to put them in the knock-out stages so they can concentrate on their league form ahead of Saturday's away league match at bottom side Hamburg. "We definitely want to underline our good position with a victory, because we need to focus on the league afterwards," said Zorc. — AFP

TRADITIONAL STRIKERS GETTING OVERLOOKED IN ENGLISH SOCCER

MANCHESTER: There's a new craze sweeping through the Premier League - and it spells bad news for the traditional center forward. In the last three rounds, as many as seven teams have started matches with a winger or attacking midfielder playing as a converted striker. Take last weekend, for example. Roberto Firmino, an attacking midfielder, started up front for Liverpool as he has for most of the season and scored in a 4-2 win at Crystal Palace.

Winger Alexis Sanchez led the line again for Arsenal and scored twice in a 4-1 win at Sunderland. Eden Hazard, usually a left winger, was a goal-scorer and star player for Chelsea after starting the 2-0 win at Southampton in such an attacking position that he was often playing further forward than striker Diego Costa.

Right wingers Nathan Redmond and Michail Antonio were central strikers for Southampton and West Ham, respectively. Meanwhile, for two of Tottenham's last four games, South Korea attacking midfielder Son Heung-min has started as the main striker. And Swansea's American coach, Bob Bradley, played midfielder playmaker Gylfi Sigurdsson as a lone striker against Arsenal for his first game in charge.

Established international strikers like Daniel Sturridge, Divock Origi, Olivier Giroud, Vincent Janssen, Shane Long, Michy Batshuayi and Fernando Llorente have often had to be content with a role as substitute at the expense of wingers or midfielders. Some of them haven't even come on. Even the player widely regarded as the best striker in England has been affected. Sergio Aguero was on the bench for Manchester City's Champions League game at Barcelona, with coach Pep Guardiola preferring playmaker Kevin De Bruyne up front so he could drop back to help his midfield.

English soccer is late to the party when it comes to the converted forward or "false nine," which was popularized by the successful Barcelona and Spain teams of the past decade and also in the European game by current world champion Germany on occasion.

At the turn of the century, it would be rare to see a Premier League team that didn't start with two strikers. A decade later, playing with one target-man has become the vogue. Now, some teams don't even have one, or sometimes play strikers out on the wing instead.

WHY THE CHANGE?

It's been coming for a while, according to Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who spoke last year about the lack of out-and-out strikers in



SUNDERLAND: Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez celebrates scoring his side's first goal of the game during their English Premier League soccer match against Sunderland at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England, Oct 29, 2016. — AP

Europe after a fruitless search in that year's transfer window. "What we produce now are good technical players because there are nice pitches out there," Wenger said. "Before, you played in the park where you had to kick the ball up front and you had to fight. A boy of 12 who played against a boy of 16 had to be shrewd and push to get the ball. "All those kind of things have gone."

Then there's a growing preference for a high-energy pressing game, which relies on a more mobile forward line. Hence why Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp chooses Firmino over Sturridge and Origi, why Son has sometimes been preferred to Janssen as the lead forward for Tottenham in injured Harry Kane's absence, and why Sanchez looks like being the preferred choice to Giroud at Arsenal this season.

The likes of Sanchez, Redmond and Antonio - three quick, hard-working wingers - can stretch play by making runs behind defense, allowing their teams' many attacking midfielders (Mesut Ozil, Theo Walcott, Dusan Tadic, Dimitri Payet) more space to exploit.

As for Hazard, relieving him of defensive duties is one of the key reasons Chelsea manag-

er Antonio Conte has turned the Belgium winger into more of an out-and-out forward. Hazard's attacking flair was stymied last season by then-coach Jose Mourinho, who made him work too hard defensively.

"You have a similar type now in England who looks happy to have moved from wide to center," said Wenger, who converted Thierry Henry from a winger to one of the best strikers of his generation. "Most of the time, you develop a good technique on the flanks as a winger because you are against the line and you have to dribble. And when you are inside, you have a bit more room."

Slowly infused into the Premier League, the "false nine" isn't so popular among the top teams in Europe's top leagues at the moment. Strikers and speedy forwards are still the priority in Spain, with Barcelona (Luis Suarez), Real Madrid (Karim Benzema) and Atletico Madrid (Kevin Gameiro) having genuine strikers. No major team in Germany plays without a classic striker - except for the German national team itself, and that's only the case when strikers are injured - and the phenomenon hasn't really spread to Italy or France yet. — AP



DORTMUND: Dortmund's head coach Thomas Tuchel addresses a press conference yesterday, the eve of the UEFA Champions League Group F football match between BVB Borussia Dortmund and Sporting CP in Dortmund, western Germany. — AFP

LUKAKU REAPING BENEFITS OF KOEMAN'S CLARITY

LONDON: Everton striker Romelu Lukaku has credited manager Ronald Koeman's clear and concise approach for helping him get off to a fast start this season and says it was the Dutchman's honesty that convinced him to stay at Goodison Park. The 23-year-old has scored seven and assisted on three of Everton's 15 Premier

League goals this season, equalling his best start to a league campaign after 10 games. "He is really helping me a lot with a lot of clinical advice," Lukaku told British media. "He was really clear in what he wanted to improve. Also the consistency. He has told me off only one time this sea-

son. He was clear in his idea there is a real clarity about what he wants on the pitch. That helps me." Lukaku, who was strongly linked with a return to former club Chelsea during the close season, said a call from Koeman in the summer had convinced him he had an important role to play at the club.

"When the manager called me during the European Championship I told him how I felt," the Belgium international said. "I was surprised how honest he was with me. He was honest in the way that he wanted to work and how he wanted the team to play ... He saw me as an important figure and a big character."

"I told him I am not a guy that is going to cause any problems. I am a guy who has to be at 100 percent and that is what I am going to do. He knew it straight away." Everton, who are sixth in the league, face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. — Reuters

LEICESTER AMONG SIDES WITH LAST 16 IN SIGHT

PARIS: AFP Sports looks ahead in today's Champions League action with reigning champions Real Madrid, Juventus, Borussia Dortmund and debutants Leicester City all looking to clinch places in the last 16 with two games to spare.

Group E At Monaco

Monaco (FRA) v CSKA Moscow (RUS)
Monaco top the group and remain unbeaten, so a win at home to the Russian champions will all but secure their place in the last 16. Leonardo Jardim's side, who snatched a draw in Moscow last time out thanks to Bernardo Silva's late equaliser, come into the game sitting in second place in Ligue 1. They are also the most prolific side in any of Europe's leading leagues along with Barcelona, with both teams having netted 30 goals so far. That is despite Monaco having loaned giant Ivorian striker Lacinia Traore to CSKA—he scored for the Russians in the reverse fixture. CSKA could be on the brink of elimination if they lose and form is not on their side. They have won just one of their last eight matches in all competitions and have been beaten eight times in their last nine away group games in the Champions League. Meanwhile, their goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev is looking to end a run of 40 consecutive Champions League games without keeping a clean sheet. CSKA are without the suspended Roman Eremenko, while Alan Dzagoev is a doubt.

At London Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) v Bayer Leverkusen (GER)

Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham will be looking to end a five-game winless run when they entertain Leverkusen in a crucial contest at Wembley. Spurs have had four draws and one defeat in all competitions since beating Manchester City a month ago. That sequence includes a 0-0 draw in Germany two weeks ago, and Tottenham need at least the same again to keep qualification for the last 16 in their own hands. They will also be looking for a maiden victory at Wembley after losing 2-1 to Monaco at England's national stadium in their Group E opener. Leverkusen have drawn all three group games so far and come into the match on the back of a 2-1 win at Wolfsburg at the weekend that ended their own run of four matches without a victory. Harry Kane is on the sidelines for Spurs while Joel Pohjanpalo and Karim Bellarabi are absent for the visitors.

Group F At Dortmund, Germany Borussia Dortmund (GER) v Sporting Lisbon (POR)

Dortmund have started strongly in Group F and will secure their place in the last 16 with a win at home to Sporting at the Signal Iduna Park. Thomas Tuchel's men were 2-1 winners when the teams met in Portugal recently and have lost just one of their last 11 matches. However, they were held to a goalless draw by Schalke in the Ruhr derby at the weekend and sit only sixth in the Bundesliga. In addition, they have a long injury list with Marcel Schmelzer, Sven Bender, Marco Reus, Neven Subotic and Erik Durm all on the sidelines. Sporting need a positive result to keep alive their chances of reaching the knockout phase for the first time since 2008/09 but they have had one draw and suffered 11 defeats on their 12 previous visits to Germany. Jorge Jesus's men are also struggling for form - last Friday's 0-0 draw at Nacional left them with only one win in five, a run that has seen them drop to fourth place. Captain Adrien is injured.

At Warsaw Legia Warsaw (POL) v Real Madrid (ESP)

Incidents at Legia's last home game, a 6-0 defeat to Borussia Dortmund, means this meeting with the reigning champions will be played behind closed doors in the Polish capital. Legia lost 5-1 in Madrid last time out and are yet to register a point in the group—another defeat here will eliminate them, while even a draw may not put off the inevitable. Madrid, meanwhile, will be through with a win, provid-

ed Borussia Dortmund also win. Zinedine Zidane's men warmed up for this game with a 4-1 win at Alaves in which Cristiano Ronaldo bagged a hat-trick. They are top of La Liga, unbeaten in 15 games this season and have scored 24 times in their last five matches. Ronaldo, meanwhile, is just two goals away from reaching a century in European competition. Pepe is out, but it is set to be a daunting task for Legia, who are currently sixth in their domestic league.

Group G At Copenhagen

FC Copenhagen (DEN) v Leicester City (ENG)
The Leicester City fairytale can reach the Champions League knockout phase if the shock English champions get a result at Copenhagen, who have four points so far. One of only three teams in the competition on full points from the opening three games, the feeling is that coach Claudio Ranieri is focusing on Europe. A win in Denmark will secure a place in the last 16, and they warmed up with a 1-1 draw at Tottenham Hotspur at the weekend. They travel to Denmark with their Danish international goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel in exceptional form. Copenhagen, who had gone 23 games without defeat before losing 1-0 in the reverse fixture, come into the match still unbeaten domestically and six points clear at the top of their league.

At Oporto, Portugal Porto (POR) v Club Brugge (BEL)

The 2004 champions Porto are locked in a battle with Copenhagen for a place in the next round with the pair on four points. After winning 2-1 in Belgium with a late penalty, the home side badly need another result here. They are second in their domestic league, five points behind leaders Benfica, after drawing 0-0 at Vitoria Setubal at the weekend. He may have drawn a blank in that match but striker Andre Silva has scored 10 goals in his last nine games for club and country. Brugge, the runners-up in the 1978 European Cup, are on a seven-game winless away streak in the competition. They have had a poor season so far but their domestic form has improved since their last European outing, with seven points from three games lifting them to fifth in the Belgian league.

Group H At Seville, Spain

Sevilla (ESP) v Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
Serial Europa League winners Sevilla are level top of Group H alongside Juventus and tackle pointless Croatians Dinamo Zagreb, who lost 3-0 and 4-0 to Lyon and Juventus respectively before going down 1-0 at home to Sevilla two weeks ago. Fourth in the Spanish league, Sevilla have scored just two goals to get their seven points in Europe with a goalless draw at Juventus and a 1-0 win over Lyon coming before Frenchman Samir Nasri gave them the points in Zagreb. Nasri will miss this match with a hamstring injury and former Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli will hope his team can safely negotiate the encounter with a home clash with Barcelona to follow at the weekend. Dinamo have never gone beyond the group stage in the Champions League and will be eliminated if they lose.

At Turin, Italy Juventus (ITA) v Lyon (FRA)

The 2015 finalists Juventus will qualify for the next round with a win over their struggling French visitors. Juve are unbeaten in their last 18 home matches in Europe and are fresh from beating Napoli 2-1 in Serie A at the weekend when Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain scored the winner against his old club and refused to celebrate. Paulo Dybala is absent for the hosts, who won 1-0 in Lyon two weeks ago. Striker Alexandre Lacazette missed a penalty for the Ligue 1 side in that match but he has been back in goalscoring form, grabbing a brace in a 2-1 away win at high-flying Toulouse at the weekend. After Gianluigi Buffon saved Lacazette's penalty in the reverse fixture, Juventus had Mario Lemina sent off but beat Lyon thanks to Juan Cuadrado's strike. Lyon will be out if they lose and Sevilla win. — AFP



STOKE: Swansea City's Neil Taylor, top, and Stoke City's Marko Arnautovic battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Stoke City and Swansea City at the Bet365 Stadium, Stoke, England, Monday. — AP

BONY BACK AMONG THE GOALS IN STOKE WIN



STOKE-ON-TRENT: Ivory Coast striker Wilfried Bony ended a 10-month goal drought with a brace against former club Swansea City as Stoke City's revival continued with a 3-1 win in Monday's Premier League clash.

Both goals for the 27-year-old Manchester City loanee were set up by another former Swansea favourite, Joe Allen, with Alfie Mawson also putting through his own net as Stoke claimed a third win on the bounce. "It is crazy that my first goals come against my ex-team, it is disappointing for them but that is how football happens," Bony told Sky Sports. "I have missed some chances but I knew the goals would come. Every game I push myself." Swansea, who had levelled in the first half through Wayne Routledge, have made their worst start to a Premier League season with just

five points from 10 matches. It is also the first time they have gone nine games without a win. "There is no easy solution to getting confidence back," Swansea manager Bob Bradley told Sky Sports. "When you are going through a bad stretch you have to have belief. "It was 1-1 at half-time but we didn't start the second half in a way that suggested we could win the game," added the former United States coach, who has picked up just one point from three games in charge after replacing Francesco Guidolin. Stoke are unbeaten in five matches and climb to 12th, five points clear of the relegation zone, while Swansea are second from bottom and five points adrift of safety. It took less than three minutes for Bony to make his mark, pouncing to prod home from inside the six-yard box after Allen's mishit half-volley for his first goal in 23 matches for club and country. However, the Swans levelled within five minutes as Routledge did brilliantly to head home Gylfi Sigurdsson's superb cross. The hosts were impressive going forward and Scotland international Charlie Adam-making his first Premier League start of the season-hit the post with a fantastic curling effort.

Stoke suffered a blow in the 26th minute as Swiss playmaker Xherdan Shaqiri had to go off injured and was replaced by Egyptian youngster Ramadan Sobhi. Adam then conjured up another splendid effort but was this time denied by the other post. The woodwork was proving to be a very effective 12th man for the visitors as it once again came to the rescue after Allen's astute pass found Marko Arnautovic, who rounded goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski only to see his effort cannon back off an upright. Bony blazed over after being teed up by Arnautovic at the start of the second half but 19-year-old Sobhi was the creator as the hosts restored their advantage in the 55th minute. Sobhi produced a delightful piece of skill inside the box after a superb pass from Irish veteran Glenn Whelan and his shot was diverted into his own net by Mawson. It was another brilliant Stoke move which produced the killer third goal 17 minutes from time. Arnautovic delivered a sublime back-heeled pass to find Allen, whose shot was saved by Fabianski. However, the Welsh international reacted brilliantly to help the ball across to Bony, who applied the finish. — AFP

INTER SACK DE BOER AFTER 11 LEAGUE GAMES

MILAN: Frank de Boer has been sacked as coach of Inter Milan after just 11 Serie A games for failing to ignite the Italian giants at home and in Europe. Sunday's loss at similarly struggling Sampdoria was Inter's fifth league defeat since the start of the season and prompted a fan backlash on social media calling for the Dutchman's removal. "Inter Milan announces that Frank de Boer has been relieved of his duties as first-team coach," a club statement said yesterday. "The first-team squad will be taken over provisionally by our youth team coach, Stefano Vecchi, who will be on the bench for the Europa League game against Southampton. "The club would like to thank Frank and his staff for their contribution and wish them all the best for the future." Inter's new Chinese owners Suning appointed de Boer, 46, as a replacement for Roberto Mancini two weeks before the start of the Serie A season. After investing heavily in players over the summer, Inter-Italy's last Champions League winners, in 2010 — were expected to challenge five-time consecutive champions Juventus for the Serie A title, as well as signal their return to Europe by challenging for the Europa League. But with only four league wins in 11 games Inter are well off the pace. They slipped to below mid-table at 13 points behind leaders Juventus following the 1-0 defeat at Sampdoria.

In Europe, de Boer's men have been a disaster. They sit bottom of Group K behind leaders Sparta Prague and Israeli side Hapoel Be'er Sheva, who stunned Inter 2-0 at the San Siro. Inter beat Southampton 1-0 last week and will visit the English Premier League side for the return leg on Thursday, when Vecchi will be in charge. Although Vecchi will take over on a caretaker basis, former Lazio coach Stefano Pioli is being tipped to replace de Boer on a more permanent basis. Inter host basement side Crotone on Sunday. De Boer was summoned by club bosses two weeks ago and earned a stay of execution on the



MONACO: Moscow's midfielder Georgi Schennikov gives a press conference at the Louis II stadium in Monaco yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match AS Monaco vs CSKA Moscow. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA Champions League tables

PARIS: UEFA Champions League group tables ahead of match day four this midweek (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A	Rostov	Group E
Arsenal 3 2 1 0 9 1 7	3 0 1 2 2 8 1	Monaco 3 1 2 0 4 3 5
Paris SG 3 2 1 0 7 2 7		Tottenham 3 1 1 1 2 2 4
Basel 3 0 1 2 1 6 1		Bayer Leverkusen 3 0 3 0 3 3 3
Ludogorets 3 0 1 2 2 10 1		CSKA Moscow 3 0 2 1 3 4 2
Group B	Group F	Group G
Napoli 3 2 0 1 8 6 6	Borussia Dortmund 3 2 1 0 10 3 7	Leicester 3 3 0 0 5 0 9
Besiktas 3 1 2 0 5 4 5	Real Madrid 3 2 1 0 9 4 7	FC Copenhagen 3 1 1 1 5 2 4
Benfica 3 1 1 1 5 5 4	Sporting Lisbon 3 1 0 2 4 4 3	FC Porto 3 1 1 1 3 3 4
Dynamo Kiev 3 0 1 2 2 5 1	Legia Warsaw 3 0 0 3 1 13 0	Club Brugge 3 0 0 3 1 9 0
Group C	Group H	Group I
Barcelona 3 3 0 0 13 1 9	Juventus 3 2 1 0 5 0 7	Sevilla 3 2 1 0 2 0 7
Man City 3 1 1 1 7 7 4	Sevilla 3 2 1 0 2 0 7	Lyon 3 1 0 2 3 2 3
Borussia 3 1 0 2 3 6 3	Dinamo Zagreb 3 0 0 3 0 8 0	
M'gladbach 3 0 1 2 3 12 1		
Celtic 3 0 1 2 3 12 1		
Group D		
Atletico Madrid 3 3 0 0 3 0 9		
Bayern Munich 3 2 0 1 9 2 6		
PSV Eindhoven 3 0 1 2 3 7 1		

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Tottenham v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	22:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
AS Monaco v CSKA Moskva	22:45
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Borussia Dortmund v Sporting	22:45
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Legia Warszawa v Real Madrid	22:45
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Copenhagen v Leicester City	22:45
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
FC Porto v Club Brugge KV	22:45
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Sevilla FC v GNK Dinamo Zagreb	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Juventus v Olympique Lyonnais	22:45
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	

Sports

Tokyo details venue changes, cost cuts for 2020 Games



Traditional strikers getting overlooked in English soccer



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016

LEICESTER AMONG SIDES WITH LAST 16 IN SIGHT Page 19



CHICAGO: Chicago Bears running back Jordan Howard (24) runs from Minnesota Vikings strong safety Anthony Harris, from left, Danielle Hunter (99) and Eric Kendricks (54) during the first half of an NFL football game in Chicago, Monday. — AP

CUTLER, HOWARD LEAD BEARS TO WIN OVER VIKINGS

CHICAGO: Jay Cutler threw for 252 yards and a touchdown after missing five games with a thumb injury, rookie Jordan Howard ran for a career-high 153 yards and a TD, and the Chicago Bears stunned the Minnesota Vikings 20-10 on Monday night.

The Bears (2-6) sacked Sam Bradford five times while handing the NFC North-leading Vikings (5-2) their second straight loss.

Cutler was on target in his return from a sprained right thumb. Howard easily surpassed his previous high of 118 yards. Alshon Jeffery got his first touchdown reception of the season, and Chicago outgained Minnesota 403 yards to 258.

Cutler had not played since he exited against Philadelphia in the second game of the season. But with his future up in the air after coach John Fox wavered in his commitment to him as the starter, he made a triumphant return.

Cutler completed 20 of 31 passes, including an 11-yard touchdown to Jeffery early in the third that made it 20-3. Whether he quieted fans who thought the Bears were better off with Brian Hoyer is another issue. But that became a moot point when Hoyer broke his left arm last week in a Thursday night loss at Green Bay.

Howard had a 69-yard run, the longest for Chicago in seven years. Zach Miller added 88 yards receiving as the Bears stopped a three-game losing streak.

Bradford, playing behind a porous line, had another rough game after getting sacked six times the previous week against Philadelphia. He was 23 of 37 for 228 yards.

Matt Asiata ran for 42 yards with Jerick McKinnon sidelined by an ankle injury.

With a sparse and quiet crowd looking on, the Bears led 13-3 at halftime. It was almost a bigger advantage, but Chicago settled for field goals on its first two trips

inside the 20.

Howard, a fifth-round draft pick, broke off a 69-yard run to the 13 on Chicago's first possession. It was the longest rushing play for the Bears since Kahlil Bell's 72-yarder against Philadelphia on Nov. 22, 2009. But instead of a touchdown, the Bears got a field goal from Connor Barth. They got another field goal early in the second after Xavier Rhodes broke up a pass to Jeffery in the end zone on third down at the 10.

Chicago finally broke through midway through the second quarter when Howard scored on a 2-yard run to make it 13-0.

The Vikings drove to the Bears' 2 in the final minute of the half. But Akiem Hicks hit Bradford for a 10-yard sack on third down, leading to a 30-yard field goal by Blair Walsh.

OFFICIAL INJURED

Head linesman Ed Walker was taken from the field on a cart after he slipped on the Soldier Field grass in the first quarter. Walker was injured running down the Vikings' sideline as the Bears punted. His legs bucked, and he was tended to for several minutes by medical personnel before being placed on the cart.

GO CUBS, GO

Vikings backup receiver and Chicago native Laquon Treadwell made it clear who he's rooting for in the World Series. He was wearing cleats showing an image of the Chicago Tribune with the headline "Cubs Win!" before the game.

INJURIES

Vikings: G Alex Boone was being evaluated for a concussion. ... CB Captain Munnerylyn hurt his foot. ... SS

Andrew Sendejo (ankle) sat out and Jayron Kearse started in his place.

Bears: The Bears held out RG Kyle Long (strained triceps) and LG Josh Sitton (ankle). Ted Larsen started at right guard and Eric Kush at left guard.

UP NEXT

Vikings: Face division rival Detroit for the first time this season when they host the Lions on Sunday. Bears: Have a bye before visiting Tampa Bay on Nov. 13. — AP

NFL results/standings

Chicago 20, Minnesota 10; Washington 27, Cincinnati 27 (OT); Kansas City 30, Indianapolis 14; Oakland 30, Tampa Bay 24 (OT); New Orleans 25, Seattle 20; Houston 20, Detroit 13; New York Jets 31, Cleveland 28; New England 41, Buffalo 25; Carolina 30, Arizona 20; Denver 27, San Diego 19; Atlanta 33, Green Bay 32; Dallas 29, Philadelphia 23 (OT); Tennessee 36, Jacksonville 22.

American Football Conference							National Football Conference						
AFC East							East						
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT
New England	7	1	0	.875	217	132	Dallas	6	1	0	.857	159	107
Buffalo	4	4	0	.500	212	171	Philadelphia	4	3	0	.571	179	117
Miami	3	4	0	.429	145	159	NY Giants	4	3	0	.571	132	141
NY Jets	3	5	0	.375	150	208	Washington	4	3	1	.562	185	189
North							North						
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	170	149	Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	137	103
Cincinnati	3	4	1	.438	167	189	Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	172	156
Baltimore	3	4	0	.429	133	138	Detroit	4	4	0	.500	183	189
Cleveland	0	8	0	.000	158	238	Chicago	2	6	0	.250	131	178
South							South						
Houston	5	3	0	.625	136	167	Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	262	231
Tennessee	4	4	0	.500	182	183	Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	152	189
Indianapolis	3	5	0	.375	208	230	New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	201	215
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	139	196	Carolina	2	5	0	.286	191	196
West							West						
Oakland	6	2	0	.750	215	203	Seattle	4	2	1	.643	131	109
Denver	6	2	0	.750	194	137	Arizona	3	4	1	.438	179	140
Kansas City	5	2	0	.714	165	137	LA Rams	3	4	0	.429	120	154
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	226	212	San Francisco	1	6	0	.143	144	219



RIO DE JANEIRO: File photo taken on July 14, 2014 shows Germany's forward Miroslav Klose (C) celebrating with his sons after winning the 2014 FIFA World Cup final football match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Germany's Miroslav Klose, the top scorer at World Cup finals with 16 goals, yesterday announced the end of his playing career and is set to help coach die Mannschaft. — AFP

WORLD CUP TOP-SCORER KLOSE RETIRES AT 38

BERLIN: Germany's prolific Miroslav Klose, the all-time World Cup top-scorer, announced his retirement yesterday at the age of 38.

The striker, Germany's record scorer with 71 goals in 137 internationals, was without a club after his Lazio contract expired last season and he will now join the national side's coaching staff. Klose hit a record 16th goal in World Cup finals during the 7-1 semi-final thrashing of hosts Brazil two years ago, which saw him overtake former Brazil star Ronaldo.

Germany went on to win the title in Klose's last game for his country, but he continued in the Italian league with Lazio.

Klose will join Germany's coaching staff after an invitation from head coach Joachim Loew and will be on the bench alongside Loew for the 2018 World Cup qualifier away to San Marino on November 11 and the friendly four days later against Italy in Milan.

He will complete an individual training programme with the goal of embarking on a coaching career, the German Football Association (DFB) says. "I celebrated my biggest successes in the national team, the

time was wonderful and remains unforgettable so I am happy to be able to return to the DFB," said Poland-born Klose.

"The idea has been growing in the last few months to stay on the pitch, but with a new perspective, mainly as a coach.

"To be able to read a game, to prepare myself meticulously, to develop strategies and tactics that had already really interested me as a player. "I am very grateful to Jogi Loew and (DFB director) Hansi Flick for this opportunity and chance to sharpen my practical skills."

'ROLE MODEL'

Loew, 56, who extended his contract as head coach until 2020 on Monday, said he was delighted to welcome the "dependable" Klose into his backroom staff. "He is a role model, as a human being and an athlete, who gives his all for the team and its success," said Loew, German head coach since 2006. "We want to support him in the DFB on his path for becoming a coach. "I am certain we (the backroom staff), as well as the players, will

benefit greatly from his presence and participation." Loew's former assistant Flick, now the DFB's director of sport, said keeping Klose's experience was vital.

"For football as a whole it is an absolute win if someone like Miroslav Klose decides to work as a coach and to continue to work for the DFB," said Flick.

Klose made his Bundesliga debut in 2000 with Kaiserslautern and went on to play for Werder Bremen, Bayern Munich and Lazio. He scored 121 goals in 307 matches in Germany's top flight and managed 68 goals in 173 Serie A games during five years with Lazio, who he joined in 2011. His final appearance for Germany was in the 2014 World Cup final win over Argentina after extra time at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium. Just before the tournament, he became Germany's all-time top-scorer in a 6-1 warm-up friendly win over Armenia.

He netted his 69th goal to break Gerd Mueller's record of 68 goals, though Mueller's phenomenal feat was in only 62 appearances, for West Germany — AFP



US FACTORIES EXPAND IN OCTOBER



RIYADH: Saudi and foreign experts and businesspeople attend the Energy Dialogue 2016 held at the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) in Riyadh yesterday. — AFP (see page 22)

KFH REPORTS NET PROFIT OF KD 123.1 MILLION

EARNINGS PER SHARE 23.86 FILS AN INCREASE OF 16.4%

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, realized a net profit of KD 123.1 million for the period ending September 2016 for KFH shareholders as compared to KD 105.7 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 16.5 percent.

Total operating revenues for the 9 months ending September 2016 reached KD 491.5 million i.e. a growth of 4.0 percent compared to the same period last year. Net operating revenues reached KD 264.1 million, i.e. a growth of 14.7 percent over the same period last year. Net finance revenues reached KD 325.7 million, i.e. a growth of 2.3 percent over the same period last year.

Earnings per share as of end Q3 2016 reached 23.86 fils compared to 20.49 fils over the same period last year i.e. an increase by 16.4 percent. Earnings per share from the continuing operations (after excluding the impact of AIG) as of end Q3 2016 reached 27.42 fils compared to 19.40 fils over the same period last year i.e. an increase by 41.3 percent.

Total assets reached KD 16.64 billion i.e. an increase by KD 147.6 million or 1.0 percent compared to year ended 2015. Finance portfolio reached KD 8.42 billion i.e. an increase by KD 331 million or 4.1 percent compared to year ended 2015.

Depositors' accounts reached KD 10.90 billion i.e. an increase by KD 62.3 million or 0.6 percent compared to year ended 2015. Shareholders' equity reached KD 1.81 billion as of end Q3 this year an increase by KD 30.9 million or 1.7 percent compared to year ended 2015.

During Q2 this year, the Board of Directors of the Bank approved to sell Group's interest in its subsidiary Aref Investment Group (AIG). As a result, the assets and liabilities of AIG presented as assets classified as held for sale and liabilities directly associated with the assets classified as held for sale amounted to KD 344 million and KD 171 million, respectively. According to this presentation, the total operating revenues decreased from KD 498 million to KD 492 million, while the net operating revenues increased from KD 253 million to KD 264 million.

Capital adequacy

KFH's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached 17.24 percent, higher than the required limit of 13 percent, thus reiterating the strength of KFH financial position. Al-Marzouq said that the realized profits are in line with the ambitious strategy to ensure the achievement of a sustainable growth rate, yet to achieve integration of its businesses at the Group level. The profits reiterated the bank's resilience to adapt with the markets' volatility, which reflects the balanced performance and robust financial position of the bank. KFH continued to efficiently manage risk and set aside the



Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq

required provisions in accordance with the best practices. This reflects its strong financial position and high liquidity levels.

"Despite the tough-operating environment and the unfavorable conditions in different markets regionally and globally, KFH achieved good profitability and growth in all indicators, mainly the surge in the total operating revenues and the investment revenues. KFH managed to reduce the operating expenses in comparison to the revenues. The high profitability indicators calculated on a yearly basis reiterates the strong pillars of KFH to achieve sustained profitability," added Al-Marzouq.

He called upon the public and the private sectors to bolster coordination and collaboration in order to face what could affect the economy in the coming period, stressing the importance of creating a vision to encounter the negative impacts of the latest developments. He stressed the importance of having a comprehensive economic outlook in an attempt to avert any negative effects on the economy and businesses, not to mention the importance of the government's role in boosting the economy through raising the capital expenditure, offering more investment opportunities and projects to the private sector, while providing attractive environment for foreign investments to take advantage of the movement of funds between markets. Kuwait enjoys open and stable economic and political climate which qualifies it to be a hub for further foreign investments and a focal point for global markets.

Solid economy

He expressed his confidence that the economy is in a good position and the Kuwaiti banks are armed with high levels of liquidity and quality assets, yet they operate in a stringent regulatory environment. Hence, the local banks play an important

role in supporting the government's directives in the areas of restructuring, privatization, bridging budget deficit, financing mega projects and other areas that add value to the national economy.

The bank works tirelessly to settle companies' debts while preserve and enforce shareholders' rights. KFH has settled many debts and negotiations for settling other debts are currently taking place. Al-Marzouq stressed the ceaseless efforts of KFH in strengthening its role in boosting the national economy, primarily through corporate finance as per the credit and legislative regulations. KFH continues its unremitting efforts to offer credit facilities for SMEs in an attempt to encourage the youth's initiative as well as to diversify income resources. KFH has the largest share of SMEs segment that has a positive social and economic impact, not to mention comes in line with KFH's methodology of supporting the development activities in the country.

He added that KFH-Group successfully assumed its development and financial role in the markets in which it operates. This reaffirms KFH's ability to serve the development plans and support the development process. KFH-Bahrain inked several financing agreements for several real estate development projects. It offers sharia-compliant financial services that meet different segments of clients. KFH-Turkey is leading the participation banks in Turkey. It offers a wide range of financial services while expands and penetrates new markets. The bank targets to be among the best 10 banks in Turkey in the upcoming period. KFH-Malaysia managed to map out a new customer-centric strategy based on offering retail and corporate financial services for the industrial and commercial centers. KT Bank Ag in Germany has also achieved many good results.

High-end products

He reiterated KFH's endeavors to render customers high-end products and services that meet their aspirations and cope with the markets' developments to affirm KFH's leading position and boost its market share. KFH insures applying all technological applications and platforms as per the highest standards of security and accuracy, stressing the significant role of the human resources. The bank spares no efforts in hiring, training, and qualifying its human resources whilst preparing the distinguished national employees for leadership position. Al-Marzouq expressed his thanks and appreciation to all shareholders and clients for their support and confidence. He hailed the efforts of KFH's executive management and employees for their outstanding performance that yielded positive results, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the leadership position at all levels.

AS ELECTION LOOMS, DIVIDED FED BEGINS MEET ON RATES

WASHINGTON: A divided US Federal Reserve yesterday began a two-day meeting on interest rate policy as bitterly contested US elections loomed large on the horizon. Most observers and market players do not expect the Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed's monetary policy board, to announce a rate hike when the meeting lets out on Wednesday afternoon, despite some recent signs of improving health in the world's largest economy.

Instead, the Fed may use the occasion to put the public on notice to expect a rate hike in December-though even that is far from guaranteed. Fed Chair Janet Yellen in recent months has signaled that the case for raising rates has grown stronger. But the FOMC does not appear to be under pressure to act immediately.

Raising rates so close to an election, which could invite needless political controversy, is also rare for the Fed, which has done so only once since the 1980s. Researchers say, however, that there is little evidence the FOMC acts based on the US political calendar. "Although we think the committee will hike in December, our analysis suggests that the fundamental macroeconomic argument for hiking rates is as weak as it was last December when they hiked rates for the first time in a decade," Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Mizuho Americas, said in a client note.

The course of policy tightening announced

by the Fed since last December year has proven to be far slower and more shallow than expected, as FOMC members in 2016 have repeatedly put off rate hikes citing weak global and domestic economic performance and uncertainty from political events.

A minority of US central bankers favor raising rates immediately but have been out-voted since the summer by other FOMC members who believe this could interrupt what has been a disappointingly slow economic recovery.

Since the Fed's last meet in September, the US economy has gained pace, growing at a 2.9 percent clip in the third quarter and adding a solid 156,000 jobs in September, with unemployment holding steady at 5 percent.

On an annual basis, inflation stood at 1.2 percent in September, its highest level in nearly two years but well below the Fed's 2 percent target range. Economic and political calendars also contain much which could derail a December rate hike, such as raucous US elections and their uncertain aftermath, two more monthly jobs reports, as well as struggling crude markets and political developments in Europe. Fed funds rate futures, which indicate investor expectations for monetary policy, put the likelihood that the Fed will not raise rates this week at 92.8 percent. But the probability of a hike in December is put at 70 percent. — AFP

DOLLAR DIPS ON US ELECTION JITTERS; STOCKS EDGE LOWER

NEW YORK: The dollar slipped, demand for gold picked up and stocks edged lower yesterday as investors sought safe havens amid mounting uncertainty about next week's US presidential election.

US Treasury yields rose as investors awaited the completion of the Federal Reserve's meeting today, while oil held just above one-month lows following its sharp slide on Monday. The US dollar hit its lowest level in more than two weeks against the euro yesterday on US political uncertainty, while the Mexican peso hit a more than three-week low on positioning for a potential victory for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

A Clinton win is generally seen by analysts as likely to be a positive for the dollar. But news on Friday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was probing newly found emails related to US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private server continued to shake traders' confidence in the outcome of the Nov. 8 election.

"The market has built up some dollar longs and euro shorts in recent weeks, and with Friday's news increasing the uncertainty around the election outcome, we suspect market participants are cutting back" on those

positions, said Vassili Serebriakov, FX strategist at Credit Agricole in New York.

MSCI's 47-country "All World" index was flat. Asian stocks propped up the index earlier in the session, helped by stronger-than-expected factory activity in China. On Wall Street, stocks edged lower, a day after all three major indexes recorded their worst monthly performance since January. Investors have been cautious due to uncertainty surrounding the election.

Clinton held a five-percentage-point lead over Republican Donald Trump, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Monday, down only slightly since the FBI said last week it was reviewing new emails in its investigation of Clinton ahead of the Nov 8 election. But a poll by ABC News showed Trump leading by one point and the Los Angeles Times put the Republican candidate more than two points ahead.

"The market is expected to be range-bound until the election results next week," said Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 26.05 points, or 0.14 percent, to 18,116.37, the S&P 500 lost 4.09 points, or 0.19 percent, to 2,122.06 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 7.34 points, or 0.14 percent, to 5,181.80. — Reuters

US MERGER WAVE SURGES AHEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

NEW YORK: US companies significantly accelerated merger and acquisition activity in October ahead of the finale of a hard-fought presidential election campaign that has financial markets on edge.

In the latest examples of mega deal-making, US telecom group CenturyLink on Monday announced it was acquiring Level 3 Communications for \$34 billion including debt, while General Electric unveiled plans to merge its oilfield unit into Baker Hughes, with an implied current market value of the merged company of \$45-50 billion. The two deals, plus a slew of takeovers unveiled earlier in the month, came as the close and contentious US presidential campaign between Republican Donald Trump and

Democrat Hillary Clinton entered the homestretch. The outcome could have major implications for key US economic policies, including international trade and taxes.

Markets are also gearing up for a likely move by the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates in December, which would raise the cost of debt. Investment bankers highlighted the prospect of higher interest rates down the road as they prodded companies to pull the trigger on deals.

"Now the pitch is 'Fund your deal with debt... Rates will never be lower!'" said a note from Convergenx chief market strategist Nicholas Colas.

Colas, in an interview, said the trans-

actions are a sign of underlying confidence in the US economy. "It says that CEOs and boards are fairly comfortable with where their businesses are currently," he said.

"They wish growth were better, but they don't see a big drop in the near-term horizon. If they did, they obviously wouldn't be making big bet-the-farm acquisitions."

"No matter what the change in policy may be in the White House or Congress, no matter what the (interest) rates are, overall the economy is still going to be in a good place going forward," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade. "Your business is still going to be better off."

Near-record deal-making

Deal-making picked up considerably in October, data show. While the first three quarters of 2016 saw relatively few large merger and acquisition transactions, October was the second biggest month ever for US deals, according to Dealogic. There were 602 transactions worth \$329 billion last month, just \$3 billion short of the record in July 2015. The most controversial is AT&T's plan to buy Time Warner, parent of CNN, HBO and Warner Brothers movie studio, for \$85.4 billion. The deal has prompted criticism that the concentration of entertainment assets will harm consumers.

Trump, who has harshly criticized big companies including Apple and Ford

during the course of his campaign, has lambasted the transaction, while Clinton's campaign has pledged to closely scrutinize the deal. Other large acquisitions include tobacco giant British American Tobacco's proposed \$47 billion buyout of the remaining stake in Reynolds it does not own, and semiconductor giant Qualcomm's proposed takeover of Dutch company NXP, also for \$47 billion.

The deals, and hundreds of smaller transactions, stemmed from a variety of motivations, but in general, mergers can be useful in opening up cost-cutting opportunities or access to new markets during a slow-growth period, analysts said. —AFP



File photo shows, workers assemble sneakers at a factory in Jinjiang city in southeast China's Fujian province. Private and official surveys show that China's factory activity rose to a two-year high in October 2016, suggesting the world's No. 2 economy is stabilizing. —AP

CHINA OCT FACTORY ACTIVITY EXPANDS

BEIJING: Activity in China's manufacturing sector expanded at the fastest pace in over two years in October thanks to a construction boom, with smaller firms growing more upbeat, suggesting the world's second-largest economy is stabilising and getting on steadier footing.

Signs of a more broader-based recovery will be welcomed by the government amid growing views that a housing rally may have peaked. Much of China's better-than-expected growth this year has been highly reliant on spending by often inefficient state firms as private investment languished.

The official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 51.2 in October, much stronger than September and the highest reading since July 2014. Economists had expected a far more modest reading of 50.4, in line with the previous month. Levels above 50 indicate an expansion in activity on a monthly basis.

China's economy expanded at a steady 6.7 percent clip in the third quarter and looks set to hit Beijing's full-year target of 6.5 to 7 percent, fueled by stronger government infrastructure spending, record bank lending and a red-hot property market that are adding to a growing pile of debt.

The construction spree has fueled stronger demand and higher prices for building materials from cement to steel, boosting sales for related companies from engineering firms to property agents. Global construction equipment maker Caterpillar said last week it sees further modest improvement in 2017. "The significant improvement in PMI is largely driven by commodity prices," said Singapore-based economist Zhou Hao at Commerzbank.

Beijing's plans to cut excess industrial capacity and factories' need to replenish low inventories are also buoying prices for commodities such as coal and steel, and boosting profits, said David Qu, a Shanghai-based economist from ANZ.

Factory output accelerated in October,

with the sub-index rising to 53.3 in October from 52.8 in September. Total new orders also showed solid improvement, rising to 52.8 from September's 50.9. But new export orders contracted slightly, pointing to persistent sluggishness in global demand that has weighed on Asia's export-reliant economies for nearly two years.

A similar business survey showed activity in China's services sector expanded at the fastest pace since December 2015, with the official reading picking up to 54.0 in October from 53.7 in September.

PRIVATE SECTOR PICKING UP?

Both the official factory survey and a private survey by Caixin/Markit showed conditions were improving for smaller and medium-sized Chinese firms, which have struggled for traction as Beijing relies more on large state firms to spur activity.

The Caixin survey showed output expanded at the quickest pace since March 2011. If the trend does not prove to be a flash in the pan, it may suggest that government efforts to revive weak private investment are starting to pay off. Private investment growth picked up to 4.5 percent in September after falling to record lows in recent months.

"I suspect the growth has more to do with a recovery in private investment," said Capital Economics' Julian Evans-Pritchard in Singapore. "The government has been doing a lot to lower the borrowing costs for the private sector. But I doubt the strength will sustain as those measures are not fundamental reforms," he said.

IS GROWTH SUSTAINABLE?

While Asian stock markets edged higher after the upbeat China reports, financial markets remain unconvinced about how long the rebound can last, especially given the rapid rise in debt being used to fuel growth, said Cliff Tan, East Asia head of global markets research at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ. —Reuters

SAUDI ENDS 9-DAY WINNING STREAK, REGION MIXED

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market ended a nine-day rising streak yesterday as banking shares were hit by profit taking, while bourses in the rest of the region were mixed.

The Saudi stock index had surged 10.1 percent over the nine trading days through Monday, led by banks, after Riyadh's huge international bond issue reduced jitters about the economy's ability to cope with low oil prices and began to ease tight banking system liquidity. Yesterday, however, the index retreated 0.3 percent as the banking sector pulled back 0.6 percent. The biggest lender, National Commercial Bank, closed flat at 43.80 riyals.

The petrochemical sector, the market's other big sector, fell 0.8 percent after oil prices dropped overnight. Most shares gaining ground were second- or third-tier stocks favored by local retail speculators, such as Al Sagr Cooperative Insurance, which was up 1.3 percent.

The replacement overnight of veteran finance minister Ibrahim Alasaf with Mohammed Al-Jadaan, previously chairman of the Capital Market Authority, had no significant impact on the market. Alasaf carried out sharp spending cuts in the past year but austerity is expected to continue under

Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who oversees economic policy.

Dubai's stock index dropped 0.3 percent as real estate blue chip Emaar Properties lost 1.6 percent. But Dubai Investments gained 1.5 percent after reporting a 35.9 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to 334.4 million dirhams (\$91 million). Abu Dhabi's index was flat and Qatar rose 0.3 percent as property firm Ezzan Holding jumped 3.5 percent; it had edged down to a seven-month low on Monday after reporting a flat third-quarter profit.

In Egypt, the index climbed 0.7 percent but foreign investors were net sellers by a large margin for a second straight day because of speculation that a major currency devaluation could be imminent, given the Egyptian pound's plunge in the black market.

Property developer Amer Group Holding climbed to 0.25 pound from 0.24 pound after reporting a rise in third-quarter consolidated net profit to 76.3 million pounds (\$8.6 million) from 43.6 million pounds a year ago. Egyptians for Housing Development and Reconstruction Co jumped 6.5 percent after saying a block trade of 5.175 million of its shares had been executed. —Reuters

US FACTORY ACTIVITY EXPANDS, CONSTRUCTION SPENDING FALLS

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT, PRODUCTION PICK UP

WASHINGTON: US factory activity increased for a second straight month in October amid a pickup in production and hiring, supporting views manufacturing would regain some momentum in the fourth quarter.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) yesterday said its index of national factory activity rose 0.4 percentage point to a reading of 51.9 percent last month. A reading above 50 indicates an expansion in manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of the US economy.

The production sub-index gained 1.8 percentage points to 54.6. But a gauge of new orders slipped to a reading of 52.1 from 55.1 in September, suggesting any future gains in manufacturing activity would be modest. A measure of factory employment jumped 3.2 percentage points to a reading of 52.9. The data came as Federal Reserve officials gathered for a two-day meeting to deliberate on monetary policy. The US central bank is not expected to raise rates at the end of the meeting today, which comes less than a week before the Nov. 8 presidential election, but is expected to do so in December.

Manufacturing has been hamstrung by the lingering effects of the dollar's surge between June 2014 and December 2015, which has constrained exports. The collapse in oil drilling activity in the aftermath of a plunge in oil prices has also weighed on factories. That has contributed to business spending on equipment declining for four straight quarters.

TURNAROUND LIKELY MODEST

While there are signs that a turnaround may be imminent, any gains in manufacturing will likely be mild. Heavy machinery maker Caterpillar last week reported a 49 percent drop in third-quarter profit from a year ago and lowered its full-year revenue out-

look for the second time this year. Caterpillar said demand for new heavy machinery had been undercut by an "abundance" of used construction equipment, a "substantial" number of idle locomotives and a "significant" number of idle mining trucks.

Last month, 10 manufacturing industries, including nonmetallic mineral products, furniture, and computer and electronic products reported growth. The eight industries reporting contraction in October included wood products, apparel and primary metals.

US financial markets were little moved by the data. In a separate report yesterday, the Commerce Department said construction spending slipped 0.4 percent after an

upwardly revised 0.5 percent drop in August. Construction outlays were down 0.2 percent from a year ago.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast construction spending rising 0.5 percent in September after a previously reported 0.7 percent drop in August. July's outlays were revised up to show them rising 0.5 percent instead of falling 0.3 percent as previously reported.

Spending on private construction projects dipped 0.2 percent in September, with outlays on residential construction rising 0.5 percent after falling 1.2 percent in August. The government reported on Friday that residential construction was a drag on economic growth in the third quarter.

Spending on private nonresidential structures, which includes factories, hospitals and roads, tumbled 1.0 percent in September, the largest drop since December 2015, after rising 0.5 percent the prior month. Investment in nonresidential structures contributed to the economy's 2.9 percent annualized growth rate in the third quarter.

Public construction spending declined 0.9 percent in September, falling to its lowest level since March 2014. Outlays on state and local government construction projects fell 0.8 percent, declining for a third straight month. Federal government construction spending tumbled 1.9 percent after surging 4.8 percent in August. —Reuters



MOBILE: This file photo taken on September 13, 2015 shows the tail end of an Airbus A321 at the Airbus manufacturing facility in Mobile, Alabama. —AFP

BOJ DELAYS INFLATION GOAL IN BLOW TO 'ABENOMICS'

TOKYO: Japan's central bank yesterday again pushed back the timeline for hitting its inflation goal, the latest policy change that has raised questions about its attempt to revive the deflation-plagued economy. The Bank of Japan has for more than three years embarked on a bond-buying stimulus program to try to keep interest rates ultra-low and increase borrowing and spending.

The scheme was introduced by BoJ governor Haruhiko Kuroda in conjunction with a government spending drive that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hoped would drag the world's number three economy out of years of torpor.

But in a fresh sign that authorities are still struggling, the bank said it now expects to hit two percent inflation by March 2019 — four years later than its original target and the latest in a string of delays.

It also leaves the next move up to Kuroda's successor as the target date is almost a year after his term ends. Kuroda on Tuesday denied there was any connection between the new target and his term, and blamed the BoJ's failure to drive up prices on a drop in crude futures and weak demand overseas.

"Of course, it is extremely regrettable that the target was not reached in two years," Kuroda told reporters, declining to comment on whether the government would look to extend his term. Japan's prime minister hand-picked Kuroda to help drive his 'Abenomics' growth blitz of big spending, easy money and structural reforms, unveiled in early 2013.

The programme sharply weakened the yen-fattening corporate profits-and set off a stock market rally that spurred hopes for a once-soaring economy caught in a deflationary spiral of falling prices and lacklustre growth.

Nowhere near

But growth remains fragile while inflation is far below the BoJ's target. Data last week showed consumer prices fell in September for a seventh straight month. "What we're seeing now is nowhere near what the bank had said would happen," said Tsuyoshi Ueno, senior economist at NLI Research Institute in Tokyo. "Their initial projection was not very good."

The BoJ hoped that consumers would spend more if prices were rising, persuading firms to expand operations and getting the world's number three economy humming. But wage growth

has fallen below expectations, meaning workers have less money to spend. Abe's promises to cut through red tape the key third plank of Abenomics-have also been slow in coming.

Japan's central bank Tuesday cut back its consumer price forecast for the current fiscal year ending March 2017 and for the subsequent two years.

In September the bank revealed it would switch its focus to 10-year government bonds and pledged to keep its yield around zero, by buying as few or as many as necessary.

It said it would also cut back on the number of longer-dated bonds it holds to try to reduce the price of long-term securities. The plan is to increase their yield, marking the latest effort to persuade Japanese consumers that the price of goods and services will rise in the future.

But analysts said the move was an admission of defeat which highlights the limits of central bank power. After yesterday's meeting the bank

said: "Risks to both economic activity and prices are skewed to the downside."

The bank did not alter monetary policy yesterday, including its 80 trillion yen (\$763 billion) annual asset-purchase program. It also left unchanged a negative interest rate policy designed to spur lending and growth.

"However, policymakers are showing concern about the sharp moderation in price pressures, and we still expect further stimulus in coming months," Marcel Thielliant from research house Capital Economics said in a commentary after the BoJ decision.

On Monday figures showed Japan's factory output and retail sales were flat in September, suggesting tepid expansion in July-September economic growth. The economy contracted in the last three months of 2015, before bouncing back in January-March with a 0.5 percent rise quarter-on-quarter and then a 0.2 percent expansion in April-June. —AFP



BASEL: A picture taken yesterday at Syngenta headquarters in Basel shows the logo of Swiss pesticide and seed company. The European Commission last week opened an in-depth investigation into state-owned ChemChina's 40-billion-euro takeover of Swiss seeds giant Syngenta to see if it would hurt competition. —AFP

MARKETS ON EDGE AS US CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL WEEK

LONDON: European shares were poised to fall for a seventh straight session while the dollar edged lower with investors largely holding back as the contentious US presidential campaign entered its final week.

European exchanges. The dollar was slightly weaker against a basket of currencies with the dollar index down 0.2 percent. In a busy week for central banks, the Bank of Japan and Reserve Bank of Australia held their policies steady as expected.

Forecast-beating results from oil major Royal Dutch Shell initially provided a boost to Europe's STOXX 600 index but those gains proved short-lived with weakness in banks dragging the index 0.1 percent lower.

The BoJ also held off on expanding stimulus yesterday but once again pushed back the timing for hitting its inflation target. The dollar hovered around 104.80 yen. "We're in limbo, unfortunately, ahead of the US election," said Bart Wakabayashi, head of Hong Kong FX sales at State Street Global Markets.

opinion poll released on Monday, down only slightly since the FBI said last week it was reviewing new emails in its investigation of Clinton ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

Markets see only a small chance that the US Federal Reserve will raise rates when it concludes its meeting on Wednesday, but traders will be scouring its statement for clues on the timing of its next rate hike. Chances of a rate hike in December were at around 78 percent, according to the CME Group's FedWatch Tool.

Meanwhile, Italy's borrowing costs hit fresh two-year highs yesterday with investors wary of political risks and banking sector reforms continuing to run into hurdles. Other euro zone bond

yields also rose between 3-4 basis points on the day, with Ireland's 10-year bond yields hitting its highest level since June, rising 4 bps to 0.69 percent.

The ramp-up in yields has been a central theme across markets over the past month, spurring turbulence in debt markets and sending global investors out of bonds and into cash on fears that a multi-decade bond bull run was coming to an end.

Asian markets higher

Hong Kong led most major Asian markets higher yesterday, with data indicating forecast-beating growth in Chinese factory activity providing a boost but uncertainty over the US presidential race keeping investors on edge. The closely watched purchasing managers' index hit its highest level in more than two years, Beijing said, indicating that the important manufacturing sector-and the world's number two economy-is leveling out.

A separate private index also beat expectations to hit its highest mark since July 2014. The figures come weeks after official data showed economic growth stabilising and putting the government on track to achieve its annual target, while another reading showed a first increase in factory gate prices for four years. "The market has turned more positive and confident that China's economy will stabilise in the fourth quarter," Linus Yip, a Hong Kong-

based strategist at First Shanghai Securities, told Bloomberg News.

"After a correction in Hong Kong and being at a relatively low level, the market needed some stimulus to gain power and the China figures helped trigger that."

Hong Kong stocks closed up 0.9 percent, having retreated almost three percent in the previous five days. Shanghai ended up 0.7 percent and Tokyo reversed early losses to end 0.1 percent higher. Singapore put on 0.4 percent in late trade. But Sydney shed 0.5 percent and Seoul was slightly lower while Wellington and Taipei also finished lower.

In Asian trade the dollar bought 18.86 pesos compared with 18.96 pesos the day before. The dollar edged up later in the day against the yen after the Bank of Japan once again pushed back its inflation timeline. The central bank now expects prices to move "toward" two percent by March 2019 - four years later than its original goal, which was set by governor Haruhiko Kuroda in 2013.

Analysts said the move could mean the BoJ will hold off new easing until late next year to give prices time to pick up.

The pound rose against the dollar, having enjoyed a rare bump after Bank of England governor Mark Carney said he would extend his tenure by another year, putting an end to speculation over his future. - Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Tuesday 01 November 2016. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Global Bond Yields.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Global Bond Yields.

AL SAYER PARTNERS WITH THE SCIENTIFIC CENTER

PRIUS HYBRID GRABS ATTENTION WITH 'LIFT A CAR' ACTIVITY

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer has recently announced their partnership with Scientific Center a subsidiary of Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science exhibiting "lift a car" activity for Prius, World's first mass produced hybrid from Toyota. The partnership was announced during the occasion of opening the observation hall following its renovation under the auspices of Minister of Higher Education, Bader Hamad Al-Eassa.

The contract signing ceremony and the opening press conference were attended by representatives from Marketing including Salah Mohammad Deputy Group Manager, Bader Faisal Al Sayer Deputy Marketing Manager and Hamad Fouzan Deputy Manager from Toyota Advertising and Promotion division. The press conference was followed by a tour of the new facility with explanation and demonstration of the new display items for the distinguished guests, supported by representatives from Scientific Center.

According to Sami Fahad Al-Rasheed, Chairman of Scientific Center "We have embarked on a policy based on simplification of science and promotion of environmental awareness in an entertaining atmosphere as a key objective set when the work team reviewed more than 300 hundred interactive display items. The seaside of Science Center has been extended to 1.4 km by adding 18 interactive display items at the walk passageway. Most noticeable of these is "lift your car" which allows visitor to lift a Toyota car by a pull rope only."

Fascinating Science Logic Defined Through "Lift A Car" Activity:

The interesting scientific activity with Prius encourages visitors to lift a car by their own by trying different ropes. The activity reveals a brilliant fact that two times the distance equals half the effort, making it possible to lift



PRIUS

the car just by pulling the rope at the other end of the lever.

Prius - Innovative Hybrid Technology For Stunning Performance and Exceptional Fuel Economy:

In 1997 Toyota introduced the Prius-offering much better fuel economy than any other vehicle powered by a gasoline engine. The Prius was appearing on the market in Japan in 1997 and sold globally in 2000. The Prius has constantly evolved to meet every challenge and stay at the fore-

front of hybrid technology. The history of the Prius is a fascinating one and showcases the enormous strides taken in developing an iconic vehicle for our times. The fourth generation Prius is a truly exciting development in the series. Prius surprised the world. The idea of the Prius has caught on since then.

Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director at Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer Toyota said "The partnership with Scientific Center, a futuristic landmark

in Kuwait is important for us, to appreciate their efforts towards developing such unique facilities for entertaining education lovers. Al Sayer representing Toyota brand in Kuwait also acknowledges Scientific Center's mission aimed at simplicity of science and promotion of environment awareness across all ages in an entertaining interactive atmosphere.

Earlier this year we had launched the revolutionary Prius hybrid in Kuwait and since then we been receiving positive response from the public. Display of Prius could not have come at a better time and I am confident Lift a Car activity will surely entertain and gran a lot of attention."



GCC TRADING ACTIVITY GETS A BOOST FROM KUWAIT, SAUDI

KAMCO GCC Markets Monthly Report

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait was one of the only two markets in the GCC that performed positively during October-16. The Weighted Index and the KXS 15 index recorded gains of 0.6 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively, whereas the Price Index ended flat during the month, indicating higher trades in large-cap stocks. The KSE-15 Index accounted for the bulk of the value traded on the exchange at 66 percent of the total monthly value, one of the highest contributions witnessed in more than a year. The positive performance of the indices was primarily on the back of the Telecom Index that surged 8.3 percent, led by 16.4 percent returns in shares of Zain, the only positive performer in the sector. The telecom company saw heavy trading in its shares after reporting a 12 percent increase in net profit for Q3-16. This also led to a wider improvement in investor sentiment in the market resulting in one of the highest daily volume and value traded on 25-Oct-16 and 26-Oct-16 in almost 17 months. The Consumer Goods Index saw the second highest monthly gain of 3.8 percent, making it the best performing index for YTD-16 with a gain of 20 percent. The monthly surge was primarily on the back of 4 percent returns in shares of Americana, as well as 5.1 percent surge in shares of Mezzan Holding. The auction of Americana's shares for the Adepto deal closed during the month with the latter acquiring two-third of the shares of the Kuwaiti giant for KD 711.5 billion, according to a statement from Boursa Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Insurance Index saw the highest monthly decline of 4 percent, continuing on its declining trend for the third consecutive month. The index has declined by 15 percent since the start of the year, second only to the 20 percent decline in the Oil & Gas Index. The monthly decline in the sector was mainly due to 7.4 percent and 3.2 percent decline in shares of Gulf Insurance and Ahleia Insurance, respectively.

Prominent gainers for the month included Housing Finance Co. with a gain of 34.7 percent, followed by Warba Bank and Zima Holding with monthly gains of 22.9 percent and 20.3 percent, respectively. On the other hand, the decliners chart was topped by Boubyan International Holding with a fall of 22.2 percent, followed by AWJ Holding and Specialities Group Holding with declines of 18.3 percent and 15.8 percent, respectively. The market breadth was skewed towards decliners, that included 86 companies whereas gainers included 48 companies.

Trading activity on the exchange saw a significant m-o-m gain, primarily due to the low base during the previous month. Total volume traded increased by 65.3 percent to reach 1.7

billion shares, whereas the total value of shares traded during the month more than doubled to KD 258 million. Zain continued to remain the investors' favorite scrip with the highest monthly value (KD 44.6 million) and volume traded (115.5 million shares), for the second consecutive month. NBK came in close with KD 41 million worth of shares traded followed by KFH (KD 24.8 million) and Americana (KD 15.1 million). In terms of monthly volume, Zain was followed by Hits Telecom (87.1 million shares) and Investors Holding Group (79.8 million shares).

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

After three consecutive months of steep declines, the Tadawul All Share Index recorded the highest monthly gain in the GCC during

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

After closing marginally up in Sept -16, the ADX index was down by 3.9 percent m-o-m in Oct-16. The index closed at 4,300.18 points, as sectoral indices included both gainers and decliners for the month. Telecom names fell the most during the month and receded by 5.8 percent, as Etisalat lost ground by an equal 5.8 percent. Consumer Staples and Banking indices followed, as they went down by 4.6 percent and 4.0 percent respectively m-o-m.

In the Banking index, NBAD lost ground by 3.6 percent for the month of Oct-16, while FGB also declined by 2.5 percent for the same month. ADCB and ADIB also declined and receded by over 4 percent each. Sectors that improved during the month of Oct-16, were led by the Industrials index which went up by 2.2 percent

Amanat Holdings witnessed higher stocks prices, as compared to the previous month.

Qatar Exchange

The QE 20 index stayed in the negative territory in October-16 for the second consecutive month after dropping 5 percent m-o-m in September-16. The index went down by 2.5 percent m-o-m, and closed at 10,172.95 points after reaching the lowest level since July-16 at 10,142.17 points.

The Qatar All Share index also receded by 2.4 percent for the month, as all sectoral indices but one ended the month in the red. The index was pulled down mainly by Consumer Goods & Services index, which went down by 6.5 percent for the month, followed by Real Estate, which went down by 6.0 percent. Banks &

1148.83 points at the end of the month. Market breadth was slightly skewed towards decliners as 12 stocks advanced while 15 stocks saw lower share prices during the month. Industrials and Insurance indices were key gainers during the month moving up by over 4.5 percent & 3.5 percent respectively. Services was the key laggard for the month as it declined by 2.1 percent m-o-m, as Batelco was the major contributor to the decline, as the stock went down by 4.7 percent. Commercial Banks receded by 0.8 percent, as Ahli National Bank declined by 0.8 percent, while United National Bank of Bahrain went down by 1.4 percent.

In corporate earnings released during the month Zain Bahrain reported revenues of BHD 16.95 million as compared to BHD 18.50 million from a year prior, down by 8 percent, whereas it surged by 7 percent Q2-16, from BHD 15.78 million, as a result of the increase in the customer base. Q3-16 net profit amounted to BHD 1.20 million, as Zain Bahrain's customer base edged closer to the one million mark. The third quarter net profit dipped 10.4 percent from the BHD1.34 million earned during the same period last year, but was a 30 percent jump from the BHD 926,000 earned in Q2-16 due to an increase in revenue. National Bank of Bahrain recorded a net profit of BHD 14.49 million compared to BHD 13.69 million in Q3-15, an increase of 5.8 percent.

Muscat Securities Market

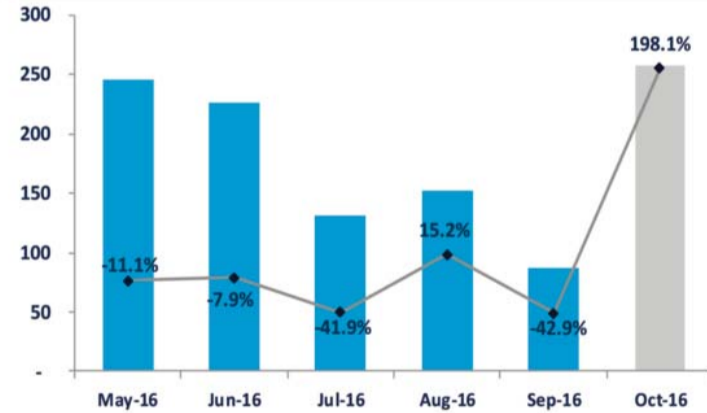
The MSM30 index witnessed the steepest monthly decline in the GCC during October-16 as a result of a decline in all of the sectoral indices. However, despite the 4.3 percent monthly decline, which was the third in a row, the index is the second-best performing market in the GCC and one of the only two positive performing markets (after Dubai) in terms of YTD-16 returns that stood at 1.4 percent at the end of October-16. The fall during the month comes amid one of the lowest monthly volumes in the regular market. Volumes on the exchanged plunged 44 percent to 127 million shares, a drop of close to 100 million shares as compared to the previous month. The monthly value traded also declined, but at a much lower pace of 5.7 percent to reach OMR 42.6 million, as compared to OMR 45 million during the previous month. The average daily volume traded during the month more than halved to 6.1 million shares as compared to 14.2 million shares during the previous month. However, the decline in average daily value traded was relatively less steep, at little more than a quarter to reach OMR 2 million as compared to OMR 2.8 million during September-16.

KSE Monthly Sector Performance



Source: Kuwait Stock Exchange, KAMCO Research

Monthly Value Traded (KWD Mn)



October-16, with the index regaining the critical 6,000 mark on the last day of the trading, representing a monthly surge of 6.9 percent. The index closed the month at 6,012.2 points following one of the longest running positive streaks in almost two years surging almost 10.1 percent over the last nine trading sessions. However, despite the strong improvement, the TASI continues to lag behind other markets in the GCC in terms of YTD-16 returns that stood at -13.0 percent. One of the key reasons for the investor optimism was the successful sovereign bond issuance by the government. The issue was the largest emerging market sovereign bond issuance with a total size of \$17.5 billion, larger than Argentina's \$16.5 billion issuance in April-16 and Qatar's \$9 billion in May-16. The issuance instilled confidence in investors about the Kingdom's ability to deal with the expected deficits, and at the same time drive reforms to move the economy away from oil dependence.

m-o-m, followed by the Energy index (+0.5 percent) and the Insurance index (+0.3 percent).

Dubai Financial Market

DFM index slid yet again in Oct-16 on a monthly basis from its close in Sept-16. DFM closed the month significantly lower by 4.1 percent at 3,332.41 points. Sectoral trends were mixed, as indices that lost ground during the month were led by Telecoms that went down by 6.5 percent, followed by Transportation that declined by 5.1 percent. Telecoms were down as both stocks in the index, DU (-6.5 percent) and Hits Telecom (-2.4 percent) witnessed share price declines. Banks also witnessed declines of 4.4 percent for the month led by Dubai Islamic Bank, which went down by 9.0 percent for the month for Oct -16. The only index that gained ground during the month, was once again the Services index, that closed up by 1.7 percent, after witnessing a 6.3 percent jump in Sept-16, as Tabreed and

Financial Services index receded by a lower 0.4 percent over the same period as earnings among the Qatari banks continue to show varying trends. The only index which went up during the month, albeit marginally was the Telecoms index, which went up by 0.1 percent as gains in the shares of Ooredoo (+1.04 percent) was partially offset by 3.4 percent decline in shares of Vodafone Qatar.

Within the banking sector, Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) posted a net loss of QAR 1.4 million for Q3-16 as compared to net profit of QAR 275.3 million during Q3-15. The decline was primarily on the back of near tripling of net impairment charges during the quarter as compared to the last year.

Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain All Share Index closed lower on a m-o-m basis, albeit marginally. The index, which was up the previous month, went down by 0.1 percent for Oct-16, and closed at

ZAIN COMMITTED TO THE UN'S 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN KUWAIT AND BEYOND

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa showcased its regional experience in the areas of sustainable development at a roundtable discussion recently convened by the United Nations (UN) and the Kuwait General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD). The meeting was centered on the role of the private



Jennifer Suleiman, Head of Corporate Sustainability in Zain Group

sector as a partner in the implementation of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through the country's national development plan.

The meeting was held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Building United Nations House, and was addressed by Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, UN Resident Coordinator who highlighted the critical importance of the private sector as a partner in the implementation of the SDGs. Dr

Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the SGSCPD, also addressed and outlined the key aims of the Kuwait National Development Plan to achieve His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's State Vision: Kuwait 2035, and how the private sector can engage with the public sector to support its achievement.

The Vision aims for Kuwait to achieve regional leadership as a center for trade and finance, and to stimulate the role played by the Kuwaiti private sector in the development, education and training of young people. The Vision also brings into focus the importance of scientific research, which contributes to the economic activity.

Representatives of Kuwaiti private sector entities who are already active in the areas of sustainability and corporate social responsibility participated in the roundtable and shared their experiences in contributing to sustainable development. The participants identified areas where further support by the government could facilitate closer partnership on implementation of the SDGs. Jennifer Suleiman, Head of Corporate Sustainability in Zain Group participated in the roundtable discussion highlighting how the company's numerous operational activities and vision in Kuwait and beyond aligned with the State Vision: Kuwait 2035 and commented, "Zain owes a great deal of its success to integrating sustainability into our business decisions, incorporating social, economic and environmental considerations at the highest levels of decision-making."

Suleiman highlighted Zain Group's



credentials with respect to sustainable development emphasizing how the company was geared towards uplifting social and economic benefits in the communities in which it operates, with a key focus on education, health, youth development and the economic inclusion and betterment of all.

Suleiman continued, "Our social, economic and environmental commitment, and desire to achieve our strategic goals, made us take concerted steps to support sustainability in the areas of innovation and to catalyze the transition towards a knowledge-based economy. We believe this is best achieved through the support of entrepreneurs, skills development, and capacity building among young people." Zain Group's track record of initia-

tives, aimed at protecting the environment are consistent with the UN's Global SDGs, and include a commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 2020. Zain Group in partnership with the GSMA, also participates in mobile efficiency initiatives aimed at helping mobile network operators improve their efficiency through global standardization with other operations from around the world.

Supporting aspiring entrepreneurs and digital innovation in Kuwait and across the region, Zain has also been a key partner of the MIT Pan Arab Start Up Competition for the past two years (even holding the 2015 final ceremony in Kuwait) and most recently sponsored the global MIT Innovate for Refugees competition. Additionally in Kuwait,

the company implemented the Zain Great Idea (ZGI) accelerator program to steer the country's youth into private or entrepreneurial opportunities. It supports and encourages young Kuwaitis to bring their most innovative ideas to life by acquainting them with internationally certified programs that will guide them to realizing their own creative ideas and form active businesses.

Part of the commitment entails that Zain annually publishes a Sustainability report to disclose on transparent basis sustainability related topics. This sustainability report is partially assured by an external auditing firm using the guiding GRI framework with G4 indicators.

Suleiman said, "This Sustainability report is the embodiment of our commitment to be a positive influence on the social, economic and environmental sustainability of our communities, so we are keen to publish content publicly and in conformity with the framework of the UN's guiding principles on business and human rights reporting."

On September 25, 2015, leaders from 193 countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, joined world leaders at the UN to endorse the initiative.

Zain Group has always expressed support for the SDGs and as a part of the private sector Zain has a critical role in achieving the goals and the company continues to push towards its realization of the goals as part of its core business activity and value chain.

VAT REGIME COULD PRESENT CHALLENGES TO GCC: EXPERT

BDO VAT EXPERT FEERICK PROVIDES INSIGHT

KUWAIT: Having made presentations to a total number of 1400-1500 clients of BDO in each of the 6 Gulf GCC states over the past four weeks and having fielded about 130 individual questions from the participants, Ivor Feerick, Indirect Tax Partner at BDO stated that he is in no doubt that the proposed introduction of a Value Added Tax (VAT) system into the region will present significant challenges for the local government authorities.

Although it is widely expected that VAT rate will be 5 percent, there has been very limited official information released regarding the specifics of how the VAT system to be introduced will operate. Ivor expects that the GCC Countries will replicate a lot of the features of the European Union VAT System, particularly bearing in mind the similarity between the six country cooperation in the Gulf and a28 Country cooperation in Europe. Furthermore, Ivor expects that certain Educational and Healthcare services will be purely 'Exempt' from VAT with no entitlement to VAT recovery on costs by the related service provider, whereas the provision of Basic Foodstuffs (e.g. bread, milk, fruit & vegetables, meat etc.) will most likely be 'zero-rated' (exempt with credit, thus enabling the suppliers of basic foodstuffs to recover VAT on their operating costs etc.).

Bearing in mind the close cooperation between the six GCC States and their shared interest in ensuring that the system to be introduced in their individual countries is as closely aligned as possible, Ivor said that he will be very surprised if most of the countries do not opt for the 1 January 2018 implementation date as this will help avoid any potential distortion of completion arising from VAT related considerations and will also help embed the system across the region in possibly one full swoop.

It is also Ivor's view that in considering what kind of a VAT system would be best to introduce, GCC Governments will invest a considerable amount of time and effort reviewing VAT systems in place in majority of the countries across the Globe including the current 28 European Union (EU) Member States (Note the UK is not due to leave the EU until 2019) which have VAT Legislation in place, with a view to



Ivor Feerick

ensuring that the system to be introduced is 'effective, efficient' and 'best in class' to serve the needs of the GCC region. In summary this means that the VAT regime to be implemented will result in the early collection of as much VAT Tax as possible, as early as possible, with the least possible inconvenience to businesses operating across the GCC as unpaid tax collectors on the Governments' behalf.

One of the challenges in introducing a VAT system in a depressed market place is that many hard pressed consumers, who will have experienced decreases in their household income due to cut-back arising from the halving of the price of oil as well as increases in oil related products, are disinclined to spend due to lack of confidence in their personal financial circumstances.

Needless to add, increasing the price of most goods and services by 5 percent will act as a further disincentive to consumer spending so in the early days following the introduction of the new VAT system it is likely that retailers may reduce their profit margins and absorb some or all of the VAT costs with

a view to maintaining the sales volume required to sustain their businesses.

Finally, although VAT is ultimately a tax on the supply of goods and services to consumers, the charge of VAT on all supplies to both businesses and consumers will mean that businesses will become unpaid tax collectors on the Governments' behalf and apart from increasing their administration and IT related costs, they are likely to be exposed to significant interest, penalties and potentially more serious exposures for any non-compliance with the new legislation. In the circumstances, it is imperative for them to start planning their VAT strategy and implementation road map without delay and this is the message that BDO has been sharing with our clients in the region.

Ivor Feerick is a Partner / Head of Indirect Tax (VAT / Customs & International Trade) at BDO Ireland and has been Chair of the BDO International VAT Centre of Excellence for the past 5 years. BDO is the 5th largest professional services provider with representation in 154 countries across the world.



AIR ARABIA'S 'CHARITY CLOUD' PROGRAM WINS 'CSR INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR' AWARD

SHARJAH: Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier, has won the award for 'Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year' for its 'Charity Cloud' program at Aviation Business Awards 2016 held recently at the Conrad Hotel, Dubai.

Currently in its tenth edition, the Aviation Business Awards is a prestigious event that gives out awards annually in 15 categories, covering the airline, airport and cargo sectors to celebrate the achievements of leading players and their contributions to the region's aerospace industry.

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, said: "To be singled out for recognition for our CSR efforts speaks at length about our business philosophy that has helped us cruise to high altitudes of success. As a responsible business, we believe that in addition to striving to make air travel more affordable and delivering a high-quality passenger experience,

we must also commit to creating opportunities that will improve the quality of life for underprivileged communities."

The top prize in the Low Cost Carrier (LCC) category for Air Arabia comes against a backdrop of strong strategic gains in the past months, demonstrating resilience and business strength in an economically competitive environment. Long recognized as a CSR leader within the aviation industry, Air Arabia's Charity Cloud Program was launched in 2005 in collaboration with Sharjah Charity International and is dedicated towards improving the lives of the underprivileged through investing in education and healthcare establishments across the world. Today, Charity Cloud is home for a large number of schools and clinics operating in needy communities.

Air Arabia currently operates flights to over 120 destinations in 33 countries from five hubs across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on October 26, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive

prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides. On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Zaid F Al-Zaid.



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The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Dahram Kant Sharma, Thaer Yousef Mustafa, Junaid Aftab Ansari, Badreah Abdulaziz A Abdulsalam, Shadi Louissa Nassem, Husain N Z

Al-Mutairi, Saif Khaled Eid Al-Daihani, Ali Hussain Mkhalef Hamad Al Enezi, Naser Khalaf Nuhaitar Al Sulaili, Mona Khaled Sadkhan Al Fadhli, Noriya Marzouk Abdulmohsen Al Wassi, Nawal Mohammed A Al Omani, Waleed Kh M Al Khader I, Shaker M A Al Bastaki, Jahan Ali Ahmad Gasseem, Majedah Saeed Oday, Nawal Saud Fayed Al Dabbous, Saud H A Al Darmi, Noor Sayeekha Manqdoom, Mohiddin Abdulla Mohamed, Ashoor Mohd Ali, Ahmed Ebrahim Yousif, Ahmed Abdulla Mohamed Ismael, Layla Mandi Abdulhusain Ali, Hussain Ebrahim A Rasool Al Afoo. The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch, or call: "Hayakom" service at Tel: 181 2000.

UNITED REAL ESTATE ANNOUNCES 56% RISE IN NET PROFITS FOR Q3

KUWAIT: United Real Estate Company (URC) has announced a net profit of KD 4.91 million for the first nine months of 2016, an increase of 1 percent on the KD 4.88 million reported for the same period of 2015 and earnings per share stood at 4.57 fils.

URC's net profit for the third quarter of 2016 (three months ended 30 September 2016) reached KD 1.91 million, compared to KD 1.22 million for the same period last year, achieving a growth of 56 percent. Total revenue for the first nine months of 2016 increased by 10 percent to reach KD 50 million, as compared with KD 45 million achieved in the same period of last year. Additionally, total assets increased to KD 571 million, compared to KD 554 million at the end of 2015.

Commenting on the results of the third quarter, Ahmad Kasem, Acting Chief Executive Officer of URC, said: "Our results reinforce URC's success in achieving its overall strategy through optimizing the company's diverse business activities and delivering sustainable growth in challenging market conditions." Kasem added: "Our focus is to build a self-sustainable capacity to finance, develop, sell, and manage our various projects in the GCC, MENA region, and North Africa, in addition to leveraging our subsidiary businesses specializing in construction, facilities management, and project management, which include United Building Company (UBC), United Facilities Management (UFM), and United International Project Management Co.



Ahmad Kasem, Acting Chief Executive Officer of URC

(UIPM). "To support expansion and secure the necessary cash flow for planned future developments amidst current market challenges, URC has taken effective, strategic measures over the past nine months in regards to the company's pipeline projects, in addition to building a solid foundation for efficient management of its operating assets in

order to maximize shareholder value." United Real Estate Company (URC) is one of the MENA region's leading real estate developers, with total assets of KD 571 million (US\$ 1.9 Billion) as of September 30, 2016. Headquartered in Kuwait, URC was founded in 1973 and was listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange in 1984.

URC primarily operates in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region through a number of operational subsidiaries and investments arms. The company's portfolio includes retail complexes, hotels, resorts, residential buildings, high rise office buildings, as well as mixed use developments. Operational assets include, KIPCO Tower, Marina Hotel and Marina Mall in Kuwait as well as Salalah Gardens Mall & Residences in Oman. Regionally, URC is developing Abdali Mall in Jordan, Raouche View at 1090 in Lebanon, Aswar Residences in Egypt, Junoot Resort in Oman and Assoufid in Morocco.

URC's majority shareholder is KIPCO Group, one of the biggest holding companies in the Middle East and North Africa, with consolidated assets of \$ 33 billion as at 30 September 2016. The Group has significant ownership interests in over 60 companies operating across 24 countries. The group's main business sectors are financial services, media, real estate and manufacturing. Through its core companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, KIPCO also has interests in the education and medical sectors.



Group photo after signing the cooperation agreement.



Cooperation agreement between GulfSat and Palsat.

GULFSAT, PALSAT RENEW TV BROADCAST COOPERATION PACT

AGREEMENT REAFFIRMS ITS VITAL ROLE IN TV BROADCAST DOMAIN

KUWAIT: GulfSat Communications Co (GulfSat), a leading specialist in providing telecommunications services, TV broadcast and satellite rebroadcast company, announced the renewal of the cooperation agreement for a two-year term with Palsat, a subsidiary of the Palestinian TV & Radio Broadcasting Corporation in charge of the Palestinian TV cable channels. This step comes within the framework of renewing trust and partnership between the two sides, which began two years ago. It is also reaffirms the essential role played by GulfSat as the third-largest satellite operator and the leading specialized provider of broadcasting and re-broadcasting services in the region.

The agreement was signed by Public Authority for Radio and Television General Supervisor and Palsat's Acting Board Chairman, Ahmed Assaf, and GulfSat Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Al-Haj. The ceremony was attended by top executives from both sides.

New confidence in GulfSat

After signing the agreement, Ahmed Assaf said: "We are delighted to announce this renewed cooperation, which began two years ago Palsat, owned by the General Authority for Radio & TV, and GulfSat." Assaf pointed out that the agreement and cooperation renewal between the two sides serves as a confirmation of the Palestinian National Authority institutions' confidence in GulfSat and the quality of its services. This has enabled Palsat to annex most of the Palestinian satellite channels, provide TV cable services to 11 Palestinian channels, in addition to a group of radio stations

via a uniform frequency for the Palestinian bouquet (Palsat). Assaf added that the renewed agreement, designed to enhance cooperation, represents a future outlook and convenient opportunity to examine the latest services offered by GulfSat. This includes the secured communications services that featured an unprecedented interest in the past few years, and can be used between the Palestinian Authority's institutions and embassies of the Palestine State abroad. Mr. Assaf praised the advanced infrastructure owned by GulfSat, and the wide broadcasting package services and communications offered across the region and worldwide, which will open great prospects of cooperation between the two sides in the future.

Strategic partnership

On his part, GulfSat Chairman and CEO, Mohammed Al-Haj said: "The agreement referred to, which came into effect two years ago in favor of Palsat, aimed to provide a specialized bouquet in all Palestinian TV channels, both of the government and the private sectors." Al-Haj outlined some technical and functional advantages related to this package provided by GulfSat, including free jamming, as well as media content transmission over fiber-optics from Ramallah to the assembly plant (Aggregation Point) of GulfSat, based in London, then to Rambouillet station in Paris in order to rebroadcast to the Middle East and North Africa, over an orbit course of 7 and 8 degrees neighboring to the NileSat.

Al-Haj added that the agreement renewal is of great importance, reaffirming the strategic



Trophy of appreciation from GulfSat to Palsat.

partnership that links GulfSat to the Palestinian National Authority and its affiliates in both public and private sectors. It opens a wider range of possibilities in providing other parallel services added to the satellite broadcast and media, including secured communications services, while supporting the company's operational activities and enhancing future revenues at the same time.

Keeping abreast of latest services

The signing of the agreement represented an opportunity for GulfSat to shed light on its strategy, aimed at providing the latest technology and services, which enjoy a high level

of safety. In this context, GulfSat Chairman Mohammed Al-Haj pointed out that the secured communications maintain great importance and interest to the company. He noted that GulfSat had already launched services in this field four years ago, aiming to provide the highest levels of protection both for the provider and the viewer in facing deliberate obfuscation, explaining that such services have opened the door to several TV organizations to cooperate with GulfSat and take advantage of packages with safe capacities.

Al-Haj added that the company is keen to keep up with the field's latest communications and satellite broadcasting services, in line with

qualitative developments promoted in this area. This has recently been translated through launching a Cloud Content Delivery Service for TV broadcast (CloudBro) based on providing TV broadcasting channel services relying on GulfSat's advanced infrastructure, and provided by the Cloud Content Delivery Service.

With regard to the geographic trends that the management focuses on, Al-Haj explained that GulfSat is currently concentrating on promoting services in North Africa and African countries in general, given the fact that these markets offer great opportunities of growth with regard to TV broadcasting services. He stressed the importance of the central role played by the company, through its five broadcast stations where the main station is located in Umm Al-Haiman (Kuwait), and the others in Cyprus, Slovenia and New York, in addition to their centre stations in London, not to mention cooperation with more than 37 countries around the world and being the third largest satellite operator in the region.

In addition to Ahmed Assaf, the meeting was attended on the Palestinian side, by Ambassador Rami Tahboub, Palsat Vice-Chairman Mazen Hamarsheh, Palsat Board Member Mahmoud Salama, Ahmed Al-Sabah, Khaled Sukar and Ahmed Barahmeh. Representing GulfSat was the Chairman and CEO Mohammed Al-Haj, Commercial and Sales Director Dr Reyad Doughlas, Alaa Al-Banna, Rabih Salim, Sabah Al-Sultan and Antoine Bechara.

At the end of the ceremony, the two sides exchanged commemorative plaques to mark the occasion.



SINGAPORE: An exhibitor charges the battery cells of AnyWalker, an ultra-mobile chassis robot which able to move in any kind of environment during Singapore International Robo Expo yesterday. The inaugural Singapore International Robo Expo which runs for 2 days from November 1 is poised to be the next regional marketplace to discover business opportunities, projects and funding availabilities for adoption of robotics solution. — AFP

HITTING BACK AT HACKERS: DEBATE SWIRLS ON HOW FAR TO GO

WASHINGTON: After a seemingly endless barrage of cyberattacks, debate is heating up on hitting back at hackers where it hurts. Amid calls for ways to punish and deter hackers without sparking a so-called "cyber war," a panel of experts assembled by the George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security said in a report Monday that US policies should be eased to allow "active defense" measures by both the government and private sector. However, it stopped short of endorsing the idea of "hacking back" to disable systems used by attackers. The panel envisioned measures such as taking down "botnets" that disrupt cyberspace, freeing data from "ransomware" hackers and "rescue missions" to recover stolen data.

The report follows a wave of high-profile attacks against US companies and government databases, and after Washington accused Russia of using cyberattacks to attempt to disrupt next week's presidential election. It comes after President Barack Obama called for a "proportional" response to Russia, while leaving unanswered whether this would mean a cyberattack or measures such as diplomatic or economic sanctions.

'Shooting behind the rabbit'

Former national intelligence director and GWU task force co-chair Dennis Blair said the US has been moving too slowly in its response to cyberattacks. "We are shooting so far behind the rabbit that we will only hit it if the rabbit makes another lap and comes back to where it was," he told a conference presenting the report.

Some analysts argue that hackers and states responsible for attacks should get a taste of their own medicine, and that US

laws should be amended to allow for hacking back at the cyber criminals. Some proposals call for private security firms to be "deputized" to carry out legally sanctioned hack-back operations when private firms are victimized. "Department stores hire private investigators to catch shoplifters rather than relying only on the police. So too private companies should be able to hire their own security services," said a Hoover Institution paper written by scholars Jeremy Rabkin and Ariel Rabkin. "There should be a list of approved hack-back vendors from which victims are free to choose."

Juan Zarate, a former White House national security advisor who now works with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said such a model for action could be based on the early days of the republic when Congress issued "letters of marque and reprisal" for private merchant ships to bring in maritime pirates.

In an essay last year, Zarate called for a "cyber-privateering regime that rewards, enables, and empowers the private sector to help defend itself in concert with government." Others warn of the dangers of empowering private actors to engage in reprisals. Nuala O'Connor, president of the Center for Democracy and Technology and co-chair of the GWU panel, argued of unintended consequences of authorizing companies to break into outside computer networks. "I believe these types of measures should remain unlawful," she wrote, adding that it remains difficult to be sure of cyberattacks' sources. "The risks of collateral damage to innocent internet users, to data security, and to national security that can result from overly aggressive defensive efforts needs to be better accounted for." — AFP

QUALITYNET JOINS HANDS WITH QUADRON CYBER SECURITY

DEAL TO OFFER IT AND DATA PROTECTION IN KUWAIT, GCC

KUWAIT: Qualitynet, Kuwait's #1 ICT, Data Communications & Internet Services Provider yesterday announced its signing of an agreement with QUADRON Cyber Security Ltd, a European Consulting House specialized in Cyber Security and Data Protection. The agreement brings together two well established IT, Data & Cyber Security and Services companies that can offer top notch testing, analysis and protection from the growing threats the cyber world is facing in the GCC region.

Mohammad Al-Nusif, CEO - Qualitynet stated the Cyber Security in the GCC region is a growing concern, with many Government bodies including the Kuwait Government stepping up its focus on Information & Systems Security. "Qualitynet has placed substantial investments in Data Centre & Network Security over the past decade. We are happy that both the Government's and our strategy in physical and IT security is lining up" said Mohammad.

According to industry research data, the Middle East is a key focus of Cyber attackers. There are significant investments allocated into IT over the region, but with substantial room for improvement in security spending, awareness, behavior and knowledge. QUADRON brings its expertise in a highly regulated environment and extensive international references combined with



the widest range of IT security services to Qualitynet, who has the leading position in the Kuwaiti market with experienced staff and a state-of-the-art network. "Together with QUADRON, we aim to help people and organizations, by pro-

viding flexible and scalable cyber and data security solutions on individual, local level or across borders if needed" added Mohammad.

Peter Gulyas, CEO - CEE&ME, stressed on QUADRON's commitment to invest into the long term

trustful partnership with Qualitynet. "With the goal of growing together on a regional level, we are focused on transferring our technical knowledge, experience and expertise to Kuwait and the GCC region, in order to support companies and markets to be more secure and protected against external and internal threats in cyber-world" said Peter.

During the first 6 months of the cooperation, both companies have committed to allocate significant resources on the ground in Kuwait in the form of well experienced and qualified security experts, who will help understand the detailed needs of the customer base and offer the best possible solution. Qualitynet has successfully implemented QUADRON security solutions across its facilities, and together will offer solutions for everything from Information Security awareness, Risk & Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Policy review/preparation/ update and Information Security Risk Analysis among others.

QUADRON Cybersecurity Ltd is a European Consulting House specialized in Cyber Security and Data Protection. QUADRON's capability matrix and product/service catalogue allows its experts to step into any phase of a business lifecycle and security strategy supporting the business owners and decision makers.

TABLET MARKET SHRINKS AS DEMAND GROWS FOR HYBRIDS

SAN FRANCISCO: The tablet market shrank in the recently-ended quarter, as shipments of bargain-priced computers with detachable screens hit a record high, according to market analysis firm International Data Corporation. Tablet makers shipped 43 million units in the quarter, down 14.7 percent from the number shipped in the same period a year earlier, according to an IDC global quarterly report. Meanwhile, shipments of "detachables," computers with screens that can dock into keyboards to be used laptop style or undocked and used tablet style, priced less than \$200 surged, IDC analysts said.

Precise numbers for detachable computers

were not provided in the IDC release. "The race to the bottom is something we have already experienced with slates and it may prove detrimental to the market in the long run as detachables could easily be seen as disposable devices rather than potential PC replacements," said IDC analyst Jitesh Ubrani.

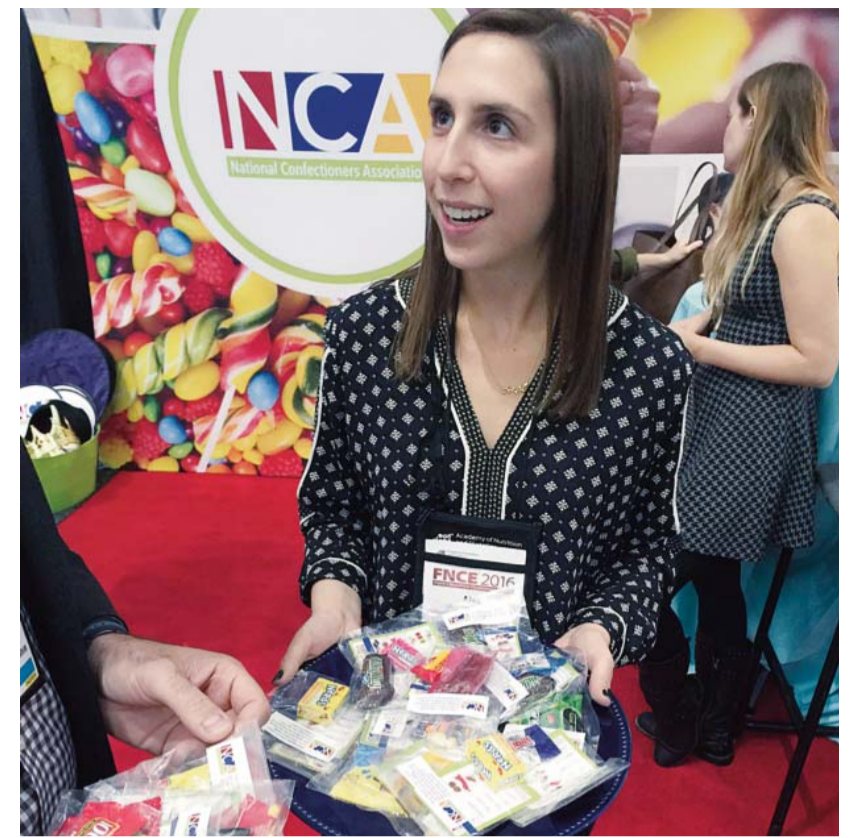
Apple dominated the tablet market with a share of 21.5 percent, some 9.3 million iPads, strengthening its position despite shipping 6.2 percent fewer than in the same quarter last year, IDC reported. Samsung held on to the number two position, prompting IDC to conclude that there appeared to be no "bleed over" from a massive Galaxy Note 7 recall that has

tarnished the South Korean giant's image. Samsung shipped 6.5 million tablets in a drop of 19.3 percent from the same quarter a year earlier, according to IDC. Meanwhile, online retail titan Amazon shipped more than three times as many of its Fire tablets-a total of 3.1 million in the quarter-with credit given to low prices and deep discounts.

Lenovo tablet shipments were down 10.8 percent in the quarter to 2.7 million, while fifth-place Huawei shipped 2.4 million tablets in an increase of 28.4 percent from the third quarter of last year as the Chinese companies filled out the top five spots in the market, IDC reported. — AFP



BOSTON: Photo shows the Kellogg's booth at an annual dietitians' conference, where company representatives explained the health benefits of their products, in Boston. The presence of major food companies underscored the conflict-of-interest issues in the nutrition field. —AP



BOSTON: Photo shows the National Confectioners Association's booth at an annual dietitians' conference, where food companies and industry groups explained how their products fit into a healthy diet. —AP

DO CANDY, SODA MAKERS BELONG AT A DIETITIANS' CONFERENCE?

BOSTON: The blinking game show wheel spins past logos for Triscuits, Wheat Thins and Honey Maid before the needle settles at Fig Newtons. "Newtons are made with real fruit and whole grains. True or false?" a Nabisco representative asks onlookers, who are among 10,000 attendees at a conference where dietitians can earn credits for continuing education. The answer, the Nabisco representative says, is true.

Among the hundreds of exhibits, many focused on items like beans, eggs, strawberries and leafy greens. But big packaged food makers and trade groups also had a presence, emblematic of the complex ties between the food industry and nutritionists and a push by critics to bring greater awareness to corporate influence on the profession. PepsiCo brought a vending machine stocked with Quaker bars, Naked juices and reduced-fat Doritos. Unilever showcased Hellmann's spreads and offered samples of Breyer's ice cream. Nestle displayed bottled water,

Nesquik chocolate drinks and Butterfingers candies. A Sugar Association pamphlet suggested sprinkling sugar on vegetables for picky children.

While the influence of food corporations on the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and its 75,000 members has come under greater scrutiny, some see growing sensitivity to ethical and conflict-of-interest issues. "It's been an important topic in the pharmaceutical world, and now it's becoming a much more important topic in the nutrition world," said David Wiss, a member of Dietitians for Professional Integrity, which has called on the academy to show greater independence from the food industry. Wiss feels there is a "huge, inherent" industry influence some may not realize exists.

He said a bigger problem than the expo hall is the influence that sponsors have with continuing education sessions for dietitians, and recalled a previous class where he was taught about salt by Frito-Lay. Lucille Beseler, president of the Academy of Nutrition and

Dietetics, said in an email that academy members know the difference between marketing and science, and use their professional judgment to evaluate exhibitors' products and programs. She said nutrition professionals do not dictate what people eat, and "must therefore be familiar with all foods and products in the marketplace."

The academy noted that sessions sponsored by companies or industry groups were distinct from regular educational sessions because they required a \$10 donation from session attendees to the academy's foundation, which provides scholarships and research grants. The sponsored sessions still count toward continuing education credits, which are required to maintain licenses. That included one that discussed the benefits of milk and flavored milk sponsored by Fairlife, one of Coca-Cola's joint ventures, and one on the advantages of orange juice sponsored by a juice industry group. A two-hour session on the value of multivitamins was

sponsored by vitamin brand

Nature Made. The professor who taught the class listed Pharmavite, which owns the brand, in a slide of disclosures. Afterward, two attendees said they did not know the professor had been paid by the session sponsor. Still, they said they found the session informative and felt the professor backed up his views. Diane Enos, who heads educational programming for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, said sponsorship of sessions is clearly disclosed, and that educational materials for those sessions are subject to the same standards and review as for other sessions.

"They have to meet the standard guidelines, and that means you can't show unbalanced research," Enos said. She said it is not the sponsor that submits the materials for review, but the speakers. In some cases, the speakers were representatives or employees of the sponsor. Marion Nestle, a nutrition professor at New York University, reviewed

the educational slides for the session sponsored by Fairlife at AP's request and did not think they should be considered education. "They're presenting the company's view of it. So it's marketing, not education," Nestle said.

Coca-Cola said Fairlife's management team makes day-to-day decisions about operations. Fairlife said in a statement that the presentation covered an important topic - "shortfall nutrients that many kids miss out on as they start their days, and how dairy products as part of a balanced breakfast can play an important role in addressing those shortfalls." Wiss thinks future dietitians will be better equipped to critically assess industry influence because starting in 2024, they will need a master's degree to get licensed. Others believe that companies play a critical role in helping improve the way people eat. "Some of these companies have a big role in the food industry, and they're trying to change their reputation," said Keith Roberts, who is studying to be a dietitian. —AP

CANCER TO KILL 5.5 MILLION WOMEN

HIGHEST TOLL WILL BE AMONG WOMEN IN POOR COUNTRIES

PARIS: Cancer will kill 5.5 million women—about the population of Denmark—per year by 2030, a near 60-percent increase in less than two decades, a report said yesterday. As the global population grows and ages, the highest toll will be among women in poor and middle-income countries, it said, and much of it from cancers which are largely preventable. "Most of the deaths occur in young- and middle-aged adults," placing a heavy burden on families and national economies, said Sally Cowal, senior vice president of global health at the American Cancer Society, which compiled the report with pharmaceutical company Merck.

The review "highlights the large geographic inequality in availability of resources and preventive measures and treatment to combat the

growing burden of cancer," she said. Cancer is already killing one in seven women around the world, said the report—the second highest cause of death after cardiovascular disease.

All four of the deadliest cancers—breast, colorectal, lung and cervical cancer—are mostly preventable or can be detected early, when treatment is more successful. In poorer countries, a much smaller proportion of cancer cases are diagnosed and treated than in rich ones, while a much bigger group dies. The relative burden is growing for developing countries as people live longer due to better basic health care. Women in these countries are also increasingly exposed to known cancer risk factors "associated with rapid economic transition," said Cowal, "such as physical inactivity,

unhealthy diet, obesity, and reproductive factors" such as postponing motherhood.

"Due to these changes, cancers that were once common only in high-income countries are becoming more prevalent," said the report entitled "The Global Burden of Cancer in Women." It was presented yesterday at the World Cancer Congress in Paris. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, there were 6.7 million new cancer cases and 3.5 million deaths among women worldwide in 2012. Of these, 56 percent of cases and 64 percent of deaths were in less developed countries. "These numbers are expected to increase to 9.9 million cases and 5.5 million deaths among females annually by 2030 as a result of the growth and ageing of the population," said the new report.

Regional differences

The biggest concentration is in eastern Asia, with 1.7 million cases and a million deaths in 2012, mainly in China. The report said the highest ratio of cancer cases per population group are still reported in high-income countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia, but this was partly due to better access to screening and detection. Deaths, however, were proportionally much higher in low- and middle-income countries with reduced access to diagnosis and treatment. The countries with the highest death rate were Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea. Breast and lung cancer are the two most common types in both rich and poor nations, with colorectal cancer the number three killer in developed countries, and cervical cancer in less developed ones.

Cervical cancer can be staved off by vaccination against the cancer-causing Human papillomavirus (HPV), and can be easily detected through regular Papanicolaou (pap) test screens. "Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in 140 countries worldwide and cervical cancer is the most common in 39 countries, all of which are LMICs (low- and medium-income countries)," said the report. It said the global economic burden of cancer for both genders was about \$286 billion (261 billion euros) in 2009, including costs for treatment and care, and loss of workforce productivity. —AFP



LILLE: Photo shows a patient undergoing a scan, at the Oscar Lambret Center in Lille, northern France, a regional medical unit specialized in cancer's treatment. Cancer will kill 5.5 million women—almost the population of Denmark—every year by 2030, a near 60-percent increase from 3.5 million in 2012, a report said yesterday. —AFP

FROM GENE EDITING TO DEATH TRAPS, SEATTLE SCIENTISTS INNOVATE IN RACE TO END MALARIA

SEATTLE: When Kayode Ojo first fell sick with malaria as a young boy in Nigeria, his grandfather shunned modern medicine, venturing into the bush to search for herbs and plants to treat the disease. Having succumbed to malaria a further 50 or more times in his life, the United States-based scientist, now in his forties, is determined that his research - to develop a drug to stop transmission from humans back to mosquitoes - will help to eradicate the deadly disease.

"When people in Nigeria, the world's hardest-hit

country, get malaria, many simply shrug their shoulders and see it as normal ... that needs to change." Ojo told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a lab at the University of Washington in Seattle. Ojo is one of thousands of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs striving to develop innovations to end malaria in a city dubbed the "Silicon Valley of saving lives", which boasts more than 160 organizations working on global health issues.

It is also home to the world's richest couple, Bill and Melinda Gates, whose global health and edu-

cation charity has set the aim of eradicating the disease by 2040. The world has made huge strides against malaria since 2000, with death rates plunging by 60 percent and at least six million lives saved globally, says the World Health Organization (WHO). Yet efforts to end one of the world's deadliest diseases - which killed an estimated 438,000 people last year - are under threat as mosquitoes become increasingly resistant to measures such as insecticide-treated bednets and anti-malarial drugs. —Reuters



CALIFORNIA: This combination of two file photos shows (top) the cracked and dry bed of the Almaden Reservoir on Feb 7, 2014, in San Jose, Calif and the same reservoir full of water on March 14, 2016. Amid a wet start to California's rainy season, and some mending of Californians' backsliding ways on water conservation, the advice of the state's drought czar: Relax and enjoy the rain. —AP

IN CALIFORNIA - A \$350 MILLION SOCIAL EXPERIMENT OVER LAWNS

SANTA ROSA: California water agencies that spent more than \$350 million in the last two years of drought to pay property owners to rip out water-slurping lawns are now trying to answer whether the nation's biggest lawn removal experiment was all worth the cost. Around the state, water experts and water-district employees are employing satellite images, infrared aerial photos, neighborhood drive-bys and complex algorithms to gauge just how much grassy turf was removed.

They also want to know whether the fortune in rebates helped turn California tastes lastingly away from emerald-green turf. "How well did it work? That's really key when we're working on historic investments," said Patrick Atwater, a project manager at the California Data Collaborative, a coalition of utilities and other water-related entities grappling with the question.

Removing lawns may sound like a small, wonky step, compared to building dams. But the green turf in American yards actually stands as a worthy target for water savings, a public enemy in the eyes of many during a drought such as California's five-year-old one. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates one-third of all water used by American households goes to watering lawns and gardens. That's 9 billion gallons of water each day - enough to supply drinking water daily for nine

cities the size of New York. In 2015, after a devastatingly dry winter, Gov Jerry Brown ordered 25-percent water conservation by cities and towns.

He mandated \$25 million in state-government spending to help cover the costs of low-income California families in particular removing their grass, and putting less-thirsty, climate-suitable plants in their yards instead. Brown set a goal of eliminating 50 million square feet of lawn. That breaks down to less than two square miles of greenery, out of what the Public Policy Institute of California think-tank has estimated at around 1,000 square miles of watered yards statewide. But state spending proved a drop in the bucket compared to the money local water districts put into lawn rebates.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a giant water wholesaler providing water to Los Angeles and more than two dozen other cities, counties and water districts, poured just over \$300 million into lawn rebates from 2014 on, removing five square miles of lawn. MWD doubled its rebate offer to \$2 for each square foot of lawn removed, and the lawn rebates quickly became the district's most popular program ever. Workers processed as much as \$10 million in rebate applications a week at peak. In July 2015 alone, Southern Californians applied for rebates to remove the equivalent of 1,665 front lawns. —AP

INDIA COMMITTED TO WHO TOBACCO-CONTROL TREATY

NEW DELHI: India reaffirmed yesterday its commitment to a World Health Organization (WHO) tobacco-control treaty, despite lobbying from its \$11 billion industry that opposes some measures in the treaty that will be discussed at a conference next week. Delegates from about 180 countries will attend the Nov 7-12 conference near New Delhi on the only global anti-tobacco treaty, called the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The treaty aims to deter tobacco use that kills about 6 million people a year, including about a million in India. Reuters reported last week that tobacco industry groups were lobbying the government with letters and signature campaigns to safeguard the interest of farmers and to ensure that no "unreasonable" proposals are adopted at the conference.

The Tobacco Institute of India (TII), the cigarette industry body, said in Sept. 28 letter to the government that "there is no obligation on any signatory to the FCTC" to comply with its provisions. The government response to those letters has not been made public but on Tuesday, the health ministry published half-page notices in several newspapers to say India would apply the treaty's provisions. "India reiterates its commitment to the full implementation of WHO FCTC," the ministry said in the notice, that included a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The government said in the notice that tobacco "drains the economy" of nearly \$16 billion a year. The TII, which represents cigarette makers including ITC, part-owned by British American Tobacco, and Philip Morris International's local partner, Godfrey Phillips, declined to comment about the government notice. Last week, tobacco farmers protested outside the health ministry and the WHO regional office in New Delhi asking the government to boycott the conference. More than 100,000 farmers also sent the government a petition seeking protection from FCTC rules.

Tobacco groups want India to include farmers in its official delegation. A health ministry official said last week the government would not agree to their requests. The tobacco industry has been at odds with the federal government this year over a rule requiring makers to print bigger health warnings on packages. The WHO FCTC conference decisions, designed for implementation at national level by signatories, have a direct bearing on the nearly \$800 billion global tobacco industry. Topics for debate at the conference include alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers and e-cigarette regulation. —Reuters



ALEPPO: A Syrian man sells tobacco in the rebel-held side of the northern embattled city of Aleppo. —AFP

SCIENTISTS CALL FOR 'BREACHING DAMS'

SEATTLE: Researchers who track the endangered population of orcas that frequent Washington state waters said that three whales are missing or believed dead since summer. The most recent death of a 23-year-old female known as J28 and likely her 10-month-old calf drops the current population to 80, among the lowest in decades, according to the Center for Whale Research on Friday Harbor, which keeps the whale census for the federal government.

A 42-year-old female whale was reported missing during the center's July 1 census. Center senior scientist Ken Balcomb said orcas, particularly mothers and their babies, are struggling because they don't have enough food, a primary factor in the population's decline. He and others called for four dams on the Lower Snake River to be breached to open up habitat for salmon. They said the best opportunity to save the orcas is to restore runs of salmon eaten by the killer whales.

"We know what we need to do, feed them," Balcomb said at a news conference on the Seattle waterfront surrounded by supporters who held signs calling for the dams to come down. Those opposed to removing the Lower Snake dams say they provide low-cost hydroelectric power and play a major role in the region's economy. J28 was believed to have died in the Strait of Juan de Fuca some-

time last week, leaving behind a 10-month old whale that won't likely survive without her, Balcomb said. The mother appeared emaciated in recent weeks, he said.

The number of southern resident killer whales has fluctuated in recent decades, from more than 100 in 1995 to about 80 in recent years, as they have faced threats from pollution, lack of prey and disturbance from boats. They were listed as endangered in 2005. The whales have a strong preference for chinook salmon, which are typically larger and fatter fish, but those runs have been declining. "There's no reason these dams couldn't be breached," said Jim Waddell, a retired engineer with the group DamSense who spoke at the news conference.

In May, in a long-running lawsuit, US District Judge Michael H Simon in Portland rejected the federal government's latest plan for offsetting the damage that dams in the Columbia River Basin pose to salmon. The judge ordered the government to come up with a new plan by March 2018. He said he would not dictate what options the government must consider in the new plan, but he noted that a proper analysis under federal law "may well require consideration of the reasonable alternative of breaching, bypassing, or removing one or more of the four Lower Snake River Dams." —AP

AS WATER DRIES UP, WEST BANK VILLAGE THIRSTS FOR A LESS PRECARIOUS SUPPLY

RAINFALL DECREASES AND GROUNDWATER LEVELS FALL

WEST BANK: A mountainous Palestinian community in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Al Jab'a differs in many ways from surrounding Israeli settlements but it shares one worry with its neighbors - a shortage of water. In the last few decades the West Bank has seen rainfall decrease and groundwater levels fall with drought expected to become "more frequent (and) more intense", according to a 2012 United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) report. Residents of Al Jab'a, who once had to walk for hours daily to fetch water, do have limited access to Israeli water supplies in their concrete homes due to a reservoir, pipeline and a pump built in 2013 by an Italian non-governmental organization.

But the water provided is not enough, according to families in Al Jab'a, a village of about 150 houses 12 km southwest of Bethlehem. They also fear their system could be demolished as it was not officially approved. "Before, we had to walk many times a day to the nearby springs to fill our bottles and buckets," said Omar Musa, 18, who lives with his parents and five siblings near the reservoir in a house atop a hill.

"I was happy when I knew I would have water at home." He estimated that his family saves about six hours a day by not having to fetch water for their use, crops and livestock.

Water restrictions

But numerous rural and Bedouin communities in the West Bank are not connected to a network run by Israel's national water company, Mekorot, which is responsible for supplying water to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territory. In Al Jab'a, only 10 percent of homes were part of the Mekorot distribution system until the pipes and reservoir completed in 2013 extended the network to the remaining households. Water piped by Mekorot is pumped up the hill to be stored in the reservoir.

But this has not completely resolved the com-

munity's water problems. Residents say the Mekorot system supplies water only intermittently and at low pressure. When supplies flow, families must hurry to store as much as they can. In addition, residents like Musa and his family fear the reservoir could be demolished by the Israeli authorities because, like many of their homes, the structure was built without an official permit.

Construction by Palestinians is forbidden in Area C, a designation covering about 60 percent of the West Bank, including Al Jab'a. Between 2010 and 2014 only 1.5 percent of requests for building permits in Area C were approved, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). An application for a permit for the Al Jab'a reservoir by GVC, the Italian development organization that built it in partnership with UNICEF, was turned down, GVC said. According to Israeli authorities, issuing demolition orders for structures built without permission is a legitimate measure, a 2015 OCHA report notes.

Although only one-fifth of the 14,000 demolition orders issued in Area C since 1988 have been carried out, according to OCHA, the uncertainty leaves residents worried for the safety of their homes and their water supply. After the 1967 war in which Israel acquired the West Bank, Israel imposed restrictions on well drilling and constructing distribution networks, which has left a quarter of Palestinians without piped water, according to a report by the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs.

An assessment by UNICEF in 2015 showed that 400,000 Palestinians from 1.7 million living in the West Bank were in need of improved water, sanitation and hygiene services. The UN Environment Program said in a report that Israel uses the majority of the water resources available in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel, however, points out that it provides the

Palestinians with double the 30 million cubic metres of water annually that was agreed to in the 1995 Oslo accords.

Bring back cisterns?

Gregor von Medeazza, chief of the water, sanitation and hygiene programme at UNICEF in East Jerusalem, said water remains a persistent sore point between Israel and Palestinian communities in the West Bank. "Water should be a source of collaboration and should bring people together," he said. "At the end of the day, they all share the same water resources." Von Medeazza said that UNICEF is concerned about ensuring measures are in place to use water carefully and help communities adapt in the face of growing scarcity.

"It means having rational use of (the) water available and making sure there is no wasting of water," he said. With climate change bringing more variable rainfall, "it is also important to emphasize that there is a question of accessibility and human right to a minimum amount of water," he said. Apart from building reservoirs, Von Medeazza suggests rehabilitating around 300 ancient cisterns - underground storage tanks dating from Roman times that once collected water in the rainy season. These have the potential to be used today and would be a cost-effective measure, he said.

Around 80 such cisterns have been restored so far by a coalition of non-governmental organizations. "The long-term vision is to increase the current access (to water) of people living in remote places," Von Medeazza said. "We have the technical solutions to extend services and connect communities. What we need is further support from all parties (Israeli and Palestinian) for this to happen." For his part, Musa in Al Jab'a remains worried but resolute. "We are really afraid of losing our reservoir," he said. But "we are not leaving our house nor our community". —Reuters

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
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JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa continues to embrace October's Breast Cancer Awareness month in Kuwait with a series of month-long activities as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program. In support of this cause, Kuwait's idyllic resort has partnered with the American Women's League (AWL) as the Gold Sponsor of their annual Breast Cancer Awareness event "Fight like a Girl".

Hosted in Badriah, the largest ballroom in Kuwait, the event was held in the presence of His Excellency the American Ambassador's wife Victoria Silverman, Vice President of the American Women's League Lynda Van Greenstone together

with board members, Executive Committee of Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, special guests and the wider local community with around 600 guests. The occasion commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a speech by honorable guest Victoria Silverman and a welcoming speech by General Manager Hakan Petek quoting:

"Every year we mark this cause by changing our resort's lights to pink to express moral support to women with breast cancer. This evening, we are honored to host you in Badriah, hoping to maximize the opportunity of this seminar to gain a wide perspective on Breast Cancer and to promote a message

of hope. For the 2nd consecutive year, we are delighted to sponsor The American Women's League as we are determined to embolden women and men by spreading our mission of hope and the charitable goodness of people who observe this cause."

Following the speech, an exciting raffle draw was conducted for guests. In keeping with the global commitment to drive this initiative, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa lights up its faAade and interior in shades of pink every year to highlight the importance of this cause and to draw attention to early screening and detection of Breast Cancer.



VANITHAVEDI KUWAIT TO HOLD 'NOOPURAM 2016'

Vanithavedi-Kuwait will celebrate its mega annual event 'Noopuram', a cultural bonanza for the year 2016 on Nov 4, 2016 at Indian Community School (Senior), Salmiya. Addressing a press conference,

Vanitha Vedi office-bearers said that all the arrangements for Noopuram have been complete and venue is set for the program. Aswathy Srikanth and Srikanth, well-known South Indian dancers will be the chief guests.

The day-long program will start with a 'Thiruvathira' competition, the traditional dance form of Kerala from 9 am followed by the inaugural cultural meeting. Several ethnic art forms are lined up prior to the finale event called 'AATMATA', a dance presentation from 5.30 pm by Aswathy and Srikanth, enacting the powerful forces of nature and their impact upon human emotions.

The 'Noopuram', a charity program, conceived by Vanithavedi to raise funds for a drinking water project in an economically backward tribal village Puthur in Attappadi area of Kerala. The project reiterating the commitment of Vanithavedi to the society is the third project being undertaken in Kerala. Vanithavedi has undertaken projects such as Children Observation Ward at SAT Hospital, Trivandrum as the first project followed by Outpatient Ward Project at Institute of Child Health (ICH) Kottayam. In addition, several charity programs were undertaken such as financial aid for girls from economically backward families for marriage, aid for selected orphanages, financial supports for woman forums etc.

The press conference was attended by Vanithavedi President Santha R Nair, General Secretary Tolly Thomas, Vice President Sherin Shaju and Publicity Convener Sajtha Skaria.



KALA (ART) KUWAIT TO HOLD 'NIRAM 2016' CHILDREN'S DAY PAINTING COMPETITION



KALA (Art) Kuwait will conduct 'Children's Day' painting competition, titled 'NIRAM-2016' on Friday, November 11, 2016 at Indian Community School, Khaitan on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India. The organizers convened a press conference on Wednesday which was attended Jaison Joseph, President, Kala (Art) Kuwait, Rakesh P D, General Secretary, Kala(Art) Kuwait, Sunil Kumar, General Convener, Niram-2016 organizing committee. "Children's Day" is a day to remember the great leader, who in his quiet but determined way, laid the foundation to transform a nascent nation into a world power. His contributions to India and the world would always be remembered.

The painting competition will be conducted in four different age groups. Group 'A' from LKG to 1st Standard, Group 'B' from 2nd to 4th Standard, Group 'C' from 5th to 8th Standard and Group 'D' from 9th to 12th Standard. The media for Group 'A' and 'B' will be Crayons

while Group "C" and "D" are Water Colors. Crayons and watercolors shall be brought by the participants. Stamped Drawing papers will be supplied by the Organizers. Clay Modeling Competition also will be conducted for 7th to 12th Standard Students. Clay will be provided by the Organizers. A Marathon Open Canvas Painting for parents, visitors and Guests is conducting in a view to display everyone's views and talents through their vivid creations.

Kala(Art) Kuwait, said the exclusive prizes for the winners as first place with gold coin and gold medal, second place with silver medal and third place with bronze medal along with memento and certificate. Besides the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, there will be 50 participants to merit prizes and ten percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes. Parents also have the opportunity to win prizes for Open Canvas Painting.

The online registration will be continued until 6th November 2016. For more details, please visit www.kalakuwait.net, by e-mail kalakuwait@gmail.com

'PARADIGM 2016' SHOWCASED THE MULTIFARIOUS TALENTS OF ICSK STUDENTS

The Indian Community School (Senior) Kuwait organized 'ART FEST-PARADIGM 2016' on 19th and 20th of October 2016. As the aim of education is the all round development of an individual including skills in Art, Music and Literature in addition to Academics, Paradigm 2016 was an ideal platform of synchronization of intelligence and talent.

Undoubtedly, 'Paradigm 2016' was a magnificent opportunity for the students of The Indian Community School (Senior) Kuwait to showcase their multifarious talents.

The inaugural function was held at the ICSK Senior school auditorium on 19th October 2016. Brigadier General Md Nasimul Gani was the Chief

Guest for the occasion. Dr V Binumon, Principal & Senior Administrator ICSK, Kuwait welcomed the gathering. The honorary members of the ICSK Board of Trustees graced the occasion with their presence. The deputy convener of 'PARADIGM-2016', Dr Sam T Kuruvila delivered the introductory speech and Joint Convener Sunish Mathew extended the gratitude to the esteemed guests in his vote of thanks.

The competitions were conducted under category 4 & 5 respectively on stage 1 and 2 for Secondary and Senior secondary students. It was highly commendable that 70% of students participated in a kaleidoscope of 83 events, both off-stage and on-stage. A huge crowd witnessed the exhilarating performance of students that blended ancient and modern expressions, classical and popular elements from both the Indian and the Western cultures. 'Paradigm 2016' fully served its objective to develop the curricular and co-curricular aspects of an individual's personality.

Master Abel Chris secured maximum point individually under category 4 and won the title of KALAPRATHIBHA and Miss Shilpa Shaji Mohan was given the certificate and Trophy for the KALATHILAK for the same category. Under category 5 Master Muhammad Basil secured maximum points individually and won the title of KALAPRATHIBHA and Miss Fatema as KALATHILAK respectively. The chief guest of the valedictory function Shri Shubashis Goldar, Deputy Chief of Mission & Chief Public Information Officer of the Indian Embassy, gave away the prizes to the winners.



Greetings



Birthday wishes

It was a wonderful moment as family, friends and well-wishers celebrated Jesse's birthday yesterday. 'May God bless, guide and protect you always Amen.'



US EMBASSY HOLDS 'TRAVEL AND TOURISM' SEMINAR

By Faten Omar

The US Embassy in collaboration with Qatar Airways held a "Travel and Tourism" Seminar, on Monday at Sheraton Hotel, as a part of 'Discover America' week.

During his speech, the US Ambassador to Kuwait Laurence Silverman, said "There are so many things to see from coast to coast: national parks, world-class beaches, global cities, museums, top restaurants, shopping, sports, and adventure tourism, to name just a few reasons to

visit our great country. There really is something for everyone."

"In 2012, President Obama announced the goal of attracting at least 100 million tourists to the United States per year by 2021. We are well on our way to reaching this goal as last year, there were almost 80 million visitors. There were over 1.3 million visitors from the Middle East to the United States in 2015, a 97 percent increase from 2008. And from Kuwait, the number of tourist visas issued has increased by 500 percent in the last decade. We would like to see that

trend continue," he added.

Several locations around the United States were highlighted at the event which was attended by social media figure Omar Al-Othman who shared his experiences traveling through the US. Khaled Jafar gave a presentation on Alaska, the last frontier. A state of natural beauty is abundant, with ample wildlife commonly cited by visitors, and plenty of hiking opportunities, as well as a lot of cruise options. At the end of the event, the Embassy's Consul General, Tim Ponce, spoke on the current ease of applying for a US visa.



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



FIRST CYCLE OF AL-MULTAQA ARABIC SHORT STORY PRIZE ANNOUNCED

The Al-Multaqa Arabic Short Story Prize jury announced the 2016 shortlisted authors. The 5 Al-Multaqa nominees are:

1. 'Masahat Al Dumi' by AnisArrafai from Morocco
2. 'Al Afkar Al Sabaha Bayn Al Sama' Wal Ard' by Khadija Alnemer from Saudi Arabia
3. 'Al Raja' Adam Al Qasf' by Lutf Al Sarary from Yemen
4. 'Nukat Lelmusalaheen' by Mazen Maarouf from Palestine

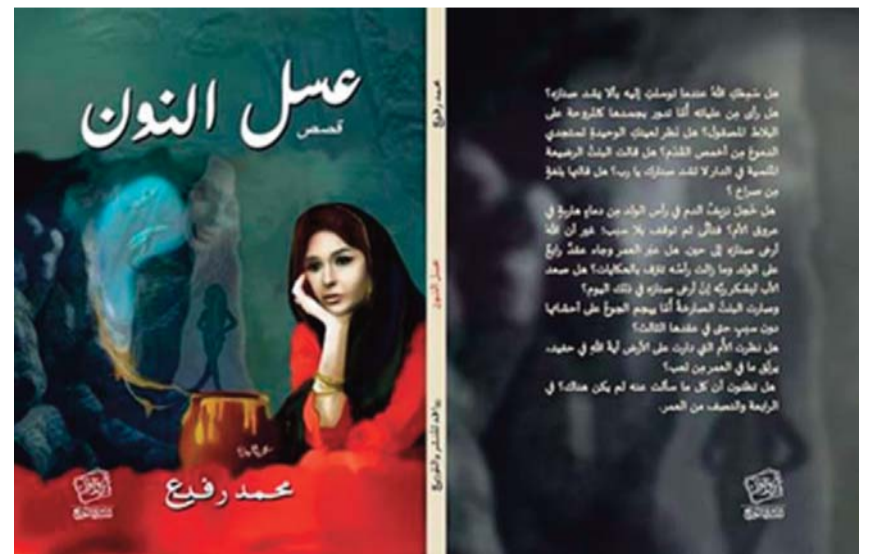
5. 'Asal Al Nun' by Mohamed Rafie from Egypt

Chair of the jury, Ahmed Al-Madeeni remarked on the tremendous amount of interest from Arab writers and publishers in the first cycle of the Al-Multaqa Prize. Submissions included a total of 189 short story collections from various Arab regions that featured a variety of styles and techniques for the genre. Authors showed their individuality in each collection by their descriptive backdrops and use of local colloquialisms.

Al-Madeeni also announced the award ceremony for the Prize winner will be held on 5 December, 2016. The ceremony will be hosted by the American University of Kuwait, with the attendance of many authors, critics, translators and publishers from around the world. In addition, the director of Institute Du Monde Arabe- an institute dedicated to promoting Arabic culture and literature- will also be in attendance, along with administrators of various Arabic writing competitions. Each of the 5

shortlisted authors will receive \$5000; while the winner will receive \$20,000, and have the winning collection translated to English for further publication.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning.



LULU HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES 'GET READY FOR WINTER' PROMOTION

Lulu Hypermarket, the premier lifestyle shopping destination, is preparing its valued customers for the winter season with its 'Get Ready for Winter' promotion, an offering of trendy comfortable winter wear at special prices. The promotion, available in all its outlets, includes a diverse and exciting range of winter clothing and accessories guaranteed to keep customers warm.

Great offers are available during the special promotion of Lulu Hypermarket for all your needs from fashionable winter garments to chic footwear. The promotion promises unparalleled quality winter gear at unbeatable prices from popular brands such as Arezzo, Cortigiani, Debacker, Eten and John Louis.

Among the favored items in the winter clothing range are a number of stylish jackets, sweaters and winter clothing accessories that combine affordability with style. The promotional offer extends to the kids' collection that is fun, casual and enables your child to make a fashion statement at reasonable prices. Lulu Hypermarket has been building a strong, loyal and fast growing customer base following for many years, and is committed to providing customers with quality and affordable shopping experience.

ENG FADHEL AL ALI GETS ASSE USA PRESIDENT AWARD

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter congratulates the chapter chairman Eng Fadhel Al Ali, who has been recognized by ASSE USA, for President Award in the year 2016 for his significant achievement in the profession as well as for his outstanding service to the Kuwait Chapter and ASSE as a whole. Eng Fadhel Al Ali was presented the award in a glittering award ceremony at Illinois, USA.

The ASSE USA President's Award is the highest presidential honor given to an outstanding member of the society. These are awards are given to those ASSE members who serves the society in achieving ASSE objective of protecting people, property and environment. The award is to encourage and recognize the individual ASSE member for his exceptional performance to the society, community and industry in improving health, safety and the environment.

Mr Fadhel Al Ali is the first Kuwaiti Citizen from ASSE

Kuwait Chapter who receives this prestigious award from President of ASSE in the year 2016. Engineer Fadhel Al Ali holds Fire & Safety Engineering Degree from Eastern Kentucky University, Occupational Health and Safety Diploma from Texas State Technical Institute USA and Teaching and Educational diploma from MOE in Kuwait, has joined KNPC on 1977 as Safety Officer and gradually promoted, till he became HSE Manager in 1995 and then he was transferred to KPC Head Office to establish the first HSE Corporate department in the year 2002, Currently holding position as Manager HSE with PCIC.

During the year 2000, he took the lead in establishing American Society Safety Engineers Chapter at Kuwait with likeminded HSE professionals and became first Chairman of the Society. Mr Fadhel Ali's effort in recruiting and retaining diverse groups in volunteer leadership, membership, and event participation in the Society is highly commendable.

Under Mr Fadhel Ali's Chairmanship and with his excellent leadership, ASSE Kuwait Chapter has obtained the support of all major oil sector companies, government agencies and private sector companies. Under his leadership, the ASSE Kuwait chapter successfully conducted eight International Professional Development HSE Conferences and Eight HSE Excellence award program for private sector companies in GCC countries and became a leading HSE organization in the region.

Under his chairmanship, the 2015 conference has witnessed the maximum number of Volunteers from a diversified community. The PDC'15 organizing committee comprised of 65 volunteers who were active during the conference days and 28 members represented 6 different committees worked for the span of one year to organize a successful conference. The ASSE Kuwait chapter also have received best chapter gold award from ASSE for the last three years.



ANIMAL PLANET HD

01:00 Weird, True & Freaky: Real Monsters
02:00 Beasts Of The Bayou
03:00 Rabid
03:55 I Was Bitten: The Walker County Incident
05:35 Gator Boys

ci crime & investigation network

00:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
01:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
02:00 When Life Means Life
03:00 Gangs Of Britain...
04:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars

Discovery Family

00:30 Man v Expert
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Pick A Puppy
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds

10:35 Gold Rush (Season 6 Specials)
12:15 Deadliest Catch
12:15 Railroad Australia
13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars

HISTORY HD

00:20 Aussie Pickers
01:10 Storage Wars
02:25 Storage Wars Texas
02:50 Car Hunters

ID INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

00:40 A Haunting
01:30 Paranormal Lockdown
02:20 Alaska Haunting
03:10 The Haunted

17:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
18:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
18:50 Ways To Save The Planet

Disney CHANNEL HD

00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive



22 NOVEMBRE 1963, LE PRÉSIDENT KENNEDY EST ASSASSINÉ. DÉCOUVREZ LES HEURES QUI ONT SUIVI.

PARKLAND

ECRIT ET RÉALISÉ PAR PETER LANDESMAN



PARKLAND ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

15:00 The Lion Guard
15:30 PJ Masks
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Goldie & Bear

22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
22:35 Boyster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

09:45 The Shelbourne
10:35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
11:25 Carnival Eats

HISTORY HD

04:40 Counting Cars
05:05 Counting Cars
05:30 Pawn Stars
06:00 Time Team

14:00 Eat Street
14:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen



CON AIR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Size
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 Man v Expert
10:20 Mythbusters

13:00 I Was Murdered
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

Disney JUNIOR

00:00 Doc McStuffins
00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopdidoo

06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
06:25 K.C. Undercover
06:50 The 7D
07:00 Phineas And Ferb

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:40 Ways To Save The Planet
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 NASA's Unexplained Files

00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Gold Rush: The Story So Far
02:00 Deadliest Catch
02:50 Railroad Australia

16:20 Ways To Save The Planet

itv CHOICE

00:10 Keep It In The Family
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street

NAT GEO people HD

00:10 Eat Street
00:35 Top Tables, Top Cities
01:00 Maximum Foodie
01:25 Top Tables, Top Cities

15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
16:35 Safari Brothers
17:30 Jobs That Bite!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 To Catch A Smuggler
01:00 Big Fix Alaska
02:00 Big Fish, Texas
02:55 The Happenings

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 Prison Break
01:00 Quantic
02:00 Roadies
03:00 Sleepy Hollow

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:00 Uncle Buck
00:30 Young & Hungry
01:00 Young & Hungry

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 World's Deadliest
01:10 Caught In The Act
02:00 World's Deadliest
02:50 Wild Case Files

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones
02:00 Ouija
04:00 Deep Rising

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Army Of Darkness
00:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:00 Stone Markers
03:00 Decoding Annie Parker
05:00 Parkland

OSN MOVIES HD

01:15 The Homesman
03:30 Ant-Man
05:30 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

00:45 Ghatotkch - Master Of Magic
02:30 Blue Elephant 2
04:15 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure

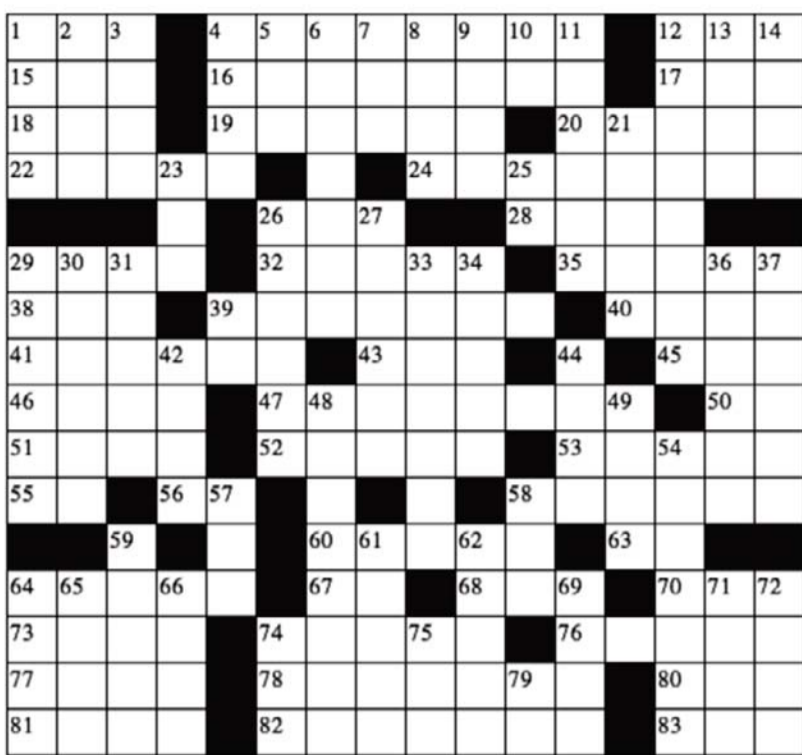
OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

01:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
03:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend?



ANT-MAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

CROSSWORD 1418



ACROSS

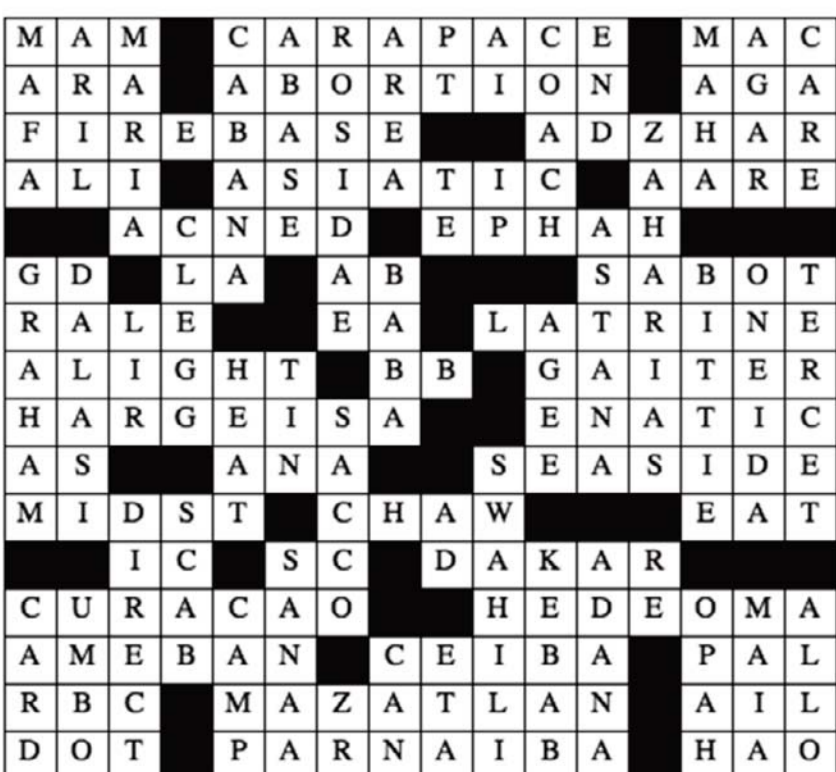
- Any of various trees of the genus *Ulmus*.
- A white solid mineral that occurs naturally as periclase.
- A unit of heat equal to the amount of heat required to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit at one atmosphere pressure.
- A doctor's degree in education.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Europe or the people of Europe.
- Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
- A barrier constructed to contain the flow of water or to keep out the sea.
- A member of the Salish people in northwestern Washington.
- 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
- Jordan's port.
- (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.
- A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
- A Bantu language spoken in Cameroon.
- A unit of weight for precious stones = 200 mg.
- Food mixtures either arranged on a plate or tossed and served with a moist dressing.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A Hindu or Sikh religious leader and personal teacher.
- A warning against certain acts.
- A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
- The rate at which heat is produced by an individual in a resting state.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Trees native to East Indies having pinnate leaves.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area).
- An energetic American dance that was popular in the 1930s (probably named for the aviator Charles Lindbergh).
- A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
- Half the width of an em.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- With the mouth wide open as in wonder or awe.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- (informal) 'Johnny' was applied as a nickname for Confederate soldiers by the Federal soldiers in the American Civil War.
- An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
- Precipitation of ice pellets when there are strong rising air currents.
- Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
- Largest known toad species.
- Kauri pine.
- A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.

- A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
- A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe.
- Noisy talk.

DOWN

- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
- Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
- Flat tableland with steep edges.
- Black-and-white short-necked web-footed diving bird of northern seas.
- The father of your father or mother.
- A wooden pin pushed or driven into a surface.
- Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
- (Old Testament) Third son of Adam.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
- A club that people join in order to buy selected books at reduced prices.
- A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
- A state in the western United States.
- A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
- Call upon in supplication.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- Any organic compound formed by adding alcohol molecules to aldehyde molecules.
- Compelled forcibly by an outside agency.
- A port city in southwestern Iran.
- Connected with or belonging to or used in a navy.
- Congenital absence of the heart (as in the development of some monsters).
- Having the characteristics of pitch or tar.
- A large fleet.
- A port city in eastern South Africa on the Indian Ocean.
- An informal term for a father.
- Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
- The capital and chief port of Qatar.
- An official residence provided by a church for its parson or vicar or rector.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- The ability to form mental images of things or events.
- A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
- Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
- Roman Emperor who succeeded Tiberius and whose uncontrolled passions resulted in manifest insanity.
- A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
- Capital and largest city of the Czech Republic.
- A feeling of intense anger.
- By bad luck.
- Derive or receive pleasure from.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- A piece of furniture with a writing surface and usually drawers or other compartments.
- Someone who is morally reprehensible.
- Your general store of remembered information.
- A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You're back in your own element today, but your enthusiasm could take you for a wild ride before you know it. It's as if you've finally escaped from your cage and are so overjoyed that you're ready for anything. However, you are so quick to react that you might jump to erroneous conclusions based on your wishes rather than the actual circumstances. Optimism is healthy when warranted, but it makes more sense now to step back from the edge of the cliff so you're not tempted to try your hand at flying. Setting new goals solidifies your zest for life.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Looking back upon childhood today, you might remember an older person telling you that you can do anything you set your mind to do and this is just that sort of day; most anything can be accomplished. Major relationships, especially financial ones, are in a positive upswing. This is a good day for moneymaking ventures. Make sure that you give yourself plenty of time to think through major decisions. There may be a little time to see friends or family but you may also find yourself enjoying a long conversation with a friend. Sending e-mail or making a special phone call you finally get caught up with the activities and happenings of your loved ones. Expressing yourself with flair means a lot to you. You will want to enjoy yourself this evening. You are just as witty with your loved ones as you are with the people from work. Enjoy your evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Rash decisions can be an open door to big mistakes-take your time. You become more practical and conscientious than usual today. You may find yourself sorting through drawers and looking in files for some lost object. Stop and take a deep breath, exhale and then think back on the time you last saw the missing object and you should be able to find it. Job requirements may slow you down for a while, but remember this is only short term. You could find you are required to take a class or attend lectures on a technical level. You may surprise yourself by learning enough to become a high-paid consultant-keep an open mind. You may decide to teach the children in your family a password so that they will know the right person is picking them up after school.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Some idea for an article is buzzing around in your head and you may find that the article could work well as a good article for your local paper or perhaps a popular blog. Become known as a good freelance writer and the media industry will be contacting you. Do this as a whim for a while and you will soon find yourself with a nice little income. You may find a backlog of work is waiting for your attention in your own workplace today. At the noon break, be sure you take it-exercise, meditation or just a slow walk may help to refurbish your energies for the afternoon. This afternoon, exchanging information is important for your wellbeing. An animal is paying attention to you this evening and it is time to train. The animal is old enough and wants to please.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are a very forceful speaker when the subject is a favorite of yours. You can communicate with great enthusiasm. There are opportunities to speak to small and large groups today. This could be in a lecture, work meeting, class, etc. Words flow like a river out of your mouth... And an emotional impact brings these words home to your listeners. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words; in fact, you may have to exercise some control over your tongue, for you are quick to say things and everything you communicate packs a wallop. You may be sought after for your advice and counsel regarding emotional issues; careful. You help others see truth and there will be a new understanding. A social event this evening is enjoyed by all.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your inner self-confidence may be lacking-you could try to overcome this by defensive aggressiveness. You probably wish you had more of the self-assurance your fiery acquaintances have. This is a good time to buckle down and concentrate on your work. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves you successful. Confidence will soon come. Your career is becoming more of a solid path. You enjoy and value your own life situation today. You feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. Company in your own home this evening may bring many compliments your way. You enjoy entertaining friends. Conversations between friends equal a form of comfort and cheerfulness.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are normally pretty good at handling change and risk because you hate being slowed by details. Slow down anyway, you could be missing something in your overall plan. You are excellent at building strategy. Stop and plot your options. If you need to prepare a plan, it is time to ask for help. The sheer abundance of your energy combined with your high-octane adrenaline can get in your way. Writing things down will force you to slow and think before acting. A news article has your full attention this afternoon. Tryouts for a local play or a part in a movie may interest you. Now is a good time to spread your wings! You may be in the mood for deep and penetrating conversations or thoughts with a loved one this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have a lot of energy and becoming involved in a regular exercise program will help to balance out your energy as well as motivate you at the beginning of each day. As you concentrate on your work this day, you might want to walk down the stairs to take your break and run up the stairs to wake up that energy for the remainder of your day. This may be repeated whenever necessary. Do not give away too much information today-keep life simple. Putting yourself in a vulnerable place is not a pattern that you usually create for yourself. However, a new relationship may have you feeling vulnerable this afternoon-careful. Enjoy this relationship one day at a time. This evening you relax with family members.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A new sense of self, a more assertive personal style and a more dynamic approach to life are the hallmarks of the cycle for you now. Doubts fade into the background and reserve is more and more outdated. This is an excellent time to sway others to your way of thinking. Slow your pace a bit and you will find that you will have accomplished much more than you thought possible by day's end. Your life is a passionate life. Strong attachments make for hot times and you are fiercely loyal, if not sometimes possessive. Secretive, you are not at all superficial but you always get to the heart of things. This is good for business and politics. You have a sense for power, wealth and passion. Plan a quiet evening in order to restore your energies.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are not easily swayed by other folks' opinions, especially today. You could be involved in an exciting play of conversation. You see no problem in expressing yourself vociferously in almost any situation. Before you speak, be wise and make sure your opinion is really requested, especially in the work world. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life this evening. A keen interest in what makes things tick and who or what pulls the strings is the hallmark of the mental cycle that begins now. Figuring out ways to make your nest egg grow can be a preoccupation this evening. If there are children in your family, you will want to make sure the schoolwork is up-to-date and understood. You may be feeling frisky and friendly tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are in top mental condition today and you excel in any sort of debate, problem solving or improvement-oriented conversation this morning. This could mean an early morning appointment or that the facts are in and you are ready to act. You can really get your thoughts and ideas across-good communication. Something very important that you have been pushing toward for a long time is now within your reach. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. Today is a day to plan for the future and look at the big picture. As you think on important issues, try to be particularly sensitive to others. There is an opportunity for a new understanding. There is satisfaction in helping a loved one win or perform.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a time when ideas and thoughts of all kinds are important. Your mind could be quite clear and natural. Ideas are flowing and come with ease. You have a knack for putting the feelings of a group into words and may serve as a teacher or spokesperson. If you have ever considered a vocation in teaching, now may be the time to do something about it. You might even consider volunteering to teach an adult reading class. You may be able to encourage a friend to join you in this venture. Humanitarian efforts can influence your work and life-path. You have an opportunity to take control and become more disciplined. Friends, group projects and community affairs are subjects of importance around the dinner table this evening.

WORD SEARCH

Mystery Christmas Carol #2

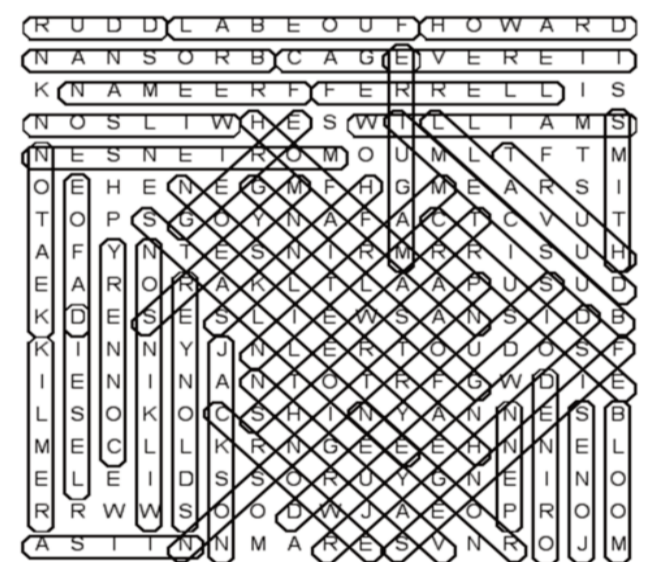
The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it? Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will spell the name of the Christmas Carol.



- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| ALL | CATTLE | HEAVEN | LOWING | STAY |
| AND | CHILDREN | HIS | MAKES | SWEET |
| ASK | CLOSE | JESUS | MANGER | TAKE |
| ASLEEP | CRIB | LAI | MORNING | TENDER |
| AWAY | CRYING | LAY | NEAR | THEE |
| BABY | DEAR | LITTLE | NIGH | THERE |
| BED | DOWN | LIVE | POOR | THY |
| BLESS | FOREVER | LOOK | PRAY | WAKES |
| BRIGHT | FROM | LOOKED | SIDE | WHERE |
| BUT | HAY | LORD | SKY | WITH |
| CARE | HEAD | LOVE | STARS | |

Yesterday Solution

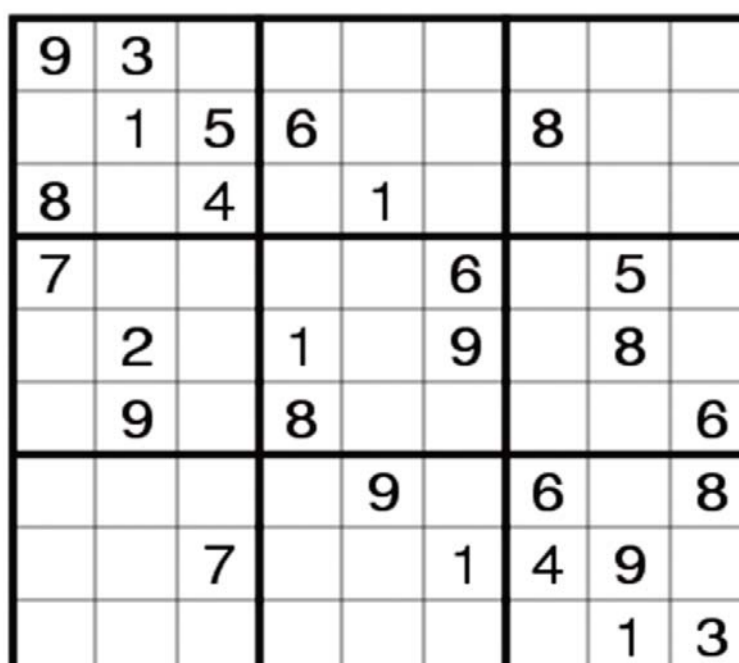
Movie Actors 2



- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ASTIN, Sean | FIENNES, Ralph | MARTIN, Steve |
| BLOOM, Orlando | FREEMAN, Morgan | MORTENSEN, Viggo |
| BROSNAN, Pierce | GERE, Richard | MYERS, Mike |
| BUSCEMI, Steve | GOSLING, Ryan | PATTINSON, Robert |
| CAGE, Nicolas | HANKS, Tom | PENN, Sean |
| CONNERY, Sean | HARRELSON, Woody | REYNOLDS, Ryan |
| CROWE, Russell | HOFFMAN, Philip Seymour | ROSEN, Seth |
| CRUISE, Tom | HOWARD, Terrence | RUDD, Paul |
| DAFOE, William | HURT, William | SMITH, Will |
| DE NIRO, Robert | JACKSON, Samuel L. | STALLONE, Sylvester |
| DIESEL, Vin | JONES, Tommy Lee | STEWART, Patrick |
| DOWNEY JR, Robert | KEATON, Michael | VAUGHN, Vince |
| DREYFUSS, Richard | KILMER, Val | WILKINSON, Tom |
| DUVALL, Robert | LABEOUF, Shia | WILLIAMS, Robin |
| EVERETT, Rupert | MAGUIRE, Tobey | WILSON, Owen |
| FERRILL, Will | | |

The hidden movie title is: KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Carey wants ex-fiance to continue paying for their mansion

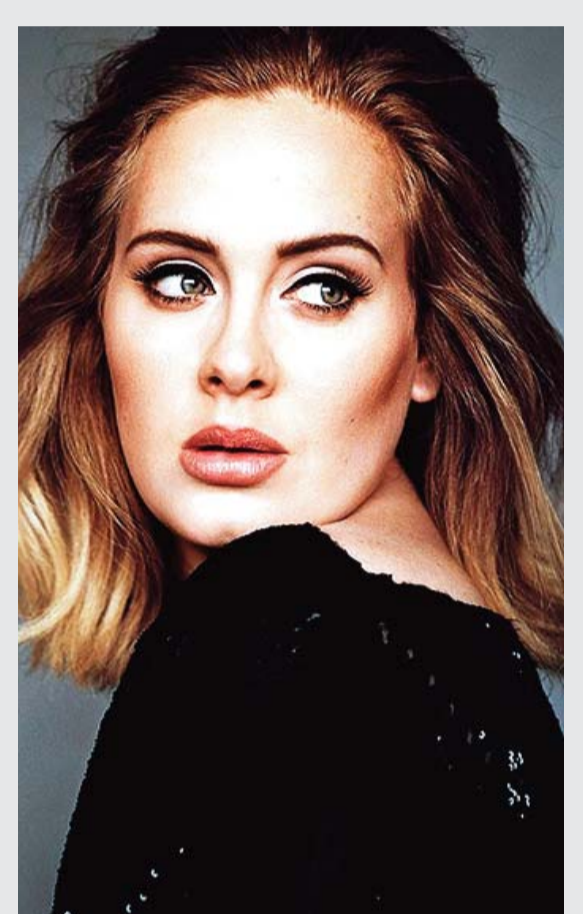
The 'Hero' hitmaker has told the 49-year-old billionaire businessman that he needs to cough up for the remainder of the rent on their lavish 18,000 sq-ft abode, which reportedly costs around \$250,000 a month to lease, in Calabasas and then handle the financial side of her next move as part of a condition of their split. A source said: "Mariah is demanding that James continue to pay out the remainder of their Calabasas, California, rental home together. Mariah is also demanding that James take care of her next move in real estate as part of negotiations." It's believed the 46-year-old pop diva is making the demands because she's lost wages from cancelling the South American leg of her 'Sweet Sweet Fantasy' tour and blames James for forcing her to uproot her life and move to Los Angeles for him. The insider explained to 'Entertainment Tonight': "Part of the reason for this [demand] is that Mariah lost wages from cancelling a leg of her tour recently and originally moved her family from New York to Los Angeles [so James could be closer to his children]." However, Mariah's

demands don't just stop there as the brunette beauty also wants the Australian tycoon to give her \$50 million and buy her a new mansion in New York. A source said: "Of course Mariah wants money, but she's not getting \$50 million. There's no negotiations about money because they haven't spoken since the split." Although James - whose mother lives in Australia - isn't prepared to part with \$50 million for the 'We Belong Together' hitmaker, he's allowing her to keep her \$10 million engagement ring he gave her when he popped the question earlier this year. The couple - who have been dating since 2015 - called time on their relationship in September after a row erupted between them while they were on holiday in Greece. The pair are yet to speak face-to-face but are reportedly keen to meet up and discuss their differences after news of their shock split began to spread like wildfire.

Heidi Klum accompanied by a clone squad to Halloween party

The 43-year-old model has been known for her intricate costumes in the past - including a prosthetic heavy Jessica Rabbit - but this year she went for something even bigger, hiring five other women, who all donned synthetic replicas of her own face to create an army of Heidi Klums. Speaking to ET Online at her Halloween party in New York on Monday, the 'America's Got Talent' judge said: "This came about because everyone always says, 'How do you juggle it all? How do you juggle it all?' I'm always thinking, 'I wish there were more of me so I could have it much easier. One could stay at home, the other one could go work! So that's how it happened! It's six-times me today!' And although Heidi herself has managed to escape the prosthetics this year, the process of getting her clones to look exactly like her wasn't easy. She revealed: "I had my face cast and all

then the girls had to have their faces cast and it was very tricky because my face had to then fit on their faces, so it was very, very hard to do." For Heidi's children, Leni, 12, Henry, 11, Johan, nine, and Lou, seven - who she has with ex-husband Seal - the sight of six versions of their mum was "freaky". Heidi said: "[My kids] thought it was a lot of fun! I think for them, it's probably the freakiest [costume]." The decision to go all out for her Halloween costumes every year comes out of Heidi's desire to "inspire people" to do something different with their own costume. She said: "I like to inspire people to come up with new ideas so you're not always the same every year. That, for me, is always the biggest challenge because I want to surprise people with something."



Adele felt 'pressured' to have children

The 'Rolling In The Deep' hitmaker - who has four-year-old son Angelo with her partner Simon Konecki - says she and her friends felt like they had to get pregnant because it's "what adults do". She said: "I think it's the bravest thing not to have a child; all my friends and I felt pressured into having kids, because that's what adults do." Whilst the 28-year-old singer loves her son dearly, she admits there are times where she wishes she could do her own thing. She told Vanity Fair magazine: "I love my son more than anything, but on a daily basis, if I have a minute or two, I wish I could do whatever the hell I wanted, whenever I want. Every single day I feel like that." Meanwhile, the songstress previously revealed she is desperate to have another child. She said: "My son is about to turn four very, very soon. I'm starting to get very emotional about it because I feel like once they turn four, they're not really your actual baby anymore. So my womb is starting to ache a little bit. It's like, 'Baby, baby, baby. Need a baby, need a baby.' I'm not pregnant. I won't get pregnant until the end of the tour." And with plans to expand her family, it is no surprise that the star is reportedly thinking of taking some time off from touring. A source shared recently: "Angelo is the number one priority for Adele. He is the most important thing in her life. She has brought him everywhere with her on tour but as he is starting school next year, he won't be able to join her any more." Adele doesn't want to miss a moment of Angelo growing up and it's an easy decision for her to give up touring for him. Right now she is saying she won't do another massive world tour like the current one for another 10 years.

MALIK SUFFERED FROM AN EATING DISORDER IN ONE DIRECTION

The 'Like I Would' hitmaker has admitted there were times during the band's 2014 tour where he wouldn't eat for days. He said: "When I look back at images of myself from November 2014, before the final tour, I can see how ill I was. Something I've never talked about in public before, but which I have come to terms with since leaving the band, is that I was suffering from an eating disorder. It wasn't as though I had any concerns about my weight or anything like that, I'd just go for days - sometimes two or three days straight - without eating anything at all. It got quite serious, although at the time I didn't recognize it for what it was." And the 23-year-old singer - who is now dating Gigi Hadid - believes his eating disorder was all about regaining "control". Writing in his self-titled book, he added: "I think it was about control. I didn't feel like I had control over anything else in my life, but food was something I could control, so I did. I had lost so much weight I had become ill. The workload and the pace of my life on the road put together with the pressures and strains of everything going on within the band had badly affected my eating habits." Meanwhile, Zayn has been showing Gigi his favorite British food - baked beans for breakfast. She revealed recently: "I usually eat breakfast or have coffee before I do anything. I live near the Smile, and I love their scrambled eggs, bacon, and toast. I drink orange juice and coffee always. At home I love scrambled eggs and toast; it's just an easy go-to. My boyfriend, being British, got me into breakfast beans, so that's what I've been eating lately."

Khloe slams Rob after cutting off contact with fiancée

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star and her sister Kim Kardashian West criticized their brother for failing to stay in touch with his fiancée Blac Chyna. Khloe said: "He has not spoke to her in days. How dare you leave a pregnant woman? I don't care if he is our brother, it is crazy how he is acting. If this was any man that we were with we would be pissed." Whilst Kim added: "Rob is going to be a dad and has a family to answer to and now more than ever Rob can't handle things the way he once did. He has to deal with his problems not just run away and hide from them." And the 32-year-old television went on to urge Rob, 29, to "communicate more". Speaking on the new episode of the family's E! reality show, Khloe added: "You need to communicate more so if you are going through something we can help you ... Rob feels we are all dramatic and judgmental then we have to take heed to that. What's done is done and I am happy that Rob can now talk to us about things." Meanwhile, Rob previously criticized his family for not "welcoming" Chyna. His mother Kris Jenner told him: "I get that you're in this new relationship, that's amazing for you, but it doesn't mean that you can't still be close to all of us, that's how life works." Whilst Rob replied: "No I know but y'all aren't like that welcoming of this relationship so you can't expect me to just be like, 'Oh let's all hang out and everything's cool and fine!' It's not that easy."



Knightley feels lucky to afford childcare

The 'Begin Again' star - who has 17-month-old daughter Edie with her husband James Righton - fears her career would have been over if she wasn't able to get someone to look after her little girl whilst she goes back to work. She said: "I've become unbelievably aware of that and how lucky I've been to be able to afford really good childcare, because otherwise it would be at least four years out of my career. I wouldn't be able to get back to where I'd been if I'd taken four years out. I think that's the same for most women. And I think that's really hard." And the 31-year-old actress bemoaned the cost of childcare in the United Kingdom, insisting it stops the average women from going back to work. She added: "One of the things that is so shocking in this country is that childcare is unbelievably expensive. It should be, it's an amazing thing if you're good at it. It's incredibly difficult, it should be well paid. But there is no option for a

woman to go back to work unless she's being paid really, really well and can afford full-time care before [her child can] get into nursery." Keira also criticized the British government's recommendation that men should have two weeks paternity leave. Speaking to Harper's Bazaar magazine, she shared: "I think paternity leave should be the same as maternity leave. It's shocking. Because you need that option." And actually, when you're thinking about an employer looking at a man and a woman thinking, "Well, at some point you could take nine months or however long off, and the guy doesn't have to. Don't tell me that that doesn't come into it! You need to be a family unit, not just have the guy there for two weeks and then go back to work and the mother left desperately trying to figure it out. I think it's archaic that there aren't better options."





Edinburgh as seen from Arthur's seat



Trees frame an entrance to the Queen Mother's Memorial Garden, part of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. — AP photos



The National Monument on Edinburgh's Calton Hill

Rubbing the statue's toe and other good times in Edinburgh

Rain is pelting the black bulk of Edinburgh Castle brooding over the city, but inside Fingers Piano Bar on Frederick Street, it's warm and dry as I dance with a throng of cheerful Scots, all of us lustily belting out the chorus of "Sweet Caroline." "Hands, touching hands," roar the dancers, waving their arms about and casually slapping complete strangers on the back as the piano man valiantly covers Neil Diamond.

Which is when it occurs to me that this city's reputation as a bastion of gentility might not be 100 percent on point - certainly not at Fingers, which is known for a boisterous vibe. In truth, Edinburgh has many faces. You might start your day researching the city's (sometimes bloody) past, move on to a wind-swift hike of green hills and finish up with a plunge into the lively dining and bar-hopping scene. Whether you choose one, two or all of Edinburgh's incarnations, here are some guideposts for the journey.

What's new

The Palace of Holyroodhouse, aka Holyrood Palace, is worth

a visit for its stylishly decorated rooms as well as the chambers of the doomed Mary Queen of Scots, site of the brutal murder of her Italian secretary David Rizzio on the orders of her second husband, Lord Darnley. (Note the chambers are reachable by spiral staircase only.) Evening tours offered in December include a visit to the West Drawing Room, not normally open to the public. Also: Champagne and mince pies. Evening tours, which cost about \$43, must be booked in advance and have limited availability. Regular tours available daily; admission about \$16. Check the website before you go to make sure the palace isn't closed due to royal visits.

For a less aristocratic window on the past, visit The Real Mary King's Close, set on the Royal Mile that stretches between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. This is a warren of steep alleys that once teemed with life but were abandoned when construction at the top of the hill sealed off the area, turning it into an underground relic. Costumed guides lead you through the partially furnished houses which include interactive portraits that help paint a picture of what life was like in these

once-crowded streets. Bonus: You will come away with a new appreciation for modern plumbing. Open daily; admission around \$18. Reservations strongly recommended.

Classic attractions

Edinburgh Castle is a must-see, although it's up to you whether you spend hours poking into its nooks and crannies or just have a quick stroll and a nice cup of tea. This is actually a collection of buildings including former military prisons and tiny St. Margaret's Chapel, built in the 12th century and the oldest building on site. Don't miss the Stone of Destiny, displayed alongside the Crown Jewels in the Royal Palace, which has a long history in British coronations. Admission about \$21. Afternoon tea can be had at the Queen Anne Tearoom for about \$37 (include castle admission), a nice diversion, especially if it's pouring, which is always a possibility.

At the opposite end of the Royal Mile is Holyrood Park, home to Arthur's Seat, a hill popular with hikers. There are various paths to the top, most relatively easy although it's a bit of a

scramble at the end. The Royal Botanic Garden covers about 70 acres and is about one mile from the city center. Highlights include a memorial garden to the late Queen Mother. Admission free to the gardens, about \$7 to the glasshouses.

If jetlag has you up at sunrise and you're somewhere near the Royal Mile, consider walking up Calton Hill. You'll get outstanding views of the city that are all the better when gilded by the rising sun. The hill is home to the National Monument, which looks like an unfinished Parthenon and, in fact, is. The plan was to construct a massively ambitious war memorial to Scottish soldiers and sailors killed in the Napoleonic wars, but money ran out and the project stalled at a base and 12 columns.

Getting around

Edinburgh is very walkable, but be prepared for lots of hills and steps and a changeable climate. A good place to catch your breath is Princes Street Gardens in front of the castle. Dining options range from standard pub grub - try the haggis, you know you want it - to innovative takes on Scottish classics. Recommended: The Bon Vivant, 55 Thistle St. The menu changes seasonally, but local oysters are worth a try if available. Also good for a drink and a bite is The Devil's Advocate, 9 Advocate's Close.

Travel tips

For modern, bright rooms in an excellent location, try the G&V Royal Mile Hotel, rooms start at around \$280. Part of the fun of Edinburgh is its many traditions. Note the shiny big toe of David Hume's statue on the Royal Mile in front of the High Court Building. Philosophy students used to rub the toe for good luck in exams; now everyone does it, which might not sit too well with Hume, who abhorred superstition. Another, slightly less charming, good luck custom is to spit on the Heart of Midlothian, a heart-shaped mosaic in the sidewalk near St. Giles' Church on the Royal Mile. It marks the spot where executions were once conducted. Make of that what you will. — AP



The statue of philosopher David Hume on Edinburgh's Royal Mile.



The ruins of Holyrood Abbey that stand next to Holyrood Palace and can be visited as part of the palace tour.

THAI PARTY SCENE SET TO RESUME AFTER ROYAL MOURNING

Thailand's party scene may get back into gear in a fortnight after a shutdown to mourn the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the junta suggested yesterday. The death of 88-year-old Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 13 thrust a country renowned for its colorful nightlife into profound mourning. Thais have donned black, soap operas have been pulled from television schedules, festivals cancelled and the music even turned down at Bangkok's seedier bars-with go-go dancers swapping the usual garish bikinis for somber black outfits.

But the junta leader signaled that nightlife may soon be allowed to creep back-along with cultural celebrations, concerts and the beloved soap operas-when a 30-day initial mourning

period ends on November 14. "Television will return to normal," Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha told reporters, albeit warning actors to dress demurely on screen and remain "polite" befitting the national mood.

In a nod to a relaxation on restrictions on nightlife he said "Thailand is a country of tourism," adding discussions were continuing over the loosening of controls on indoor and outdoor venues. A government official said later nine types of events and venues would operate as normal, including nightclubs, pubs and bars. Cultural celebrations, fairs, sporting events and concerts can also be restored to the calendar after a month-long suspension, according to an official citing the Prime Minister's office.

It was not immediately clear how that will play out with each local police force likely to enforce their own rules as the national mood lightens. Neither is the return of the famed "Full Moon" beach party confirmed. The junta has sought to balance respect for the venerated late king, who was the world's longest reigning monarch, with keeping the country open for business. The main tourist season is about to get into full swing and analysts have warned that any protracted clampdown on the party scene could drive visitors away. — AFP



This picture taken on October 31, 2016 shows men playing sepak takraw in front of a mural that reads "We were born in the reign of King Rama 9," referring to the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, known as the ninth king of the current Chakri dynasty in Bangkok. — AFP



Bill Cosby, right, arrives for a hearing in his sexual assault case at the Montgomery County Courthouse yesterday in Norristown. — AP

Cosby lawyers say prosecutors using the 'casting couch' cliché

Bill Cosby's lawyers argued yesterday that prosecutors are reaching back to the "casting couch" era to round up female accusers and build a "stale" sexual assault case against him. And they will take a Pennsylvania judge through a time warp to prove their point, challenging sexual misconduct claims that spanned the freewheeling 1960s, patriotic 1980s and gender-bending 21st century. Cosby arrived just before 9 am at the Montgomery County Courthouse, smiling as he chatted with his handlers.

Prosecutors will ask the judge to let 13 other women testify at the scheduled June trial that they were drugged and molested by Cosby in a "signature" fashion. However, defense lawyers note there's little but hazy memories to go on. In a defense filing Monday, they said the women's memories have been compromised by time and widespread media coverage of the case. "The fact that even the most fervently held memories can actually be tainted - or altogether false - is supported by a vast existing and growing body of science," lawyers Brian McMonagle and Angela Agrusa wrote. The pretrial hearing is expected to last two days, with another hearing on the evidence set for December.

\$1 million bail. It's been a half-century since the comedian became the first black actor to star in a primetime TV show, "I Spy," and more than 20 years since his top-ranked homage to black family life, "The Cosby Show," stopped filming. He had beaten back a Temple University employee's sexual assault complaint in 2005 when prosecutors said there wasn't enough evidence to charge him.

But a new prosecutor, District Attorney Kevin Steele, reopened the Montgomery County case last year amid new evidence: the scores of public accusers and a newly unsealed deposition that showed Cosby acknowledging he gave Andrea Constand three unlabeled pills and some wine before sticking his hand down her pants. Constand, then 30, said she was only semi-conscious after taking what she thought were herbal pills. She had met Cosby, a Temple booster, through her job and said she went to his house that night for career advice.

Constand settled a lawsuit against Cosby in 2006. The defense, in their motion Monday, said her accounts of her relationship with Cosby changed in her initial police statements - and they said the two had been intimate before.—AP

New evidence

Cosby, now 79 and blind, remains free on

Mel Gibson: 'It's time Hollywood forgave me'

One of the most sought-after names in Hollywood at the height of his career, Oscar-winning Mel Gibson has been a pariah in the filmmaking community for a decade. Ostracized by Tinseltown after an anti-Semitic tirade captured on tape during a 2006 drunk-driving arrest, the actor-director has since had to make do with a handful of parts in obscure or poorly received films. It is a far cry from the adulation he enjoyed as the "Mad Max" and "Lethal Weapon" films established him as a star, before he went on to win Academy Awards for producing and directing 1996's "Braveheart."

As he unveils his new faith-based World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge" this weekend, the 60-year-old devout Catholic will be hoping cinemagoers have shorter memories than movie executives. The film tells the true story of Desmond Doss, played by Andrew Garfield, who enlists and is determined to save lives on the front line as a medic, but refuses to carry a gun on moral grounds. "It highlights what it means for a man of conviction and of faith to go into a situation that is hellish... and in the midst of that maelstrom, this man is able to hone his spirituality and achieve something higher," Gibson told a recent news conference in Beverly Hills. He had been asked to comment on the film's brutal violence but could have been describing his own baptism of fire back in the glare of the Hollywood press pack.

Alcoholism

Asked about his own faith, Gibson looked uncomfortable and responded simply that he was "imperfect" and a "poor practitioner" who could take a leaf out of Doss's book. If Gibson's return to the director's chair is as successful as reviews of "Hacksaw Ridge" suggest it ought to be, he may have to get used to answering awkward questions about his private life again. "Hacksaw Ridge" is Gibson's first directing effort since the critically-acclaimed "Apocalypse" in 2006 — the year of his anti-Semitic rant at a US sheriff's deputy.

During the high-profile arrest in Malibu, north of Los Angeles, Gibson said Jews were responsible for all the wars in the world. He later apologized, blaming alcoholism, but he had already been facing accusations of anti-Semitism following the release of his controversial 2004 movie "The Passion of the Christ." Gibson and his wife of 26 years Robyn Moore split up soon after, and there were no more starring roles on the big screen until the lackluster thriller "Edge of Darkness." Even after his acting comeback, the controversies surrounding the star were far from over. Gibson was spared jail in 2011 when he decided not to contest domestic violence charges pressed by Russian pianist Oksana Grigorieva, the mother of his seven-year-old daughter Lucia.



This file photo taken on October 24, 2016 shows Mel Gibson on arrival for the special screening of the film he directed, "Hacksaw Ridge," at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

'Directorial chops'

Gibson—who is expecting a ninth child later this year with 26-year-old girlfriend Rosalind Ross—was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to attend domestic violence

counseling. He won critical acclaim for his role in close friend Jodie Foster's "The Beaver," but the 2011 film was a commercial flop, with Entertainment Weekly concluding that audiences had stayed away because of Gibson.

He has since faced further accusations of anti-Semitic and aggressive behavior, which he has strenuously denied. In a recent podcast with Variety magazine, Gibson said he was trying to put the 2006 incident behind him, and found it "annoying" that people were still bringing it up. "Ten years have gone by. I'm feeling good. I'm sober, all of that kind of stuff, and for me it's a dim thing in the past," he said.

By Monday next week, the opening box office figures for "Hacksaw Ridge" will indicate whether the public has forgiven him. "I think, (with) all directors who have touched greatness before, Hollywood, and audiences in general, have a willingness to take a chance on them again," said Jeff Bock, a senior analyst at industry monitor Exhibitor Relations. "Gibson has proven that he has directorial chops that transcend the often mediocre multiplex offerings. With 'Hacksaw Ridge,' he seems to have the critical support as well, so that bodes well for playability through the holiday season." — AFP



In this file image released by Sony Pictures, Tom Hanks, left, and Felicity Jones appear in a scene from, "Inferno." — AP

'Inferno' crashes and burns at box office

"Inferno," the latest big screen installment of Dan Brown's conspiracy novels, fizzled out in its opening weekend in North America, industry data showed Monday, earning \$10 million less than expected. The third film in the series that stars Tom Hanks took a frosty \$14.9 million in North America, a fraction of the \$77.1 million debut of "The Da Vinci Code," which kicked off the franchise in 2006.

"At this point, it could truly flame out and struggle to reach \$40 million," wrote Brad Brevet of film finance website Box Office Mojo, noting that it been expected to make closer to \$25 million. But he added that Sony had kept the budget at a relatively low \$75 million, meaning that, combined with overseas ticket sales, the studio wasn't "looking at a complete blood bath on the balance sheet."

Based on Dan Brown's bestselling book series, the film stars Felicity Jones alongside Hanks, who returns to the role of Harvard professor Robert Langdon, this time seeking to stop an evil billionaire from killing off the world's population by releasing a deadly virus. Sony's poor showing with "Inferno" cleared the way for Lionsgate's "Boo! A Madea Halloween"—the latest installment in Tyler Perry's Madea franchise—to retain the number one spot in its second week.

The comedy, in which Perry reprises his role as a tough-talking matriarch, took in \$17.2 million for a total of \$52.6 million, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said. "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" slipped a spot from last week to take third place with \$9.6 million. The sequel to the 2012 film "Jack Reacher" stars Tom Cruise as a former soldier now going it alone, based on the book series by British author Lee Child. The financial thriller "The Accountant," starring Ben Affleck, held on to its number four spot from last week with \$8.5 million.

The film follows an autistic mathematics savant who capitalizes on his fondness for numbers by becoming an undercover forensic accountant for criminal organizations. Horror prequel "Ouija: Origin of Evil"—about home seances gone wrong—dropped two spots to take fifth place during its second weekend with \$7.1 million. Rounding out the top 10 films were: "The Girl on the Train" (\$4.4 million), "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (\$4.1 million), "Keeping Up with the Joneses" (\$3.4 million), "Storks" (\$2.9 million) and "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil" (\$2.2 million) — AFP

GERMAN YOUTUBE ALIVE WITH MUSIC AFTER COPYRIGHT DEAL

One of the world's most restrictive countries on access to music videos opened up yesterday as YouTube announced a deal with musicians' body GEMA to pay when people stream music in Germany. YouTube users in the country had for years been confronted with a red sad-face emoticon and messages announcing "this video is not available in Germany" when trying to view videos ranging from the latest pop clips to films with GEMA-controlled background music. Now the blockages should largely be a thing of the past.

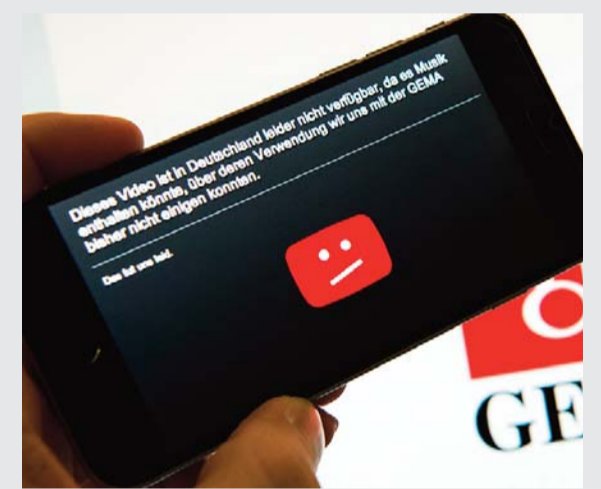
"Hell has frozen over!" wrote one Twitter user in response to the news. "Listen to all the music!" said another. Yesterday's deal will see YouTube pay an undisclosed amount for music belonging to the roughly 70,000 German artists represented by GEMA—as well as many foreign artists—each time their songs are played. "Authors, composers and music publishers will be paid fairly," YouTube executive Christophe Muller said in a statement.

GEMA and the Google subsidiary had been wrangling since 2009 — at times in court-over how musicians should be paid for their work being streamed after a previous licensing agreement expired. A court ruled in 2012 that YouTube should install filters preventing users uploading copyrighted music without permission on pain of a 250,000-euro (\$275,000) fine per infringement. But the latest court case launched by the music licensing organization, in which it claimed 0.375 euro cents from the video site for each time a song was played, failed in January this year.

Ten months later, the two sides have reached an agreement, although neither released details of the amount artists would receive per play. "There was an appropriate, good offer," GEMA spokeswoman Ursula Goebel told AFP. Citing industry sources, news agency DPA reported that the compromise would see YouTube send some advertising revenue to GEMA, as well as a fee for videos not preceded by ads. GEMA said Tuesday's deal covers past as well as future usage of its members' music. The two sides have however not agreed whether YouTube or the individual uploader should be responsible for licensing, it added.

'Clear signal'

Among the 1,000 most popular YouTube videos in the world in 2013, no fewer than 61.5 percent of them were blocked in Germany, according to data journalism agency OpenDataCity—compared with



This photo taken on JAN 01, 2016 in Munich, south Germany, shows a message displayed on a smartphone after a video could not be shown on the video portal YouTube, pictured in front of the logo of the German rights recovery company GEMA. — AFP

just one percent in neighboring France. But just 8.4 percent of that list were blocked because of definite legal problems, while the rest were made unavailable as a precautionary measure.

Blocks on free music videos dismayed newly-arrived expats and prompted people to trade tips on getting around them to the latest clips from Lady Gaga or Justin Bieber. Now GEMA says it has sent "a clear signal to all online platforms... authors must be fairly remunerated for the exploitation of their musical works," the organization's head of broadcast and online Thomas Theune said in a statement.

"We in Germany think we can hold up for a while things that are already normal in other countries" in cases like GEMA's, Professor Klemens Skibicki, a digital economy expert at Cologne Business School, told AFP. But "it's clear to the rest of the world that profit-making in the music business just works differently nowadays," compared with when record sales were the big earner, he said. — AFP

Bono first man to make Glamour's Women of the Year list

Glamour's annual Women of the Year list always takes in a lot of territory, from noteworthy fashionistas and sports heroes to social justice activists and business leaders. Enter Bono: The first man of the Year among the magazine's Women of the Year, all to be honored at a Nov. 14 ceremony in Los Angeles.

"We've talked for years about whether to honor a man at Women of the Year and we've always kind of put the kabash on it. You know, men get a lot of awards and aren't exactly hurting in the celebration and honors department," said Cindi Leive, Glamour's editor-in-chief. "But it started to seem that that might be an outdated way of looking at things, and there are so many men who really are doing wonderful things for women these days. Some men get it and Bono is one of those guys," Leive said in a recent interview. And how's that?

'Poverty is Sexist!'

Well, not just by talking the talk and wearing a feminist T-shirt, she said. Not that there's anything wrong with that stuff, of course. Instead, the U2 frontman has turned his attention, his high-volume voice and presence as an activist, squarely on women and girls who need it the most, those in extreme poverty around the world. Last year, Bono and his One campaign launched a "Poverty is Sexist" movement, armed with facts and figures.

Roughly 62 million girls are denied a right to education around the world, according to a One report, and half a billion women can't read. In a letter to world leaders, Bono and numerous other celebrity signers, from Robert Redford to Shonda Rhimes, called it an outrage that girls account for 74 percent of all new HIV infections among adolescents in Africa.

"The idea that a man who could select any cause in the world to call his own, or no cause at all, is choosing to work, and not just for one night or at a special event, but consistently - day after day and month after month - on behalf of women is incredibly cool and absolutely deserves applause," Leive said, noting Bono's AIDS-fighting Red campaign as well.

So how did the man of the hour take the news? Bono's wife, Ali Hewson, had some thoughts, Leive said. "Apparently

he turned to his wife and broke the news and she told him, eh, I think you still have some work to do," she laughed. Bono said in a statement Tuesday from Glamour that the battle for gender equality won't be won unless men step up and lead alongside women. "We're largely responsible for the problem, so we have to be involved in the solutions," he said.

Among Glamour's other 2016 honorees are fashion designer Miuccia Prada, IMF chief Christine Lagarde, ISIS kidnap survivor Nadia Murad, Black Lives Matter activists Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, and model and body activist Ashley Graham. Glamour will feature them all in the December issue. Rounding out the winners:



SIMONE BILES: At 19, she has 10 world championship gold medals and five medals from the 2016 Olympics. Since Rio, she's been writing her memoir, "Courage to Soar," out this month. But it hasn't always been easy. She was in foster care when her biological grandparents adopted her. In 2013, her gymnastics confidence crumbled and with the help of a sports psychologist she learned to trust her talent - and enjoy the ride.

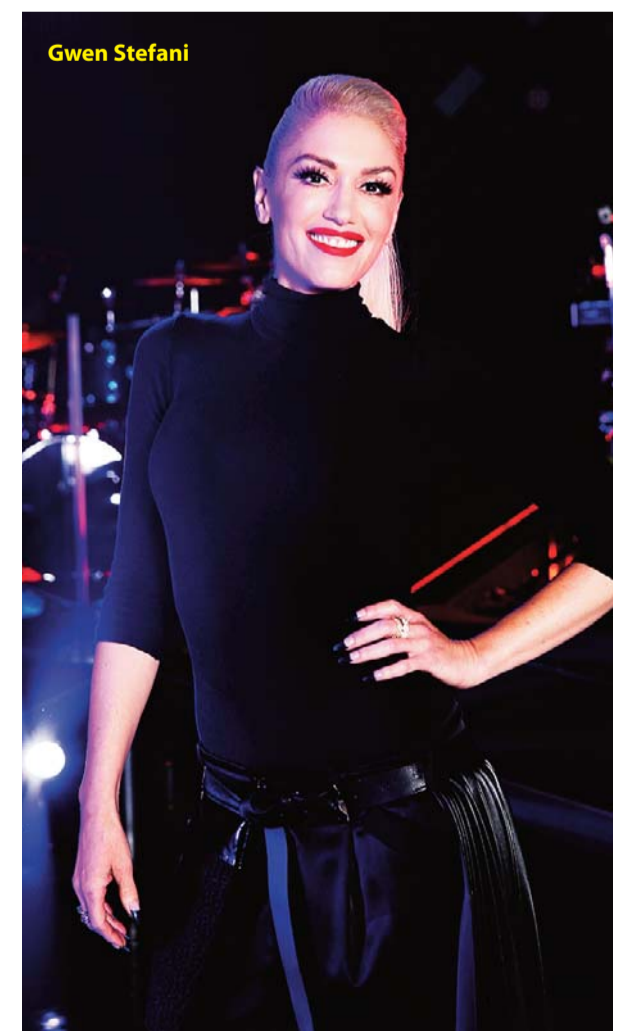
GWEN STEFANI: It's been quite a year for this mom of three. There's her work on "The Voice," her divorce from Gavin Rossdale, her romance with Blake Shelton and her first solo

album in a decade, "This Is What the Truth Feels Like," which is also her first to debut at No. 1. "Sometimes to be woken up again in life you need to go through some really bad, hard times," she told Glamour. "I feel like I got woken up this year." Leive said of Stefani, "She's always kind of been like the spirit animal for every girl who just wanted to be herself."

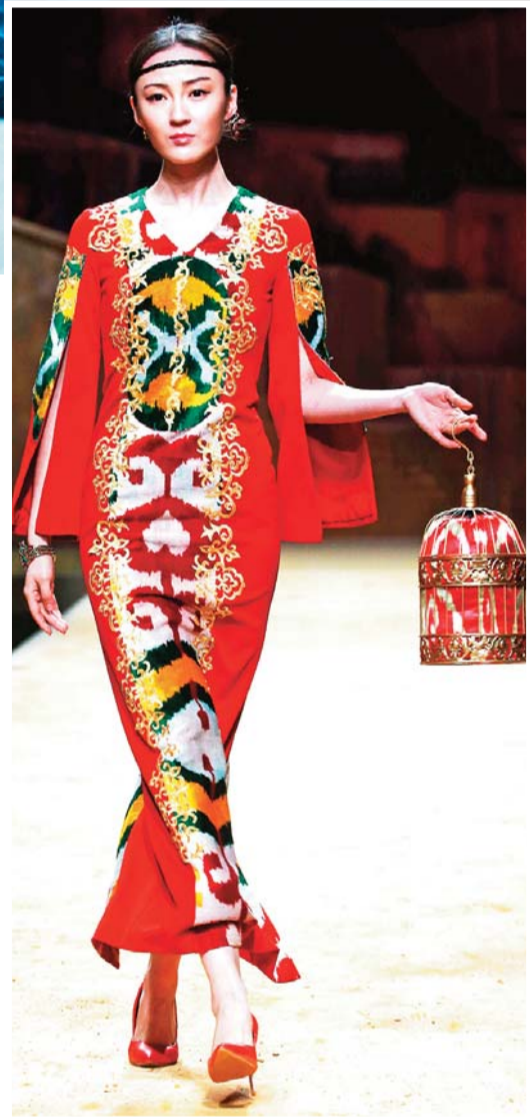
ZENDAYA: Girls, Leive said, "love her, they relate to her." Why? "Because she stands for a forthright approach to life." The former Disney star has more than 33 million followers on Instagram, using her social media presence to support efforts to end hunger and stop the spread of AIDS. At just 20, she is a strong voice against bullying and a positive one in helping



girls embrace their own standards of beauty. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and the person who should be beholding that beauty is you," Zendaya told Glamour. She was propelled further into the spotlight last year after the Oscars when Giuliana Rancic remarked on "Fashion Police" that Zendaya's dreadlocks made her look like she smelled of patchouli oil or weed. Rancic later apologized on air. — AP



CHINA FASHION WEEK



Model parade the creations from the AM.IXAM, Shangshou, 95sy and CC IKATS collections at China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP photos

Lifestyle

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Mel Gibson: It's time Hollywood forgave me

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A woman looks at a painting produced collaboratively by Damien Hirst and David Bowie called "Beautiful, halo, space-boy painting" 1995, part of the Bowie Collection on display at Sotheby's auction rooms in London yesterday. The painting estimated at £ 250,000 - 350,000 (318,000- 445,000 \$) is part of a large collection of artworks from the personal collection of musician David Bowie which will go for auction on Nov. 10 and 11. — AP

Lebanon's national museum reveals long-hidden treasures

Beirut's National Museum has opened its basement of ancient treasures for the first time in four decades to show the public its stunning array of funerary art, including the world's largest collection of anthropoid sarcophagi.

The new exhibition's 520 pieces range from the Paleolithic period to the Ottoman Empire. They include Phoenician stelae and rare medieval Christian mummies along with the anthropoid coffins, which display a human face on the sarcophagus and were long a standard for the elite. Some of the items have never before been on public display. Other pieces have not been shown since the 1970s, when the museum was forced to shut down because it sat on the frontline that ran through the city during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

"This is a lesson in courage and hope because 41 years after the museum was closed in 1975, we today are able to receive visitors on three floors," says museum director Anne-Marie Maila Afeiche. The archaeological museum was renovated after the years of fighting and shelling damaged its building and exhibits, and reopened in the 1990s. But the current exhibit is the first time its basement has been open since the civil war.

Among the treasures of often-breathtaking beauty is a fragment of a Roman sarcophagus found in Beirut that depicts the myth of Icarus, who is shown alongside his father Daedalus, making his ill-fated wings. Another gem is an extraordinary hypogeum—an underground tomb—accidentally discovered by a farmer in the Tyre region in 1937. It is covered with restored frescoes inspired by Greek

mythology, including a scene of Priam on bended knee begging Achilles to return the body of Hector.

'Belongs to humanity'

"It was essential to show the public this heritage, which belongs to Lebanon and humanity, that was lying in our storage," said Afeiche. All of the exhibits on display in the museum were excavated across Lebanon, which is rich with historical sites and artifacts. They include a premolar from 70,000 BC belonging to the first known example of a homo sapiens in Lebanon, and stretch through to an 1830 Ottoman stele adorned with a turban.

Among the collection's flagship displays is a series of Phoenician sarcophagi dating from between the sixth and fourth century BC that were found in the southern region of Sidon. "We're exhibiting 31 of these sarcophagi at the moment," which mix Greek and Egyptian styles, said Afeiche, noting that some of the sarcophagi found in Sidon are currently displayed in the Louvre. This is "the largest collection of anthropoid sarcophagi in the world," she added.

But perhaps the most striking part of the exhibit is the unprecedented display of three mummies found in 1989 by cavers in the Qadisha Valley. The area is a UNESCO World Heritage site and its cave-pocked sheer rock faces provided refuge for Maronite Christians persecuted during the Mamluk and Byzantine eras. "They were discovered in a cave along with eight naturally mummified bodies" wearing the clothes of women and children, in some cases the 13th-century silk embroidery still intact.

More treasures to display

Around them were nuts, onion skins, ceramics, bronze tools and documents written in Arabic and Syriac. "They were psalms and liturgical chants that showed that these were Christians who had taken refuge in this cave," said Afeiche. The three mummified bodies are particularly rare as Lebanon does not have a tradition of mummification, according to Marco Samadelli, director of the EURAC Centre in Italy, who offered his expertise to help conserve the unique mummies.

Italy contributed 1.02 million euros (\$1.1 million) to the project of restoring the museum's basement and collection, along with the expertise of leading archeologists including Antonio Giannarusti. Even with the basement now open, the museum's storage areas contain plenty of un-displayed pieces and the culture ministry has plans for a new history museum in Beirut as well as museums in both Sidon and Tyre. The new exhibition provides a timeline of burial techniques, from a 6000 BC Neolithic cradle tomb to a 4BC Chalcolithic burial jar found in Byblos.

Phoenician urns holding cremated remains are exhibited alongside a Byzantine-era tomb decorated with the face of the Virgin Mary from 440 AD. "We believe this is the oldest representation of the Virgin discovered to date in Lebanon," said Afeiche. The largest is the hypogeum from Tyre, with frescoes reminiscent of Pompeii. One of its sides features an inscription: "Be brave, no one is immortal." — AFP



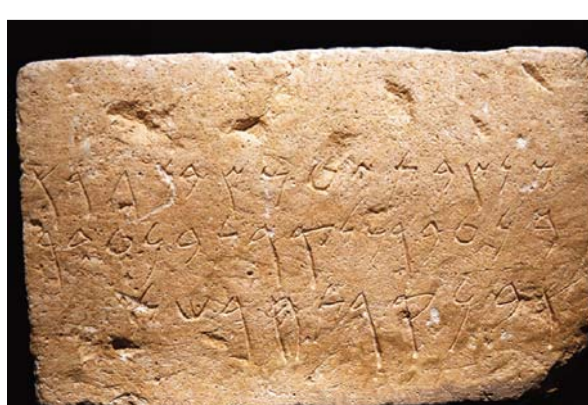
A picture taken on October 13, 2016, shows a cradle tomb on display in the newly inaugurated basement section of Beirut's National Museum. — AFP photos



The tomb of Tyre and its restored frescoes on display.



Naturally preserved mummies, found in the caves of Qadisha valley in the Lebanese mountains and dating back to 1283 AD.



Phoenician scriptures carved on a stone tablet.