



Candidate says investing in oil can resolve economic crisis



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KUWAIT TO LAUNCH FOREIGN BOND SALE TO FINANCE DEFICIT

COUNTRY'S FIRST FOREIGN DEBT IN AROUND TWO DECADES



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TIJARI REPORTS NET PROFIT OF KD 27.5 MILLION

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced a net profit of KD 27.5 million for the nine-month period of 2016 compared with KD 25.4 million in same period last year, a growth of 8.2 percent. Fee income witnessed year on year growth of 8.8 percent, foreign exchange income 61 percent and investment portfolio income 31.3 percent. The bank continues to maintain a solid level of operating profit before provision, amounting to KD 74.5 million compared to KD 74.0 million for the same period last year.



Yacoub Al-Ebrahim

Commenting on the bank's financial results, the bank's spokesman Yacoub Al-Ebrahim said Commercial Bank's total assets at the end of Sept 2016 reached KD 4,047 million (Sept 2015 - KD 4,035 million). The bank's capital adequacy ratio at the end of Sept 2016 at 16.86 percent is higher than the minimum 13.5 percent required by the Central Bank of Kuwait, while the leverage ratio at 10.6 percent is more than three times higher than the minimum requirement of three percent. (See Page 21)



KUWAIT: Fireworks light the sky during celebrations of the opening of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (More pics on Page 4)

KUWAIT: Kuwait will issue billions of dollars worth of bonds in international markets to finance a budget deficit resulting from low oil prices, a report said yesterday. Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said Kuwait will issue US dollar-denominated sovereign bonds of up to \$9.6 billion during the 2016/2017 fiscal year which ends March 31, Al-Qabas newspaper reported. This comes on top of a \$6.6 billion domestic debt program which is already underway.

Kuwait, like other energy-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, has already taken on tens of billions of dollars in foreign debt to finance budget shortfalls. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and United Arab Emirates have sold bonds or took syndicated loans to plug their deficits. The minister's decree did not specify the share of Islamic sukuk bonds in the planned issue.

It will be the country's first foreign debt in around two decades. Kuwait recorded a budget deficit of \$15 billion last fiscal year, breaking a 16-year run of surpluses. Oil income contributed around 95 percent of public revenues in those years. During the past two years, oil has lost around 60 percent of its value.

The state, home to 1.3 million Kuwaitis and 3 million foreigners, is also projecting a budget shortfall of \$29 billion this fiscal year. During surplus years, Kuwait piled up around \$600 billion in its sovereign wealth fund in holdings mostly in the United States, Europe and Asia. Like its Gulf peers, Kuwait has taken some austerity measures that include liberalizing prices of diesel and kerosene and hiking petrol prices. A dispute over petrol prices led parliament being dissolved and snap polls set for Nov 26. Parliament a few months ago approved a law to raise heavily subsidized power and water fees but exempted citizens. — AFP



MUSCAT: Britain's Prince Charles dances with a sword with a group of Omani traditional dancers as his wife Camilla watches yesterday. — AP

PRINCE CHARLES, CAMILLA IN OMAN AT START OF GULF VISIT

MUSCAT: Britain's Prince Charles brandished a sword and took part in a traditional dance yesterday on his trip to Oman with his wife Camilla, the first full day of the couple's three-nation royal tour of the Gulf. The Prince of Wales landed in the Omani capital of Muscat on Friday night, greeted at the airport by Omani Heritage and Culture Minister Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said. Camilla landed earlier in the day.

Yesterday morning, the couple visited Oman's new National Museum, greeted by traditional dancers. Prince Charles gamely waved the sword amid singing and dancing, drawing smiles from those

taking part. He later entered the National Museum, pausing at one point to look at traditional Omani khanjars, curved daggers carried ceremoniously at the waist by Omanis and those in neighboring Yemen. Other dancers twirled shining rifles. The royal couple attended a service at Bait Al Noor Church afterward.

The pair are taking part in a series of cultural events while in Oman and are scheduled to see Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who has ruled the country on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula since 1970. Prince Charles and Camilla will travel to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain as well on their weeklong trip. — AP

OPPOSITION EYES COMEBACK IN POLLS

FISH VENDOR DEATH TROUBLES MOROCCO

HOCEIMA, Morocco: The anger is palatable in Hoceima, a Moroccan port on the Mediterranean Sea. It has ignited protests across the country and threatens to cloud Morocco's image as it prepares to host two weeks of high-profile UN climate talks. Tens of thousands of people marched in a silent candlelight vigil Friday night by the local police station where fish vendor Mouhcine Fikri died in a garbage compactor.

Fikri had been selling 500 kg of unauthorized swordfish that police confiscated and discarded. He then climbed into a garbage truck to retrieve the fish, and was crushed when its compactor was activated. Local media have reported that police allegedly told the driver to "grind him" although the prosecutor issued a statement saying "no specific order was given to kill" Fikri.

The rallying cry for the protests has been "hogra", or the deprivation of dignity, reflecting deep frustration among Moroccans at impunity and corruption among police and officialdom. Some have compared Fikri's death to the death of Tunisian vendor Mohamed Bouazizi, which sparked the Arab Spring uprisings across North Africa. Experts say Fikri's death is unlikely to lead to a revolution in Morocco, but it is putting pressure on Moroccan leadership. The king himself has intervened to ensure a thorough investigation, and the government has been unusually communicative about the case, trying to quell an outpouring of anger on social media.

More protests are planned for today - just as world diplomats gather in Marrakech for the UN climate talks starting tomorrow to follow up on the landmark Paris Agreement to slow global warming.

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KUWAIT: Islamist opposition leaders and candidates (from right) Osama Al-Menawer, Walid Al-Tabtabaei, Bader Al-Dahoum and Adel Al-Damkhi are seen on Oct 30, 2016 during a campaign meeting for the upcoming parliamentary election. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti opposition groups are aiming for a comeback in parliament after a four-year election boycott, seeking to reverse what they see as the deteriorating political situation in the state. More than 30 prominent Islamist and liberal opposition figures and former lawmakers have registered to run in the Nov 26 polls in the hope of forming a formidable political force.

Kuwait's 50-seat parliament is considered the most powerful of its kind in the Gulf Arab states thanks to its legislative and monitoring capacities. The opposition groups boycotted two general elections in 2012 and 2013 in protest at a change in the voting system brought unilaterally by the government. The opposition alliance said

at the time that the change, later endorsed by Kuwait's constitutional court, would allow the government to control parliament and promote autocratic rule.

"The opposition has discovered that the boycott was not the right choice. In fact, they found that they have only isolated themselves," political analyst Nasser Al-Abdali said. "I think the boycott has considerably weakened the opposition as a whole," Abdali, the head of Kuwait Society for the Promotion of Democracy, told AFP. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah last month dissolved the parliament over a dispute over a hike in petrol prices and called for snap polls.

Continued on Page 13

CLINTON, TRUMP BLITZ FLORIDA



TAMPA: US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds a baby during a rally at the Special Events Center of the Florida State Fairgrounds yesterday. — AFP

MIAMI: Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump embarked yesterday on a campaign blitz in the battleground state of Florida, a must-win if the Republican is to stop her becoming the first woman to win the White House. There are just three days to go in America's ugliest, most divisive presidential election campaign in living memory. Tightening polls have seen both candidates pull out all the stops in a desperate attempt to win.

The 69-year-old former secretary of state, looking to make history as the first US female commander-in-chief, is commanding A-list superpower in that quest, pulling in Beyonce and Jay-Z at a concert in Cleveland on Friday. Performances from Jon Bon Jovi, Katy Perry and Stevie Wonder were scheduled yesterday.

In contrast, the maverick billionaire who has inflamed the political establishment with his insulding campaign is isolated, leaning on his family and only a handful of Republican politicians as surrogates.

Continued on Page 13

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KUWAIT: This November 6, 1991 file photo shows then Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) attending a ceremony to celebrate the extinguishing of the last burning oil well since the Iraqi invasion eight months prior. — KUNA photos



In my view

QIBLA NEIGHBORHOOD

By Labeed Abdal

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Talking about this particular neighborhood is somehow saddening, if we remember its good old days. We would be the happiest people on earth even if it returns to us in a dream, and we would wish it never ends. Memories about this loveable neighborhood start with my birth on Jan 13, 1967 in our old house that included four small rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, a small inner courtyard and a roof.

I still remember our house, that of our next door neighbors and the one opposite ours. Our house was located near Al-Bader house, currently Diwan Al-Bader. It was almost in the place of the Kuwait National Museum. Boodai Company was located down the path towards the sea, where the National Library is currently located. Behind our house was the Al-Sharhan Mosque next to Al-Qibliya school. There was a grocer's shop towards the middle of the yard opposite KNPC, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and the old Sumait toy store.

Qibla (pronounced in the Kuwaiti dialect as Jibla) is one of the Capital governorate's areas. It was named thus because it was opposite Seif Palace and was known as southwest Qibla, near the market area. Similarly, Sharq (east) was named thus because it was located to the east of the palace and the market. Back in the old days, Qibla stretched from the Sheraton roundabout down to Al-Soor Street, eastwards until the Ice Skating Rink and northwards until the banks area including Salhiya. It was located to the west of the city, starting from Seif Palace and extending from Al-Maqsab gate and Watya to the west all the way until the American Hospital and Naif Palace to the south. It overlooked the Gulf or what is known as Kuwait Bay to the north. This neighborhood is one of Kuwait's oldest ones and included the part on which the Bin Oraier kout (cottage) was built. It is noteworthy to say that most families living in that part mainly depended on foreign trade for a living. They imported various kinds of goods and sold them in the local markets. They also relied on travelling outside the Arabian Peninsula, namely to Iraq, which was the world's largest date exporter. They also travelled to southern Yemeni cities, Africa and India, which was then the world's largest pearl market and Britain's crown jewel. They used to smuggle gold to it and sell it on the black markets, and carried goods on their ships to various Asian and African ports.

All this brought Kuwait a huge income and formed a great portion of Kuwait's foreign trade. Due to commitment to their businesses, many of them migrated and settled in India, Basra, Aden and other cities around the world to take care of their businesses and investments. They also dominated the date trade, exporting them from Iraq onboard Kuwaiti ships.

Many Qibla residents invested in Iraq, namely in Basra, where they owned palm farms producing dates and exported them to other countries including India. Very few of Qibla families practiced pearl diving and trading, until later years. It is known that the sea played a major role in Kuwaitis' lives. It was life for them. Without it, Kuwait would have never existed because they got all their income through the sea.

KUWAIT MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXTINGUISHING OIL WELL FIRES

KUWAIT: Kuwait commemorates today the 25th anniversary of putting out the last oil well set on fire during the Iraqi invasion. Iraqi troops, in 1990, set about 700 oil wells

on fire before withdrawing from Kuwait in 1991, leaving behind one of the worst environmental calamities in recent memory. The last of the burning oil wells was extin-

guished on November sixth during a ceremony attended by the late Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Exceeding expectations,

the job took only eight months due to the efforts of more than 10,000 experts from different countries. The Kuwaiti team managed to put out 41 oil well fires. —KUNA



ABUL GHEIT LAUDS AMIR'S EFFORTS FOR ARAB UNITY, RESOLVING CONFLICTS

ARAB LEAGUE CHIEF REITERATES SYRIAN CRISIS' SOLUTION POLITICAL

KUWAIT: Arab League's Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit has commended Kuwait's distinct and major role under His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for reuniting Arabs, calming attitudes and resolving conflicts and crises.

His Highness the Amir's wise policy for the Arab joint action is a sound approach, namely exerting efforts for calming attitudes, ending conflicts and settling disputes among the Arab countries, Abul Gheit told the Kuwait TV in an interview on Friday.

During his visit to Kuwait earlier last week, the League chief met with His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Abul Gheit said the meetings were "very fruitful." He noted that goal of the visit was to discuss handling the present Arab situation, as well as the means to reactivate the Arab League's performance and effectiveness.

Kuwait offers a good example of a committed state member in the League, lavishing efforts to support the organization and the chief, he said. Abul Gheit added that he had reviewed with the Kuwaiti leadership his future plans to reactivate the Arab League in the wake of several "unhappy" events in the Arab region. He pointed out that he and the Kuwaiti officials shared a common vision on the Arab situation.

Thorny issues

On the efforts to resolve thorny issues of the region, the Arab League chief said that under His Highness the Amir, Kuwait has always manifested moderation in all situations, refraining to get plunged in the ongoing conflicts, and has been seeking to cool tempers.

He explained that Kuwait has been shouldering heavy responsibility to calm the situation on the Arab scene, a matter that requires "frankness with all parties." He stressed in this regard the country's good relations with all regional powers, which makes it always in a position to be asked to intervene to

end conflicts. In the meantime, Abul Gheit referred to Kuwait's contribution to the Arab League's budget. For decades, Kuwait has been the first country to honor its financial commitments to the League, and to pay its share of the organization's budget, he said voicing gratitude to Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

He also referred to Kuwait's lead-



Arab League's Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit

ing humanitarian efforts, pointing to the great aid the country presents around the globe, which "reflects self-denial and readiness to help humanity." He cited the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), and its motto "Helping people to help themselves." In the meantime, the Arab League Secretary General highlighted Kuwait's initiative for peace in Yemen, hosting negotiations among the Yemeni parties. He said that it was a "positive" initiative that could be revived to end the crisis and the tragedy of the Yemeni people.

Syrian conflict

Meanwhile, Abul Gheit said that settlement of the Syrian conflict would only take place through political negotiations, ruling out success of the military option. "The military option is out of question, and the settlement will not be achieved but through a diplomatic and political solution which means negotiations and efforts exerted by all parties," Abul Gheit said. The

biggest problem of the Syrian crisis is that "the big powers are deeply involved in this crisis, which deepens it and threats of an international confrontation," he added.

Abul Gheit urged the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and special envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura to exchange views with the Arab countries over the Syrian conflict, which broke out in March 2011 and killed more than 250,000 people. He said a change must take place because "leaders cannot stay for long years." He condemned the bombardment of unarmed civilians. Asked about Iraq, Abul Gheit said the state of Iraq has full legitimate right to regain control of all territories, but rights of all sects and human rights must be respected.

Positive step

Separately, Abul Gheit termed as "positive step" the election of Michel Aoun as President of Lebanon, because it would ease the tension in the Arab country. Aoun's election "is a positive step that reflects a desire of the Lebanese community to end the deadlock, confrontation and tension," Abul Gheit said.

He hoped the formation of the Lebanese government would take place in a consensus manner. The Lebanese parliament elected Aoun, leader of the Change and Reform Bloc, with 83 votes in favor which ended some two years and a half vacuum in presidency.

Abul Gheit meanwhile said the Arab League and its member countries, including Kuwait, were supporting the Palestinian cause. "The Palestinian cause has lost a great deal in recent years because the Arabs were busy in their own conflicts due to foreign interference," said Abul Gheit. The Arab League chief paid a one-day visit to Kuwait last Monday, during which he met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Abul Gheit assumed his Arab League post last March. He was Egypt's foreign minister from 2004 to 2011. —KUNA

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PREVIOUS MPs DID NOT PLAY THEIR ROLE IN THE PROPER WAY: AL-SAEED

CANDIDATE EXPLAINS HOW 'INVESTING' IN OIL CAN SOLVE ECONOMIC CRISIS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsin Khalaf Al-Saeed is a first-time candidate running in the elections from the third constituency. He is a banker, and has many ideas and solutions to develop the country. According to him, both the legislative and executive authorities are not active, as there are many improvements and developments that can be done in Kuwait. The current situation inspired him to run in the elections.

"Previous MPs did not play their role in the proper way. Parliament members should both legislate and control according to the constitution. Looking back at the previous parliaments, we notice that the government was suggesting laws much more than the parliament, while it should be the opposite," Saeed told Kuwait Times. "The internal rules of the parliament should be changed. To submit a law proposal in the parliament, an MP needs two other supporters, which I think is incorrect," he said.

Economic reforms

"The steps taken for economic reforms were not correct. Reforms should start with businessmen and not simple people. I have alternative solutions for this issue, which will avoid taking such measures. Kuwait depends on natural resources which were not created by people, so its economy is strong. The mistake is that we are not investing in this wealth.

"We can overcome the present crisis by investing in the oil sector. They buy a barrel of our oil for \$40, then sell it back to us for \$400 through the products we import. We can correct the budget deficit by this idea of investing in oil. Kuwait sells three million barrels of oil daily, which can't cover the budget deficit, and this causes anxiety to those who are related to the economy. So when the oil price rises, they feel happy and satisfied, and are worried if the price drops, as they know it will have a bad impact on them.

"The solution is very simple without all these reforms. The solution is in investing in oil in the same way as developed countries, so we can produce raw materials which we can sell. This will bring a much bigger income than what we get from selling crude oil. Unfortunately, both the parliament and Cabinet ignored this issue for many years, although it can be realized by issuing a law that allows foreign oil companies to work in Kuwait.

"Producing raw material and other products such as medicine, rubber, etc will increase the gross national product (GNP), and Kuwait will become a manufacturing country - at least of oil products - as we don't have a real economy due to not having any agriculture or animal husbandry. Kuwait can become bankrupt within 10 years if it starts depending completely

on renewable energy. This may happen if we don't develop the oil sector.

"If this law passes in the parliament, it will provide hundreds of jobs and will eliminate unemployment. I have conducted many studies with my colleagues through which we found that the oil sector is the only sector that didn't stop during the financial crisis and was not affected. This law will also provide opportunities for small companies that will work as subcontractors

health should be grilled and not the minister of commerce."

Health

"The doctors here are not highly qualified, so the patient has to visit more doctors and get more diagnoses. We also see many medical errors, and recently a former MP died after a wrong surgery. The government is spending around KD 1,200 per person

Education

"According to statistics issued by the ministry of education, the government spends KD 3,600 per year on each Kuwaiti student. This figure is a shock to any citizen. With this amount, we expect to have a much better standard of education, as we spend a lot and the outcome is bad. The teacher is the most important factor in education. Teachers here are not proud of their profession, while in the West teachers are proud



KUWAIT: Third constituency candidate Abdulmohsin Khalaf Al-Saeed talks to Kuwait Times. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

in a similar way to what happened in 2003, when many small companies worked with the US Army and over \$6 million was spent.

"Today, the occupation is different. Kuwait is forced to make half of its investments inside the country and the other half outside by investing in US treasury bonds or sovereign wealth funds, so we spend abroad and our money stays there."

Petrol price hike

"The impact of the petrol price hike is not visible yet, but people will notice it soon, as the price of most products and services will go up as a result. The parliament didn't discuss this point when they approved giving a coupon for free petrol, but didn't give coupons for other commodities and products. The biggest cause of this crisis in the national budget is due to medical treatment abroad, which consumes KD 740 million per year. The minister of

per year on healthcare, as the budget for medical treatment abroad is KD 740 million, in addition to the budget of the health ministry. This huge figure can provide the best healthcare including services and staff.

"The solution to this wrong situation is by issuing legislation that forces the ministry of health to develop the health sector in Kuwait. It should also establish a research center to train medical staff. This is a national project that will be welcomed by all MPs. This will realize the dream of all Kuwaiti doctors to have a Kuwaiti board in the same way as other developed countries.

"This will shift medical treatment inside the country instead of traveling abroad for this purpose. This will also create medical tourism into Kuwait, and visitors from neighboring countries will come to get medical treatment in Kuwait, and it will become a medical and manufacturing center."

of their job. Teachers here are not respected too, so we should issue a law that protects their rights.

"We also should establish a center to prepare the teacher to start working. Teachers should also be allowed to submit any suggestion and it could be taken into consideration. The project should also bring 10 of the best universities around the world to supervise and direct education in Kuwait."

Profile

Saeed was born in 1979, graduated from Kuwait University with a degree in commerce, economy and political science, and worked for 15 years in investment and banking. He is a member of various NGOs including the Red Crescent and Journalists Association. He resigned from his job at a bank and is now running his own business. His election slogan is 'We Can with our Will!'. "I mean by this slogan that we can change Kuwait for the better," Saeed concluded.

CHARISMATIC CANDIDATES 'CHARM' MANY VOTERS

KUWAIT: Charisma is one of the most distinct personal qualities that can often work magic in giving an individual unduly influence or authority over large numbers of people. Many of this year's election candidates vying for a seat in parliament, covet such attributes as charisma, a Greek word meaning, 'favor or gift'. With such a charming quality, these parliamentary hopefuls believe they can woo many voters. Moreover, the consensus amongst a slew of media specialists, all of whom were interviewed by KUNA, is that charismatic candidates have a greater likelihood of winning a seat in parliament due to their gift of gab and undeniable presence.

Meanwhile, media professor at Kuwait University (KU) Dr Khaled Al-Qahs said that the success of a candidate can be attributed to numerous factors, including their charisma or how appealing voters find that candidate to be.

"Charismatic candidates stand out due to the fact that they are easily marketable," he said, adding that this enables them to attract a large voter base. Qahs added that charismatic candidates are usually articulate speakers, a factor though often overlooked, can either make or break chances of success.

On this attribute, public relations specialist Dr Khaled Al-Enezi noted

that a charismatic personality can command undivided attention, adding that charismatic people are always social, active and ambitious. Furthermore, Enezi spoke of other virtues of equal significance such as honesty, optimism, and commitment, saying that such qualities can help candidates win the support of many voters. Dr Mohammad Al-Qarfan, an advisor on administrative development, said that charismatic candidates are capable of influencing voters, adding that their verbal prowess can sway voters to jump on their bandwagon. "Charismatic people possess this personal magic that allows them to lead by example," he said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: As if fixed and mobile cameras were not enough, the 2016 parliament hopefuls are now resorting to an even more innovative method for filming rallies at their headquarters through the Phantom's high-speed digital camera. It is not unusual now to see these state-of-the-art gadgets fly over crowds, capturing still and moving frames of high quality, which could be then uploaded to the candidate's website or dedicated social media outlets. — KUNA

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Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Fireworks light the sky during celebrations of the opening of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat (More pics on Page 4)

Special Report

CO-FOUNDER TELLS HOW FSRI EVOLVED INTO INSTITUTION THAT PROVIDES HOLISTIC, MULTIDISCIPLINARY SERVICES

'RunQ8' grown to become a much anticipated annual charity event in Kuwait'

KUWAIT: The following is an interview with Dr Elham Al-Hamdan, Co-Founder, President and Medical Director of Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI):

Question: When was the Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute established, and what is the Institute's goal?

Dr Hamdan: Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI) opened its doors in 2006. Originally our mission was to provide specialized physiotherapy services, as we had noticed that this was missing within the county's healthcare landscape. However we quickly realized that there was a greater and deeper need within the community for comprehensive medical services and interdisciplinary care. From that point, our mission developed quickly and organically, and we grew to become a holistic medical institution that provides high quality, multidisciplinary services. Our approach has always been focused on integrated and multi-disciplinary care, and over the years we have grown the practice, venturing into speech and language therapy, psychology, family medicine, cardiology and nutrition. Across all our departments and areas of specialty, we still maintain our dedication to an integrated, patient-focused approach. We are also focused on serving as a regional hub for health and wellness, research, education and advocacy.

Question: How does FSRI operate as a non-profit Institute?

Dr Hamdan: FSRI was established and continues to operate as a non-profit institute; till this day, FSRI is the only organization of its kind in Kuwait. All the money that is generated at the Institute - through its departments, community outreach and fundraising efforts - is reinvested back into the organization. The funds are then used to cover running costs and expenses, invest in expansion and development, and help provide treatment to patients with limited financial means. They are also used to drive our numerous public health education, research and advocacy programs.

Question: Why did you start a separate children's center?

Dr Hamdan: We opened the Children Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) in 2013 to help us provide the highest quality specialized care possible for children. Our goal from the outset was to provide assessment, treatment and interventions for children, to enable them to live the most independent life possible regardless of their conditions. Due to the number of children we were seeing, and the unique needs they have, it was only natural for us to set up a separate facility dedicated to best serve the needs of the pediatric population.

Our team of pediatric specialists provides com-

prehensive therapy programs for babies, children and young adults across a number of areas; this includes physical therapy, speech pathology, counseling and occupational therapy. We offer specialized and comprehensive therapy for children with a range of complex needs and conditions, including children without a formal diagnosis, who might also benefit from CERC's services. One-to-one and group sessions are available, as well as complete assessments and treatments out of the center for children with special cases.

RunQ8

Question: Tell us about RunQ8. When did it start, and what was the motivation behind it?

Dr Hamdan: We started RunQ8 back in 2010 with the support and backing of Agility, the race's founding partner and oldest supporter. When it began, RunQ8 was a small charity race, but it has grown to become one of the most anticipated annual charity sporting events in Kuwait, attracting more than 1800 participants last year. It has also become a landmark local initiative providing support for children with disabilities in Kuwait.

Initially, we created RunQ8 as a community initiative to drive awareness about different issues. For the first two years of the race, we had partnered with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior to raise awareness and money for the issues of eye health and traffic safety respectively. During this time, we were seeing an increasing number of children at our clinic that required rehabilitative care. Some of the treatment required by the children we treat is highly specialized and complex, due to the nature of their condition and the need for long-term, multi-disciplinary care. Unfortunately, this meant that many families often found themselves unable to afford the necessary treatment. Therefore, for the past four years, RunQ8 has been used as a platform to raise awareness and funds for CERC, supporting the center and providing subsidized, and sometimes free, treatment for families facing financial difficulties.

Through the funds raised from RunQ8, last year we were able to treat 20% of the children for free and provide subsidized treatment for 60% of the children treated at CERC. The raised funds have also enabled us to continue to grow and enhance the quality of care we provide, providing the means to do a number of things, including: purchase more specialized equipment; employ specialized staff- who treat patients and also train other clinicians within our organization and from the local healthcare community; set up a specialized



Dr Elham Al-Hamdan

media treatment room thanks to the support and funds provided by Burgan Bank; develop a volunteer program; and even develop patient education platforms - including a YouTube channel and an ongoing Medical Diwaniya program.

Question: Is this year's race any different? And is the race open to everyone?

Dr Hamdan: We are very excited about this year's race as it is the first time we are offering a 5 km chipped distance. For those eager to do a long distance event in the future, this is a great way to ease into it and prepare to do 10 km next year. We also have introduced a master's category for participants aged 55 and over; this is especially significant as we are hoping to promote awareness of healthy ageing. While we have a great base of avid runners and competitive athletes who come out and support us every year, RunQ8 is also a fun run and walk that anyone can partake in. Regardless of your background, age or fitness level, you can participate in the event and help raise awareness and funds for an important cause, and you don't even need to cross the finish line. It is simply a great day for individuals and families to come together, enjoy themselves and be a part of a community initiative. Registration is now open for the two distances, 5km and 10km, and participants can sign up via the official website (runq8.org). You can also call FSRI (at 25720338 or 25721757) for more information, or follow @runq8official and @fsri on Instagram to get the latest news and updates.

Initiatives

Question: On a final note, can you tell us what research and community initiatives does FSRI participate in?

Dr Hamdan: FSRI is highly active within the thriving civic society in Kuwait, often partnering with many other non-profits and NGOs in the country who share similar goals and values. The Institute maintains a rich and diverse program of community initiatives, which aims to raise awareness and rally support for a myriad of topics affecting our society - including children's rehabilitation, health and wellness, preventative medicine, women's health and much more. Some of FSRI's initiatives include free lectures, training programs and workshop, a number of educational social media channels, and much more. Our goal through all these initiatives is to increase public awareness about the most pressing health concerns in Kuwait, and to empower the local community with the necessary knowledge to enable them to live healthier lives.

We also strive to be a regional hub for healthcare education and research. FSRI also supports local researchers and clinicians, by working together and making low cost training available throughout the year, in order to build the capacity of health care providers in Kuwait. We also carry out a number of clinical research efforts and clinical studies focusing on key healthcare issues in Kuwait, in order to support evidence-based practice in the country.

Local Spotlight

WHY THE US RACE MATTERS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The Americans are only a few days away from election day. I would like to commence my article with a wish for all Americans to remember that they are not only voting for a president, but are making a choice of granting someone the power to bring peace or inflame a war. War and peace are our main concerns here in the Middle East. The internal policy of the US is the sole preserve of the American people and we shouldn't utter a word, because no matter what we think, we are surely not the ones who will suffer from its bad results.

As you know, the Arab world is confronting chaos and tumults in many of its locations. But, we should not blame outsiders for our own mistakes. Unfortunately, the US foreign policy has failed to overcome or control the damage and it is true that sometimes wrong decisions have been taken against the interests of old allies. But within less than a month, all these policies will be over and we hope that a new policy will show better understanding to what we wish or expect to keep this area safe and protected.

I don't believe in miracles, so I don't expect a new presidency will come up with concrete solutions to end the chaos in Syria or prevent possible new flare-ups in Egypt, or reshape its foreign policies in the Gulf region in one day. These are our wishes, but there is no magic wand. Why do we as Arabs always tend to wait for American or European decision makers to come up with solutions on our behalf? Why do we lack the initiative?

These are our lands, our interests and our future. Why should we put much of our faith in who wins the presidency to end the war in Syria, for example? Regardless who wins the presidency, the idea of immediate change is not possible, that is, if things are not made worst there.

I know some may claim this is because we don't want to communicate with the current Syrian leadership. I can't imagine or presume that any possible successor will be less bloody, aside from being extremely conservative. The Syrians are all over the globe now, and it's not fair or logical to assume that they lost their beautiful country for no evident reason. We need the imposition of no-fly zones now and safe areas for civilians, with a global fund for the reconstruction of Syria, but not by sending the money to militants, because this process has to go through the UN.

We should not wait for this bloody conflict to end to see the winning side, then if it pleases us, we decide to support it or not. The Syrian situation is one example, and no matter who wins the US election, we should have the will and desire to move ahead to save the lives of Syrians.

I am fully aware that the situation in the Middle East is very complicated, but if there is an interest in ending or controlling the conflict in the Middle East, then the US has to deal with all players, especially when dealing with the GCC, starting with restoring confidence as a first step, for example. The situation in the Middle East is one of interconnected sectarian conflicts. We need to cooperate with the international community and the United States to understand what is going on around us, but we also have to use our minds in providing solutions. We should not remain mere spectators in the political arena.

In my view

POLITICAL PARTIES

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

Parties in the civilized world are considered schools to teach youth freedom of opinion, respect of others and dialogue that is based on logic. They are also the door to political action through which those whose intelligence and ability to develop their society is tested participate in ruling their country.

That is in the civilized world, far away from us, but in my homeland only secret parties exist - parties that compete for attracting the youth according to sectarian or vested interests in order to make them work for them. Do you not see with me that all parties that are called gatherings or factions do not change their leaders unless he is dead or expelled? There is no mechanism for change, and no opportunities for the other opinion, and despite this our government encourages this action, which constitutes a danger against the future of the country.

On the other hand, there are many citizens who stand against declared parties, motivated by the mega media apparatus that has been activated against the idea of parties by the secret parties and by the government. That mechanism that does not see in parties other than the Lebanese parties, along with other failed parties around the world, as their failure is due to a corrupt system based on quotas and political sectarianism. The thousands of successful parties that contributed in developing their countries and getting them into the civilization race - these noble examples - not talked about by anyone.

How can a country that believes in democracy practice it without parties? How can a student learn to read without a teacher? Political parties are part of the democratic requirements, and they must exist, either in public and legally, where all citizens know their goals, sources of income and can be watched and joined; or in secret, and we do not know who finances them, or what are their goals, and the citizens cannot watch or even join them. We are in need of starting a public dialogue to discuss formation of parties, so the citizen can know the truth. Decision makers should realize that public parties are less costly and have more benefits.

MINISTER DENIES SUSPENDING AID TO NON-KUWAITIS' WIVES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Hind Al-Subaih said the total social aid paid by the ministry jumped from KD 119 million to KD 260 million in past five years, and that the average aid paid per person varied between KD 559 and 800. Subaih added that the total number of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis receiving social aid is 1,255, who received KD 9,000,579, as per Oct statistics. Subaih denied reports which speculated that she made a decision to suspend aid to Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis except those who had not updated their information.

"According to October statistics, we have 672 Kuwaiti women married to Saudis, 401 married to stateless men, 46 married to Iraqis, 40 married to Syrians, 26 married to Iranians, 13 married to Egyptians, nine married to Yemenis, eight married to Canadians, seven married to Jordanians, four married to Omanis, three married to Lebanese, two married to Liberians, two married to Qataris, two married to Pakistanis, two married to Afghans

and individual cases married to an Eritrean, a Chadian, an Emirati, a German, an Australian, a Moroccan, an Indian and a Dane," she explained, noting that aid for only 94 women was suspended, and that children of these women are not entitled to any aid because they are not Kuwaiti citizens.

Fatal crash

A citizen was killed in an accident along Abdaly highway, said security sources, adding that another citizen injured in a separate accident on the same day and was medevacked. Cases were filed to investigate the accidents.

Five centers

The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program announced opening five centers in various areas to meet the needs of applicants using the program's systems. The centers' manager Mariam Al-Enezi said these centers provide comprehensive services under one roof in order to facilitate the procedures citizens have to go through in processing their transactions and save time in collecting their social allowances as well as reduce pressure on the program's main center.



Social Affairs Minister Hind Al-Subaih

Partial opening

The Ministry of Public Work's assistant undersecretary for roads engineering Ahmed Al-Hassan said parts of Jamal Abdul Nasser Road have been completed and that will be partially opened in three phases. Hassan added that the first phase covering the segment near the ports complex administration and heading towards Garnata will open on Nov 30; the second phase linking the road with the hospitals road will open on Dec 15; and the third segment covering four kilometers heading from Garnata to Kuwait City will open on Jan 30, 2017.

FORMER MP PREDICTS PARLIAMENT TO INCLUDE AT LEAST 10 OPPOSITION MPS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Former MP Riyadh Al-Adsani stressed that if he makes it to the coming parliament, he will not resign as he previously did. "In the previous parliament, we could not propose a no-confidence motion against a minister and did not have a majority," he said, predicting that the coming parliament will at least include 10 opposition members and that he will work with them.

Schools prepared

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has started preparing 100 schools in various areas around Kuwait to host parliamentary elections due on Nov 26, said informed sources, noting that the schools would be handed over to the Ministry of Interior on Thursday, Nov 24. The sources also noted that Sunday, Nov 27, the day following the elections, would be a day off only for students at those schools, while administrative and teaching staff will have to report to work.

Municipal Council

In the meantime, well-informed

sources predicted that Municipal Council Chairman Muhallhel Al-Khaled will not declare the seats of the five council members - Abdullah Al-Kandari, Ahmed Al-Bughaili, Nayef Al-Sour, Meshari Al-Mutoutah and Mane' Al-Ajmi - running for parliamentary elections as vacant until a meeting on Nov 21, when the Ministry of Interior will announce the final lists of candidates.

Special schools

Deputy director of the educational and rehabilitation services sector at the public authority for the disabled Majed Al-Saleh said the authority has formed a team to assess fees collected by private special schools. Saleh added that fees would be set according to the schools' and nurseries' assessment and those with low assessment grades would have their fees fixed, while those assessed highly would be allowed to increase their fees by 9-15 percent.

Teachers excluded

The Ministry of Education's Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari excluded teachers from the Civil Service Commission's decision on



Former MP Riyadh Al-Adsani

halting all transfers and deputizing decisions for ministry employees from Nov 1 until a new Cabinet is in office. In other news, the deputy director for customs affairs Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al-Fahd said new jobs appear not to be eligible for allowances on inputting the data in the system. Fahd added that a new committee is being formed jointly between the customs and Civil Service Commission to review those deserving infection and hazard allowances and include them in the system.

KUWAIT TO BUILD SCHOOL IN IRBIL

IRBIL: Kuwait will build a school for displaced Iraqis in Irbil city, Kuwaiti Consul General to the Iraq's Kurdistan region Dr Omar Al-Kanderi announced yesterday. He said that Kuwait was keen on providing assistance to the Iraqi people, noting that the current project was within such effort.

This stationed-caravan school,

which includes 12 classrooms, will be located in Irbil and it has the capacity to receive 480 students mainly from Nineveh and Al-Anbar, he said. The Kuwaiti humanitarian projects will continue to offer facilities and aid to the displaced Iraqis, he added.

Kuwait has built a model school in Irbil in 2011 through Kuwait Fund for

Arab Economic Development (KFAED), he said. In 2014, the so-called Islamic State (IS) took control of Mosul city, leading some 1.5 million Iraqis to flee to Kurdistan. As the operations to rid Mosul from IS elements began, a number of 26,000 Iraqis also sought refuge in the Kurdistan region, said the Ministry of Migration and Displacement. — KUNA

DOZEN ARRESTED IN FAKE DOMESTIC HELP OFFICE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives raided a fake domestic help office in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, where 12 residency violators and absconders were arrested with a large number of fake receipts and stamps. Sources added that the office had been providing daily maid services and practicing fraud.

Firemen hurt

A fire broke out in a Hawally building, said security sources, noting that on rushing to the scene, Hawally and Salmiya fire teams found that the fire was in a first-floor apartment. The fire was controlled and the tenants were rescued with no casualties, except for two firemen who suffered from heat stress and were treated onsite.

Forgery

A citizen was arrested for renewing a commercial license of his transport company without using proper legal documents. Security sources said that the suspect renewed the license twice - in 2013 and 2016 - in the same way. The sources also noted that a female employee involved in the forgery is still at large and that a search is on for her.

Inspections

The Capital municipality made several inspections during September on co-ops, stores, restaurants and foodstuff warehouses to check the safety of the food, said Capital municipality manager Ammar Al-Ammar, noting that the inspections resulted in removing 437 ads and filing 17 citations.

Ministry awarded

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department said that for the second year in a row, the 30th Arab Anti-Narcotics Apparatuses Conference recently held in Tunisia awarded Kuwait's interior ministry for the best operational and information cooperation on Arab, regional and international levels. The department said such cooperation resulted in busting several drug smuggling networks through joint cooperation.

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News

in brief

DEBATES TO TAKE PLACE IN FIRST CONSTITUENCY?

KUWAIT: A number of activists plan to hold debates between first constituency candidates similar to the idea of presidential debates in the United States. Topics to be discussed during the debates include citizenships' withdrawal, economic reform, the DNA law and the dissolved parliament's performance, sources said. — Al-Rai

Political speech

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry informed officers to abstain from political, religious or tribal speech while in duty, and anyone who violates those orders will be subjected to legal action, according to a circular given recently to assistant undersecretaries. — Al-Rai

School activities

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education rejected a request made by a religious center to offer 'preaching and educational programs' at some schools in the capital educational district. While the centers explained that the programs target "protecting young people from extremist thought" and teach them moderate Islamic values, the ministry responded by saying that nongovernmental organizations are not authorized to enter and give any kinds of activities inside schools, sources said. — Al-Rai

Retroactive application

KUWAIT: The Fatwa and Legislation Department is still committed to its position against applying the law that prevents people who were found guilty in court of offending God, the Prophets of His Highness the Amir from running for parliament retroactively, President Salah Al-Mus'ed said, indicating that the constitution rejects retroactive application for new laws. — Al-Jarida

Workers exempted

KUWAIT: Director General of the Public Authority of Manpower Abdullah Al-Mutawtah gave orders to exempt three cases for workers whose transactions are suspended according to article 71; a clause that is activated against companies that violate labor recruitment regulations. These cases include Palestinians carrying travel documents (who do not own passports), children and husbands of Kuwaiti women as well as any person who sponsors a family with children in Kuwait. — Al-Shahed

120 nurses

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health hired 120 children of Kuwaiti women as nurses in order to fill vacancies at public hospitals, polyclinics and specialized medical centers. — Al-Anbaa



Crime

Report

POLICEMAN ARRESTED FOR BREAKING TRAFFIC LAWS

KUWAIT: A policeman was arrested for violating traffic laws, dangerous driving and trying to escape arrest. Security sources said the suspect was stopped for a traffic ticket while he was in uniform in his private vehicle, which he did not like. He left his driving license and registration with his colleagues and tried to drive off in a stunt-like manner before backup arrived and stopped him.

Fatal accident

A Syrian was instantly killed when he lost control over his vehicle and it collided into a lamppost along the Sixth Ring Road. A case was filed to reveal the circumstances which led to the accident.

Worker hurt

A civilian employee at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) was injured after he fell from a first-floor terrace at MoI headquarters. Security sources said the employee was smoking on the terrace, when he leaned on the railing, which broke, causing him to fall from a three-meter height. The man was rushed to hospital.

Theft

A citizen reported that the contents of his vehicle were stolen while it was parked inside the municipality impoundment garage. A case was filed and investigations are ongoing to reveal the circumstances behind the theft.

Expat muggers caught

A Kuwaiti citizen and two bedoons were arrested for impersonating as police detectives and robbing expats, said security sources, noting that the suspects were found responsible for over 40 robberies in various areas.

Fire

A fire broke at the Amghara scrap market, said security sources, adding that firefighters managed to control the fire without reporting any casualties. An investigation is underway to determine the causes of the fire. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

GULF BANK LAUNCHES ATMS FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank recently completed installation of ATM machines that are designed to accommodate and serve customers with special needs. Five branches already have these machines installed - Bayan, Daiya, Addan, Ouyon, and Hadiya. The Jleeb branch will soon follow.

The new machines are adapted to a suitable height for wheelchair users, include a braille keypad and voice guidance for blind customers, a glass chamber to secure the privacy of the user, and wheelchair accessibility ramps. The machines are able to carry out all standard transactions such as cash withdrawals, balance inquiry, card activation, among other such features.

Gulf Bank continually reviews its services, seeking to upgrade or refine existing services to meet the needs of all of its customers. This also is in line with regulatory authorities and the Central Bank of Kuwait's instructions to ensure that all segments of society are accommodated.

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THE FIRST PLAY

Al-Anbaa

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

The knowledge department (the predecessor of the education ministry) was founded in Kuwait in 1936. In that year, the head of the Supreme Islamic Council in Jerusalem, Haj Ameen Al-Husseini, sent Palestinian teachers to teach in Kuwait side-by-side with the ones who were already here.

Those teachers contributed to developing the curriculums taught at Al-Mubarakiya School and one of the activities they introduced was the first play ever performed in Kuwait, titled 'Omar's Islam'. The play was performed by both teachers and students by the end of the 1935 school year. The performance was attended by the late Amir Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other dignitaries. The actors included the

late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, the late teacher Mohammed Al-Maghrebi and the late student Abdullatif Al-Saleh. Most of the actors in that play have passed away.

A funny incident happened during the performance, when the late Mr Yaqoub Shamma, who was only 11 years old, had to play the role of Armanosa, the daughter of Al-Muqawqis, the ruler of Egypt during the early Muslim era. Because women and girls were not allowed to act then, he wore the clothes of a young girl with a crown on his head, but wore men's footwear (Najdiya sandals), which elicited a lot of laughter amongst the audience attending the performance.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

One of the activities they introduced was the first play ever performed in Kuwait, titled 'Omar's Islam'



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department organized awareness activities this past weekend at the Avenues Mall and the Gate Mall, in order to give explanations to the public about the work of each of the ministry's departments. People can also pay their traffic fines and 'unblock' their blocked violations at booths that will be placed in several malls around Kuwait each weekend during the awareness campaign, the ministry announced.



Burgan Bank's Senior Officer Public Relations Hessa Al-Najadah is pictured with Richard Bushman, Ahmadi Music Group's representative.

BURGAN BANK CONTINUES TO SPONSOR AHMADI MUSIC GROUP

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is proud to announce its ongoing sponsorship for 'Ahmadi Music Group' in 2016 - 2017, where the bank has been supporting the organization for the past three years. The Ahmadi Music Group (AMG) carries out popular and significant shows acknowledged worldwide to enrich the public in Kuwait with artistic and cultural knowledge.

AMG is one of the oldest and largest arts organizations in Kuwait, with concert records that go back to the 1950s. The organization is now an independent one which seeks to perform with the highest musical standards. Its aim is to provide opportunities and encourage active musicians and instrumentalists in Kuwait to perform in their shows and events, as well as to take part of their recent choral works and complete staged operas. Through that, this will help create a better understanding of the arts world for the current and future generations, so as to build on their successes. Burgan Bank emphasized that it commits in sponsoring such artistic and cultural involvements as of its willingness to retain and enhance the potential abilities and skills in Kuwait, leading to a successful, multi-talented and prosperous future.

It is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



Normally conservative Cuban Americans divided over Trump

THOUSANDS IN S KOREA CALL FOR PRESIDENT TO QUIT

UNITS CLEAR MOSUL BUILDINGS AFTER ATTACKS

SNIPER DUELS PLAY OUT FROM ROOFTOPS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

MOSUL: Iraqi special forces cleared buildings yesterday in neighborhoods they entered in eastern Mosul a day earlier, after pushing out Islamic State militants in their drive to take back the city, as new images emerged of the barriers the extremist group mounted to obstruct the troops' advance.

Fighting continued in the morning, with both sides firing mortars and automatic weapons on each other's positions, while the Iraqi troops also responded with artillery. Clashes were most intense in the Al-Bakr neighborhood. Sniper duels played out from rooftops in the mostly residential areas, where the majority of buildings are two stories high.

"Daesh is in the city center and we must be very careful as our forces advance," said Maj Gen Sami Al-Aridi of the Iraqi special forces, using the Arabic acronym for the IS group. With more densely packed neighborhoods ahead, his forces will be challenged to avoid both higher military and civilian casualties. As he spoke, dozens of civilians in the Tahrir and Zahara districts emerged from their homes, some of them carrying white flags, and headed toward the troops to be evacuated from the battlefield. The Special Forces launched a two-pronged assault deeper into Mosul's urban center on Friday, unleashing the most intense street battles against IS militants since the offensive to retake the city began nearly three weeks ago. At least seven special forces troops have been killed in the fighting.

Fighting has slowed

More than 3,000 Iraqi troops took part in the assault under heavy US-led coalition air support, but the pace of the fight also slowed as Iraqi forces moved from fighting in more rural areas with few civilians to the tight, narrow streets of Mosul proper. At least seven suicide attackers in explosives-laden vehicles attacked troops on Friday, five of whom were killed before nearing their targets.

The operation to retake Mosul is expected to take weeks, if not months. Moving from neighborhood to neighborhood in house-to-house battles through warrens of booby-trapped buildings is time consuming and Iraq's military has repeatedly opted for slower operations in an effort to minimize casualties.

Some 1 million civilians still remain in the city, complicating the advance. IS militants have driven thousands of residents deeper into the city's built-up areas to be used as human shields, while hundreds of others have fled toward government-controlled territory and thousands have headed west into Syria.

Yesterday, recent satellite images emerged showing that the extremists have set up formidable defenses designed to bog down advancing forces, including rows of concrete barricades, earth berms and rubble blocking key routes leading to the core of the city. The images taken Monday and made public by Stratfor, a private intelligence firm based in Austin, Texas, also showed that IS fighters have cleared terrain and leveled buildings around Mosul airport and a nearby former military base on the west bank of the Tigris. The defenses "will pose a substantial tactical challenge" to advancing Iraqi troops as they make their way toward central Mosul, the firm said.

Mosul is the last major IS stronghold in Iraq, and expelling the militant group from the city would be a major blow to the survival of its self-styled "caliphate" that stretches into Syria. Iraqi forces have made uneven progress in closing in on the city since the operation began on Oct 17. Advances have been slower from the south, with government troops still some 20 miles away. Kurdish fighters and Iraqi army units are deployed to the north, while government-sanctioned Shiite militias are sweeping in from the west to try to cut off any IS escape route.

Civilians forcibly moved

Some advances are being made in the south, however. On Saturday, Iraqi forces assaulted IS positions in the town of Hamam Al-Alil, which lies along the Tigris river about 15 kilometers from the southernmost parts of Mosul. Kurdish television channel Rudaw broadcast live footage of Iraqi troops and armored vehicles amassing outside the city as an attack helicopter fired rockets into the city.

Truckloads full of as many as 1,600 civilians may have been forcibly moved from Hamam Al-Alil to Tal Afar earlier this week and could be transferred onward into Syria

for likely use as human shields, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warned Friday. Another 150 families from the town were moved to Mosul itself, the UN said. Also in the south, Iraqi troops approached the outskirts of Hamam Al-Alil, but were facing resistance from IS fighters, said Lt Col Hussein Ali of the Iraqi Army's 15th division. He predicted that Iraqi forces could take the town in a day or two.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, bombings across the city killed at least ten people, another grisly but not uncommon reminder of IS's long-running campaign to destabilize the government. Police said some 37 people were also wounded in the blasts, which hit the Sheikh Omar, Abu Ghraib, Rashid and Obaidi areas, across sectarian boundaries. The deadliest explosion hit a restaurant popular with mechanics near auto repair shops in the Sheikh Omar area, killing three and wounding nine.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attacks, but IS has previously taken credit for similar attacks. — AP



KHAZIR REGION: A displaced Iraqi girl from Mosul walks holding an empty pot after the food finished at a refugee camp in the Khazir region between Arbil and Mosul. — AFP

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UAE TO HOST REGION'S 1ST CARBON CAPTURE PLANT

ABU DHABI: The Middle East's first factory to suck carbon dioxide out of the air has begun operating in the United Arab Emirates, developers and a minister said yesterday. The plant—said to be the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa—is to capture up to 800,000 tons of CO2 a year, the Carbon Capture Company Al Reyadah said. It will capture CO2 emissions from major steel producer Emirates Steel Industries (ESI) in Abu Dhabi, before injecting the gas into the emirate's oilfields to boost production there, it said.

"Once it's ready in terms of CO2 emissions, it will be like taking 170,000 cars off the streets," UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei said. The minister said the project had been under study "for a very long time" and cost around 450 million dirhams (\$120 million/110 million euros). Scientists say carbon capture is a good solution to decrease emissions of carbon dioxide, a heat-trapping gas that contributes to climate change. Similar projects to capture CO2 are under way in other countries including in Saudi Arabia. — AFP

RAQA ASSAULT MIGHT TAKE LONGER THAN PENTAGON CHIEF PREDICTS

WASHINGTON: After Iraqi security forces eventually recapture Mosul, the Islamic State group will be left with only Raqa in neighboring Syria as a bastion, and the jihadists' self-proclaimed "caliphate" will be largely gone. The US-led coalition has been striking IS across both countries for more than two years, and has long held Raqa in its sights—an IS defeat there would be a defining endpoint of the campaign. But Pentagon chief Ashton Carter surprised commanders last week when he declared the actual assault on Raqa could start "in the next few weeks," after British Defense Minister Michael Fallon made a similar prediction.

Privately, many high-ranking Pentagon officials

were caught off-guard, and expressed skepticism the Raqa push could start so soon, given the Gordian knot of unpredictability in the chaos of Syria. Carter's timeline is "a little more ahead of what I have been hearing so far," one US defense official told AFP on condition of anonymity, choosing his words carefully. Another US defense official said the military's expectations for Raqa—a city with a pre-war population of about 220,000 — didn't match Carter's timeline. And a third military official said that while the assault could theoretically start in weeks, it may take "single-digit months," pushing the possible timeline out to "nine months or less." That official added the assault may yet start before 2017,

"but it could drag on further for other reasons we can't control." "It's up to" the local forces, he added. "We are ready if they are ready."

Even before the start of a ground offensive, likely to be fought along similar lines to the one happening in Mosul, coalition planes must complete the "isolation," "shaping" and "envelopment" of Raqa. This entails non-stop strikes on IS fighting positions and the slicing of supply lines into and out of the northern Syrian city. Coalition spokesman Colonel John Dorrian said those operations had already partially succeeded, and had helped cut routes from Raqa to and from Europe. "What we're talking about is a higher level of isolation that greatly reduces the

freedom of movement of Daesh to go into and come out of that city," he said.

Unknown factors

Military officials are grappling with a slew of unknowns that have not been at play in the Mosul fight. Whereas Iraqi security forces are a mostly cohesive fighting force under centralized control, the US-led coalition is relying on a more nebulous fighting crew in Syria. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) number around 30,000 fighters, two thirds of whom are Kurds fighting under the banner of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) with Syrian Arabs broadly making up the rest. — AFP



COLONGE: People attend a pro-Kurdish demonstration in Cologne, western Germany, as part of an international day in support to Kurds. — AFP

TURKISH COURT JAILS NINE STAFF OF OPPOSITION DAILY ARRESTS ADD TO GROWING INTERNATIONAL ALARM

ISTANBUL: An Istanbul court yesterday ordered the imprisonment of nine staff from the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper, in an intensifying crackdown a day after the leaders of the country's main pro-Kurdish party were also jailed. The arrests added to growing international alarm over the use of a state of emergency implemented in the wake of the failed July 15 coup against critics of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Cumhuriyet staff detained earlier this week, including some of the most prominent names in Turkish journalism, will now be held behind bars ahead of a trial, a date for which had yet to be set. Nine MPs from the opposition pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP), including its co-leaders Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdag, were also jailed ahead of trial by the courts Friday on terror charges. At total of 13 staff from Cumhuriyet (Republic) had been detained in raids on Monday in a swoop that amplified concerns about press freedoms in Turkey.

Among the nine ordered held ahead of trial were Cumhuriyet's editor-in-chief Murat Sabuncu, celebrated cartoonist Musa Kart and influential anti-Erdogan columnist Kadri Gursel.

However, columnists Hikmet Cetinkaya and Aydin Engin were released on judicial control due to age and on the grounds of health, the reports said, while two other suspects from the accounts department were released without charge. The suspects are charged with links to the Kurdish militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the movement of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, blamed for the failed coup bid. Gulen denies the accusations.

'Worrisome trend'

Cumhuriyet has for months been in the crosshairs of the Turkish authorities. Earlier this year former editor-in-chief Can Dundar was given a five years and 10 months jail sentence for revealing state secrets in a front-page story. An arrest warrant has also been issued for Dundar in the current case but he has quit Turkey for Germany. "Our 'crime' is our writing, our headlines, our news. We will write again.

We will write even more," Dundar wrote on Twitter, Demirtas and Yuksekdag, meanwhile, spent a first night behind bars after their arrest on Friday. Although their hearings took place in

the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, both were flown to prisons in the west of Turkey well away from their strongholds in the east. Demirtas is now in prison in Edirne province close to the Greek and Bulgarian borders while Yuksekdag was taken to Kocaeli just east of Istanbul, reports said.

After his arrest, Demirtas said in a written statement read by his lawyer that he was the victim of a "civilian coup by the government and the palace". Dogan news agency showed dramatic footage of Demirtas arriving in Edirne province on a helicopter which landed in the middle of an athletics field before he was taken to prison in a multi-vehicle convoy.

Their arrest along with those of the seven other HDP MPs, on various charges of membership of the PKK and making "terror propaganda" for the group, sparked immediate alarm among Turkey's Western allies. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said she was "extremely worried" over the detentions while US State Department spokesman John Kirby said there was a "worrisome trend" of limiting freedom of expression in Turkey. — AFP

MONITOR: 74 KILLED IN 8 DAYS OF ALEPPO REBEL OFFENSIVE

BEIRUT: At least 74 civilians, including 25 children, were killed in the 8-day-old offensive launched by Syrian opposition fighters against the western edge of the government-held part of Aleppo city, a Syrian opposition monitoring group said yesterday.

Opposition fighters launched the protracted attack on Oct 28 on government-held Aleppo, aiming to break a months-long government-imposed siege on the eastern part of the city they control. They have since advanced on a number of neighborhoods on the city's western edge, capturing al-Assad district and Minian village as pro-government forces fought back to regain control. The Syrian military said the first three days of the rebel offensive left more than 80 people killed. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the discrepancy in casualty figures.

Rights groups and the UN have sharply criticized the opposition groups for the indiscriminate shelling of western Aleppo districts that resulted in a number of civilian deaths. Such criticism has largely been reserved for the government and its allies for indiscriminate bombing of residential areas. Prior to the rebel offensive and in less than a month, more than 400 civilians, many of them children, have been killed in bombings that also hit a school and medical facilities, and nearly 2,000 wounded in rebel-held Aleppo and surrounding areas. The Observatory said yesterday that three civilian deaths were recorded in rebel-held Aleppo districts in the past week. Russia had declared a halt on airstrikes on the besieged part of the city since Oct 18. But there were reports of airstrikes on the city's edge and in rural areas.

Punishing aerial campaign

On Friday, a renewed 10-hour Russian offer of a moratorium on airstrikes on rebel-held parts of Aleppo expired. None of

the area's estimated 275,000 residents evacuated the territory, as was urged by Russian and Syrian officials. There were fears that a punishing aerial campaign would resume on the city after the expiration. But early afternoon yesterday, there were no reports of airstrikes in the city.

However, Syrian activists reported airstrikes on western rural Aleppo province against rebel positions. Footage from the activist-run Thiqa News Agency allegedly showed missiles targeting the town of Darat Izza in northwestern Aleppo province. A team of first responders known as the Syrian Civil Defense, or White Helmets, said at least three people were killed in the airstrikes and 15 others wounded. There has been an intense aerial bombing campaign in the western Aleppo countryside and nearby Idlib province. Rebels said it appeared to be an attempt to sever the rebels supply lines.

An insurgent alliance, known as the Army of Conquest and which includes the Al-Qaeda-linked group Fatah Al-Sham Front, has led the attack on western Aleppo. It is the second time insurgents have tried to break the siege imposed on the territory since July. An earlier offensive that breached the siege in August for a few weeks was repelled, and the seal on eastern Aleppo re-imposed.

Abu Saeed Al-Halabi, a Dutch member of Fatah Al-Sham based in Aleppo, said Russia has intensified its airstrikes during the insurgent-led offensive on Aleppo's western countryside, "the proposed end destination" for the potential evacuees from eastern Aleppo. He said that the aerial campaign has not curtailed the rebel offensive. "This offensive will take longer than previous ones because the attacks take place in urban areas and the regime militias have a lot to lose if this siege is broken," he told The Associated Press in a text message from Aleppo. — AP



ALEPPO: This frame grab from video provided by Thiqa news agency, a Syrian opposition media outlet that is consistent with independent AP reporting, shows flames rises from an explosive vehicle bomb that attacked a Syrian government position, in southwest of Aleppo, Syria, Friday, Oct. 28, 2016. — AP

US ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SEE ELECTION AS CRUCIAL

NEW YORK: There was never any doubt Juana Alvarez's 18- and 20-year-old American-born daughters would be taking part in the election this year. Alvarez did her best to see to that. "I had two people I wanted to get registered and I registered them," Alvarez, a 39-year-old housekeeper in Brooklyn who came to the US from Mexico as a teenager, said through a translator.

For Alvarez and the estimated 11 million other immigrants living illegally in the US, this is a potentially crucial election, with Republican Donald Trump talking about mass deportations and a border wall and Democrat Hillary Clinton pledging to support immigration reform and protect President Barack Obama's executive actions on behalf of immigrants.

Come Election Day, these immigrants will be watching from the sidelines, their future in the hands of others. Under the US Constitution, only full citizens can vote; legal immigrants who are green card holders also are not allowed to cast a ballot. Trump has spoken of fears of election fraud or that immigrants living illegally in the country might vote. More broadly, he has said all immigrants should play by the legal rules.

Alvarez and others like her say although they can't vote, they have been taking part in get-out-the-vote efforts among citizens. In places like New York, California, Arizona and Virginia, they have been knocking on doors and making telephone calls, registering people, urging them to go to the polls, and telling their stories in hopes

of persuading voters to keep the interests of immigrants in mind when they go into the booth. "For me, it's important that those who can vote come out of the shadows and make their voices heard," Alvarez said.

Power in their hands

Isabel Medina, a 43-year-old from Los Angeles who has been in the country illegally for 20 years and has three sons, two born in the US, has worked phone banks and taken part in voter registration drives for US citizens, making sure that "even though they're frustrated, they are disappointed, they still realize it is really important, that they know the power that they have in their hands." She says she emphasized the need to vote for all the races, not just the presidency, and the importance of taking part in referendums and propositions.

Even though these immigrants can't vote, their pre-Election Day efforts make a difference, said Karina Ruiz, 32, of Phoenix, who came to the US illegally from Mexico when she was 15 and is acting executive director of the Arizona Dream Act Coalition, an immigrant-advocacy group that has been doing get-out-the-vote work. "It is making an impact because those people who wouldn't vote otherwise, when they listen to my story and hear their vote does count and make a difference, they're encouraged to participate and be my voice," said Ruiz, who has a work permit and an exemption from deportation under Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. — AP

CONFUSION OVER DEADLY TURKEY BOMBING CLAIMS

DIYARBAKIR: Confusion reigned yesterday over who carried out an attack in Turkey that left 11 dead, with one source claiming it was the Islamic State but authorities insisting Kurdish militants were to blame. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim had said Friday's bombing near police headquarters in Diyarbakir was carried out by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has regularly targeted security forces since ending a truce in 2015.

But the US-based SITE Intelligence Group cited an "insider source" for the IS-affiliated Amaq news agency as saying "fighters from the Islamic State detonated an explosives-laden vehicle parked in front of a Turkish police headquarters in Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey." The local

governorate in Diyarbakir yesterday then issued a new statement insisting the bombing was carried out by the PKK, saying this conclusion was based on intercepted radio conversations. It said that the three tons of explosives used in the bombing were activated by a PKK operative with the codename "Kemal".

"This information clearly shows that the attack was carried out by the separatist terror organization," it said, using the customary official phrase for the PKK. The early morning attack on a police headquarters in the Kurdish-majority of Diyarbakir initially left nine people dead, including two police officers, and over 100 wounded. The state-run Anadolu news agency said the toll rose to 11 yesterday after two more civilian vic-

tims succumbed to their wounds.

The explosion left a swathe of devastation, blowing out the entire front of a nearby apartment block and leaving the surroundings covered in rubble. Emergency workers yesterday sifted through the damage while residents arrived to recuperate whatever belongings they could salvage, an AFP photographer said. The pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP) said six of its MPs, including its co-leaders, had narrowly escaped injury in the attack as they were being held in the police complex following their detention overnight.

If confirmed, the Islamist State claim of responsibility would be its first for an attack in Turkey, although the jihadist group has been blamed over the last year for a series of strikes against Kurdish activists, tourists and on Istanbul airport. There has so far been no denial or claim of responsibility from the PKK.

IS call for attacks

In an audio message released earlier this week, reclusive IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi broke a nearly year-long silence to call for attacks against Turkey, as well as Saudi Arabia, and for his fighters to hold their ground in their stronghold of Mosul, Iraq. Ankara has troops stationed at a base just outside Mosul and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's escalating rhetoric has raised fears of an expanded Turkish military intervention in Iraq. Yildirim said the PKK had again showed its "ugly face" with the attack. The HDP meanwhile said its co-leaders Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdag as well as four other MPs had been brought to the police complex overnight after their detention early Friday. It said in a statement Demirtas had been taken to court just before the attack and Yuksekdag was in the complex when it happened. Without directly saying its MPs were the target, it noted that the minibus packed with explosives had blown up early following an alert from a taxi driver. — AFP



DIYARBAKIR: People collect their belongings in a destroyed building a day after a strong blast in the southeastern Turkish city. — AFP

NORMALLY CONSERVATIVE CUBAN AMERICANS DIVIDED OVER TRUMP

'DONALD TRUMP SAYS A LOT OF STUPID THINGS'

MIAMI: For decades, older Cubans have loved to talk politics as they played dominoes and slapped tiles down on the board. And they were almost uniformly Republican. But in this election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, they are torn. The Republican Trump now talks a good game on opposing the communist regime in Havana, and this sits well with older Miami Cubans.

However, his tough and often nasty comments about immigrants, Mexicans and other Latinos, do not. "Donald Trump says a lot of stupid things," said Carlos Padron, 61. "He is a racist and as a Latino I do not agree with him because he is attacking my people," Padron said as he sat in a Little Havana park that is a magnet for domino players. But Padron points to the other 50-odd players at the park and says, "none of them will admit it, but most of those who are here will vote for him."

Hispanics in America are mostly Democrats, but Cuban Americans have traditionally been largely conservative. Older generations fled from the island in the years or decades after Fidel Castro took power, and they despise him and his younger brother Raul, who is now in power. But this tendency has changed in recent years as more younger Cubans, less bent on opposing the Castros and more open to good US-Cuban ties, have come to Miami.

So Trump's strategy in his intense campaign in Florida—a battleground state that he needs to win to take the presidency—has been to woo the older Cuban exiles who emigrated in the 1960s and 70s. Cubans make up 31 percent of the Hispanic vote in Florida and 18 percent of the total electorate, according to the Pew Research Center. Polls show Trump and Clinton neck and neck in Florida. Trump made a play for older Cuban-Americans a month ago when he moved away from his vague support for detente in US-Cuban relations.

Now, Trump fiercely opposes the idea of the United States lifting the embargo it imposed on Cuba after Fidel Castro came to power. The embargo is still in place even though the two countries restored diplomatic relations in 2015, ending 50 years of enmity. Older Cubans love that kind of tough stance against Havana. On Wednesday, Trump made another appeal for their support.

"We will cancel Obama's one-sided Cuban deal, made by executive order, if we do not get the deal we want and the deal that people living in Cuba and here deserve, including protecting religious and political freedom," Trump told a Miami rally, alluding to the restoration of ties. But does it make sense to court these older Cubans when the broader Cuban American community prefers better relations between the two former enemies? A poll released last month by Florida International University found that 63



MIAMI: Supporters for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump hold signs at a rally. — AFP

percent of Cuban Americans in Miami are against the embargo, initially aimed at crippling and overthrowing the Castro regime.

'Throw out the criminals'

Jorge Duany, director of the university's Cuban Research Institute, said Trump is operating under the premise that many younger Cubans, or ones that arrived more recently, cannot vote in American elections.

"Trump is betting that the strongest vote within the community is the conservative vote, the Republican vote and the vote of people over age 65," Duany said. "On the other hand, many of the young and those who arrived recently are not US citizens." But Clinton, who is more popular among young people and minorities, has been firm in her support of warmer ties with Cuba.

This did not exact too much of a political cost because of the emerging ideological change among Miami's Cuban Americans, as protente sentiment comes to dominate. Clinton has another ace up her sleeve: older Cubans may like Trump's tough talk on the Castros, but his

anti-immigrant rhetoric is hard for them to stomach. Clinton says she is in favor of comprehensive immigration reform, and says she will maintain a 1966 law that gives special treatment to Cuban migrants.

Early in his campaign Trump criticized that law, but as he often does, he later changed his position. But he has been consistently dogged on fighting illegal immigration. And this has sowed unprecedented division among conservative Cuban Americans. "The Trump campaign that began in Miami by fighting and criticizing Mexican migrants had an effect on the Cuban community," said Duany.

"Many Cubans took this personally, and since then there has been resistance to supporting his campaign." But many Cubans, because they have special migratory privileges, do not identify with the anti-Trump movement that has galvanized other Hispanic Americans. "I totally agree with securing the borders," said Denise Galvez, a Cuban American who founded Latinas for Trump. "To keep good immigrants who want to work, first you have to throw out the criminals." — AFP



NORTH CAROLINA: A supporter of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump interrupts President Barack Obama's speech at Fayetteville State University, Friday, Nov 4, 2016 in Fayetteville, NC, during a campaign rally in support of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. — AP

OBAMA RALLYING CRY GOES FROM 'YES, WE CAN' TO 'C'MON MAN'

WASHINGTON: Is "C'mon, man" President Barack Obama's new "Yes, We Can?" The president is deploying the phrase "c'mon, man" to great - and sometimes humorous - effect in the midst of an aggressive burst of campaigning to help elect Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton on Tuesday. Those three little words are helping Obama convey what the White House says is his frustration with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and GOP lawmakers in Congress.

And just as "Yes, We Can" became a rallying cry during Obama's presidential campaigns, so has "C'mon, man" become one during this campaign - Obama's last one. In Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Friday, Obama railed against Trump backers who the president said make excuses or justify things the New York businessman has said that would be "completely disqualifying" for another candidate.

"We hear people justifying it and making excuses about it and saying, 'Well, you know, he didn't really mean it,' or 'it's locker-room talk,' or 'well, maybe he did mean it but as long as he supports tax cuts for the rich' or 'as long as he supports doing the things we want to do, it's OK,'" Obama said. "C'mon man," he added, riling up the crowd. "We can't be thinking somehow that just because he agrees with you on some policy issue or just because you're frustrated with government that it's OK to display the kind of behavior he displays."

Urbandictionary.com says "c'mon, man" is what a person would say to someone who says or does something stupid. A day earlier in Miami, Obama criticized Trump for being so thin-skinned that he can't take

the ribbing of a "Saturday Night Live" skit. "This is a guy who, like, tweets they should cancel 'Saturday Night Live' - 'I don't like how Alec Baldwin is imitating me.' Really?" Obama said. "I mean, that's the thing that bothers you, and you want to be president of the United States? C'mon, man. C'mon," as the audience applauded its approval.

Vote rallies

People attending the get-out-the-vote rallies Obama has been headlining in key states this week for Clinton, his former secretary of state, are noticing. In Miami, an audience member didn't miss the beat as Obama complained about Republican obstructionism. He said he sometimes proposes GOP ideas to Republicans to get their reaction, which often is that they can't support anything he's for, even if the idea first came from a Republican. "C'mon, man!" the person yelled. To which Obama replied back, "C'mon, man!" Asked whether "C'mon, man" is Obama's new, "Yes, We Can," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said: "I think it's trending."

The phrase is also the name of a regular feature on ESPN, one of Obama's favorite TV networks. Schultz said it "sums up the frustration that not only the president has, but that a lot of voters have." As an example, Schultz criticized some Republican senators for now pledging to block any Supreme Court nominee Clinton would put forward, if she is elected. They blocked Obama's pick for the high court this year on grounds that the next president - not one in his final months - should get to fill the vacancy created by Justice Antonin Scalia's death last February. — AP

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SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Muslims carrying the body of Qaiser Sofi take cover from tear gas shells fired at them by Indian forces during his funeral procession. — AP

TEENAGER'S DEATH SPARKS FRESH ANTI-INDIA PROTESTS

SRINAGAR: At least 30 people were injured in Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday after government forces fired shotgun pellets and tear gas as a funeral procession for a teenager turned into a protest against Indian rule. Police and paramilitary soldiers intercepted the mourners carrying the body of the teenage boy who his family alleged died of police torture in Srinagar, the main city of the disputed region.

Witnesses said hundreds of young men participating in the funeral hurled rocks at the troops as tear gas shells exploded near the boy's coffin, while another group of mourners changed route to bury him. Government forces fired pellets, warning shots and tear gas, fearing the procession could become a larger rally seeking an end of Indian rule in the Himalayan region, said a police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with department policy.

The injured, including two women, were hospitalized as clashes erupted at several entry points at Srinagar's main Martyr's Graveyard. The boy died in a hos-

pital overnight after he was found unconscious a day after he went missing on Oct 27. His family said he was tortured and poisoned by the police.

Police denied it, saying the boy had consumed poison on his own. Kashmir is experiencing its largest protests against Indian rule in recent years, sparked by the killing in July of a popular rebel commander. The protests, separatist-sponsored strikes and a sweeping military crackdown have all but paralyzed life in the region.

At least 90 civilians have been killed and thousands injured, with hundreds among them blinded and maimed, mostly by government forces firing bullets and pellets at rock-throwing protesters.

Two policemen have also been killed and hundreds of government forces injured in the clashes. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, but claimed by both in its entirety. Most people in the Indian-controlled portion favor independence or a merger with Pakistan. A militant uprising and subsequent Indian military crackdown since 1989 have killed more than 68,000 people. — AP

FEAR, SECRECY AND DANGER: A WAY OF LIFE FOR AFGHAN GAYS

'A HIDDEN LIFE IS NO LIFE AT ALL'

KABUL: To be homosexual in Afghanistan is to live in fear. Naveed and Rameen, young gay men in the capital Kabul have lost count of the number of times they've been lured into dangerous situations on what they believed to be dates. Both men describe being robbed, beaten up and blackmailed, and receiving death threats. They've even eluded police "honey traps" that could have seen them thrown in prison without charge, simply on suspicion of being gay.

They know they could be killed, with impunity, if they reveal their sexuality. Rameen, 31, tells the story of his friend, Zabi, who was killed by his family after coming out as gay, a so-called "honor killing" usually reserved for young women. "He was shaming the family by being open about it. They stabbed him so many times," Rameen said. "It was a warning for us, for other gays. Now we keep to ourselves; we live a hidden life. And a hidden life is no life at all."

Treacherous terrain

Both men use fake names among gay friends, and said none of their relatives or colleagues know the truth about their sexuality. Meeting other gay men is difficult as there are no regular gathering places, and the need to be discreet means developing relationships is almost impossible, they said. As a result, most encounters are for casual sex, which can lead to treacherous terrain. Naveed, 24, said he recently turned up at one of Kabul's major hotels to get together with a man he'd met in a doctor's waiting room who had asked for his phone number. "He seemed nice, and he was quite handsome, so I thought: why not?" Naveed said. "But it was a set up; he tried to kidnap me. He drove me to a place where a gang of men were waiting with guns - I'm sure they would have killed me, but I ran away." In Afghanistan's conservative, religious society, sex outside marriage and same-sex sexual activity are illegal. "Pederasty," which is understood to refer to sodomy or sex between an adult man and a boy, is punishable by 5 to 20 years in prison, according to the Justice Ministry. The death sentence can be applied if the subject dies as a result of the act.

Pressure to conform can cause profound distress, and "creates a lot of psychological problems for the person themselves and their families," said Khalil Rahman Sarwary, a psychology lecturer at Kabul University. "It is difficult for homosexuals to find partners, and if they do, both parties are afraid of being found out," Sarwary said. "When the exact needs of a person are not being fulfilled, when a homosexual man is forced to marry and have children, it can lead to terrible unhappiness, divorce, even violence within the family. I know of cases where the frustration has built to the point where the man has even killed his wife."



KABUL: In this Monday, Oct 16, 2016 photo, Rameen, a young gay Afghan, poses with his back to the camera. — AP

Sanctioned form of pedophilia

Same-sex sexual activity is not unusual in Afghanistan's strictly segregated society. "Bacha bazi" is a culturally-sanctioned form of pedophilia, in which pre-teen boys - many from poor families, often sold into the practice - are sponsored by powerful and wealthy men to dress as girls and dance for parties of mostly middle-aged men. The boys usually live with their sponsors, who also abuse them for sex until they are in their teens, when they are discarded.

Yet the "bacha bazi," as the sponsors are known, are rarely punished for the years of abuse they commit against the dancing boys, and it is not unusual to see older men in public with their young sex slaves. The practice pre-dates Islam, and is believed to involve boys because of the general inaccessibility of girls. While the boys themselves can carry the stigma of their dancing days throughout their lives, their sponsors, most of them married with children, are not regarded as homosexual, and their actions are often justified with the saying "women are for children, boys are for fun."

Openly proclaiming to be gay in Afghanistan, however, can carry severe consequences. The few gay Afghan men who dared to speak of their sexuality described a struggle of confusion and guilt as they grew up trying to cope with feelings they didn't understand. And once they did, not only could they not share them, they had to suppress them for their own safety. Hamid Zaher, 43, said that when he was growing up in Kabul, "nobody knew what gay was and all gay people were suppressed. They could never

accept themselves or talk to anyone about their feelings." Like the other gay men who spoke to The Associated Press, he said that as a young man he felt that he wanted to be "normal," and concealed his sexuality, until it just became too difficult. In 2008, Zaher left the country and settled in Toronto, Canada where he works in the construction industry. He describes the transition as from "zero percent freedom to 100 percent." He wrote a book that became his coming-out manifesto and said "accordingly, my family disowned me."

Extremist regime

Since the Taliban's extremist regime was overthrown in the US invasion of 2001, the flow of information into Afghanistan has helped boost awareness, but understanding and tolerance of homosexuality are still a long way off, even compared to regional neighbors. Russia is notoriously intolerant toward homosexuals, but the practice itself is legal. In China, homosexuality was legalized in 1997 and removed from the official list of mental illnesses in 2001.

Young gay men in Afghanistan still largely grow up with identity crises, waiting for perplexing feelings to subside and make way for "normality." Rameen said that from the age of 4 he was "feeling very strange. I liked playing with girls, with girls' toys, I liked fashion, and people used to make jokes about me." When he enrolled in university to study journalism, he thought these "strange feelings" he had toward men would leave him "because I didn't know what gay is," he said. — AP

PLAN TO ARM NON-MUSLIMS RECIPE FOR DISASTER: JURIST

YANGON: Myanmar's plans to arm and train non-Muslim residents in the troubled north of Rakhine State is likely to "aggravate an already dire human rights situation," the International Commission of Jurists, a human rights watchdog, has said. Soldiers have flooded the Maungdaw area along Myanmar's frontier with Bangladesh in Rakhine in response to coordinated attacks on three border posts on Oct 9 in which nine police officers were killed.

The government said a group of some 400 Rohingya Muslim militants attacked the posts. It has said five soldiers and at least 33 suspected insurgents have been killed in the military operation since then. Security forces have blocked access to aid workers and most journalists to the area. Rohingya Muslims have accused the army of summary executions, rapes and setting fire to homes of civilians. The government and the military deny that.

Rakhine State police chief Colonel Sein Lwin told Reuters this week his force had started recruiting new "regional police" from among the ethnic Rakhine and other non-Muslim ethnic minorities in the area. "Establishing an armed, untrained, unaccountable force drawn from only one community in the midst of serious ethnic tensions and violence is a recipe for disaster," said Sam Zarifi, ICJ's Asia Director, said in a statement on Friday.

Min Aung, a minister in the Rakhine State parliament and a member of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's

National League for Democracy, said this week the recruits would help protect residents from the militants behind the Oct 9 attacks. Deputy commander of Rakhine police, Col. Thit San, contacted by Reuters yesterday, rejected the criticism, saying there will be no problems with the force as it would be under police command. "We already did that training previously, that is normal police recruitment as five or six times before, there were no problems then," said Thit San.

Only citizens would be eligible to sign up for the police training, officials said, ruling out the 1.1 million Rohingyas living in Rakhine State, who are denied citizenship in Myanmar as they are regarded as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Initially, 100 recruits aged between 18 and 35 would undergo an accelerated 16-week training program, beginning in the state capital, Sittwe, this month, police said, adding they would be given weapons and other equipment "like police."

Ethnic Rakhine political leaders have urged the government to arm Buddhists against what they say is rising militancy among the Rohingyas. The ICJ said such force would lack the training and oversight to perform policing functions in accordance with human rights and professional policing standards.

It said there seemed to be no "accountability mechanism" in place to deal with instances of misconduct and abuses, calling for establishment of a professional police force. — Reuters

US FORCES: AIRSTRIKES LIKELY CAUSED AFGHAN CASUALTIES

KABUL: US forces conceded yesterday that its air strikes "very likely" resulted in civilian casualties in Afghanistan's volatile Kunduz province, pledging a full investigation into the incident which triggered angry protests. The strikes early Thursday killed at least 30 people, many of them children, after a Taliban assault left two American soldiers and three Afghan special forces soldiers dead in the Boz-e-Kandahari area near the provincial capital.

"The president of Afghanistan has sent a special delegation to Kunduz to investigate the incident. Any negligence by anyone will be punished," presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri told reporters. US military spokesman Charles Cleveland said an initial probe showed the attack "very likely resulted in civilian casualties". The carnage triggered impassioned protests in Kunduz city, with the victims' relatives parading mutilated bodies of dead children piled into open trucks through the streets.

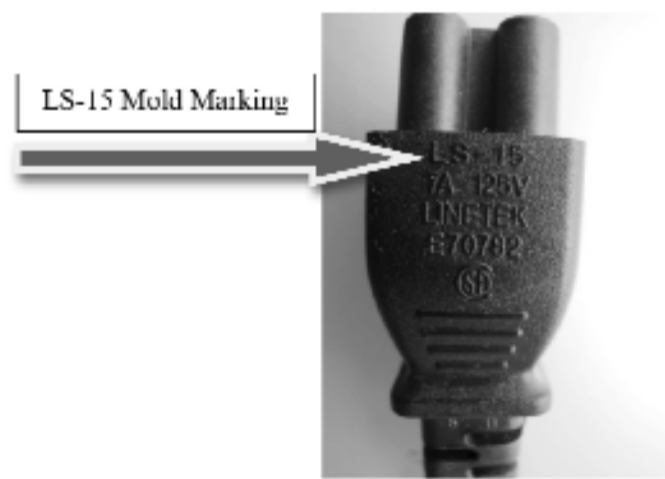
"Look around me-everyone is in deep pain," Sultan Mohammad said, carrying the body of a victim for the mass funeral ceremony on Friday. "What was their crime? Why were they killed like this?" He joined a growing chorus of people calling to bring the perpetrators to justice. The carnage underscores worsening insecurity after the Taliban last month overran the city for the second time in a year, as NATO-backed Afghan forces struggle to rein in the insurgents.

US-backed Afghan special operations forces were conducting an operation against the Taliban on the outskirts of Kunduz city when they came under insurgent fire, prompting calls for air support. "I deeply regret the loss of innocent lives, regardless of the circumstances. — AFP

SAFETY RECALL

AC power cords for IdeaPad and Lenovo notebooks

In compliance with the laws of Kuwait, Lenovo is voluntarily recalling certain LS-15 AC power cords manufactured for use with IdeaPad and Lenovo notebook computers that shipped worldwide between February 2011 and June 2012. Lenovo will offer customers replacements for all recalled power cords free-of-charge.



Hazard

The AC power cord can overheat, posing a potential fire and burn hazard.

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Not every LS-15 power cord is affected by this recall. Consumers should check to see whether their power cord is part of the affected range by examining the date stamp found either on the power cord or the AC Adapter. Date stamp locations vary by product. The web address below contains detailed instructions. If their power cord is part of the affected range, Consumers should contact Lenovo to order a free replacement and immediately unplug and stop using the power cord going from the AC Adapter to the wall outlet. Consumers should then cut the unplugged and affected LS-15 power cord in half using a pair of scissors and dispose of it in recycle or waste bins. Consumers must save the AC Adapter "power brick" (the portion that connects to the computer) as the replacement cable will only be the cord going from the brick to the wall outlet. Consumers may continue to use the computer on battery power.

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IdeaPad Products with the affected LS-15 power cords were sold at computer and electronics stores, authorized dealers and online at www.lenovo.com worldwide from February 2011 through June 2012. To confirm whether your cord is in the affected range:

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PHILIPPINE MAYOR ACCUSED OVER DRUGS KILLED IN JAIL

MANILA: A Philippine mayor President Rodrigo Duterte named as being involved in the illegal drug trade was shot dead in jail yesterday, police said, the second local official implicated in narcotics to be killed in two weeks. Duterte, 71, won May elections in a landslide on a promise to kill tens of thousands of criminals to prevent the Philippines from becoming a narco-state, and has launched an unprecedented war on drugs that has left more than 4,000 people dead. He had named several local officials, policemen and judges as being involved in the narcotics trade and urged them to surrender. In

August, he accused Rolando Espinosa, the mayor of Albuera town in the central island of Leyte, and his son of drug trafficking and demanded they turn themselves in, giving police a "shoot on sight" order if the two resisted arrest.

Mayor Espinosa then surrendered to the national police chief, saying he feared for his life, and was arrested last month. But early yesterday morning, police said Espinosa was killed in his cell in the provincial jail after he shot at officers during a search for illegal firearms. "He fired on the raiding team. The raiding team fired back and this led to the

mayor's death," chief inspector Leo Laraga of the regional police told AFP.

He added that another inmate accused of drug trafficking was also killed, after he too fired at the officers. The national police said it was investigating the circumstances surrounding Espinosa's death as well as possible collusion between guards and inmates to get guns and drugs into the jail. Police chief Ronald dela Rosa previously said Espinosa had been listed in official records as a "drug protector", whose son Kerwin controlled the narcotics trade in the Albuera region. Kerwin was arrested in the

United Arab Emirates last month and is set to return to the Philippines to face drug trafficking charges. In August, six of the Espinosa's supporters died in a gunfight with police outside the mayor's property in Albuera where officers said they recovered guns and several grenades. Another mayor accused of drug trafficking was killed in the southern Philippines in late October. Police said Samsudin Dimaukom and his security personnel opened fire after anti-narcotics police stopped their vehicles at a checkpoint on suspicion they were transporting illegal drugs. — AFP



SEOUL: South Korean protesters stage a rally calling for South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down. — AP

THOUSANDS IN SOUTH KOREA CALL FOR PRESIDENT TO QUIT

'TREASON BY A SECRET GOVERNMENT'

SEOUL: Tens of thousands of South Koreans poured into the streets of downtown Seoul yesterday, using words including "treason" and "criminal" to demand that President Park Geun-hye step down amid an explosive political scandal. The protest, the largest anti-government demonstration in the capital in nearly a year, came a day after Park apologized on live television amid rising suspicion that she allowed a mysterious confidante to manipulate power from the shadows.

Holding banners, candles and colorful signs that read "Park Geun-hye out" and "Treason by a secret government," a sea of demonstrators filled a large square in front of an old palace gate and the nearby streets, singing and thunderously applauding speeches calling for the ouster of the increasingly unpopular president.

They then shifted into a slow march in streets around City Hall, shouting "Arrest Park Geun-hye," "Step down, criminal" and "We can't take this any longer," before moving back to the square and cheering on more speeches that continued into the night.

"Park should squarely face the prosecution's investigation and step down herself. If she doesn't, politicians should move to impeach her," said Kim Seo-yeon, one of the many college students who participated in the protest. "She absolutely lost all authority as president over the past few weeks," he said. Earlier in the week, prosecutors arrested Choi Soon-sil, the daughter of a late cult leader and a longtime friend of Park, and detained two former presidential aides over allegations that they pressured businesses into giving

\$70 million to two foundations Choi controlled.

'I cannot bear this anymore'

There are also allegations that Choi, despite having no government job, regularly received classified information and meddled in various state affairs, including the appointment of ministers and policy decisions. "I came out today because this is not the country I want to pass on to my children," said another demonstrator, Choi Kyung-ha, a mother of three. "My kids have asked me who Choi Soon-sil was and whether she's the real president, and I couldn't provide an answer." Choi Tae-poong, a 57-year-old retiree, said he came out to protest because he thought the situation had reached a point where "no more patience is allowed." "I cannot bear this anymore," he said.

Police estimated the crowd at around 43,000, although protest organizers said about 130,000 people turned out. Police used dozens of buses and trucks to create tight perimeters in streets around the square in front of the palace gate to close off paths to the presidential office and residence. Thousands of officers dressed in fluorescent yellow jackets and full riot gear stood in front of and between the vehicles as they closely monitored the protesters. Smaller protests have taken place in the past few weeks in Seoul and other cities amid growing calls for Park to step down. While several politicians have individually called for Park's ouster, opposition parties have yet to attempt a serious push for her resignation or impeachment in fear of negatively impacting

next year's presidential election. "How many more astonishing things must happen before this country changes for the better?" said Park Won-soon, the opposition mayor of Seoul and a potential presidential candidate, vowing to push for the president's resignation.

Damning allegation

President Park has tried to stabilize the situation by firing eight aides and nominating three new top Cabinet officials, including the prime minister, but opposition parties have described her personnel reshuffles as a diversionary tactic. One national poll released Friday had Park's approval rating at 5 percent, the lowest for any president in South Korea since the country achieved democracy in the late 1980s following decades of military dictatorship.

In Friday's televised apology, Park commented on the corruption allegations surrounding Choi and her former aides and vowed to accept a direct investigation into her actions, but avoided the more damning allegation that Choi perhaps had interfered with important government decisions on policy and personnel. Opposition parties, sensing weakness, immediately threatened to push for her ouster if she doesn't distance herself from domestic affairs and transfer the duties to a prime minister chosen by parliament. The parties have also called for a separate investigation into the scandal led by a special prosecutor. Park has 15 months left in her term. If she resigns before the end of it, South Korean laws require the country to hold an election to pick a new president within 60 days. — AP

INDONESIA PRESIDENT CANCELS AUSTRALIA TRIP AFTER PROTEST

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo yesterday canceled a visit to Australia after a massive rally in the capital by Muslim hard-liners descended into violence, leaving one dead and nearly 200 injured. The Foreign Affairs Ministry said that Jokowi's trip scheduled from Sunday to Tuesday will be rescheduled because "current development has required the president to stay in Indonesia."

Jokowi addressed the nation late Friday after

clashes broke out between police and hard-liners who refused to disperse and demanded the arrest of Jakarta's minority-Christian governor for alleged blasphemy. National police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar told a news conference yesterday that one elderly man died from asthma attack after being exposed to tear gas, and more than 90 police and soldiers were injured, eight of them seriously. He said that about 160 protesters were hurt from tear gas

effects, including four who were hospitalized.

Jokowi blamed "political actors" for taking advantage of the rally. He didn't elaborate, but his predecessor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had backed plans for the protest, drew tens of thousands of people. The accusation of blasphemy against Jakarta Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese and minority Christian who is an ally of Jokowi, has galvanized Jokowi's political opponents in the Muslim-majority nation of 250 million, and given a notorious group of hard-liners a national stage.

The Islamic Defenders Front, a vigilante group that wants to impose Shariah law, is demanding Ahok's arrest after a video circulated online in which he joked to an audience about a passage in the Quran that could be interpreted as prohibiting Muslims from accepting non-Muslims as leaders. The governor has apologized for the comment and met with police.

Amar said the situation became uncontrollable when protesters broke through police barricades and security barriers in an attempt to enter the presidential palace before they were stopped by police firing tear gas.

Three police and military trucks were burnt down and 18 vehicles damaged in the violence. He said police are still investigating who was behind the violence and whether any political elements were involved with the aim of creating unrest. Ten people were arrested for allegedly provoking riots near the presidential palace and 15 others for vandalism in northern Jakarta. Jakarta police spokesman Awi Setiyono said rioting in north Jakarta involved the looting of a convenience store and damage to police vehicles. — AP



JAKARTA: A Muslim protester walks past burning police trucks during a clash outside the presidential palace. — AP

BEIJING TO INTERVENE IN HK LAWMAKER OATH DISPUTE

HONG KONG: Beijing plans to intervene in a Hong Kong political dispute over two young, newly elected separatist lawmakers in a rare move that is stoking fears the Chinese-ruled city's considerable autonomy and independent judiciary are under threat. Hong Kong's government said Friday that it was informed by China's central government that members of the country's top legislative panel, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, will discuss interpreting an article in Hong Kong's constitution covering oaths taken by lawmakers.

The move follows a provocative display of anti-China sentiment by the two lawmakers, Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching, at their swearing-in ceremony last month. Beijing's heavy-handed response could lead to the democratically elected Leung and Yau being disqualified from taking office. Such an outcome would be favorable to China's Communist leaders, who are alarmed by the former British colony's burgeoning independence movement, but is also likely to plunge their troubled relationship into fresh turmoil.

Beijing has stepped in with its interpretation of the Basic Law - the city's constitution - on only four occasions, most recently in 2005. The National People's Congress did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment. China's official Xinhua News Agency said senior lawmakers Friday heard a report on a draft "explanation" of the article on oath-taking and indicated it would be tabled for review during the current session that ends tomorrow.

Hong Kong's leader Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying told reporters he wouldn't comment until Beijing issued its ruling. Leung and Yau of the radical Youngspiration party altered their oaths to insert a disparaging Japanese term for China. Displaying a flag reading "Hong Kong is not China," they vowed to defend the "Hong Kong nation." Leung crossed his fingers while Yau used the F-word in her pledge.

Their oaths were ruled invalid but attempts at a do-over have resulted in mayhem in the legislature's weekly sessions, as the duo and fellow pro-democracy lawmakers sparred verbally with pro-Beijing rivals and brawled with security guards trying to keep them out of the chamber. Hong Kong's Beijing-backed government has

gone to the top court this week with an unprecedented legal challenge aimed at blocking the two from taking office. The government's argument is that they have declined to take the oath.

'One country, two systems'

It's unclear when the judge will rule, but the Chinese government's decision to take it one step further by bypassing the courts has fanned residents' fears about Beijing's tightening hold. "When the situation is not favorable for China's Communists, they use politics to solve a legal problem," Yau, 25, told reporters. Leung, 30, said a Beijing interpretation "brings a lethal blow to the legal system and the rule of law in Hong Kong."

Worries about the erosion of the "one country, two systems" principle, which guarantees Hong Kong civil liberties such as freedom of speech and a high level of autonomy until 2047, have intensified after recent incidents such as the secret detention of five booksellers. A Beijing ruling would also undermine Hong Kong's independent courts by pressuring judges on their decisions, experts said.

"The mere threat of interpretation strongly suggests that certain officials in the Hong Kong government and Beijing are prepared to tear down Hong Kong's civic institutions - and 'one country, two systems' - merely to achieve the 'correct' result," said Alvin Cheung, a former Hong Kong lawyer who is now a researcher at New York University's US-Asia Law Institute.

The saga reflects Beijing's fury about the Youngspiration pair's pro-independence stance, "given the fact that there have been rhetorical and legal attacks at all levels against them." It includes well-organized pro-China protests denouncing the two as traitors and a barrage of attacks in Beijing-controlled media, said Samson Yuen, a politics lecturer at the Open University of Hong Kong.

In the latest salvo, an op-ed Friday by the nationalist state-run Global Times newspaper said: "Disqualifying Leung and Yau will serve as a necessary warning to those pro-independence activists, and show them the disgraceful end they will come to if they stick with their fatuous political cause and keep crossing the line." Their expulsion "reflects the will of the entire nation. We are sure the country will make it happen," it added. — AP



HONG KONG: In this Wednesday, Nov 2, 2016, file photo, newly elected Hong Kong lawmakers Yau Wai-ching, center left, and Sixtus Leung, center right, are surrounded by photographers outside the legislature council. — AP

AUSTRALIA'S FAR-RIGHT ACTIVISTS PROTEST SYRIAN REFUGEE HOUSING

MELBOURNE: Several hundred people rallied in the suburbs of Melbourne yesterday, after a proposal to house refugees locally drew protest by far right anti-Islam groups and counter protests. Political debate around Australia's headline policy towards asylum seekers has been heated recently, with the conservative government last week announcing plans to permanently ban asylum seekers who attempted to reach Australia by boat from permanently entering under any visa category.

Dozens of people belonging to the anti-Islam groups rallied on Saturday against a proposal to house 120 refugees from Syria and Iraq, at a housing facility for elderly citizens in the Melbourne suburb of Eltham. "They (the elderly citizens) are a bit concerned about it but they will just wait and see," John Conroy a resident of the aged-care facility said.

A heavy police presence separated the group from more than 100 people rallying in favour of the proposal. Previous protests between anti-immigration and pro-immigration groups have led to violent clashes. Australia's current policy of sending asylum seekers who arrive in Australian waters by boat offshore to Papua New Guinea and Nauru, where their status as refugees is confirmed or rejected, has bipartisan support in the Australian parliament.

Last year the government announced a one-off intake of 12,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Iraq and Syria, saying that ethnic minorities from those countries would be given priority. Far right political parties are on the rise in Australia, with the controversial One Nation party surprising many by winning four Senate seats at the country's national elections in July. — Reuters

FISH VENDOR DEATH TROUBLES MOROCCO

Continued from Page 1

Since Fikri's death on Oct 28, protests have taken place around Morocco and at the Moroccan embassies in Brussels and Paris. Tunisians held a solidarity protest as well. On Tuesday, the Ministry of Interior announced that 11 people would face charges for manslaughter and forgery, including two local security agents and the head of the local fisheries department. But questions remain about what exactly happened.

"So far, the inquiry did not show who exactly activated the machine," says one of Mouhcine's older brothers, Imad Fikri, in the family's hometown of Imzouren, near Hoceima. "I will ask for those responsible to be punished. I will not let him down." Another brother, Wael, prayed at Mouhcine's grave, while friends came to offer condolences to the distraught family. Organizers of Friday's demonstration in Hoceima said they don't have faith in the Interior Ministry to conduct a fair investigation. But they took pains to avoid violence, remaining calm and forming a ring around the police station to prevent attacks on police.

Protesters gathered in Mohammed VI Square, chanting

"Mouhcine's death was a murder!" and waving the tricolor Amazigh flag and the flag of the former Rif Republic, in a reminder of this region's history of resistance to outside control. "We came to protest the horrific death of Mouhcine and to express our anger against all those involved," said Nezha Ismaili, 24.

The death has hit residents hard in Hoceima, a small, mountainous port where fishing is a key industry. According to people who knew Fikri, this was not his first confrontation with police over his merchandise. "He was hardworking and it was not the first time they confiscated a quantity of fish belonging to him," says fish trader Hicham Khaldi. The protests come at an awkward time politically for Morocco, as the prime minister is struggling to form a coalition government after a tense election campaign.

Intissar Fakir at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace does not think these protests will lead to a "revolutionary moment" but could still affect change in the North African nation. "Perhaps this will be the beginning of a realization that this entrenched culture of lack of accountability, and the disdain and disregard for citizens needs to change," she said. — AP

OPPOSITION EYES COMEBACK IN POLLS

Continued from Page 1

The opposition held massive street protests in 2011 and 2012 demanding democratic reforms and an elected government in the state, which has a population of 4.3 million, of which 70 percent are foreigners. But over the past two years, the strength of the opposition, which last controlled parliament in Feb 2012, weakened considerably. The change in the voting system and the opposition boycott together helped elect a pro-government Assembly that critics often described as a "rubberstamp" parliament.

By boycotting the polls, the opposition sent an important message against the government's "unconstitutional practices" that undermined true democracy, Islamist candidate Mohammad Al-Dallal said. "After four years (of opposition boycotts), the political situation has deteriorated, corruption became rife and both the government and parliament failed to deal with major economic and security issues," Dallal, a former opposition MP, told AFP. "That is why the participation of the opposition became necessary to enforce reforms, confront corruption and strengthen democracy," he said.

Former liberal opposition MP Abdulrahman Al-Anjari admitted the boycott failed to achieve its goals. "The boycott failed to abolish the government change in the voting system," Anjari, who is running for office, said at a symposium this week. "Parliament should not be left without

opposition," he said.

But several opposition figures, including former three-time parliament speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun, have decided to continue with the boycott saying participation will not solve any problem. The opposition is rejoining polls while one of its prominent leaders and former MP Musallam al-Barrak is serving a two-year jail term for criticizing HH the Amir in public.

Kuwait has the Gulf's oldest elected parliament, but under the constitution, the Amir has extensive powers and can dissolve the legislature at the recommendation of the government. Ruling family members occupy the key portfolios of defense, foreign and interior. While parliament has the power to vote the prime minister and Cabinet members out of office, the set-up means change is not easy.

Political analyst Mohammad Al-Ajmi believes the opposition will have a limited presence in the next parliament, and "will not be a big or effective force." "I think the next house will be dominated by pro-government lawmakers," the sociology professor told AFP. Abdali said he thinks that the opposition could have 10 MPs in the next parliament but many of them will be new faces. The elections come as Kuwait, which sits on around seven percent of the world's proven crude reserves, grapples with a sharp fall in oil prices that pushed it into a budget deficit after 16 years of surpluses. — AFP

CLINTON, TRUMP BLITZ FLORIDA

Continued from Page 1

While polls tightened in the last week, coinciding with the FBI's announcement that it has renewed scrutiny of Clinton's emails while secretary of state, forecasts still give the 69-year-old Democrat the edge.

Trump kicked off the weekend at a rally in Tampa on the Gulf Coast, while his Democratic opponent visited an early voting center in Miami ahead of a rally in Pembroke Pines in heavily populated southeastern Florida. The real estate mogul mocked the free Jay-Z and Beyonce concert in Ohio that Clinton attended the night before, slamming the rapper's language. "I like them both but he used language last night that was so bad and then Hillary said 'I did not like Donald Trump's lewd language,'" he said to laughter from supporters. "I'll tell you what, I never said what he said in my life! But that shows you the phoniness of politicians and the phoniness of the whole system, folks."

Yesterday's RealClearPolitics poll average gives Clinton a 2.3 percent lead on 45 percent to 42.7 percent for Trump in a four-way race. The same poll average gives her just a 1.2 percent lead over Trump in Florida. In the last stretch, the former first lady is looking to hold onto her slender lead, while the New York real estate tycoon is desperate to close the gap in key swing states that could decide who secures an electoral college win.

Over the next 72 hours, the Republican is expected to canvas in Florida, North Carolina, Nevada, Colorado, Iowa, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. He said yesterday he was also going to Minnesota, a primarily blue state. Clinton has scheduled stops in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Hampshire after her Florida swing. The two candidates offer starkly different visions of America - Clinton celebrating hope and Trump bashing a corrupt and venal establishment.

After a largely disciplined and on message week, Trump appeared to stray on several occasions in Tampa and stalked into the crowd at one point to bring a baby dressed as a



PEMBROKE PINES, Florida: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton gives two thumbs up as she takes the stage to speak at a rally at C B Smith Park yesterday. — AP

construction worker briefly on stage. "Oh so cute, give me that baby!" said the 70-year-old mogul. He criticized the commanders who have handled the military operation, backed by US air power, to recapture the northern Iraq city of Mosul from jihadists in scathing language unheard of from any other presidential candidate. "What a group of losers we have," he said. Supporters held up "Hispanics for Trump", "Women for Trump" and "Blacks for Trump" at the Tampa rally, but his campaign has struggled to win any meaningful support from minority groups.

CNN reported yesterday that early turnout among Latinos in Florida was up 129 percent on 2008, statistics that are thought to favor Clinton. US media says more than 33 million Americans have already voted. "Get out and vote! God bless you!" was Trump's parting shot. Clinton spent Friday in the Rust Belt, a section of America that has been crushed by the decline in manufacturing, and where blue-collar Democrats are being swayed by Trump's promise to bring back jobs from China and Mexico.

She spoke at the Beyonce and Jay-Z concert in Cleveland, Ohio, a state that Obama won in 2012 but where she trails Trump by around five percentage points in the polls. Clinton portrayed her campaign to become the first female US president as the next step in the civil rights struggle. "We have unfinished work to do, more barriers to break, and with your help, a glass ceiling to crack once and for all," she declared, to loud cheers. "The world looks to us as a progressive country that leads change." Beyonce said wearing a version of Clinton's trademark pantsuit. "I want my daughter to grow up to see a woman lead our country. That is why I'm with her."

In a campaign first, Trump delivered the Republican Party's weekly radio address yesterday, urging listeners to vote Republican down the ballot to elect a Republican-majority Congress. Trump has had troubled relations with Republican leaders, many of whom withdrew their public endorsement of his candidacy after an "Access Hollywood" tape emerged in which he boasted in vulgar language about groping women. — AFP

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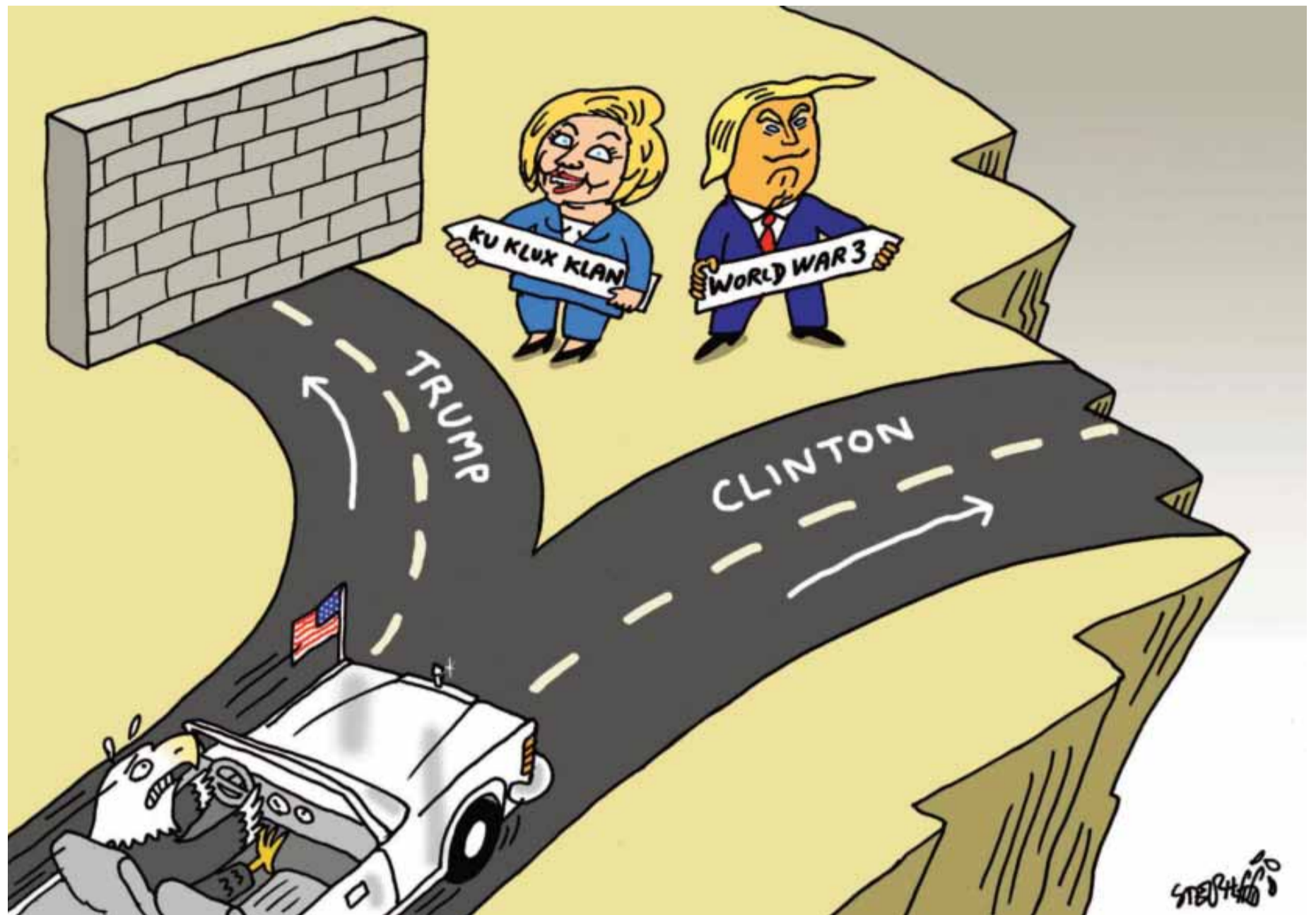
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Focus

IN AFRICA, LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR US VOTE

The dream becomes reality, "Our son, our hope": the headlines in the Kenyan press in 2008 captured pride and excitement after the election of Barack Obama. Eight years later, enthusiasm for the outgoing president has faded on a continent that he is accused of forsaking. The election of the first black president of the United States on Nov 4, 2008 sparked scenes of jubilation in Kenya, the homeland of Obama's father. A public holiday was declared in honor of his victory.

There were widespread hopes that Obama would do much for Africa, but as he prepares to hand over to either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, he is accused of neglecting the continent. "Africa had unrealistic expectations towards Obama given his origins," said Aly-Khan Satchu, a Kenyan economic analyst. "Especially during his first term, Obama was less involved in Africa" than his predecessor George W Bush.

"People judged him very harshly during his first mandate because he didn't do much for Africa," said Liesl Louw Vaudran, an analyst at the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies think tank. Satchu attributes this to the US recession and the need for Obama "to show the American public that he was the president of the USA". "During his second term, I think he tried to address this issue and he did more for Africa," Satchu said.

Obama Slow to Engage

Obama was slow to engage in Africa, a continent far from the heart of US interests, preferring to make the Asia-Pacific region the centerpiece of his foreign and economic policy. Unlike George W Bush, whose PEPFAR program has helped save the lives of millions of Africans with HIV/AIDS, Obama has launched no transformative initiatives on the continent. His 2013 "Power Africa" plan has fallen well short of its promise of doubling access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, generating just 400 megawatts (MW) of the 30,000 planned by 2030.

Obama's African appearances have also been limited. There was a brief stopover in Ghana in 2009 — where he declared, "Africa doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions" — and then a tour of Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania in 2013, followed by a visit to Ethiopia and Kenya in 2015. On each occasion he urged Africans to take their destiny into their own hands, and sought openings for US companies to invest in the continent.

He has moved to substitute a traditional aid-based policy with one of more equal trade-based partnership, with some success: African exports to the US, excluding oil, increased by nearly a half between 2009 and 2015. Security and counter-terrorism remained a key priority for US efforts. Obama "expanded considerably the US military presence in Africa," said Achille Mbembe of South Africa's Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Nevertheless, success in the fight against jihadist groups such as the Shabaab in Somalia and Boko Haram in Nigeria has been elusive. Similarly, efforts to foster democracy have faltered with a string of disputed or deficient elections and a growing trend among African leaders of clinging to power in defiance of constitutions.

'Arrogant... Racist'

African frustration with Obama has found resonance even in his own family, with half-brother Malik enthusiastically campaigning for Trump on Twitter, and even accepting an invitation to attend the final televised presidential debate in Las Vegas last month. Malik's position is not, however the norm, and many Africans readily denounce Trump's views.

"Hillary Clinton, she is someone with a vision but this guy - how do you call him? - he is arrogant and a racist, he can be angry and even start more wars," said Benjamin Namkobe, a 31-year-old motorcycle taxi driver in Nairobi. Neither candidate has made much mention of Africa in their major speeches since being named their party's candidate, but this is no surprise, said J Peter Pham, director of the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council think tank in Washington.

"Africa largely does not figure into the electoral dynamics of the United States," said Pham, adding that "foreign policy in general" takes a backseat. He pointed out that US policy towards Africa "tends to enjoy bipartisan support", meaning it does not represent a point of differentiation in debates. It also means little change is to be expected, whoever wins. — AFP

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Washington Watch

A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 'POLL'

By Dr James J Zogby

My brother John is known for his US political polling, while my company, Zogby Research Services, polls primarily in the Middle East. Given the wild and sometimes bizarre ride we've been forced to endure this election season, with all due respect to John's turf, I have constructed my own US presidential election survey. I invite readers of this column to complete and send responses or comments to me via Twitter @jjz1600.

The "Poll"

1). Given the list below, which is the most disturbing flaw that should disqualify a candidate from the presidency?

- Lack of knowledge of the most important policy issues facing the nation.
- Emails
- Repeated use of bankruptcy laws that resulted in leaving investors and dozens of small-business contractors holding the bag.
- Emails
- Calling for a ban on Muslims and terming Mexican immigrants rapists and criminals who should be deported.
- Still more emails
- Displaying a persistent pattern of crude and demeaning behavior that demonstrates no respect for persons of the opposite sex.

2). Which Republican presidential candidate claimed that his daughter was "so hot" that if she weren't related, he'd date her?

- Marco Rubio
- Jeb Bush
- Ted Cruz
- Donald Trump

3). During this election season, which of the following candidates did not pledge, as one of their first acts as president, to place a phone call to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu?

- Donald Trump

- Hillary Clinton
- Marco Rubio
- Ted Cruz
- Bernie Sanders

4). When Donald Trump says that he wants to "make America great again", to which period of our history do you think he is referring?

- 1850 - 1865 - during slavery and the Civil War
- 1914 - 1930? - from World War I and the post-war anti-immigrant hysteria through the Great Depression??
- 1941 - 1955 - from World War II into the Cold War and the Senator McCarthy-led anti-Red hysteria.
- 2001 - 2009? - from 9/11, through the Iraq War, up to the Great Recession??

5). Having seen Donald Trump on television for years now, can you recall the number of different directions his hair takes in order to get "that look"?

- 3
- 5
- 7
- Impossible to tell - it's one of the great mysteries of this campaign season

6). If Hillary Clinton were elected president, what would be the proper title to use when addressing her husband?

- First Husband (FHOTUS)
- Mr Former President
- "Hey you"
- Try to get his attention, wait until he makes eye-contact, and then start speaking.

7). Should Hillary Clinton win and Republicans retain control of the House of Representatives, in your opinion, how long will it take for Congress to launch impeachment proceedings?

- Minutes
- Hours
- Days
- They won't bother, they'll just hold multiple hearings and investigations in order to make her life miserable while insuring that nothing productive happens in

Washington.

8). In your opinion, which of the following individuals would have had the best chance of having the GOP-controlled Congress pass their proposed progressive legislation?

- Mother Theresa
- Pope Francis
- Abraham Lincoln
- LeBron James
- It doesn't matter who's president, nothing would be done by Congress.

9). In your opinion, what's scarier, Donald Trump winning and taking control of the White House, or Donald Trump losing, declaring "it's all rigged", and leading a revolt against the legitimacy of our electoral process?

- Trump winning
- Trump losing
- Either way, we're in a mess.

10). What's an Aleppo?

- The American League of Enlightened Professional Pundits Organization
- A once beautiful city in Syria that's been on the front pages of newspapers everyday as we watch it being pounded to death.

Bonus Question:

11). Having considered all of the above, which country, in your opinion, has had the longest, ugliest, weirdest presidential election ever?

- Lebanon
- The United States of America
- Zimbabwe

Remember to send your responses and/or comments to me via Twitter @jjz1600. I hope to collect them and use them in a future piece.

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

SKILLFUL POLITICAL THEATER BUYS PARK TIME

Her voice quavered. A nation watched, transfixed, a presidency on the line. Pummeled by a week of unprecedented political crisis, South Korean President Park Geun-hye delivered an apology-loaded address on Friday that hinged on a single, extraordinary moment. "From now on, I will completely sever the personal relationships in my life," Park said amid an investigation into whether she allowed a longtime confidante to pull government strings from the shadows.

This language strikes a powerful chord here because it fits perfectly into an image long cherished by Park's hardcore conservative base: Park as a martyr to South Korea, the orphaned daughter of a murdered dictator and murdered first lady who has time and again sacrificed all semblance of personal life when her country needed her. Her vow of isolation marks an exceptional bit of political theater just when it's needed most.

It may not save her presidency, but it buys her some precious time, opening at least a small amount of breathing room during a scandal that has sent her approval rating to 5 percent, making her the most unpopular leader since South Korea achieved democracy in the late 1980s. Her address was also a master class in apology. She expressed "heartbreak", "shame" and said she was losing sleep. She questioned her leadership and said she was willing to be investigated and held responsible if found at fault.

Park has long been seen by her supporters as a martyr to the country, and some analysts say the image helped carry her to the presidency. The title of her autobiography is "How Suffering Hardens Me and Hope Moves Me". Park's mother was killed in 1974 when a North Korea sympathizer from Japan tried to kill her father, dictator Park Chung-hee. Her father was killed five years later by his spy chief.

She has never had a public romantic relationship. She is also estranged from her siblings, who have been embroiled in corruption and drug scandals and have reportedly never entered the presidential Blue House during her time in office. The main argument of Friday's address seemed to be that since it was a "personal relationship" with Choi Soon-sil - the daughter of a former mentor who emerged in Park's life around the time of her

mother's killing - that brought her to this point, she would be best served to eradicate all personal ties.

"Since I came to the Blue House, I have lived a lonely life, cutting off exchanges with my family out of worries that something unpleasant might happen," Park said. "Living alone, it was difficult to find people who could help me with the personal things I needed to get done, so I began receiving help from Choi Soon-sil with whom I had a long relationship."

This language of loneliness may win back some of her straying supporters and momentarily boost her approval rating. But it will carry little weight with the many who will argue that the problem was a spectacular lack of judgment, not a failure to completely isolate herself. Her critics don't see martyrdom; they see a dangerous disconnect from the lives of real South Koreans. They don't see heroic self-denial; they see an aloof, imperial leader who relies on a small coterie of ultra-conservative supporters.

"For young people there will be no tears shed for Park. They're going to see it as an outrage that people will say they're supposed to feel pity for her," said John Delury, a professor at Yonsei University's Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul. "But true believers will think that because she has no private life, no personal interests, she belongs to the people, that she's the perfect leader."

Park can be charming and is a highly skilled politician, but she also comes across as remote and uncomfortable at times, especially around journalists. Some of this was apparent at the end of her address to the nation Friday. As is often the case, she held no question-and-answer session, but, in something of a surprise move, she approached the first row of assembled reporters where she stopped and said: "I feel really sorry for causing so much concern for you too. I'm leaving now." She bowed her head, turned on her heels and walked behind a curtain - alone again. — AP



South Korea's President Park Geun-Hye (left) bows prior to delivering an address to the nation at the presidential Blue House in Seoul on Friday. — AFP

PACQUIAO LIKES TO GIVE MORE THAN HE RECEIVES

LAS VEGAS: Boxer Manny Pacquiao, known as the people's champion in his native Philippines, says he has given away about \$200 million on projects to help the less fortunate. "Every income I receive in boxing, almost half of it goes to the less fortunate," Pacquiao said. "After each fight, half of my income goes to the poor. "But I don't like to announce it." According to Forbes, Pacquiao's income from career purses and endorsements is around \$500 million. Pacquiao has a number of projects underway in the Philippines including building 1,500 homes on the island of Mindanao. He also helped to buy a fleet of new boats for fishermen in a coastal community. Pacquiao says he needs to keep fighting so he can continue the charity work that has done throughout much of his 21-year boxing career. Pacquiao was elected to the Philippine Senate in May. He sits on 15 committees, two of which he chairs. His Senate duties have meant he has only been able to train part-time for the upcoming fight against Jessie Vargas. "I enjoy politics because I do not have a hidden agenda. I serve honestly," he said. —AFP

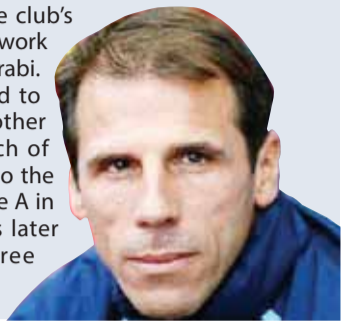


BEST SQUAD IN THE WORLD NOT ENOUGH FOR ZIDANE

MADRID: Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane insists his squad of superstars can't rest on their laurels after blowing a 2-0 lead to draw 3-3 with Polish champions Legia Warsaw in mid-week. Zidane's men return to La Liga action today at home to Leganes and the Frenchman wants a more rounded performance from his side. "I always think that I have the best squad in the world, but at the same time that is not enough," said Zidane yesterday. Only Mateo Kovacic's equaliser five minutes from time prevented Real's 27-game unbeaten streak coming to an end in the most unlikely fashion as Legia took their first Champions League point for 21 years. "We need to go out onto the pitch and always play at our top level for 90 minutes. To be persistent is the hardest thing in football." Despite their unbeaten run and still enjoying a two-point lead at the top of La Liga, Madrid haven't kept a clean sheet in 10 games in all competitions. Zidane will once again be without his preferred central defensive pairing of captain Sergio Ramos and Pepe due to injury today, but called on the whole team to defend better as a unit. — AFP

ZOLA LINKED TO VACANT INTER JOB

MILAN: Former Chelsea fans' favourite Gianfranco Zola has emerged as a surprise, last-minute candidate to replace sacked Inter Milan coach Frank De Boer, reports suggested yesterday. De Boer's sacking after a 1-0 defeat at Sampdoria last week has plunged the San Siro giants into crisis just 11 games into the season. Newspaper reports on Saturday morning insisted Marcelino Garcia Toral, who led Villarreal to a fourth place finish in La Liga last season before being sacked in August, was the frontrunner ahead of ex-Lazio boss Stefano Pioli after both were interviewed by the club's Chinese owners Suning on Friday. But a Sky Sport Italia television report claims Zola has come into contention because "he has close contact with the club's Chinese owners Suning". Zola has been out of work since being sacked as coach of Qatari side Al-Arabi. Indeed, the former Chelsea star has struggled to emulate his achievements as a player on the other side of the touchlines. Zola resigned as coach of Watford in December 2013 after a dismal start to the season. Although he took over at Cagliari in Serie A in December 2014, he was sacked three months later Cagliari re-hiring sacked Zdenek Zeman three months after sacking the veteran Czech. — AFP



MAORI ALL BLACKS ROUT US EAGLES

CHICAGO: Winger James Lowe and back-rower Akira Ioane both scored two tries as the New Zealand Maori rugby team beat the United States 54-7 on Saturday to claim their 70th win over a full international team.

Lowe scored twice in the first half and Ioane touched down once in each half as the Maori won by eight tries to one to extend their record against the USA to four wins from four games. Both captains scored: Ash Dixon for the New Zealand Maori shortly before halftime and Todd Clever for the United States whose only try came at the start of the second half. Maori prop Kane Hames had a try disallowed in the first half but scored another in the second while replacement scrumhalf Brad Weber touched down before ending the game in the sin bin.

Substitute hooker Joe Royal added the last try near fulltime and Damian McKenzie, one of four touring All Blacks loaned to the Maori team for the match, converted from the sideline. McKenzie took over the goal-kicking duties from flyhalf Ihaia West who kept a perfect record with six conversions from as many attempts.

Will Holder converted the United States' try. The USA began strongly and occasionally troubled the Maori team in the first 10 minutes with rolling drives. But when Lowe scored the opening try in the 10th minute the tide turned and the Maori team was dominant for most of the rest of the

match. The New Zealanders were able to dominate the middle of the field with powerful ball carriers, and when the defense had been drawn in, to unleash their pace on the flanks. Their defensive line speed was also too much for the United States whose players were regularly cut down behind the gain line, placing them under continuous pressure.

Flyhalf Holder's clearances were wayward and the United States found itself trapped inside its own half for long periods. The Maori quickly punished the USA for missed tackles, notably when Ioane scored his first try in the 19th minute.

Lowe had his second in the 33rd minute when West chipped behind the defense for center Matt Proctor to regather and to put his winger untouched under the posts.

Dixon's try from a rolling maul gave the Maori team a 28-0 lead at halftime. Ioane brushed off tackles to score his second in the 44th minute before the United States hit back with Clever's try from a lineout drive five minutes later. Dixon and Ioane scored while US hooker James Hilterbrand was in the sin bin for a professional foul.

Hames made amends for having his first half try ruled out for a double movement when he scored in the 51st minute. Weber scored the seventh try in the 63rd minute. The Maori lost some of their continuity in the last quarter but Royal pushed them through the 50 point mark just before the end. —AP



TOKYO: Javier Ortega Desio, left, of Argentina is tackled by Kotaro Matsushima of Japan during their rugby match in Tokyo, yesterday. Argentina's Nicolas Sanchez scored two tries as the Pumas overpowered Japan 54-20 yesterday in their first test under new coach Jamie Joseph. — AP

RUDE WELCOME FOR JOSEPH AS PUMAS MAUL JAPAN

TOKYO: Argentina spoiled Jamie Joseph's first game as head coach of Japan by crushing the Brave Blossoms 54-20 in swashbuckling style yesterday.

The marauding Pumas bared their claws against a new-look Japan side, dominating in all areas with fly-half Nicolas Sanchez orchestrating a comfortable victory in the Tokyo sunshine.

Sanchez scored 29 points, booting 19 points and adding a pair of tries, while Matias Moroni and Santiago Cordero also touched down twice as Argentina showed glimpses of the form that swept them to the semi-finals of last year's World Cup. A late try from substitute Tomas Cubelli brought up Argentina's half-century and will give New Zealander Joseph plenty to ponder before three fly-away tests in Europe.

"Argentina have played New Zealand, South Africa and Australia twice each—we've had one

scrum session," Joseph told reporters. "At the start we had plenty of energy, put pressure on Argentina and created a lot of opportunities," he added. "And with the game gone in the last 20 minutes we saw the attitude of a team that never wants to give in." Japan, who themselves lit up the World Cup by famously winning three matches under Eddie Jones, began brightly as Yu Yamada's early penalty opened the scoring. But from then on it was one-way traffic.

Moroni raced down the right wing to score and Argentina began to turn the screw after Sanchez collected a pass from scrumhalf Martin Landajo to score, before his trusty right boot forged a 21-6 halftime lead for the visitors. The floodgates opened when Cordero touched down in the corner moments after the restart and Moroni finished off a slick breakaway move after 49 minutes. Amanaki Mafi bulldozed over

for Japan soon after, but Sanchez capped a breathtaking team try for Argentina before Cordero scored again and Cubelli completed the rout. "It was a tough game," Landajo said diplomatically. "Japan are a good attacking side and are hard to defend. But we in the second half we got some opportunities and took them." A late consolation from Lomano Lemeki did little to paper over the cracks for Japan, whose momentum has stalled woefully since the World Cup. The Japanese look a shadow of the team which produced the biggest shock in the tournament's history by stunning mighty South Africa 34-32 and then toppling Samoa and the United States.

Asia's top side, who lost a pair of home tests against Scotland earlier this year, face Georgia in Tbilisi next week and then Wales and France away later this month. — AFP



CHICAGO: Tom Franklin of the Maori All Blacks takes the ball in the lineout during the International Rugby Match between the USA Eagles and the New Zealand Maori All Blacks at Toyota Park on Friday in Chicago, Illinois. —AFP



TOYOTA GAZOO RACING EARNS FIRST VICTORY OF THE 2016 FIA WEC

KUWAIT: Toyota GAZOO Racing earned its first victory of the season on home ground in an epic 6 Hours of Fuji, the seventh round of the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC).

In front of an enthusiastic Japanese crowd, all three LMP1 manufacturers showed near identical pace, but the TS050 Toyota Hybrid #6 of Stephane Sarrazin, Mike Conway and Kamui Kobayashi came out on top after an enthralling battle.

The Toyota Hybrid #6 crossed the line just 1.439seconds ahead of the competitor's car #8, bringing Toyota's 11th WEC win, its fourth in five years at Fuji and its first since Bahrain in November 2014. That result also lifts the Toyota Hybrid #6 crew to second in the drivers' World Championship, 23 points off the lead.

Anthony Davidson, Sebastien Buemi and Kazuki Nakajima recorded their best result of

the season with fourth, within a minute of the winning sister car, TS050 Toyota Hybrid #5.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "This is a fantastic result for the team, and the fact that this triumph has come on our home ground makes it all the more special. Participation in motorsport events holds significant long-term business value for Toyota as we always seek to use insights and experiences gained from the track to build ever-better cars for our customers. Our fans have been amazing all through the season and I take this opportunity to thank them for their encouragement, and we look forward to their continued support in the season's remaining two races in Shanghai and Manama."

The tone for a tense and closely-fought race was set at the start. Kamui and Kazuki,

having slipped to fourth and sixth respectively at turn one, fought back, and at the first pit stops the Toyota Hybrid #6 was running second while the Toyota Hybrid #5 was fourth. Fast work from the pit crew established the pattern for the race, with the Toyota Hybrid #6, now with Mike at the wheel, in a very close fight for the lead with the competitor's car #8, while Anthony in the Toyota Hybrid #5 was pushing for the podium.

As the race passed the half-distance point, there was no letup as all three LMP1 manufacturers ran flat-out for victory in a tense contest, which got even closer when the competitor's car #1 joined the battle. As the four-hour mark approached, less than two seconds covered the top three while the Toyota Hybrid #5 was less than 30 seconds from the lead in fourth, with Kazuki pushing for the podium positions.

Stephane enjoyed an exciting stint with wheel-to-wheel battles against competitor cars #8 and #1, all whilst coping with heavy traffic. When Kamui took over the Toyota Hybrid #6 with just over 90 minutes remaining, he kept up the challenge, valiantly defending second place before targeting the leader.

The final stop for the Toyota Hybrid #6 saw Kamui take only fuel, saving vital time and earning track position but requiring him to maintain the pace on older tires. Kamui rose to the challenge during the tense final laps, with fine driving through the traffic. He crossed the line to win his first WEC race, while Anthony took the flag shortly after in the Toyota Hybrid #5. Toyota GAZOO Racing will return to action next month with the penultimate race of the 2016 season, the 6 Hours of Shanghai on 6 November.



Toyota's Kazuki Nakajima, driver at Fuji Race.

KIB'S CRICKET TEAM WINS MATCH AGAINST GULF BANK

KUWAIT: In their first game of this season of the Kuwait Banks Club (KBC) League, Kuwait International Bank's cricket team recently won their match against Gulf Bank's team by 5 wickets.

After winning the toss, Gulf Bank elected to bat first, but KIB's team kicked off the game with determination and skill. KIB's bowlers exerted pressure from the very beginning and took wickets with regular intervals, restricting the Gulf Bank team to only 117 runs. The KIB team then opened its innings with confidence and a fierce attitude, despite one of its players getting injured and having to leave the game.

With this victory, KIB scored a win in its first game of the 2016-2017 season of Kuwait Banks Club (KBC) League, winning the match in 19th

over with 5 wickets spare. Furthermore, KIB's Ali Merji was named "Man of the Match" for his impressive performance during the game. Congratulating the team on their win, the Bank's Management wished the Cricket team a successful season with plenty of more victories to follow.

KIB is a keen advocate of enhancing interest in sports across the community in Kuwait, starting with its own staff. The Bank's leading social responsibility program aims to raise awareness within the local community of the importance of sports and physical activity in all its forms. The Bank firmly believes that regular exercise is an integral part of a modern, healthy lifestyle, enhancing both physical and mental well-being.

ENGLAND'S COOK HAILS ANDERSON RETURN FOR INDIA TESTS

MUMBAI: Captain Alastair Cook yesterday hailed top bowler Jimmy Anderson's surprise return from injury as he insisted England would revel in their status as underdogs during their tour of India. Cook said that Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker with 463 scalps, had been given the all-clear following a shoulder problem and could arrive in India as early as Tuesday.

"It's really good news. He's ready to come so it's just about trying to get him out to Rajkot as quick as we can," Cook, 31, told reporters in Mumbai. The first Test of the five-match series starts in Rajkot, in western Gujarat state, on Wednesday as India seek revenge for a home series loss to England four years ago. The powerful Anderson will miss the opening Test but could be ready to lead England's attack for the second match, which starts in Andhra Pradesh state, on November 17, said Cook.

Anderson suffered a fractured shoulder blade last summer and had been dogged by a recurrence of the injury but passed fitness tests back home on Friday while the rest of the England squad were already training in India.

"I was chatting to him yesterday and the second Test is a good possibility. We'll know when we see how his body reacts when he's out here," said the skipper. Anderson took more wickets than any other pace bowler on either side when England won the 2012 series in India and Cook believes the fired-up 34-year-old could be the difference again. "He's worked incredibly hard to get back and has come back so much quicker than we thought. 'He's up for it and is not just coming here to make up

the numbers so that's great for us. He wants to make a difference in this series," Cook told a post-training press conference. India are number one in the world and have not lost a Test series at home since left-handed batsman Cook expertly led England to a 2-1 victory four years ago. England's spin attack is weaker than it was back then when Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar excelled on Indian soil but Cook is confident that his side can spring a surprise.

PRESSURE OFF ENGLAND

"Unfortunately we haven't quite got that experience of probably top quality spinners. (But) Mo (Moeen Ali) has been very successful against India in the past. "Rash (Adil Rashid) has done very well in One Day Cricket and we probably haven't seen the best of him in Test cricket yet. "(So) we've actually got more options in this squad than we did in the last squad," he said. Cook warned critics not to write off his team even if they do lose in the opening Test recalling his side's heroics the last time they toured India. "I remember sitting in a press conference after the first Test and everyone was talking about how you're going to stop India winning 4-0 and we managed to turn it around and win 2-1. It shows that anything is possible."

England are looking to bounce back from a humiliating defeat to minnows Bangladesh last week and Cook believes that being underdogs, rather than favourites, will work in his side's favour. "We're under no illusions about how hard it could be but being an underdog takes a lot of pressure off us," said Cook. — AFP



PERTH: Australian bowler Peter Siddle (R) grimaces as he attempts to stop a shot from South Africa's Dean Elgar (L) on day three of the first Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Perth yesterday. — AFP

DUMINY, ELGAR CENTURIES PUT SOUTH AFRICA ON TOP

PERTH: South Africa's JP Duminy and Dean Elgar both scored centuries in a third-wicket partnership of 250 to drive the tourists to a 388-run lead over Australia at the end of the third day of the first test yesterday.

Australia removed both centurions around the tea break, as well as Temba Bavuma and captain Faf du Plessis in the last hour, but by then the damage had been done and the Proteas will go into day four on 390 for six.

Quinton de Kock, who was dropped by Adam Voges on one, was at the crease unbeaten on 16 at the end of a long, hot day at the WACA, along with Vernon Philander, who had made 23 not out. South African paceman Dale Steyn was ruled out of the rest of the series with a fractured shoulder on Friday and will play no further part in the match, reducing the number of wickets Australia need to take.

Steyn was a member of the Proteas team that chased down 414 to beat Australia at the WACA in 2008 but it was a debutant Duminy who scored the three runs off Mitchell Johnson that got the South Africans over the line.

Now 32, Duminy looks to have played a key role in another Perth triumph after his brilliant 141 rammed home South Africa's advantage after they had skittled Australia for 244 in reply to their 242 on Friday.

Duminy faced 225 balls and hit 20 of them for fours with another going for six, overhauling partner Elgar before lunch and reaching his fifth test century with two runs to deep cover soon after the break.

NERVOUS NINETIES

It was his first century in two years and his third against Australia, just reward for a masterclass of calm control and shot-making.

The end came just as it looked like the pair of left-handers would bat through to tea, Peter Siddle benefiting from a DRS review when the technology revealed a nick off the bat that carried through to wicketkeeper Peter Nevill.

Elgar did not have such a good experience on his previous visit to the WACA, having got a pair when he made his test debut at the ground in 2012, albeit on the winning team.

Dogged and determined where Duminy was fluent, the 29-year-old reached his fifth test century half an hour before tea after a prolonged spell in the "nervous nineties".

His career-best 127 came off 316 balls and he had hit 17 fours and one six when Josh Hazlewood finally winked him out after tea when he offered a tired shot and got an edge which Mitchell Starc took at gully.

Starc should have caught Elgar on 81 when the batsman skied the ball to mid-off but he lost the ball in the Perth sun, tripped himself over trying to readjust his position and spilled it on the turf, to the despair of bowler Nathan Lyon.

The left-arm paceman also accounted for Du Plessis (32), a fine edge taken behind by Nevill, while Hazlewood had Bavuma well caught by Usman Khawaja at deep square leg for eight but the collapse Australia needed never materialised. After Perth, the series continues in Hobart before concluding with a day-night test at Adelaide Oval. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

PERTH, Australia: Scoreboard at the end of the third day of the first cricket test between Australia and South Africa at the WACA ground yesterday.

South Africa 1st Innings: 242	Quinton de Kock not out	16
Australia 1st Innings: 244	Vernon Philander not out	23
South Africa 1st Innings (Overnight: 104-2)	Extras (4b, 13lb, 12w, 1nb)	30
Stephen Cook c Shaun Marsh b Siddle	TOTAL: (6 wickets)	390
Dean Elgar c Starc b Hazlewood	Overs:	126
Hashim Amla b Hazlewood	Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-45, 295, 4-324, 5-346, 6-352.	
Jean-Paul Duminy c Nevill b Siddle	Bowling: Mitchell Starc 27-7-99-1 (1w), Josh Hazlewood 32-	
Faf du Plessis c Nevill b Starc	10-97-2 (1nb), Peter Siddle 22-8-47-2, Mitchell Marsh 22-4-	
Temba Bavuma c Khawaja b Marsh	52-1 (3w), Nathan Lyon 21-2-76-0, Adam Voges 2-1-2-0.	

DRS UMPIRING MAKES DEBUT IN ZIMBABWE

HARARE: Cricket's umpiring Decision Review System will be used in Zimbabwe for the first time today when the hosts take on Sri Lanka in the second Test at Harare Sports Club. The DRS has widely been seen as a solution to cutting out umpiring errors in the game, but it has not been universally adopted since its initial trial in 2008.

While India has refused to use the system in the past because it did not believe that the technology it is based on was foolproof, countries such as Zimbabwe have not had the funds required for it. "I look at matches in different parts of the world, and I see the different levels of technology and you see umpires are left without conclusive evidence in one series where in another series they might have conclusive evidence with all tools available," the International Cricket Council's general manager of cricket operations Geoff Allardice said this week. "There are some logistical challenges as well about having every type of technology in every match but I think overall we should be striving for a more consistent delivery of technology at all international matches." India have recently shown signs of softening their stance, and have committed to using DRS when they host England in a five-Test series that starts on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe Cricket have arranged for the system to be used in Sunday's second Test against Sri Lanka, with the home side hoping that it can reduce the number of poor decisions that go against them.

Six of the seven incorrect umpiring decisions in the first Test were in Sri Lanka's favour, as the tourists won by 225 runs.

"I think (the errors) have been well documented," said Zimbabwe coach Heath Streak on Saturday. "I think the DRS is good because it can negate the element of human error."

"Obviously anyone can make a mistake, but the less of those that have an influence on the game, the better." The system will also be used in the triangular one-day series that follows, when Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka will be joined by the West Indies. "It's nice to have it because we need to use the technology - I'm happy to have it," said Rangana Herath, who is leading Sri Lanka in the Test series.

Both sides confirmed a clean bill of health yesterday, and suggested that changes were unlikely for the final Test of the series. — AFP

DALE STEYN FACES SIX MONTHS ON SIDELINES

PERTH: Former captain Shaun Pollock thinks Dale Steyn will be remembered as the best test bowler South Africa has produced even if he never gets back on to the pitch to claim the record as the country's most prolific wicket-taker. The 33-year-old paceman fractured a bone in his right shoulder early on the second day of the first test against Australia on Friday and Pollock said it was reasonable to question whether he would ever return to the test arena. "You'd have to," he told ABC Radio yesterday. "Given how old he is, the nature of the injury, it's between six months and 12 months to recover, he'll have to have an operation, he'll have to have it pinned 'It's a real blow for him."

Before he was injured on Friday, Steyn had already removed Australian opener Dave Warner for 97 to claim his 417th test victim, four shy of the South African record held by Pollock. "I've got a bottle of champagne in my hotel room I was going to present to him because I thought it was just a matter of time," Pollock added.

"He deserves to be the leading wicket-taker in our country. Since readmission he's been the ultimate strike bowler, the best test bowler we've produced. He deserves the record so I hope he does bounce back."

Steyn said he thought it would take at least six months for him to recover and he would be in no great hurry to return, admitting he had probably rushed back too soon after suffering a shoulder injury in December.

"I didn't have the full time to recover... I've been dealing with this thing for quite some time now, so I probably should have taken a little bit longer," he told Channel Nine at the WACA.

"I was wanting to rush and get into that Twenty20 World Cup, I wanted to go to the IPL, I wanted to play. This is what I do. So I'll probably have to take the time this time and let it heal properly."

Steyn's absence leaves South Africa's

remaining pacemen, Vernon Philander and Kagiso Rabada, with a heavier workload in Australia's second innings at the WACA. "It's always going to be the case that you have to dish up a few more overs," Philander said on Friday. "It's a responsibility well taken by the rest of the team and the squad, we will want to win the game for Dale." —Reuters



PERTH: South African fast bowler Dale Steyn sits with his arm in a sling prior to the start of day three of the first Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Perth yesterday. —AFP



MUMBAI: England cricketers Ben Stokes (L), Ben Duckett (C) and captain Alastair Cook bat in nets during a training session at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday. England are due to play a five-match Test cricket series against India, with the first Test at Rajkot from November 9-13. — AFP

Millions flood streets
for Cubs victory
parade

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Aubameyang hits
four, Hoffenheim
hold Bayern

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016

DRS UMPIRING MAKES DEBUT IN ZIMBABWE

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MANCHESTER: Middlesbrough's Spanish midfielder Adama Traore (L) and Manchester City's Spanish midfielder David Silva (R) go up for a header during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Middlesbrough at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

DE ROON RUINS CITY'S DAY WITH LATE EQUALISER



MANCHESTER: Marten De Roon's dramatic stoppage-time header cancelled out Sergio Aguero's first-half goal and earned Middlesbrough a point with a 1-1 draw at Manchester City yesterday.

Aguero touched in his 150th City goal from Kevin De Bruyne's low cross to cap a dominant first-half performance from Pep Guardiola's side. But they could not match it in the second, despite creating several good chances, and were caught late on as Dutch midfielder De Roon powered in George Friend's cross for his first goal since joining Boro from Atalanta for £12m (14m euros, \$15.5m) in the summer.

The point was enough for City to go a point clear of Arsenal and Liverpool, who both play today, whilst Chelsea could go top late if they beat Everton.

It secured a terrific result for Aitor Karanka's side, but was desperately disappointing for Guardiola, four days after his side had produced an outstanding performance to defeat Barcelona in the Champions League.

Guardiola decided to give centre-back Nicolas Otamendi and winger Raheem Sterling a rest after a hectic recent schedule, while Claudio Bravo returned in goal, having been suspended for the midweek win over Barcelona.

There was no place in the squad, though, for Yaya Toure, despite his apology for criticism aimed at the manager by his agent Dimitri Seluk.

City dominated the opening half, but had to be patient in the face of some resolute defending and inspired goalkeeping by Victor Valdes.

The former Manchester United keeper, returning to the city for the first time since leaving Old Trafford,

made a series of excellent stops.

Having held a fierce rising 20-yard effort from Aleksandar Kolarov, he then dived to his right to beat the ball away moments later as Aguero danced through the visitors' defence.

Valdes reacted brilliantly after that when David Silva turned Jesus Navas' low deflected cross towards goal at the near post, and was off his line bravely to smother - taking a bang to the thigh in the process - as the former Sevilla winger tried to connect with Ferdinandinho's diagonal through ball.

Amid those saves, Valdes saw De Bruyne roll a shot just beyond his far post, and Aguero narrowly fail to connect with a John Stones flick from a Silva corner.

But he could do nothing two minutes before half-time as Aguero nipped in between two defenders for the opening goal. Navas nearly added a second with the last kick of the half, as his rising drive hit the outside of the near post. Middlesbrough, who lacked any kind of attacking intent in the first half, began the second

more positively. Their former City striker Alvaro Negredo almost equalised with an outrageous lob from the halfway line, but the ball was tipped over by a backpedalling Bravo, who then dashed from his line moments later to block at the feet of Adam Forshaw.

Guardiola's team battled to reassert themselves, without regaining their first-half levels of superiority. The impressive Ilkay Gundogan bounced a shot wide from the edge of the penalty area after a De Bruyne ball from the left had bobbed into his path, while Aguero headed over from the Belgian's cross.

There were still nervous moments for Guardiola, as Stewart Downing drove a shot wide from out on the left after Ferdinandinho had lost the ball in midfield to allow a Middlesbrough break.

City could have made sure of victory, with Aguero missing a good chance to make certain of victory as he floated a shot wide from a Navas pull-back, and De Bruyne blazing over after Valdes had failed to gather a long cross on the edge of his penalty area. — AFP

HAZARD SHREDS EVERTON TO FIRE CHELSEA TOP



LONDON: Chelsea went top of the Premier League after a brilliant 5-0 win over Everton yesterday gave them the biggest victory of Antonio Conte's managerial tenure so far. Eden Hazard put in his best performance of the new era, scoring twice in an exceptional individual performance, with Marcos Alonso, Diego Costa and Pedro Rodriguez also on target.

Everton, sixth in the table, never looked capable of coping with Chelsea and collapsed under the weight of the home side's repeated attacks. Chelsea currently look a world away from the problems of last season and this was the fourth awkward-looking game in a row in which they have made things look all too easy.

It helped greatly that they claimed an early lead for the fourth successive game, too, even if this performance was slightly more sluggish than the previous three in that respect.

Against Leicester City, it took seven minutes for them to score; against Manchester United, it was one; against Southampton it was six, and here it was 19.

Hazard struck in a manner that has become increasingly familiar since the start of the season, cutting in from the left wing and hitting a low, bouncing shot that caught goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg unsuspected. There was a possibility that Pedro was offside, but the goal

was allowed to stand.

Chelsea wasted no time extending their advantage, with just 24 seconds of playing time elapsing between their first and second goals. Conte halted an Everton counter-attack in its tracks and after brilliantly wriggling between two players, Hazard played the ball through to Pedro on the right.

The winger looked to square the ball to Costa, but with the pass arriving slightly behind the striker, the oncoming Alonso roared at him to get out of the way and thundered a shot between Stekelenburg's legs.

KOEMAN REJIGS

It was the Spanish wing-back's first Chelsea goal following his close-season switch from Fiorentina.

Everton manager Ronald Koeman's attempt to mirror Conte's new three-man defence had clearly failed and it took him just 36 minutes to abandon it. Bryan Oviedo was hauled off for Kevin Mirallas, although it did not actually help. Chelsea continued their onslaught. Victor Moses smashed the post with a brilliantly hit shot on the half-volley, before Costa made it 3-0. Nemanja Matic flicked on Hazard's corner on 43 minutes and the striker slammed home at the back post. The best was still to come, however, as Chelsea's best player moved onto another level.

On 56 minutes, Hazard surged forward down the right touchline and flicked the ball to Pedro, who sent it back to him with a wonderfully deft back-heel. The Belgian homed in on goal, before accurately driving the ball past Stekelenburg with his left foot.

It was his seventh goal in 11 league games,



LONDON: Chelsea's Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard runs with the ball during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Everton at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday. — AFP

marking his best start to a season since moving to Stamford Bridge from Lille in 2012. Chelsea then went on to complete their best result of the season so far as Pedro got the goal his performance deserved by volleying in from close range after Stekelenburg had thwarted Hazard.

It marked an impressive escalation in results, with Chelsea having won their last three home games 3-0, 4-0 and now 5-0.

Conte brought on John Terry at the end and it was a measure of the hosts' dominance and Everton's haplessness that even the veteran centre-back was able to join in with their attacks. — AFP

MURRAY CROWNED NUMBER ONE AFTER RAONIC INJURY

PARIS: Britain's Andy Murray became the new world number one yesterday after Milos Raonic withdrew from their Paris Masters semi-final because of injury. The walkover will see Murray, 29, move to the top of the rankings for the first time in his career after replacing long-time incumbent Novak Djokovic.

The Scot's climb to the ATP rankings' summit caps a remarkable year which has seen him win a second Wimbledon crown and mount a successful defence of his Olympic title in Rio.

"I think that's the most satisfying thing, really. It's been such a difficult thing to do during my career because of how good the guys around me have been, the guys ahead of me," said Murray. "Obviously it's unfortunate the way that it happened today. I would have liked to have done it on the court, but it's been many years of work to get here."

"I never thought I'd be No. 1 in the world and never imagined that was something that was going to happen," Murray had needed to reach the final to supplant Djokovic at the top following the Serb's defeat to Marin Cilic in the last eight.

But he didn't need to hit a single ball as Raonic announced his withdrawal in a hastily-arranged press conference.

Raonic said he had suffered a muscle tear in his right leg in his previous match, sending Murray through to face John Isner in Sunday's final.

"This morning I had trouble waking up and getting out of bed," said Raonic, who hurt himself in Friday's quarter-final

win over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

"I had some tests and an MRI half an hour ago and they found that I have a tear, Grade 1 tear in the right quad. "Unfortunately, I'm not able to compete against Andy today in the second semi-final."

DJOKOVIC RESPECT

Murray will be confirmed as the new number one-the 26th different player in history to hold top spot-when the latest rankings are released tomorrow. He is the oldest first-time number one since 30-year-old John Newcombe of Australia in June 1974.

Djokovic, whose 122-week reign at the top is set to come to an end, praised Murray's remarkable rise which coincided with a tumultuous second half of the year for the Serb.

"He's definitely a player who deserves that. Undoubtedly much respect for what he has done," said Djokovic. "To see how he has raised his level in the last 12 months is quite extraordinary."

Murray will meet Isner as he targets a maiden Paris Masters title after the big-serving American toppled Cilic 6-4, 6-3 in the first semi-final.

Isner, who also reached the last four in 2011, broke the ninth seed at 4-all before serving out for the first set. Cilic sealed his place at the Tour Finals in London this week and then snapped a 14-match losing run against Djokovic, but the Croat couldn't maintain that level against Isner. — AFP



LULU GROUP LAUNCHES OPERATIONS IN USA

TIJARI REPORTS NET PROFIT OF KD 27.5M

COMMERCIAL BANK REGISTERS 8.2% JUMP IN PROFIT FOR 9 MONTHS OF 2016



Yacoub Al-Ebrahim



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced net profit of KD 27.5 million for the nine months period of 2016 compared to KD 25.4 million of the same period last year, a growth of 8.2 percent. The fee income witnessed a year-on-year growth of 8.8 percent, foreign exchange income 61 percent and investment portfolio income 31.3 percent. The Bank continues to maintain solid level of operating profit before provision amounting to KD 74.5 million compared to KD 74.0 million for the same period last year.

Commenting on the Bank's financial results, the Bank's spokesman Yacoub Al-Ebrahim said, Commercial Bank's total assets at the end of September 2016 reached KD 4,047 million (September 2015: KD 4,035 million). The Bank's capital adequacy ratio at the end of September 2016 at 16.86 percent is higher than the minimum 13.5 percent required by the Central Bank of Kuwait, and leverage ratio at 10.6 percent is more than three times higher than the minimum requirement of three percent.

Al-Ebrahim further added that the Bank continues to maintain a lower NPL ratio which reached 0.91 percent at the

end of September 2016, one of the best ratios in Kuwait banking system with available provisioning coverage of 658.8 percent.

Al-Ebrahim concluded his statement by referring to the Bank's solid performance which was recognized by the International rating agencies in their recently published credit opinion. This was obviously reflected by Fitch Ratings upgrading the Viability Ratings (VR) of the Bank to 'bb' (from 'bb-') owing to its improving financial profile following the successful execution of strategic objectives, business reorganization and expected improvement in earnings and adequate capitalization. Similarly, Moody's in their recently published report stated that the Bank has made significant progress in cleaning its book of the accumulated problem loans, drastically cutting its non-performing loans-to-gross loans ratio along with highlighting the Bank's success in building up substantial provisions against potential losses. Moody's report further stated that pre-provision income stood at 2.5 percent of average total assets is slightly above the system average.

KCB ISSUED KD 47.8M WORTH OF LOANS: DATA

KUWAIT: The number of loans issued by Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) has amounted to 651 worth of KD 26 million disbursed in October and KD 21.8 million to be paid in the future, KCB latest statistics showed yesterday. These financial advances include real estate, women, portfolio loans as well as grants. The statistics indicated that 42 loans were approved to build private housing units: KD 2.1 million was paid and KD 2.5 million will be spent.

It added that 135 loans were also issued to build government housing units: KD 14.4 million was disbursed and KD 9.2 million will be paid. It also said that 65 loans were allocated to buying houses: KD 2.8 million for past purchases and KD 4.3 million for future purchases. Expansion and renovation for private residence have been assigned 12 loans: KD 255,800 was paid and KD 285,500 to be paid.

Expansion and renovation for government residence included 142 loans: KD 4.3 million paid and KD 3.5 million to be spent. Two loans were approved to finance concrete houses: KD 25,000 was paid and KD 15,000 to be paid. Loans for people with disabilities amounted to 223 with KD 1.9 million paid and KD 1.9 million to be paid.

Portfolio loans, meanwhile, reached 24 with KD 283,400 that was spent and KD 218,300 which will be paid. Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) is a financial institution wholly owned by the State of Kuwait, specialized in granting social loans and mortgages to Kuwaiti citizens. The objective has been to provide a convenient and simplified automated loan application process for citizens. — KUNA



AMERICANS GO TO THE POLLS AGAINST BACKDROP OF AN UNEVEN ECONOMY

WASHINGTON: The US economy is lifting job growth and wages but not voters' spirits. Americans are choosing a president against a backdrop of slow but steady growth that has managed to restore the economy from the crushing setback of the Great Recession. The government's October jobs report, released Friday, showed that hiring remains solid, with 161,000 jobs added. The unemployment rate is a low 4.9 percent.

Yet the recovery, the slowest since World War II, has left many Americans feeling left behind, especially those who lack high skills or education or who live outside major population centers.

"The (typical) US household is in a much better spot than they were eight years ago," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "But it hasn't been a great decade for anyone either. You've still got a big chunk of the population who feels this hasn't worked for them."

The economy's weak spots are a top concern for a majority of voters, who say the U.S. economy is in poor shape, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. At the same time, they say their own personal finances are good. Fifty-three percent of voters say the economy is "poor," while 46 percent say "good," according to the poll, conducted Oct. 20-24. Yet 65 percent say their own finances are good, versus 34 percent who rate them poor.

Seventy-three percent of Hillary Clinton supporters say that the economy is good; just 16 percent of Donald Trump supporters say so.

And while 60 percent of whites say the economy is poor, 60 percent of nonwhites call it good. Yet whites and nonwhites are about equally likely to say their own personal finances are good.

Consider 73-year-old Charles Muller, who lives outside Trenton, New Jersey, and describes his personal finances as fine. He has a pension from 26 years as a state employee and receives Social Security.

But the broader economy seems fairly weak to Muller. A friend was laid off during the recession, then earned a teaching certificate, and yet still can't find a full-time teaching job. And a friend's daughter who recently graduated from college is stuck as an assistant manager of a dollar store.

"I know a lot of people who are struggling and have been unable to find jobs commensurate with their education levels," Muller said. He is supporting Trump, though he sees the major presidential nominees as "the two worst candidates I've ever been given a choice of."

Here's a snapshot of the US economy of the eve of the elections:

SLOWER BUT STILL-SOLID HIRING

The job market has proved itself resilient. Employers have added an average of 181,000 jobs a month this year. That's down from last year's robust 229,000 average. But it's nearly double the monthly pace needed to lower the unemployment rate over time. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits is near a 40-year low - evidence that layoffs are scarce and most Americans are enjoying strong job security. Blake Zalcberg, president of OFM, a furniture manufacturer in Raleigh, North Carolina, hopes to add nine employees to his 58-person company, including graphic artists, photographers and sales staff. He expects sales to grow by a third next year.

"It's a fairly robust furniture market," he said.

PAY FINALLY ACCELERATING

With the unemployment rate down to 4.9 percent from a peak of 10 percent in 2009, businesses have been forced to compete harder for new employees. That's giving workers more bargaining power when they seek new jobs and finally boosting pay. Average hourly wages grew 2.8 percent in October from a year earlier - the fastest 12-month pace in seven years. Still, historically speaking, that's not great. Wages typically rise at about 3.5 percent each year in a healthy economy.

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS

Steady hiring and modest pay increases have emboldened more Americans to buy high-cost items like new cars. Auto sales are running near last year's record pace of more than 17 million vehicles. Yet caution still reigns: Americans' spending grew just 2.1 percent in the July-August quarter, down from a much healthier 4.3 percent in the previous three months.

HOUSING HAS NEARLY RECOVERED

The bursting of the last decade's housing bubble wiped out trillions in household wealth, cost more than 5 million Americans their homes and triggered the Great Recession. Yet the home market has mostly recovered, with nationwide average purchase prices just 7 percent below their 2006 peaks. Greater home values have helped many families recoup some of their lost wealth. Sales of existing homes have

plateaued this year at a nearly healthy level of about 5.4 million.

Doug Duncan, chief economist at Fannie Mae, foresees sales growth slowing next year. But younger Americans are increasingly likely to buy homes, suggesting that millennials are tiring of living in apartments - or in their parents' basements - and are starting to move out.

BUSINESSES HOLDING BACK

Companies with optimistic outlooks typically spend more on computers, machinery and other equipment to keep up with demand. Instead, in recent months the opposite has happened: Business investment in new equipment has fallen for four straight quarters. Some of that pullback occurred because oil drillers slashed spending on steel pipe and other gear in response to sharply lower oil prices. But many companies are also likely holding off on new spending until after the election, when potential economic policy changes will be clearer.

WEAK WORKER PRODUCTIVITY

The US economy has failed to grow much more efficient. Since the recession began in 2007, productivity - or output per hour of work - has grown at less than one-third the annual pace it did from 2000 through 2007. Rising productivity is vital to raising living standards, because it enables companies to raise pay without raising prices.

Economists blame a range of factors for the slowdown: Americans are starting fewer new companies, which tend to be quicker to adopt new technologies. And weaker investment in roads, ports and other infrastructure has slowed shipping and commuting times.

MANY STILL LEFT BEHIND

Millions of Americans haven't benefited from the consistent hiring of the past several years. Middle-income jobs in manufacturing and office work were permanently lost in the recession and have been replaced by lower-paying work in retail and fast food. Many of the unemployed have given up looking for work and are no longer counted as unemployed.

Nicholas Eberstadt, author of a new book, "Men Without Work," notes that this has been a long-term phenomenon. For every unemployed man ages 25 through 54, three others are neither working nor looking for work. That ratio has doubled since 1990. — AP



Behbehani team



2017-GMC-Acadia-Denali



2017-GMC-Acadia-All-Terrain

BEHBEHANI DEBUTS THE ALL-NEW 2017 GMC ACADIA IN KUWAIT

EPIC LAUNCH CEREMONY AT GMC SHOWROOM

KUWAIT: The all-new 2017 Acadia - designed to offer great versatility and refinement, with more advanced safety technologies -available for sale in Kuwait GMC showrooms, starting from KD10,999.

Over an exclusive launching event, GMC's official dealer in Kuwait - Mohammed Saleh & Reda Yousuf Behbehani - unveiled Acadia's all-new model lineup, featuring the Acadia SLE & SLT, Acadia Denali and All Terrain at the main GMC Showroom located in Al-Rai Area (Mohamad Bin Al Qassem St.). The event saw an impressive attendance of customers, corporate clients, and representatives of the press, as well as members of General Motors' senior management who travelled to Kuwait specifically to attend the unveiling.

During the occasion, Adel Behbehani, CEO of GMC Behbehani remarked that it was a true pleasure unveiling the all-new generation of the GMC Acadia 2017. He also added, "The new features include the first V6 Engine within its class to offer cylinder de-activation for better fuel efficiency, in addition to industry-first rear seat reminder and Apple Car Play as a standard, along with foot-activated liftgate technology (Available in Denali) and for the first time the all-new 2017 GMC Acadia All Terrain improved with advanced sports features and designed for 5 seating passengers designed with tremendous versatility, refinement and safety technologies with enhanced off-road capability. It's a vehicle that delivers the functionality Acadia is known for, while also providing features to help you go wherever your journey takes you. Furthermore, luxury

and technology are the main features of the all-new GMC Acadia 2017 which can be clearly seen on the exterior advanced smooth appearance of the car where you will definitely feel the luxurious and sophisticated features of the elegant and comfortable interior cabin."

Compelling package

The all-new GMC 2017 Acadia - which comes packed with an expanded range of available active safety features and new 310 HP 3.6L V6 powertrain - offers buyers a truly compelling package.

The 2017 GMC Acadia lineup is on sale across showrooms in Kuwait - starting from 10,999 Kuwaiti Dinars, Acadia SLE and SLT come standard with a three-year/60,000 kilometers scheduled service package while Acadia Denali benefits from a four-year/80,000 Kilometers schedule service package. All trims are complemented by a three-year/60,000 kilometers manufacturer warranty, as well as four years of 24/7 Roadside Assistance.

The strategic re-scoping of the 2017 Acadia - which comes in four distinct trim levels that include SLE, SLT, Denali and All Terrain - offers customers a midsize crossover positioned between the compact Terrain and full-size Yukon. Depending on the model, it is available with five-, six- or seven-passenger seating, while offering greater maneuverability and enhanced driving dynamics over the first-generation model.

The new Acadia is 318 Kilograms lighter than the outgoing model, which pays dividends with fuel efficiency.

Active safety features

A new standard 3.6L V-6 engine is more powerful and efficient, while offering over 1800 Kilograms of estimated trailering capability (with the available towing package). It delivers 310 horsepower and 9.41 L/100km highway (FWD models). In addition, the Acadia's new engines feature direct injection, variable valve timing, and active fuel management. The new V6 is paired with a six-speed automatic transmission and an electronically controlled drive mode selector.

As a contemporary crossover designed for families on the go, the 2017 Acadia offers the latest active safety features to protect them, as well as the latest technologies to keep them connected as the 2017 Acadia is equipped with easy to use Apple Car Play system as a standard. The active safety features - such as Front Pedestrian Braking and Surround Vision Camera - are designed to help make drivers more aware of their surroundings and potential crash situations. With this in mind, the vehicle is also equipped with a new, standard rear seat alert that can remind the driver when an item may have been left in the second- and third-row seats which is the industry-first rear seat reminder along with foot-activated lift-gate system.

Bold design

Built on a new, lighter body structure, the 2017 Acadia is completely redesigned to strike at the heart of the Medium SUV market. It will offer GMC customers a bold design that inspires confidence, a finely crafted interior



Adel Behbehani and Mohsen Qassem.

and segment leading specification and the capability that the GMC legacy is built on.

On the occasion of the all-new GMC Acadia 2017 Launch, Mohammed Saleh & Reda Yousuf Behbehani, offers its valued customers a range

of free gifts and services such as 10 years warranty or 500,000 KM (whichever comes first), 5 years maintenance or 60,000 KM (whichever comes first), in addition to window tenting, registration and third party insurance.



General Motors delegates and Behbehani managers.





Olga Marchenkova from the Bolshoi Ballet warms up for her performance.



Katherine Jenkins and dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet perform at 40,000 feet.



SURPRISE PERFORMANCE ON BA'S BOEING 787-9 DREAMLINER DANCERS FROM BOLSHOI BALLET AND SUPERSTAR KATHERINE JENKINS PERFORM IN THE SKY

KUWAIT: Dancers from the internationally renowned Bolshoi Ballet and classical superstar Katherine Jenkins staged the world's first ballet and musical performance in the air, to celebrate the launch of British Airways' Dreamliner flights from London Heathrow to Moscow, Russia.

Lucky passengers on the inaugural flight of the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner were taken to new heights with an incredible, surprise performance by Artemy Belyakov and Olga Marchenkova, stars from the legendary Bolshoi Theatre of Russia.

The dancers were accompanied by one of

Britain's favourite singers, Welsh Mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins OBE, who gave a spine-tingling rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

Artemy Belyakov, the leading soloist from the Bolshoi Theatre, said: "We are honored to be a part of this very first flight to Moscow and unite the heart and soul of classical Russian culture with an iconic British brand such as British Airways in this performance on board. We loved the creative challenge of using the new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner as our stage, and the experience was as memorable for us as it was for the audience".

"Being a part of the oldest ballet theatre in the world, dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet have performed in some incredible places over the past 240 years - but ballet in the sky takes it to a whole new level! I enjoyed that experience!" - adds Olga Marchenkova, ballet dancer from The Bolshoi.

Speaking after the performance, Katherine Jenkins said: "Such fun to be invited to perform for the first time at 41,000 feet 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' en route to Moscow on board BA's new Dreamliner! I have always been excited to sing in Russia due to its deep and rich history in the arts, and perform-

ing alongside dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet was a very special experience for me."

Dancers from The Bolshoi Ballet and Katherine Jenkins were joined by Galina Karzova, British Airways' Commercial Manager for Russia. Galina Karzova commented: "This launch is a huge step for British Airways, and reinforces our continued commitment to our London to Moscow service. The introduction of the new First cabin on the route means customers can travel in unrivalled luxury and style."

The new First cabin is a first for British Airways' B787 fleet, with just eight seats in

comparison to the 14 seats available on other British Airways long-haul aircraft, offering customers even greater exclusivity and privacy.

The 787-9 flight into Moscow operates weekly from November 1, 2016, increasing to twice-weekly from January 3, 2017. To celebrate the launch, a return fare in World Traveller starts from £168.00 per person, for bookings made before November 10, 2016.

British Airways' first 787-9s started flying in October 2015. There are currently 14 787-9s in service, on routes between London Heathrow and Austin, Boston, San Jose (California), Shanghai and Narita (Japan), amongst others.



LULU GROUP LAUNCHES OPERATIONS IN USA

OPENS FOOD PROCESSING AND LOGISTICS CENTER IN NEW JERSEY

LYNDHURST, New Jersey: Lulu Group International, the Abu Dhabi headquartered retail and hospitality group further expanded their operations by inaugurating their food processing and logistics bases in USA. Y International, a wholly owned subsidiary of the group launched its operation in Lyndhurst, New Jersey this morning.

The world-class export center will purchase, process, re-label and export food, non-food, chilled and frozen products made in the US. In the first phase there are 75 employees which is expected to eventually grow to 200 to 250 employees within 1 year.

The facility was formally inaugurated jointly by Mayor Robert B. Giangeruso, Mayor Michael J. McPartland and Vinai Thummalapally, the Executive Director of Select USA in the presence of Yusuf Ali MA - Chairman, Saifee Rupawala, CEO, Ashraf Ali MA - Executive Director and Mohd. Althaf - Director of LULU Group. Attendees at the ribbon cutting, including local and foreign officials as well as members of the Indian-American business community from around the country, were thrilled by the impact the company can have throughout the state.

In his remarks Yusuf Ali MA thanked the officials of

Select USA, Choose New Jersey and state and county officials for their great support in helping LULU launch their maiden venture in USA. "Our group has been importing US products for a long time to cater to more than 700,000 shoppers who come to our 131 hypermarkets daily," Yusuf Ali added highlighting the long-standing relationships between Lulu and farmers and manufacturers in the country, with a special emphasis on California. "There has been growing demand for US products throughout our retail chain stores, across the GCC, India and Far East," he concluded.

Speaking to media during the ceremony Choose New Jersey CEO and President Michele Brown said "In addition to bringing new jobs to our state, Y International's export center will give New Jersey and US manufacturers the opportunity to reach new markets in the Middle East and beyond."

"Y International USA's decision to establish their first export distribution center in the United States offers the company exciting new opportunities in the world's largest consumer market, as well as enhanced access to hundreds of millions of global consumers," said Vinai Thummalapally, executive director, SelectUSA. "We look forward to working closely with all parties as the investment progresses - and extend our warmest congratulations to Lulu Group International, Choose New Jersey, and the community of Lyndhurst."

The US\$ 6.6 billion turnover Lulu Group operates hypermarkets, supermarkets and shopping malls, in addition to wholesale distribution, food processing and hospitality with operations in 37 countries, including the GCC, India and Far East. The company has a 32 percent market share in the Middle East.

Brown said New Jersey is a perfect fit "Our state is so diverse; we have populations from so many different countries," she said. "We felt they would feel both welcome and at home. The business they will be conducting out of this site is meeting American companies to buy goods and products to then export to their own consumer base," she said. "We have literally thousands of companies in food in New Jersey."

New Jersey, Brown said, is also home to companies in the apparel and consumer goods industries, which could serve the needs of the company's Hypermarkets. As per the latest report by Deloitte International, LULU is ranked among the Top 10 fastest-growing retailers in the world.



NBK OFFERS CUSTOMERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY PROPERTY IN UAE

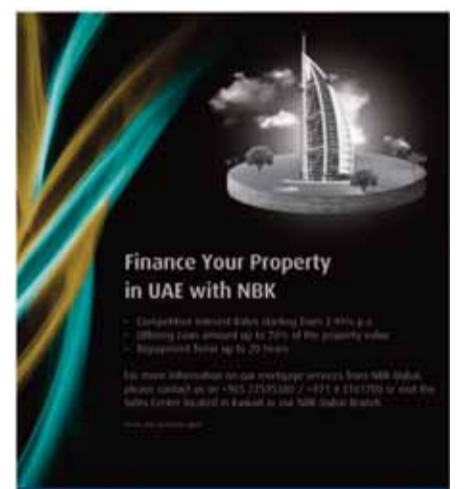
KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) offers its opportunities to customers to buy a property in UAE a new mortgage services, financing up to 70 percent of the property value.

"In a simple and straight forward procedure, our customers can easily apply for a mortgage at any NBK branch in Kuwait or UAE," said NBK UAE General Manager Tareq Al-Mudhaf. "We finance up to 70 percent of the property value with the possibility of prepayment up to 20 years at competitive interest rates starting from 3.99 percent p.a. We also help our customers value, insure and register their properties."

NBK UAE General Manager added: NBK provides high quality services and diverse products. We encourage our customers to take advantage of this opportunity. NBK has established a dedicated Service Center, in Kuwait, to assist its customers with their mortgage finance applications and all their overseas banking needs. The Center is located in Ras Al-Salmiya branch-Kuwait.

NBK has the largest international network between all banks in Kuwait, providing customers with the best investment opportunities and services. NBK's international network consists of many of the world's leading financial centers including London, New York, Paris, Singapore, as well as China (Shanghai). Meanwhile, regional coverage extends to Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Turkey.

NBK offers customers complete banking solu-



Finance Your Property in UAE with NBK

providing them with the freedom to manage their finances easily, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via NBK's Mobile Banking application, Watani Online (www.nbk.com) or Hala Watani on 1801801.

For more information on our mortgage services from NBK-Dubai, please contact us on +965 22595380 / +971 4 3161700, visit the Sales Center located in Kuwait, or our NBK-Dubai Branch.

AL-MAZAYA HOLDING'S OPERATING INCOME GROWS TO KD42.53 MILLION

KUWAIT: Al-Mazaya Holding (KSCP) announced its financial results for the third quarter of 2016. The company achieved a net profit of KD 6.84 million in the third quarter, compared to KD 6.73 million in the corresponding period in 2015. Earnings per share reached KD 11.01 fils, compared to KD10.86 fils in the Q3 of 2015.

Speaking after the board meeting that was held recently in the presence of members of the board of directors, Eng Ibrahim Al-Soqabi, Group CEO of Al-Mazaya Holding, said: "Al-Mazaya Holding has achieved a new growth in its financial results in the third quarter of 2016, thanks to its remarkable performance and feasible achievements. The results are attributed to the success in meeting the well-formulated target for 2016. The company was able to follow the schedules precisely and efficiently, boosting the process of sale, lease and delivery and increasing the operating income by 9.15 percent to KD 42.53 million by the end of the Q3 of 2016. This is in comparison to KD 38.97 million during the same period in 2015." He stressed that the big jump in revenues was due to strong marketing campaigns and the huge revenues generated from sales increased by 7.86 percent to KD 36.92 million, compared to KD 34.23 million in Q3 2015. Revenues generated from leasing activities grew by 15.98 percent to KD 5.42 million, up from KD 4.67 million in the corresponding period last year. Other revenues generated from project management activities were KD197.12 thousands, a 193.94% up as compared to the KD 67.06 thousands achieved in the same period last year.

Al-Soqabi said: "The financial results are the outcome of the operation activities of Al-Mazaya and its rental revenues from many projects such as Al Olia Tower, a project located in Riyadh, KSA and owned by one of Al-Mazaya subsidiaries. Al-Olia Tower is 70 percent occupied, and Al-Mazaya has included it in its portfolio of income-generating projects. In addition, there is the 80 percent completed Al-Mazaya Logistics in Bahrain. The company continued to generate high rental revenues from its 100 percent occupied projects such as Al-Mazaya Towers, Clover Medical Tower

and 85 percent in Al-Maathar Towers and 96 percent in Sky Gardeners owned by one of Al-Mazaya's subsidiaries".

Financial results:

With regard to the Al-Mazaya's financial results in the third quarter of 2016, Al Soqabi said: "Al-Mazaya was able to maintain growth in its operational performance in the third quarter of 2016, achieving net profits in line with well formulated targets".

Furthermore, he added that the gross assets totaled to KD 228.18 million in Q3 2016, as compared to the KD263.85 million achieved in the same period in 2015. The decrease in gross assets was due to the handover of Q-Point units, which were included in the income statement for the period ending September 30, 2016. Shareholders' equity amounted to KD117.07 million in Q3 2016, a 9.05 percent growth as compared to KD107.36 million in Q3 2015.

He clarified that the total liabilities decreased to KD 111.11 million, down by 29.00 percent as compared to the KD156.50 million in 2016. He said that the long term liabilities have decreased by 11.00 percent from KD 78.12 million to KD 69.52 million, while the long term liabilities have decreased by 46.94 percent from KD 78.38 million to KD 41.58 million. He attributed this decrease mainly to the transfer of the advance payments received from customers to revenue after they received their residential units.

In conclusion, Al-Soqabi noted that Al-Mazaya is currently studying many investment opportunities in the local and international markets. The company regularly monitors the rapid developments in the financial and international markets and the impacts on the region's real estate market to examine the impacts on its existing and underway projects, enabling the company to make informed decisions regarding its entry in new ventures. He underlined that the company's growth in these markets will entail many strategic partnerships and joint ventures with elite investors to achieve the highest returns that serve the interest of the company and investors alike.



Eng Ibrahim Al-Soqabi

STUDY FINDS GENE MARKERS FOR DRUG-RESISTANT MALARIA IN CAMBODIA

LONDON: Scientists have discovered genetic markers in malaria parasites linked to resistance to the key anti-malarial medicine piperazine, and say their work could help doctors and health officials monitor and limit the spread of such resistance.

In research published in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal, the team also said a simple test using blood taken from a finger prick could show whether a malaria patient has parasites with the genetic markers - allowing doctors to prescribe an alternative treatment.

Resistance to piperazine recently emerged in Cambodia and has led to the complete failure of malaria treatment there. This and other spreading

areas of drug-resistance are threatening global efforts to eliminate the mosquito-borne disease.

Powerful

Piperazine is a powerful drug which is used in many parts of the world in combination with another anti-malarial drug called artemisinin. Resistance to artemisinin emerged around seven years ago in Southeast Asia, but until recently the combination of the two drugs had successfully killed the malaria parasites there. Now, however, the emergence of piperazine resistance in Cambodia has led to treatment failing altogether.

"These malaria parasites are now resistant to both drugs, and since they are no longer being

killed, resistance to both drugs will spread," said Roberto Amato, who co-lead the research at Britain's Sanger Institute.

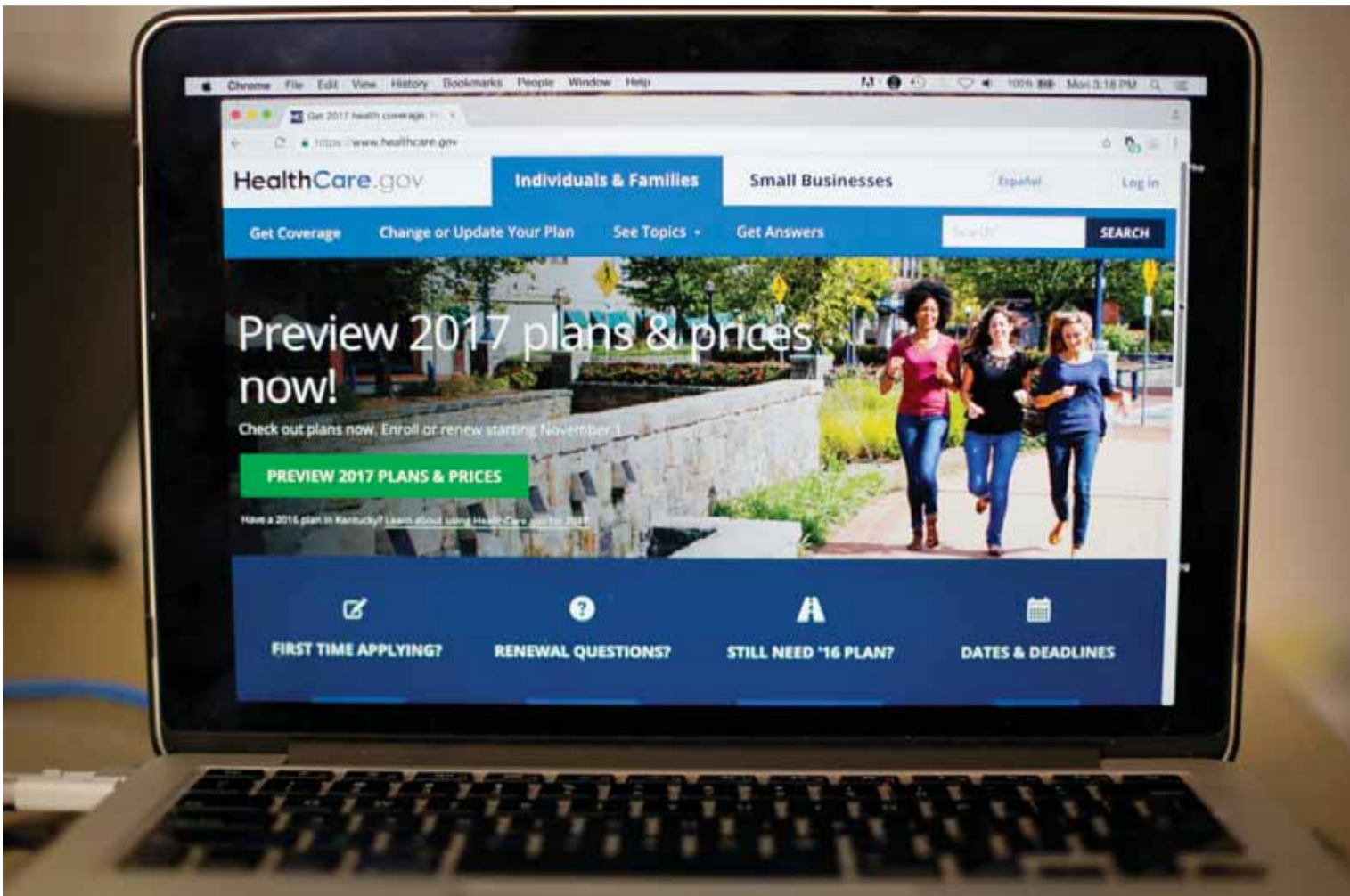
According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 200 million people worldwide were infected with malaria in 2015, and nearly half a million people died from the disease. The vast majority of those killed by it are children under five.

Malaria is treatable if it is caught early, but growing drug resistance is becoming a major problem in many areas. For this study, Amato's team worked with Rick Fairhurst, a professor at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the United States National Institute of Health, and carried out what is known as a

genome-wide association study to look at the genetic basis behind piperazine resistance.

They looked at around 300 samples from Cambodia, analyzing thousands of variations in the DNA sequence of the parasites and comparing these across samples with different levels of resistance to piperazine.

"By studying the genomes of these parasites we found two genetic markers that are linked with piperazine resistance," Amato said. "Not only can we now use these markers to monitor the spread of the drug resistant malaria, they will also help towards understanding as much as possible about the biology and evolution of the (malaria) parasite." — Reuters



WASHINGTON: In this Oct. 24, 2016 file photo, the HealthCare.gov 2017 web site home page is seen on a laptop. — AP

PROGRESS REDUCING UNINSURED RATE THREATENS TO STALL

UNINSURED RATE IS 8.9 PERCENT

WASHINGTON: With deep divisions over President Barack Obama's health care law reappearing in the election's final days, a government report shows that progress in reducing the number of uninsured Americans has slowed to a crawl.

The study released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests the 2010 law may be reaching a limit to its effectiveness. The CDC said the number of uninsured people dipped by only 200,000 between 2015 and the first six months of this year, which it called "a no significant difference." The findings come from the National Health Interview Survey, which has queried more than 48,000 people so far this year.

While the Affordable Care Act has reduced the number of Americans without health insurance to historically low levels, continued progress threatens to stall this year amid enduring political disagreement over the government's role in guaranteeing coverage. "It has got to be close to tapped out," said Dan Witters, director of a major private survey that also follows the health care law, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

The CDC study found that during 2015, an estimated 28.6 million US residents were uninsured. The corresponding number through the first six months of 2016 was 28.4 million.

Alarming numbers

The sobering numbers come as the administration seeks to whip up enthusiasm for the 2017 sign-up season, which started this week

and runs through Jan. 31. The White House would like to hit a high note on health care to close out Obama's tenure.

But premiums are going up significantly in HealthCare.gov's subsidized markets, and consumer choice is down with fewer insurers participating. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell has set a goal of enrolling about 1 million more customers for 2017, but outside experts say that's going to be a challenge. The next president will inherit a program still in search of stability.

Republican Donald Trump would pull the plug on "Obamacare," promising to start over. Democrat Hillary Clinton has a list of ideas for making insurance more affordable and covering more people, but as president she'd need willing Republican partners in Congress and the states.

The new survey offers a hint that the nation's historic coverage expansion may have actually gone into reverse during part of this year. An earlier CDC report covering just the first three months of this year found that the number of uninsured had been even lower, an estimated 27.3 million people - or a million fewer than the six-month figure in the latest report.

Witters said that means it's likely that the period from April through June saw an increase in the number of people without health insurance. "It's edged up," he said. "These trends always ebb and flow." The CDC's Emily Zammit, lead author of the report, said the study was more of a snapshot than a trend line of progress on the uninsured. "Whether it's plateauing or not ... we can't determine that," she said.

Rate

The uninsured rate is 8.9 percent in the latest CDC report, a few notches higher than 8.6 percent in the earlier study. The Obama administration said it's betting that the 2017 sign-up season will see more progress. "We're feeling really good that it continues to appear that the uninsured rate is below 9 percent this year," HHS spokeswoman Marjorie Connolly said.

Another notable finding from Thursday's report is that the share of Americans in high-deductible health insurance plans keeps increasing. That may help explain widespread anxiety about affordability at a time when overall health care spending is growing at a moderate pace.

The CDC survey defines high-deductible coverage as insurance that requires patients to pay at least the first \$1,300 of annual medical expenses for an individual plan, or \$2,600 for a family. In the first six months of this year, 38.8 percent of persons under age 65 were in high-deductible plans, an increase from 36.7 percent in all of 2015, the survey found.

Employers started shifting workers and their families to high-deductible plans before Obama took office, and now that's becoming the norm. Many people are unhappy with the change, and some public-opinion experts say that helps explain the continued low ratings for Obama's health overhaul, even if it was not the cause.

Clinton has proposed a new tax credit for people with high out-of-pocket medical costs, while Trump wants to promote interstate competition among insurers. — AP

SOME IMMUNE-BOOSTING CANCER DRUGS MAY POSE RARE HEART RISKS

NEW YORK: Doctors have found a disturbing downside to some powerful new drugs that harness the immune system to fight cancer: In rare cases, they may cause potentially fatal heart damage, especially when used together. "The problem is, no one has this on their radar," so patients are not routinely checked for it, said Dr. Javid Moslehi, head of a Vanderbilt University clinic specializing in heart risks from cancer therapies.

He led a report Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine* describing two patients who died of heart trouble two weeks after receiving their first doses of two Bristol-Myers Squibb drugs, Opdivo and Yervoy, for the deadly skin cancer melanoma. Two similar drugs also are on the market, and the study leaders believe they might pose heart risks, too. "My sense is that this is a class effect, not limited to one drug," Moslehi said.

The risks do not negate the huge benefits of these relatively new types of drugs, doctors stress. Called checkpoint inhibitors, they have transformed treatment of several types of cancer by helping the immune system see and attack tumors.

Attacking muscles along with tumor

In rare cases, the immune system seems to attack not only the tumor but also the heart and other muscles, causing dangerous inflammation and heart rhythm problems. Patients need to be told of the risks, monitored closely and treated quickly with medicines to quell the immune response if trouble develops.

Besides melanoma, the Opdivo-Yervoy combination is used to treat some lung cancers, though at different doses. Other checkpoint inhibitors include Genentech's Tecentriq, for bladder cancer, and Merck & Co.'s Keytruda, which former President Jimmy Carter received for melanoma that

spread to his brain. Many more are in testing. There have been occasional, previous reports of heart troubles with these drugs. After the two recent deaths, doctors asked Bristol-Myers to check patient safety records on Opdivo and Yervoy.

As of April, 18 cases of serious heart inflammation were found among 20,594 patients receiving either or both drugs, a rate of 0.09 percent. It was more severe and more common among people on both drugs, affecting 0.27 percent of those patients. Bristol-Myers scientists helped write the journal report, and some other authors consult for the company.

Studies have shown that the drug combination gives a stronger anti-cancer effect than either drug alone, but "we've known this is a double-edged sword" because of the risk of over-stimulating the immune system, said Dr. Jeffrey Sosman of Northwestern University in Chicago, who treated the two patients who died. "The big question is, is there enough advantage to using the combination, which is much more toxic, than a single drug," he said.

That's a larger question facing the cancer field, not just with immune therapies. Some of the newer gene-targeting drugs also have produced major side effects when used in combination. Yet many doctors believe that combos may be the best way to get cancer to go into remission and stay there longer, by shutting down multiple pathways the tumor employs at once.

Dr. Michael Atkins, deputy director of the Georgetown-Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, believes the heart problems with checkpoint inhibitors will turn out to be treatable in most patients. "It just gives us a moment of pause," said Atkins, who led a study that included one of the two patients who died. "This is a rare event ... but it's a particularly serious one." — AP

FDA PANEL NARROWLY BACKS CEMPRA ANTIBIOTIC

WASHINGTON: A panel of federal health advisers has narrowly recommended approval for an experimental antibiotic from Cemptra Inc., a small North Carolina drug maker. The Food and Drug Administration's outside experts voted 7-6 in favor of the drug, saying its effectiveness outweighed risks of liver toxicity seen in company studies. The vote is nonbinding but the FDA often follows the advice of its panelists.

Cemptra is one of a handful of drug makers developing new antibiotics amid growing bacterial resistance to decades-old drugs like penicillin.

On Wednesday Cemptra shares plunged more than 60 percent after the FDA posted an online review highlighting irregular liver enzyme measurements reported with the drug, called solithromycin. Shares rose 3 percent before closing Friday. — AP

PUERTO RICO MAN WHO HAD ZIKA, NEUROLOGICAL PROBLEMS DIES

SAN JUAN: Puerto Rico's health secretary says a man in his 60s who died after developing severe neurological problems had been infected with the Zika virus.

Health Secretary Ana Rius says it is unclear whether the man had a paralysis condition linked to Zika known as Guillain-Barre. Her announcement Friday provided no further details, including the man's name. Four other people infected with Zika

have died in recent months in Puerto Rico, including two who developed complications from Guillain-Barre.

The US territory has recorded 32,740 Zika cases, including 2,516 pregnant women. Last week, officials said a woman infected with Zika became the first on the island to give birth to a baby with microcephaly. Medical experts have linked Zika to severe birth defects. — AP

WHO URGES CURBS ON ONLINE FOOD MARKETING TO CHILDREN

COPENHAGEN: Governments must do more to protect children from sophisticated online methods used to market unhealthy foods to them, the World Health Organization in Europe said in a report released Friday.

By using digital analytics and geo-location data, companies were defining their audience with great precision, enabling them to target the most vulnerable groups of children, the UN agency warned.

And it urged governments to set a minimum legal age of 16 for advertising foods high in fat, salt or sugar. Current regulations about advertising such foods often only apply to non-digital media, or only related to young children and not adolescents, it said. "In digital media, an extensive, highly-complex system of advertising delivery has evolved, through which marketers can access much more specific audiences than in the broadcast era," the report said. "For fast-food brands, geo-location data from mobile devices enable marketers to deliver ads and special offers in real time when users are in the area."

The aim of the industry's digital marketing was to "engage children in

emotional, entertaining experiences and to encourage them to share these experiences with their friends," it said. In the United States, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) limits how much data can be collected from young children, and bans "behavioral advertising" directed at children under 13 without parental notice and consent.

But the agency said the law appeared to be largely ineffective since many parents gave their children permission to play games or join certain sites without realizing the implications of allowing their children's data to be collected.

Social media platforms and marketers have themselves reported that social media marketing amplifies the effects of broadcast marketing.

Establishing a minimum legal age for such advertising must be accompanied by "effective oversight and enforcement by regulatory agencies," it said. "Children's participation in digital media should not be predicated on receiving digital (high fat, sugar or salt food) advertising, nor should it be predicated on 'devolving' consent to parents," it said. — AFP

INDIA'S CAPITAL GRAPPLES WITH TOXIC WINTER AIR POLLUTION

NEW DELHI: Even for a city considered one of the world's most polluted, the Indian capital hit a new low this past week. Air so dirty you can taste and smell it; a gray haze that makes a gentle stroll a serious health hazard.

According to one advocacy group, government data shows that the smog that enveloped New Delhi was the worst in the last 17 years. The concentration of PM2.5, tiny particulate pollution that can clog lungs, averaged close to 700 micrograms per cubic meter. That's 12 times the government norm and a whopping 70 times the WHO standards.

The Delhi winter, once a glorious time of clear - crisp days that meant holidays and weekends spent picnicking in its many public parks - is now a time of annual health woes. As millions struggle with hacking coughs and burning eyes, many schools across the city have either shut down or ended all outdoor activities. Doctors have asked people to stay indoors during the worst days.

No action taken

Yet many of the problems that turn Delhi's air so toxic continue unabated. People still set off massive amounts of festival fireworks, piles of garbage burn all night and dust from the construction projects that dot the city is unchecked. And at the start of every winter, farmers in the states bordering the city begin burning straw

from their rice paddy crop to clear the fields for planting wheat.

"Sources of pollution in Delhi and outside of Delhi have exponentially increased in the last couple of days," said Polish Mukerjee, a research associate with the Centre for Science and Environment, a Delhi-based research and lobbying organization.

He said that wind direction is blowing toward Delhi from all directions, especially from Punjab and Haryana, "where there are large incidences

of crop fires that we are detecting even today."

Over the last two years, the government has tried a slew of measures to control air pollution, including stricter emission norms for cars and a tax on diesel-fueled trucks that enter the city. New Delhi also has attempted to limit the number of cars during the winter months, when air quality is at its worst. Twice the city imposed a two-week period in which cars were allowed on the roads only on even or odd days, depending on the vehicle's license plate number. — AP



NEW DELHI: A thick layer of smog covers Connaught Place yesterday. — AP

SCIENTISTS STUDY IF PAP SMEAR COULD SPOT BIRTH DEFECTS EARLY

WASHINGTON: A simple Pap smear may one day offer a way to screen for birth defects a little earlier in pregnancy than today's prenatal tests.

Women typically get a Pap during early pregnancy, and Wayne State University researchers report Wednesday that they can capture enough fetal DNA from the cells that test extracts to check for genetic abnormalities.

The new study is very small, and much more research is needed. But if the approach eventually pans out, researchers say it might be possible to use as early as five weeks into pregnancy and to detect more disorders noninvasively.

Aside from better known chromosome abnormalities such as Down syndrome, "there are about 6,000 other genetic disorders which we currently have a hard time to assess noninvasively and as early," said Wayne State associate professor Sascha Drewlo, co-author of the study in Science Translational Medicine. He calls defects caused by single gene mutations "the biggest gap" in prenatal testing.

Today's main options are invasive tests - amniocentesis and CVS, or chorionic villus sampling - that analyze a sample of amniotic fluid or placenta tissue. They carry a small risk of miscarriage. Amniocentesis typically is performed around 15 weeks and CVS around 10 weeks.

Noninvasive option

A blood test offers a slightly earlier and noninvasive option by analyzing small amounts of fetal DNA that float in a pregnant woman's bloodstream. Worrysome results are supposed to be verified by an invasive test. Early diagnosis isn't just about deciding whether to go forward with a pregnancy but can

affect prenatal care and what care a baby might need at birth.

It turns out that a small number of cells containing DNA of the forming fetus are shed into a mom-to-be's reproductive tract, where the scrape of a routine Pap can collect them along with the woman's own cervical cells. They're called trophoblasts, cells that start the placenta's growth.

The first challenge is to separate those cells from mom's. The Wayne State team, led by Drewlo and Professor D. Randall Armant, calls its method TRIC, for trophoblast retrieval isolation from the cervix.

They tested the approach in 20 pregnant women who had Paps between 5 weeks and 19 weeks gestation. The researchers reported on Wednesday that they could extract the trophoblasts and accurately map the DNA inside, a step to identifying genetic disorders.

That's not the only potential use. The researchers also are examining whether these cells may offer a warning of brewing problems with the placenta. The work is intriguing but still preliminary, said Dr. Ronald Wapner, a prenatal screening specialist at Columbia University.

Especially this early in pregnancy, "we have to make sure the cells you get are truly representative of what's going on in the fetus," he said, something larger tests could determine.

Dr. Catherine Spong of the National Institutes of Health, which helped fund the study, called the research "really nicely done and helpful to the field," but echoed that caution. The placenta and fetus both originate from the fertilized egg and thus share a genetic profile, but occasionally an abnormality occurs only in the placenta. Spong said as the research continues, it might shed more light on placenta formation. — AP



WARSAW: In this Oct. 3, 2016 file photo a sea of thousands of umbrellas of women and men participating in a nationwide "Black Monday" strike in protest of a legislative proposal for a total ban on abortion. — AP

LAW PUSHES POLISH WOMEN TO HAVE ABORTIONS ABROAD

A SOCIETY DEEPLY DIVIDED OVER ABORTION

PRENZLAU, GERMANY: While the streets of Warsaw have been engulfed by vehement protests over the government's plan to further restrict abortion, individual Polish women are struggling daily to find ways of ending their unwanted pregnancies.

Monika, 19, had recently split up with her boyfriend when she realized with horror that she was pregnant. With no partner, no money and years of education ahead, she felt an abortion was her only option. But abortion in Poland is illegal in most cases and even when she tracked down a doctor rumored to bend the rules, he refused.

So Monika did what many Polish women before her have done - packed a bag, crossed the border into Germany and had an abortion in a place where it is safe and legal. Many have also gone to the Czech Republic, Slovakia or the Netherlands.

"I feel good now," she told The Associated Press from her hospital bed after ending her 7-week pregnancy in Prenzlau, Germany. "I would have had no one to leave the baby with and would not have coped financially. I was not ready to face this."

Division

Poland, like the United States, is a society deeply divided over abortion. The Central European nation has one of the most restrictive laws in Europe and a government loyal to the Catholic church that wants to further restrict abortions. But a recent attempt to impose a total ban on abortion outraged many Polish women who held street protests that forced lawmakers to abandon that idea.

Now the ruling party is pushing for a near-total ban - a move that seems to be creating new support for abortion rights.

Another Polish woman having an abortion in Prenzlau, 22-year-old Ewa, said the recent protests made her aware that abortion was possible abroad. "Other women who wrote on the internet about their experience helped me take

the decision," she said. "I thought it would be worse, but it's OK now. I feel fine." Both women refused to give their full names or hometowns, afraid of being identified and condemned back home in the heavily Catholic nation.

In Poland, abortion is only allowed through the 12th week in cases of rape or incest, if the woman's life or health is in danger or if the fetus is irreparably damaged. Poland had 1,040 legal abortions last year, but experts say the true number of abortions is at about 150,000 per year in the nation of 38 million. Women import banned abortion pills from elsewhere, travel abroad for the procedure or resort to secret, unsafe abortions by non-medical people looking to earn money.

Reproductive rights activists are denouncing the Polish government's plans for an even more restrictive abortion law. The proposed change would also ban abortions in cases of fetuses with genetic defects like Down syndrome or even if they have no chances of survival upon birth. This way the born child can be "baptized, buried (and) have a name," ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski said.

"Conscientious objectors"

In fact, even abortions allowed by law are often denied to women due to a large number of doctors who declare themselves "conscientious objectors." "The current law does not work in practice," said Krystyna Kacpura, the executive director of the Federation for Women and Family Planning. "Women are clever and always find a way to avoid government obstacles. We are in the center of Europe; it's easy to go by train, plane, bus and car to another country."

Karina Walinowicz, a lawyer with Ordo Iuris, a Catholic group that has pushed unsuccessfully for a total abortion ban, said the law plays an important role in teaching people right from wrong. "Abortion is homicide performed on a person at a pre-natal stage when the person is weakest, incapable of defense," Walinowicz said.

A leading polling institute in Warsaw, CBOS,

estimates that at least one in four Polish women have probably had an abortion, but very few will admit to it. Several young men speaking Polish were in the waiting room at Prenzlau hospital, but denied their partners were there for abortions.

Monika was given an appointment within a week of calling Dr. Janusz Rudzinski, a Pole who lives in Germany and heads the hospital's Department of Gynecological Oncology, Special Operating Gynecology and Aesthetic Surgery.

During two hours that he spent with AP reporters, Rudzinski answered at least eight calls in Polish. Each time he assured the caller that abortion is legal in Germany through the 12th week. He said the hospital performs about 20 abortions a week on Polish women. "This is not the most pleasant procedure, but the thing is, that if you have demand for them for some reason or other, then someone must perform them," Rudzinski said, sitting by an ultrasound machine.

In one case, a woman called from Poland's southeastern region of Rzeszow, saying she had tried an abortion on herself using a wire and had a high fever and acute abdominal pain. Rudzinski suspected she was developing life-threatening sepsis and told her to go immediately to a hospital.

Rudzinski also said a network called "the abortion underground" has developed in Poland, so the number of foreign abortions is falling. "Three out of four (illegal) abortions are now done in Poland, but not by doctors. Tailors, shoemakers, artisans are performing them to make money," he said.

Since abortion pills are banned in Poland, Rudzinski said some Polish women take pills for stomach ulcers, which can provoke an abortion but can also damage the fetus' nervous system if the pregnancy continues. Those pills can also be fake. "My patients sometimes tell me they have taken 50 pills, which is an almost lethal dose, but they are doing fine, and the pregnancies are continuing," Rudzinski said. — AP

STUDY LINKS HUMAN ACTIONS TO SPECIFIC ARCTIC SEA ICE MELT

WASHINGTON: Driving a gas-powered car about 90 miles - the distance between New York and Philadelphia - melts about a square foot of Arctic sea ice in the critical month of September, according to a new study that directly links carbon pollution to the amount of ice that's thawing.

At current carbon emission levels, the Arctic will likely be free of sea ice in September around mid-century, which could make weather even more extreme and strand some polar animals, a study published Thursday in the journal Science finds.

The study calculates that for every ton of carbon dioxide put in the air, there's 29 square feet less of sea ice (for every metric ton, there's 3 square meters less) during the crucial month when the Arctic region is least frozen. Using observations, statistics and 30 different computer models, the study authors show heat-trapping gases cause warming and the melting of sea ice in a way that can be translated into a simple mathematical formula.

Clear linear relationship

There's "a very clear linear relationship" between carbon dioxide emissions and sea ice retreat in September, especially at the southern boundary edges, said study lead author Dirk Notz, a climate scientist at Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Germany.

"It's very simple. Those emissions from our tailpipes and our coal-fired power plants are all going into the atmosphere," said study co-author Julienne Stroeve, a climate scientist at both the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, and University College, London. "It just increases the warming at the surface. So the ice is going to respond to that. The only way it can do that is to move further north."

Rutgers University marine scientist Jennifer Francis, who wasn't part of the study, said the link is so clear and direct that "we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Arctic sea ice is disappearing because of increased carbon dioxide."

Stroeve and Notz calculated that the average American each year is responsible for carbon emissions that lead to melting around 538 square feet (50 square meters) of September sea ice. "I've stood on sea ice many times, and the idea that I'm responsible for 500 square feet of its destruction each year is devastating," University of Washington climate scientist Cecilia Bitz, who wasn't part of the study but also praised it, said in an email. "That is the size of my front yard!"

On average, each September, there's about 33,670 square miles (87,200 square kilometers) less Arctic sea ice than the year before, although it varies year to year, according to a 37-year trend line calculated by the National Snow and Ice Data Center. — AP

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LOVE RESTAURANT OPENED ITS THIRD BRANCH IN PHASE 3 LOVE IN THE AVENUES

O rion Holding Co; Kuwait, owned by Abdulaziz al Anezi & Mohammed al Anezi opened their third branch of renowned love restaurant at the Avenues in the Jewelry section on the 27th of October. Within a short span of time, this group is gaining tremendous popularity amongst the mass not only in Kuwait but across the GCC for their unique approach towards modern restaurants. This new restaurant opened its door with a spectacular event attended by celebrities from television industry, dignitaries, social media influencers & media representatives. This event kicked off by a private menu tasting which was

purely on invitation from the owners' office.

Love as they describe "Love at first bite" offers international cuisine with a great emphasis on "made to order" food using finest ingredients handpicked from the market. Their seasoned culinary team describes the food at Love as fast progressive cuisine which will take you through an extravagant journey across the globe. 40 new dishes, mastered over a period of 4 months, have been added to Love existing menu for the grand launch. Some of Love's signatures include Knockout shrimps, Milk fed veal tips, crossfire, brisket hazzleback and the list

goes on & on.

Talking about the new outlet Abdulaziz said "We are super excited to open our third branch in the K town after a successful launch of the same brand at Gate mall & Divone (Abu al Hasania)". He added: "Keeping with our mission to deliver a total dining experience to our guests, we would be adding 2 more locations one in Arraya (sharq) & another one in Sahara-Muroj within a short span of next 3 months as well".

Located in the Avenues phase 3 in the jewelry section, Love is open daily from 12 Pm up to 11 Pm. For reservations please call +965 22200964.



'YUBA' GOURMET LEVEL JAPANESE CUISINE WITH A LOCAL TWIST NOW IN CRYSTAL TOWER

Y uba - the name given to a unique new restaurant created by Mohammed Bseiso; CEO of Gourmania international. A company specialized in bringing us some of the most successful restaurants in Kuwait (such as Fauchon Paris, Burger & Lobster, Cereal Killer, Sakura, etc).

The newest addition to the Gourmania portfolio is Yuba. A high level Japanese gourmet sushi and robata grill bar infused with a local twist of flavors and ingredients from Kuwait and the region. A truly unique experience awaits its patrons as even though we have tens of Japanese restaurants; none have aquariums with live seafood and none have a culinary "sushi tour"; having the chef take you on a culinary journey experiencing and learning things you never knew about these Japanese delicacies.

"Quality is the focus of the concept" says MB; "I personally admire Japanese cuisine because of its

focus on quality and its simplicity. However due to high costs or difficulty in sourcing, there are many dishes you never find in Kuwait. This is why I always look forward to visiting Japanese restaurants when I'm abroad, where these items are usually available. A concept like Yuba will bring the experiences of abroad right to your doorstep."

Apart from the high quality ingredients, Yuba prides itself in being able to create a unique balance of flavours between the Arabian and the Japanese cuisine in some of its signature dishes. You even have the option of having your sushi and rolls using Japanese quzi style rice. "I knew what I wanted as the end result, however I didn't expect to find the many challenges in trying to add the local flare into the dishes, as keeping the integrity of these 2 great cuisines whilst having them uplift and complement one another was quite challenging," added MB.



GREAT EDUCATION, GREATER CAREERS - STUDY IN CANADA

G links International Consultancy (www.glinks-group.com) after last year's remarkable success returns to Kuwait to help those parents who want their children to Study in Canada.

Attend Canadian Education Information Session on 7th November (Monday) from 11am to 5pm at Hotel Ibis Salmiya, Salem Al Mubarak Street, Salmiya, Kuwait and meet International Student Recruitment Specialist.

Canada regularly ranks among the top 10 countries in the United Nations Quality of Life Index. Canada's universities are among the world's best and its educational institutions have long been incubators for innovation. The BlackBerry, flat screen technology, SMART boards, voice compression applications for cell phones and computers, and IMAX film are among the many revolutionary technologies invented and developed by men and women who studied in Canada.

Research and development at universities in Canada is conducted at one of the highest rates among G8 countries. A degree from Canada gives students the qualifications to be internationally successful after graduation.

Glinks is here to help you in deciding the right pathway for your child's education. Students studying in Grade 7th onwards may visit with their parents. Discover the immense opportunities of studies, work and settlement in Canada.

WIN ELECTRONIC ITEMS IN INDIA, LATEST OFFER FROM AL MULLA EXCHANGE

A l Mulla Exchange Company is initiating a unique promotion for the Indian community to let them enjoy wonderful prizes back home. The promotion, starting from 06th November 2016 to 29th January 2017, will give customers transacting to India a chance to win LED TVs, refrigerators, washing machines and electronic items of their choice delivered at their home address in India.

One winner will be chosen every week through an electronic draw, and the prizes will be delivered to the customers' address in India through their strategic partner and

leading electronic store Reliance Digital. There will be a total of 12 lucky winners.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Rakesh Joshi, General Manager, Al Mulla Exchange, said this is the first time ever that a winner will receive the prizes delivered in India. Explaining the prizes, Mr. Joshi said the Indian community is an important part of our customer base and the latest promotional initiative is part of an ongoing scheme aimed at rewarding our customers from Indian community. We are also running other promotions for the Philippines and the

Jordanian communities in Kuwait.

Al Mulla Exchange has a reputation for running exceptional promotions to not only achieve business objectives, but also as a token of gratitude to the customers. The company has been recording tremendous success in Kuwait, with a growing number of branches across the length and breadth of the country. "We look at our growth as the result of the trust and support that our customers have given us, and are extremely indebted to them. This is our way of sharing a part of our success and happiness with them for their lasting loyalty."



HILTON KUWAIT RESORT HOSTS THIRD OPEN DAY AND RUN FOR HILTON CLUB MEMBERS

For the third consecutive year, Hilton Kuwait Resort hosted a Hilton Club Member's open day and run filled with a range of fun outdoors activities.

The open day was held in the hotel's beach, where various different entertainments awaited members, their families, and friends. Guests had the opportunity to try out beach yoga, Zumba, aerobics and spinning along with other exciting activities, while a magician amused the younger ones with stunts and tricks.

Members were also invited to join in the "Hilton Members Run" for a 3.5km race around the hotel between the resort's stunning gardens and beaches. To add to the fun, winners and participants of the run were rewarded with exciting prizes.

In between the wide array of activities, guests were able to take a break and treat themselves with Hilton's delicious food and beverages.

"We are delighted to have hosted this event for the third year, as it gives us the chance to give our Hilton Club Members and their families a really fun day out at our property and reward them for their participation," said Ziad Tantawi, General Manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort.

The event was sponsored by Refreshment Trading Company - Coca Cola Kuwait Habchi & Chalhoub Company and Be organic. The companies distributed valuable gifts to the winners of both the adult and children competitions and as part of the raffle draw.



KNPC CEO PRESENTS NSH THE EXCELLENT CSR AWARD

NSH has been honored with the first Excellent CSR Award for its humanitarian services. In a glittering function conducted by TEF during the first excellent engineering awards ceremony in Radisson Blu Hotel, NSH's HR Manager Pani J Anthony received the award from Mohammed Ghazi Al Mutairi, KNPC's CEO. Who appreciated the MNC's efforts including the programs, UN International day against drugs abuse for the youngsters, UNESCO's International Literacy Day, and national level

events for the student community. NSH Global Village Harmony is registered with the Indian Embassy in Kuwait. The Deputy Chief of Mission of Indian Embassy in Kuwait Shubashis Goldar appreciated the yeomen services rendered by NSH. Pani was accompanied by the vice president of NSH Global Village Harmony D. Harikumar. The moral support from the Managing Director Dr Ravi Pillai, Country Manager Sabu and colleagues played a helping hand, Pani J Anthony said.

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS ASSOCIATES WITH KUWAIT BLOOD BANK TO CONDUCT FREE BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the leading jewellery group with 159 retail outlets globally is organizing a free blood donation drive in association with Kuwait Blood Bank on 6th November, 2016 from 9 am to 1 pm at Lulu Hypermarket, Dajeej, Kuwait.

According to WHO, the need for blood is rising in all parts of the world and someone in the world needs blood every second. One donation can help to save the lives of up to 3 people. The main objective of this initiative is to raise awareness among the residents in Kuwait about the importance of blood donation and to encourage maximum people to donate blood, with the support of Kuwait Blood Bank.

The unit will be equipped with 4 stations with a maximum capacity to store blood from 150 people out of which 50 employees will be from Malabar Gold & Diamonds who would donate

blood on a voluntary basis. Public can be a part of this noble initiative and blood can be donated only after preliminary health screening. Any healthy adult male or female between the age of 18-65 years, whose body weight is at least 50 kg and is not under medical treatment for any diseases can be a donor. Blood donation not only saves life, but it also improves the health of the donor.

Aiming to ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to everyone, especially to those who cannot afford expensive medical care; Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been conducting several such health check-up & blood donation camps in different parts of the Middle East & Far East in association with like-minded organizations as a part of their CSR activities.

"I request all media to communicate about the blood donation drive to the public so that more people are aware of it. We thank

Kuwait Blood Bank for associating with us for this noble cause, said Mr. Shamlal Ahamed MP, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

The group supports many philanthropic activities and is always ready to take initiatives to help the deprived section in the society. The key focus areas of the CSR initiatives of Malabar Group are in the areas of Health, Education, Women Empowerment, Housing and Environment. The group, which currently has showrooms across GCC, India, Malaysia and Singapore undertakes several welfare activities with the association of like-minded organizations in the respective regions. The organization ensures that a fixed percentage of its net profit is used for CSR activities every year and the charity projects of Malabar Gold & Diamonds have touched the lives of thousands of people.



- 04:25 Deadliest Place On Earth
05:15 Mermaids: The New Evidence
06:02 Hunt For Hogzilla
06:49 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger

03:05 David Spade: My Fake Problems



- 04:15 Jungle Gold
05:05 Jungle Gold
06:00 Jungle Gold
07:00 Deadliest Catch



- 04:00 USA Memory Championships
04:48 How Do They Do It?
05:12 How Do They Do It?
05:36 How Do They Do It?



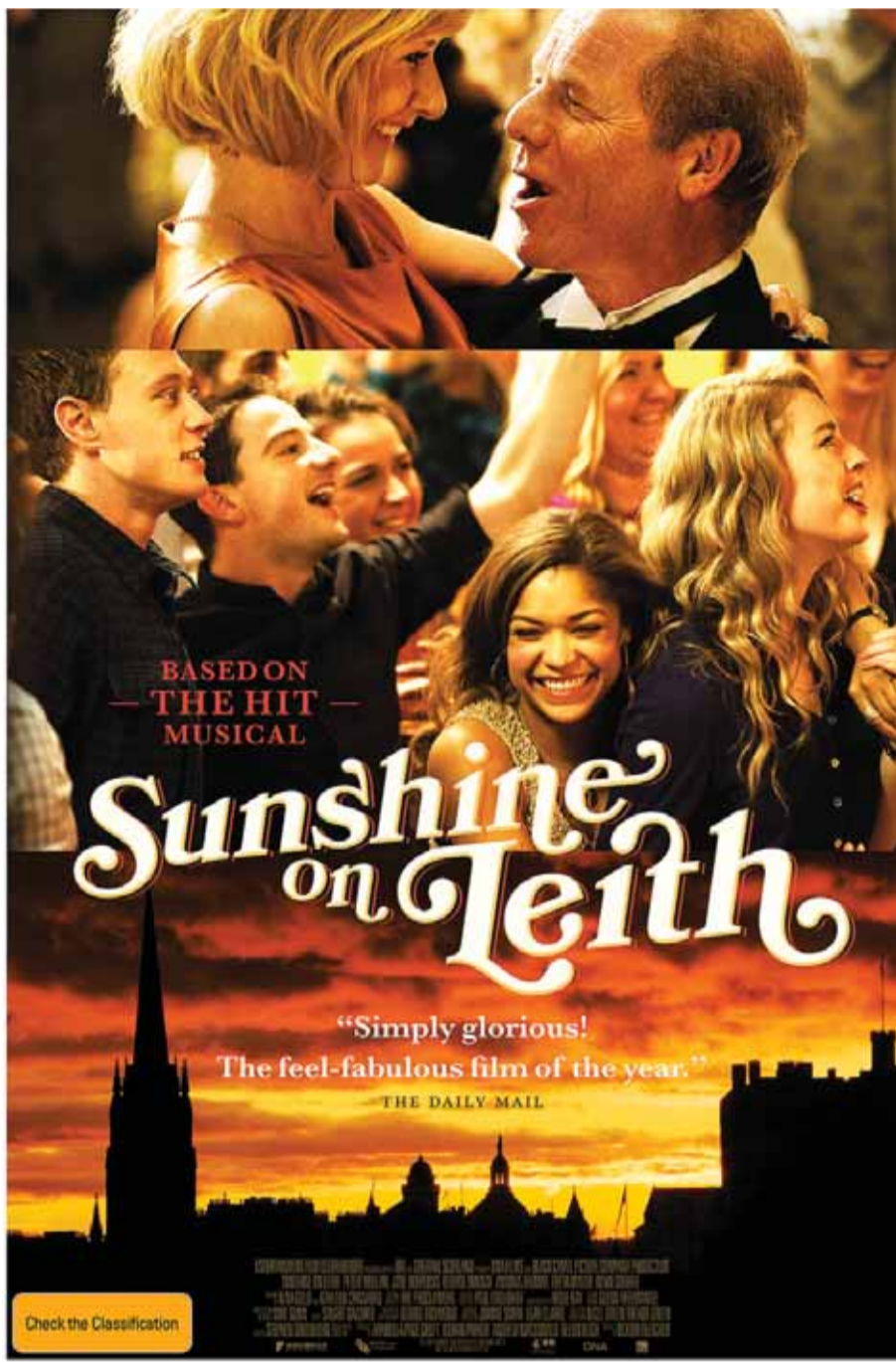
- 04:15 Death In Paradise
05:10 Doctors
05:40 Eastenders
06:10 The Coroner



- 04:00 Storm Chasers
04:50 Ultimate Survival
05:40 Ultimate Survival
06:30 Ultimate Survival



- 04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

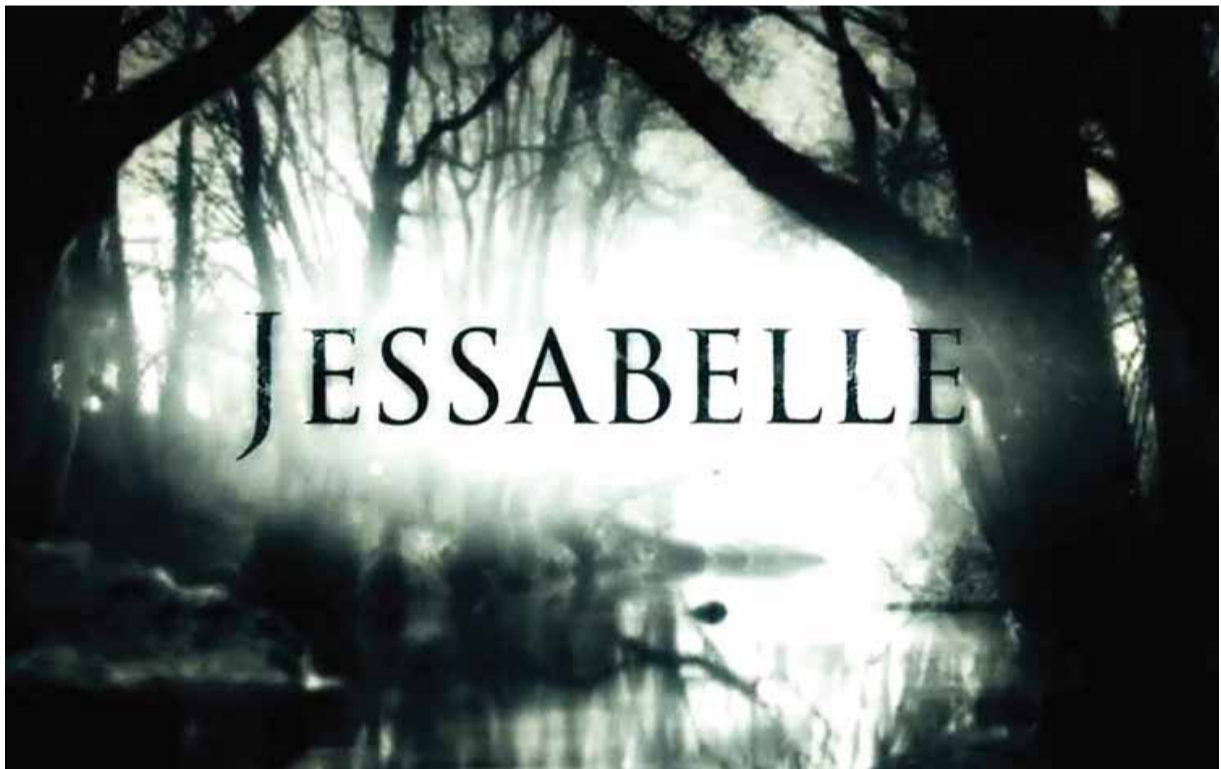


SUNSHINE ON LEITH ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou



- 04:00 Workaholics
04:25 Catch A Contractor
04:50 Ridiculousness



JESSABELLE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 06:30 Impractical Jokers
06:55 Impractical Jokers
07:20 Tosh.0
07:50 Tosh.0



- 04:00 Surviving Evil
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
05:36 I Almost Got Away With It

- 13:20 That's So Raven
13:45 That's So Raven
14:10 That's So Raven
14:35 That's So Raven

- 13:00 Goldie & Bear
13:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:40 Miles From Tomorrow



- 04:05 Coronation Street
04:30 Coronation Street
04:55 Coronation Street
05:15 The Chase



- 04:40 Christina Milian Turned Up
05:35 Christina Milian Turned Up
06:30 Celebrity Style Story



- 04:10 Counting Cars: Best Of
04:35 Counting Cars: Best Of
05:00 Shipping Wars

- 00:15 Royal Stories
00:40 Coronation Street
01:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?



- 04:05 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
04:55 The Food Files
05:20 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt



- 04:45 Secret Life Of Predators
05:40 South Africa
06:35 Animal Fight Club



- 04:50 The Yard
05:45 Monster Fish
06:40 Cold Water Gold

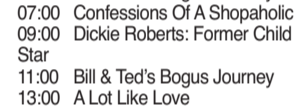
- 14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Dog Whisperer
16:00 Yukon Gold
17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South



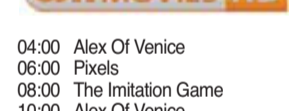
- 04:00 Grimm
05:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend



- 05:00 Apocalypse Pompeii
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:00 Batman vs. Robin



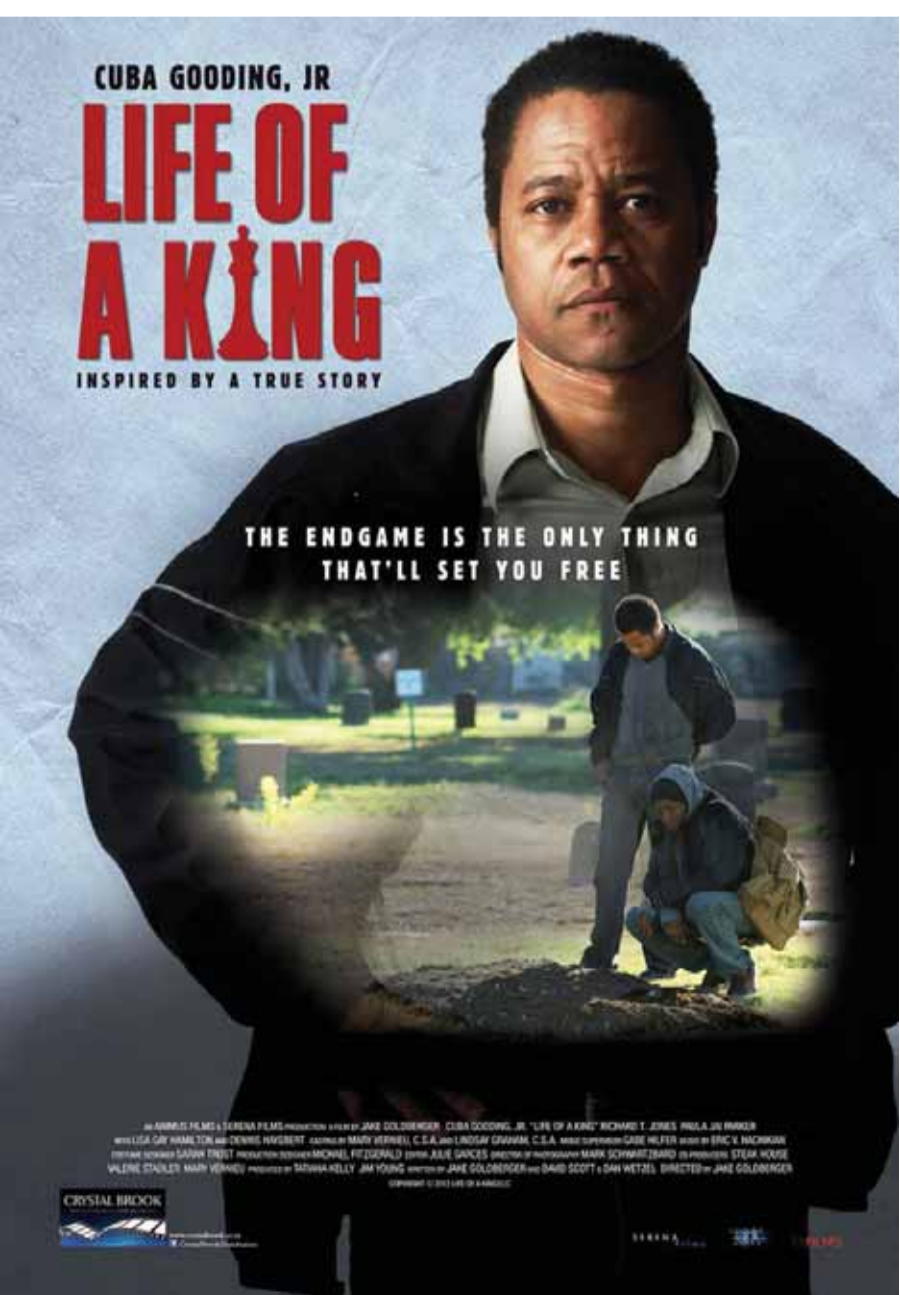
- 05:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
07:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
09:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star



- 05:30 Gridiron Gang
07:45 War Horse
10:15 Parkland



- 04:00 Alex Of Venice
06:00 Pixels
08:00 The Imitation Game



LIFE OF A KING ON OSN MOVIES HD

CROSSWORD 1422



ACROSS

1. The number of opening per inch of a screen.
5. A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
12. A syndrome that occurs in many women from 2 to 14 days before the onset of menstruation.
15. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
16. The fleshy pendulous part of the external human ear.
17. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
18. One of a pair of planks used to make a track for rolling or sliding objects.
19. Set afire.
20. The act of using.
21. A benefice to which no spiritual or pastoral duties are attached.
23. Depressing in character or appearance.
25. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
28. An ancient unit of length based on the length of the forearm.
29. Informal terms for a mother.
31. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.
32. A woman of refinement.
34. Remove from memory or existence.
37. A port city in southwestern Iran.
41. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
45. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
46. Protect from heat, cold, noise, etc. by surrounding with insulating material.
49. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
51. Former measure of the US economy.
52. King of Sparta and hero of the battle of Thermopylae where he was killed by the Persians (died in 480 BC).
53. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
55. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
56. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
58. An informal term for a father.
59. A blemish made by dirt.
60. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
61. Before noon.
63. Inflict a heavy blow on, with the hand, a tool, or a weapon.
67. A Chad language spoken south of Lake Chad.
71. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
75. A particular environment or walk of life.
77. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
78. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
81. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
82. Free from liquid or moisture.
83. A large estate in Spanish-speaking countries.
84. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

DOWN

1. Occurring widely (as to many people).
2. (Sumerian) Water god and god of wisdom.
3. A distinctive odor that is offensively unpleasant.
4. Grossly offensive to decency or morality.
5. German chemist remembered for his discovery of the ring structure of benzene (1829-1896).
6. The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
7. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
8. Late time of life.
9. A pass between mountain peaks.
10. In bed.
11. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
12. Exactly vertical.
13. A Nilotic language.
14. Small cold-water silvery fish.
22. A block of solid substance (such as soap or wax).
24. Wood of a sumac.
26. A form of magnetic resonance imaging of the brain that registers blood flow to functioning areas of the brain.
27. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
30. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
33. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
35. Become imbued.
36. A Chad language spoken south of Lake Chad.
38. A religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof.
39. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
40. Greek mythology.
42. A military trainee (as at a military academy).
43. Flat tableland with steep edges.
44. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
47. Remove the clip from.
48. The dynasty that ruled much of Manchuria and northeastern China from 947 to 1125.
50. A hard brittle blue-white trivalent metallic element.
54. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
57. A party of people assembled in the evening (usually at a private house).
62. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
64. A member of a rural Finnish people living in eastern Russia.
65. Small slender gull having narrow wings and a forked tail.
66. A town in north central Oklahoma.
68. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
69. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
70. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
72. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
73. The residue that remains when something is burned.
74. An accountant certified by the state.
76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
80. A radioactive element of the actinide series.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your love of truth makes philosophy and religious ideas a lifelong habit. You appreciate things of a global or universal level and travel or studies of foreign lands could be a part of this interest. You may enjoy the company of friends this afternoon. Appearances mean little to you and you value honesty and sincerity in friends and partners. This is a time when you may feel very passionate or your feelings, emotions and basic life urges undergo change. You feel more personal and direct and find that you waste less time with hurt feelings than before. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general get attention and receive encouragement.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An outgoing and very expressive cycle of experience has begun for you this weekend. Now more than ever, you want to be admired and appreciated by others. You may find yourself looking forward to trying your wings at some sort of entertainment or performing some activity in front of those you love. This could mean sports, cooking, acting, comedy or a multitude of other things that fit into what makes up your persona. Much mental busywork goes on today and practice for this or some other event may continue, if not acted out physically or mentally. It is good to be prepared, but it is also good to have fun. Remember, whatever you want to say, do or relate to others, it must be something you enjoy; so act like it; smile! Friends and family will join you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A peaceful atmosphere is deeply satisfying and a simply cozy house is where you want to place your attention for this day. There may be needed repairs or chores, but you will be able to handle whatever you have planned and may even get some help with some of your chores. Two or three people can make the work move along much faster-particularly with some fun music in the background. You will find that others are willing to help if they want to attend a performance later today, such as a circus or play, or see a new exhibit at the museum. Outdoor activity is rejuvenating and when enjoyed with other people, this day may become one of those lifelong memories. There are always hiking, bicycling, bird watching, canoeing, fishing, etc.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be able to bring the family or perhaps a group of your friends together to enjoy a play, a music performance or an art exhibit. Achievement of your own poetry or art may be possible now. Creative endeavors and accomplishments are catching and you may find that in a family or in a group of friends, there will be several to express the same sort of talent. Take some time today to teach your art, skill or attitude to those who want to learn. There are no arguments other than which restaurant to go to or which road to take and you are very pleased that your friends or family, or both, get along as well as they do. You may decide to make plans to have everyone together at the end of this month. There are lots of things for which to be thankful.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is a tendency toward isolation today but it is not a negative activity. This is actually a good time to use all the positive energy around you and regain your energy-relaxation-good smells. Naps are not bad, just a fun way to replenish your energies, especially if this last week was a stressful one. Later this afternoon you are tuned in and turned on to most any activity, as long as it is not too busy. An afternoon drive to the country or the outskirts of town will give you the opportunity to stop at a truck farm and gather your own berries or purchase a few vegetables, etc. This may not be a time for mental stimulation but it is a great time to just enjoy and reflect upon the world. You may enjoy checking out a new health food store and enjoy the good smells.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a good time for problem solving. This is a vital day in which much energy and action is utilized. You could find yourself in the limelight or able to really communicate and get your ideas across to others. Young people are in need of your guidance. You are in a serious frame of mind and may find yourself dealing with matters of much concern and responsibility. This is the time to state your opinion and give examples. There is a need for a more positive attitude in the whole family setting and you can set the example. Responsibilities for the upcoming holidays can be voted on and rewards can be set as well. You and your mate may disagree occasionally, but trading opinions only strengthens the relationship-compromise.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

The home and family are likely to be in a state of change-this may mean moving in an addition to the family, etc. High-tech equipment impinges on the domestic environment somehow. An eccentric relative attracts some notice. Harmony and beauty are deeply satisfying-and the lack of them can be emotionally unsettling. You will do your best to close the gap between any misunderstandings among family members or between friends just now. Close personal ties to other people are a focal point for your feelings-marriage and other partnerships could be a key arena for this. A yearning for adventure stirs in you now. To roam, to wander and wonder, to seek freedom and go where no one has gone before are deep and powerful longings.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

The kids in your neighborhood may get a vacation from school soon. You may decide to organize some projects for the time the kids in your neighborhood are off from school. You will find others that will help and work with you in this activity. Perhaps some sort of reward, such as a movie ticket coupon for a winner or most sincere player. Parents look for good caretakers and you are a born teacher. Young people find it easy to learn, talk or just hang out with you. You are very animated and it is easy for you to convey your ideas to others. Your bright wit and talkative streak make you always ready for a good conversation. A volunteer service will give you many positive insights. Allow others to show affection today. Happy birthday!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be caught between powerful conflicting desires today. It might be a good idea to let go of one so you can satisfy the other. Choosing between them will soon become easier. You get together with family members later today to review plans for a trip that will be coming up soon. Catching up on communications is necessary and you may decide to do more correspondence to make sure you have not forgotten anyone. New creative endeavors, including writing ideas down for a novel, will be well worth your time and effort. While you are doing this note keeping, you could go ahead and make your outline for this book. You could become published before very much time goes by. It is easy for you to find the proper motivation at this time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This day may bring opportunities to examine your life's path. If change is needed, now is the time to begin those changes. You could call this a time of getting down to basics and creating a plan. Look for and dispense with the things that slow you from your goals. Intense and sometimes driven, you are able to cut through to the heart of things. You are seldom interested in impressing others but can hop on whatever charity train sounds the best for your talents. Although your mind is busy planning your future path, you can be very captivating with others at this time. Footloose and fancy free, this evening you may decide to gather some friends that you have not seen in some time and talk this evening-you have fun and stimulating conversations.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are at your mental best with clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of mental work. You may decide that this is a good morning to balance the checkbook, work out a budget or just generally, catch up on your reading. You could be feeling inward and more like sharing some time with your lover or with close friends later this afternoon. Some kind of healing process is at work in your life: you isolate what doesn't work, eliminate it and go forward. You teach neatness and courteous behavior to others through example and everyone seems to be your friend. Tonight, you may find yourself helping someone prepare to move or even caring for some young ones so that friends can be entertained. You are entertained.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Family and security are things that rattle your chain more than ever. These are areas where you make new beginnings and bold moves. A new idea for a book, the beginning of a new job, a new hobby and perhaps there are plans to join a new religious denomination. Whatever the case, you enjoy your surroundings and express yourself with beauty and the desire to learn and grow, no matter what age you have become. If you are living with someone, you will find yourself reaching a compromise or sharing the time. Perhaps you can plan separate activities and meet in the evening to share the experiences. Too much time spent with your own project may play havoc with someone else's plans. You aim for harmony and beauty in your family setting.

WORD SEARCH

Clothing

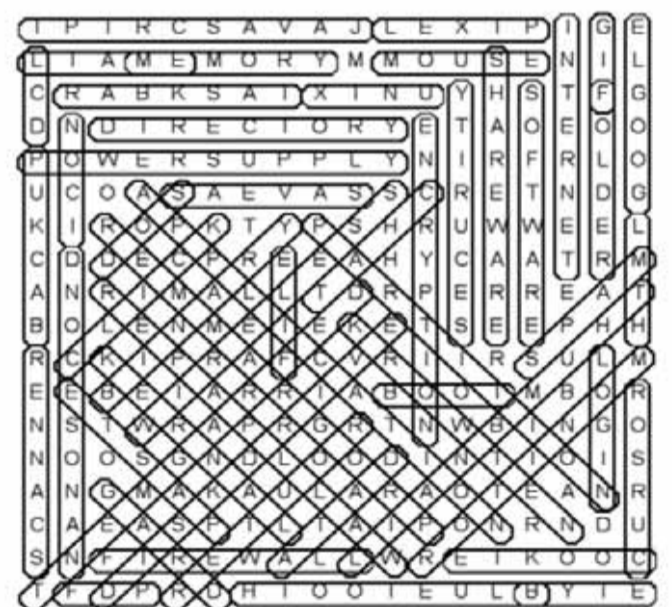
Find and circle all of the clothing items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional piece of clothing.



- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| BELT | JACKET | SCARF | SWEATER |
| BLOUSE | JEANS | SHIRT | TANK TOP |
| BOOTS | MITTENS | SHOES | TIE |
| CARDIGAN | OVERALLS | SHORTS | UNDERWEAR |
| CORDUROYS | PANTS | SKIRT | VEST |
| DRESS | PARKA | SLIPPERS | |
| GLOVES | ROBE | SOCKS | |
| HAT | SANDALS | SUIT | |

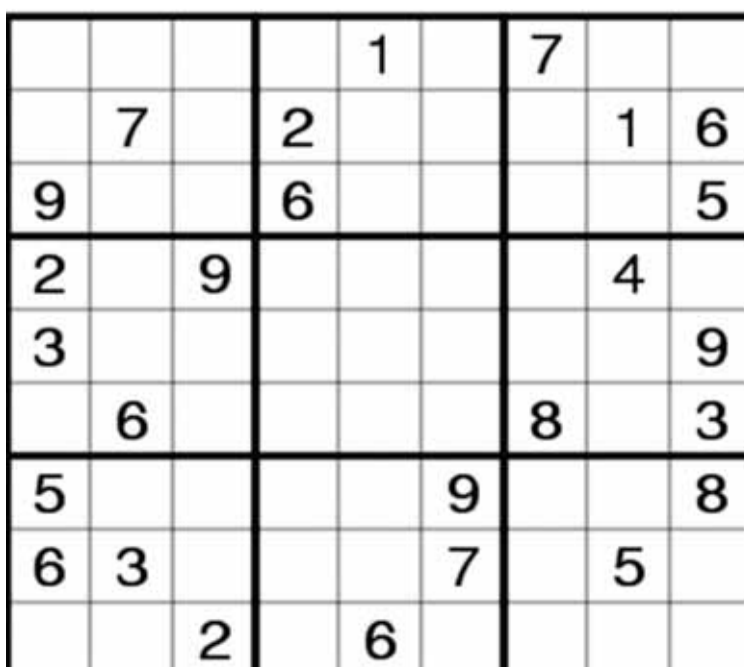
Yesterday Solution

Computer Jargon 1

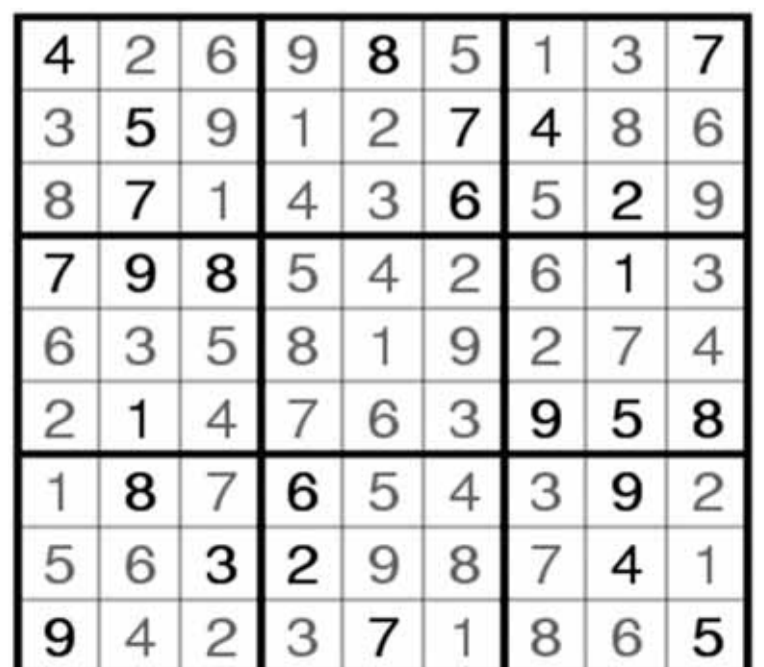


The hidden word is: MOTHERBOARD

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Table listing hospitals such as Sabah Hospital, Amiri Hospital, Maternity Hospital, etc. with their respective phone numbers.

Clinics

Table listing various clinics such as Kaizen center, Rawda, Adaliya, Khalidiya, Kaifan, etc. with their respective phone numbers.

Table listing pharmacies organized by Governorate (Ahmadi, Jahra, Capital, Farwaniya, Hawally) with columns for Pharmacy Name, Address, and Phone number.

Large table listing international calls with columns for Country, Area Code, and another Country/Area Code.

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

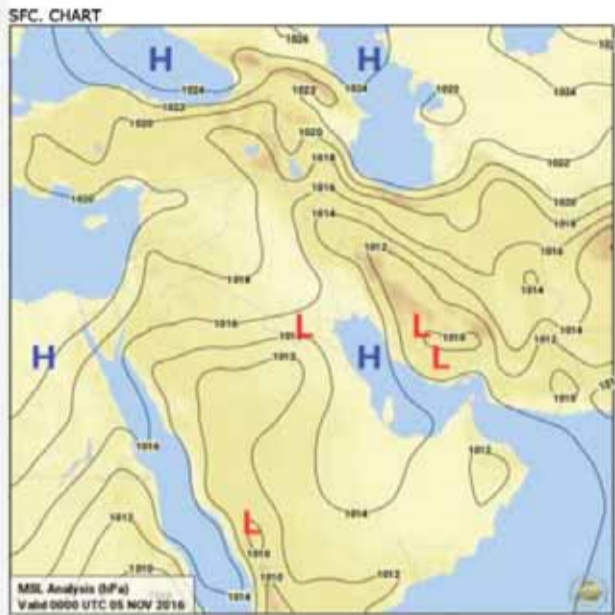


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 05/11/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr Max Temperature 29 °C

By Day: Mostly sunny with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h By Night: Cool with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear



Four-Day Forecast table with columns for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, listing weather conditions, temperature ranges, wind direction, and wind speed.

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast table listing temperature ranges (MIN °C REC, Max °C EXP) for various stations across Kuwait.

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport table listing Max Temp, Min Temp, Max Rel Hum, Min Rel Hum, Max Wind Speed, and Total Rainfall.

Prayer Times table listing times for Fajr, Sunrise, Zuhr, Asr, Sunset, and Isha.

PRIVATE CLINICS

Table listing Ophthalmologists, General Practitioners, and Urologists with their names and contact information.

Table listing Plastic Surgeons, Family Doctor, Psychiatrists, Gynaecologists & Obstetricians, Internists, Chest & Heart, and General Surgeons.

Table listing Paediatricians, Dermatologists, Dentists, Neurologists, and Gastrologists.

Table listing Endocrinologist, Physiotherapists & VD, Rheumatologists, and Consultant Cardiologist.



Mariah Carey rejects 'tacky and insulting' pre-nuptial agreement

The 'Hero' hitmaker - who recently split from the Australian billionaire - reportedly rejected a "tacky and insulting" pre-nuptial agreement drawn up by her then-fiance's legal team, as the document included strict conditions relating to clothing allowances, the use of private jets and the ownership of presents. According to TMZ, one condition stated: "Except for gifts between them for their engagement, wedding or on birthdays and anniversaries, no item of jewelry and/or personal adornment costing over \$250,000 will be deemed a gift unless accompanied by, or promptly followed by, a writing specifically stating 'This is my gift to you.'" James also refused to foot the bill for Mariah's stage costumes or clothes for five-year-old Moroccan and Monroe, the twins she has with ex-husband Nick Cannon. With a blank space left for a maximum amount to agree on, it states: "the

clothing is not to be used for business or performing and "Mariah shall provide all clothing for her children." Elsewhere, the document stated: "James shall cause a credit card(s) to be issued for use by Mariah and staff ... the amount of expenses ... shall not exceed US \$____ per calendar month," with the amount left blank. While James agreed to provide the 46-year-old singer with a "private aircraft", Mariah would only be allowed to use it when her partner felt it was "appropriate".

Kendall Jenner

got drunk at her 21st birthday party

The model's sister Khloe Kardashian revealed that the unnamed royal presented Kendall with the expensive vehicle at her birthday bash earlier this week but Kendall didn't remember it the next day. Speaking on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live', Khloe said: "We go outside and there's a guy with a Rolls Royce, we're like 'what's the gift, the guy or the Rolls?' "And then the guy just hands her the keys to this car. We don't know who this guy is, he's some prince. I was like 'Is this a joke?' I think on my 21st birthday I got like a dinner and a purse or something. "The next morning I asked her about it and she said, 'Oh my God I forgot I got a car!' That's how drunk she was." The model's new car is the latest addition to her growing collection, which already includes a Range Rover and \$100,000 Chevrolet. Kendall's famous family hired out a private function room, which was decorated with large balloons emblazoned with her name, at Coach restaurant to kick off the festivities and all guests were told to wear floral headpieces at their seats in order to set the mood. After polishing off their tasty meal, the party moved on to Dallah, where the model was presented with an "adorable" cake, which had a "throwback photo of her in a purple tutu" pasted on.



GIGI HADID IS TO CO-HOST AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS

The 21-year-old model will front the prestigious ceremony alongside former 'Saturday Night Live' star Jay Pharoah on November 20 and can't wait to show off a different side to herself. She said in a statement: "I'm so excited to host the 2016 AMAs with Jay Pharoah. "Jay is known for his spot-on impressions so I can't wait to take the stage with him to show my goofy side and celebrate this year's nominees!" Her 29-year-old co-host is equally excited to be sharing the stage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles with the blonde beauty. He added: "Can't wait to host the AMAs with the beautiful Gigi Hadid (so much innocence in her eyes) and being in the building with some of my industry friends, who I've probably impersonated at some point I'm sure. "It's gonna be a fun night!" The ceremony - which will broadcast live on ABC - will also feature performances from the likes of Nicki Minaj, Halsey, Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga, James Bay, Fifth Harmony, Green Day, John Legend, Bruno Mars, Shawn Mendes, Twenty One Pilots, The Weeknd, and The Chainsmokers. Sting is this year's American Music Award of Merit honoree, while Drake leads the nominations for the ceremony with a record-breaking 13 nods.

Michael Buble, Lopilato are 'sad but hopeful'

The 'Haven't Met You Yet' hitmaker took to social media to confirm the devastating news that their eldest son Noah, three, has been diagnosed with the illness and is currently undergoing treatment in the United States and friends say they are doing everything they can for him. An insider told Us Weekly: "They are really sad but hopeful. They immediately got him very good care and they are hoping and praying for the best. They are getting him the best doctors around. It's really heartbreaking. This was a real shock, but they are doing everything they can." In a statement released on Michael's Facebook page, he said: "We are devastated about the recent cancer diagnosis of our oldest son Noah who is currently undergoing treatment in the US. We have always been very vocal about the importance of family and the love we have for our children. "Luisana and I have put our careers on hold in order to devote all our time and attention to helping Noah get well. At this difficult time, we ask only for your prayers and respect for our privacy. We have a long journey in front of us and hope that with the support of family, friends and fans around the world, we will win this battle, God willing."



Reese Witherspoon wanted to be Dolly Parton

The 'Sweet Home Alabama' actress has always been a huge fan of the country singer and even felt she shouldn't have to take part in school sports lessons because they had no bearing on her future ambition. Speaking to Dolly for the new issue of America's InStyle magazine: "When I was probably five years old, I wanted to be Dolly Parton. I was skipping around the blacktop at school by myself, and my P.E. teacher said, 'Why aren't you playing the game [with the other kids]?' "I said, 'Well, I'm not going to play the game because, Ms. Wright, I'm going to be Dolly Parton when I grow up.'" Last year, the 40-year-old actress - who has children Ava, 17, and Deacon, 13, with her ex-spouse Ryan Phillippe and son Tennessee, four, with her husband Jim Toth - launched her own clothing line, Draper James, and is enjoying the "challenge" of doing something new. She said: "It's a new chapter for me starting a business, going around passing the hat, and promoting it all over the place. It's a different experience, but I'm enjoying learning something new. "I've been acting for about 25 years, and I still love it, but I like the challenge of trying something else too."



GOSSIP

Calvin Harris 'blessed' to work with Taylor Swift

Although the former couple had a bitter break-up earlier this year, Calvin, 32, praised Taylor, 26, on Twitter for writing his song 'This Is What You Came For', which features Rihanna on vocals. After a Rihanna fan account tweeted, "This Is What You Came For is the only song released this Year to be certified 2x platinum in the UK congrats @CalvinHarris and @rihanna (sic)." Calvin quoted the message and wrote: "I am blessed to work with incredible artists @rihanna @taylorswift13 thank you!! (sic)." The track sparked a row between Taylor and Calvin after they split in May, as weeks later it was reported the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker was the person behind songwriter pseudonym Nils Sjoberg. And after representatives for the

singer - who struck up a romance with Tom Hiddleston soon after splitting from the Scottish DJ - confirmed her involvement, Calvin took to Twitter to slam her for trying to "tear [him] down". He wrote: "And she sings on a little bit of it too. Amazing lyric writer and she smashed it as usual. "Hurtful to me at this point that her and her team would go so far out of their way to try and make ME look bad at this stage though. "I figure if you're happy in your new relationship you should focus on that instead of trying to tear your ex bf down for something to do "I know you're off tour and you need someone new to try and bury like Katy ETC.



Brad Pitt wants joint custody of his and Angelina Jolie kids

The 52-year-old actor has filed his response to Angelina's divorce petition, in which she requested full physical custody of their six kids; Maddox, 15, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and eight-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne and he has asked to share guardianship. TMZ reports that Brad gave the same separation date as Angelina did, September 15, 2016, and neither star has mentioned spousal or child support in their filings. Angelina and Brad previously agreed on a parenting plan, giving Angelina temporary physical custody over the kids with Brad allowed to visit them under the supervision of a therapist. Brad is alleged to have gotten "verbally abusive" and "physical" with their son Maddox while under the influence of alcohol during a flight on September 14 and Angelina

filed for divorce just days later. After an anonymous source reported the alleged incident, the FBI got involved as they have jurisdiction because it occurred mid-air and Angelina was questioned for four hours about it recently. A source previously explained: "The agents wanted a breakdown of everything that happened from when the plane took off to when it landed. Angelina fully cooperated." The insider added that the FBI "will likely investigate for another few weeks". After that they "will present the case to the prosecutor, who will evaluate whether they feel the need to bring charges. It could potentially be months".

DAISY LOWE AND BOYFRIEND BRADLEY 'FRANKIE' WADE SPLIT

The 27-year-old model and Bradley - who started dating in August - have called time on their brief romance due to their hectic schedules. A spokesperson for Daisy told MailOnline: "Daisy and Frankie have had a discussion and decided to call it a day due to their mutually busy schedules." A source told The Sun: "They could not find time to spend together because he is busy with shoots as a successful fashion model. "They had a discussion and decided they were better off as friends." In May, Daisy and Thomas Cohen ended their relationship after five months of dating, when things "fizzled out". A source said at the time: "Daisy and Thomas split about a month ago. It's all very amicable, they had lots of fun and a great time together. "It just sort of fizzled out and had run its course." Daisy and Thomas - the widower of her best friend Peaches Geldof - started dating earlier this year but she has previously admitted she wasn't quite ready to settle down. She explained: "I'm a traditional girl. One day, I'm not ready for it any time soon, but yeah, course. My whole family would only want that. They want to see me get married and they want to have grandchildren. "Make sure we get the 'one day' in because I am having visions of people thinking I've decided I want children now. I'm not ready for that, I want to have lots of fun first."



Brie Bella struggled to get pregnant

The 'Total Divas' star - who is expecting her first child with her husband Daniel Bryan - didn't realize how hard it would be to conceive a child and tried everything she could including using mobile phone apps to assist with having a baby. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I thought it was going to happen the first try. It's crazy how difficult it is to get pregnant. Like it blows my mind. No one ever tells you. I downloaded apps and it turned into this whole process." The 32-year-old wrestler said the moment she stopped thinking about it she became pregnant. She said: "It is funny because we shot for the cover of Muscle and Fitness and during that period of time I was like, I'm not gonna care, I'm not going to be too hard on myself. And so I had to get into crazy shape for that cover. I was weight lifting, which I never really weight lift, and that's when I got pregnant. And I was like, 'What! They're right!' The minute you don't think about it, it kind of happens." The brunette beauty previously admitted she got "really emotional" when she found out she was expecting a baby girl.



Myleene Klass' red carpet beauty secret

The 38-year-old singer-and-presenter is regularly praised for her style choices when she steps out at the glitziest and most exclusive showbiz events but she insists she doesn't put much effort in to looking great. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz on a special jungle-themed red carpet - complete with netting, foliage and a very friendly T-Rex - at the opening night of 'Jurassic Park Live' at the Royal Albert Hall in London on Thursday, she shared: "I like red carpets. They've done a fantastic job here, there's a live dinosaur out there, so what's not to love?!" Pushed on what she does to always look fabulous, she added: "I usually just freshen my hair and hope for the best!" Myleene - who is a classically trained pianist - was very excited to be one of the first people to see the 'Jurassic Park Live' show - which is the first ever film-and-live-orchestra presentation of Steven Spielberg's 1993 blockbuster and kicked off the Royal Albert Hall's inaugural Festival of Film. The former Hear'Say star was joined at the event by her two daughters, Ava, eight, and Hero, five, and they were just as thrilled as their famous mother to get to hear John Williams unforgettable score performed live by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra and in sync with the movie at the word famous venue.

Lady Gaga will play Donatella Versace in 'American Crime Story'

The 30-year-old singer will portray the designer in 'Versace/Cunanan: American Crime Story', which will tell the story of the murder of Donatella's brother Gianni Versace by the serial killer Andrew Cunanan in July 1997, Us Weekly reveals. Donatella took over the fashion empire following Gianni's death and is the current Vice President of the Versace Group, which Gaga has appeared in fashion campaigns for. Meanwhile, the 10-episode series, which begins filming next year, is not the only project about Gianni which is being planned. Antonio Banderas was recently cast as the late designer in an upcoming movie directed by Danish film director Bille August. However, the designer brand insisted they have not "authorized" the upcoming project and do not have any involvement in the production. The Italian fashion group said: "[We] have neither authorized nor had any involvement whatsoever in the forthcoming movie about Versace. The movie should only be seen as a work of fiction." It is believed filming will take place in the Italian city of Milan before moving to Reggio Calabria situated in the south of the island, which is where the creative mastermind was born, and then on to Miami, America, where the founder of the luxury label was murdered in 1997 aged 50.



Miao minority welcome new year with lavish celebrations



Dancers of the Miao ethnic minority in traditional costumes participate in their New Year festival at Leishan county, southwestern province of Guizhou.



Dancers of the Miao ethnic minority in traditional costumes parade during their New Year festival at Leishan county, southwestern province of Guizhou. — AFP photos

To an ear-splitting soundtrack of chanting and drums, 400 young dancers in spangled outfits clanged sickles and kick-stepped before thousands of spectators and a dais of a dozen Chinese officials. The performance was one of many at Leishan county in the southwestern province of Guizhou, as a lavish government-sponsored opening ceremony kicked off new year celebrations for the Miao ethnic minority—a group of about 12 million people who are more at home in their own languages than in Mandarin Chinese.

The songs and dances being performed were once used to enliven back-breaking agricultural labor in the mountainous region, one of China's poorest. "When I was young, I had to go out and harvest rice—it was so tiring, and so precious that old people would pick up and eat even a single grain of rice that fell on the floor," said Yu Nianlan, a Miao native of Leishan who now works an office job but could recall such traditions from her childhood.

"Now China is rich and strong, and that's no longer necessary for our family," she told her six-year-old son, who was more interested in watching the drones that buzzed overhead capturing aerial footage of the dance formations than in listening to her explain their origins. Thousands of performers ranging from seven-year-olds to octogenarians took part in the extravaganza, which began with a parade through the city to the arena earlier in the afternoon.

They marched in groups by region, with each sporting clothing unique to the subgroup of Miao found in that area. Some wore head-to-toe embroidered outfits with trailing ribbons and fringe, others indigo hemp jackets lacquered with raw eggs to have a plastic-like sheen. Silver headpieces shaped like flowered crowns or bull's horns shimmered in every direction. Clusters of tiny Miao grandmothers sporting thick silver earrings thronged the streets, while tourists mingled with families buying sugar-coated red hawthorn fruits on sticks and plastic noisemakers for the kids.

A Han tourist from Chongqing surnamed Zhou, one of many male photographers pushing a telescopic lens into the faces of passing Miao girls, asked one parade sign-holder in a long pleated skirt: "How can you be just 15, and already so pretty?" China's ruling Communist party recognizes 56 different ethnic groups, and official propaganda seeks to emphasize harmony and unity among them. For the show's finale, all the performers marched in a large spiral around a knot of reed pipe-players, as an operatic singer warbled: "All the Miao people in the world are one family!"

Ten-year-old He Chenxi admitted that not all her fellow dancers were Miao, however. "Our teachers picked anyone who had long enough hair," she explained, indicating her elaborate topknot embellished with a bright red flower. Nevertheless, first-time Miao performer 16-year-old Song Yunrong felt honored to play her role. "It's a great thing that the government does this on such a big scale, to bring our hometown fame," she said. "Sometimes I feel bothered because the massive number of tourists will ruin the environment here, but things always have two sides to them." — AFP

Shoexpress Autumn Winter Collection 2016



Shoexpress has concocted a creatively relaxing change for men, women and children this Autumn Winter. Ladies, create cool trends and stand out from the crowd with a selection of stylish shoes. Latest statement pieces and staples at Shoexpress at amazing prices! The core white color is a must for every wardrobe and occasion. For starters, let's get it right by choosing metallic! Gold and silver will dominate the whole sporty look, along with a pair of white shoes.



Tan is the new black, but don't forget khaki, white and grey! Natural colors are also the main color for the season. Available in casual, formal shoes and sandals! Get your fringe on! With this fun and ever growing trend on footwear, from boots to wedge sneakers to flat shoes. A little addition of fringe in your footwear will update your look flawlessly this season.



The bohemian look is back with a bang! Lace ups and Tie-ups will give an edge to your personal style. The 70's retro trend of block and chunky heels are back with a sophisticated flair! A perfect choice for people who are not comfortable in high heels. To ensure that you'll wear your best boot forward this season, we prepared an impressive range of boots to choose from. Chelsea boots, over the knee boots to trekking boots that you'll fall in love with!



Shoexpress' Autumn Winter accessories collection for ladies plays on shape, structure, chain and metal detailing. Creating fashion-forward looks with an inspirational appeal. A shower of shimmering gold, silver and warmth-inducing colors. Rich reds, "china blues" and earthy shades are the main color trends to welcome this season. Going small is thinking big with our range! Our range of mini handbags are versatile for any occasion. Our clutch and evening bags will

hold all your essentials and can easily take you from day to night.

The backpack is a key statement in the Shoexpress collection this season. We want to make sure you can take it wherever you may choose to go or what clothes you want to pair it with! We have varying sizes that can accommodate your need for mobility, functionality and fashionability! The versatility of our backpack is the answer to all the needs of a busy woman.

Also this season, quilt, fringe and tassels are in! Showing up in our range of handbags to wallets. A key trend is matching bags, wallets and shoes. Men can step out in style with the latest range of footwear this season. Shoexpress is focused on bringing men key seasonal styles at the best prices yet! The range has been uplifted with both style and color, our prices have been revised to be the most competitive and our fashion offering has been influenced with the current trends.

Sports fashion is the hottest look for Men, and Shoexpress brings you great fashionable styles perfect for that "smart casual" and "athleisure" look at amazing prices. When it comes to formal shoes, the direction has shifted towards the semi-formal trend. Our comfort line of footwear, can be worn to work as well and will easily transition to evening. Shoexpress has lined up a selection of timeless and trendy style of boots.

Our casual shoes are inspired by a range of fabrics such as knit, canvas, suede and nubuck. AW2016 Children's wear range offers a remarkable variety of trainer and sports fashion looks for boys and girls to choose from. They are light weight, trendy and are a perfect fit for most occasions. Character shoes are hard to resist. From the likes of Dora, Princess, Hello Kitty, Frozen, Cars, Spiderman to Minions, little ones will be spoiled for choice. Toddlers will find trendy, comfortable shoes at amazing prices. Glitter and bejeweled style add charm to the collection. High tops, sporty shoes, boots and soft shoes lends variety to the range.

The sports category has truly reinvented itself with durable and lightweight knit fabric style and lycra. The chain, studs and fringe detail form a key part of our Boots Range. Classic high cut boots and the staple Chelsea look also make their presence felt in this winter-ready collection. Shoexpress Autumn Winter 2016 is available at Star Mall -Al Rai, Souk Al Mubarakiya and The Avenues, make sure to catch them and be season-savvy than the usual!

BEEKEEPING - A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS IN LEBANON

Beekeeping in Lebanon had become a lucrative business that provided a steady income for many families in the country. Statements, such as the one propagated by the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, revealed that the beekeeping industry had provided some 6,000 Lebanese families with steady income. Bees are well-known to be very vital for the environment due to their roles as honey providers as well as pollinators for several kinds of plants and flowers.

Speaking on the subject, member of the Arab beekeeping union, Nehad Salha said that she and her husband considered beekeeping as a hobby at first. After a considerable time had passed, the hobby turned to a profitable business that attracted a number of companies interested in the brand, said Salha who revealed that the capital for this line of business was so easily obtainable that anyone could start their beekeeping commercial enterprise. It is very important to understand the ABCs of the business before venturing into uncharted waters, Salha advised those seeking beekeeping as a livelihood.

Also contributing to the discussion, head of the beekeeping studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB) Professor Rami Ollaik said that there were around 10,000 beekeepers in Lebanon using the profession as a main and secondary source of income. A single beehive in Lebanon produces around 8 to 15 kilos of honey, said Ollaik, adding that this number was low if it was compared to single beehives in other countries which pro-

duced around 45 to 60 kilos. He said that bees were one of the world's greatest flowers and plants pollinators, saying that the pollination capacity of a bee was 150 times greater than any other species. Ollaik called for providing beekeepers with necessary instructions and assistance to further develop this business in Lebanon. — KUNA



Beekeeping workers removing the honey from the beehive

FEATURES

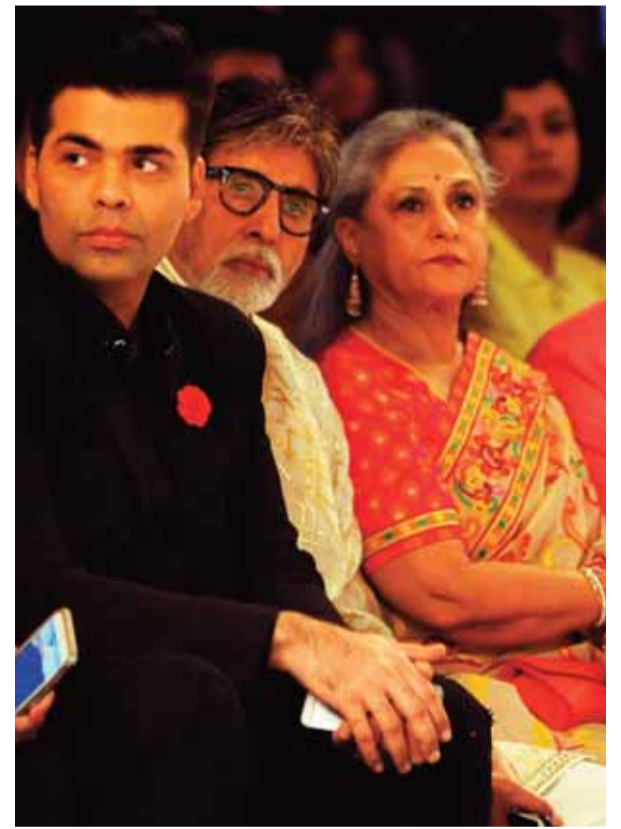


INDIAN FASHION SHOW

Indian models showcase creations by designer Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla during a fashion show in Mumbai on late November 4, 2016. — AFP photos



The daughter of Indian Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan, Shweta Nanda Bachchan (center), showcases a creation by designers Abu Jani (left) and Sandeep Khosla during a fashion show in Mumbai on late November 4, 2016.



Indian Bollywood film director Karan Johar (left), and actor Amitabh Bachchan (center) and his wife Jaya Bachchan, look on during a fashion show in Mumbai on late November 4, 2016.

Safat Home's 2017 Outdoor Collection

Safat Home, Kuwait's leading home furnishing retailer, has launched its all-new 2017 Outdoor Collection at its Shuwaikh, Al Rai and Fahaheel showrooms. Customers who have always wanted to transform their patios, gardens and chalets should look no further than the Outdoor Section at Safat Home, where they can find products designed to instill life into outdoor spaces, making them extraordinary hubs of relaxation and hospitality.

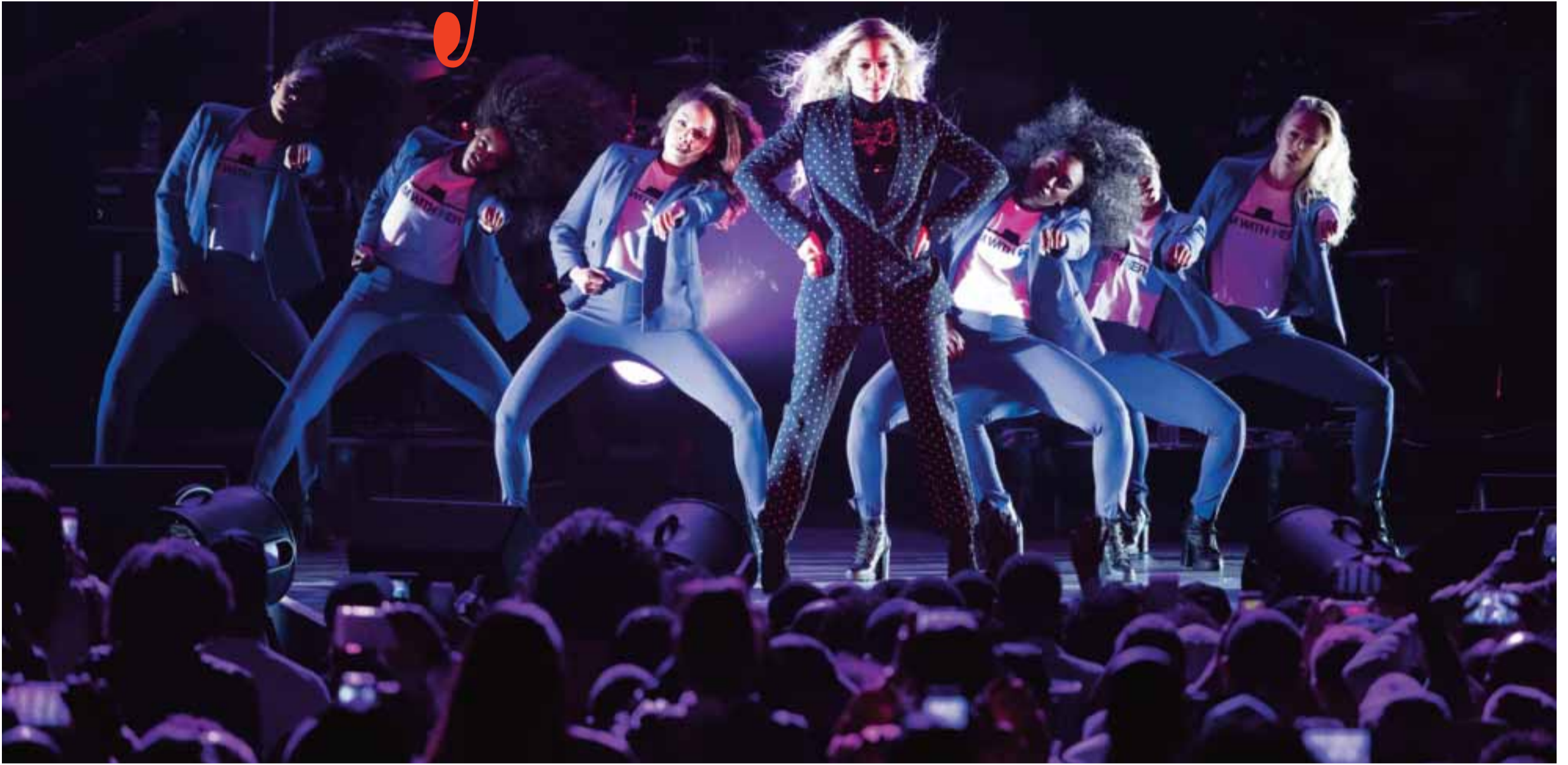
The range of products available includes sofa sets made from natural and synthetic wicker, chairs, swings, gazebos, dining tables, cushions, ceramic accessories and more, plus an exclusive furniture set, all of which are perfect to have friends and family over for BBQ and special occasions. There's also a wide range of outdoor tiles to make your chalet or garden look even more stunning, which is exclusively available at Safat Home Shuwaikh.

To further ensure customers' peace of mind, Safat Home is offering a one-year warranty on most of its new Outdoor Furniture Collection. In addition, customers are also encouraged to check out Safat Home's latest Heritage

Collection, gorgeously filled with cultural-inspired furniture pieces for living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, as well as with beautiful striking accessories. The collection is made in India from solid wood and is available exclusively in Safat Home Shuwaikh and Al Rai.

Safat Home urges customers to also take advantage of Safat Home's ongoing amazing daily draws where they can win valuable prizes, including TVs, iPad Pro's, MacBook Pro's, and a grand prize consisting of a Disney Cruise for four. Safat Home welcomes everyone to visit its Al Rai showroom at Safat Alghanim, open from 9:30am until midnight every day, the Shuwaikh showroom, located near Yusuf A. Alghanim Service and Maintenance Center, open from 9am to 11pm, Thursday to Sunday, and from 9am to 10pm, Monday to Wednesday, and the Fahaheel showroom, Dabbous St above X-Cite, open from 9am to 10pm. For more information, please call 1838883.





Beyonce performs during a campaign rally for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Cleveland on Friday, Nov 4, 2016. — AP

Beyonce and Jay Z boost Hillary Clinton

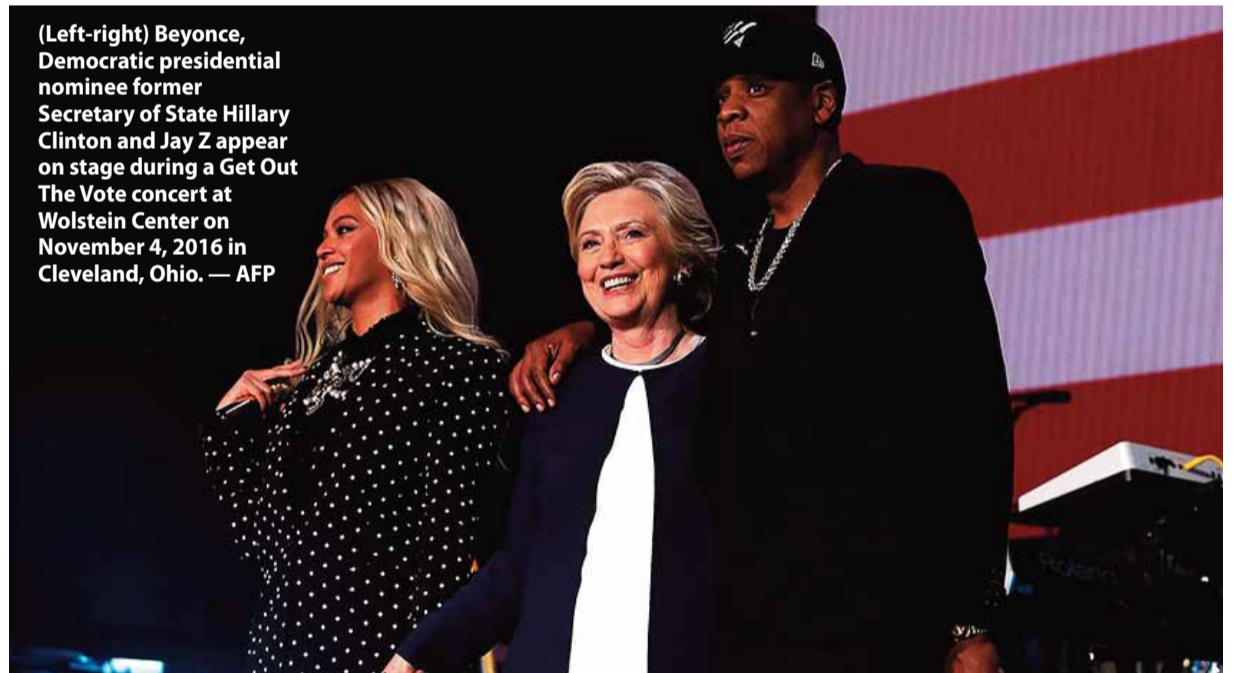
Beyonce and Jay Z performed for Hillary Clinton at a concert at Cleveland State University, an effort to boost turnout in the swing state of Ohio. Beyonce told the crowd that "less than 100 years ago, women did not have the right to vote. Look how far we've come from having no voice to being on the brink of making history." "I want my daughter to grow up seeing a woman lead our country and know that her possibilities are limitless," she told the crowd, as she sang songs from her album "Lemonade," including "Formation."

Her husband, Jay Z, said that "we are on the doorsteps of history." He said that he did not hold any "ill will" toward Donald Trump, but "his conversation is divisive." "Once you divide us, you weaken us." Clinton delivered brief remarks, thanking the two musicians and praising them for their inspiration. "This is what America is, my friends," Clinton said. She

recited some of Jay Z's lyrics: "Rosa Parks sat so Martin Luther could walk."

She then quipped that she was "so energized after this concert, and I gotta say, didn't you love the pantsuits?" she said of Beyonce's polka-dotted ensemble. Clinton's campaign is dispatching a number of celebrity surrogates throughout the weekend. Stevie Wonder was performing at a concert in Philadelphia on Friday night, while Jon Bon Jovi was to give concerts in St Petersburg, Fla., on Saturday and Charlotte, NC, on Sunday. Katy Perry will appear with Clinton in Philadelphia. Clinton is trailing Trump in Ohio in a number of polls. Cuyahoga County is a Democratic stronghold, which is why they're attempting to boost turnout there. — Reuters

(Left-right) Beyonce, Democratic presidential nominee former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Jay Z appear on stage during a Get Out The Vote concert at Wolstein Center on November 4, 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP



A vision of America: Bob Dylan's London art show

Bob Dylan, music legend and Nobel laureate, is also a prolific painter whose works depicting the landscapes and culture of the United States are now the focus of a major London exhibition. Around 200 paintings by the US singer-songwriter, produced by the 75-year-old in the last two years, are on show from Saturday at the Halcyon Gallery in the British capital's plush Mayfair district. The collection of oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings reveals a different side to Robert Allen Zimmerman, an icon of 20th century US popular music, whose poetic lyrics earned him the Nobel Prize for literature last month, to much surprise. Dylan announced last week that he would travel to Stockholm to receive the prize, making the timing of this exhibition all the more apt.

"It's a great honor for us hosting the exhibition and for him to have received that honor at the same time," Paul Green, president of the Halcyon Gallery said. Dylan began exploring the visual arts in the early 1960s. He designed the cover of the 1968 album "Music from Big Pink" by Canadian roots-rock group The Band. More recently, his

works have been exhibited in Milan and New York. "Dylan has been passionate about art since he first moved to New York and was taken by his girlfriend Suze Rotolo around museums," said Green. Since then he has not stopped painting, using his numerous tours to sketch out the homeland which he describes so often in his songs.

'The Beaten Path'

The exhibition, entitled "The Beaten Path", retraces the singer's travels across the four corners of the United States, from its supercities to its immense expanses of desert. "The common theme of these works having something to do with the American landscape-how you see it while crisscrossing the land," Dylan explains in a written introduction to the exhibition. More specifically: "staying out of the mainstream and travelling back road, free-born style". In San Francisco, Dylan chose to paint a seafood seller in Chinatown, rather than the city's endless Victorian houses or its skyscrapers. "The San Francisco Chinatown street stands merely two blocks away from corporate, windowless build-

ings. But these cold, giant structures have no meaning for me in the world that I see or choose to see," explains Dylan.

One picture shows the Manhattan Bridge in New York City, whose imposing metal structure rises up between two red brick buildings. Another features Roy's motel, on the famous Route 66 in the middle of California's Mojave Desert, which Dylan brings to life with cartoon-like brushstrokes. And there is the little doughnut shop, whose red and yellow front window leaps out of the canvas thanks to the striking use of acrylics. One of the standout works of the exhibition shows an "endless highway"-a clear allegory of the artist's life: always on the road, between two towns, two hotels. "This is the largest painting that Dylan has ever undertaken, it's monumental on every scale," said Green. "This is the never-ending road... almost a roller-coaster of Dylan's life." — AFP



Paintings by Bob Dylan are pictured at the Halcyon Gallery during a preview of his artwork in London. — AFP

Meet the comedians trolling the US presidential campaign

One day in mid-March, Fox News ran a story about a pair of Donald Trump supporters sporting Nazi-style armbands emblazoned with their candidate's last initial. "Armbands are a fairly new phenomenon in American presidential politics. And so is Donald Trump," the station's reporter commented darkly, noting that the property tycoon's supporters were "fed up and cynical and angry." It would have been a nice scoop, except that it emerged that the pair were actually Jason Selvig and Davram Stiefler, otherwise known as New York guerrilla comedy duo "The Good Liars." For months, they have been touring the country pranking not just news reporters but candidates on both sides of the aisle and their entourages for "Undecided: The Movie," which is now available on Netflix.

The mockumentary, which mixes real-life footage from the stump and scripted material, sees the comedians playing ambivalent voters deciding who to back for president. Half "Borat" and half "Veep," the 85-minute film opens at a gun range in Iowa with Republican primary candidate Rick Santorum and goes through to the Grand Old Party's national convention in Cleveland. In one memorable scene, Stiefler appears on C-SPAN trying to exorcise a demon from Ted Cruz, screaming, "Look in the mirror and let the evil spirit leave!" In another, he stands up at a Rubio rally and shouts: "Marco Rubio stole my girlfriend!" Stiefler and Selvig get up close and personal with Trump, booing the candidate for being "boring" before getting kicked out of his rally.

'Good people'

Perhaps the most brazen stunt of all comes near the end of the movie when they traveled to California in May, stripping off their shirts near the front of a

Hillary Clinton rally as she addresses the crowd. Unfazed, she defies the wishes of police and Secret Service personnel, taking a selfie with the duo and insisting they can remain shirtless as long as they don't take anything else off. "It was actually pretty funny, probably like her most human moment, at least in months," Selvig said.

"They decided to use that interaction in a campaign ad, so it was a really bizarre moment where we're playing undecided voters and then we're being used in a real campaign to sway undecided voters." Selvig believes Rubio dealt best with being trolled, and says he was genuinely surprised by Trump's reaction. "The look on his face is almost like he's hurt. It's the only time during the election where somebody hurt him, and calling him boring is probably the worst insult you could say to him," the comedian said. Election Day is almost here, but the pair, who are hoping for a Clinton victory, don't plan to retire any time soon.

"We actually went to a Mike Pence rally about a month ago when the film was already finished and did a stunt there," Stiefler says. "That was probably the most physical things got. People were yanking at us, shoving and pushing and grabbing. One of the cameramen had their camera taken away and I got hit with it." Both Stiefler and Selvig, who would often arrive in character at rallies hours before they were due to start, say meeting campaigners gave them hope for humanity, particularly in the United States. "I really don't think we're all that different. There's some ignorance in the country but as a whole, we're filled with good people," says Selvig. "It was kind of a positive feeling I got traveling the country and talking to all these people." — AFP