

UN official extols Kuwait's humanitarian efforts



Syria's last weavers abandon looms without thread



Pacquiao reclaims WBO title for third time



Kuwait Times infographic: NBA Power Rankings



HOPEFULS CALL TO PLUG DEFICIT, BUT NOT AT CITIZENS' EXPENSE

COURT LOOKS INTO CASES OF BARRED CANDIDATES



Min 26°
Max 16°
High Tide 03:06 & 17:43
Low Tide 10:22 & 22:16

MOI CONFIRMS MINES FOUND ON BIDAA BEACH

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior yesterday confirmed that landmines had been found on the beach and in the water near a seaside club in Bidaa last week. According to the ministry's General Director of Public Relations and Director of the Security Media Department Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash, the landmines were washed up by the tide on the beach, and dated from the time of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"The interior ministry's forces dealt with the landmines that were found on Bidaa beach and removed them. The security guards of the club called the operations department and our forces went there. We regularly receive reports about landmines being found, though more often these are in the desert. This time it was in the sea," he told Kuwait Times.

According to reports, during the 1991 Gulf War, Iraqi troops planted millions of mines in Kuwait, with approximately 97.8 percent of Kuwait's land mined or affected by unexploded ordnance. Heavily mined areas included the northern coast of Kuwait Bay and the Kuwait-Saudi Arabia border. Millions of mines have since been recovered, but many are still hidden in coastal and desert areas of Kuwait.



SPARTANBURG, South Carolina: Todd Kohlhepp enters the courtroom for a bond hearing at the Spartanburg Detention Facility yesterday. — AP

US MAN HELD FOR CHAINING WOMAN ADMITS 7 KILLINGS

MIAMI: A man who was arrested in the US state of South Carolina for holding a woman hostage and "chained like a dog" has confessed to up to seven killings, a local sheriff said. Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright told a press conference late Saturday that warrants were issued charging Todd Christopher Kohlhepp with a quadruple murder that baffled police and investigators for 13 years. Wright said that the suspect had also shown authorities two gravesites on his vast property, in addition to one body dug up from a shallow grave on Friday. Kohlhepp was denied bond yesterday.

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(Left) A member of the US Secret Service pulls Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump from the stage at a campaign rally on Saturday in Reno, Nevada after a false gun scare. (Right) Katy Perry holds the hand of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during a concert at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday in Philadelphia. — AP (See Pages 9, 14 and 37)



CLINTON AND TRUMP SCRAMBLE TO FINISH

ARABS VIEW RACE WITH INDIFFERENCE

WASHINGTON/CAIRO: Donald Trump barnstormed five states yesterday while Hillary Clinton implored her most fervent supporters to get to the polls, in a frenetic final 48-hour dash to the US presidential election. Last-minute campaign events - including a midnight rally tonight by Clinton - pepper the landscape in the nation's most contested states that will ultimately decide whether the United States maintains President Barack Obama's legacy or steers a more conservative course.

The bruising and unpredictable race that concludes on Nov 8 has gripped the world and roiled international markets, as Americans decide whether to elect their first female commander in chief or a billionaire real estate tycoon whose political inexperience is seen by some as an asset and others a liability. Clinton is banking on star power to lock in her narrow poll lead, hosting back-to-back weekend pop con-

certs with Beyonce and Katy Perry and booking a date with Obama.

For his part, Trump has embarked on a cross-country odyssey through key battlegrounds Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania, as tightening polls suggest a fluidity in several states at the 11th hour. He is also planning stops in states like Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania and even Minnesota, seeking to poach once-reliably Democratic states. "We've got the momentum," Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus told ABC Sunday talk show "This Week". "We win a state like Michigan and as you know, it's all over."

Clinton's campaign expressed its own confidence, welcoming Trump's Michigan venture as grasping at straws. "We're feeling good, we're closing strong, but we've got a tremendous amount of work to do," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta told ABC.

Continued on Page 13

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Candidates standing in the Nov 26 general election called on the government to take necessary measures to tackle the growing budget deficit, but without undermining the standard of living of Kuwaiti citizens. The economic issue, especially government decisions and future plans to raise the prices of services and fuel, topped the agendas of the candidates, who warned the government that touching the income of citizens is a "red line" that must not be crossed.

Former MP Askar Al-Enezi, bidding for re-election, warned the government against "taking measures that undermine the income of Kuwaiti citizens because this is a red line", adding that in the wake of the sharp drop in oil prices, "the government should have alternative solutions and treatments that rationalize spending and stop squandering of public funds".

Enezi said that any government decision to raise prices or impose charges on citizens will be strongly confronted by the next National Assembly. Enezi was referring to the government's decision to raise petrol prices and reported plans to further reduce public subsidies and impose various types of taxation in a bid to boost non-oil revenues to finance the budget deficit.

Former MP Roudhan Al-Roudhan said the decision to hike petrol prices was wrong and the government should have cut spending, starting from the top bureaucrats. Former Islamist MP Hamad Al-Matar said Kuwait is passing through a highly delicate period because of total dependence on oil as the only source of income, adding that the country needs comprehensive reforms.

Matar said the sharp decline in oil prices and the rising cost of its production as time goes by means that the country has reached a critical stage, which requires swift economic reforms to safeguard the interests of the future generations. He said that resolving the economic crisis cannot be made at the cost of citizens, especially low-income people, but through halting the severe squandering of public funds, valued at several billion dinars.

Matar called for working out a timetable for diversifying sources of income and for reducing dependence on oil. He charged that rampant corruption in various parts of the government only worsens the economic crisis, adding that the next Assembly should be prepared to confront corruption.

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ABU DHABI: Prince Charles (second right), Prince of Wales, and Camilla (center), Duchess of Cornwall, tour the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque on Saturday. — AP

PRINCE CHARLES, CAMILLA VISIT ABU DHABI MOSQUE

ABU DHABI: Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla arrived yesterday in the United Arab Emirates as part of their three-nation tour of the Gulf, visiting a landmark mosque in the country's capital. The royal couple toured the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, with Camilla wearing a blue scarf over her hair in a sign of respect. They walked over the mosque's gleaming white marble floor as Emirati officials accompanied them. They gazed upon the 99 names of God in Arabic adorning the mosque's inner wall, and later met with religious leaders of various faiths.

The oil-rich UAE, a country of seven sheikhdoms that is home to Dubai, was overseen by the British when it was known as the Trucial States. The UAE

became a unified, independent nation in 1971. The two had just arrived from neighboring Oman, where they began their weeklong trip.

On Saturday night, the state-run Oman News Agency reported that Sultan Qaboos bin Saïd, who has ruled the country on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula since 1970, met with the royals.

The royals discussed "cooperation between their countries in various sectors to achieve the joint interests of the Omani and British people" as well as ways to strengthen relations between them. Journalists traveling with the royal couple did not attend the meeting with the monarch. Prince Charles and Camilla will later travel to Bahrain. — Agencies

ASSAULT LAUNCHED ON IS 'CAPITAL'

REGIME SHELLING KILLS 6 KINDERGARTEN KIDS

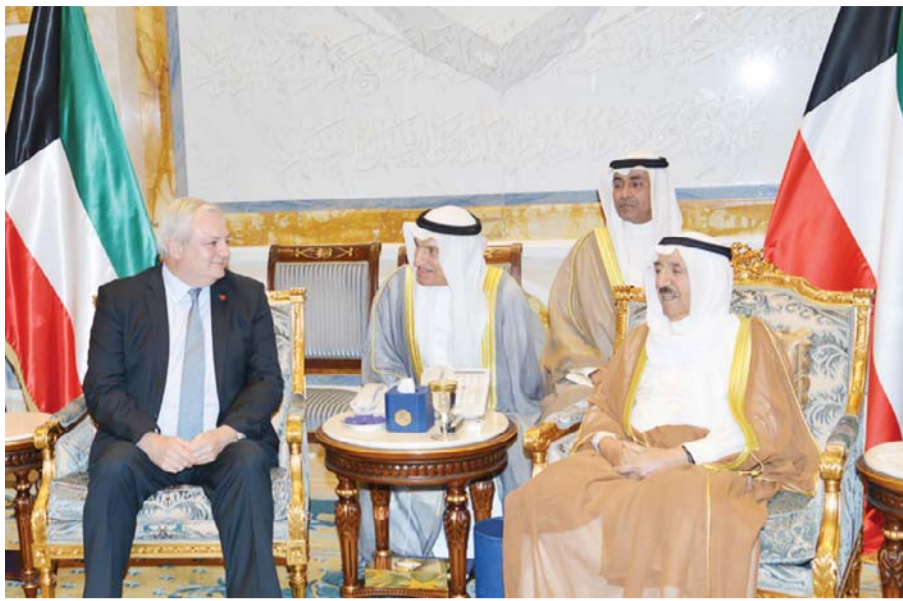


HARASTA, Syria: The body of a Syrian girl lies on a bed at a makeshift hospital following shelling on a kindergarten in this rebel-held area on the outskirts of the capital Damascus yesterday. — AFP

AIN ISSA, Syria: US-backed Kurdish-Arab forces launched an offensive yesterday on the Islamic State group's de facto Syrian capital Raqqa, upping pressure on the militants who are already battling Iraqi troops in Mosul. The start of the assault by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) came as Iraqi forces fought inside Mosul for the third day running amid fierce jihadist resistance. The two cities are the last major urban centers under IS control after the suffered a string of territorial losses in Iraq and Syria over the past year.

The US-led coalition battling IS is backing both assaults, hoping to deal a knockout blow to the self-styled "caliphate" the group declared in mid-2014. SDF commanders announced the start of the operation against Raqqa in Ain Issa, some 50 km north of the city.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien.

UN OFFICIAL MEETS AMIR, EXTOLLS KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

KUWAIT: Visiting UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien said yesterday Kuwait's world humanitarian positions instructed by His Highness the Amir are an example for others to follow. He made the remark to reporters following a meeting with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He said: "Well, I am delighted to be back here in Kuwait and again to have the honor and the privilege to meet His Highness the Amir and we had an extremely productive discussion about the enormity of the commitment of both His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti people to the humanitarian needs of people around the world caught up in crisis." "The example that Kuwait has shown over

so many years is one we all wish to emulate so I'm delighted we had such an interesting discussion and such commitment and as I have said I think that His Highness the Amir and Kuwait they have humanitarianism in their DNA," he added.

Meanwhile, O'Brien praised Kuwait's efforts to support humanitarian works to alleviate the suffering of people around the world. This came

during O'Brien's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the FM's office.

The meeting also tackled international humanitarian efforts for lifting the sufferings of disaster-hit countries, as well as the current situation in Syria, Iraq and Yemen and efforts to offer basic needs for refugees and dis-

placed persons. The meeting was attended by Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Foreign Minister Bureau Affairs, Saleh Salem Al-Loughani, Assistant Foreign Minister for Follow Up and Coordination Affairs, Nasser Al-Sabeeh and UN Resident Coordinator Zineb Benjellon. —KUNA

TUNISIAN FM HIGHLIGHTS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC STABILITY IN KUWAIT

VIENNA: Tunisian Foreign Minister Khamis Al-Jehinawi has praised the political and economic stability in Kuwait, mainly attributed to the wise directives and leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Interviewed on Sunday at the end of a European tour, Jehinawi said that Kuwait has had a leading role toward world issues, pointing to the country's political, economic and humanitarian initiatives to end conflicts and realize stability in the region.

He proudly pointed to the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a 'Humanitarian Center.' This honoring offers a clear evidence how the international community holds His Highness the Amir in high esteem. It also came in recognition of Kuwait's hard efforts for security and stability worldwide.

Referring to Kuwait's participation in an international conference to support the economy and investment in Tunisia, the minister said that his country is keen on boosting bilateral ties in all fields, especially economy and politics. Bilateral relations are "distinct and deep-rooted," he said.

Jehinawi stressed the positive outcome of the visit Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi paid to Kuwait last year, on ties between the two countries. The minister himself visited Kuwait last month delivering a written message from Essebsi to His Highness the Amir inviting him to attend the international conference on economy and investment in Tunisia slated for November 20-30.

Kuwait has always been a pioneer in supporting Tunisia in all fields, he said, adding that the country's participation in the event would guarantee it success to promote the Tunisian economy. Kuwait's investments in Tunisia cover various sectors, mainly tourism and hotels, he said, noting that these investments found their way into the North African since the 1970s through the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

Jehinawi emphasized the role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and its contributions to several grand projects in Tunisia, focusing on infrastructure. Most recently, KFAED signed a loan agreement to offer Tunisia \$22 million for the developing the drinking water network in the country. In the meantime, the chief diplomat urged the Arab and foreign countries to enhance the flow of capital into the Tunisian economy. He underlined keenness by the Tunisian leadership to revive the economy, to curb unemployment and fulfill the expectations of the people. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with OPEC's Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo, in presence of Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with OPEC's Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

AMIR MEETS OPEC'S SECRETARY GENERAL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister

Anas Al-Saleh, along with OPEC's Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo. Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the

meeting, which took place at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah later received

Minister Saleh and OPEC's Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo, in presence of Kuwait's OPEC Governor Nawal Al-Fuzaia. —KUNA

KUWAIT OPENS SCHOOL, WATER PLANT IN ANBAR

BAGHDAD: The State of Kuwait has opened a makeshift school and a drinking water treatment plant at al-Hejra camp for the displaced persons in the city of Amiriyyah Fallujah in Anbar Province, west of Iraq. The school, consisting of caravans as classes, and water plant were inaugurated to serve internally displaced persons in the city, as part of Kuwait's humanitarian relief campaign in Iraq, Kuwait's Ambassador to Baghdad Salem Al-Zaman said yesterday.

Establishing such facilities at the camp aims to alleviate suffering of displaced people in the city and curb negative effects caused by the large destruction of main facilities there, he said. He revealed that Kuwait's relief campaign will continue opening further makeshift schools, and

medical and mobile clinics as well as distributing more food baskets to the displaced.

Meanwhile, Iraq's medical united society for relief and development said the inauguration of this school is part of an integrated program that includes five makeshift schools at the camp. Sattar Rajab, a member of society, added the school has 16 classrooms with a capacity of 400 students. The water plant's capacity is 1,000 cubic liters per hour.

Some senior Iraqi officials, in addition to the Kuwaiti ambassador, were present in the inauguration ceremony. Kuwait had previously handed out humanitarian aid, food baskets and school bags to the displaced at several camps in Baghdad and other governorates. —KUNA

KUWAIT TAKES PART IN CLIMATE TALKS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's participation in the 22nd session of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), due to start today in the Moroccan city of Marrakech, is reflective of the significance of this issue. The conference, which goes on until November 19th, is set to tackle international action on an issue that has always been prioritized by Kuwait. Moreover, the international community now faces the perennial challenge of implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. On April 22, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah was amongst the signatories of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, adding Kuwait to an extensive list of 170 nations to have joined the accord.

Meanwhile, during the 21st session of this conference held in Paris, Kuwait strove to reach a global agreement that would protect nations' rights and ensure sustained development, pressing the international community to seal the deal in hopes of expediting much needed action on this urgent issue.

Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah urged developed nations to remain committed by providing logistical and technological support for needy countries, in efforts to help them better cope with the effects of climate change. In December 1994, Kuwait was amongst the first nations to sign a UN agree-

ment on Climate Change. The country has also made palpable progress in fighting climate change by initiating a slew of projects designed to curb carbon emissions. — KUNA

KUWAITI POET FETED IN GLOBAL CEREMONY

AL AYOON: Famed Kuwaiti poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, along with his compatriot businessman Jawad Boukhamseen, were honored yesterday in a global poetic ceremony held in the Moroccan city of Al Ayoun. The two Kuwaiti nationals were feted for their contributions to Arab culture and poetry, head of the ceremony Dr. Louiza Balbros said. Moreover, she noted that the Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation is home to many prolific poets, adding that Al-Babtain was honored for devoting his career to further Arabic language and poetry. The ceremony, which coincided with Green March Day, a memory deeply entrenched in the minds of Moroccans, where a mass demonstration in November 1975 forced Spain to hand over the disputed province of Spanish Sahara to Morocco. The ceremony, patronized by Moroccan King Mohammed VI, brought together many standouts in the worlds of poetry and literature. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Director General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi. —KUNA

PM MEETS MUNICIPALITY CHIEF

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Director General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi. Manfouhi thanked His Highness for accepting to patronize and

attend the signing ceremony of the state's fourth structural plan, to be held on November 22. He explained to His Highness the plan, including the proposed future plans for all used lands in the state until 2040. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received United States' Ambassador to Kuwait Laurence Robert Silverman at his office yesterday. Both sides exchanged cordial talks about bilateral relations between the two countries.

SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED AT AMERICAN SCHOOL

• Marketing Coordinator

- Job Requirements – Bachelors' Degree in Marketing; Fluent in English or Native-English speaker
- Duties include – Advertising, marketing, promotions, maintaining databases, and preparing reports.

• Classroom Assistants

- Job Requirements – Bachelors' Degree in English or Education; Fluent in English or Native-English speaker.
- Duties include – Assisting and supporting teachers and students in the classroom.

• Occasional Substitute Teachers

- Job Requirements – Native-English speaker; Flexible attitude.
- Duties include – Daily coverage of classroom teacher duties on an as-needed basis.

Interested candidates should send their detailed CV to Recruitment@aca.edu.kw for consideration. Please note - only qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.

75 FOREIGN, HIGH-LEVEL MEDIA FIGURES INVITED TO COVER ELECTIONS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Head of the Media Center for 2016 Parliamentary Elections in the Ministry of Information Mohammad Al-Baddah said yesterday the Ministry's Foreign Media department, has made all preparations to host some 75 media figures and journalists out of 150 from around the world to cover upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26.

Baddah, also Head of the Elections Committee said in an interview that the foreign media department has invited 75 senior-level experts in the field of media and journalism including CNN, Al-Arabia, Sky News as well as a number of other prestigious newspapers to cover the upcoming elections in Kuwait.

He added that the foreign news reporters would be taken on tours to the elections to see for themselves the polling centers on the elections day, in addition to other tours to the recently inaugurated Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center and Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah as Kuwait has always been keen in culture as being the capital of Islamic Culture and a 'Humanitarian Center', in addition to His Highness the Amir being the 'Humanitarian Leader'. He said that the tours of the foreign press men will start between November 21st till November 27th to see for themselves the diversity which eventually will be of interest of Kuwait.

Baddah noted that the reporters would also pay a visit to the National Assembly to get them acquainted with the nature of the parliament and the role of the MPs in the real parliamentary life. The Kuwaiti official pointed out that the media center in Sheraton would serve all foreign news reporters, adding



Mohammad Al-Baddah

that he feels proud that the center would be run by an elite number of Kuwaiti staffers of the foreign media department, adding this would reflect positively on the State of Kuwait.

He said that a full itinerary has been made by the foreign media department staffers for Kuwait's guests, adding that there is also cooperation with the state's television and radio, where two studios have been setup in the media center to broadcast live the elections events. He said that the lectures to be held would be translated for the guests, adding that it is a good opportunity to promote Kuwait to the world.

Baddah said that some 75 high-level experts in the research institutes, renowned media men, and other media organizations, such as CNN, Sky news, Al-Arabia wishing to come and cover the elections which stand at almost 70 personalities. All facilities for the foreign news reports have been made in order to facilitate their stay and make transparent coverage of this democratic process, he stressed. — KUNA

EDUCATION, HOUSING, UNEMPLOYMENT: MAJOR ISSUES AWAIT 2016 PARLIAMENT

KUWAIT: Just as November 26 was set for the snap parliamentary elections, the electoral scene has been bustling; candidates hurried to register and join the race, working hard on their manifestos and campaigns to win people to vote for them.

Voters, on the other hand, have been busily considering the urgent issues of prime importance for the majority of the people, that will need to be addressed by the new parliament. They are examining the electoral programs, or manifestos to choose who can really represent them and defend their rights and gains in the Abdullah Al-Salem's Hall.

It is always been the case with every parliamentary poll, that voters in the five constituencies have disparate views regarding the priorities that will have to be on top of the agenda of the future legislature. However, they share the view on essential topics, namely housing, education, health and unemployment. These top the list of people's concerns, closely related to the present, and the future.

Still these same traditional issues and problems come on top of peoples interest, as they look forward to having MPs who enjoy a high sense of responsibility and capabilities to develop the efficacious solutions, Nasser Abdulaziz, an engineer at the Ministry of Electricity and Water said.

Promoting education takes over all other issues; it the real criteria of a society's development in all fields, Abdulaziz said. A nations progress and aspiration rely mainly on good education, especially in early stages, to guarantee a bright future for the country, Abdulaziz added.

Health care

Ahmad Al-Herz, also an engineer at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), urged the potential MPs to concern themselves more with



An improved educational sector remains one of the most pressing public demands in Kuwait.

the issue of health care. For Herz, improving health services is a 'necessity' of high concern to citizens and expats.

The issue includes providing the state of the art medical equipment, and foreign efficiencies, which will be for the benefit of all, and in the meantime save the huge sums of money spent on treating patients abroad.

For Bader Al-Mashaan, a citizen, housing is an issue of high concern to many Kuwaitis; it is essential for the stability of a family. Mashaan hopes that voters will choose representatives who can fulfill their mission and play due role in handling the issues of the society.

Unemployment

Citizen Omar Al-Saidi said meanwhile that unemployment has to be paid utmost attention by the new legislatures, to rid the society of the hardest obstacle to youth aspiration. Unemployment is a chief cause of some youth

deviation from the right path, and who could fall prey to drug-taking or even to commit crimes punishable by the law, he said.

Creating new jobs and investing youth free time in the best possible way for their own good and for the society, has to top off all priorities of new parliament. There is dire need for hard work to avoid the negative and social impact of joblessness, he noted.

According to a poll by the Secretariat of the former parliament, dissolved by an Amiri decree last month, housing topped the concern of the Kuwaiti people by 21 percent; promoting health services followed with 17 percent. Developing education was third on the list with 13 percent, and citizens loans ranked fourth. Other topics included women, development, increasing wages, administrative reform, countering corruption, and traffic. The poll covered 10,551 people, out of 439,715 eligible voters, about 2.4 percent.—KUNA

SOCIAL MEDIA MEANS DOMINATE MEDIA ARENA AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Social media means have dominated the media arena ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26 after imposing itself as one of the most prominent media outlets used by candidates to attract Kuwaiti voters. Smartphones left a clear imprint on the lives of people and their social relations in light of modern technology and communications revolution, thus, dominating their minds and times, prompting candidates to take advantage of these most influential tools to manage their campaigns, particularly those pertinent to media.

The diversity of services and privileges

ranging between KD 10,000 to 60,000.

Key player

Meanwhile, owner of Omedia company Abdulwahab Al-Issa said in a statement that means of social media are the key player in the arena during elections and have now become more superior than traditional media means.

He attributed such excellence due to the speed of those means in achieving the sought objectives through their speed, wide spread and their influence as well as their cost, saying that the cost of those social media means are almost equal with the traditional media outlets.

He added that the social media means have dominated the advertising market in Kuwait, especially through media campaigns of candidates running for the National Assembly elections 2016 so that they can display their electoral programs and visions to the voters.

He said that social media has shown "its strength and effectiveness," where the traditional media cannot compete with it, thanks to its ability in enriching the media message thanks to its unique and distinctive services and value.

Domination

In the meantime, Deputy Director of Business Development at 'Ghalia' company Sulaiman Al-Ghareeb said that companies operating in the field of social media were keen to sign agreements with international and specialized companies, in addition to the establishment of partnerships with a number of news services, newspapers and specialized websites to dominate the media arena and advertising markets in the State of Kuwait. He said that the attention given for the development of work in the social media means came to compete in the provision of the best media and advertising services in the social media means to serve the electoral campaigns of candidates for the upcoming elections.

He added that the bids submitted by those companies for the candidates differ in their value, means and diversity which range between KD 13,000 and 60,000. He pointed out that social media means are now more influential during the campaigns thanks to their flexibility and easy access to the voters. — KUNA



enjoyed by means of social media such as Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook has attracted candidates' attention to resort to those means at the expense of traditional media of television, radio and newspapers.

The easy spread and efficiency of those social media were behind their success, however, the financial cost of the use of those means in the announcement of the electoral campaigns of the candidates are relatively equal with traditional media.

The cost of a 140-character tweet in Twitter or an advertisement or a video in Instagram or Twitter is equal to any post in local newspapers or television channels, which range between 300 and 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. Companies working in this field become very busy during the elections race, offering special media packages for candidates in the social media means



KUWAIT: Election rallies of candidates standing for the upcoming parliamentary polls, have attracted many potential voters through seven-star services. Voters enjoy the hospitality, while candidates offer them their manifestos seeking to win their support for the elections slated for November 26. A host of election hopefuls have made a quantum shift in the appearance and nature of their electoral headquarters this time, through luxurious halls in hotels, and all possible means to appear distinguished, assert their social status, and consequently, impress voters. —KUNA

49 MPs REPRESENTED 1ST CONSTITUENCY TILL 2013

KUWAIT: Forty nine MPs had succeeded in representing the first constituency in the last 12 parliamentary rounds from 1981 till 2013. The 1st constituency was considered one of the biggest constituencies in the representation of the governments during the said period. On the parliamentary representation of the 1st constituency during that period which grouped the 1st, 4th, 8th, 12th and 13th in the 25 constituencies formation, MP Adnan Syed Abdul Samad, (winner of the February and December parliaments

2012, which were invalidated by the Constitutional Court, and parliament of 2013) came first in the representation of the constituency for eight legislative terms.

He was followed by MP Abdullah Youssef Al-Roumi, who represented the constituency for seven legislative terms, whereas MPs Hassan Abdullah Johar and Saleh Ahmad Ashour, (winner of the February and December parliaments 2012, both were invalidated by the Constitutional Court and his membership in the

2013 parliament) represented the constituency for six legislative terms, followed by Hussein Ali Al-Qallaf, (winner in the February and December 2012) that was invalidated by the constitutional Court) and Salem Abdullah Al-Hammad and Mikhled Rashid Al-Azmi, represented the constituency in five legislative terms. Then came Nasser Abdulaziz Sarkhou, Abdulmohsen Al-Madaj, Ahmed Abdul Mohsen Al-Mulaifi, Salah Khorshid, Abdul Wahid Al-Awadhi, Hussein Al-Huraiti and Dr Youssef Al-Zalzaleh, (winner of December 2012 parliament that was invalidated by the Constitutional Court) represented the constituency for three legislative terms.

Two terms

After that, Khaled Al-Jumaian, yaqoub Mohammed Hayati, Dr Ahmad Al-Rubie, Abbas Al-Khudhari, Jamal Al-Kanderi, Ahmad Lari, (member in the invalidated February parliament), Faisal, Al-Duwaisan (winner of the invalidated February and December 2012 parliament) and 2013 parliament, represented the constituency for two legislative terms.

MPs Faisal Al-Qathibi, Bader Al-Mudhaf, Ahmed Al-Tukhaim, Esa Al-Mazidi, Murdhi Al-Uthainah, Khaled Al-Wasmi, Naser Al-Rowdhan, Abdullah Al-Nafsi, Rashed Al-Juwaisri, Ali Al-Baghli, Ismael Al-Shatti, Hmoud Al-Ruqba, Jasem

Al-Mudhaf, Abdulmohsen Jamal, Ahmad Al-Shuhomi and Dr Masouma Al-Mubarak (winner in the invalidated December 2012 parliament, Mohammad Hasan Al-Kanderi (member in the invalidated February 2012 parliament), Essa Ahmad Al-Kanderi, Mubarak Salem Al-Harees, Abdullah Al-Turajji, Kamil Al-Awadhi, Mohammad Murwee and Abdelhameed Dashti (member in the 2013 parliament following invalidation of membership of Al-Mubarak by the Constitutional Court, all represented the constituency for one legislative term.

The parliamentary life in Kuwait had witnessed an unprecedented move in 2012 when the parliament of February was invalidated by the Constitutional Court, thus, invalidating membership of Usama Al-Shaheen, Adel Al-Damkhi, Abdullah Al-Turajji and Abdulhameed Dashti. In December 2012 parliament, memberships of MPs Kamil Al-Awadhi, Nawaf Al-Fuzai, Khaled Al-Shatti and Abdulhameed Dashti were invalidated by the Constitutional Court.

Ministerial appointments

The first constituency, according to the current division of constituencies, was the highest in terms of ministerial appointments since 1981 till the last government formation standing at 12 out of 31 elected ministers. The cabinet of 1981,

Issa Mohammed Al-Mazeedi held a portfolio of the Ministry of Communications, Khaled Al-Jumaian held the portfolio of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in the government line-up for 1985. With the return of parliamentary life in 1992, Dr Ahmed Al-Rubei held portfolio of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education in the government line-up for 1992 while Ali Al-Baghli was appointed Minister of Oil followed by Abdulmohsen Al-Madaj.

Jassem Abdullah Al-Mudhaf was appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry in the government formation in 1996, while Hamoud Abdullah Al-Roqba held the portfolio of Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Ministry of Public Works in the government line-up for 1998.

In the cabinet line-up of 2001, Salah Abdulredha Khorshed took over the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, followed by Dr Youssef Al-Zalzaleh in February 2006. Abdulwahid Al-Awadhi was minister of State for Housing Affairs in 2007 and then Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs. Hussein Al-Hurairi was Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in 2008 and 2009. In August 2013, Esa Al-Kanderi was appointed Minister of Communications and in 2014 he was appointed along with this ministry the State Ministry for Municipality Affairs. — KUNA





KUWAIT ISSUES NEW COPYRIGHT LAW

KUWAIT: In 2014 Kuwait ratified the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works. In the same year the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. 1070 transferring the dependency copyright administration from the Ministry of Trade and Industry to the National Library of Kuwait. The National Library provides services in the area of depository, preservation, and protection of intellectual property rights of authors through the application of the depository System, where the author or publisher registers and deposits the author's artistic works in the National Library to ensure the conservation of the author's intellectual property.

And now Kuwait has issued a new copyright law, Law no. 22 of 2016 (On Copyrights and Related Rights). The new law covers the copyright and related rights of natural and legal entities; Kuwaitis and foreigners permanently resident in the State of Kuwait; and foreign nationals belonging to one of the member States of the Convention or the Organization and those under their auspices. The old law (No. 64 of 1999 on Intellectual Property Rights) has been revoked.

The protection established by the new law is conferred upon the copyright of original works of literature, arts, sciences, or knowledge, whatever the type of work or the means of its expression, its importance, or the purpose of its authoring or composition.

Protection of author's moral and financial rights

The author and the author's heir shall enjoy perpetual, inalienable and imprescriptibly moral

rights over the work. Also, performance artists, their heirs and successors shall enjoy perpetual, inalienable and imprescriptibly moral rights.

The author, and their heirs and successors are to enjoy the exclusive right to permit or prevent any form of use or exploitation of the work, and for those authors who don't have heirs or successors, the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters will be responsible to protect the authors' interests against any infringement. Also, performance artists enjoy some financial rights as per the new law.

Advertisement

For the first time in Kuwait, the new law protects the author's works, in particular from unauthorized publication, reproduction, public broadcast or rebroadcast, public communication, translation, adaptation, rental, or the making available of the work to the public including via computer, the internet, information networks, communications networks or other means. The duration of protection endures for the period of the author's lifetime and fifty years following the author's death. Also, the duration of protection with regards to audio, visual, audio-visual works and films, collective works of a legal entity, and computer programs shall be fifty years as of the date of the first showing or legitimate publication of the work, regardless of republication.

Enforcement

The new law gives an important role to the National Library of Kuwait, as for the library's staff (who are designated by the competent minister (i.e. the Minister of Information)) have

the right to monitor the implementation of the Law by inspecting presses, libraries, publishing houses and public places. If any potential infringement is detected, they are to forward details of this to the relevant authority for further investigation. They have the right to request police assistance in the performance of their duties if needed.

Furthermore, by a reasoned administrative decision from the competent Minister, any establishment in violation of the law may be closed temporarily for a maximum period of three months and, in case of repetition, may have its license withdrawn and be closed permanently. The Public Prosecution have the exclusive authority to investigate, act and make prosecutions in relation to all crimes resulting from the application of the provisions of the new law. Any infringement of the moral or financial copyright of the author may incur a prison sentence of between six months and two years, and/or a fine of KD 500 to KD 50,000. This also applies to anyone found guilty of distributing equipment designed to circumvent the technical protection employed by copyright owners, for which the fine may be as much as KD 100,000.

Conclusion

The new law is a significant step forward for the protection of copyright in Kuwait, and a reflection of how important the subject is to the government. It is hoped that Kuwait will be strong in enforcing compliance with the new law, and that it will continue to revise it to keep pace with technological advancements. — Al-Tamimi and Company

KUWAIT ACHIEVES CONSIDERABLE PART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SCPD

KUWAIT: Kuwait has achieved a considerable part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Post-2015, said Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Mahdi.

Mahdi made the statement at a press conference at the SCPD for the launch of the "Kuwaiti day for occupational health and safety", held in cooperation with the UN Development Program (UNDP), with participation of the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Kuwaiti Society for Human Rights.

The event seeks to support the Kuwaiti Public Authority for Manpower via providing expertise in labor market research, in addition to emphasizing the necessity of implementing the criteria of occupational health and safety, as well as commitment to relevant international agreements, Mahdi said. He stressed eagerness by the SCPD and the manpower authority as well as the UN organizations to shed light on the occupational health and safety management systems.

Culture of prevention

According to Mahdi, the culture of prevention requires strong commitment and cooperation on the side of the government authorities, other involved bodies and employers to hit the set targets. Kuwait has committed itself on 25 December at the UN Summit for Sustainable Development 2015, to ratify the SDGs for Post-2015, he said.

The SDGs agenda which comprises 17 goals, covering the three pillars of development, social, economic and environmental. The goals of Kuwait's mid-term development plan, 2014-2015 and 2019-2020, are closely related to the implementation of the UN SDGs, he said.

National realities, level of development and respect of national policies and priorities are considered. Mahdi noted that the total workforce on the Kuwaiti labor market in 2014 hit 2,24 million people, about 60 percent of the total population.

Human element

Meanwhile, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower Abdullah Al-Mutawtah told the new conference that investing in the human element



Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi



Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower Abdullah Al-Mutawtah

is a priority of the state. He underscored state's keenness on implementing the relevant international agreements for providing a healthy labor environment, and protecting workers against occupational and industrial risks and diseases. He said that there are 350 inspectors operating nationwide to monitor the implementation of Law 6/2010 on labor in the private sector.

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Kuwait Dima Al-Khatib also addressed the conference, and stressed eagerness to enhance cooperation and partnership with the SCPD and the manpower authority and the civil society organizations. She pointed to the significance of such events to boost awareness on occupational health and safety. — KUNA



Q8 VITAL ARM OF KUWAIT'S FOREIGN INVESTMENTS: ENVOY

BRUSSELS: Kuwait's ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi yesterday praised Q8's output and social outreach to the public during a visit to the company's offices and its blending plant in the port city of Antwerp. "Kuwait Petroleum International, Q8, is a very important and vital arm of Kuwait's foreign investment. We are very proud of it," he said.

Budaiwi noted that Q8 is present in the three Benelux countries; Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, and employs over 500 people in these three states. He added that the turnout of Q8 operations in the Benelux "has always been profitable and they have been making great investments and expanding their plants and business in the Benelux."

Budaiwi made a tour of Q8 blending plant in Antwerp, which opened last May. "It is the biggest in Belgium and one of the biggest in Europe. This is something of which we are extremely proud of. It is very advanced and uses the most up-to-date technology," said the Kuwaiti ambassador.

He also met Azzam Al-Muttawa, managing director at Kuwait Petroleum North West Europe and other staff members of Q8 and talked about their strategies, including social outreach to the communities in the three countries. "It is an excellent program. Q8 really reaches out to the people in the three Benelux countries and is doing very good community services," he stressed.

Budaiwi was also briefed about Q8's fuel stations in the Benelux. In Luxembourg, Q8 has the third largest fuel station in the world. "This is something Kuwait is very proud of," he noted. Q8's Antwerp blending plant is sited on the banks of the River Scheldt and enjoys excellent access to the UK and mainland Europe by river, sea, road and rail. The Q8 brand refines and markets fuel, lubricants and other petroleum derivatives outside Kuwait. Its main activities are focused on Europe and the Far East. — KUNA



FRENCH GERMAN EDUCATIONAL FAIR UNDERWAY



By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A two-day French German educational fair kicked off yesterday at the Arraya Center in Sharq, with the attendance of French Ambassador Christian Nakhle and a senior diplomat from the German Embassy in Kuwait. Parents and students from various schools attended the opening ceremony along with their mentors to learn more about the best schools for higher studies. One German and two French universities are participating in the fair.

French Education Attache Francois Pradal said the French-German education and cultural fair was organized to encourage more Kuwaitis and other nationals to study in these two European countries. "We have high-quality education in Europe - the system is similar if not better than international standards. We have excellent educational facilities and the environment is really great. We also have the most affordable tuition fees and the value of education is exceptional, so we want to encourage Kuwaitis to consider France," Pradal noted.

Currently, France hosts about 300 Kuwaiti students. There are a few French students taking Arabic courses at Kuwaiti universities as well. "An agreement will be signed between Kuwait University and French University in the coming weeks for an exchange of students. This is necessary to improve our educational cooperation," he added. The two-day educational fair also highlights French and German music and food, along with an exhibition of photographs from various schools in France and Germany.



KUWAIT: French Education Attache Francois Pradal. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



MINISTRY SIGNS KD 97.7M ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEAL

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works signed yesterday a contract at a cost of KD 97.7 million for work on a sewerage system in Saad Al-Abdullah road, with a timeframe of 36 months. The project aims to facilitate the flow of traffic in the area, Undersecretary of the ministry's Road

Construction Department Ahmad Al-Hassan said in a statement to the press. Moreover, he noted that the project entails building a road that stretches on 27.5 kilometers, in addition to four overpasses and a railway bridge.

On the project, Hassan said that it consists of

14.25 percent of construction work and 67.52 percent of infrastructure work, with 7 percent being electrical. Meanwhile, he also added that the ministry prioritizes infrastructure work, given how crucial it is to development goals and plans. — KUNA

Legalese

CRIMINAL LAWS IN KUWAIT

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

What constitutes a crime varies from one country to another, and what might be a social norm in one country can be a serious crime in another. Therefore, it is important to explain crimes punishable under Kuwaiti law to the large expat community living here.

I usually refrain from writing about criminal laws in Kuwait, because controversial topics such as sexual crimes, drug trafficking, stealing and so on are usually avoided by my readers and those who write to me. Even when I do discuss such topics with them, they tend to use fake names or refer to the situation as if it happened to a third party.

I am writing today though because I really do believe that such topics should be discussed. We all make mistakes and we are all capable of getting into trouble with the law - it is not for anyone to judge another person's actions. I also believe that the law should be accessible to everyone. We should learn to discuss things more openly in Kuwait and we should acknowledge that mistakes do happen, by all parties. So today I have chosen questions about criminal laws that may be more beneficial to an expat readership, and this is because I know the majority of my readers are expats.

Deportation

Question: Can I get deported for a crime?

Fajer: Yes, you can get deported for a crime. This is the most important question - please understand that deportation has been an option for government officials for expats who violate the law. It doesn't even have to be a serious crime for you to be deported - it could be immigration issues as well, such as your residency expiring.

Question: If so, what happens before I get deported?

Fajer: There are two types of deportation - administrative and judicial. I don't want to complicate things, so I won't get into details, but I will explain what happens, for let's say, having an expired residency or if an absconding case was filed against you. You will be taken to the police station and then transferred to a jail. You will be kept there for a few days until a ticket is booked for you to go back to your country. If you are deported, you will be banned from entering Kuwait and possibly the GCC for some time, depending on the reason of deportation.

Question: Is anyone exempt from being deported?

Fajer: Answering this question is complicated, but simply put, other than diplomats, children and husbands of Kuwaiti women are exempt.

Blood tests

Question: I know a lot of European countries have decriminalized cannabis, yet everyone knows that Kuwait is very strict when it comes to cannabis use. I want to know whether it would show up in my blood? How strict is Kuwait? I ask these questions because I am about to get tested for my new job and I am very nervous. I have not smoked in Kuwait, but I did smoke in Europe this summer. Can I still get legally punished?

Fajer: First of all, I cannot say if traces of any drugs will show up in your blood test, because it depends what kind of test has been done, what drugs have you consumed/inhaled and when you did so. This is a very non-legal technical question that I cannot answer.

Drugs in Kuwait by regulations are listed into three categories regarding how serious or harmful the drug is, and therefore the punishments differ according to the category the drug is in under. Cannabis is illegal in Kuwait in accordance to article 208, where a person that uses marijuana for personal use and in private can receive up to two years jail and/or a fine not exceeding KD 2,000.

From my experience, privately tested blood/urine tests for employers are not shared with the public prosecution. Also, if you have smoked cannabis in a country where it is legal, then you have nothing to worry about it, as you can easily prove you were in that country at that time.

There are other criminal issues that expats deal with regularly that I want to discuss in next week's legal column, and this includes fraudulent companies that use employees' credit cards to withdraw money as well as absconding. If you have any issues, please feel free to email me.

POLITICAL BLOC MEMBERS MULLED FOR NEW CABINET

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Well-informed sources said that some high-ranking members in the current government had made contacts with some political blocs, including the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), to discuss taking part in the new Cabinet due to be formed once the Nov 26 parliamentary elections are over. The sources noted that there are strong tendencies towards political powers' participation in the new government, which is expected to include ministers from ICM, the Islamic Salafi Alliance (ISA), the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the Democratic Forum, a Shiite

political bloc and an independent minister from the boycotters of the previous parliament. The sources stressed that ICM is not very enthusiastic about the offer and wishes to remain in parliament monitoring the government's performance, because it believes that Cabinet membership is damaging to any political bloc and that certain conditions have to be set with the government prior to accepting any portfolio.

Furthermore, the sources said the Democratic Forum has been boycotting the elections, although its ex-member Faisal Al-Shaye, who had some disagreements with it, was a member of the dissolved parliament. The sources added that

Shaye might be included in the new Cabinet, especially since he has decided not to run in the elections. "Being an economist, Shaye might be appointed as minister of finance, social affairs and labor, or commerce and industry," stressed the sources. Moreover, the sources said His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah intends to include at least three MPs in his new Cabinet and that former MPs might be also included, such as Adel Al-Khorafi, who withdrew from the race last week.

Road maintenance
Ministry of Public Works (MPW) is still

in the process of coordinating with the finance ministry to get the sums allocated for road maintenance, Undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghunaim said. She added that KD 150 million had been allocated for MPW for urgent road maintenance over three years and stressed that further coordination is still in progress to get the finance ministry approvals. Meanwhile, Ghunaim said that the committee would take over the Jaber Hospital project from the contractor had made no technical remarks, and thus MPW is ready to hand the hospital to the health ministry along with 18,000 blueprints and operation manuals.

CANDIDATES SHOULD UNDERGO PHYSICAL, MENTAL TESTS: ANALYST

'CHAOS' AT MEDICAL EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Political analyst Rima Al-Odheeb stressed the need for all parliamentary elections candidates to undergo medical tests, adding that such a decision has been delayed for too long and should have been put into practice years ago. She noted many Arab countries have made such tests mandatory to run. Odheeb said medical examination of candidates is a major step towards having parliamentarians with good health that would be positively echoed in their opinions and role in legislation and monitoring. "MPs must be physically and mentally fit to perform well," she said. Odheeb said a survey on her Twitter account to probe public opinion found that 88 percent of participants agreed, while only 12 percent rejected the proposal.

Health cooperation

Health minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi yesterday signed a contract of cooperation between Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPS) of Canada. KIMS Secretary General Dr Ibrahim Hadi announced implementing the cooperation agreement for three years with the aim of developing the institute's training courses and ensure training doctors according to highest international medical training standards. Hadi added that the agreement was approved by KIMS head of the board of trustees and health minister Obaidi to train the institute's training staff on latest clinical training and means of assessing trainees. He added that the agreement includes having RCPS supervise the Kuwaiti board examinations.

State of chaos

A state of chaos prevailed yesterday at the domestic helpers' medical examination department, where hundreds crowded to undergo medical tests pending renewing resi-

dency visas, which resulted in delaying many transactions.

Municipal Council elections

Municipal Council Chairman Muhalhel Al-Khaled said the council's supplementary elections would be held according to the earlier constituencies' system and that new areas would be added as per the new municipality law 33/2016. Khaled said MoI will announce the new lists of voters residing in new areas who had been deprived of voting in previous municipal council elections according to the old law 5/2005. Khaled explained that supplementary elections would be held in five constituencies - the fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth - after members Abdullah Al-Kandari, Ahmed Al-Bughaili, Nayef Al-Sour, Meshari Al-Mutoutah and Mane Al-Ajmi resigned.

Illegal camps

Jahra municipality launched a wide-scale campaign to fine illegal camps pitched without having valid licenses, violating the limits specified for each camp, or camping in off-limit areas. Some camps were warned during the campaign while over 50 violating ones are being removed. Separately, the Ministry of Health announced its intention to use ATVs as ambulances during the camping season so that paramedics can reach various camps easily.

Renewable energy

Minister of Electricity and Water and Acting Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmed Al-Jassar yesterday launched a project to install photoelectric cells at the Bayan water reservoirs. A statement issued by the ministry said the project is part of its keenness on adopting the latest in the field of renewable energy as well as reach the ultimate goal of covering 15 percent of the energy Kuwait needs by 2030 by renewable energy. The statement added that the project was launched in collaboration with the Environment Friends Company; the sole representative of

S-Energy Company of Korea. The project includes installing solar panels, including 492 photoelectric cells, over an area of 2,000 sq m to produce 120 kilowatts of electricity and link them to the main grid. The statement added that the cells used were especially designed to work in extreme heat of up to 95 degrees. The ministry added that a special polyethylene cleaning technology would be used instead of water to ensure the cells' durability. The ministry added that the project is supervised by a group of Kuwaiti engineers and technicians working for the ministry.

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR LABOR CITY PROJECT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has signed a contract between public and private sectors and a group of companies headed by 'Projacs' for projects management, to provide special advisory for the South Al-Jahra Labor City project. South Al-Jahra Labor City will be offered for investment with the establishment of a Kuwaiti shareholding company, KAPP said in a statement.

The company will be established in accordance with the country's build, operate and transfer (BOT) system and Law No 116 of 2014. The project aims to provide housing for expats with low incomes in peace with good environmental and service standards that include all security, health, entertaining and social facilities for employment, it said.

The project's area exceeds one million square meters, with a capacity of 20,000 workers. The duration of the project is estimated to be 40 years according to build-operate-transfer (BOT) system, including three years of design and construction. —KUNA

MINISTRY TAKES ACTION AGAINST ATV DRIVERS ON PUBLIC ROADS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd said the Interior Ministry is working hard on resolving the traffic problem according to the most modern scientific and practical methods. He pointed to the danger of driving all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs) and similar vehicles on streets and the accidents they cause, despite efforts and campaigns to limit such accidents. He said riding of ATVs by children and youths in residential areas causes many accidents and some of them lead to death. Fahd said strict application of the traffic law is in the public interest and maintains the safety of the country's youth, adding that the responsibility is of all without exception. He said parents are not free from this responsibility, adding that any adult who rides an ATV will be detained, while a juvenile will be sent to the care home and his parents will be legally responsible.



Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said measures have been taken against an employee of the emergency hotline 112, as she did not deal seriously with a call from a woman about a person allegedly carrying out Pagan rituals in public, which is illegal in Kuwait. The department said the ministry does not tolerate any laxity in dealing with such calls or any call that is made to the 112 center.

Pagan rituals

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Sirens test

The Civil Defense Department will test sirens tomorrow (Nov 8) at 10 am to make sure they are in working order, a Ministry of Interior statement said. The department said that there will be three tunes of varying pitches. The first is intermittent, which means an emergency is near happening; the second is a wavy tune, which means the danger is underway; while the third tune is continuous, which means the danger is over. The civil defense department will receive calls and questions from all those who hear the sirens on 1804000.

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Crime

Report

MAIDS BEAT UP ELDERLY SPONSOR

KUWAIT: Two maids beat up their elderly sponsor and escaped. The sponsor included a medical report in her complaint, which listed several injuries. She said the maids entered her room, with one holding a stick, adding that she does not know why the two attacked her.

Sexual assault

A juvenile sought the help of two friends to lure a man who had an affair with one of his relatives, then raped him. A police source said the youth discovered that one of his female relatives had a relationship with a man, so he took her phone and beat her before locking her up. The source said the suspect, with two of his friends, tricked the man into having a meeting, then abducted him and beat him. He was then raped. The source said the victim told his mother about the attack, so she took him to the police station and filed a complaint. Detectives are working on the case.

Drug traffickers caught

Four Egyptian nationals who were using and selling drugs, while at the same time were in violation of the residency law, were arrested by Farwaniya police, to be later sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Police patrols suspected the four, so they were stopped and found to be in an abnormal condition. When they were searched, hashish ready for sale was found on them. They were taken to the police station.

KD 1,500 debt

A Yemeni man was arrested after a foot chase in Adan, as she was wanted over a KD 1,500 debt. Policemen took the woman to the civil implementation department for further legal action.

Search for reckless driver

A citizen crashed his car into a laundry shop, then backed into a parked car before escaping. Interior ministry operations received a call about the incident in Maidan Hawally, so policemen went to the site and began investigations. The man did not go to the police station when he was summoned by police, so detectives were asked to arrest him.

Wife charged

A citizen accused his Tunisian wife of stealing the contents of a beauty salon he owns in Salmiya. Detectives are looking for the suspect for questioning.

Muggers at large

Hawally detectives are looking for two persons who robbed two expats. A security source said an Indian told Salmiya police that two persons robbed him of his smartphone, KD 150 and his civil ID. Meanwhile, a Pakistani taxi driver said a man claiming to be a detective robbed him of KD 500.

Abduction

An Egyptian man's name was placed on the travel ban list to prevent him from leaving with his daughter, who is in her mother's custody. The Egyptian woman told police that her ex-husband kidnapped their daughter, saying that after he picked up the girl from school, he fled to an unknown area. — Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



OOREDOO MEETS WITH KUWAIT BLIND ASSOCIATION

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network for 2016, emphasized its support for the Kuwait Blind Association in a meeting attended by representatives from association, which included the President of the Kuwait Blind Association, Fayez Al-Azmi, Treasurer of the Kuwait Blind Association, Mansour Al-Anezi, and Public Relations Manager of the Kuwait Blind Association, Adel Al-Rashidi.

A number of issues were discussed during the meeting which includes supporting the segments of society that lack services as well as Ooredoo's continuous support in making sure that the needs of all society's segments are met. A number of solutions were discussed to ensure that all obstacles facing handicapped customers are removed. This support stems from the belief of Ooredoo as a community-based company in fulfilling the wants of its clients and its belief in enriching the community and helping it thrive.

Commenting on the meeting, Mijbil Alayoub, Senior Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We are continuously striving to find solutions to serve our handicapped customers and to remove all obstacles in order to ease their experience. We thank the Kuwait Blind Association for their quick response, and this initiative reflects the commitment of both sides towards this important segment of society."

It is worth mentioning that Ooredoo recently opened Marina Mall's branch which is Ooredoo's first handicapped-friendly branch, taking into consideration the entire customer experience of handicapped customers, with an accessible entrance and facilities placed specially to meet their needs.



Mijbil Alayoub



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

STAGED DISQUALIFICATIONS

By Dr Hassan Abdullah Jouhar

The government and its prestigious parliament did not settle for the comical way by which the parliament was dissolved without any due justifications, and only to save the executive-legislative relations. More comedic scenes followed and more will probably still follow even after the elections are over and all the way till the new parliament gets disqualified on inception. The latest of such comical actions is the Ministry of Interior's (Mol) decision to disqualify a number of candidates in a most stupid and obvious move, because the committee entrusted with checking candidates' credentials knows for sure that such a move is unconstitutional. The committee even knows that its decisions are worthless because courts will annul the decisions and order the reinstatement of those candidacies. So, why does Mol make such hilarious actions?

The answer is that the government is trying to imply that the fate of the general elections and public will is in the hands of the interior ministry. Security reasons are becoming a weapon against both candidates and voters. It is very ironic and a democratic violation that security forces supervise and control elections, and in some way or another, control their results. In the 1967 elections, the Mol stole polling boxes in broad daylight and changed voting cards in a year known as the 'forgery

year'. However, to avoid obviousness, the government tends to create some 'plays' to delay some candidates and support others, portraying them as heroes with the ultimate result of confusing voters. How can Mol disqualify over 40 candidates for non-disqualifying felonies that are still being heard in courts without any final verdicts issued or even without being sued at all?

Disqualifying some parliamentary election candidates seems to be like placing some extra landmines on the coming elections' path, which would only add further constitutional suspicions like those leading to dissolving the 2013 parliament that was due to a faulty decree made without any lack of cooperation memos, the judicial committee suddenly formed to supervise the elections and lack of a clear supreme judicial council agenda, which might all lead to contesting the election results.

One of the funniest possible scenarios is that the coming election results would be annulled after probing the new political power balances to put the spoiled 2013 parliament back in office, after people forget its "achievements" in limiting liberties, increasing fuel prices, cancelling subsidies, increasing electricity and water prices and finally, possible regional problems.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

DANGERS IN COLD WAR ABSENCE

By Salah Al-Sayer

In my previous column, I wrote about the strange changes going on in our Arab societies with the result that all forms of enlightenment and civil life have given way to pedantic behavior, extremism and religious fundamentalism in all Arab cities to the extent that they have started looking more like Afghanistan's capital under the rule of the Taleban. Eventually, the Arab 'Hell' uprisings came to reveal how deep our societies had deteriorated into a state that made us the 'enemy' the West is looking for to replace its traditional enemy, Communism.

Many indicators show that Western minds tend to search for an enemy to avoid having internal ones

After World War II, the Soviet Union and US controlled the world and their antagonism was hidden in the name of the 'Cold War', which only subsided by the fall of the Soviet 'enemy' after that war had already served the West and US through enhancing their unity and solidarity. Therefore, the absence of the Communist enemy brought back fears of divisions and infighting. "We have won the Cold War and that is fine. But the enemy now is not them...it is us," said American thinker Erving Kristol.

Many indicators show that Western minds tend to search for an enemy to avoid having internal ones. Other indicators show that the enemy readily available is Islamism, that turned faith into semi-Marxism or other ideologies that sought controlling the structure of human communities. However, antagonizing Arab 'Muslim' allies, incriminating them and promoting Islamophobia is not convincing enough in a free, diverse and democratic Western world. Thus, it became a must to 'demonize' Islam and promote its hatred amongst people making such hatred rightful.

So, if the West is shooting at us because of the ideological vacancy it is suffering from, do we insist on playing goalkeepers? Why not take advantage of such fears and use them to put our societies back on the normal social and cultural paths? If opportunities are created during crises, as Winston Churchill said, why not start modernizing our societies? Why not open the windows of Arab cities that have been suffocating with darkness and oppression and bring back light and enlightenment? We are we controlled by gloominess, while we know that the Cold War ended the major power of Communism.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



VIVA CONCLUDES THE 52ND NUKS UK & IRELAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the conclusion of the 52nd annual national conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - United Kingdom and Ireland branch, held at the Westminster Park Plaza Hotel London (UK), from 28 until 30 October 2016, in the presence of the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in UK and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Khaled Al-Duwaisan.

VIVA has announced recently its sponsorship for the

fourth year in a row for this annual conference that included an economic, entrepreneurial, poetry, motivational, stand-up comedy, and a variety of other segments, and first of its kind social media interactive segment and various entertainment options. VIVA's delegation was headed by Chairman Dr Mahmood Ahmed Abdulrahman and CEO Eng. Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran.

On this occasion, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Manager Corporate Communications Division at VIVA com-

mented: "We will keep our promise to support the students' activities, either inside or outside our beloved country Kuwait, in the frame of our corporate social responsibility program."

VIVA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities can be reviewed on the company's website at <https://www.viva.com.kw/csr>. This offers a description of each CSR initiative that VIVA has supported, or taken on since its inception.



KUWAIT: Vice Commander of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honored a number of officers who recently graduated from specialized courses, and others who earned Master's degrees.





Trump inspires conspiracists in his camp, ramps up distrust

THOUSANDS PROTEST RISING BEIJING INTERVENTION IN HK



MOSUL: Iraqi children, one flashing the sign of victory, greet Iraqi army's soldiers from the 9th armored division in the area of Ali Rash, adjacent to the eastern Al-Intissar neighborhood of Mosul during a military operation to retake the main hub city from the Islamic State (IS) group jihadists. — AFP

MOSUL BATTLE RAGES AS RESISTANCE FALTERS

IS BOMBINGS AROUND COUNTRY LEAVE 20 DEAD

MOSUL: Iraq's special forces worked Sunday to clear neighborhoods on the eastern edge of Islamic State-held Mosul as bombings launched by the extremist group elsewhere in the country killed at least 20 people. The Mosul offensive has slowed in recent days as Iraqi forces have pushed into more densely populated areas, where they cannot rely as much on airstrikes and shelling because of the risk posed to civilians, who have been told to stay in their homes. "There are a lot of civilians and we are trying to protect them," said Lt Col Muhanad Al-Timimi. "This is one of the hardest battles that we've faced till now."

Some civilians are fleeing the combat zone, while IS militants are holding others back for use as human shields, making it harder for Iraqi commanders on the ground to get approval for requested U.S.-led coalition air strikes. Iraq's Special Forces are some of the country's best troops, but they still largely rely on air support to clear terrain. Iraqi forces first entered the eastern edge of the city on Tuesday. On Friday, forces began pushing into Mosul proper, but so far have advanced just over a kilometer (mile) into the city.

On the southern front, Iraqi forces are still some 12 miles from the city center. The fighting is centered on the town of Hamam Al-Alil, where Associated Press journalists could hear gunfire and saw attack helicopters firing on IS positions. Kurdish peshmerga fighters launched mortar rounds and fired heavy artillery at the IS-held town of Bashiqa, about 8 miles northeast of Mosul. The town, which is believed to be largely empty except for IS militants, has been encircled by Kurdish forces.

The extremists captured Mosul and surrounding areas in 2014, and have had plenty of time to dig trenches, block off roads and mine approaches to the city. "Daesh dug trenches that they filled with water and they have a lot of suicide attackers and car bombs," said Al-Timimi, using the Arabic

acronym for the IS group. The extremists meanwhile struck far from the front lines with a series of bombings. The deadliest attack took place in the city of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, which is home to a major Shiite shrine. Provincial spokesman Ali Al-Hamdani said the attacker set off a bomb-packed ambulance in a parking lot near Shiite pilgrims before detonating his explosives vest. The attack killed 11 people, including at least four Iranians, and wounded up to 100 other people.

Suicide attacks

Another suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden car into a busy checkpoint outside the city of Tikrit, killing at least nine people. Al-Hamdani said five female students, a woman and three policemen were killed in the attack, while 25 others were wounded. IS had also captured Tikrit during its lightning blitz across Iraq in the summer of 2014. Iraqi forces drove the militants from the city, around 80 miles north of Baghdad, in April 2015.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Ghasemi, condemned the two attacks, which he said had killed 21 people, including 10 Iranian pilgrims, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting tolls, which are common in the chaotic aftermath of attacks. In an online statement, IS claimed all three bombings and said the ambulance bomb was set off by a second suicide attacker. The AP could not verify the authenticity of the statement, which was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists.

In the capital, Baghdad, a series of smaller bombings killed at least 10 people and wounded 21 others, according to police and medical officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. No one immediately claimed the attacks, but they bore the hallmarks of IS. — AP

IRAQI FORCES BATTLE BOMBS WITH DRONES

SALAHYAH: On the Mosul front lines, Iraqi forces have found a new tool to counter the Islamic State group's suicide car bombs: Small commercial drones. "It's a car bomb!" Mohammed Salih alerted his forces after checking the live feed from a drone his men were flying over the area, on the Mosul battle's southern front.

A few seconds later, a large plume of smoke rose up where an attack helicopter had fired two rockets and taken out the explosives-laden vehicle that was heading straight for his men. The dust had not yet settled when another threat materialized on the drone's monitor. "There are four Daesh (IS) members on your right-hand side. They are not friendlies, repeat, not friendlies," Salih said.

Men of the Iraqi army's 15th division were advancing through Salahiyah village, on the edge of Hamam Al-Alil, one of the main targets on the vast southern front. The drone flew over enemy lines and landed back on the roof of the village school, which sits atop a hill overlooking the plain and has been turned into a temporary command centre. "This drone allows us to reconnoitre the area, spot the enemy's movements and direct our soldiers more efficiently towards their targets so we can destroy them," Salih said.

The toy-like device is barely wider than a foot and is available in shops or online for around \$600, or less than the latest iPhone. It has a camera, four rotors and is guided with a joystick connected to a tablet that feeds images that can be shot from an altitude of more than 150 meters. IS fighters use snipers and mortars when Iraqi forces approach their positions, but when both sides

engage on the ground, the jihadists' weapon of choice is the suicide car bomb.

'Not real men'

They have unleashed dozens of them every week since the start of the offensive against Mosul on October 17, inflicting casualties on Iraqi forces although the authorities have not provided any figures. "Some of them fight and die but others run away-these are not real men," Ali, a 25-year-old fighter from the division's commando unit, said. He thumbed bullets into six magazines for his M-16 assault rifle. "I'm determined to use all of them and I have more in stock," he said with a grin. Ali's mood changed when he pulled up a picture of a smiling young man on his mobile phone. "He was my friend. The day before yesterday, they blew up his Humvee with a guided missile. He burned to death inside the vehicle," he said.

The 15th division moved towards Hamam Al-Alil, despite intensifying fire from IS and the seemingly endless detonations of roadside bombs. Helicopters flying overhead fired missiles at IS positions dozens of times to open the way for army convoys. The first wounded soldier was brought in with a hole in each thigh from the same bullet, his own blood running down his rifle barrel. The drone's latest information was inconclusive: were the men spotted about 600 meters from the village mosque IS militants or his own fighters? "We need to check this out," Salih said, walking over to the site with his red beret but no protective gear. His left elbow still had pins sticking out of it, following a wound sustained during a previous battle. — AFP




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BRITISH CARDINAL PAYS RARE VISIT TO GAZA'S CHRISTIANS

GAZA CITY: The leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales visited the Gaza Strip yesterday, hoping to give a spiritual lift to the territory's tiny Christian minority. Cardinal Vincent Nichols praised Gaza's Christians, whose numbers have dwindled during a decade of Hamas rule and an Israeli-Egyptian blockade. "There've always been Christians here. Their numbers are small, but I believe their faith is strong," he said.

Before Hamas took over Gaza in 2007, the Christian population in the coastal enclave was over 3,000. Today, just 1,200 Christians remain, most of them Orthodox. Christian leaders blame the shattered economy, conflict with Israel and the blockade for encouraging Christians to move out. But community members have also complained that they do not feel comfortable under Hamas rule.

Christians and their property have occasionally come under attack since Hamas

seized power, but it's not clear if they were targeted by the Islamic militant group or members of more extreme factions. Hamas denies it mistreats Christians. Cardinal Nichols led Mass at the Holy Family Church yesterday, calling on Mary to "pray for the protection" of the Christian community in Gaza.

He first visited Gaza in 2014 the end of a 50-days of fighting between Israel and Hamas. More than 2,200 Palestinians, including hundreds of civilians, were killed, according to Palestinian and UN figures. In Israel, 66 soldiers and seven civilians were killed. Thousands of buildings and homes in Gaza were damaged from the fighting. The cardinal said yesterday that while he saw "some signs of rebuilding, there is an awful lot of damage that is still untouched." "The whole world is worried about the stability of the Middle East," where both Christians and Muslims "are persecuted and murdered by the extremists," he said. — AP



GAZA: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, greets worshippers after a Sunday mass at the Holy Family Catholic Church yesterday. — AP

PRO-KURD PARTY QUILTS TURK PARLIAMENT OVER ARRESTS

ISTANBUL: Turkey's main pro-Kurdish party yesterday said it was pulling out of parliament after nine of its MPs including the two co-leaders were arrested in an unprecedented crackdown. The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), the third-largest party in this legislature, said it would no longer be taking part in general sessions of parliament or commission work.

The arrest on Friday of the MPs, including charismatic party leaders Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdog, added to tensions as Turkey wages a relentless battle against Kurdish militants and deals with the aftermath of the July 15 failed coup. The move also compounded concerns among Turkey's Western allies that the state of emergency imposed after the coup bid is being used for a general crackdown against critics of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and not just the suspected plotters.

On Saturday, an Istanbul court ordered the jailing pending trial of nine executives and editorial staff from the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper. Some 35,000 people have been arrested after the coup bid, which Ankara blames on the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, while tens of thousands more have been fired from their jobs. The latest arrests of the HDP MPs prompted the Turkish authorities to restrict access to social media and VPN applications and also led to more heavy losses for the embattled Turkish lira.

'Turning point'

The HDP said instead of sitting in parliament, its remaining MPs who are not under arrest will go from "house to house, village to village and district to district" to meet people. It said that at the end of these consultations, proposals will be made over how to go forward. The HDP has 59 seats in parliament and their absence could enable Erdogan to push through his vision of a presidential system which the HDP has always vehemently opposed.

HDP party spokesman Ayhan Bilgen, calling Turkey at a "turning point", told local

media that any decision on whether to replace the imprisoned Demirtas and Yuksekdog at the helm of the party while they were jailed would be taken in the next days. They have been charged with membership and promotion of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

The HDP has always vehemently denied being a front for the PKK, which has waged an over three-decade insurgency against the Turkish state in search of greater rights and autonomy for the Kurdish minority. Integrating the Kurdish movement into mainstream politics was a key plank of the peace process once spearheaded by Erdogan which collapsed when a truce ruptured in 2015.

Turkey calls in EU envoys

Washington and the European Union reacted angrily to the arrests, with EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini and EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn saying Yuksekdog and Demirtas were "our trusted and valued interlocutors." "These developments... compromise parliamentary democracy in Turkey," they said.

Following the criticism, EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik invited EU envoys to a meeting Monday where he will give an address "on the latest developments in our country", the ministry said in a statement.

Turkey's bid to join the EU dates back to the 1960s with formal talks starting in 2005. But the process has been mired in problems and set back further by recent threats by Erdogan to bring back the death penalty.

Turkish police used tear gas and plastic bullets Saturday to disperse a demonstration in Istanbul against the arrests, and a similar march was expected yesterday in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir. A bomb attack in Diyarbakir on Friday left 11 people dead, with Turkey saying it was the work of the PKK. But the Amaq news agency, affiliated to Islamic State (IS) extremists, claimed it for the jihadists. "The fight against terror will continue until there is not a single terrorist remaining," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said in a speech in the eastern city of Erzincan. — AFP



DIYARBAKIR: Parliament member of Pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and HDP spokesman Ayhan Bilgen (C) speaks on November 6, 2016 during a press conference. — AFP



HOMS: A Syrian boy rides a bicycle through a devastated part of the old city.

DISPLACED SYRIANS FEAR RETURN, MARKING A DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT

DISCOURAGING 'DISLOYAL' POPULATION FROM RETURNING

BEIRUT: Syria's government says people who fled rebel zones that have since been retaken by the military are now welcome to return. But that's not how it worked out for one refugee family that came to check out the state of their home: They found another family had moved in. That's just one of many hurdles keeping away those displaced in Syria's war. Many who fled say they fear arrest if they return to homes now under government control or that their sons will be conscripted into the same military that once bombarded their towns. In other former opposition strongholds, the state is carrying out redevelopment projects that have razed thousands of homes.

The opposition accuses the government of President Bashar Assad of using under-the-radar methods to discourage populations it sees as disloyal from returning, changing the demographics to help consolidate control over a corridor running from Damascus to the Mediterranean coast. The government says it is doing all it can to bring people back. "The main goal of the Syrian government is to return all displaced Syrians to their homes," National Reconciliation Minister Ali Haidar told The Associated Press last month.

More than 11 million people, nearly half Syria's population, have been driven from their homes by the war since 2011, including 5 million who fled abroad as refugees. The war still rages in many parts of the country, and there is heavy destruction. In those conditions, a mass return is unlikely. So it is difficult to measure how much government measures are keeping opposition-minded Syrians from returning. But the fall of a number of opposition strongholds in recent months has brought to immediate relevance the issue of who can come back. For example, a string of rebel, mainly Sunni Muslim suburbs around Damascus have come under military control. They were drained of much of their population as hundreds of thousands fled siege and bombardment in recent years. Now thousands more are leaving because of government control. It is an open question whether they will ever return. In Aleppo, Syria's largest city, government forces are besieging the rebel eastern districts, and the estimated 275,000 residents have refused calls to evacuate, in part because many are convinced they'll never be allowed back.

Toxic sectarian aspect

The fact that most of the people from rebel areas are Sunni Muslims adds a toxic sectarian aspect to the charges of demographic manipulation. Sunni Muslims are the majority in Syria and make up the backbone of the rebellion, while minorities have largely supported Assad, particularly members of his own Alawite community, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Homs, Syria's third largest city, offers an indication of the hurdles for would-be returnees. In 2014, Homs' last major rebel neighborhoods, centered in its Old City, surrendered. That came after a long brutal siege that drove an estimated 300,000 from the city. Two years later, the government says the Old City is open for residents, but even official statistics say only 40 percent have returned. That figure is impossible to independently confirm, and the opposition believes it is inflated. On a visit to the Old City of Homs earlier this year, an AP team found a ghost town. More recently, AP interviewed six families expelled from Homs' old quarters, and only one could point to a relative, among hundreds, who has returned. All those interviewed spoke on condition they only be identified by their first names for fear of reprisals by the government.

"The families of the old city are still in exile. Today, you'll find them all over the world, except in their neighborhoods," said Abou Zeid, from the George Chiyah neighborhood. Hoda, now living in the Lebanese city of Tripoli, said she was told she had to pay overdue bills before she could see her Homs home. But she, like others, is deeply hesitant to approach state institutions to do so or validate her property records because it means crossing through multiple checkpoints run by the feared security services.

The displaced fear security forces will detain their husbands and sons for trumped-up crimes or conscript them into Assad's military. "We are not able to go back," said Rabaa, who fled to Lebanon with her family in 2012. She has a 20-year-old son. "The first thing they'll do is take him to the military," she said. "Go see our home? No way."

Families have also found others living in their homes. The extent of such incidents is murky. The displaced say the expropriation is widespread, but their reports cannot be independently confirmed. A pair of sisters, Maha and Um Alaa, described to the AP how they tried to check on Um Alaa's apartment in the town of Tel Khalakh, a former opposition stronghold 25 miles east of Homs. The sisters,

now in Tripoli, spoke on condition they not be fully identified.

Maha visited and found another family living there, she said. A loud argument ensued, and Maha backed off, fearing that the government would side with the squatter family. Um Alaa said her neighbors told her the family was from the nearby town of Homs. Neighbors also said other displaced people had asked authorities in Tel Kalakh for places to live and were directed to houses of those who had fled, Um Alaa said. The family in the home could not be reached because the landline has been switched off.

Also, Um Alaa fears she and her husband won't be able to reclaim their home because they didn't bring their property deed when they fled in 2014. "We thought we would only be gone a month," she said. "We have nothing to prove it is ours." Conscription fears are also driving residents out of former opposition strongholds. The government denies that conscription is a tactic to push dissidents out, saying it a national duty. "It's a law that

opposition, for urban renewal projects involving demolishing shantytowns. "It serves another purpose: to punish the unruly areas, so you pacify them, and you change the demographic," said Rashad Al-Kattan, a political analyst affiliated with the Center for Syrian Studies at the University of St Andrews, in Scotland.

In March, Assad lay the cornerstone for one such renovation project, in Damascus' working-class Kafr Sousa and Basateen Al-Razeh neighborhoods. The project is to build orderly new residential towers. But opposition outlets say residents are being pushed out. The Human Rights Watch report said up to 3,000 residential buildings had been demolished. Decree 66 also authorizes similar projects for Daraya, according to the pro-government business journal Iqtisad. Daraya and the other Sunni suburbs are highly strategic, said Kodmani, with the opposition's High Negotiations Committee. "If Damascus is to be really safe over the longer term, any pockets around Damascus need to be made loyal." — AP



BEIRUT: In this picture taken on Friday, Oct 7, 2016, Syrian citizens attend a sit-in against the forced displacement in Syria, in front of the United Nations headquarters. — AP

dates back to the establishment of the Syrian state," said Haidar, the national reconciliation minister.

He said the military is exploring ways around the predicament. For example, in some recaptured areas, the government has offered to postpone conscripts' deployments for six months to a year. But many deserters and draft-dodgers view this as simply a government tactic to give them a deadline to leave. "The implication is that ... in these six months you get everything in order and flee, (and the military) will look the other way," said Dani Qappani, an opposition activist.

Government siege

In the Damascus suburb of Moadamiyeh, for example, a third of the population of 50,000 fled during the government siege. After the suburb surrendered in September, some 10,000 more are likely to leave over the coming months for fear of conscription, said Bassma Kodmani, an opposition official. Similarly, some 13,000 will probably leave the Damascus suburb of Qudsaya along with their families to avoid conscription, said a former fighter in Qudsaya. The fighter, who is wanted for military service, said he approached authorities for the 6-month grace period and received it. He said that gives him time to sell his home and belongings before moving with his wife and two children to the northwest province of Idlib, the main rebel-held territory. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he has not yet left the government-held area.

When the suburb of Daraya fell in August, all its last remaining residents - around 2,700 from an original 250,00 - were removed and put in camps, raising an outcry from U.N. officials over the possibility of a forced displacement. The government says they will eventually be allowed back. But Daraya could see the sort of urban renewal projects that observers say are also a tool for demographic engineering.

A 2014 report by Human Rights Watch identified seven opposition neighborhoods around the country razed by government authorities for "redevelopment." It accused authorities of carrying out collective punishment. Presidential Decree 66, issued in 2012, lists a number of areas, mostly

RETRIAL OF BAHRAIN SENIOR OPPOSITION LEADER OPENS

MANAMA: An appeals court in Bahrain yesterday began a retrial of Shiite opposition chief Sheikh Ali Salman, jailed for nine years for inciting hatred and calling for forceful regime change. The head of the Al-Wefaq group attended the hearing in Manama but refused to answer the judge's questions, a judicial source said.

His lawyers spoke in his defense, insisting that Salman was innocent, the source added. A verdict would be announced on December 4, advocate general Haroun Al-Zayani said in a statement carried by the official BNA news agency. Salman, behind bars since December 2014, was sentenced in July last year to four years in prison after being convicted of inciting hatred in the Sunni-ruled Gulf kingdom. But in May the appeals court more than doubled his jail term to nine years after reversing an earlier acquittal on charges of calling for regime change by force.

However, on October 17, Bahrain's cassation court overturned the nine-year jail sentence and ordered a retrial. The same court rejected a request to release the cleric. In July, a court ordered Al-Wefaq's dissolution for "harbouring terrorism," inciting violence and encouraging demonstrations which threatened to spark sectarian strife. The decision drew strong criticism from UN chief Ban Ki-moon, Bahrain's allies in Washington and London, and Shiite-dominated Iran. Al-Wefaq had the largest bloc in parliament before lawmakers walked out in February 2011 in protest over a deadly crackdown on Arab Spring-inspired protests. — AFP

TRUMP INSPIRES CONSPIRACISTS IN HIS CAMP, RAMPS UP DISTRUST

MEDIA A PRIME TARGET FOR TRUMP'S RHETORIC



PHILADELPHIA: This file photo taken on July 28, 2016 shows Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and husband former US president Bill Clinton celebrate on the fourth and final night of the Democratic National Convention. — AFP

TRUMP, CLINTON TAKE DIFFERENT STRATEGIES TO SHORE UP VOTES

PEMBROKE PINES: Donald Trump is promising to take his campaign into traditional Democratic territory as a sign that he's not giving up on appealing to people outside the Republican Party. Hillary Clinton is focusing her efforts in the campaign's final days on energizing voters who usually support the Democratic nominee, but may need an extra boost. To do that, Clinton is pressing her case with music and sports celebrities, a strategy Trump dismissed. "I just have me," he told supporters in North Carolina on Saturday, "but I have my family." With him was his wife, Melania, who rarely campaigns with her husband.

A brief scare Saturday night disrupted Trump's rally in Reno, Nevada, when Secret Service agents suddenly hustled the Republican nominee off the stage. The agency later said that someone near the stage had shouted "Gun!" but that a subsequent apprehension of a man and search revealed no weapon. Trump returned a few minutes later to resume his remarks and declared "We will never be stopped."

As if to prove that point, Trump scheduled rallies Sunday in Minnesota, Nevada, which hasn't supported a Republican nominee since 1972, and Michigan, which hasn't since 1988. Polls show that unlikely to change this year, but Trump was including them in a single day of campaigning covering five states.

Clinton faced dark skies, intense rain and strong wind in Florida on Saturday before appearing in Pennsylvania with pop singer Katy Perry. The Democratic nominee was preparing to campaign Sunday with basketball superstar LeBron James, having shared the stage Friday night with music diva Beyoncé and hip hop mogul husband Jay Z. "Tonight, I want to hear you roar," a smiling Clinton said before introducing Perry for a Saturday night performance in Philadelphia.

'Madam President'

Perry, who hugged Clinton while wearing a purple cap bearing the words, "I'm with Madam President," shouted, "In three days, let's make history!" The final-days scramble highlighted sharp differences between the campaigns in a turbulent 2016 campaign season. Backed by President Barack Obama and her party's political elite, Clinton spent much of the last year fighting to unify Obama's coalition of minorities and younger voters, aided at times by Trump's deep unpopularity among women in both parties.

Trump has courted working-class white voters on the strength of his own celebrity, having sored off many would-be Republican allies during a campaign marred by extraordinary gaffes and self-created crises. Just four weeks ago, a video emerged in which a married Trump admitted to kissing women and grabbing their genitalia without their permission.

Clinton also faced extraordinary challenges of her own in recent days after the FBI confirmed plans to renew its focus on the former secretary of state's email practices. The development is seen as particularly threatening for Clinton in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire that don't offer early voting.

At least 41 million Americans across 48 states have already cast ballots, according to an Associated Press analysis. That's significantly more votes four days before Election Day than voted early in the 2012. House Speaker Paul Ryan campaigned Saturday alongside Trump's running mate, Mike Pence - a rare show of unity, but not with Trump himself. The speaker encouraged Republicans to "come home" to support Trump in Ryan's home-state Wisconsin, ignoring for a day his icy relationship with the Republican nominee. — AP

ALLENTOWN: Rigged election, biased media—Donald Trump regularly condemns alleged tactics aimed at derailing his bid for the White House, rhetoric that resonates with some supporters who are growing more mistrustful. The Republican presidential nominee has offered no concrete proof to back up his allegations but, to differing degrees, many in his camp believe them.

A prime target is the media, which Trump accuses of not covering his campaign objectively, while favoring his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the November 8 election. He says the media even launches unfounded attacks against him. "Most of the news is negative or they don't print it at all," said Susan, a retiree in Philadelphia on the sidelines of a "flash mob" supporting Trump. She did not want to give her family name.

Emails released by anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks in late October revealed that a CNN analyst, who is the interim chair of the Democratic National Committee, shared questions with the Clinton campaign ahead of a CNN-hosted primary debate. The DNC chief, Donna Brazile, had already resigned from the TV network when the WikiLeaks bombshell landed, but the furor fed into Trump's long-running argument that Clinton was given advance knowledge of debate questions.

"We have the WikiLeaks emails that confirm what I've been saying for years. They manipulate the polls," said Tom Carroll, an activist who has organized dozens of flash-mobs in the Allentown area in Pennsylvania. "The Hillary campaign has been paying people to read them the dialogue and the narra-



DENVER: Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, speaks during a campaign rally. — AP

tive to the media." The conspiracy-minded in the Trump camp have scant confidence in public opinion polls, which overall give Clinton an edge in a race tightening in the final stretch.

"They oversample Democrats" in the polls, said Carroll. "They use these polls on purpose to deflate the right and the conservative movement, to get them to believe that no one's voting for Trump" and to send the message "we can't win, don't even go to vote," he said. Trump recently said that a batch of

emails posted by WikiLeaks shows John Podesta, the chairman of Clinton's election campaign, had asked for a poll to be taken using an inflated number of Democrats in the sample. A check of those emails turned up no evidence of this claim.

Fraudulent election Tuesday?

Anything that runs counter to Trump's declarations is fodder for the conspiracists, who see it as a manipulation of public opinion. The fact that recent polls show Trump

gaining ground is only a new polling tactic, according to Carroll. After months of cooking the data, the pollsters "start telling the truth," he said, "because they have to say: 'we were right.'" Underlying the accusations against the media and pollsters is the belief they are in cahoots with the Democrats, seen as multiplying their attacks behind the scenes to cement their victory.

Some of Trump's followers trace Democrats' fingerprints behind the wave of women who have come forward in recent weeks accusing the candidate of having made unwanted sexual advances in the past. "A lot of them are getting paid to do this stuff, is what I'm hearing," said Susan. The fact that these alleged victims came out with public accusations so close to the election "just doesn't make sense," said Carol Krus, who traveled Thursday to see the first public appearance of Trump's wife, Melania Trump, alone on the campaign trail.

"They waited and they planned it," said Renee Johnson, who also came to hear Melania Trump speak at the event in Berwyn, Pennsylvania. For this fringe in the Trump camp, after a year and a half of what they view as a vicious campaign, their candidate has everything to fear in the reliability of the election Tuesday. "The turnout, I think it's going to be very high and I think it's going to be very fraudulent also," Susan warned. Carroll spoke about dead people registered to vote on the electoral lists in Philadelphia and voters paid to vote for Democrats. For Susan, voter fraud is already under way. "You know who's doing that?" she said in a conspiratorial tone. "She's scared." — AFP

WORKING-CLASS REPUBLICANS ANXIOUS OVER TRUMP PARTY

HERSHEY: Pennsylvania's working-class conservatives see Donald Trump as a savior who can bring back jobs and revolutionize Washington. But should he lose, there is genuine concern about the Republican Party, and whether it can even survive. The men and women who populate the industrial towns of Pennsylvania and other Rust Belt states were derided by Barack Obama in 2008 as "bitter" Americans who "cling to guns or religion."

Eight years later, with the White House on the line, the slight remains fresh for many in rural parts of the state, who feel increasingly isolated from the decisions made in Washington. Trump is the provocative real estate mogul who turned politics on its head with an antagonistic, 18-month presidential campaign that bested 16 fellow Republican challengers.

In doing so he left a yawning chasm between the Republican leaders and the millions who embraced a grass-roots movement. Should Trump win on November 8 the party will be his-a stunning seizure of political power that could change the course of American conservatism for decades. If he loses, Republicans have major rebuilding and healing ahead.

Some Trump supporters openly ponder the Grand Old Party's demise, and believe that many who were swept up in support for the former reality TV star could abandon the party. "I doubt that they'll go back into the fold," Ken Bleistein, 66, told AFP at a crowded Trump rally Friday in Hershey, Pennsylvania, four days before Election Day. The retiree said he "wouldn't be surprised" if conservative Trump supporters—who resent leaders like House

Speaker Paul Ryan for turning their backs on the controversial nominee—flee as the party seeks to reassert control over a restive flock.

Pennsylvanians may feel particularly aggrieved. The state has shed manufacturing jobs, and its unemployment rate is higher than the national average. The state has not voted Republican in a presidential race since 1988. Its rural territory is overwhelmingly conservative, but the heavily Democratic metropolis of Philadelphia has strength in numbers. Of the dozen voters interviewed in Hershey, all expressed varying degrees of outrage at the Republican Party for refusing to fully endorse Trump, or for failing to follow through on promises like repealing Obamacare once they gained control of Congress.

'Revolution!'

"They've moved to the middle, they've compromised, and that's really got a lot of conservative people into a tizzy," Roger Springer said at the aptly named American Dream Diner in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital. "I feel we need to go back to our principles and stick up for what we believe is right," said Springer, who runs a potato growers' cooperative. He believes Trump is the man to do that. The 67-year-old Springer believes that calls for revolution and pitchfork demonstrations by infuriated conservatives are blown out of proportion. "But there definitely will be ramifications for the party," he said. "There's gonna be a revolution!" insisted dry-wall finisher Wayne Hess, 56, as he talked with other Trump supporters in Hershey. But he walked back his rallying cry, stressing that the party would maintain cohesion. —AFP



DENVER: Supporters of Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, cheer as he arrives to speak during a campaign rally. — AP

WHITE HOUSE RACE: THE 2 YEAR ROLLERCOASTER

WASHINGTON: Does anyone remember when the seemingly ever-present 2016 US presidential campaign actually began? Well, nearly two years ago. The following is a sample of the major stages, developments and surprises of a race like no other as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump battle for the White House.

2014

December 16

Another Bush-Clinton matchup: political commentators and junkies drool with glee as Jeb Bush, son and brother of former presidents, jumps into the race for the White House.

2015

March 2

The New York Times scores a big scoop with news that Clinton used a private email server while working as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. Her team is caught off guard. "We brought up the existence of emails in research this summer but were told that everything was taken care of," Clinton's future campaign manager Robby Mook wrote in a recently hacked email. "I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email. There is no classified material," Clinton said at a tense news conference.

April 12

Clinton formally announces her candidacy. At the time, Trump was not even included in polls of hopefuls who might take on the Democrat seeing to become America's first female president. A bevy of Republicans start coming forward to join the race, including Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Ben Carson. The number would eventually swell to 17.

June 16

In a grandiose appearance at Trump Tower, Trump shows he is not bluffing and announces his candidacy. And he makes a comment that is now etched in the political annals. "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best," Trump said. "They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people." On July 14, a poll puts Trump in first place looking ahead to the primaries. His populist wave is now a force to be reckoned with. "He'll be a Ronald Reagan plus plus," Alice Butler-Short, a 72-year-old Trump supporter, told a raucous rally in October.

December 7

Trump calls for a total ban on Muslims entering the United States "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on." Condemnation of his idea pours in from around the world, but most Republicans welcome it.

2016

February 1

Trump shows he is no pushover. He finishes second in the Iowa caucuses, and first in New Hampshire, South Carolina and other states.

February 20

Bush drops out of the race after a

poor showing. His bid for the nomination cost \$152 million.

May 3-4

Trump's last surviving rivals, Cruz and John Kasich, throw in the towel and Trump emerges victorious. His next target is Clinton. He points to the controversy over her email practices and says she should not even have the right to run for president. "Never Trump" Republicans try to mount a resistance movement, as the billionaire real estate mogul pledges to unify the party.

June 7

Clinton manages to clinch enough primary delegates for the Democratic nomination, defeating Bernie Sanders. At a New York rally buzzing with enthusiasm, she trumpets that it is "the first time in our nation's history that a woman will be a major party's nominee for president of the United States."

July 5

Democrats heave a sigh of relief as the FBI recommends that no charges be filed against Clinton over her private email server. But FBI Director James Comey dismisses Clinton's handling of her email as "extremely careless."

Later that month, Trump accepts the Republican nomination at a convention in Cleveland that is marred by missteps, while the Democratic convention in Philadelphia chooses Clinton as the first women presidential nominee of a major party.

August

Trump has a very bad month: he again reshuffles his campaign staff, and is excoriated for criticizing the parents of a Muslim American soldier killed in Iraq.

September 11

Under a hot sun, Clinton falls ill at a ceremony honoring the victims of the 9/11 attacks. She stumbles while trying to get into a limousine and is forced to announce that she is suffering from pneumonia.

September 26

The first presidential debate draws 84 million TV viewers. Trump loses his temper with Clinton, who comes across as well prepared and collected. She boosts her lead in the polls.

October 7

"And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab 'em by the p****y. You can do anything." That's Trump talking in a just-rediscovered audio from 2005 about what he sees as the perks of fame. Americans are outraged. Dozens of Republicans declare themselves fed up with Trump and withdraw their support.

October 28

In a gift to Trump, the FBI director announces a probe into previously undisclosed emails that he says might be pertinent to the probe into Clinton's server. "This is the biggest political scandal since Watergate," Trump said as he latched on to what would be the main theme for the closing stage of his campaign. — AFP

NICARAGUA'S LEADER, WIFE LIKELY TO CLINCH ELECTIONS

MANAGUA: Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and his extravagant wife, Rosario Murillo, looked likely to win elections yesterday that would hand him a third straight term and cement her role as co-ruler. Voters filed through polling stations across the Central American nation of six million to select their president and lawmakers in their National Assembly. Multiple state television channels emphasized the "calm" and "order" exhibited, and broadcast get-out-the-vote messages from Catholic Church officials.

Foreign observers were barred from monitoring the election, though some Organization of American States representatives were present to "learn" details of the vote. Polling was scheduled to close at 6:00 pm (0000 GMT Monday), with results expected hours later. Voter intention surveys credit Ortega with an insurmountable lead over rivals. The 70-year-old former Marxist rebel is widely popular—especially with Nicaragua's poor who account for more than a third of the population—for social programs and economic stability and security that has promoted vibrant growth.

Powerful first lady

If he triumphs, it would be Ortega's fourth presidential mandate. He has served two consecutive terms since 2007, and previously between 1985 and 1990, when his Sandinista National Liberation Front emerged victorious from a revolution that toppled a dictatorial dynasty.

Murillo, 65, already fills a prominent role as his government's spokeswoman. With Ortega increasingly reluctant to make public appearances, she has stepped up-wearing trademark colorful dresses and ostentatious jewelry—to represent the administration. She has also left her mark on the capital, ordering the erection of tall, metal "trees of life" that decorate the main boulevard in bright colors. Many observers believe "La Compañera" (the companion), as she is known, already shares decisions with Ortega and could become president herself if he bows out, or in the next elections.

'Couples in power'

"The practice of 'couples in power' is not exclusive to Nicaragua," Veronica Rueda Estrada, a Nicaragua expert and professor at Mexico's

Quintana Roo University, told AFP by email. She called to mind Cristina Kirchner, who succeeded her husband Nestor Kirchner as president of Argentina, and Hillary Clinton in the United States, who is vying to become president with Bill Clinton by her side.

Rueda said the overshadowing US elections had spared Nicaragua intense international scrutiny. But once the US vote is out of the way on Tuesday, attention would turn to how Nicaragua would face challenges, notably the evaporation of credit from its troubled ally Venezuela. The opposition, already weak and fractured, has been progressively sidelined by Ortega and institutions such as the courts and electoral authority.

Parts of it have called the elections a "farce" and urged Nicaraguans to not cast votes, making turnout figures an important element in the result. A poll by Nicaraguan survey firm M&R said Ortega had 70 percent support, and turnout was predicted at 75 percent. A survey by the CID-Gallup consultancy in neighboring Costa Rica offered a more muted picture — 52 percent for Ortega, with turnout at 58 percent—but still a comfortable margin over rivals. — AFP

ITALY'S 5-STAR TOURS EU IN BID TO SINK RENZI'S REFERENDUM

ROME: A month away from a referendum on constitutional reform that could sink the government, Italy's largest opposition party wants to make sure Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is not saved by the votes of Italians abroad. Luigi Di Maio, one of the most prominent faces of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, heads to London on Tuesday to kick off a 10-day campaign against the referendum that will also take him to Madrid, Brussels, Paris and Berlin.

5-Star, whose appeal is based on a drive against the corruption that has tainted Italy's politics for decades, has good reason to be wary of the army of 3 million expatriates who the right to vote. The maverick group was the most voted party in Italy at the last national election in 2013, but after the ballots were counted from Italians living abroad it was overtaken by the Democratic Party (PD), allowing it to lead a new government. Di Maio, a 30-year-old parliamentarian widely expected to be 5-Star's candidate for

prime minister at the next election due in 2018, aims to avoid a repeat performance with the referendum.

"We want to explain the risks of this reform to Italians abroad because if 'Yes' wins we will never get rid of the political class that forced them to emigrate," he told Reuters in an interview. Italians faced with a chronically stagnant economy and a lack of work have been emigrating in growing numbers in recent years. Some 107,000 moved abroad in 2015, according to official data, but the actual figure is believed to be much higher.

Renzi says his plan to reduce drastically the role of the Senate and curb the powers of regional governments will simplify decision-making and ensure stable government. Opponents say it will actually make the legislative process more complicated and reduce checks and balances. "This reform will give more power to the people who have brought our country to the state it is in," said Di Maio, whose party is roughly level with the PD according

to recent polls. Earlier this year Renzi repeatedly said he would resign if he lost the Dec. 4 referendum. In the last two months he has declined to confirm that, saying discussion of his own future deflected attention from the merits of the reform. "If he loses we will ask Renzi to keep his promise and the Italians will ask him to keep his promise," said Di Maio, who is viewed as the moderate face of the movement created by firebrand comedian Beppe Grillo in 2009.

Renzi's struggle

With all the opposition parties lined up against the reform, Renzi faces an uphill struggle. Of 33 opinion polls published in the last month, all but one has put 'No' ahead. However, with around a quarter of voters still undecided, pollsters say the result remains highly uncertain. Moreover, the polls do not include Italians living abroad. Pollsters expect less than a third of these to cast a ballot, but they say of those that do, most will

probably vote 'Yes'. In a very tight race this could be crucial.

The meticulous Di Maio is likely to have a tough task convincing expats such as Stefano Greco, a 27-year-old from Sicily who has been in London for 15 months doing a post-graduate degree at the London Business School. "I will vote 'Yes', because living abroad you see even more clearly how slow and bureaucratic Italy is, and my impression is that the reform will help to make things simpler," he said.

The 2013 election was just the latest to turn on Italians abroad. In 2006, it was the foreign vote that gave centre-left leader Romano Prodi his majority in the upper house Senate. 5-Star is not the only party wooing Italy's emigrants. Reforms Minister Maria Elena Boschi recently toured Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay to win support for 'Yes', while the right-wing Northern League is also sending a senior politician to South America this month to whip up the 'No' vote. Federico Benini, head of polling agency Winpoll, forecast

that around 300,000 Italians abroad would vote, or roughly 10 percent. That compares with 30 percent at the 2013 national election and just 3 percent at the 2014 European election. Of those that cast a ballot, he said he expected up to 80 percent to back 'Yes' because they follow Italian politics less closely, tend to be less anti-Renzi and see it as broadly positive that the country is trying to reform.

Benini estimated that if 'Yes' is less than one percentage point behind among domestic voters, the result could be overturned by those resident abroad. Di Maio said 5-Star had its own proposals for amending the constitution, such as taking away parliamentarians' immunity from arrest and removing the provision that Italy must balance its budget each year, which in any case it has never respected. "We are certainly not against change," he said. "But change is not always good, and by saying no to this reform we are trying to save Italy from a change for the worse." — Reuters

CYPRUS TOWN'S FUTURE HANGS IN TALKS BALANCE

ORANGE-GROWING CENTRE WILL BE A CORE DISPUTE

MORPHOU: When Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot leaders meet for land-for-peace talks today aimed at ending the island's decades-old division, the future of a famed orange-growing centre will be a core dispute. A country town in a sea of orchards near the island's north coast, Morphou once had an almost entirely Greek Cypriot population who still hold title deeds to its rich farmland.

Now named Guzelyurt in Turkish, it is home to around 18,000 Turkish Cypriots, some of whom have lived here for more than four decades. It was in the early hours of August 14, 1974, that everything changed. Turkish troops were on the move. "It was summer. We used to sleep with the windows open," said Ourania Peletie, who was 18

at the time. She fled with her family to the island's second city Limassol, and later moved to the capital Nicosia, where today she works as an administrative manager at a law firm.

'My home'

She is also an elected member of Morphou's town council in exile. She hopes that this week's talks will result in a deal that brings the Morphou area under Greek Cypriot control. Sitting in the council's offices on the Greek Cypriot side of the divided capital, Peletie showed AFP large monochrome pictures from the town's orange festivals before 1974. She said most Greek Cypriots from Morphou wanted to return to their homes. "If Morphou is returned I

will definitely go back. I have a house in Nicosia. But my home is in Morphou," she said. It has always been agreed that some of the territory currently controlled by the Turkish Cypriots will be ceded to Greek Cypriot control in any peace deal. Turkish Cypriots made up just 18 percent of the island's population in 1974 but they currently control more than a third of its territory. It is an issue for Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart Mustafa Akinci to thrash out in five days of intensive talks in Switzerland this week. Anastasiades's government has said repeatedly that Morphou must be returned to Greek Cypriot rule under any peace deal. But that would spell new displacement for the Turkish Cypriots who currently live in the town, many of whom are themselves refugees from other parts of the island. Ramadan Kandulu says he never chose to move to Morphou. In 1974, he and his future wife, Gonul, were living in Kantou, a village near Limassol.

When Greek Cypriot fighters occupied their Turkish-majority village, Ramadan's family fled to a nearby British military base. Gonul's soon followed. "We were going to get engaged in August. We had built a new house in Kantou," he said. "We left everything there." Ramadan headed to the Turkish-occupied north, where authorities gave him an abandoned Greek Cypriot-owned house in Zodeia, a village just outside Morphou known as Bostanci in Turkish. He said it was empty and dirty. Today, it is a neat three-bedroom house with walls covered in family photos.

'We also had land'

Gonul's family was given a house in Morphou and a nearby orchard—both the property of displaced Greek Cypriots. A UN soldier delivered Gonul's wedding dress, which she had abandoned when she left the south. In 1975, the couple were married. Ramadan, 70, a retired accountant, tends thousands of orange and pomegranate trees in the nearby orchard Gonul inherited from her parents. He said most townspeople would reject any agreement that would return Morphou to Greek Cypriot control.

"Over such a long time people have settled and organised their lives here," he said. "I know it's hard for [refugees from 1974], it was their property, but this issue should be solved with compensation. We also had land we left in the south." Under a peace blueprint drawn up by UN mediators in 2003, Morphou would have been handed over to Greek Cypriot administration.

The plan was approved by Turkish Cypriot voters but Greek Cypriot voters overwhelmingly rejected it. Attitudes have since hardened. Sina Ozdes, spokesman for a residents' campaign group, the Guzelyurt Civil Society Platform, said he accepted there would have to be territorial concessions in any peace deal but would vote against any agreement that surrendered control of the town. "We're going to give something—but not Morphou," he said. — AFP



MORPHOU: A man walks past the Greek Orthodox church of Saint Mamas in the town of Morphou in the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. — AFP

at the time. "I heard a noise. I woke up and looked outside and the sky was full of aeroplanes. I woke my father. We picked up a few things. In 10 minutes, we got into the car and left."

The Turkish invasion was the culmination of years of violence between the island's Greek and Turkish communities in which hundreds of people were killed. It left Turkey in control of 36 percent of the island—including Morphou. For Peletie, it spelt an exile from her hometown that contin-

ued to this day. She fled with her family to the island's second city Limassol, and later moved to the capital Nicosia, where today she works as an administrative manager at a law firm.

TEST FOR PM AS BULGARIANS ELECT PRESIDENT

SOFIA: Bulgarians voted yesterday in a first round of presidential elections, a key test of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov's popularity in the EU's poorest country. If his candidate and protégée Tsetska Tsacheva fails to win the presidency, Borisov might call early elections, plunging Bulgaria into renewed political uncertainty, experts say.

Opinion polls suggest that Tsacheva, currently speaker of parliament, will top the crowded field of 21 candidates with around 30 percent of the vote. But close on the 58-year-old's tail will be MiG ace and former airforce head Rumen Radev, the candidate of the opposition Socialists who is seen as more sympathetic to Russia. This will set up what surveys suggest will be a tight runoff contest between Tsacheva and Radev on November 13 to become the south-eastern European country's head of state.

While Borisov presents Tsacheva as the "mother of the nation", political scientist Dimitar Bechev warned that he had failed to grasp her "dangerous lack of charisma". "Radev could end up carrying the day by a small margin," Bechev said. Burly former bodyguard and police chief Borisov, 57, has injected some much-needed stability into Bulgaria since becoming premier for the second time in late 2014. His first term ended abruptly in February 2013 when Bulgarians livid about poverty, corruption and cronyism took to the streets across the country. Eight people set themselves on fire.

More protests brought down the subsequent technocrat government after barely a year, precipitating fresh elections that returned Borisov to power at the head of a minority government. Graft and poverty remain rife, however, and progress on reforms has been sluggish. A new voter concern in recent months has seen thousands of migrants stranded in Bulgaria.

East or West?

The job of Bulgarian president is largely ceremonial but he or she is still a respected figure

who chooses some top officials and can appoint technocrat governments in a crisis. And for a country forever walking the East-West tightrope, both Moscow and Brussels will be watching closely to see whether the new president might tilt the ex-communist country more into the Russian or the Western orbit.

NATO member Bulgaria last September angered Moscow by banning Russian supply flights to Syria from using its airspace. Rosen Pleneviev, the outgoing president, has been outspoken in his criticism of Russia and its President Vladimir Putin. "What today Russia is trying to achieve is to weaken Europe, to divide Europe

and to make us dependent," Pleneviev told the BBC in an interview published Friday. But at the same time Bulgaria's economy is hugely reliant on Russia, particularly in gas, and the two have deep historical and cultural ties. In 2010 Borisov gave Putin a puppy.

Radev, meanwhile, told Darik radio in a recent interview: "We have lost a lot by declaring Russia more or less an enemy." In addition he has called for EU sanctions on Russia, imposed because of Ukraine, to be lifted—a position shared by Tsacheva until Borisov called her back into line. Voting stations close at 8 pm (1800 GMT), with exit polls expected soon afterwards. — AFP



PLEVEN: Bulgarian casts his vote during Presidential elections. — AP



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis (C) leads a mass at St Peter's basilica in Vatican. One thousand prisoners — including some lifers — take part in a special event at the Vatican this weekend, along with 3,000 family members, prison staff and volunteers. — AFP

POPE HOLDS SPECIAL VATICAN MASS FOR 1,000 PRISONERS

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis yesterday celebrated Mass before a thousand prisoners specially invited to the Vatican, giving them a message of hope while denouncing the "hypocrisy" of society. The event was also attended by 3,000 others including prison staff and volunteers and without any visible police presence.

The Argentine pontiff regularly meets prisoners—both in Italy and on his trips abroad—but this is the first time so many inmates were received at the Vatican. The pontiff, recalling his visits to jail, said: "Every time I enter a prison, I ask the question 'why them and not me?' we all can make mistakes." The prisoners came from jails in Italy and Spain but 12 countries were represented including Britain, Mexico, South Africa. He exhorted them never to lose hope.

"Hope is a gift of God," he said. "Certainly, breaking the law involves paying the price, and losing one's freedom is the worst part of serving time, because it affects us so deeply. All the same, hope must not falter." He said that incarceration was not the only means to set people back on the right path. "Sometimes, a certain hypocrisy leads to people considering you only as wrongdoers, for whom prison is the sole answer," he said.

"We don't think about the possibility that people can change their lives; we put little trust in rehabilitation. But in this way we forget that we are all sinners and often, without being aware of it, we too are prisoners... locked up within our own prejudices or enslaved to the idols of a false sense of well-being." — AFP

PM MAY VOWS TO DELIVER EU EXIT

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday she would deliver a full exit from the European Union, hitting back at critics of her Brexit strategy who have threatened to try to block the process in parliament. The government's plans to launch a two-year divorce process by the end of March next year were thrown into disarray last week when a court ruled that parliament must be consulted on the decision. May has said she is confident of overturning the ruling.

Nevertheless, the prospect of a parliamentary vote has enraged eurosceptic lawmakers who fear the 'hard Brexit' they want will be watered down, and emboldened political opponents who want a less radical split from the bloc.

Writing in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper, May signalled she would resist any attempt to force her to change her approach to leaving the EU, a historic break that was approved by 52 percent of Britons in a referendum in June. "The people made their choice, and did so decisively. It is the responsibility of the government to get on with the job and to carry out their instruction in full," May wrote.

She said members of parliament who regretted the referendum result "need to accept what the people decided". The head of Britain's opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said in a newspaper interview that he would try to block the commencement of divorce talks with the EU if the government does not agree to his Brexit demands.

May's government, which has given little away about its plans for Britain's future relationship with the EU, has said that having to set out a detailed negotiating strategy to parliament would put it at a disadvantage in the talks. "While others seek to tie our negotiating hands, the Government will get on with the job of delivering the decision of the British people," May said in a separate statement ahead of a trade visit to India yesterday.

Half-Brexit

Arch-euro-sceptic Nigel Farage, who led the influential UK Independence Party's Brexit campaign, said there was a growing movement to keep Britain within the EU's tariff-free single market - a scenario he

called a "half-Brexit" that went against the referendum result. "If the people in this country think that they're going to be cheated, they're going to be betrayed, then we will see political anger the likes of which none of us in our lifetimes have ever witnessed in this country," he told the BBC. Parliament could in theory block Brexit because most members supported staying in the EU in June's referendum. But many lawmakers have signalled they would be willing to reverse their position to reflect the referendum result.

"I think it is highly unlikely that parliament would not, in the end, back a decision to trigger Article 50," health minister Jeremy Hunt told the BBC, referring to the EU treaty mechanism for launching divorce proceedings. Last week's court ruling could allow lawmakers to temper the government's approach, however, making a "hard Brexit" - where tight controls on immigration are prioritized over remaining in the single market - less likely. Corbyn told the Sunday Mirror that Labour's "Brexit bottom line" would require guarantees for access to the single market for exporters, continued protection of workers' rights, safeguards for consumers and the environment, and pledges that Britain would make up any loss of EU capital investment. Corbyn said he would welcome an early national election if May refused to meet his demands. But the next one is not due until 2020, and the government has so far resisted pressure to dissolve parliament and seek a stronger mandate. "I think a general election is frankly the last thing that the government wants... It's the last thing that the British people want," Hunt said. A government appeal against the High Court ruling is expected to be considered by Britain's Supreme Court early next month. May has said she still plans to invoke Article 50 by the end of March. "We need to turn our minds to how we get the best outcome for our country," she said in the statement issued by her office. "That means sticking to our plan and timetable, getting on with the work of developing our negotiating strategy and not putting all our cards on the table - that is not in our national interest and it won't help us get the best deal for Britain." — Reuters

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JAPAN, INDIA TO INK CONTROVERSIAL NUCLEAR DEAL THIS WEEK

TOKYO: Japan and India are set to sign a controversial civil nuclear deal this week, reports said yesterday, as the two Asian allies look to boost economic and security ties to counter an assertive China. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe are set to sign a deal Friday that would allow Japan to export nuclear technology to the subcontinent, the Yomiuri Shimbun paper reported.

India would become the first non-signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons (NPT) to agree such a nuclear deal with Japan which was the victim of US atomic bombings in the final days of World War II. The two countries are also set to agree that if India conducts a nuclear test, Japan will stop cooperation, the Yomiuri reported. The expected deal comes against a backdrop of growing security concerns in the region over China's military presence.

Beijing is expanding its deep-water naval presence and asserts sovereignty over disputed areas of the East and South China Sea and Indian Ocean

region, parts of which Japan also claims. India has a longstanding territorial dispute with China, and troops from the two countries engaged in a major stand-off at the border in 2014.

Tokyo has its own spat with Beijing over islands in the East China Sea, and is increasingly vocal about its rival's ambitions to control almost the whole of the South China Sea. Japan has in the past shunned civil nuclear cooperation with India, citing concerns over the international Non-Proliferation Treaty, but appears to have softened its stance.

The business daily Nikkei confirmed the expected nuclear deal, adding that a batch of business-linked deals are also set to be signed. Modi visited Japan in August 2014 on his first bilateral trip outside South Asia, months after coming to power. Subsequently Abe paid a two-day visit to India last December.

Modi will arrive in Japan Thursday for a three-day visit, after the two men in September held talks on the sidelines of a Southeast Asia meeting in Laos. — AFP



HONG KONG: Protesters scuffle with police officers after clashing as thousands of people march in the streets. — AP

THOUSANDS PROTEST RISING BEIJING INTERVENTION IN HK

POLICE USE PEPPER SPRAY ON DEMONSTRATORS

HONG KONG: Thousands of protesters marched in Hong Kong yesterday, demanding that China's central government stay out of a political dispute in the southern Chinese city after Beijing indicated that it would intervene to deter pro-independence advocates. The dispute centers on a provocative display of anti-China sentiment by two newly elected pro-independence Hong Kong lawmakers at their swearing-in ceremony last month.

China's top legislative panel said that Beijing must intervene to deter advocates of independence for Hong Kong, calling their actions a threat to national security. The Standing Committee of China's rubber-stamp legislature said in a statement that Beijing could not afford to do nothing in the face of challenges in Hong Kong to China's authority, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Saturday.

Yesterday, thousands of people marched in downtown Hong Kong to voice their opposition to China's plan to step in, saying the move would undermine the city's considerable autonomy and independent judiciary. Several thousand people gathered in the evening to protest outside Beijing's liaison office. Police used pepper spray on demonstrators amid some scuffling.

Some protesters wore face masks and hoisted open umbrellas in the air - symbols that were reminiscent of student-led pro-democracy

demonstrations in 2014 that blocked key Hong Kong streets and attracted global attention. Helmeted police officers with shields stood in several rows, creating a blockade against the protesters. "Open the road! Open the road!" the demonstrators chanted, as police warned them not to charge.

Ongoing review

Demonstrators held signs reading "Defend the rule of law" and calling for the city's Beijing-backed chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, to step down. Some said that if China's top legislative panel issued its own interpretation on oath-taking, it would effectively undermine a Hong Kong court's ongoing review of the case.

"In (the) long run, that will damage our confidence in the court," said Alvin Yeung, a legislator. "That will, in the long run, damage the international investors' (confidence) in Hong Kong's stability and the rule of law, and of course how our court functions." The legislative panel in Beijing said the words and actions of the two Hong Kong lawmakers - Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching - "posed a grave threat to national sovereignty and security," Xinhua reported.

If such a situation were to persist, the Standing Committee said, it would hurt the interests of Hong Kong's residents and China's progress. "The central government cannot sit

idly and do nothing," it said. The statement followed discussions by the committee on issuing an interpretation of an article in Hong Kong's constitution, known as the Basic Law, that covers oaths taken by lawmakers.

Leung, 30, and Yau, 25, who are from 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. Saturday's comments indicated that the Standing Committee intended to use its interpretation of the article to send a strong message against separatism - and could ultimately lead to the democratically elected lawmakers' disqualification from 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. Maria Tam, a Hong Kong deputy to the National People's Congress, told reporters in Beijing on Saturday that the Standing Committee has the "final say" on the dispute, and that Hong Kong's highest court would accept the panel's interpretation as binding. — AP

DEATH TOLL RISES IN PAKISTAN SHIPBREAKING BLAST, HITS 26

QUETTA The death toll from an explosion and fire at a Pakistan shipbreaking yard last week has risen to 26, officials said yesterday. More than 50 others were wounded in the incident when a gas cylinder exploded and started a fire inside an oil tanker at the Gadani yard in the southwestern province of Balochistan.

"Six more wounded from the Gadani shipyard have died, so the new toll is now 26," Zulfikar Hashmi, a local government official, told AFP. "One person died at home after being discharged from hospital while five others expired in hospital," he said. Muhammad Hashim, commis-

sioner of Kalat region of which Gadani is a part, confirmed the new toll.

Later, around 50 people blocked a highway connecting Gadani to Karachi to protest what they said was insufficient care for those injured in the blast. They lay the body of one dead worker on the road and chanted slogans against the government, demanding better medical care for the wounded and compensation for the families of the dead.

Hashim said the government was trying to negotiate with the protesters and was working towards finalizing compensation offers for the grieving relatives. — AFP

INDIAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN CROSS BORDER FIRING

SRINAGAR: The Indian army said two of its soldiers were killed yesterday in the latest exchange of cross border firing with Pakistan along the de facto border in Kashmir, amid heightened tensions between the countries. One soldier was killed in a firefight as Indian troops pushed back against Pakistani "infiltrators" while another died in a separate incident, according to Army spokesman Colonel NN Joshi and a further statement from the military.

Tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals have soared since September when militants attacked an Indian army base in Kashmir leaving 19 soldiers dead. Since then the two sides have exchanged heavy fire almost daily leading to deaths of soldiers and civilians on both sides of the border. India blamed the September attack on Pakistan-based militants and responded with "surgical strikes" on what New Delhi described as terrorist launching pads across the dividing line.

Pakistan denied the strikes took place and the two sides have since expelled diplomats from their countries. The

exchanges come against the backdrop of months of protests against Indian rule of Kashmir, sparked by the killing of a popular rebel leader in a firefight with Indian forces in July. The unrest and clashes have left more than 90 civilians dead in government forces' action to quell the protests.

More than 12000 were injured, according to hospital authorities and around 7000 suspected protesters have been arrested during a continuing security crackdown to quell the anti-India protests. Last week authorities on both sides closed hundreds of schools along frontier areas in the south of the territory when cross-border firing killed 14 residents. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the disputed Himalayan territory in full. India regularly accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels to launch attacks on its forces in the portion of Kashmir it controls. Islamabad denies the allegations saying it only provides diplomatic support to the Kashmiri struggle for right of self-determination. — AFP



ISLAMABAD: A boy chants slogans next to his father during a demonstration called by a civil society group 'Peace and Culture Organization' to mark Jammu Martyrs Day. — AP

SCANDAL UNITES RIVAL KOREAS IN FURY AT SOUTH KOREA'S LEADER

SEOUL: In only a few days, South Korea's biggest scandal in years has done what six decades of diplomacy and bloodshed couldn't. It has united the rival Koreas, at least in one area: Indignation against South Korea's leader. North Korea's propaganda mavens have never been shy in calling South Korean President Park Geun-hye an incompetent, power-hungry clone of her late dictator father, Park Chung-hee - and that's when they're pulling their punches.

Inconceivable a week ago, many South Koreans now seem to be reaching Pyongyang levels of fury over an investigation into whether Park allowed a longtime confidante with no official government role to manipulate her administration from the shadows.

The North's fondness for vicious threats is generally missing in the South, but the anger over the scandal - sometimes partisan, mostly spontaneous on the part of many South Koreans, but more violent and somewhat canned in the North, where carefully cultivated outrage is a state commodity - often seems to be in lockstep.

For instance, in wording that North Korea would be right at home with, Ahn Cheol-soo, a lawmaker from a small South Korean opposition party and a potential presidential candidate, recently said of Park: "You no longer have the authority to destroy the constitution. You no longer have the authority to stomp on the pride of our people."

The take in the North

Here's how a similar sentiment looked when North Korea's main newspaper recently attacked Park: "It's deplorable that the South's politics have become the joke of the world and its economy and people's livelihoods are left in shreds." To be clear, the expressions in South Korea, even at their sharpest, are still a long way from the odious linguistic swamp of

violence and sexism that characterizes much of North Korea's propaganda. The North, for instance, has called Park a "dirty prostitute who licks her master's groin," an "aging witch," a "female dog" and an "American parrot." Pyongyang has also repeatedly called for her death.

But there has been an uptick in both rage and sexism in the South, especially online,

where Park and her confidante, Choi Soon-sil, have been called "crazy bitch," "chicken head," a slur meant to attack their intelligence, and "stupid Gangnam ajumma," a term often used to insult middle-aged women living in affluent southern Seoul. People have also declared that South Korea will never again vote for a female president or trust a woman's leadership. It is not just happening in obscure cor-

ners of South Korea's social media or the web, never the cream of public discourse.

"Park Geun-hye threw away her authority as (the person) ultimately responsible (for governing the state) to a common street woman of unknown roots," Jae-myung Lee, the opposition mayor of Seongnam, told more than 10,000 people taking part in a recent anti-Park rally, referring to Choi. "Park has lost her authority as president and has shown that she doesn't have the basic qualities to govern a country."

That Park, who has 15 months to go in her single five-year term, should go has long been a mainstay of North Korean rhetoric. But similar sentiments are also emerging in South Korean media. "If we had to pick one person who made the country into the shattered mess that it is now, it's none other than President Park," the South's Kyunghyang Shinmun newspaper said in an editorial on Saturday, calling for Park's resignation. "The citizens no longer want Park to govern state affairs ... She lost the political leadership to persuade and guide the ruling and opposition parties, the parliament and the people. Her moral authority as the head of state has fallen to the ground ... Continuing this state for another year and three months will make everyone miserable."

Negative stories

North Korea's state media have at times seemed overwhelmed with the amount of negative stories, both international and South Korean, about Park, and have often just rounded up the coverage, with some insulting comment added. Six days after Park first acknowledged that she had sent Choi, the daughter of a shadowy religious figure who emerged as Park's mentor in the 1970s, drafts of her speeches for editing, North Korea's main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, released a lengthy,

painstaking summary of the saga, replete with sexist, violent insults.

The newspaper described Park and Choi as "two women who have lost their minds." It also broke down reports that Choi influenced important government decisions, including Park's move to shut down the last major symbol of inter-Korean cooperation, a jointly run factory park in the North Korean city of Kaesong.

"This shows to the world that Park Geun-hye is not merely a first-class dog controlled by a large monster that is the United States, but also doubly and triply a puppet manipulated by strings pulled by one 'Gangnam' woman," the North Korean newspaper said, referring to the Seoul neighborhood where Choi reportedly built a fortune on real estate investments.

Observers of North Korean propaganda have wondered about the length of time it took the newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Workers' Party, to weigh in on the scandal - nearly a week. It's almost as if the paper's propaganda experts, after firing at much smaller targets for so long, couldn't quite believe the huge gift they'd been given. Pyongyang has more recently stepped things up.

For instance, the North's official Korean Central News Agency published a statement by a Foreign Ministry unit that called the scandal a "hideous power-backed scandal unprecedented in history." It predicted that a "mass struggle" of enraged South Koreans will leave Park at a crossroads where she is forced to choose between quitting her presidency on her own or facing impeachment. With tens of thousands of South Korean protesters calling for Park's ouster over the weekend and bigger crowds expected in coming days, Pyongyang's breathless, over-the-top propaganda might not be so far off the mark. — AP



SEOUL: A girl takes a photo of the presidential Blue House. — AFP

HOPEFULS CALL TO PLUG DEFICIT...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the administrative court yesterday looked into several cases of candidates who were barred by the election authorities to contest the parliamentary polls. The court postponed two cases for today and referred two others to another court.

The court has already ruled to allow 15 candidates to run in the polls, out of 47 hopefuls barred by the elec-

tion authorities either because they had been previously handed verdicts by courts or for not completing their nomination papers.

Those reinstated include former MPs Safa Al-Hashem and Abdulhameed Dashti, in addition to Sheikh Malek Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the only ruling family member in the race. The government has already challenged these rulings at the court of appeals. Such cases must be resolved before the election.

CLINTON AND TRUMP SCRAMBLE TO FINISH

Continued from Page 1

In a sign that Clinton was leaving nothing to chance, the 69-year-old former secretary of state added a stopover today in Michigan, a state Obama won handily in 2008 and 2012. She visited Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Hampshire yesterday, while Trump has a busier itinerary: Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania and then Virginia. Polls give Clinton a national lead, albeit a narrow one.

Meanwhile, in Cairo, capital of the most populous Arab country, the US election is met with self-absorbed indifference or loathing for one, and sometimes both, candidates. The staff at a barbershop in Cairo's middle class Dokki neighborhood looked at one another in bemusement when asked whom they favored for US president. Two admitted they did not know who was running. "We're following what's happening here, that's more than enough for us," laughed a hairdresser who gave her name as Mona, referring to Egypt's economic crisis. Another said he knew "little" about the election: "What I know is that Trump is hostile to Muslims."

Eight years after the region closely followed the election won by Obama, uprisings, economic ruin and civil war have directed people's gaze inward. "I think the Arab world is consumed by its own existential crisis and few people have really thought through the implications of the next US president on their well-being," said Haidar Hassan, a Libyan-American writer who lives in Qatar. Near Cairo's zoo, three university students shyly said they had not been following the election. An elderly man walking by peremptorily denounced both candidates, before striding away with a toddler in tow. "Their elections are like crap," he said. "You remove crap and replace it with crap."

At a cafe in Baghdad, a city much changed since the 2003 US-led invasion to remove Saddam Hussein, patrons have been following the election more closely. Haidar Hassan, 27, blamed the Republicans for the disastrous invasion that took place under President George W Bush, but said he still supported Trump. "Despite Iraqis' suffering from Republican rule and their invasion, I still think Trump is tougher in fighting terrorism and countries exporting it," he said.

"The Democrats are more reasonable," countered Mostafa Al-Rubaei, saying US forces withdrew from Iraq under a Democrat president - Obama. Clinton's past as secretary of state during Obama's first term has been controversial in the region, with some blaming American foreign policy under her

for the chaos of the Arab Spring uprisings. Others have latched on to more bizarre accusations against the former diplomat, mirroring fringe rightwing American attacks on her.

At a Cairo grocery, shopkeeper Karem Mohamed had launched into a pensive defense of Clinton when his colleague, who had been preoccupied with filling a vat of pickled onions, interrupted. "No she's with the Muslim Brotherhood! She's a collaborator," said Mahmoud Abdel Al. Many Egyptians saw Clinton as a supporter of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who ruled for a year before the army, spurred by mass protests, toppled him in 2013. His ouster, condemned by Washington as undemocratic, was followed by regular reports in the Egyptian press of an American "plot" to divide the Middle East.

Clinton addressed some of the most bizarre accusations in her book Hard Choices. But its publication in 2014 itself set off another round of accusations in Egypt, this time that Clinton had confessed in the book that she conspired against the country. "It included a clear confession of the plot to divide our region, relying on its agents like the Muslim Brotherhood, and Washington's founding of extremist groups like" the Islamic State organization, wrote one columnist in Egypt's state newspaper Al-Ahram. Clinton mentioned no such thing in the book.

The Egyptian leadership has not weighed in on the elections, although President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi - the former army chief who toppled Morsi - complimented Trump after meeting him and Clinton in New York separately in September. Sisi appeared to dismiss Trump's plan - now scaled back - to ban Muslims from entering the United States as electioneering. "No doubt" he would make a strong leader, Sisi said in an interview with CNN. "It is important for us to know that during election campaigns, many statements are made and many things are said," Sisi said of Trump's Muslim plans.

Across the Red Sea from Egypt, Gulf rulers favor Clinton, said Emirati analyst Abdel Khaleq Abdullah. Clinton has "knowledge of the region's issues", he said. Countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had opposed what they saw as Obama's rapprochement with their archrival Iran over the nuclear deal, and expected his successor to be tougher. However, Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi said "we have a huge experience with Clinton and she has a much better, clearer idea about foreign policy and Saudi Arabia." "But with Trump it's total unpredictability." — AFP

ASSAULT LAUNCHED ON IS 'CAPITAL'

Continued from Page 1

"The major battle to liberate Raqqa and its surroundings has begun," SDF spokeswoman Jihan Sheikh Ahmed said. Operation "Wrath of the Euphrates" involves some 30,000 fighters and began on Saturday night, Ahmed said.

SDF forces are advancing on three fronts, from Ain Issa and Tal Abyad to the north of Raqqa, and from the village of Makman to the east. SDF spokesman Tala Sello told AFP the operation would proceed in two phases, first seizing areas around Raqqa and isolating it, then taking the city itself. "The fight will not be easy, and will require accurate and careful operations because IS will defend its bastion knowing that the loss of Raqqa will mean it is finished in Syria," Sello said.

US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter in Washington echoed that sentiment. "As in Mosul, the fight will not be easy and there is hard work ahead, but it is necessary to end the fiction of ISIL's caliphate and disrupt the group's ability to carry out terror attacks against the United States, our allies and our partners," Carter said, using an alternative name for IS. An AFP correspondent in Ain Issa yesterday saw dozens of SDF fighters heading on vehicles towards the frontline.

Ahmed told AFP in Beirut later that 10 villages and several hamlets had been retaken. IS said it carried out a suicide car bombing in the Suluk area that killed 14 SDF fighters. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported wounded in the attack but no word of fatalities. Driving the militants from Mosul and Raqqa has been the

endgame since the US-led coalition launched air strikes against IS in the summer of 2014. The coalition has also provided training and deployed hundreds of advisers to work with Iraqi forces and select Syrian fighters, including the SDF.

Sello said the alliance had received new weapons from the coalition for the Raqqa battle, including anti-tank missiles. Another SDF source said 50 US military advisers would be involved in the operation, particularly to guide air strikes. Dominated by the powerful Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), the SDF has in recent months flushed IS out of swathes of territory in northern Syria, including the flashpoint town of Manbij in August. Washington has promoted the SDF as a key ally in the fight against IS, but the partnership is complicated by Turkey's fierce opposition to the YPG.

Meanwhile, at least six children were killed yesterday in Syrian government shelling that hit a kindergarten in the rebel-held town of Harasta outside the capital Damascus, the Syrian Observatory said. It said 17 people, most of them children, were also injured in the shelling. An AFP photographer saw the body of one child, a girl, lying on a bed at a makeshift hospital, her face bloodied and her clothes torn. At the kindergarten, smears of blood were left on the tiled floor, underneath a small red slide propped against a wall painted with children's drawings. Harasta is in the rebel stronghold of Eastern Ghouta, outside Damascus, a region that is regularly targeted by government air strikes and shelling. — Agencies

US MAN HELD FOR CHAINING WOMAN ADMITS...

Continued from Page 1

"There's no wondering anymore" about the Nov 2003 killings at the Superbike Motorsports in the nearby town of Chesnee, Wright told local media, including local ABC affiliate WLOS-13 and The Greenville Times. "He told us some stuff that nobody else ought to know," Wright told reporters. Four people - a woman who worked at the store and her adult son, and two other store workers - were found "brutally murdered" for unknown reasons at the business, Wright said. The case was even featured on the TV show "America's Most Wanted", which has helped crack cold cases in the past. Wright did not mention any motive in the case. Kohlhepp appeared before Magistrate Judge Jimmy Henson yesterday for a brief bond hearing on the four murder counts. The issue of bond could be taken up by a circuit court later. Wearing an orange jumpsuit, Kohlhepp declined to make a statement when offered the chance. After Kohlhepp left the courtroom, Henson addressed the victims' families, saying, "What you've gone through ... is beyond what a lot of people would understand."

Kohlhepp, 45, was arrested Thursday and charged with kidnapping after the woman who police said was "chained

like a dog" inside a shipping container was rescued from his property. Kala Brown, 30, was discovered with chains around her neck and ankles trapped inside the padlocked container. Police rescued her after hearing a banging sound when they arrived at Kohlhepp's property with a search warrant. Kohlhepp, who owns a 95-acre tract of rural land in the town of Woodruff, northeast of the state capital Columbia, is a real-estate agent and registered sex offender. Brown told officers she had been in the container for two months. She and her boyfriend, Charles Carver, 32, had been missing since August. Brown told police that Kohlhepp shot her boyfriend multiple times in the chest in front of her. Sheriff Wright said Saturday that authorities identified the body dug up the day before as that of Carver. Kohlhepp however has not yet been charged with Carver's death, the sheriff said.

Reporters, who were kept at a distance, saw Kohlhepp walk agents around the property on Saturday. Kohlhepp has been registered as a sex offender in South Carolina for a 1987 conviction in Arizona, according to local WSPA News. He was 15 when he was accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl. Kohlhepp moved to South Carolina after he completed his prison sentence in Aug 2001. — Agencies

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In my view

BREXIT GODSEND
FOR UK SATIRISTS

By Nelson Renteria

Divisive, chaotic and with implications for almost every aspect of national life, Brexit has been a godsend for political satirists - giving them a wealth of material - and audiences desperate for a laugh. "There's a voracious appetite in the UK for anything to do with Brexit, and there's a huge appetite for satire," said Neil Rafferty, editor in chief of the popular satirical website The Daily Mash. He told AFP: "It's a massive subject. There's also a massive number of colourful characters involved. There are some very extreme views, which are great for satirists."

Britons have a long tradition of turning to humor in troubled times, and the June referendum vote to leave the European Union has inspired comedians across the country - even if most of them opposed the decision. "When it comes to writing jokes, this referendum outcome is a better one," comedian Al Murray, who adopts the persona of a xenophobic pub owner, told The Guardian newspaper. Satirical magazine Private Eye is enjoying record sales of 230,000 copies every fortnight, while Twitter and the Internet are alive with Brexit-related gags.

"Well, I f***ed that up, didn't I?" read the headline of one Daily Mash story about David Cameron, who resigned as prime minister after his campaign to keep Britain in the EU. Another poked fun at the insistence that Britain will be better off outside the European single market, with the headline: "Australia ideal trading partner, say Britons happy to wait three months for stuff."

Comedy can also help Britons deal with some of the darker issues thrown up by Brexit, including reports of an increase in hate crime after a referendum campaign dominated by immigration. "Brexit raised a lot of tensions, some of them racial, a lot of them political," said Steve Bennett, editor of comedy industry website Chortle. "I think comedy is an important tool in smoothing over that."

'Better Than Crying'

One Friday night in the Comedy Cafe in east London, a stand-up comedian asked the crowd if anyone likes gaffe-prone foreign secretary Boris Johnson, a leading Brexit campaigner. When one hapless audience member tentatively raised his hand, he was treated to a barrage of jokes at his - and Johnson's - expense. Most comedians were among the 48 percent of voters who opposed Brexit in the referendum, but the jokes are also flowing from the other side of the political divide.

"Straight after the vote happened, a lot of my friends were saying 'well, thank you very much, leavers, now we are going to have a future with no money or human rights,'" said stand-up Geoff Norcott, who backed Brexit. "And I was thinking - no, we are leaving the EU, not joining North Korea. Let's just turn down the rhetoric a little bit. But it's that hysteria that makes it funny." He told AFP: "We'll laugh until we are really poor. And then we'll laugh for different reasons. Because laughing is better than crying."

'Argulfoop means Argulfoop'

Prime Minister Theresa May has repeatedly refused to outline her negotiating strategy ahead of talks with the EU early next year, saying only that "Brexit means Brexit". The phrase has been widely mocked for being meaningless, while clips of several politicians inadvertently saying "breakfast" instead of "Brexit" have brought a surreal aspect to posturings on Britain's future. For some comics such as singer-songwriter Mitch Benn, however, the jokes cannot disguise their anger at the situation.

He has lived in France and Spain, and has a song offering an affectionate look at the stereotypes of Europeans, from the napping Spaniards to the "boring" Germans. "Saying 'Brexit means Brexit' is a meaningless statement because it's like saying, 'Argulfoop means Argulfoop,'" Benn told AFP. "It's a word you've just made up and you've said that it means what it says it does. We've no idea where we're at or what we're doing." — AFP

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US SENATE BATTLE TIGHTENS IN LAST DAYS

As the US presidential race enters its frantic final 72 hours, a battle for Congress is also coming down to the wire, with the fate of the Senate teetering on a knife's edge. Who runs the two chambers - and the legislation introduced there - is crucial, as bills can easily get stuck, particularly if the leadership does not belong to the same party as the president. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives are currently under Republican control. Last week, it was looking likely that Democrats would ride Hillary Clinton's coattails on Nov 8 and reclaim the Senate.

But then FBI Director James Comey entered the fray, and all bets are off. Comey told congressional leaders on Oct 28 that the bureau, having discovered a fresh batch of emails that might be pertinent to an earlier probe of Clinton's private email server, was taking another look into the case. Suddenly, national polls tightened, and congressional Republicans in tough re-election battles gleefully pounced on the news to remind voters of the importance of securing a check against a possible Clinton presidency.

Republicans enjoy a strong 59-seat majority in the 435-member House of Representatives, and most analysts say it would take a so-called 'wave election' - when one party makes major gains in Congress - for Democrats to flip the 30 seats needed to retake control. "House generic polling averages don't indicate a wave is coming in the lower chamber," wrote a team of analysts from the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. Attention falls therefore on the 100-member Senate, where Democrats would need to gain four seats for a majority in the event Clinton wins the White House, as ties in the Senate are broken by the vice president.

"I think having a Democratic Senate is absolutely critical," Clinton said Saturday on American Urban Radio Networks, explaining why she is pushing hard for candidates in states like Florida, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The million-dollar question is: how much could an allegiance to Donald Trump impact the Republican Party's chances at the ballot box?

Trump a 'Double-Edged Sword'

"In isolated cases, it may allow some Republicans in close races to win re-election by distancing from Trump," George Washington University professor of applied politics Gary Nordlinger told AFP. "But it's a real double-edged sword. Trump is wildly popular among his base, so you risk alienating that base when you try to distance yourself." Republicans were struggling last week, but the FBI bombshell has lifted spirits.

On Saturday, the FiveThirtyEight website, featuring respected election forecaster Nate Silver, dropped its chances of Democrats winning the Senate from 72.8 percent to 53 percent. Cook Political Report had projected Democrats would pick up five to seven seats. But it shifted its rating for the Wisconsin race from leaning Democrat to a toss-up. Of the Senate's 34 seats contested in 2016, 24 are held by Republicans, making it a tough year for the GOP. Of the nine closest Senate races, only one, in Nevada, is held by a Democrat.

Illinois is likely to flip to the Democrats. Another vulnerable Republican is in New Hampshire - although Senator Kelly Ayotte surged into the lead against the state's Democratic Governor Maggie Hassan just before the FBI news landed. North Carolina and Pennsylvania could tip to Democratic blue, with tougher but still

viable battles in Florida and Indiana. Even red-leaning Missouri is in play. Republican Senator Roy Blunt risks losing to Jason Kander, a charismatic Democratic military veteran whose campaign video of himself assembling an AR-15 rifle while blindfolded has gone viral.

With Republicans scrambling to preserve the Senate, a conservative group is pouring \$25 million into a half-dozen races. "We know that it will be a tough challenge to keep the Senate in this environment, but if Democrats want the majority, they are going to have a hell of a fight on their hands," Ian Prior of the Senate Leadership Fund said last week. Clinton welcomes that fight, and has sought to drape Trump around Republicans' necks like an albatross.

Firewall

The House is the Republican firewall. Speaker Paul Ryan has had a tempestuous relationship with Trump, and after the nominee's lewd comments about women emerged last month, Ryan said he could no longer defend or campaign with the candidate. Instead he is focusing on maintaining his House majority. Still, most of the vulnerable House seats are held by Republicans, and Democrats are confident they can cut deeply into the GOP's majority, perhaps regaining as many as 10 or 15 seats.

A confident Clinton camp is making forays into House races, seeking to pick off seats where Republican incumbents are in jeopardy. One pro-Clinton group released an ad in Iowa tying freshman congressman Rod Blum to Trump. It shows footage of Blum at a campaign rally saying, "Send me back to Congress, and you send Donald Trump to the White House." — AFP

CLINTON COULD END VERY LONG WAIT FOR WOMEN

Estelle Liebow Schultz, who is 98, was born before her fellow countrywomen had the right to vote. Now she has proudly cast a ballot for the candidate she hopes will make history as the first American woman elected president. Hillary Clinton hopes to become that woman tomorrow, breaking the ultimate glass ceiling after having become, at the Democratic nominating convention in July, the first female candidate for a major party.

Schultz was born in June 1918, two years before American women gained the vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. "To see such an accomplishment in my lifetime is momentous," said the retired teacher, who lives in the Washington suburb of Rockville, Maryland. Having cast an early vote - as several states permit - she hopes to see the inauguration in January of the first woman president, following the succession of 44 men that began with George Washington in 1789.

It has been a long road, starting with the presidential campaign in 1872 of Victoria Woodhull - who at 34 was technically a year too young to become president - as candidate of the Equal Rights Party. History books list the vote totals won by her male rivals, but not hers. Britain, Germany, Croatia, Norway, Chile and South Korea have women leaders; Israel, Brazil, Argentina and Pakistan have been led by women. "We are very late compared to many other countries around the world," said Jeanne Zaino, a political scientist at Iona College in New York.

Only two women have made it onto major party presidential tickets: Republican Sarah Palin, who was John McCain's running mate in 2008, and Geraldine Ferraro, who joined Walter Mondale on the Democratic ticket in 1984. Both lost. Some women failed to survive the brutal primary election process, chewed up by the big parties' political machines. Others became historical footnotes in the quixotic campaigns of splinter parties. "When you don't support women in a structural way, you have fewer women who can rise to the top, in politics and other arenas," Zaino said.

Parliamentary or multiparty systems are more favorable to women, pushing parties to establish diverse lists of candidates, which helps women climb within a party to top leadership positions, said Robert Shapiro, a political scientist with Columbia University in New York. Candidate



Clinton has sometimes presented herself as a mother or a grandmother, but the 69-year-old has used the "woman card" sparingly, intent on being judged first for her competence and experience.

'Lock Her Up'

At the same time, her Republican opponent Donald Trump has not hesitated to draw on stereotypes of women, describing the former first lady, New York senator and secretary of state as weak and lacking stamina. Whether out of misogyny, partisan hatred or some combination of the two, supporters of the Republican regularly break into chants of "lock her up" whenever Trump describes her as corrupt. "Hillary Clinton is consistently treated differently than just about any other candidate I see out there," President Barack Obama said recently during a rally in Columbus, Ohio.

Addressing himself to men in the audience, he asked them to "kind of look inside yourself and ask yourself if you're having problems" with Clinton's candidacy because she is a woman. "How much of it is that we're just not used to it?" he asked. "I'm proud to be a woman running for president," Clinton recently told a New York radio host. "I'd be just incredibly humbled and honored to be the first woman president... But I have a lot of work I want to do. And I hope that people will say, 'Hey, she's getting it done.'"

The idea of electing the nation's first woman president has generated less excitement than the election eight years ago of Obama as the first African American president. Roughly half of Americans in a recent survey said they would have preferred that history be made by someone other than Clinton, whose popularity ratings are low. But if she is elected, "there will be many tearful faces," Shapiro predicted.

"Before I die, by God, I want to have a woman president. Yes, it's very important," 64-year-old lawyer Moira Hahn told AFP. It would be "wonderful," said Nancy Murphy, 58, a retired teacher, while worrying aloud: "I don't know how a lot of the nation will feel about that."

If elected, Clinton hopes to celebrate in New York's Jacob K Javits Convention Center - a glass-enclosed building on the banks of the Hudson River. It would be a sly wink to the "glass ceiling" she would be breaking on that momentous day. — AFP

ALLI SIDELINED BY KNEE INJURY

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Dele Alli will be out for "a few weeks" after twisting his knee in training, manager Mauricio Pochettino revealed yesterday. The injury ruled the 20-year-old out of Tottenham's 1-1 draw at Arsenal in the Premier League yesterday. He will also be absent when interim England manager Gareth Southgate names his squad yesterday for the forthcoming World Cup qualifier against Scotland and friendly with Spain. "Bad luck yesterday in the training session, he twisted his knee. We need to assess him today and tomorrow," Pochettino said, in comments published on Tottenham's Twitter account before the game. "He'll be out for a few weeks. We hope it's not a big issue. It's bad luck. He was in the team, he's an important player, but that's football." Speaking after the game, Pochettino said Alli's injury was "minor". Signed from Milton Keynes Dons in 2015, Alli was voted the Professional Footballers' Association Young Player of the Year last season after Spurs finished third in the league. Southgate was also left sweating on the fitness of first-choice right-back Kyle Walker, who hobbled off after taking a knock in the second half. —AFP



BRITISH SWIMMER DELAYS ATLANTIC CROSSING DEPARTURE

DAKAR: A British amateur who intends to swim across the Atlantic has delayed his departure due to technical problems with the boat that will accompany him, he said yesterday. Ben Hooper, 38, was supposed to leave Africa's western coast from Dakar, Senegal last Tuesday but is stuck due to a problem with the support vessel. "The electrician is still working on big blue so we will now be leaving Monday," Hooper wrote in a Facebook post, referring to the vessel. Hooper is wrapping up three years of preparation for the immense journey that will see him swim up to 10 hours a day for nearly five months with the aim of reaching Brazil. He will rack up 1,635 nautical miles, equal to nearly 1,900 land miles (3,000 kilometres) over the course of the journey, while taking in up to 12,000 calories a day. Hooper's journey will be observed by a Guinness World Records representative who will join a crew of 10 supporting the swimmer. His crossing will be filmed and can be tracked on his "Swim the Big Blue" website. — AFP

SAKHO DETERMINED TO PROVE LIVERPOOL WORTH

PARIS: France international defender Mamadou Sakho vowed yesterday to carve out a future despite Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp not using him this season. "I'm still determined, I'm working hard," the former Paris Saint German star told French broadcaster TF1's Telefoot. The 26-year-old has yet to feature for the Premier League title contenders this season and was speaking after playing in a reserve match. Sakho was suspended last April after a positive doping test before being cleared of wrongdoing in July, too late to have a chance of appearing at Euro-2016. An Achilles tendon strain then prevented him from regaining match fitness in the summer and he swiftly fell down the pecking order. Media reports suggested a fallout with the club hierarchy and also that Sakho had turned down loans to Stoke City, West Bromwich Albion and Turkey's Besiktas. France coach Didier Deschamps told Telefoot that the player's "situation appears very complicated." "I don't think he is very happy—a solution could be to find another club in the winter break." — AFP



Mohammad Burbayea winner of the first edition of Red Bull Bar Bahr.



Red Bull Bar Bahr Quad bike race.

A JET SKI FOR THE WINNING TEAM IN RED BULL BAR BAHR

KUWAIT: The countdown for Red Bull Bar Bahr relay race has started and the most thrilling race is inching closer. The logistical arrangements are set to kick off early next week to lay out the land and water tracks in preparation for the adrenaline-charged Quad Bike and Jet Ski relay race on Friday November 11th on Marina beach. On the event day, 24 teams of Jet Ski and Quad bike racers will compete in a race full of thrill and challenge and the top 3 teams will be awarded medals, the winning team, however, will receive a Kawasaki 300 LX Jet Ski in addition to the trophies.

The qualifying rounds will be held on November 10th, out of which the participating teams will be shortlisted and only 24 teams will compete for the title. The event is organized by Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motorsport Club and under the sponsorship of Nissan Al-Babtain, Public Authority For Youth and Sports, Kawasaki, Pirelli, GoPro, Acqua Eva, Marina Mall, Al Anbaa Newspaper, Kuwait Times Newspaper, and Studentalk Magazine.

TIMING INSTEAD OF POINTS

In the wake of the first round in which 24 teams will compete, the top fastest 12 teams will be chosen to compete during the semi-finals. Hence, the race will not be based on a point scoring system, rather a method that calculates the time spent by teams to finish the race, which means that the total minutes of race spent by each team will be compared with other teams' timings. Six teams will participate in the final round that will begin with Quad bikes lined up on the beach and the drivers will have to run towards their Quad Bikes and begin their race to reach their teammates on Jet Skis and hand them the key, and thus finish the race on the water track.



Red Bull Bar Bahr Relay Race.

participate in the final round that will begin with Quad bikes lined up on the beach and the drivers will have to run towards their Quad Bikes and begin their race to reach their teammates on Jet Skis and hand them the key, and thus finish the race on the water track.

QUAD BIKES AND JET SKIS REQUIREMENTS

Aside of the qualifications and talent of the racers, vehicles must be subject to certain specifications. Quad bikes should have specific characteristics in order to be eligible for the

race: a maximum length of 2 meters, a maximum width of 1.5 meters, and a maximum height of 1.5 meters. The choice is up to the participants in terms of the engine as long as it runs on ordinary fuels (electric motors are forbidden), add to that that safety belts must be in a good condition.

Similarly, racing Jet Skis must be especially designed for races with one or two seats (freestyle Jet Skis are forbidden). They should have a maximum length of four meters, a maximum width of 1.5 meters, and a maxi-



Red Bull Bar Bahr Water Race.

mum height of 1.5 meters. Like Quad bikes, Jet Ski racers can choose their engine at their convenience, keeping in mind that the engine runs on ordinary fuels.

A JET SKI FOR THE WINNER

The above-mentioned Jet Ski specifications are available in the model that will be awarded to the winning team. Those who have a passion for water sports consider this model as the best option as it allows them to enjoy marine adventures and participate in

competitions like Red Bull Bar Bahr. The Jet Ski is fitted with a strong engine and comes with its important features such as balance, efficiency, light weight and speed.

To participate Red Bull Bar Bahr, each Quad bike competitor should be owner of his bike, whereas participants of the Jet Ski race should have a license from the Marine Sports Club of Kuwait.

If you wish to be part of the action during Red Bull Bar Bahr, visit www.redbull.com/bar-bahr

ARROGATE BESTS 'CHROME' IN CLASSIC TO EMERGE AS NEW STAR

ARCADIA: Arrogate surged past California Chrome in the closing yards Saturday to win the \$6 million Classic and stamp himself US flat racing's new superstar.

The late-blooming gray three-year-old was running against older horses for the first time in the marquee event of the 13-race, \$28 million Breeders' Cup program.

He gave trainer Bob Baffert a third straight victory in the Classic and a 14th Breeders' Cup win.

Mike Smith nabbed his 25th Breeders' Cup win-stretching his lead among all jockeys. But it took everything Arrogate had to get past the experienced California Chrome, who won hearts with Kentucky Derby and Preakness victories in 2014 before he fell short of a Triple Crown with a fourth place in the Belmont Stakes. The flashy chestnut has been resurgent in his five-year-old season, winning all six of his starts prior to the Classic.

With Victor Espinoza in the irons, he was in prime position at the top of the stretch and appeared to have repulsed Arrogate's charge until the final strides.

"Deep down, I wasn't really sure if we could beat California Chrome because I still have total respect for the horse," Baffert said. "Down the backside it looked like California Chrome was getting everything going. I thought maybe (Arrogate's) not running. "Turning for home, I thought well, I'm going to run second-but the eighth pole, all of a sudden he started getting into that gear..." "With California Chrome's racing career now winding down, Arrogate showed his stunning 13 1/4-length victory in the Travers in August was no fluke. "That was incredible," Smith said. "I'm at a loss for words. He's such a young horse. He's so talented. He has got amazing stamina. He doesn't quit. He could have gone around

again. He's incredible."

California Chrome took second, a whopping 10 3/4 lengths ahead of third-placed Keen Ice. "It was great," Espinoza said of Chrome's gallant effort. "He's an awesome horse. I was all by myself in the front and thought I could save something for the very end. Thinking back, I should have just let him run early, but he ran great."

Earlier Saturday, Baffert won the Breeders' Cup Sprint with Drefong-ridden by Martin Garcia after Smith opted off the horse in favor of the more experienced Masochistic, who finished second.

Smith also came up on the losing end of a Distaff thriller on Friday-when six-year-old Beholder silenced brilliant three-year-old filly Songbird with a win at the wire.

"It's always going to hurt," Smith said. You hate to get beat, especially the matter of maybe an inch (but) this was incredible today. This horse ran a race today that you just don't see things like this from a three-year-old that has only run five times."

There was plenty of glory for Smith over the two days of Breeders' Cup action-starting with his win in the Dirt Mile on Tamarkuz on Friday and including a win aboard Finest City in the Filly & Mare Sprint.

HIGHLAND REEL DOMINATES

It was a tough two days for European raiders but their two victories included an impressive triumph for Highland Reel in the \$4 million Turf. Leaping out of the gate with Seamus Heffernan aboard, the Aidan O'Brien-trained horse swept to a wire-to-wire victory in the 1 1/2-mile race. Flintshire was second while O'Brien's Found-who led stablemate Highland Reel across the line in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-was third in her Turf title defense.—AFP



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The disabled athletics games classification was held at Kuwait Disabled Sports Club in cooperation with Abdallah Al Salem center to prepare leaders from 29/10 until 4/11 was concluded in the presence of Honorary President Al-Sheikha Sheikha Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, and the club's Chairman of the Board Shafi Al-Hajiri.



KDSC CONCLUDES DISABLED ATHLETICS CLASSIFICATION

Sheikha Sheikha and Al-Hajiri distributed mementos to international lecturers Dr Haleem Al-Jabal from Tunis, and Dr Mohammed Khaladi from Algeria, meanwhile all participants were handed certificates of participation.

KDSC Chairman Shafi Al-Hajiri lauded the results of the classification course which resulted in having all participants learn and benefit from the lecturers and getting to know the latest in

classifications at the world level.

Meanwhile technical departments learned how to classify in theory and practically, which will create a new generation of trainers who are highly qualified, which something we seek as the board of directors. Al-Hajiri thanked the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for their cooperation and such courses which has good returns to the Kuwait disabled sports.



SHANSHAN FENG WINS JAPAN CLASSIC FOR SECOND STRAIGHT VICTORY

IBARAKI: Shanshan Feng needed every bit of the three-stroke lead she took to final hole yesterday at chilly Taiheiyo Club to finish off her second straight LPGA Tour victory.

The 27-year-old Chinese star closed with a double-bogey 6 to beat Ha Na Jang by a stroke in the TOTO Japan Classic, the last of six straight events in Asia. Feng closed with a 2-under 70 for a 13-under 203 total, the double bogey her only dropped shots since the fourth hole Friday.

She knew she had a three-stroke lead after birdieing the par-5 17th, not that she wanted to know. "I have a habit where I don't look at leaderboards when I play, but I accidentally saw the board when I was on the 17th green," said Feng, the winner last week in steamy Malaysia. She drove to the left and needed two more shots to reach the green. "I

thought easy two-putt, but the first putt, I just hit it way too hard," Feng said. "The second putt, I missed and left myself a 3-footer and said, 'It's time to make this putt.' I didn't want to lose by making a triple bogey on the last."

The putt - really only about half the length that Feng recounted - fell for her sixth LPGA Tour victory. Projected to jump from eighth to sixth in the world ranking, Feng has finished no worse than a tie for fourth in her last seven events. She started the run with the Olympic bronze medal in Rio, tied for fourth at Evian in France, opened the Asia trip at home in China with a fourth-place tie, was second behind Jang in Taiwan and tied for third in South Korea.

"Coming into this week I had a lot of confidence and I'm feeling really comfortable," Feng said. "I knew that I would have a chance because I've always liked

the Japanese courses that I've played and I've played well in Japan."

She broke through at Taiheiyo after losing a playoff to Momoko Ueda in the 2011 event at Kintetsu Kashikojima, the tournament venue from 2006 to last year. Playing two groups ahead of Feng, Jang birdied 16 and 17 in her third 68. The South Korean player has three victories this year, beating Feng by a stroke in Taiwan.

"Every day, I had strong front nine, but was a little tired on the back nine," Jang said. "Just tried to be patient every hole. My target was 12-under par this week and I hit my target perfect."

A stroke ahead after paring the first eight holes, Feng birdied the next three to open a four-shot lead. She made putts from 8 feet on the par-5 ninth, 25 feet on the par-4 10th and 6 feet on the par-4 11th. "I wasn't actually striking the ball

very well and then I didn't give myself many birdie chances," Feng said. "Putting was OK and then after the eighth hole I said to the others in my group, 'We are the last group, so we need to start making birdies.' Then, the ninth hole I had a very good chance and made it and then 10th and 11th were great birdies."

She earned \$225,000, giving her \$1,062,204 in her last six tour starts. She's sixth on the money list with \$1,416,301 after making \$354,097 in her first 15 events. Feng shot a tournament-best 64 on Saturday to take one-stroke lead over second-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn into the final round.

Jutanugarn missed a chance to wrap up the LPGA Tour player of the year award with a victory, shooting a 74 to drop into a tie for 10th at 8 under. The Thai star leads the tour with five victories and also tops the money list.

"Today was just not a good day," Jutanugarn said. "I missed some tee shots and my putting was so bad."

The top-ranked Lydia Ko, 14 points behind Jutanugarn in the player of the year race, had a 69 to tie for 43rd at 2 under. Ko and Jutanugarn are skipping the Lorena Ochoa Invitational in Mexico and will close the season in two weeks in Florida at the CME Group Tour Championship.

Japan's Kotone Hori (68) tied for third at 10 under with defending champion Sun-Ju Ahn (70), So Yeon Ryu (68) and Soo-Yun Kang (71). Suzann Pettersen had a 72 in the final group to finish at 9 under.

Lexi Thompson shot a 68 to tie for 14th at 7 under. U.S. Solheim Cup teammate Stacy Lewis tied for 31st at 4 under after a 72. The 2012 champion is winless in 62 starts since June 2014. — AFP

PAMPLING IN HUNT AT LAS VEGAS, GLOVER GRABS LEAD

LOS ANGELES: Lucas Glover, the 2009 US Open champion who hasn't won a title in five years, fired Saturday a second consecutive six-under par 65 to seize a one-stroke lead entering the final round of the US PGA Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

The 36-year-old American, who has not won since taking the 2011 Quail Hollow crown, led on 15-under 198 after 54 holes with Australia's Rod Pampling and American Brooks Koepka sharing second on 199.

Glover sank a 17-foot birdie putt on the opening hole, took his lone bogey at the third after finding a fairway bunker, then sank a 43-foot birdie putt at the par-3 eighth that sparked the rest of his round.

"I made a nice one. It was great to see that go in," Glover said. "I made that long one and everything started to flow. I got the speed right on that long one. I got a little more aggressive and kept that going."

Glover followed by making an eight-foot eagle putt at the par-5 ninth, adding birdie putts from seven feet at 11 and six feet at 15 and finally making a tap-in birdie at the par-5 16th.

Pampling, whose only US PGA triumphs came at the 2004 International and in 2006 at Bay Hill, fired a par 71. The 47-year-old from Brisbane made bogeys at the par-3

fifth and eighth but between them sandwiched birdies at six and seven, the first from 25 feet. He began the back nine with a bogey but birdied the par-5 13th and parred in from there.

Koepka made bogeys on three of the first six holes, birdied the seventh from 11 feet and then birdied four of seven to open the back nine. But he found water off the tee on the way to a double bogey at the par-3 17th and not even a closing birdie could put him on top.

Australia's Geoff Ogilvy, the 2006 US Open champion, and American Russell Henley fired fourth on 200.

Ogilvy fired a 66, running off four birdies in a row starting at the 14th hole, the most spectacular of them from 25 feet at the par-5 16th.

"You've got quite a few birdies at the end and I was able to make a few," Ogilvy said. "I haven't made everything but I have had a lot of putts. I'm feeling pretty good about it. Driving it well and if you're driving it well you have got a good chance around here." Henley fired a bogey-free 63, including a 21-foot birdie putt at the par-4 fourth.

"It was fun," Henley said. "I hung in there and made some pars when I got myself a little out of position and I made some birdie putts." — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Jessie Vargas (L) and Manny Pacquiao battle in the third round of their WBO welterweight championship fight at the Thomas & Mack Center on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. Pacquiao won by unanimous decision. — AFP

PACQUIAO RECLAIMS WBO TITLE FOR THIRD TIME

LAS VEGAS: Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao reclaimed the World Boxing Organization welterweight title for the third time with a unanimous decision victory over former champion Jesse Vargas in his comeback fight on Saturday.

The 37-year-old Pacquiao systematically dismantled the former welterweight champion despite Vargas' size and reach advantage.

He used a short right-handed counterpunch to floor Vargas in the second round en route to a one-sided win in front of a crowd of 16,132 at the Thomas & Mack Center. "I feel happy," Pacquiao said. "I'm trying every round to knock him down but also not be careless."

Pacquiao, 59-6 with two drawn and 38 knockouts, showed he still has a lot left in the tank but he failed to get the knockout victory that has eluded him for the past seven years.

All three judges scored the bout for Pacquiao, two of them by 118-109 and the other by 114-113. Pacquiao won the WBO title for the first time in 2010 when he beat Miguel Cotto. He lost it two years later to Timothy Bradley, then got it back by winning the rematch with Bradley in 2014. He then lost it last year to the now-retired Floyd Mayweather, who had a front row seat for Saturday's bout. "Yes I invited him to come tonight," Pacquiao said of Mayweather.

Asked if he wanted a rematch with Mayweather, Pacquiao said, "We will see." Pacquiao said he was retiring following his April 9 two-knockdown victory over Bradley in their third fight. Pacquiao looked impressive in stopping Bradley, showing that he has recovered from a shoulder injury which hampered him in his mega fight against Mayweather in May 2015.

Pacquiao took seven months off to concentrate on his job as a newly elected politician in the Philippine Senate. After serving his first stint as a rookie senator, he says the fire was rekindled and the stage set for a return to boxing. On Saturday, both fighters felt each other out as very few punches were thrown in the first round. Pacquiao was quicker to size up his opponent as the Filipino learned early on that he could counter Vargas' left jab with a right to the jaw.

STUMBLING BACKWARDS

That's what happened in the second round when Pacquiao connected on a right counterpunch that sent Vargas stumbling backwards and onto the canvas. Pacquiao said he had to respect Vargas' punching power.

"I'm very careful to go inside because I knew he would counter me. I felt I could do more but every round I tried to knock him out," Pacquiao said. Vargas started coming on in the middle rounds. His confidence grew after a strong sixth round which turned out to be one of the few times he was able to trade punches with Pacquiao. He had a big smile on his face while walking back to his corner after the bell to end the eighth. "Fighting Manny Pacquiao is like playing a very fast game of chess," Vargas said. "You have to be alert at all times. He was very fast but I was able to get in a few counters."

Las Vegas boxing fans showed their love for Pacquiao. Even with a hometown boxer in the ring, the crowd was chanting his name and cheering for Pacquiao to get the knockout.

The two fighters traded heavy blows in the eighth round as Vargas' face started to show

some of the damage from Pacquiao's potent right hand. — AFP

ZOU BEATS KWANPICHIT FOR FIRST WORLD PRO TITLE

LAS VEGAS: Two-time Olympic gold medalist Zou Shiming claimed the vacant World Boxing Organization flyweight title with a unanimous decision victory over Kwanpichit Onesongchaigym in a rematch on Saturday.

The 35-year-old from China easily outpointed Kwanpichit, winning on all three judges scorecards to capture his first world title. Two judges had it 120-107 while the other scored it 119-108. "Now my dream is complete," said Zou. "I am a pro champ, Olympic champ and world champion."

The Zou-Kwanpichit fight opened an impressive three-title undercard for Manny Pacquiao's comeback fight against Jessie Vargas at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. In one of those title bouts, Jessie Magdaleno seized the WBO junior featherweight title with a unanimous decision over former champion Nonito Donaire of the Philippines. Zou, who won gold in 2008 at Beijing and 2012 in London, started quickly by winning the opening round and then knocking down the Thai in the second.

With a big size and reach advantage, Zou sent Kwanpichit to the canvas with a perfectly timed right hook to the side of the head with about a minute to go in the round.

Zou improved to 9-1 with two knockouts, with his only loss coming in his first title attempt when he lost to Amnat Ruenroeng in Macau last year. Zou posted his second straight win over Kwanpichit, pummeling the Thai to defeat with a similar unanimous decision victory in Macau two years ago. Kwanpichit was riding a two-year, 12-bout winning streak since his sole loss to Zou.

All of his victories during the streak had come

by knockout but he was unable to close in on Zou, who used his superior defensive skills to stay out of trouble.

Zou gave the Thai plenty of punishment, especially in the first half of the fight, when he used a steady jab and combination punches to keep the more aggressive Kwanpichit at bay. Zou landed a total of 347 punches to just 107 for Kwanpichit.

DONAIRE, OSAWA DEFEATED

Magdaleno beat the multi-division world champion Donaire in an entertaining fight that saw one judge score it 118-110 for Magdaleno while the other two had the American winning 116-112. "I can't believe I won the title and I won it against a fighter like Donaire," said Magdaleno. "I don't have the words to describe it."

Undefeated Magdaleno grew up in Las Vegas but was fighting with Mexico printed on his red and black trunks and was serenaded by chants of "Mexico, Mexico" several times during the fight. Coming into the fight, Magdaleno was the number one contender, having won eight of his last 10 fights by knockout. Donaire suffered just the fourth loss of his career despite doing well at the end of rounds late in the fight. In the 10th, the Filipino wobbled Magdaleno with hard right punches at the beginning and end of the round. The two traded heavy blows in the 12th with the crowd on its feet for the final round. "We definitely won the fight. Losing never crossed my mind," said Donaire. "I never thought I could lose this. I had a great second half and I thought I controlled the fight." — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Zou Shiming (R) throws a right at Prasitsak Phaprom in the eighth round of their WBO flyweight championship fight at the Thomas & Mack Center on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. Shiming won by unanimous decision. — AFP

VENDEE GLOBE SAILORS EMBARK ON ADVENTURE

LES SABLES-D'OLONNE: Thousands of bystanders yesterday gave 29 skippers a raucous send off as the Vendee Globe solo race around the world began off the French Atlantic coast. The three-month race will see the skippers joust with the elements in their 18.5 metre (60 foot) vessels after leaving the western French port of Les Sables d'Olonne. Competitors from 10 countries are competing in the eighth 'Everest of the Seas' covering 21,638 nautical miles (40,073 km) through the toughest seas and around the three great Capes-Good Hope, Leeuwin and the Horn. Any participant who puts into port or receives assistance along the way will be disqualified.

Around 14,000 people were on hand on the water and some 300,000 more thronged the shore to see Prince Albert of Monaco sound the starting signal.

Emotions got the better of some competitors as relatives and friends waved them off. "It's a tough moment. Your stomach is in knots and the tears flow," acknowledged Yann Elies, sailing Queguiner-Leucemie Espoir.

"It's a moment I'll not forget," added a tearful Morgan Lagraviere, sailing Safran. "I look at all the people around me and ... well, it's hard to leave." The race, which has been held every four years since 1989, has to date claimed three lives while barely half of competing vessels — 71 out of 138 — have completed the gruelling course.

CAPTAIN HADDOCK

La Fabrique's Alan Roura, at 23 the youngest competitor, bade farewell dressed for the occasion as Captain Haddock of Tintin fame in a blue sailor's jacket, white slacks, striped scarf and cap.

Asia has its first ever contestant this year in the shape of Japan's Kojiro Shiraiishi, who set off wearing the garb of a Samurai warrior replete with sabre.

The Tokyoite only bought a boat in April and sailed out aboard 'Spirit of Yukoh' in honour of his mentor, Yukoh Tadda, the

Class II winner of the 1982-83 BOC Challenge, the Vendee Globe precursor.

A signal gave the skippers notice it was time to bid a fond adieu to their crew before embarking on their three-month adventure before Prince Albert sounded the official start horn.

Francois Gabart holds the course record after finishing in 78 days, two hours and 16 minutes three years ago. Ten of this year's skippers are non-French and they will be hoping to prise the crown from the grasp of 'home' sailors for the first time.

REDUCE TOIL WITH FOIL ?

On the technical side, the sailing fraternity will be keen to see the effect this year of "Dali moustache" lifting foils which seven of the participants are debuting this year.

The appendage device helps lift the boats above the water in a dragster effect, the idea being to increase dynamic power and also lighten the vessel. However, some observers have questioned the device's effectiveness over such a long distance.

The foils could come into their own not least during the opening days of the race as skippers handle north-northwesterly winds gusting at 15-20 knots (28 to 38 kph/17 to 23 mph). Race director Jacques Caraes says the conditions are pretty much ideal for the start as the vessels set a course towards Finisterre point off northwest Spain.

Welshman Alex Thomson, taking part in his fourth Vendee Globe, indicated that "if the forecasts are correct it will be tough for the boats without foils to be in the front group." He and his rivals then headed out into the ocean and the Equator, which they are slated to reach in eight-and-a-half days.

Also yesterday, French navigator Thomas Coville set off from the port of Brest in a bid to break the solo non-stop round the world record in his 31-metre maxi-trimaran Sodebo Ultim'. The 47-year-old has already failed on four occasions to beat Francis Joyon's 2008 record of 57 days 13 hours and 34 minutes. — AFP



LES SABLES D'OLONNE: French skipper Paul Meilhat sails on his Class Imoca monohull "SMA" at the start of the Vendee Globe around-the-world solo sailing race, yesterday off Les Sables d'Olonne, western France. — AFP

BANGLADESH PLAYER ACQUITTED IN MAID TORTURE CASE

DHAKA: A Bangladesh court yesterday acquitted cricketer Shahadat Hossain and his wife on charges of torturing an 11-year-old girl whom he employed as a maid, a prosecutor said.

Police last year charged the 30-year-old fast bowler and his wife Nritto Shahadat with assault and torture after the young girl was found crying by the

roadside with her eyes bruised and swollen. "The couple have been released as the prosecution failed to prove them guilty," prosecutor Ali Asgar from the women and children repression prevention tribunal told AFP.

The couple pleaded not guilty to the charges which were brought after

the girl lodged complaint against them.

The cricketer spent two months in custody after surrendering to police in October last year, and his wife was arrested. Hossain was later released on bail, as was his wife. But he remained banned from all forms of the game by the Bangladesh Cricket Board during

the investigation into the alleged criminal offence, which drew huge media interest. In May the authorities allowed Hossain to play domestic cricket due to "humanitarian considerations" until his case was settled, clearing the way for his appearance in the lucrative Bangladesh Premier League.

But the fast bowler has not been

picked by any BPL side for the current season. Before his ban Hossain played 38 Tests for Bangladesh, bagging 72 wickets, and 51 one-day internationals in which he took 47. "The truth has won," he said after the verdict. Asked whether he hopes to return to the national team, he told AFP: "I still have something to give to my country." —AFP

RANGERS BEAT BRUINS 5-2

BOSTON: Derek Stepan and Kevin Hayes each scored short-handed goals and Antti Raanta made 35 saves as the surging New York Rangers beat the Boston Bruins 5-2 on Saturday night. Pavel Buchnevich added a power-play goal, Stepan had two assists, and Michael Grabner and Nick Holden also scored for New York, which won its fourth straight game and seventh in the last eight. David Pastrnak and Patrice Bergeron scored for the Bruins, who had won their last three games. Tuukka Rask made 19 saves, but lost for the first time after winning his first six starts. New York took a 2-1 lead on Stepan's goal late in the first period as he broke in alone after taking a pass from Grabner. Rask poked the puck off his stick, but it caromed off both of the winger's skates and slid into the net. Hayes scored on the end of a 3-on-1 break at 2:18 of the second to make it 3-1.

PENGUINS 5, SHARKS 0

Sidney Crosby scored twice and Matthew Murray stopped 32 shots for his second career shutout as Pittsburgh continued its dominance of San Jose. Chris Kunitz, Eric Fehr and Nick Bonino also scored for the Penguins, who are 5-0-1 in their last six and have points in 10 of 12 games. Murray got his second win of the season. The Penguins, who beat San Jose in six games in the Stanley Cup Final last June and won against them at home on Oct. 20, didn't give the Sharks much of a chance, scoring less than 4 1/2 minutes in. San Jose goalie Martin Jones allowed three goals on seven shots before being replaced by Aaron Dell 13 seconds into the second period. Dell finished with 16 saves as the Sharks lost their third straight.

LIGHTNING 4, DEVILS 1

Victor Hedman and Nikita Kucherov both had a goal and an assist, Brayden Point scored his first NHL goal and the Lightning beat the Devils. Brian Boyle also scored for Tampa Bay, and Ben Bishop made 37 saves. New Jersey got a goal from Damon Severson. Cory Schneider stopped 31 shots. Hedman put Tampa Bay up 2-1 with 11:33 left in the second from the blue line. Shortly before Hedman's goal, Severson hit the post and Kucherov had his backhand go off the cross bar then get swept off the goal line by Schneider's stick. Point, in his 12th NHL game, made it 3-1 at 5:01 of the third when he redirected Kucherov's shot during a power play.

BLUES 2, BLUE JACKETS 1, OT

Jay Bouwmeester tied it in early the third period and Vladimir Tarasenko scored the winner late in overtime to lift the Blues over the Blue Jackets. Carter Hutton stopped 20 shots for his second win of the season, helping the Blues improve to 4-1-1 at home this season and giving them five wins in the last six meetings with the Blue Jackets at Scottrade Center. Josh Anderson scored for Columbus, who was coming off a 10-0 win against Montreal the previous night and snapped a three-game winning streak. Curtis McElhinney finished with 28 saves. Bouwmeester ripped a shot past McElhinney from the left dot at 2:16 of the third with his first goal since Feb. 22, 2016, against San Jose. Tarasenko's wrist shot with 43 seconds on the clock in overtime broke his seven-game goal-scoring drought.

AVALANCHE 1, WILD 0

Gabriel Landeskog scored with 9:37 remaining, Calvin Pickard stopped 32 shots for his second NHL shutout and the Avalanche beat the Wild. Landeskog's goal ended a Colorado scoring drought that lasted more than 164 minutes. He found the net on a pass from Matt Duchene and then hopped into the arms of Nathan MacKinnon in excitement. Earlier in the third period, Landeskog got into a brief scuffle with Devan Dubnyk after agitating the Minnesota goalie in front of the net. Pickard stepped in for a struggling Semyon Varlamov and kept the Wild offense in check.

CANADIENS 5, FLYERS 4

Tomas Plekanec scored a short-handed goal in the third period to lift the Canadiens to a win over the Flyers. Andrei Markov, Greg Pateryn,

Alex Galchenyuk and Phillip Danault also scored for Montreal (10-1-1) while Carey Price stopped 34-of-38 shots. Chris VandeVelde, Shayne Gostisbehere, Claude Giroux and Travis Konecny scored for Philadelphia (6-6-1), which saw its three-game winning streak snapped. Michal Neuvirth made 12 saves in defeat. Plekanec scored the eventual winner at 10:57 while the Habs were playing down a man. Streaking down the wing, Plekanec beat Neuvirth for his first goal of the season.

OILERS 4, ISLANDERS 3, SO

Mark Letestu scored the only goal in the shootout to lift the Oilers to a victory over the Islanders. Letestu beat Islanders goalie Jaroslav Halak to the glove side to snap the Oilers' three-game skid (0-2-1) after starting the season with seven wins in eight games. Patrick Maroon, Leon Draisaitl, and Milan Lucic scored in regulation for the Oilers, and Cam Talbot made 30 saves as Edmonton beat the Islanders on the road for the first time since December 1999. Nick Leddy, Shane Prince and Casey Cizikas scored for New York, and Halak finished with 20 saves. The Islanders have lost three straight, including the last two in shootouts. Halak denied Jordan Eberle point-blank early in overtime before Talbot made a similar sprawling save at the other end.

SABRES 2, SENATORS 1

Kyle Okposo and Sam Reinhart scored in the third period in the Sabres' comeback victory over the Senators. Robin Lehner made 32 saves for his first win against his former team. Okposo tied it early in the period, tipping a point shot from Jake McCabe past Craig Anderson. The Sabres took their first lead when Reinhart took advantage of a turnover at the side of the Ottawa goal. Anderson stopped the first shot, but Reinhart was able to jam a loose puck in between the skate of Anderson and the post at 8:22. The Senators had an opportunity to tie it with a four-minute power play after Dmitry Kulikov got a high stick into the face of Bobby Ryan, but were unable to produce. Mike Hoffman scored for Ottawa, and Anderson made 30 saves.

CAPITALS 4, PANTHERS 2

T.J. Oshie scored twice, including the game-winner during a third-period flurry, as the Capitals beat the Panthers for their fifth consecutive victory. Oshie, Alex Ovechkin and Lars Eller scored three goals on five shots in less than five minutes as the Capitals finally cracked Roberto Luongo. Florida's goaltender had flummoxed Washington for much of the game and finished with 32 saves. Jared McCann and Reilly Smith scored for Florida, which was opportunistic despite being outshot 36-24. McCann's goal was his first with the Panthers after an offseason trade from Vancouver. Capitals starter Braden Holtby made 22 saves for his sixth win of the season.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, CANUCKS 3

Tyler Bozak scored twice and had an assist to lead the Maple Leafs to a victory over Vancouver, handing the Canucks their eighth straight loss. Nazem Kadri, Mitch Marner, Nikita Soshnikov and Jake Gardiner also scored as the Leafs won their third straight. Frederik Andersen stopped 23 of 26 shots before being replaced by Jhonas Enroth, who had three saves in his 5:08. Derek Dorsett, Henrik Sedin and Daniel Sedin scored for the Canucks, and Ryan Miller finished with 36 saves. Vancouver is 0-7-1 while getting shut out four times since beating Buffalo on Oct. 20.

HURRICANES 3, PREDATORS 2, SO

Jacob Slavin scored the only goal of the shootout to lead the Hurricanes to a victory over the Predators. Jeff Skinner and Ron Hainsey scored in regulation for Carolina, which ended a two-game losing streak. Cam Ward finished with 25 saves through overtime and denied all three Nashville attempts in the shootout. James Neal and Matt Irwin had the goals for the Predators, losers of two consecutive games both in shootouts. Pekka Rinne stopped 23 shots. —AP



PERTH: Australia's Steve Smith plays a shot on day four of the first Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Perth yesterday. —AFP

AUSTRALIA LOSE FOUR WICKETS CHASING RECORD 539 TARGET

PERTH: Emerging South African pacer Kagiso Rabada claimed three crucial wickets as South Africa closed in on victory against Australia on the fourth day of the opening Test in Perth yesterday.

Set an intimidating victory target of 539, the home side were wobbling on 169 for four at stumps and facing a potential record defeat against South Africa.

Usman Khawaja was on 58 and Mitchell Marsh on 15, with South Africa's unbeaten record at the ground set to be extended. An extraordinary piece of fielding by the diminutive Temba Bavuma removed the dangerous David Warner for 35 to end an opening stand of 52. Warner dropped the ball in front of him and set off for a quick single, but Bavuma pounced from cover and unleashed a powerful throw while horizontal and still in mid-air.

It rattled the stumps at the non-striker's end with Warner centimetres out of his ground.

The dismissal set the stage for Rabada (3-49) to display his quality in the absence of champion pacer Dale Steyn due to a shoulder injury suffered on the first day. Four balls later fellow opener Shaun Marsh (15) was caught at second slip by Faf du Plessis off the bowling of Rabada as Australia suddenly slumped to 52-2.

Things appeared to get even darker for the hosts when new batsman Khawaja was given out caught behind first ball against the part-time spin of JP Duminy. A decision review saved Khawaja when it showed the ball had glanced off his pad rather than the bat.

Steven Smith and Khawaja, who was dropped on 41 when Hashim Amla could not cling on to a tough chance at first slip, set about rebuilding the Australian innings in search of a draw. The pair settled in against the part-time

SCOREBOARD	
PERTH: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first test between Australia and South Africa at the WACA ground yesterday.	
South Africa 1st Innings: 242	37-11-107-2 (1nb), Peter Siddle 26-9-62-2, Mitchell Marsh 26-4-77-2 (4w), Nathan Lyon 34-3-146-0, Adam Voges 5-1-8-0, Steve Smith 1-1-0-3-1.
Australia, 1st Innings: 244	
South Africa 2nd Innings(Overnight: 390-6)	
Stephen Cook c Shaun Marsh b Siddle	12
Dean Elgar c Starc b Hazlewood	127
Hashim Amla b Hazlewood	1
Jean-Paul Duminy c Nevill b Siddle	141
Faf du Plessis c Nevill b Starc	32
Temba Bavuma c Khawaja b Marsh	8
Quinton de Kock c Voges b Marsh	64
Vernon Philander b Smith	73
Keshav Mahraj not out	41
Extras (10b, 13lb, 17w, 1nb)	41
TOTAL: (8 wickets declared)	540
Overs: 160.1	
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-45, 295, 4-324, 5-346, 6-352, 7-468, 8-540.	
Bowling: Mitchell Starc 31-8-114-1 (1w), Josh Hazlewood	
Australia 2nd Innings	
Shaun Marsh c du Plessis b Rabada	15
David Warner run out	35
Usman Khawaja not out	58
Steve Smith c de Kock b Rabada	34
Adam Voges c de Kock b Rabada	1
Mitchell Marsh not out	15
Extras (8b, 2lb, 1w)	11
TOTAL: (4 wickets)	169
Overs: 55.	
Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-52, 3-144, 4-146.	
Bowling: Kagiso Rabada 16-2-49-3 (1w), Vernon Philander 12-3-36-0, Jean-Paul Duminy 8-1-18-0, Keshav Maharaj 17-6-40-0, Stephen Cook 2-0-16-0.	

bowlers, but when the ball started to reverse swing Rabada returned to the attack and ended a 92-run third-wicket stand with an impressive spell. Bowling with high pace in his ninth Test, the 21-year-old showed he can become the perfect long-term replacement for Steyn when he removed Smith (34) and Adam Voges (1) in successive overs.

Smith had looked solid but drove at a ball and got an outside edge to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

'WE CAN ALWAYS DREAM'

Rabada's next over to Voges was outstanding, with a couple of almost unplayable deliveries before he had the new batsman caught

behind off a thin outside edge. South Africa bowling coach Charl Langeveldt was thrilled with Rabada and said the over to Voges gave him goosebumps.

"He's done it before, today he stepped up again," he said. "When you are bowling spells at 145 kilometres an hour that is always exciting."

"That (over to Voges) is why we are promoting Test cricket, it gave me goosebumps in the dugout." With Steyn absent and little assistance for the spinners, Langeveldt said carefully rotating Rabada and Vernon Philander would be the key to success on the final day. A disappointed Australian fast bowler Peter Siddle maintained there was still hope for the home side. —AFP

UNDEFEATED DE SILVA PUTS S LANKA IN CHARGE

HARARE: An unbeaten century from Dhananjaya de Silva put Sri Lanka in control of the second and final Test against Zimbabwe after a fluctuating first day at Harare Sports Club yesterday. De Silva came to the wicket with Sri Lanka struggling on 112 for four after they had lost the toss and been asked to bat, but showed greater application than Sri Lanka's top order as he hit his second Test century in just his fifth match. The right-hander added a crucial 143 for the fifth wicket with Upul Tharanga before finishing unbeaten on 100, as the tourists closed the day on 290 for five.

"I knew I needed to bat through the innings," De Silva said afterwards. "Playing under pressure is my role, so it made me comfortable." Zimbabwe won the toss and elected to bowl first on a pitch boasting a tinge of green, but had a chaotic first hour with the ball. Fast bowler Carl Mumba limped off the field after the first over, and seamers Chris Mpfu and Donald Tripano were wayward in their opening spells as Sri Lanka progressed to 62 without loss.

The breakthrough came from an unlikely source, as part-timer Hamilton Masakadza made an early entry to the attack and Dimuth Karunaratne guided an innocuous delivery straight to gully to depart for 26. Masakadza then struck in his next over when Kusal Perera's decision to attack the seamer from the start of his innings backfired horribly, as he holed out to long-on. Mumba was able to return to the field soon after, but it was fellow fast bowler Mpfu who struck before lunch when he trapped Kaushal Silva lbw for 37. Although Silva asked for a review, he took too long to do so and so his request was denied. Hawk-Eye showed that the delivery from Mpfu would have missed leg stump. Sri Lanka went to lunch on 105 for three, and were in trouble soon after the interval when Kusal Mendis edged Donald Tripano behind to depart for 26. At 112 for four, Sri Lanka were under pressure for the first time in the series but Tharanga and De Silva were unperturbed. The pair were content to take a patient approach as the pitch flattened out and Zimbabwe tightened up their bowling, seeing Sri Lanka through to tea on 187 for four.

"We started off badly in the first session, but I think we pulled it back quite nicely as the day wore on," said Masakadza. "We would have been happier with one or two more wickets, but I

SCOREBOARD	
HARARE: Scoreboard at close on the first day of the second Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in Harare on yesterday.	
Sri Lanka first innings	(Mendis), 5-255 (Tharanga).
D. Karunaratne c Williams b Masakadza	26
K. Silva lbw b Mpfu	37
K. Perera c Mumba b Masakadza	4
K. Mendis c Moor b Tripano	26
U. Tharanga c Masakadza b Cremer	79
D. de Silva not out	100
A. Gunaratne not out	13
Extras (2lb, 2w, 1nb)	5
Total (5 wks, 90 overs)	290
Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Karunaratne), 2-66 (Perera), 3-84 (Silva), 4-112	
Still to bat: D. Perera, R. Herath, S. Lakmal, L. Kumara.	
Bowling: Mumba 14-2-54-0, Tripano 22-4-63-1, Mpfu 18-4-65-1, Masakadza 8-2-18-2, Cremer 18-0-57-1, Williams 5-1-8-0, Waller 5-0-23-0.	
Zimbabwe: Tino Mawoyo, Brian Chari, Hamilton Masakadza, Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, Malcolm Waller, Peter Moor (wk), Graeme Cremer (capt), Donald Tripano, Carl Mumba, Chris Mpfu.	
Series: Sri Lanka leads two-match series 1-0.	

think after the start that we had, we'll take it" Tharanga fell for 79 in the final session, as he became the first player to be given out on

review in Zimbabwe, with the third umpire determining that he had edged a delivery from legspinner Graeme Cremer. —AFP



HARARE: Sri Lanka batsman Dhananjaya de Silva celebrates after scoring 100 runs during the test cricket match against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club in Harare, yesterday. Zimbabwe is playing its 100th test cricket match as it hosts Sri Lanka in Zimbabwe. — AP

KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of NBA news, Kuwait Times is introducing a new feature this year: The NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. The actual record for each team (put between brackets) does play a role in the assessment process but is not the main factor for deciding each team's ranking, thus making it different from league standings. This past week saw some top teams suffer unexpected losses, others make statement wins, some records broken and new ones set.



1- Cleveland Cavaliers (6 - 0)
Last week: 1 - The Cavs remain the only unbeaten team in the League. Meanwhile LeBron James passed Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon for 10th on the all-time scoring list with his 25 points in his team's win over the 76ers on Saturday night. All is good in the Land.



2- Los Angeles Clippers (5 - 1)
Last week: 4 - The Clippers rebounded from their two-point loss against the Thunder - their only loss this season so far - by beating the mighty Spurs in dominant fashion behind Blake Griffin's 28 points.



3- Oklahoma City Thunder (5 - 1)
Last week: 9 - Russell Westbrook may have lost his first battle against his former teammate Kevin Durant, but he made history when he became the first player since Magic Johnson in 1982 to average a triple-double through a season's first three games, leading his team to a dominant week.



4- Toronto Raptors (4 - 1)
Last week: 6 - DeMar DeRozan, the league's current top scorer, is the first player to score 30+ points in his team's first five games since Michael Jordan did so 30 years ago. He also channeled his inner Kobe when he became the first player to score 30 points in three consecutive games without a three-pointer since Bryant did it in 2005.



5- San Antonio Spurs (5 - 2)
Last week: 2 - The Spurs have opened the season with 7 games in 12 nights, but fatigue can hardly be used as an excuse to allow the Clippers to drop 73 points in the first half, or slip up against the Jazz - both games played at home court.



6- Golden State Warriors (4 - 2)
Last week: 3 - Steve Kerr losing the teacher-vs-student battle with Luke Walton and his Lakers, during a game in which Stephen Curry's record 157 consecutive games with a made 3-pointer was snapped, seem to overshadow Kevin Durant's dominant performance in the Warriors' win against the Thunder.



7- Charlotte Hornets (4 - 1)
Last week: 11 - The real test to the Hornets' defense, which has been stellar to start the season, comes this week with games against the Jazz, Raptors and Cavs.



8- Atlanta Hawks (4 - 2)
Last week: 5 - Dwight Howard had a triumphant return to Houston on Saturday, but his new team needs to maintain a rhythm and avoid such losses as those surrendered to the Lakers and Wizards this past week.



9- Detroit Pistons (4 - 2)
Last week: 13 - The Pistons have picked up victories against the Bucks, Knicks and Nuggets last week behind their strong defense, but the offensive inconsistency remains an issue for Stan Van Gundy's squad.



10- Boston Celtics (3 - 2)
Last week: 10 - Al Horford was not available against the Cavs on Friday due to a concussion, depriving us from witnessing an early Eastern Conference showdown between two playoff favorites.



11- Milwaukee Bucks (4 - 2)
Last week: 23 - A relatively easy schedule allowed the bucks to rebound last week from a slow season start, but the main story has been their strong offense as they averaged nearly 120 points per game in their last three matches - all victories.



12- Portland Trail Blazers (3 - 3)
Last week: 8 - Damian Lillard was dominant throughout the week (again), but fell short to leading his team to victory against Phoenix and Golden State when evenly matched with elite guards - something Head Coach Terry Stotts needs to consider.



13- Chicago Bulls (3 - 3)
Last week: 7 - The Bulls came down to earth following their solid start of the season, dropping three straight games after beginning the year with a 3 - 0 record. The most alarming statistic though could be the notable drop in made three-pointers in the course of those games.



14- Utah Jazz (3 - 3)
Last week: 18 - Probably the only thing that can top defeating the Spurs on their home court is news that injured star Gordon Hayward was expected to make his season debut against the Knicks last night.



15- Los Angeles Lakers (3 - 3)
Last week: 20 - The Lakers' defeat of the Hawks and Warriors in their last two games should not come as much of a surprise given the fact that they are loaded with talent, led by coach Luke Walton. It's just that no one probably expected to see that potential start bearing fruit this soon.



16- Houston Rockets (3 - 3)
Last week: 15 - Houston's heavy loss to the Hawks on Saturday sent a grim reminder to their fans of the lack of urgency that plagued their team throughout last year.



17- Indiana Pacers (3 - 3)
Last week: 14 - The Pacers cannot afford losing Paul George to suspension - after he kicked the ball to the crowd during his team's win against the Bulls on Saturday - as they prepare to take on the Hornets and their strong defense tonight.



18- Miami Heat (2 - 3)
Last week: 17 - The Heat's only win last week came in overtime against the struggling Kings. With a tough schedule ahead, things do not look good in South Beach.



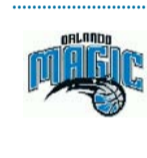
19- Denver Nuggets (2 - 3)
Last week: 16 - Jamal Murray hit his first field goals as a pro in the Nuggets' Saturday loss to the Pistons, after he made only two points on free throws through his first three games. Denver hopes to see more from their 7th overall draft selection.



20- Memphis Grizzlies (3 - 3)
Last week: 21 - The Grizzlies' only wins came against the struggling Pelicans, Wizards and Timberwolves; who also beat them at the season's start. Good news - in addition to Marc Gasol's four made three-pointers in Memphis' OT win last Monday - is that new acquisition Chandler Parsons was scheduled to make his debut last night.



21- Sacramento Kings (2 - 5)
Last week: 12 - It's deja vu in Sac-Town. After a promising start of the season, the Kings drop four straight games in a merciless road trip that ends tonight in Toronto.



22- Orlando Magic (3 - 3)
Last week: 28 - Orlando fans breathed a collective sigh of relief after their team rebounded from a slow start of the season to win three straight - albeit against three struggling teams. The real test comes this week with three games against playoff contenders.



23- Brooklyn Nets (2 - 4)
Last week: 19 - The most remarkable note from Brooklyn's upset win over Detroit last Thursday wasn't Brook Lopez's 34 points, but the fact that the center hit 4-of-8 from behind the arc while also attacking the Pistons' center Andre Drummond in the paint.



24- New York Knicks (2 - 3)
Last week: 25 - Saturday's win against the Bulls must have felt good for Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah, but the Knicks hope that the duo who were acquired over the summer can maintain the same level of focus shown during that game on a consistent basis.



25- Phoenix Suns (2 - 4)
Last week: 27 - The Suns allowed opponents to score an average 112.3 so far this season, ranking dead last in the league in this category, adding even more pressure on their guard-dominant offense.



26- Minnesota Timberwolves (1 - 4)
Last week: 22 - Coach Tom Thibodeau made it clear after the Timberwolves had only 12 assists in a loss to OKC that the team needs to move the ball more often. Karl-Anthony Towns, who scored 33 points in 31 minutes during the same game, believes though that "it's all going to come together soon," and promised 'scary things' when that happens - if ever.



27- Washington Wizards (1 - 4)
Last week: 26 - Poor defense was blamed for Washington's loss to Toronto last Thursday, in which DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 40 points. Meanwhile, rookie Tomas Satoransky filled in nicely for star point guard John Wall who sat out the team's last two games as a precaution.



28- Dallas Mavericks (0 - 5)
Last week: 24 - Just when you thought things cannot get worse for basketball fans in northeastern Texas, news came that Dirk Nowitzki will be out at least a week with sore right Achilles.



29- Philadelphia 76ers (0 - 5)
Last week: 29 - Joel Embiid scored 22 points, making all four of his three-point attempts as his team pushed the defending champions to the limit in the 76ers' one-point loss to the Cavs Saturday night. His breakout performance so far puts him as a frontrunner for Rookie of the Year.



30- New Orleans Pelicans (0 - 6)
Last week: 30 - Anthony Davis is the only player to score 148 points in a team that starts the season with a 0 - 4 record. He came public with his frustration following the team's next loss, which is truly what management and fans should worry about.



PHILADELPHIA: Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving, left, drives to the basket with Philadelphia 76ers' Nik Stauskas defending during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, in Philadelphia. — AP

LEBRON BECOMES NBA'S NO 10 CAREER SCORER, CAVS EDGE 76ERS

PHILADELPHIA: LeBron James scored 25 points, moving into 10th place on the NBA's career list, and added 14 assists and eight rebounds as the unbeaten Cleveland Cavaliers held off the winless Philadelphia 76ers 102-101 on Saturday night. Kevin Love added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the reigning champion Cavaliers, who improved to 6-0. Joel Embiid scored 22 points, making all four of his 3-point attempts, but the 76ers dropped to 0-5. James passed Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon by converting a fast-break layup midway through the first quarter. Olajuwon finished his career with 26,946 points. James finished the game on 26,970. James' first attempt at passing the record was an emphatic, highlight-reel block by Embiid about 3 1/2 minutes into the contest. After two more misses, James quickly raced up the court for an easy layup. He is No. 12 in scoring on the combined ABA/NBA list.

CLIPPERS 116, SPURS 92

Blake Griffin scored a season-high 28 points as the Clippers handed San Antonio a second straight home loss. The Spurs have dropped two straight at the AT&T Center after losing just two regular-season home games in the previous 600 days, including a 40-1 mark last season. The Clippers shot 50 percent from the field while dominating this battle between one-loss teams. Jamal Crawford finished with 16 points, J.J. Redick had 14 and Chris Paul had nine points and 10 assists. LaMarcus Aldridge had 19 points and Kawhi Leonard added 14 for the Spurs, but the duo shot a combined 10 for 26 on the second night of a back-to-back.

HAWKS 112, ROCKETS 97

Dwight Howard had 20 points and 14 rebounds in his first game against his former teammates while Paul Millsap scored 23 as Atlanta beat Houston. The Hawks' scoring was unusually top-heavy. Kent Bazemore shook out of his early season scoring slump with 20 points. James Harden scored 30 points and continued his hot start to the season by making 10 of 19 shots. He had 12 assists and nine rebounds. Most of Harden's scoring came in the first half, when he had 24 points and all of his four 3-pointers in the game. Harden has recorded at least 30 points and 10 assists in four of Houston's first six games. Atlanta led most of the game as it snapped a streak of two straight losses.

PACERS 111, BULLS 94

C.J. Miles scored 20 points and Myles Turner added 16 as Indiana shut down weary Chicago. All-Star Paul George was ejected late in the third quarter after he inadvertently kicked the ball into the stands. He appeared to be upset following a no-call on a shot, then was called for a foul on the Bulls' ensuing possession. He made his first five shots and finished with 13 points - the first time this season he's been held to less than 20. Jimmy Butler scored 16 points but at halftime had nearly as many turnovers (four) as the Pacers had committed as a team (five). Rajon Rondo wasn't much better, and even Dwyane Wade struggled - finishing with four points as the Bulls lost their third in a row.

THUNDER 112, TIMBERWOLVES 92

Russell Westbrook scored 28 points to help Oklahoma City beat Minnesota. Westbrook also had eight assists and six rebounds. The Thunder improved to 5-1 on the season, matching their best six-game start since moving to Oklahoma City for the 2008-09 season. Enes Kanter had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Steven Adams scored 14 points and Victor Oladipo added 12 for the Thunder in their first game since being blown out by Golden State and former teammate Kevin Durant on Thursday. The Thunder shot 52 percent from the field and held the Timberwolves to 39 percent shooting. Karl-Anthony Towns scored 33 points for the Timberwolves after scoring 32 Thursday night against Denver. No one else on the team reached double figures until the fourth quarter.

MAGIC 88, WIZARDS 86

Jeff Green came off the bench to score 18 points and Evan Fournier added 13 to help Orlando beat Washington. On a night when the Magic starters struggled offensively, Frank Vogel elected to go with his bench for extended minutes in the fourth quarter and it paid off big. Green scored 10 points in the fourth and Mario Hezonja added eight of his nine points in the final period, while Bismack Biyombo came up with a couple of blocked shots to lift the Magic out of a 12-point, third-quarter deficit. Biyombo was big all night in the

NBA results/standings

Oklahoma City 112, Minnesota 92; Cleveland 102, Philadelphia 101; Orlando 88, Washington 86; Detroit 103, Denver 86; Indiana 111, Chicago 94; Atlanta 112, Houston 97; Milwaukee 117, Sacramento 91; LA Clippers 116, San Antonio 92.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	4	1	.800	-
Boston	3	2	.600	1
NY Knicks	2	3	.400	2
Brooklyn	2	4	.333	2.5
Philadelphia	0	5	0	4

Central Division

Cleveland	6	0	1.000	-
Detroit	4	2	.667	2
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	2
Chicago	3	3	.500	3
Indiana	3	3	.500	3

Southeast Division

Charlotte	4	1	.800	-
Atlanta	4	2	.667	0.5
Orlando	3	3	.500	1.5
Miami	2	3	.400	2
Washington	1	4	.200	3

Western Conference

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	5	1	.833	-
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Utah	3	3	.500	2
Denver	2	3	.400	2.5
Minnesota	1	4	.200	3.5

Pacific Division

LA Clippers	5	1	.833	-
Golden State	4	2	.667	1
LA Lakers	3	3	.500	2
Phoenix	2	4	.333	3
Sacramento	2	5	.286	3.5

Southwest Division

San Antonio	5	2	.714	-
Houston	3	3	.500	1.5
Memphis	3	3	.500	1.5
Dallas	0	5	0	4
New Orleans	0	6	0	4.5

interior blocking shots and changing others when the Wizards came into the lane. He finished with nine points, three blocks and 12 rebounds. The Wizards, who were playing without point guard John Wall, couldn't convert down the stretch. After hitting several clutch shots down the stretch during Friday night's win over Atlanta, Bradley Beal missed his final three shots and Markieff Morris missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

PISTONS 103, NUGGETS 86

Andre Drummond had 19 points and 20 rebounds as Detroit breezed to another easy win at home. The Pistons have won all four of their home games this season by double digits, and they haven't trailed by more than three points in any of them. They were never behind Saturday after scoring the game's first 10 points. Marcus Morris and Jon Leuer scored 15 points each for Detroit, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 13. Wilson Chandler led Denver with 21 points.

BUCKS 117, KINGS 91

Mirza Teletovic scored 22 points and matched his career high with seven 3-pointers, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 17 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and Milwaukee beat short-handed Sacramento. Jabari Parker had 19 points for the Bucks, who pulled their starters after three quarters. Garrett Temple scored 19 and DeMarcus Cousins had 15 in the first half for the Kings, who slipped to 0-4 on their five-game road trip and gave up 100 points or more for the sixth consecutive game. Leading 61-48 at the half, the Bucks opened the third quarter with a 21-3 run. — AP

IRELAND STUN N ZEALAND TO CLAIM FIRST WIN OVER ALL BLACKS

CHICAGO: Ireland ended a century-long losing streak to claim a historic first-ever win over New Zealand here Saturday, sending the All Blacks spinning to a 40-29 defeat with a scintillating display. Just days after the Windy City erupted in celebration after the Chicago Cubs landed their first World Series baseball crown in 108 years, Ireland booted their own 111-year rugby hoodoo firmly into touch.

Roared on by army of green-clad fans

in a 62,300 crowd at Soldier Field, the Irish outscored the All Blacks by five tries to four to seal their first win over the Kiwis in the 29th instalment of a rivalry dating to 1905.

"It has been a long time coming and history (has been) made. We're absolutely ecstatic," Ireland skipper Rory Best said after leading his team on a raucous lap of honor at the famed NFL venue.

"We knew they are a great side. You can see how good a side they are and

how much it means to our boys to have won that." Ireland were forced to cling on in the closing stages after a ferocious New Zealand fightback, which saw the All Blacks recover from a 30-8 deficit to go within four points at 33-29 with around 15 minutes to go.

But with the crowd roaring them home, Ireland scored a fifth and final try through outstanding center Robbie Henshaw, converted by replacement fly-half Joey Carbery, to clinch a famous vic-

tory. It was New Zealand's first defeat since their loss to Australia in August 2015. Only last month, the All Blacks had set a world record for consecutive victories with their 18th win in a row. New Zealand's preparations for the Test had been thrown into disarray by the absence through injury of first choice locks Brodie Retallick and Sam Whitelock. The further absence of second row Luke Romano following a family bereavement had forced them into

starting a makeshift pairing of Jerome Kaino and Patrick Tuipulotu. But New Zealand coach Steve Hansen refused to blame the injury crisis for the loss. "The right side won," Hansen said. "The Irish side played very well and congratulations to them. "We don't want to use (the injuries) as an excuse. We trained well enough, we prepared well enough, we thought. We're not going to make any excuses about not having the right people." —AFP

SNODGRASS LEADS HULL TO 2-1 WIN OVER SOUTHAMPTON

 Hull City	2
 Southampton	1

LONDON: Robert Snodgrass and Michael Dawson struck twice in three minutes as struggling Hull came back from a goal down to beat Southampton 2-1 at the KCOM Stadium yesterday and secure their first Premier League win since defeating Swansea 2-0 on Aug 20.

Hull looked set to continue their dismal run of six straight defeats when Charlie Austin put the visitors in front from the

penalty spot six minutes in after Maya Yoshida was dragged down in the penalty box by Curtis Davies. The Tigers lost both starting strikers Abel Hernandez and William Keane to injuries in the first half-hour but substitute forward Snodgrass looked lively after replacing the latter in the 26th minute and eventually turned the tide. Despite Hull being under the cosh for much of the game, Snodgrass conjured up a brace of second-half strikes, first firing home himself to level the score in the 61st minute and then launching a free kick for Dawson to head Hull into the lead.

Hull remain in the bottom three on 10 points, level with West Bromwich Albion but behind them on goal difference, with Southampton three points ahead of them in 10th position. — Reuters

LEICESTER DEFEATED AT HOME BY WEST BROM

 West Brom	2
 Leicester City	1

LEICESTER: Leicester City's 20-game unbeaten home record in the Premier League came to an end as Matt Phillips scored West Brom's winner in a 2-1 victory yesterday.

The Scotland international winger provided the cross for James Morrison's opener on 52 minutes and then seized on a Danny Drinkwater howler to grab the decisive goal 20 minutes later.

Leicester had equalised on 55 minutes through record signing Algerian international Islam Slimani.

But Claudio Ranieri's men could have no complaints about surrendering their proud record at the King Power Stadium as they paid the price for a lacklustre display.

It meant a fifth defeat of the season for last season's champions, whose sparkling form in their maiden Champions League campaign is in stark contrast to a stuttering defence of their domestic title.

Defeat leaves them in a lowly 14th position on 12 points, just two points above the relegation places.

Albion leapfrogged Leicester in the table by virtue of the win-only their third this term-moving to 11th on 13 points.

Jamie Vardy was again left on the bench for a league game as his long barren run in front of goal went on despite him entering the fray at half-time.

Ron-Robert Zieler, who replaced the injured Kasper Schmeichel in goal for Leicester, made an excellent start as he looked to settle any nerves, making a smart save to deny the visitors in the third minute. He went low to his right to get his fingertips to a goal-bound cross-shot by Phillips, who had pounced on a poor touch by Andy King. That set the tone for the opening exchanges with Leicester poor in possession and West Brom enjoying a territorial advantage.

Salomon Rondon headed just off target for the visitors from a Phillips cross.

Morrison then failed narrowly to release Chris Brunt with a well-judged through-ball which Zieler did well to slide out a clear.

But the home side did build up some momentum as the game developed and Slimani was the focal point of their attacks. He misdirected a header from a cross by Christian Fuchs after a slick Leicester counter-attack. The Algerian then failed by a whisker to meet a cross by compatriot Riyad Mahrez with Gareth McAuley reading the danger well and clearing before Shinji Okazaki could seize on the loose ball. — AFP



LONDON: Arsenal's German defender Shkodran Mustafi (L) dives through the air as he vies with Tottenham Hotspur's Dutch striker Vincent Janssen during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates Stadium in London yesterday. — AFP

RETURNING KANE THWARTS ARSENAL'S SUMMIT BID

 Arsenal	1
 Tottenham	1

LONDON: Harry Kane marked his return from injury with the equaliser as Tottenham Hotspur drew 1-1 at Arsenal yesterday to keep their arch rivals from the Premier League summit. Arsenal took the lead late in the first half courtesy of Kevin Wimmer's own goal, but Kane levelled from the penalty spot early in the second period after a foul on Mousa Dembele by Laurent Koscielny. The result prevented Arsenal from supplanting Chelsea as leaders and opening up a six-point gap over Spurs, who remain fifth, three points below Arsene Wenger's men.

"It was a game of high intensity," said Wenger, who felt the penalty awarded by referee Mark Clattenburg was "harsh". "In the first half we always looked like we could score every time we crossed the halfway line. In the second half we looked a bit more flat physically and less sharp."

"The desire was there. Maybe the result was fair." Wenger has now gone five league games without beating Spurs for the first time, while Mauricio Pochettino is the first Tottenham manager to avoid defeat in his first five top-flight

North London derbies. Although Spurs have gone seven games without a win in all competitions, they have avoided defeat in their opening 11 league games for only the third time in the club's history. "A draw is maybe the fair result," said Pochettino, echoing Wenger. "It's been a very difficult game for us, but 11 games unbeaten in the Premier League, we need to be very pleased." Spurs welcomed back talisman Kane after seven weeks out with ankle ligament damage, but Dele Alli was absent due to a knee injury that will keep him out of action for England over the international break.

Visiting manager Pochettino set his side out in a bold 3-4-2-1 formation and it seemed to take Arsenal by surprise.

WIMMER UNCONVINCING

The system freed Spurs' full-backs to get forward even more than usual, Danny Rose crossing for Kyle Walker to head over early on, while Kane headed inches wide from Christian Eriksen's cross.

But as Arsenal began to commit more people forward, so they began to expose frailties in a three-man back line marshalled unconvincingly by Wimmer, who was making his first league appearance of the season. After Francis Coquelin had seen a thumping volley inadvertently blocked by team-mate Theo Walcott, Mesut Ozil dragged a shot wide and Alex Iwobi curled tamely at Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Walcott then rattled the right-hand post with a fierce drive from the edge of the box and three minutes before half-time, Arsenal struck. Ozil arced a free-kick into the box from a deep position their lead held and in trying to prevent the ball reaching the red shirts rushing in, Wimmer succeeded only in heading it past Lloris.

The goal reflected Arsenal's growing threat, but within six minutes of kick-off in the second half their lead had vanished. After gliding into the box from deep, Dembele was felled by Koscielny and Kane chipped the ensuing penalty down the middle for his fifth goal in four league games against Arsenal. Suddenly it was Spurs who were in the ascendancy, Eriksen working Petr Cech with a drilled left-footer and Nacho Monreal doing well to prevent Kane converting Rose's cross at the back-post.

Wenger reacted by sending on Aaron Ramsey, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Olivier Giroud and Arsenal began to re-assert themselves, Iwobi's cross just eluding Granit Xhaka and Ramsey firing over.

But it was Spurs who came closest to snatching the points, Eriksen's free-kick from wide on the left evading everyone to bounce against the same post Walcott had wobbled in the first half.

Son Heung-Min then irked Spurs' fans by pulling out of a challenge with Cech, who had raced from his area, before Giroud directed a header straight at Lloris with Arsenal's last chance. — AFP

RONALDO EXTENDS REAL CONTRACT

MADRID: Three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo will sign a bumper new five-year contract with Spanish giants Real Madrid today, the club confirmed yesterday.

"The official event for the renewal of Cristiano Ronaldo's contract will take place today, Monday 7 November

at 1:30pm in the presidential box at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium," Madrid said in a statement. "The Portuguese forward will extend his contract until 30 June 2021 at the event attended by club president Florentino Perez and the player himself." — AFP

LEADERS NICE EDGED BY DISPUTED CAEN PENALTY

PARIS: Table-toppers Nice suffered their first Ligue 1 defeat of the season yesterday when they went down 1-0 after a hotly disputed penalty at Caen.

The southern side still top Ligue 1 with 29 points ahead of Monaco on 26 while champions Paris Saint Germain are third on 23 ahead of their late night game at home to Rennes. Nice have surprisingly set the pace in France this season under new coach Lucien Favre and with added zest in front of goal inspired by Italian centre forward Mario Balotelli. But after a tough defeat in the Europa League in midweek and an away match at the very opposite end of France at Caen they suffered their first league reverse of the campaign.

The goal came from the penalty spot and was converted by the Croat Ivan Santini after the referee decided Ronny Rodelin had been fouled in the area on 42 minutes. "We conceded just before the break and that's never good. We should have gone in 0-0 at the break," lamented Favre. "And then we tried to do it all too quickly. We had a couple of chances and that's all you should normally need," he said.

The win lifts Caen, themselves early pacesetters in Ligue 1 last season, on to 13 points and three points above the relegation zone. Despite Nice fielding a strong line up with their top scorer Alassane Plea with seven league goals, and Balotelli with six leading the attack, they came up against a deep sitting defence and midfield. "They were well organised at the back

with five defenders and were very compact, difficult to get past," Favre explained.

A stinging Balotelli drive on the hour after a quick-fire pass from Younes Belhanda hit the bottom of the Caen post and was their best opportunity.

On Saturday Radamel Falcao continued his return to prominence with a brace as Monaco kept up their superb form by thumping Nancy 6-0 at the Stade Louis II.

Falcao's goals, the second of which came from the penalty spot, were followed by a Kylian Mbappe strike moments after his second-half introduction.

Guido Carrillo added two late goals either side of a Fabinho penalty as the principal club moved clear in second place.

The win also underlined Monaco's status as the most prolific side in Europe's big five leagues—they are averaging three goals a game after 12 matches and have scored at least six goals on three separate occasions since the start of October.

"We are doing better this year, providing a spectacle," said coach Leonardo Jardim. "We are also pleased to have the best attack in Europe ahead of Barcelona with Messi, Suarez and Neymar."

Fourth-placed Guingamp came from behind to draw 3-3 at Dijon with Belgian substitute Nill De Pauw equalising in stoppage time. Toulouse were held to a 1-1 draw at Nantes while Lyon needed an Alexandre Lacazette penalty-his 10th goal of the season—and a Pierre Bengtsson own goal to beat nine-man Bastia 2-1. — AFP

BALE DOUBLE PUTS REAL FIVE POINTS CLEAR

MADRID: Gareth Bale scored twice as Real Madrid extended their La Liga lead to five points with a 3-0 win over Leganes yesterday.

Bale signed one of the most lucrative deals in football history on Monday to keep him at the European champions until 2021. The Welshman earned his bumper new wage as he struck twice in seven first-half minutes before Alvaro Morata added a third 14 minutes from time.

Barcelona can close to within two points at the top, but face a huge challenge when they travel to fourth-placed Sevilla later.

"An easy game doesn't exist and you saw that the first-half was difficult for us," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane. "Once you score a goal it is a different game and we controlled the match much more in the second-half."

Bale also scored Real's fastest ever Champions League goal in midweek against Legia Warsaw, but his fine strike in the Polish capital was forgotten as Real blew a two-goal lead to draw 3-3.

There was to no such comeback from La Liga newcomers Leganes on their first ever league

visit to the Santiago Bernabeu after Bale had awoken Madrid from their slumber in the first 30 minutes. Bale outstrutted the Leganes defence as he latched onto Isco's through ball and rounded Jon Ander Serantes before slotting home from a narrow angle.

His second was a scrappier finish as Bale pounced on a loose ball inside the area from Toni Kroos's free-kick to bundle home from close range. Serantes prevented Bale completing his hat-trick twice within a minute at the start of the second period.

Bale's decision to go alone with his first effort infuriated the off-colour Cristiano Ronaldo, who was waiting for the ball to be squared.

Spanish media reports yesterday suggest Ronaldo is on the verge of sealing his own mega contract extension at Madrid. However, he endured another frustrating afternoon as he was kept scoreless for the fifth time in eight La Liga appearances this season.

The Portuguese has now gone five games without scoring at the Bernabeu-his longest drought since joining Real seven years ago. He was also booked early on for taking his protests towards referee Miguel Mateu Lahoz too far.

"There is nothing wrong, he is not worried," said Zidane about Ronaldo's slump in form.

"He looks good, he is motivated, he likes to score goals and even more so in this stadium, but he is calm." Real received a huge boost ahead of a hugely demanding two-month stretch after the upcoming international break as Luka Modric made his return as a second-half substitute after a month out due to knee surgery. Morata rounded off a comfortable afternoon for Zidane's men when he collected Kroos's pass before firing home at the near post.

And Madrid even kept their first clean sheet in 11 matches as victory stretches their unbeaten run in all competitions to 28 games. — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Welsh forward Gareth Bale (L) scores past Leganes's goalkeeper Serantes during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF vs Club Deportivo Leganes SAD at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Pacquiao reclaims WBO title for third time



Bale double puts Real Madrid five points clear



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AUSTRALIA LOSE FOUR WICKETS CHASING RECORD 539 TARGET

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SWANSEA: Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) jumps and kicks the air as he celebrates scoring his team's second goal with Manchester United's English midfielder Ashley Young (L) and Manchester United's English defender Phil Jones during the English Premier League football match between Swansea City and Manchester United at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea, south Wales yesterday. — AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC DOUBLE INSPIRES UNITED STROLL

	Man Utd	3
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	Swansea	1
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SWANSEA: Zlatan Ibrahimovic eased the pressure on Jose Mourinho as the Manchester United striker's double sealed a 3-1 win at struggling Swansea yesterday. With only one victory in their previous seven Premier League games, United manager Mourinho had come under mounting pressure at Old Trafford.

However, for one day at least, it was all smiles for United as they poured even greater misery on a Swansea side that look destined for a long struggle to avoid relegation.

Swedish star Ibrahimovic struck twice before half-time after France midfielder Paul Pogba had produced a stylish opener as United ran riot. Mike van der Hoorn got a consolation for Swansea in the second half, but there was never any chance of a fightback from the hapless hosts.

United started as they have in so many games this season, with a degree of hesitancy. They were clumsy in the midfield and lacking direction or accuracy in the final third. Still, what stood in front of them was a Swansea team equally short on confidence.

With only one league win this season, Bob Bradley's side are languishing in the relegation zone. So, once United settled, they enjoyed a glut of possession. And as Pogba became increasingly influential, so the visitors began to ask serious questions of Bradley's team.

The first of those came on 15 minutes when Pogba and Wayne Rooney created the danger and Swansea couldn't clear their lines, leaving Pogba to hit an unstoppable shot from 20 yards into the top corner of Lukasz Fabianski's goal.

Marouane Fellaini came within a yard of making it 2-0 two minutes later after a sublime piece of footwork from Ibrahimovic.

Swansea simply had no answer to United's incisive raids and it came as no surprise when

Ibrahimovic lost his marker on the edge of the box and beat Fabianski with a fine strike from 20 yards in the 21st minute.

GREED

United sensed their opportunity to kill the contest and duly set off in pursuit of a third. It came 12 minutes from the interval when Ibrahimovic popped up in acres and beat Fabianski from eight yards. The Swansea fans responded with calls of 'we want our club back' and suggesting the decision to sell to the current American owners was all about greed.

It was little more than a training ground run out thereafter for United, who popped the ball around with increasingly ease and confidence,

while Swansea retreated towards their own goal in an attempt to limit the damage. Having been booed from the field at half time, Swansea made two changes in personnel. Jefferson Montero and Modou Barrow entered the fray as Bradley sought a way back into the game. By now, United were happy to go through the motions. They continued to pass the ball with ease and comfort and denied Swansea a foothold until the 69th minute. Gylfi Sigurdsson whipped in a free kick from the right and van der Hoorn beat David De Gea with a firm header from eight yards. Rejuvenated and sensing a chance, Swansea gave it their all in the final 20 minutes. Sigurdsson came into his own and Barrow and Montero caused problems out wide. However, United remained firm and duly helped



PARIS: Britain's Andy Murray holds the trophy after winning the final of the Paris Masters tennis tournament against John Isner of the United States in three sets 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 at the Bercy Arena in Paris, yesterday. — AP

MURRAY RISE TO NUMBER ONE WITH PARIS TITLE

PARIS: Andy Murray celebrated his new world number one ranking with a first Paris Masters title yesterday after defeating American John Isner 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4 in the final.

Murray, 29, replaces Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings today and claimed his eighth title of a remarkable season after extending his winning run to 19 matches. "This has been an incredible journey for me to get to the top of the rankings," said Murray, who will move 405 points above long-time rival Djokovic.

It is the Briton's fourth title in succession after wins in Beijing, Shanghai and Vienna and his 14th career Masters 1000 triumph. For Isner, who was chasing a first title of the season, it was his third appearance in a Masters final after finishing runner-up at Indian Wells in 2012 and Cincinnati in 2013. "I have to congratulate Andy, first for the title, and then for getting to number one in the world," said Isner. "That's an incredible achievement, you absolutely deserve it."

Murray entered his Tour-leading 12th final of the year having won all seven previous meetings with Isner, including straight-sets wins at Roland Garros in May and last week in Vienna.

The towering American had dropped serve just three times en route to the final but netted a routine volley to hand Murray break point in the fifth game. His backhand then sailed long the following rally as Murray forged ahead, saving two break points on his ensuing service game before claiming the opening set.

Murray fought off four break points after rebounding from 0-40 at 3-4 in the second set, but Isner prevailed in the tie-break after a costly double fault from the second seed.

The Scot was then frustrated as he twice failed to convert break points during Isner's first two service games in the deciding set. But Murray held firm and was rewarded when Isner faltered as he tried to stay in the match serving at 4-5 down. — AFP

RUTHLESS LIVERPOOL CRUSH WATFORD TO TAKE TOP SPOT

	Liverpool	6
	Watford	1

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool charged to the top of the Premier League table for the first time since May 2014 by beating Watford 6-1 yesterday.

Sadio Mane, Philippe Coutinho and Emre Can all scored in the space of 16 first-half minutes at Anfield. Roberto Firmino, Mane and Georginio Wijnaldum added further goals in the second half.

Although Daryl Janmaat's consolation denied Liverpool a clean sheet, the club is on the right path to challenge for its first title since 1990, having been pipped at the post in 2014.

Liverpool, which has now scored four or more goals in five league matches this season, is a point in front of Chelsea and two ahead of Manchester City and Arsenal. "We are still early in our development and there are a lot of things we can improve," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said.

News of Arsenal's lunchtime draw with Tottenham brought cheers from the Anfield crowd before kickoff as they knew a home victory would guarantee top spot.

Some early misplaced passes may have been due to nerves given what was at stake but the hosts took the lead in the 27th minute and never looked back. Coutinho whipped in a cross that Mane reached ahead of Daryl Janmaat to steer a flicked header beyond Heurelho Gomes.

Coutinho was on target himself on the half-hour. Liverpool went from right to left and Firmino fed Coutinho, who side-stepped Janmaat and drilled an attempt between Younes Kaboul's legs



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho attempts a shot at goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Watford at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

and past Gomes.

The Watford 'keeper injured himself trying to make the save so Costel Pantilimon came on to try and stop the rout that was unfolding. Pantilimon could only watch as Adam Lallana's 43rd-minute cross was nodded in by Can, one of four Liverpool players in the box awaiting the delivery.

The second half followed a similar pattern as Liverpool increased its lead and the fourth goal again stemmed from a set piece.

Coutinho's free kick came to Jordan Henderson

out on the left and he played in Lallana to cross for Firmino, who was left with the simple task of applying the finish in front of goal.

Some brilliant work from Firmino led to the fifth. He chased down Henderson's pass into the box and beat Jose Holebas to the ball, then held it up long enough to spot Mane's run. The Senegalese was the grateful recipient of Firmino's assist.

Wijnaldum completed the rout in stoppage time after fellow substitute Daniel Sturridge, who was twice denied by the crossbar, had an effort

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CAIRO: Egyptian traders work on the floor of the stock market in Cairo, Egypt. The Egyptian pound is trading in banks at around 16 to the dollar, down from the 13-pound peg the Central Bank set as a guiding exchange rate when it floated the currency last week. —AP (See Page 22)

AUB REPORTS NET OPERATING PROFIT OF KD 54.7M

PROMISING RESULTS EMPHASIZE BANK'S STRENGTH AS IT EXPANDS: AL-MUDHAF

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank, Kuwait, announced its results and financial statements for the third quarter ending 30 September 2016, following the endorsement of the statements by the Bank's Board of Directors and the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf, Chairman, stated "These promising results during the period, in spite of the prevailing regional market conditions due predominantly to low oil prices, emphasizes Ahli United Bank's strength as it continues to expand its businesses."

Furthermore the Chairman stated that subsequent to the balance sheet date the Bank achieved another milestone by successfully completing a \$200 million issue of Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 Perpetual Capital Securities on 25 October 2016 which was oversubscribed by more than three times.

This was achieved in less than one week from the date of announcement of the transaction both locally and internationally with a roadshow covering meetings in Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The strong demand generated for AUB's Sukuk is a clear indication of the confidence of both local and global investors in

the Bank's diversified business model, its robust financial performance, and overall credit worthiness.

Net Operating Profit for the period ending 30 September 2016 reached KD 54.7 million in comparison with KD 54.3 million during the same period in 2015. The net profit for the period 2016 reached KD 39.1 million after considering additional pre-cautionary provision of KD 11.8 million. Ahli United Bank's profits are driven by its core businesses of Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Private Banking and Treasury. Operating income reached KD 79.3 million during the period.

Total assets as of 30 September 2016 reached KD 4.04 billion up 4.8 percent compared with the end of September 2015, while total shareholders' equity increased by 10.1 percent to KD 0.39 billion. The financing portfolio witnessed growth in all its components, reaching KD2.8 billion, an increase of 5.7 percent over the year, while customer deposits increased by 5.4% for the same period to reach KD 2.8 billion with a quarterly distribution of profits to depositors commensurate with the results of the Bank's operations during the reporting period.

Ahli United Bank reaffirmed its market leadership in providing consistent value to its shareholders as evident by its Key Performance Indicators. These include Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 25.1 fils, Return on Average Assets of 1.3 percent whilst Return on Average Equity achieved 14.2 percent for the period. The financial statements show strong levels of liquidity and capitalization resulting in a Capital Adequacy Ratio of 15.3 percent which is above the Central Bank of Kuwait mandatory level of 12.5 percent.

"Based on the momentum built in previous years, driven

by the robustness of our balance sheet, our client base and branch network, the unique services we offer and the expertise of our staff, we will continue our success in attaining an increasing share of the domestic market through the promotion of Islamic Banking," confirmed Dr Al-Mudhaf.

The Bank re-affirmed its pre-eminent position in Islamic banking by winning the award for The Islamic Bank of the Year - Kuwait in 2016 for the fourth consecutive year from the specialized international magazine The Banker, confirming the Bank's ability to render distinctive banking services and products. The Bank was also awarded the Second Safest Islamic Bank in Kuwait and Fourth in the GCC for 2016 by the Global Finance magazine which is based on an evaluation of long-term foreign currency ratings from rating agencies and total assets of 500 largest banks worldwide.

The Bank achieved the following ratings issued by international credit rating agencies. Fitch affirmed the Bank's credit strength on the Long-Term and Short-Term as 'A+' and 'F1' respectively with a stable Outlook. Moody's affirmed 'A2' global local currency (GLC) deposit rating with a stable Outlook. Capital Intelligence has affirmed the Bank's Long-Term Foreign Currency (FC) and Short-Term FC Rating as 'A+' and 'A2' respectively with a stable Outlook. These ratings underscore Ahli United Bank's sound financial position.

Dr Al-Mudhaf concluded by saying, "We extend our thanks and appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority and to our loyal and valued customers. I would also like to thank the management and staff for their untiring efforts to ensure the continued success of the Bank in a challenging and competitive market."



Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf

IS WALL STREET PRO-CLINTON, MAIN STREET PRO-TRUMP?

WASHINGTON: On taxes, public spending and protectionism the two candidates for the White House are diametrically opposed: Hillary Clinton represents continuity while Donald Trump seduces or frightens with his radical proposals. But while many economists are alarmed by the threat Trump poses to American prosperity, there is no shortage of small business owners and investors who believe the Republican candidate's plans would benefit the economy.

With polls showing the candidates are neck-and-neck just days before Tuesday's election, the race could be summed up as "Wall Street is pro-Clinton, Main Street is pro-Trump," said Steve Odland, of the Committee for Economic Development, a non-partisan, business-led economic policy group.

But even Wall Street is somewhat ambivalent. A survey conducted by the CNBC network last week with 50 economists and Wall Street participants showed 82 percent think Clinton will win, but 46 percent feel Trump would be better for the economy, compared to 39 percent favoring Clinton.

Another survey conducted in October by the Pepperdine/Graziadio Business School in Los Angeles with 1,353 small businesses across the country, shows a majority of employers prefer Trump due to his positions on health insurance (55 percent to 45 percent for Clinton), as well as on taxes (66 percent to 34 percent) and trade (55 percent to 45 percent).

Deficit and deregulation

Trump's economic plan aims to revive economic activity through

deregulation. He promises to achieve 3.5-4 percent growth-compared to 1.8 percent projected for 2016 — by cutting the corporate tax rate to 15 percent from 35 percent, and lowering the income tax rate for wealthy taxpayers-the highest bracket would drop to 33 percent from 39.6 percent. The impact would be a sharp increase in the budget deficit. Trump also has promised to renegotiate US trade agreements, repeal the "Obamacare" health insurance program, and erect a wall on the US-Mexico border to prevent illegal immigration.

In contrast, Clinton would mostly stick to President Barack Obama's economic path. The Democratic candidate's plan includes raising taxes of the richest taxpayers, increasing the federal minimum wage, providing

free local universities for the less affluent, and reforming Obamacare. Her plan also would widen the deficit but to a lesser extent.

Trump is worrying the academic world: no less than 370 economists, including several Nobel Prize winners, signed an open letter in the Wall Street Journal appealing to voters to "choose another candidate", saying Trump spreads disinformation and "promotes magical thinking."

"Donald Trump is a dangerous, destructive choice for the country. He misinforms the electorate, degrades trust in public institutions with conspiracy theories, and promotes willful delusion over engagement with reality," the letter said.

Even the International Monetary Fund is alarmed by the specter of

growing protectionism, from Trump to Britain's vote to pull out of the European Union, which it says is a threat to global growth.

Real estate mogul's patter

Odland said Trump's style attracts some in the business world because he speaks to voters in the familiar blunt patter of a real estate developer negotiating a deal. "We in the retail industry have to negotiate all the time with commercial real estate developers. They are bombastic, they are emotional, they come at things in a way that frankly sounds crazy," Odland said.

"He's approaching geopolitics in the same way. Is it right? Well it's unconventional. His supporters say, 'Well, maybe it will end up to be a better deal for us,' and that's why

they are willing to make the bet." Analysts at Capital Economics said that Trump's pitch might be exaggerated. "A Trump victory might not result in the radical changes that many fear. He would probably soften his rhetoric on trade policy once in the Oval Office and would struggle to push his plans for fiscal policy through Congress."

But in the immediate aftermath of the election, a Trump victory, or worse a disputed vote, will send Wall Street lower. Analysts estimate a Trump win would send the broad S&P 500 index below the 2,000 level, about 5 percent lower than the week before the vote. That is what the index did on June 27, the day markets were shocked by the Brexit vote. But it was not long before the index rebounded. —AFP

NO QUICK PORTFOLIO INFLOWS DUE TO EGYPT DEVALUATION

FUND MANAGERS SEE UNCERTAINTY OVER ECONOMY

LONDON: Egypt's currency devaluation may eventually bring foreign money into the country, but fund managers say uncertainty about the economy means there will be no quick inflows of portfolio investment from abroad.

To ensure its currency stabilizes after last week's devaluation, Egypt needs a surge of hard currency receipts to cover a current account deficit that totalled \$18.7 billion in the year to last June.

Foreign direct investment, at \$6.8 billion, is expected to change only slowly because companies' decisions are complex. Egypt's economy is so import-dependent that an export boom looks unlikely any time soon. A cheaper Egyptian pound may encourage more Egyptians working overseas to send money home, but remit-

tances - which totalled \$17.1 billion - have changed little over the years.

That leaves foreign portfolio investment as one of the best potential sources of new money. Before political upheaval in 2011 led to years of economic instability, Egypt attracted billions of dollars of such investment annually; last fiscal year, there was a net outflow of \$1.3 billion. But many foreign fund managers said that while the currency shift was positive because it largely removed a massive overvaluation of the pound, other types of risk would continue deterring investment. Although foreign funds purchased Egypt's dollar bonds at the end of last week, there was little sign of foreign buying of local currency assets.

For that to happen, several managers said, Cairo will

have to show it can replicate the success of other countries in International Monetary Fund lending programs, such as Pakistan - a process that could take many months. The devaluation "definitely makes it more attractive as the pound is now no longer such a risk," said Allianz Global Investors portfolio manager Shahzad Hasan.

"But at this level the good news is priced in on the (dollar) bonds. Now the focus switches to the implementation of the IMF program, which is more difficult."

FLOOR

The devaluation took the pound from 8.8 against the dollar to around 15.35-15.75. Many foreign investors will be unwilling to put money in local currency assets until they think the pound has found a floor, and that point may be distant. Non-deliverable forward contracts price the pound at 17 per dollar in 12 months. That is partly because of a backlog of demand for dollars. Analysts at Citi estimate this at \$9-11 billion, and say it must be cleared before the pound steadies.

Another risk is inflation. Although imports of most goods were already being paid for at the black market exchange rate, the devaluation will raise prices for imported fuel and possibly essential foods. Citi estimates this will add 3 percentage points to its projected year-end inflation rate of 14 percent inflation, and a further 1 or 2 points early next year. Citi said that while Egyptian Treasury bills with yields around 22 percent looked "optically interesting", interest rate increases of another 2 or 3 percentage points could be needed to stabilize inflation.

Another problem is the stock market, with a capitalization of under \$30 billion, has become too small to absorb much new money. The market in local currency government bonds and T-bills, which totals about 1.40 trillion pounds, is much bigger.

Foreign participation in local bonds is virtually nil but a few years ago it was as much as \$10 billion, said Renaissance Capital, which expects foreigners to return over the next six to 12 months.

But there are logistical difficulties. "From a practical perspective, it's still difficult to deploy capital into Egypt," said Kieran Curtis, portfolio manager at Standard Life Investments. Custodian banks are cautious in offering services, because the Cairo bourse closed during political unrest, he noted. "We have been involved in the hard currency bonds, and at some point we will look at the T-bills." — Reuters

HAS THE TREND IN FALLING BOND YIELDS CHANGED?

By Hayder Tawfik



The borrowing costs for most governments have been climbing up over the past few months. Governments that have weak credit quality have seen their borrowing costs rising sharply since the middle of the year, after several years of continuous decline. What signal the decline of government bond prices are sending to investors and what is the impact on the financial markets?

Yields on benchmark governments bonds have been falling over the past years, with German, Japanese, Swiss borrowing costs dipping below zero for the first time just before the middle of this year. However, since the second half of this year, most yields have risen sharply in some places by more than 50 basis points. This is not a massive sell off but coming from negative yields can be very painful for bond investors. The upward movements in government bond yields might be small but it is telling us that a trend in rising bond yields is on the way. This could be a trend reversal. Looking at the global political and economic back ground one would have thought that government bond yields should be going down not up. It is now getting much harder to forecast the trend in interest rates. So, why the sudden sell off in benchmark government bonds? Could it be the close call on the upcoming US election. But this should not affect bond yields that much as the Federal Reserve supposed to be in charge of the direction of interest rates.

Could US voters learned something from the British about how to vote for something which can be very vital i.e. Brexit or US presidential election. There might be a case of US voters not showing their true intention when it comes to voting for the next US president. This argument might suggest that Donald Trump could become the next US president. This naturally could upset the financial markets. I believe prudent investors are cashing their chips and waiting on the sidelines for the time being.

Trump's unconventional approach to sound policy making is unlikely to be good news for investors and the financial markets. Most economists are questioning his policies and wondering how and what he will do if he wins the election. He seems very suspicious of the way the Federal Reserve has been managing its interest rates policies. He thinks there is a conspiracy against him. This is not good coming from a potential new US president. He needs to change his words and try to assure the global financial markets of sound economic policies.

As a result, the rise in the 10-year Treasury yield to about 1.8 percent from as low as 1.36 percent at the start of July could be evidence that fund managers are demanding higher compensation as a bulwark against a Trump victory. The recent decline in global stock markets reinforces the possibility that the smart money is moving to the sidelines until the election is decided. The prospect of higher inflation, which erodes future bond income, typically drives yields higher. And consumer prices are finally showing signs of life after coming from very low base or in some cases negative inflation.

After falling for such a long time, inflation has started to rise again and this is causing some panic among bond investors. But the consensus among economists is for U.S. inflation to surpass the Fed's target in every quarter of next year. The U.K. is likely to show average consumer price increases of 2.3 percent next year, and even euro zone inflation is expected to average 1.3 percent in 2017, compared with just 0.2 percent for this year.

It is possible that bonds are simply responding to a change in economic fundamentals by discounting an acceleration in inflation in the quarters ahead. May be the record low and negative government bonds yields were just anomaly can now yields are rising back to where they should be in times of rising inflation. May be the European Central bank is not convinced of future inflation threat and that is why it is still doing its monthly purchases of roughly 80 billion euro of bonds. The European Central Bank is still in the market, with purchases of 80 billion euros (\$90 billion) of bonds each month.

The Federal Reserve, meantime, appears poised for its second interest-rate increase in more than a decade. Prices in the futures market point to a chance of about 70 percent chance of a hike on the December anniversary of last year's increase. No wonder the universe of bonds that yield less than zero is starting to shrink.

Bond investors are facing the potential of further sell off in government bonds. The potential reversal of Quantitative Easing policies could have a dire impact on the bond markets. Bond markets are indicating that there is a change in investors' perception and reality towards government bonds. Bond and equity investors should be aware of the implications of rising bond yields and their impact on all sorts of investments. @Rasameel



CAIRO: A woman shops at a supermarket in Cairo, Egypt. The Egyptian pound is trading in banks at around 16 to the dollar, down from the 13-pound peg the Central Bank set as a guiding exchange rate when it floated the currency last week. — AP

News

in brief

US dollar stable against Kuwaiti dinar at 0.302

KUWAIT: The rate of the US dollar yesterday was stable against the Kuwaiti dinar at 0.302, the same case with the euro was at KD 0.336 compared Thursday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The CBK added that the pound sterling rate went up to KD 0.378, whereas the Swiss franc stabilized at KD 0.311 and the Japanese Yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002.

Egypt to delay third LNG terminal for a month

CAIRO: Egypt will delay plans to rent a third liquefied natural gas import (LNG) terminal for one month, until the ministry of electricity determines its LNG needs, an official at state gas buyer EGAS told Reuters yesterday. "We decided to delay holding the tender for one month (until end-November) until an agreement is made with the ministry of electricity over its needs for LNG over the coming period," said the official, who declined to be identified. A third floating and storage regasification unit (FSRU), an import terminal that converts LNG to natural gas to feed the power grid, is expected to arrive at the end of June 2017 to handle a surge in LNG demand from new power plants coming online.

Dubai's Emaar Malls Q3 net profit rises 16%

DUBAI: Dubai's Emaar Malls, a unit of Emaar Properties, reported a 16 percent rise in third-quarter net profit yesterday. Net profit of 435 million dirhams (\$118.4 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, it said in a bourse statement, compared with a profit of 376 million dirhams in the same period a year earlier. EFG Hermes forecast: 421.8 million dirhams. Quarterly revenue was 774 million dirhams, up 8 percent on a year earlier.

VW SCANDAL DEEPENS AS PROSECUTORS PROBE CHIEF

FRANKFURT: German prosecutors have widened a probe into suspected market manipulation by managers at Volkswagen to include the carmaker's supervisory board Chairman Hans Dieter Poetsch, VW said yesterday. The investigation, which relates to Poetsch's time as finance chief of VW, is the latest fallout from the carmaker's admission last year that it cheated on diesel emissions tests. VW has admitted that it installed software that deactivated pollution controls on more than 11 million diesel vehicles sold worldwide, rattling its global business, damaging its reputation and prompting the departure of Chief Executive Martin Winterkorn. Adding to its woes, a German newspaper reported yesterday that a US regulator found another cheat software device in vehicles made by its luxury division Audi. The paper said the device was not the same as the one which triggered last year's diesel emissions scandal at Audi parent VW. Audi has declined to comment on the report.

The prosecutor's office in Braunschweig first announced the market manipulation probe in June, targeting former CEO Winterkorn and VW brand chief Herbert Diess for suspected market manipulation related to the emissions scandal. The prosecutor's office said at the time that its probe centred on evidence that VW's duty to disclose possible financial damage from the emissions test cheating may have arisen before Sept. 22, 2015, when the carmaker publicly admitted its wrongdoing.

"Based on a thorough examination by internal and external legal experts, the company reaffirms its belief that VW's management fulfilled its duties to inform the capital market," VW said on Sunday. VW said the company and Poetsch, who was finance chief of Volkswagen from 2003 until he became chairman in October 2015, would fully support the prosecutor's office in its investigation. The prosecutor's office in Braunschweig was not immediately available for comment.



BERLIN: In this March 13, 2014 file photo then Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn (left), and then CFO Hans Dieter Poetsch (right), talk prior to the company's annual press conference in Berlin, Germany. — AP

CHEATING SOFTWARE

Sunday's Bild am Sonntag report said that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) had made a new discovery of cheating software in an automatic transmission Audi in summer 2016. CARB has declined to comment on the report. Audi, the main contributor to earnings at parent VW, had already admitted last year to using illicit emissions-control devices in about 85,000 3.0 litre diesel engines and has so far this year set aside 752 million euros (\$838 million) to cover related costs.

Bild am Sonntag, which cited no sources, said the software in CARB's new discovery lowered carbon dioxide emissions by detecting whether a car's steering wheel was turned as it would be if it was driving on a road. If the steering wheel was not turned, as if it was being tested in a laboratory, the software turned on a gear-shifting program which produced less carbon dioxide, allowing the car to meet the emissions criteria. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.940
Indian Rupees	4.552
Pakistani Rupees	2.896
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.048
Nepali Rupees	2.847
Singapore Dollar	220.470
Hongkong Dollar	39.088
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.269
Thai Baht	8.688

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.894
Qatari Riyal	83.317
ani Riyal	787.812
Bahraini Dinar	805.500
UAE Dirham	82.580

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	25.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	22.724
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	136.250
Jordanian Dinar	427.240
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021
Syrian Lira	2.0162
Morocco Dirham	31.253

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.150
Euro	339.830
Sterling Pound	381.360
Canadian dollar	227.500
Turkish lira	97.790

Swiss Franc	315.120
Australian Dollar	234.330
US Dollar Buying	301.950

GOLD

20 Gram	263.30
10 Gram	134.57
5 Gram	68.13

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

US Dollar	304.400
Canadian Dolla	227.010
Sterling Pound	374.860
Euro	338.120
Swiss Frank	295.450
Bahrain Dinar	802.060
UAE Dirhams	82.835
Qatari Riyals	84.050
Saudi Riyals	81.630
Jordanian Dinar	427.520
Egyptian Pound	34.069
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.046
Indian Rupees	4.545
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippines Peso	6.263
Cyprus pound	159.910
Japanese Yen	3.945
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.830
Malaysian Ringgit	73.345
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.235
Thai Bhat	9.655
Turkish Lira	97.735

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.373575	0.383575
Czech Korune	0.004482	0.016482
Danish Krone	0.041285	0.046285
Euro	0.0333321	0.342321
Norwegian Krone	0.033119	0.038319
Romanian Leu	0.084014	0.084014
Slovakia	0.009041	0.019041
Swedish Krona	0.029858	0.034858
Swiss Franc	0.307095	0.318095
Turkish Lira	0.092080	0.102380

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.224887	0.236887
New Zealand Dollar	0.216301	0.225801

America

Canadian Dollar	0.221048	0.230046
Georgina Lari	0.136917	0.136917
US Dollars	0.299050	0.303750
US Dollars Mint	0.299550	0.303750

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003371	0.003955
Chinese Yuan	0.043374	0.046874
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037001	0.039751
Indian Rupee	0.004161	0.004550
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002862	0.003042
Kenyan Shilling	0.003118	0.003118
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068704	0.074704
Nepalese Rupee	0.002813	0.002983
Pakistan Rupee	0.002689	0.002979
Philippine Peso	0.006136	0.006436
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.213834	0.223834
South African Rand	0.016529	0.025029
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001645	0.002225
Taiwan	0.009514	0.009694
Thai Baht	0.008341	0.008891

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.797542	0.806042
Egyptian Pound	0.017423	0.024676
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000186	0.000248
Jordanian Dinar	0.423420	0.432420
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019837	0.043837
Nigerian Naira	0.001251	0.001886
Omani Riyal	0.780982	0.786662
Qatar Riyal	0.082456	0.083906
Saudi Riyal	0.079953	0.081053
Syrian Pound	0.001285	0.001505
Tunisian Dinar	0.132321	0.140321
Turkish Lira	0.092080	0.102380
UAE Dirhams	0.081111	0.082811
Yemeni Riyal	0.001370	0.001450



KFH: 60 NEW CAR MODELS VIA OPERATIONAL LEASE PRODUCT AL-ESSA: WE PROVIDE MOST TYPES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

KUWAIT: Aahed Al-Essa, Executive Manager Cars and Leasing products at Kuwait Finance House stated, "KFH operational lease product is now available as it offer a variety of most famous and well known trademarks i.e. 60 models of various car types. KFH is characterized for providing the best of services to its customers (Retail and corporate) at the highest service quality. KFH gives them the opportunity to select the car of their choice out of a variety of the most modern cars at competitive rental prices starting from KD 60 per month deeding on the type of car and lease contract 1-2 years. This product aims to strengthen KFH role and contributions in serving its customers and supporting the vehicles market."



Aahed Al-Essa

Al-Essa indicated that KFH market share in retail and corporate operational lease market is in continuing increase. KFH has provided several unique offers, attractive discounts and special offers to government sector and major companies. KFH has also executed marketing campaigns with local automotive agents in light of combined cooperation. New

categories have been entered 8in the leasing process to suite all tiers of customers including luxurious cars i.e. Borsch, Lexus, Infinity, Jaguar, Maserati in addition to other types of cards. Accordingly, More leasing options and flexibility of leasing period are offered to suite customers' needs. Customers are

welcomed to visit KFH Branches at Shuwaikh, Rai, Farwania at Dhajeej and Ahmadi for direct contracting.

Al-Essa indicated that operational lease or Lease with Maintenance give the customer very attractive advantages including comprehensive insurance and comprehensive Takaful Insurance, alternative car, road assistance round the clock and travelling with the lease vehicle outside Kuwait according to certain rules and regulations.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service. KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 380 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Australia, Jordan, Dubai, and Manheim in Germany. KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in



the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global develop-

ment in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

MAY SEEKS TO BOOST TRADE TIES WITH INDIA BEFORE BREXIT

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May will use her first bilateral trade trip since taking office to try to boost ties with India before leaving the European Union. May's office said the visit starting on Sunday night would focus on breaking down barriers to trade and investment and paving the way for a free trade deal as soon as possible after Brexit, which is not expected to happen before 2019.

Explaining the choice of India, a government official said: "It matters now more than ever. India is the fastest-growing major economy." May said the trip was about seizing the opportunities of Brexit and "expanding our horizons and forging stronger partnerships with countries around the world".

"This is a partnership about our shared security and shared prosperity. It is a partnership of potential. And on this visit I intend to harness that potential, rebooting an age-old relationship," she said in a statement ahead of the visit. While Britain cannot sign trade deals with third countries until it is outside the EU, the government is keen to hold preparatory discussions.

May, accompanied by trade ministers Liam Fox and Greg Hands and around 40 business representatives mainly from small- and medium-sized technology and healthcare firms, will address a technology summit, have a working lunch with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and meet businesses. Among representatives of larger firms joining her on the trip are David McMillan, CEO of insurer Aviva, Ivan Menezes, the CEO of drinks firm Diageo and the chairman of Asia-focused bank Standard Chartered, John Peace.

May will visit New Delhi and outsourcing hub Bengaluru before leaving on Tuesday. Her office said commercial deals to be signed during the trip were expected to create a total of 1,370 jobs in the

UK. One potential area of difficulty is her plan to curb the annual level of net migration to under 100,000 from its rate of more than three times that. India is keen for Britain to welcome more of its students and skilled workers.

"We want to attract the brightest and the best while also doing more to control migration," the official said. "When we get to ... looking at these bilateral deals we are confident that we will be able to do strong and ambitious deals."

May and Modi will also launch a partnership on smart cities and urban development which could generate business worth up to 2 billion pounds for British firms over the next five years, her office said. Britain will press India to allow its law firms to operate there, and will also offer its government expertise in areas such as deregulation and tax to help make India a more attractive business environment.

The official declined to say whether May would specifically raise with Modi the issue of Tata Steel Ltd, which put its British steel operations up for sale earlier this year but suspended it in July due to uncertainty over the Brexit vote. The government has not given away much detail about its Brexit plans, with May only saying it wants the best deal to "trade with and operate within" the EU's single market. Some have suggested that if the UK stays in the EU's customs union it will not be able to strike trade deals with third countries such as India, but the British official disputed this.

"Turkey is in the customs union but has trade agreements with third countries," the official said.

Turkey has free trade agreements with 18 countries including in Asia, north Africa and South America, while another 12 including Japan and Mexico are actively under discussion, according to the Turkish economy ministry website. — Reuters

UK BUSINESSES REPORT STRONGER ACTIVITY

LONDON: British businesses reported stronger activity in the three months to October after an initial slowdown following June's vote to leave the European Union, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday. The CBI said its monthly growth indicator - which is based on surveys of how companies' output has changed over the previous three months - rose to +8 in October from a six-month low of +3 in September.

"Manufacturing exports are riding high on the back of weaker sterling and consumers are continuing to spend on the high street, but activity is more modest in the services sector," CBI chief economist Rain Newton-Smith said. However the CBI said there were likely to be tougher times ahead, as uncertainty about the terms on which Britain would leave the EU had led to a "sharp deterioration" in planned investment.

"Although growth will be robust for the remainder of this year, we expect

uncertainty ... to dampen business investment in 2017, along with a rise in inflation which will knock household spending," Newton-Smith said. The forward-looking component of the CBI growth survey fell to +13 in October from a one-year high of +22 in September, though this was still above its long-run average.

Last week the CBI said it expected growth to slow to 1.3 percent next year from 2.0 percent in 2016, and to 1.1 percent in 2019.

This is a slightly darker outlook than the Bank of England, which revised up its 2017 growth forecast last week on the back of a fall in sterling and unexpectedly strong growth of 0.5 percent in the three months to September. The CBI growth indicator is based on a combination of its surveys of manufacturers, retail and distribution companies and business and professional services firms, which it says covers about three quarters of the private-sector economy. — Reuters

KIB SAVINGS ACCOUNT OFFERS HIGHEST RETURNS IN KUWAIT

RETURNS RISE TO 1.41% IN Q3 OF 2016

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the 3rd quarter results of its Savings Accounts, which saw a rise in returns to a record 1.41 percent, the highest available rate in Kuwait. Eugene Galligan, Acting General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at the Bank said: "At KIB we always strive to offer a comprehensive suite of innovative banking products and services in accordance with Islamic Sharia principles, in order to cater to the needs of our customers across all segments. The Savings Account is unique in offering the benefits of savings and investment combined into one single account. It also offers the highest returns on investment in the market, continuing to show solid and consistent growth."

Galligan further added: "The Savings Account offers a number of additional benefits, including the ability to open the account in Kuwaiti Dinar or any other major foreign currency, no minimum account opening, debit card issuance, and flexibility with deposits and withdrawals, in addition to increased benefits for personal financing."

KIB offers a variety of investment products available in both Kuwaiti dinar and other major foreign currencies, including Al-Boushra Deposit, Al-Joud Deposit, Arzaq Deposit and the Savings



Eugene Galligan

Account. All KIB products guarantee complete transparency and flexibility, in addition to offer-

ing highly competitive and rewarding returns on investment.

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007.

Today, KIB is a full service Bank operating through a network of 28 branches spread across the State of Kuwait, and offering a broad range of banking products, services and solutions in accordance with the principles of the Islamic Sharia. The Bank's mission and vision also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at supporting every member of Kuwait's society by spearheading a multitude of initiatives and activities.

In 2015, KIB embarked on a comprehensive strategic transformation plan, aimed at improving the Bank's performance indicators, as well as enhancing the quality of its products and services. The three-pronged transformation strategy is set to conclude in 2017, and focuses on propelling the Bank to the forefront of the Kuwaiti banking sector and setting it on a solid path to becoming the "Islamic bank of choice" in the market.

GERMAN COMPANIES HONE TOOLS TO DEFUSE DEMOGRAPHIC TIME BOMB

WUPPERTAL, Germany: For more than 130 years, Knipex, a family-owned company in western Germany, has made pliers for craftsmen around the world. Recently it has developed a different set of tools to help it cope with an ageing workforce and skilled labor shortage.

The management toolkit includes above inflation wage rises, subsidized meals and an on-site nursery, as well as training for older workers to operate machines doing work they used to do and flexible working conditions beyond the statutory minimum.

It shows how companies in Europe's biggest economy are increasing their efforts to adapt to a long-heralded shortage of people of working age now that an economic upturn has driven employment and vacancies to record highs. Low birth rates and increased life expectancy are affecting many advanced economies, but a survey by staffing firm ManpowerGroup found German companies were far more worried about attracting and retaining talent than their peers in the United States, France, Italy or Britain.

"Our strategy to avert a shortage of skilled labor can be summarized like this: We simply want to be seen as the best employer in the region, by our own employees and by outside candidates," Knipex's head of personnel Kai Wiedemann said.

While globalization and digitalization have eroded wages and benefits in many developed countries, Holger Schaefer, labor market expert at the Cologne Institute for Economic Research noted the demographic time bomb was ticking elsewhere too.

"It's somewhat like a look into the future if you look at what German companies are doing," he said. Pay rises are the most noticeable shift.

Last year, wages rose in real terms by 2.5 percent, the most in over two decades. As a non-listed company, Knipex does not face instant pressure from shareholders if profits come in lower for a year or two. The building of the kindergarten, unusual for a company of 1,200 workers, was financed with savings built up over years.

Many of Germany's DAX-listed companies are taking their own measures, however, and even household names like Siemens or BMW, who still attract plenty of applicants, have trouble in some areas.

PAY-OFF

Siemens reintroduced a scheme this year to pay up to 3,000 euros to employees who refer candidates that it successfully places in jobs. "The problem is not leaving us unscathed," said a company spokesman, adding that the talent pool was getting smaller, especially in software development and engineering. Carmaker BMW has turned to the United States, creating a 200-strong digital innovation hub in Chicago and hiring software engineers who worked for mobile phone pioneer Nokia. Others are looking to education. Software company SAP said it was offering studies in IT and Economic Computer Science to fill knowledge gaps among applicants.

Knipex, founded 1882 by the great-grandfather of CEO Ralf Putsch, has given above inflation pay rises for three years. Its other measures have cost roughly 1 million euros per year, while annual sales are more than 100 million euros. With an eye on competitors such as Facom and Gedore, the company, located in the western city of Wuppertal in Germany's most populous

state, North Rhine-Westphalia, it has limited price rises, but for Wiedemann, the investment is paying off. "We're getting many more job applications now," he said.

Katarina Dudesin, who came to Germany in 2003 from Bosnia-Herzegovina, works 20 hours per week in pliers production while her two smallest kids are in the company kindergarten, which she said had more staff and cost 10 percent less than equivalents.

"It makes life so much easier," Dudesin said, adding that it had enabled her to return to work more quickly than otherwise. Despite a recent rise in the birth rate and the arrival of nearly 900,000 migrants last year, experts estimate the working age population, whose pension contributions support the growing number of retirees, will shrink by up to 6 million by 2030.

At Knipex, roughly a third of employees are aged 50 or older. Most will retire within the next 10 to 17 years. "This will be a crunch for the company," Wiedemann said, while adding that training older workers to program machinery that now does some of the more labor-intensive jobs has helped.

A study by Boston Consulting Group predicted Germany's GDP per capita would grow by only 0.5 percent in 2030, far below the average of 1.3 percent. Maintaining the current labour force would need immigration of at least 400,000 people every year until 2050, the Institute for Employment Research estimates.

But Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy for migrants has met a popular backlash and while most of the recent arrivals are of working age, many struggle to get jobs, partly due to language barriers and a lack of certified qualifications. — Reuters

FINALLY, PAY FOR WORKERS ACROSS US IS CLIMBING

WASHINGTON: US workers at construction sites, hotels and restaurants have enjoyed solid pay raises in the past 12 months. So have employees of utilities and telecom firms. Finally, after years of stagnant pay, more American workers are receiving meaningful raises - a trend driven home by the government's October jobs report.

Average hourly pay surged 10 cents an hour last month to an average of \$25.92, the government reported Friday. That's 2.8 percent higher than it was a year ago, the sharpest 12-month increase since 2009.

But the average wage increase back in 2009 was misleading, propped up in part because employers were shedding millions of lower-paid

staffers in the aftermath of the Great Recession. The job market appears much healthier now, a sign that the plodding seven-year recovery is now providing some critical relief for workers.

"The main reason it took a long time for this to show up is that the recession was so deep," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities.

Unemployment is a low 4.9 percent. For a sixth straight year, the country is on track to add more than 2 million jobs. After years of such steady job gains, fewer people are seeking work. As a result, many employers have felt compelled to raise pay to attract or keep staff. Some sectors of the economy are exceeding the national average for pay raises.

Hotel and restaurant workers, for example, are earning 4.6 percent more than a year ago. Employees in the information sector - which includes telecommunications and data processing - are taking home 5.2 percent more. Utility jobs are paying 4.2 percent more. Construction wages are up 3.2 percent.

"It's clear that wage growth is accelerating," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services, who estimates continued gains as employers set their budgets for the start of 2017. Still, not all categories of employers are handing out big raises. Pay at retailers is up just 1.4 percent this year - just half the increase for the economy as a whole. The retail industry cut 1,100 jobs during

October. But analysts said that was due mostly to hurricanes and other storms that caused stores to close and lay off workers. And retailers tend to be cautious about holiday hiring for what is traditionally the busiest period of shopping. This year, stores may be waiting to see if spending picks up after the tumultuous presidential race, which may have distracted or unnerved some shoppers.

"They're adjusting and waiting to see what happens after the election," said Jack Kleinhenn, chief economist at the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group. "The fundamentals are there for the ability to spend. This is such an unusual situation, given it's been polarizing." A survey by the retail federation revealed caution among consumers because of uncertainty about the election. From September to October, average hourly wages fell slightly for rank-and-file workers. This suggests that wage gains may be favoring managers instead of, say, cashiers. Some retailers like Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer, may be raising pay for some lower-paid salaried workers in anticipation of an overtime rule set to take effect Dec. 1. That rule will require employers to pay overtime to workers who earn under \$47,476 a year, a category that includes many store supervisors.

Retail industry

But it's too early to tell for sure, says Mark Girouard, who specializes in labor and

employment law in the retail industry at the Minneapolis-based law firm Nilan Johnson Lewis. "If this continues, then I would say that we are seeing an impact (from the new overtime rule)," Girouard said. Still, the momentum points to wage growth across the broader economic spectrum because fewer people are searching for work. The vast generation of baby boomers has begun retiring, and the growth of the workforce has slowed. During the first month of 2010, there were roughly 5.5 unemployed people for each job opening, according to government figures. That figure has since declined to 1.3 people for each job opening, thereby strengthening the bargaining power of workers. At the same time, rising minimum wages have boosted incomes for the lowest-paid workers.

The result is that pay is rising for the bottom 40 percent of earners for the first time since the Great Recession, said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the tax and consulting firm RSM. But Brusuelas notes that geography has also influenced those rising incomes. The gains have largely bypassed workers in rural communities, intensifying a discontent with the economy that has surfaced during a brutal presidential campaign. "Job and wage gains have been disproportionately clustered in the major metro areas of the United States which is reflective of the political divide around the economy that is likely to be vividly on display during next week's election," Brusuelas said in a research note. —AP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 06 November 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲ 29.82	5,439.18	5,409.36	5,439.18	5,406.78
Weighted Index	▲ 3.35	358.86	355.51	358.86	355.45
KSX 15	▲ 8.35	839.32	830.97	841.55	830.97

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87
IKARUS	29.5	29.5	10,500	310	1	29.5
IPG	350	350	515	180	1	350
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780
ENERGYH	43.0	43.0	900	39	2	43.0
GPI	37.5	37.0	4,890,890	180,963	90	37.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85
Oil & Gas			4,902,805	181,492	94	742.89

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KFOUC	176	172	688,322	119,267	27	174
BPCC	465	465	50,000	23,250	1	465
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600
ALQURAIN	208	206	249,242	51,347	27	208
Basic Materials			987,564	193,864	55	926.66

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375
REFR1	320	320	7,834	2,507	1	320
CABLE	390	375	78,833	29,955	17	385
SHIP	158	158	100	16	1	158
PCEM	940	920	17,376	15,987	3	940
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66
ACICO	280	280	20,375	5,705	1	280
GGMC	305	305	2,000	610	2	305
HCC	118	118	3,659	432	3	118
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196
EQUIPMENT	44.0	43.0	191,000	8,344	10	44.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56
AGLTY	490	480	1,238,224	601,773	33	485
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192
CLEANING	39.5	38.0	230,770	9,015	8	39.5
KGL	48.5	46.5	138,200	6,561	13	47.5
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	168
HUMANSOFT	1,780	1,680	54,558	95,952	25	1,780
NAFAS1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.5
MAYADEEN	29.5	29.0	502,463	14,572	13	29.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650
MTCC	55	53	21,000	1,115	2	55
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680
ALAFCO	216	210	22,004	4,741	3	216
MUBARRAD	50	49.5	189,900	9,490	3	50
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70
FCEM	80	80	20,000	1,600	2	80
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93
SPEC	86	80	76,500	6,256	7	86
Industrials			2,815,096	814,630	147	1207.56

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	236
DANAH	86	86	10,000	860	1	86
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176
FOOD	2,620	2,600	112,032	292,283	7	2,620
Consumer Goods			122,032	293,143	8	1132.35
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198
Health Care			0	0	0	1070.60
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	950
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300
SULTAN	57	54	4,463	241	2	57
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385
IFAHR	160	160	200	32	1	160
OULAFUEL	116	112	71,378	8,227	13	116
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73
JAZERA	820	820	2,846	2,334	1	820
SOOR	116	112	44,059	5,021	19	116
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136
ZIMAH	46.5	44.5	5,818,919	266,486	125	46.5
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170
Mezzan	1,040	1,040	699,776	727,767	38	1,040
Consumer Services			6,641,641	1,010,108	199	920.14

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
ZAIN	400	390	2,753,923	1,089,982	86	395
OOREDOO	1,100	1,100	4,000	4,400	2	1,100
HITSTELEC	39.5	37.0	24,139,749	918,131	208	39.5
VIVA	880	850	25,778	22,037	32	850
Telecommunications			26,923,450	2,034,550	328	591.36

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
NBK	610	600	1,484,350	890,619	33	600
GBK	234	232	1,450,860	338,208	28	232
CBK	395	395	1,958	773	2	395
ABK	320	315	277,768	87,502	4	320
ALMUTAHED	390	385	6,336	2,439	3	390
KIB	194	190	348,975	67,027	14	192
BURG	320	315	727,599	232,799	13	320
KFIN	495	485	8,033,426	3,949,055	154	495
BOUBYAN	395	385	1,105,436	434,690	59	395
AUB	194	190	2,251,000	429,994	43	194
ITHMR	37.0	34.5	5,769,146	206,398	138	37.0
WARBANK	224	214	9,862,143	2,164,222	231	222
Banks			31,318,997	8,803,728	722	818.47

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KINS	226	226	20,000	4,520	5	226
GINS	620	620	275	171	1	620
AINS	450	450	244	110	1	450
WINS	108	108	87	9	1	108
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186
FTI	50	50	500	25	1	50
WETHAQ	28.5	26.5	1,256,035	34,963	82	28.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355
Insurance			1,277,141	39,798	91	949.68

Volume	152,888,861
Value (KWD)	18,340,304
Number of Trades	3,573

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOKU	31.5	30.5	101,1480	31,230	39	31.5
KRE	50	50	471,000	23,550	6	50
URC	96	96	3,014	289	1	96
NRE	82	79	1,491,100	119,481	32	82
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	154
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0
ARABREC	27.5	27.0	1,260,863	34,044	35	27.0
ERESCO	39.5	38.5	377,609	14,807	16	39.5
MABANE	810	800	805,351	648,837	16	810
INJAZZAT	69	67	4,385,100	294,822	85	67
INVESTORS	21.0	20.0	4,781,367	97,946	63	20.5
IRC	26.0	25.0	951,500	23,948	38	26.0
ALTIJARIA	79	77	2,378,094	184,915	22	79
SANAM	28.5	28.5	10,827	309	1	28.5
AAYANRE	59	59	20,113	1,187	1	59
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70
ALAQARIA	23.5	23.0	16,500	382	4	23.0
MAZAYA	112	110	2,566,022	283,512		

MERCEDES-BENZ GLC COUPÉ ARRIVES IN KUWAIT

SENSUAL COUPÉ DESIGN MEETS SPORTY SUV PRESENCE

KUWAIT: With standard-fit sport suspension, direct sports steering, dynamic select and 4MATIC permanent all-wheel drive with 9G-TRONIC nine-speed automatic transmission; Mercedes-Benz's sporty new GLC Coupé has arrived in Kuwait and is ready to impress. Combining effortless comfort with sporty agility, the distinct sportiness and dynamism of the new GLC Coupé is enriched with high safety and state-of-the-art assistance systems.

"This is the seventh member of the SUV family, and with each new addition Mercedes-Benz continues to redefine high-grade ambience and contemporary luxury," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer at Abdul Rahman Al-Bisher and Zaid Alkazemi Company, the Authorised General Distributors of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait. "Bringing the hallmarks of an SUV while adopting the sleek lines of a Coupé, the new GLC Coupé embodies the next generation of Mercedes-Benz vehicles. It is the new sports car among SUVs and we are certain it will be well received by our performance driven motoring enthusiasts."

The same successful blend of multifunctional SUV and dynamic Coupé world, so positively received with the GLE Coupé, is now repeated with the GLC Coupé. With an exterior length of 4.73 metres, a height of 1.60 metres and a wheelbase of 2.87 metres, the GLC Coupé is dynamic and compact in appearance. It is also both longer and lower than the multi-talented GLC, with which it shares its basic architecture.

Dynamic elegance meets off-road passion

The GLC Coupé owes its distinct character to a characteristically Coupé-esque, single-louvered diamond radiator grille and a restyled, dropping roofline. The A pillar is less steeply raked, while the continuation of the roof outline is lower, terminating in the elegantly flowing, muscular tail end characteristic of a Coupé.

In addition to the radiator grille, striking features of the front end include integral star, short overhang and SUV inspired chromed underguard. The innovative headlamp concept, standard in LED High Performance technology (GCC only), sports the now characteristic Mercedes-Benz light signature. A striking injection of sports car genes is provided by the large lateral air inlets.

The harmony between the distinctive design worlds of Coupé and SUV is revealed by the side view of the 1.60 metre-high GLC Coupé, with its char-



acteristic, stretched roofline of a sports Coupé. The squat greenhouse blends in seamlessly with the side of the vehicle to underline its Coupé character. The interplay between high beltline and wide shoulders results in proportions that lend the GLC Coupé its dynamic looks. The interaction is emphasized by the drawn-in waist between the dropping line and the lower, rearwards ascending light-catching contour.

Thanks to its pronounced shoulders, muscular bumper design with integral exhaust tailpipe trims and underguard in the form of a diffuser, the wide tail end of the GLC Coupé underlines the vehicle's athletic looks. Narrow, split taillights, a centrally



positioned brand star and a sharp spoiler lip reflect a design that made its debut with the S-Class Coupé and which all Mercedes-Benz Coupé models have since followed. Relocated to the lower section of the bumper, the number plate as well as the characteristic form of the rear window with its rounded upper area, are among the further stylistic features. Like the headlamps, the night design of the LED taillights sports the hallmark light signature of Mercedes-Benz.



The AMG Exterior Line comes as standard in the GCC. It includes AMG front and rear apron, 5-twin spoke 48.3 cm (19-inch) AMG light-alloy wheels or 50.8 centimetres (20-inch) in multispoke design (optional), painted titanium grey or black with a high-shine finish, with mixed-size tyres, diamond radiator grille with pins in chrome, integral Mercedes star and single louvre in matt iridium silver with chrome insert.

Interior: Modern with characteristic Coupé flair

A gallery of Coupé flair and high-grade ambience underscore the design idiom that combines sensual purity with dynamic sportiness.

Distinctive stylistic elements of the GLC Coupé are the dashboard and the centre console with its flowing lines: a large, one-piece console panel below the semi-integrated media display, offering unmatched comfort.

The optionally available AMG Interior line provides a clear commitment to even greater dynamism and sportiness. This package includes, for example, sports seats with upholstery in ARTICO man-made leather/DINAMICA microfibre with the option of sports seats with bi-colour look leather upholstery.

Sport programme: DYNAMIC BODY CONTROL or AIR BODY CONTROL
The all-new GLC Coupé comes as

standard with sports suspension including DYNAMIC SELECT with the five transmission modes ECO, COMFORT, SPORT, SPORT+ and INDIVIDUAL. DYNAMIC BODY CONTROL sports suspension with steel springing and adjustable damping is optionally available.

For the first time in this segment, the new GLC Coupé suspension can be equipped with fully supporting multi-chamber springing and electronically controlled, continuously adjustable damping.



The AIR BODY CONTROL air suspension combines excellent driving stability and optimal comfort with sporty agility. Specific characteristics are preselected depending on the DYNAMIC SELECT settings. In SPORT and SPORT+ mode, the occupants feel as if they are sitting in a sports car with a high level of lateral dynamics due to the even tauter connection to the chassis, which is lowered by 15 millimetres. COMFORT mode makes for an especially comfortable ride with soft suspension. To ensure maximum possible driving safety also in this mode, the spring/damper forces are instantaneously adjusted, for example in case of a sudden evasive manoeuvre. Additional benefits of the system include reduced roll when cornering, automatic load sensing and lowering of the load compartment sill by 4 centimetres for more convenient loading and unloading.

Another key parameter for the sporty characteristics of the GLC Coupé compared to the GLC SUV is the retuned Direct-Steer system, which offers a more direct steering ratio together with even sportier characteristics of the power assistance in the SPORT and SPORT+ modes.

US ELECTION; BIG CHANGES AHEAD OR STATUS QUO

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: The US dollar remained under pressure against the low yielders this week as US election stories continue to be at the center stage with markets ignoring the neutral November FOMC decision.

As expected the Fed decided to keep interest rates on hold. Boston Fed President Rosengren left members George and Mester as the only two hawks calling for an immediate 25bp rate hike. While Rosengren's U-turn may have come as a surprise, it does not call into question an eventual December tightening for now.

The FOMC statement rather highlighted that the case for an imminent rate hike has further strengthened over the past six weeks, with the Fed in particular delivering a more upbeat outlook on inflation. The Fed acknowledged that the inflation has been moving higher since the beginning of the year, while also removing the sentence that "inflation is expected to remain low in the near term".

Overall the statement language change was little changed as it revealed that the case for an increase in the fed funds rate has 'continued to strengthen' and that they now need just 'some' further evidence on progress towards objectives to move rates. By the end of the week the market has priced a 78 percent probability of a December hike.

On the data side, the US economic releases have struggled to give the USD much support as investors remain in a wait and see mode until more clarity is given on November 8. Regardless, further evidence that the US recovery is regaining traction and spare capacity continues to shrink within the US labor market, could raise the prospect of a December tightening if no major surprises come from the election. For now, worries continue to be that Trump wins, the market conditions could continue to worsen for the US Dollar as he spoke many times about using excessive debt to boost the economy and run a large budget deficit.

On the currency side, the USD continues to be under pressure as of late with the increased uncertainty caused by a possibility of Donald Trump taking US politics into new territory. This is why the Yen and Swiss franc were well supported this week while any close related partner to the US has been bearing the brunt of the nervousness about the impact of a President Trump on international trade and relations.

In summary, the euro opened the week at 1.0981 and reached a high of 1.1143 after a non-event FOMC meeting. The Yen also continues to be well supported mainly after the BoJ pushed their inflation target till 2019.

The pound sterling managed to hang on to some gains achieved this week following news that the UK government lost the High Court case on Article 50 and a less dovish BoE, introducing 2-way risk on the rate outlook. The Pound opened the week at 1.2195 and closed on Friday at 1.2516.

Disappointing figures

According to the ADP report released this week, private sector employment rose by 147,000 jobs in October, below expectations of 165,000, the smallest increase since May. ADP also revised job creation numbers for other months as part of a new measuring model. For September, the number of total jobs added was revised up to 202,000, from a previous estimate of 154,000.

On the negative side, construction companies reduced the effective by 15,000 in October, the private education sector also lost jobs. Natural resources and mining companies also cut 2,000 net jobs. The sector has been reducing payrolls for nearly two years due to oil prices. On the positive side, professional and business services firms added 69,000.

ISM Non-manufacturing

Non-manufacturing ISM remained strong in October coming at 54.8, down 2.3 percent from September. Each of the report's four key metrics, declined from September to October. Business activity and production fell 2.6 percent at 57.7, new orders were off 2.3 percent to 57.7. Employment was however off 4.1 percent to 53.1 and grew for the fifth straight month. According to the report, thirteen non-manufacturing industries saw growth in October including Construction and real Estate. The industries contracting in October included again mining.

In summary, the report was largely positive mainly, "a slow growth in October, coming off of huge uptick in September. Over all, both business activity and new orders are still very strong, and employment is a cycle thing, as last month's strong hiring pace cannot really be sustained for a long period. It's still a decent report."

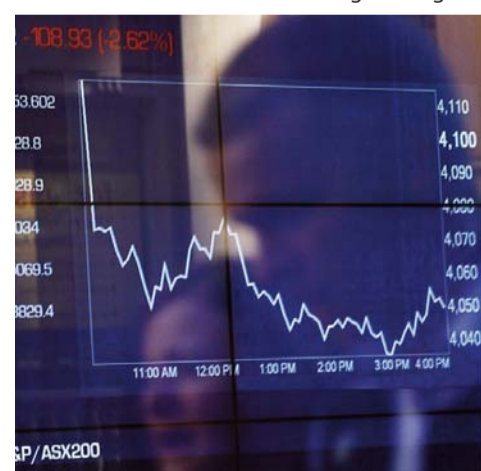
The employment situation

US jobs continued to gain at an acceptable pace in October, signs indicate that the labor market and the economy made a steady progress at the start of the fourth quarter. In detail, total nonfarm payrolls rose by 161,000 in October, down by 30,000 from September. So far in 2016, employment growth has averaged 181,000 per month, compared with an average monthly increase of 229,000 in 2015.

The unemployment rate was little changed at 4.9 percent and in line with expectations. Employment continues to trend up in health care, business services, and financial activities. The average hourly earnings in October was 0.4 percent versus a forecast of 0.3 percent, and up by 0.1 percent from the previous month. The year to year increase was 2.8 percent, compared with 2.7 percent in September. In conclusion, the figures are likely to keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise borrowing costs next month for the first time in 2016.

Europe & UK

A surge in Europe's Manufacturing PMI led by Netherlands and Germany Eurozone final manufacturing PMI figure



came strong at 53.5 in October versus September's figure of 52.6. Manufacturing sector has been gaining traction and momentum at the start of the final quarter of this year. Growth of production, new orders, new export order and employment all accelerated, while price pressures showed further signs of increasing. The Netherlands surged to the top of the Manufacturing PMI rankings in October, with growth accelerating to a 15-month peak. Germany was also a top performer, expanding at the quickest pace in almost three years.

Inflation expectations for October came at the highest level since June 2014, a sign that monetary policy is gradually eliminating deflation. The Consumer price index rose to 0.5 percent in October, up from 0.4 percent in September.

End of year respite for the BoE

Three months ago, the Bank of England decided to cut interest rates to 0.25 percent and resume bond buying, while warning that

an immediate downturn in UK growth could pave the way for additional easing as soon as November.

This week however, the Bank kept interest rates at a low of 0.25 percent and dropped plans to cut them further in the near future, although the inflation warning was tempered with a projection that economic growth will be much stronger than previously forecast in the near-term.

Moreover, the Bank warned households to expect a sharp rise in inflation next year as the weak currency increase costs of imports and squeezes family finances. Predicting rises in import prices, the Bank said inflation would rise from 1.3 percent this year to 2.7 percent in 2017 and 2018, higher than in its last set of forecasts three months ago. In its new outlook, the monetary policy committee said it would take until 2020 for inflation to get back to the target of 2 percent.

On Thursday, the High Court ruled against the government triggering of Article 50 without a parliamentary vote. After the ruling, the government chose to appeal the High Court's decision however the appeal is likely to be heard at the Supreme Court on 7th and 8th December and the government has the right to withdraw it before the hearing.

The decision was welcomed by global markets and was significant as it reduced the chances of a hard Brexit as markets were pricing. If the government's appeal is rejected, the government will have to seek parliamentary approval for starting the Brexit process. In sum, it has weakened PM May's Brexit position further and makes a new general election next year a likely scenario, either before or after the triggering of Article 50.

As the Sterling Pound was under pressure since the "Brexit" vote, the immediate pressure was relieved and a move higher in GBP may have further to run in the near term, particularly with the market caught short.

UK GDP defying estimates

The UK GDP figures were also out this week defying estimates that the country would go into recession if the UK voted to leave the EU. In detail, GDP came at 0.5 percent increase from July to September compared to the previous three months. According to the UK chancellor "the fundamentals of the UK economy are strong, and the data show that the economy is resilient. The economy will need to adjust to a new relationship with the EU, but we are well-placed to deal with the challenges and take advantage of opportunities."

According to the report, the figures gave

"the most comprehensive picture so far of the post-referendum UK economy. The economy has continued to expand at a rate broadly similar to that seen since 2015 and there is little evidence of a pronounced effect in the immediate aftermath of the "Brexit" vote. Most of the upside surprise was on the back of a still strong services sector expanding at 0.8 percent while the three other sectors, mainly industrial production, construction and agriculture remained in a contracting mode. Compared with the same period last year, growth from July to September 2016 was 2.3 percent higher.

BoJ keeps policy unchanged

The Bank of Japan's monetary policy announcement came in line with expectation by keeping the policy rates unchanged at -0.10 percent. The BoJ also stated its Japanese government bonds purchases will be maintained at more or less the current pace, at an annual purchase of JPY80tn. Moreover, they cut FY16 core inflation forecasts to -0.1 percent, the first time below zero since April 2014. The central bank has pushed back the time frame for reaching its inflation target of 2 percent at some time during or after the 2018 fiscal year which ends March 2019, the fourth extension since Kuroda took office in 2013.

Promising China figures

In China, official manufacturing PMI figure reached a surprising 51.2 in October, the highest level since 2014 and exceeded all market expectations. Furthermore, non-manufacturing PMI also edged up to 54 from 53.7. The economy in China seems to be gaining traction in Q3 and the momentum is expected to carry on till the end of Q4 relieving pressure from policymakers due to the growing concerns on the real estate sector and debt levels in the country.

The RBA left interest rates unchanged as expected in November though the Bank has acknowledged that house prices are rising quickly in some markets.

Inflation is likely to run a little lower than the Bank expects over 2017, with a mid-year rate cut in 2017 still more likely than not in our view. The trade deficit narrowed more than expected in September reflecting a rise in coal export values and volumes, while construction approvals fell in September, though they remain at elevated levels.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30220
The USDKWD opened at 0.30220 yesterday morning.



Mazda CX-9 2016



Interior of 2016 Mazda-MX-5



BEAT FUEL PRICE RISE WITH MAZDA'S SKYACTIV TECHNOLOGY

KUWAIT: The streak of defiance and adventure that runs through Mazda cars has its roots in the heritage of Hiroshima, Mazda's home in Japan. Hiroshima rose from the ashes of nuclear destruction. Refusing to stop dreaming of a better future, the people in the region have overcome daunting challenges over and over again. The spirit of courage and grit that has underpinned Hiroshima's successful rebuilding has continued to be an inspiration to Mazda.

At Mazda, everyone is ready for any challenge they may face on the road to creating great cars. Mazda continues to break the barriers of convention as it takes on the challenge of creating cars previously unimagined.

Mazda's journey of persistence, passion and innovation has continued into the new century. Blazing a trail again, Mazda developed the SKYACTIV family of breakthrough technologies that are unleashing the untapped potential of gasoline and diesel cars. The name SKYACTIV has its origins in the term "The SKY is the limit" and it expresses the spirit that is driving Mazda engineers in their development work. They developed SKYACTIV with a belief in unlimited possibilities.

SKYACTIV-G 2.0/ SKYACTIV-G 2.5
New-Generation Gasoline Engine with Improved Fuel Efficiency and Torque.

High-efficiency SKYACTIV-G direct-injection petrol engines are your passport to a world of driving that is both exciting and eco-friendly. SKYACTIV-G 2.0 engines do more than just set new standards for fuel efficiency and emissions control, they also actively enhance the Zoom-Zoom performance. To accomplish this, Mazda engineers achieved a technical breakthrough to deliver an extraordinary compression ratio of 13.0:1 while suppressing the knock usually caused by such high compression. Taken together, the technical breakthroughs in SKYACTIV-G engines realize an astonishing increase in fuel efficiency - up to 15 percent - as well as more satisfying everyday driving thanks to the ample torque available at low- to mid-engine speeds.

SKYACTIV-DRIVE
Perfect Mix of Direct Feel, Smooth



Transmission and Superior Fuel Efficiency at Low Speeds.

SKYACTIV-DRIVE is designed to deliver an ideal mix of "direct feel," "smooth transmission" and "fuel economy at low speeds." The various transmission systems prevailing in different markets each have their own strengths and weaknesses. Mazda has realized the best of all worlds by creating the "ideal automatic transmission" that excels across the board. The lockup range of more than 80 percent helps to create the sort of direct feel that is usually the mark of a manual transmission.

SKYACTIV-BODY

Light, Rigid and Robust Body that Ensures Safe and Joyful Driving

The SKYACTIV-BODY is engineered to achieve two conflicting aims: Lighter weight with better safety performance and increased rigidity. It's achieved through innovative engineering, and optimized structures and materials. In total, SKYACTIV-BODY is 30 percent more rigid, lighter, and able to meet the world's most demanding crash safety tests, at the same time as giving better handling thanks to its enhanced rigidity.

SKYACTIV-CHASSIS

Lightweight Chassis that Delivers Driving Pleasure and Comfort.

The SKYACTIV-CHASSIS delivers even more of Mazda's famous feeling of oneness between car and driver. Total re-engineering of the basics of suspension and steering systems achieved both lighter weight and superior rigidity.

About KAICO (Al Shaya & Al Sagar):

KAICO is the exclusive distributor in Kuwait for MAZDA cars since 1969. KAICO was established in 1936 and is jointly owned by

Al-Shaya and Al-Sagar families with 80 years of collective automotive experience in marketing, sales, parts and service and has integrated all its operations to maximize market penetration. KAICO is also the exclusive distributor for numerous other automotive brands including Peugeot, Geely, Eicher, Royal Enfield, Michelin, BF Goodrich, Mobil. To know more about Mazda cars and beat the fuel price rise Visit Mazda showroom or contact on 1820 888.



NBK AWARDED 'BEST PRIVATE BANKING SERVICES' IN KUWAIT

GLOBAL FINANCE RECOGNITION FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been awarded the "Best Private Banking Services for 2017" in Kuwait, in Global Finance's Annual Survey on top global banks in wealth management and private banking services, for the second consecutive year.

"Our awards help high-net-worth investors choose wisely among the myriad private banks with different strengths in wealth advisory services, to identify the firms most likely to

understand their individual needs and deliver on the highest level of client service," said Joseph D Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of Global Finance.

Malek Khalife, NBK's General Manager, Private Banking Group, said "Global Finance's Annual Survey data was compiled from the industry's experts and analysts worldwide."

"Awarding NBK the title of "Best Private Banking Services" in Kuwait for the Second consecutive year reflects the constant confidence

the customers vest in NBK and their appreciation of the superb quality of its services and products," said Khalife. "This award is another testimony of NBK's leading position as the highest-rated bank in the Middle East and among the 50 safest banks in the world."

Khalife added "the excellent, strong and durable relationships NBK has always maintained with its high net-worth customers, enabled the bank to assume a unique and leading position in the field of wealth management and private banking on both local and regional markets. NBK also succeeded in maintaining the highest service quality standards while consistently endeavoring to provide the most innovative spectrum of investment and wealth management products and solutions to satisfy the increasingly changing needs of customers."

"Thanks to its largest local and international network strategically located in the major world financial centers, NBK has always maintained a dominant and advanced position to provide the best banking and investment solutions that covers a wide range of international markets, taking into consideration the specific profile of each and every customer," noted Khalife.

"I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to both the trust of NBK clients as well as the invaluable efforts of the Private Banking team at NBK that enabled the bank to win such a prestigious title," said Khalife.



Malek Khalife



AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES NAJMA ACCOUNT WINNERS

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 6th November, 2016.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Saquer Al-Manaie.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Nur Alam Musleddin — KD 7000, Sameer Mustafa Tohfa— KD 7000, Singh Bagga Mohinder— KD 7000, Naser Jaddallah Marqas — KD 7000, Mohammed Faisal Habib Asiri —KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever

With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account

Daily draw to win KD 7000
Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000
1ST quarter — KD 100 000 2ND quarter — KD 150 000 3RD quarter— KD 200 000 4TH quarter— KD 250 000

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

* Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

* ATM card

* Issue a credit card against your account

* Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

- Burhanuddin Kutbuddin Sultan
- Katabijwala Salma Saifuddin
- Meshaal Essa Khodor Odah Al Shemmari

- Iqbal Atshan Khalaf Fares
- Rathy Abdullah Jarrah Al Shammari

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date.

Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's call center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.



SYMANTEC TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN EGOV4

IT SECURITY LEADER STRESSES PHILOSOPHY OF 'INNOVATE, BUT SECURELY'

KUWAIT: Symantec, the IT Security leader, announced yesterday that they will be actively participating in the upcoming fourth e-Government Forum (EGOV4) due to take place from 27-29 November at Arraya Ballroom of Courtyard Marriott Hotel. "We are delighted to be part of this annual technology event in Kuwait, especially that it is held under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Symantec helps governments, businesses, and individuals safeguard their IT investments against the increasingly malicious cyber threats." Through the ambitious organizational efforts of CAIT and NoufEXPO, EGOV4 has become a must-attend technology event for every global technology vendor," said Gordon Love, Vice President Emerging Markets at Symantec.

Gordon continued to say, "the technological advancements we are witnessing today, both on a global and regional level, are nothing short of impressive, and they continue to surpass what we thought we would be able to achieve by this millennium. In fact, IT spending in the Middle East is set to reach \$212.9 billion in 2016, a 37 per cent increase from the previous year. Closer to home, we've seen Kuwait making considerable progress in becoming an emerging technology and innovation hub in the

region. The government has done an excellent job in responding to the society's level of tech savviness and demand for streamlined services, by implementing projects that have improved government processes vastly through its E-government services."

Gordon added, "innovation has become an unstoppable force from which we are feeding, and in the coming decade or so, the internet will likely dictate the way in which we live our lives. Every innovation carries intended and unintended consequences. According to Symantec's ISTR 2016 report, the world bought more than 1.4 billion smartphones in 2015. What we now call the Internet of Things (IoT), will soon become the Internet of Everything. In addition, in the next few years there will be more connected devices than people in the world, and what a momentous time in history that will be! Uses of IoT that were previously impractical will increasingly become more practical, although the problem with that type of vigorous innovation is that most of these IoT devices will lack stringent security measures and will become a deliberate risk."

Integration

The Vice President Emerging Markets at Symantec commented, "the materialization of the IoT is accompanied with the emergence of added internet-connected devices

and the integration of various industries, such as education, health, finance, insurance, and real-estate. While that may be conducive to our highly connected world, it also puts these industries at greater risk of being hacked. By connecting everything, we have given cybercriminals leverage to attack not only one, but all aspects of our society. The role that society will play in this digital revolution is unquestionably understated. Moreover, the Middle East's geopolitical position and importance to the world economy through trade, tourism and oil and gas resources have made the region highly vulnerable to a high volume of IT security attacks and in turn, triggered rapid growth in its IT security market.

Commenting on Kuwait's IT security challenges, Gordon said, "Kuwait's 2016 Internet Security Threat Profile has jumped from a global rank of 70th in 2014 to 61st in 2015, indicating a higher global percentage of security threats, including malicious code, spam, phishing hosts, web and network attacks, and bots from the country. Bucking the global downward trend, Kuwait also experienced more bots with its global rank changing 15 spots from rank 50th in 2014 to 35th in 2015. A bot is a type of malware that allows an attacker to take control over an affected computer. This means that Kuwait is becoming a more attractive target for



Gordon Love

threats. As the country continues to work towards becoming a leading global hub for technology advancements, this puts numerous organizations at risk should they choose not to upgrade security measures. One of the key challenges for these organizations is the rising complexity of cyber-attacks, which

is partially driven by the increasing penetration of smartphones and tablets and the shift towards cloud computing."

Love added, "moving forward, IT will transition from having technical purpose to having societal purpose. By that token, innovation must veer away from fast-paced modernization and towards addressing the needs of our society and how to protect our businesses. As innovation pushes technology further, legacy devices are no longer able to hold enhanced security measures. The security industry must commit to integrate the advancements generated by innovation by building security into devices and networks. If these measures are not taken, cybercriminals are given easy access into businesses and consumers lives."

Gordon concluded his statement by saying, "as the world's leading cyber security company, Symantec's role within these technological advancements is to remain a pillar of vigor, aiming to continuously pursue and patch up whatever dysfunctions are found in these advancements. Our innovation branches out of accurately utilizing our extensive assets to find solutions, where other companies cannot. Helping our customers tackle their biggest security challenges remains a priority in our mission to secure and support upcoming technology hubs like Kuwait."

Galaxy · Zone



SEOUL: A man passes by Samsung Electronics Galaxy Note 7 smartphones at the company's shop in Seoul, South Korea. Samsung Electronics says it will offer an artificial intelligence assistant service in the upcoming flagship smartphone. The South Korean company said yesterday that the Galaxy S8 smartphone will let users order food or perform other tasks without going through a third-party application but by simply asking the phone's virtual assistant. —AP

SAMSUNG TO OFFER DIGITAL ASSISTANCE IN GALAXY S8

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics said yesterday it will offer an artificial intelligence assistant service in the upcoming flagship smartphone, as the South Korean firm seeks recovery from its global smartphone recalls. The Galaxy S8 will let users order food or perform other tasks without going through a third-party application but by simply asking the phone's virtual assistant, Samsung said in a statement. The artificial intelligence service will also be made available in Samsung's other consumer electronics products, such as refrigerators.

The company declined to disclose what specific tasks the S8 phone will perform through its artificial intelligence feature. Samsung is expected to unveil the next iteration for its flagship Galaxy device in spring as it has typically done in the past. Sales of the Galaxy S8 will be crucial for the recovery of Samsung's mobile business, which saw its latest quarterly profit nearly wiped out by two global recalls of the Galaxy Note 7 smartphone. Samsung estimates it has lost at least \$5.3 billion as it discontinued the model, which overheated and caught fire.

The company said last month that it has not figured out what went wrong with the Note 7 phones.

The South Korean company joined the race to create the digital assistant service when it acquired in October Viv Labs Inc., a Silicon Valley startup launched by the same entrepreneurs who sold Siri to Apple. Past and current Samsung phones offer a voice assistant service called "S Voice" developed internally, but the feature did not gain much traction.

Samsung's acquisition of the Silicon Valley firm was seen as its taking another step to seek independence from Google, which offers its brand of virtual assistant service in Android-powered devices. Executives at Samsung and Viv Labs said that the biggest difference between the existing digital assistant and the one they are jointly developing is that the latter will be an "open AI platform," meaning that third-party developers will be able to offer their services through Samsung's AI platform.

"Our Galaxy smartphones don't provide services that enable consumers to order pizza or coffee, but does provide third party applications. But the new AI platform will enable consumers to do things that they would usually do through a separate third party application," Samsung's statement said. —AP

FACEBOOK GOLD STREAK CONTINUES IN Q3, BOOSTED BY VIDEO

NEW YORK: Whether it's a video clip of your friend's dog or a live stream of the presidential debates, you are likely watching more videos on Facebook than ever. And that means you're also more likely to see video ads. Facebook's latest strategy is to grow both user-generated and advertiser-created videos as it tries to get a firm foothold in this nascent but growing market. The strategy appears to be working. While Madison Avenue is not known for risky experimenting, advertisers are already testing the waters with live video. General Motors, for example, launched its electric Chevy Bolt EV through Facebook Live this year.

"People are spending more and more time on mobile, especially video," David Wehner, Facebook's chief financial officer, said in an interview.

He said this has been a big factor in helping drive up overall mobile advertising. It helps on the video front that Facebook had successfully transitioned from desktop to mobile, despite early doubts. Now, when Facebook tries to sell video to its advertisers, it can simply point to past financial results. The percentage of ad revenue that came

from mobile has increased every quarter since the company began reporting this figure in 2012.

In the July-September quarter, Facebook had \$6.8 billion in advertising revenue, a 59 percent increase from a year earlier. Mobile advertising accounted for 84 percent of this. Facebook had 1.79 billion monthly users as of Sept. 30, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Facebook earned \$2.38 billion during the third quarter, or 82 cents per share, up sharply from \$896 million, or 31 cents per share, a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were \$1.09 per share, above the 97 cents that analysts polled by FactSet had expected. Total revenue rose 56 percent to \$7.01 billion, surpassing analysts' expectations of \$6.92 billion.

Video ads will become more important as Facebook sees a slowdown in how many ads it shows between all the updates from friends, a measure known as ad load. Facebook's stock fell \$8.77, or nearly 7 percent, to \$118.20 in extended trading after Wehner told analysts that "ad load will play a less significant (role in) driving revenue growth" after mid-2017, leading to slower growth overall. —AP

QUALITYNET SPONSORS IDC IT FORUM WITH ALCATEL LUCENT

FORUM PUT SPOTLIGHT ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

KUWAIT: Qualitynet, Kuwait's #1 ICT, Data Communications & Internet Services Provider participated as a Sponsor and Exhibitor in the IDC IT Forum, held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in October '16. The participation was in cooperation with Alcatel Lucent, and the event was held by IDC, a leader in organizing forums for Information Technology both regionally and internationally.

Held for the first time in Kuwait, the Forum took place in conjunction with a number of Arab cities, aimed at professionals and decision makers that are keen on IT and the developments in the technology field. This year's topic for discussion was "Digital Transformation: Leveraging IT to Future Proof Your Business" highlighting the need to embark on the digital transformation journey. The challenge poses the need to enable a smooth transition between existing systems and new technologies, without disruptions in operations or customer experiences. The speakers also shared best practices in embracing digital transformation, empowering professionals to explore strategies for improving efficiency, fostering innovation, reducing costs, and increasing business competitiveness.

Essa H Al-Kooheji, GM, Sales and Business Development - Qualitynet stated "We are pleased to be involved in the IDC IT Forum, to exchange experiences and gain insight into the transformation of Information Technology in the region. As a pioneering provider of Information and Communication Technology Solutions in the country, Qualitynet offers future proof solutions in Digital Communications and Advanced Networking, through top-of-the-line products and services in

collaboration with our strategic partner Alcatel Lucent".

"We are keen on growing our presence in the IT sector" said Kooheji. "Our successful completion of large scale ICT and IT projects in the country and across the region stands testimonial for our capability in offering the best-of-class solutions and the power to harness the strength of Qualitynet's technological prowess in the segment" he concluded.

Ahmad Johar, Regional Director

in Kuwait for projects - Alcatel Lucent said he takes pride in the strategic alliance with Qualitynet, which has continued for over a decade. "We have successfully implemented and delivered many large scale projects together. Qualitynet has for a long time now been the most vital partner and distributor of Alcatel Lucent solutions in Kuwait. It felt fitting to participate in this event with Qualitynet, and showcase the latest networking and digital communica-

tions from Alcatel Lucent IT solutions" said Ahmad.

The event saw more than 100 IT professionals in attendance, bringing together some of the leaders vendors in the IT spectrum. Held regularly in the Middle East and neighboring countries, the attending companies showcase solutions and services that address the many challenges faced by today's organizations when transitioning to a digital model of business.



Qualitynet booth at the Forum

AUTOMATED CARS COULD THREATEN JOBS OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS

NEW YORK: Ronald De Feo has watched robots take factory jobs for years. Now he sees them threatening a new class of worker: People who drive for a living.

"I am in Pittsburgh; it's a test market for Uber's autonomous vehicle," says De Feo, CEO of the industrial materials firm Kennametal. "We see all these (automated) Ubers running around the streets of Pittsburgh, a confusing and difficult place to navigate. If they can make that work, what do you think happens to the job of being a taxi driver?"

Computer scientists and economists say the threat isn't merely theoretical: Automated cars pose an existential threat to the many Americans who drive for a living: 2.9 million truckers and delivery drivers, 674,000 bus drivers, 181,000 cab drivers and chauffeurs. The big question is how long it will take auto and tech companies to clear the technical hurdles to turning the streets over to driverless cars.

"I don't see herds of robotic trucks running down the highway in the next few years," says Vern

Meyerotto, a 61-year-old truck driver in Denver. "There's an awful lot of development that needs to be done on it." Meyerotto, who's been driving since 2007, points to the self-driving Tesla Model S car that crashed in May, killing the driver, after the car's cameras failed to detect a tractor-trailer crossing its path. He doesn't expect to see robotic trucks doing much driving for 10 or 15 more years.

But the quick development of driverless cars has caught economists by surprise. Assessing which jobs were vulnerable to robots in a 2004 book, economists Frank Levy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Richard Murnane of Harvard University reckoned that truck drivers were safe. Surely, a machine couldn't negotiate rush-hour traffic without a helping human hand.

Six years later, Google's automated cars were on the road, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, circling Lake Tahoe and cruising down Hollywood Boulevard. Now, companies from Ford to Tesla to Uber are investing in automated car technology. "The next big wave of automation will apply to driving," says Moshe Vardi, a computer scientist at Rice University.

First victims

Vardi suspects that truck drivers will be the first victims. Automated trucks can be programmed to go from one warehouse to another, plying express lanes reserved for trucks that let them avoid interacting with human drivers.

Vardi notes that vulnerable truckers have much in common with the factory workers who've been ousted by machines over the past several decades: They tend to be white men, middle-aged or older, with high school-only educations - the people who've formed the core support for Donald Trump. —AP



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Aug 18, 2016, file photo, Matt Grigsby, senior program engineer at Otto, takes his hands off the steering wheel of a self-driving, big-rig truck during a demonstration on the highway, in San Francisco. Uber's self-driving startup Otto developed technology allowing big rigs to drive themselves. —AP



NEW DELHI: A Delhi policeman stands guard at the war memorial India Gate engulfed in a thick smog in New Delhi, India, yesterday. —AP photos

DELHI SHUTS SCHOOLS, HALTS CONSTRUCTION TO TACKLE POLLUTION

NEW DELHI: India's capital announced a slew of measures yesterday to combat the crippling air pollution that has engulfed the city, including closing down schools, halting construction and ordering that all roads be doused with water to settle dust. New Delhi, one of the world's dirtiest cities, saw levels of PM2.5 - tiny particulate matter that can clog lungs - soar to over 900 micrograms per cubic meter on Saturday. That's more than 90 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization and 15 times the Indian government's norms. The severe weekend pollution followed a week of constant gray smog.

New Delhi's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, told reporters after an emergency meeting of his Cabinet yesterday that schools would be shut for three days, and all construction and demolition activity halted for at least five days. He also said a coal-fueled power plant on the edges of the city would be shut

for 10 days. The other measures announced include a 10-day ban on the use of all diesel-powered electricity generators, except at places such as hospitals and cellphone towers. Starting Thursday, all major roads in the city will be vacuum cleaned once a week, Kejriwal said.

The chief minister also said people should avoid going outdoors until the pollution levels drop and should try to work from home as much as possible. New Delhi's air pollution soars during the cooler winter months, bringing health troubles to millions, especially children and older people.

Kejriwal said that a major contributor to New Delhi's pollution is the crop fires in neighboring states. At the start of every winter, farmers in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh begin burning straw from their rice paddy crop to clear the fields for planting wheat.

The Centre for Science and Environment, a New Delhi-based research and lobbying organization, said government data shows that the smog that has covered the city for the last week is the worst in 17 years. Over the last few years, New Delhi's government has tried a handful of methods to control air pollution, including stricter emission norms for cars and a tax on diesel-fueled trucks that enter the city. It has also barred the burning of leaves and garbage in the city.

Earlier this year, the city reduced the number of cars on the roads 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. Yesterday, Kejriwal said that the government was assessing whether it needed to reduce the number of cars again. —AP



NEW DELHI: A family on a motorcycle wait at a crossing amidst smoke and smog.



NEW DELHI: An Indian girl holds a banner during a protest against air pollution.



NEW DELHI: Indians wear pollution masks and hold posters and banners protesting against air pollution.

ADDING MUSIC TO PAIN MEDS MAY REDUCE PAIN

SEOUL, South Korea: As a complement to traditional pain relief tools like medication, listening to music may lessen acute or chronic pain related to cancer and other conditions, according to a new review. "We have seen and observed this effect in multiple clinical settings such as medical hospitals and hospice-care facilities," said author Jin Hyung Lee of Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea. "In addition to all the clinical trials investigating the effects of music interventions on pain, we are seeing an increase in the number of music therapists who work in the medical and hospice care settings," Lee told Reuters Health by email. "Of course, these professionals work on a variety of clinical goals in addition to pain management, but it definitely is one of the major goals."

Lee reviewed 97 randomized controlled trials conducted between 1995 and 2014 that included a total of 9,147 participants. Most trials involved music therapy, which typically involves interactions with a music therapist, while a handful of trials looked at music medicine, which mainly involves exposure to "pre-recorded music experiences" selected for their effects, Lee writes in the *Journal of Music Therapy*. The trials examined those effects on participants' self-

reported pain intensity, emotional distress from pain, vital signs and amount of pain relief medication taken. Many studies let participants choose the type of music they wanted to listen to, often including classical, easy listening, new age, slow jazz and soft rock. A quarter of the trials used music selected by researchers. On average, participants listened to about 38 minutes of music during the experiments.

Overall, people getting the music intervention in their trial rated their pain intensity about one point lower on a zero to 10 scale after music sessions compared to groups that got no music. But the results were not consistent among all studies, Lee notes. Seven of the studies found a significant decrease in anesthetic use in music groups compared to non-music groups. There were similar small but significant differences in studies examining use of opioid and non-opioid painkillers, but there was no difference in sedative use. Heart rate, blood pressure and respiration rate were all found to be lower among participants in music groups in some studies. Music stimulates additional senses other than pain receptors, which attracts patients' attention, and relieves stress and anxiety with its soothing quality, Lee said.

"In addition, music therapists provide various music experiences with specific clinical intent to promote a sense of hope and control, to actively re-direct patients' attention, and to support patients to actively cope with their illness," he said. "Music medicine and music therapy are not meant to be alternative forms of therapy, rather they are provided as a complementary treatment to existing care," he said.

Music may distract and relax patients, said Dr. John Marshall of the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Columbia, Missouri, who was not part of Lee's review. "When we did our music study in colonoscopy patients many years ago, we were giving patients light sedation," Marshall said. "The patients were awake during their procedures. The music seemed to be a helpful adjunct to improving the patient experience." Today, most colonoscopy patients are moderately to heavily sedated, so music during the procedure may not matter as much, though pleasant background music prior to the procedure makes sense. "There are many things to consider when devising a music program for patients, so I would recommend consulting a music therapist when establishing a music medicine program," Lee said. —Reuters

POLL SHOWS TIGHT CONTEST FOR CALIFORNIA DRUG PRICE INITIATIVE

CALIFORNIA: The battle to convince California voters to approve a ballot initiative aimed at curbing prescription drug prices appears to be tightening as the pharmaceutical industry steps up its attacks, according to poll results released on Friday. The California Drug Price Relief Act, also known as Proposition 61, would require drugmakers to give state-run health programs discounts on medications similar to those provided to the US Department of Veterans Affairs, which pays the lowest prices in the country.

A survey of nearly 1,500 registered voters conducted by the Field Poll and the University of California, Berkeley at the end of October found an even split, with 47 percent of voters saying they would vote yes and 47 percent saying they would vote no on the measure. The remaining 6 percent were undecided. A similar

poll conducted in September showed 50 percent of voters in favor, 16 percent opposed and 34 percent undecided.

Another early September poll conducted by the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles Times found that 66 percent of voters approved the measure and 23 percent were opposed. "Investors have been bracing for a controversial and potentially dangerous headline risk," RBC Capital Markets analyst Michael Yee told Reuters. "This is not necessarily a simple price measure. It may not actually work and could lead to overall higher costs in the system."

Opponents of Proposition 61, led by pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer Inc and Amgen Inc, have raised nearly \$110 million to stop its passage ahead of Tuesday's vote. The "No on Prop 61" coalition has stepped up its television and print advertising campaigns in

recent days. Many of the ads feature veterans expressing worry that passage of the ballot measure will increase their drug costs if drugmakers respond by limiting discounts to the VA.

Supporters of the proposition, including the Aids Healthcare Foundation and AARP, which advocates for seniors, have said the plan could save California taxpayers up to \$5.7 billion over 10 years, although a state legislative analysis said the financial impact is not clear. Former Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who has called on Californians to approve Proposition 61, plans to be in the state to stump for the measure starting on Sunday.

Yee said investors are likely to remain nervous heading into next week given the inherent risks in the wider election, which includes the US presidential race, as well as Senate and House con-

tests. They have also expressed concern over Proposition 61's potential to curb drugmaker profits, particularly if it becomes a template for action in other states.

At the same time, RBC expects something of a "relief rally" for industry share prices next Wednesday, given the recent sell-off in healthcare stocks. The Nasdaq Biotechnology index has fallen about 14 percent since mid-September. The NYSE ARCA Pharmaceutical index has dropped about 11 percent over the same period. Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have both advocated measures to reduce healthcare costs. Clinton has been particularly critical of sharp increases in U.S. drug prices, promising tougher oversight, and any big gains for fellow Democratic candidates in Congress could strengthen her hand in that cause. —Reuters

DINNER WITH TV MAY BE A RECIPE FOR LESS HEALTHY MEALS

NEW YORK: Families that eat dinner with the TV on tend to eat less healthy food and to enjoy the meals less than families who leave the TV off, according to a recent US study. This was true even for families that were not paying attention to the TV and only had it on as background noise, the researchers write in the *Journal of Appetite*. "Family meals are protective for many aspects of child health," lead author Amanda Trofholz said by email, adding that parents can take this time to check in with children and teach them about setting limits on their diets. "Having the TV on during the family meal may reduce the opportunity for this connection between family members and blunt the protective effects of the meal," said Trofholz, a researcher at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

To explore the link between TV watching during meals and risk factors for childhood obesity, the study team analyzed video recordings of 120 families that included a child aged 6 to 12. The families were recruited from primary care clinics in Minneapolis between 2012 and 2013 and were mostly from low-income and minority groups. The families recorded two of their family meals using an iPad and reported to the research team what they had eaten and how much they had enjoyed it. The study team assessed the health of the meals themselves, whether a TV was being used and the emotional atmosphere of the meal. Only one third of the families left the TV off during both recorded meals. About a quarter had the TV on for only one meal and 43 percent left the TV on during both meals.

Of the families eating with the TV on, two thirds paid attention to the TV while

the other third only had it on in the background. Families who ate with no TV playing or with the TV on during only one meal enjoyed their meals more than those that watched during both meals. This was true regardless of whether families paid attention to the TV. Families that didn't watch TV during meals ate significantly healthier food than the others. Families that had the TV on but did not pay attention also ate more healthy food than families that actively watched TV while eating. Families eating with the TV on also ate fast food for dinner significantly more often than those with TV-free meals. Children of TV-watching families were not more likely to be overweight or obese than children whose families did not watch TV during meals, however.

"A non-distracted meal environment, without the TV on, is an opportunity for children to enjoy eating, try novel foods and self-regulate eating when healthy options are provided," said Eileen FitzPatrick, an assistant professor at the Sage Colleges in Troy, New York. "Having the TV on during dinner is a distraction which may lead to 'mindless eating' including overeating without realizing it," FitzPatrick, who was not involved in the study, said by email. FitzPatrick added that advertisements on TV market unhealthy foods to children and can shape what foods they prefer to eat for dinner. Families should try to view the family meal as a family event rather than just a necessity, Trofholz said. "Families who see the family meal as a time to connect with and enjoy their families may be more likely to turn off the TV, have a higher quality meal, and enjoy the meal more." —Reuters

HIDDEN DIGITAL ADS PUSHING CHILDREN TO EAT FATTY FOOD, HEALTH EXPERTS WARN

LONDON: Children in Europe are bombarded with hidden digital advertising and marketing promoting fatty, sugary and salty foods that is damaging their health and adding to the region's obesity problem, World Health Organization experts said on Friday. The researchers called for policymakers to do more to protect children from junk food advertising messages on networking sites, games - known as "advergaming" - and other social media.

"Our governments have given the prevention of childhood obesity the highest political priority, (yet) we consistently find that children - our most vulnerable group - are exposed to countless numbers of hidden digital marketing techniques promoting foods high in fat, sugar and salt," said Zsuzsanna Jakab, the WHO's regional director for Europe.

She said in the absence of effective regulation of digital media in many countries, children are increasingly exposed to persuasive,

individually tailored marketing techniques that parents may underestimate, or be unaware of. "Often, parents do not see the same advertisements, nor do they observe the online activities of their children; many therefore underestimate the scale of the problem," said the WHO.

About two-thirds of children who are overweight before puberty will be overweight in early adulthood, and an estimated 25 percent of school-aged children in Europe are already overweight or obese, said the report. Overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and more likely to develop chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease and cancer at a younger age. Gauden Galea, a WHO Europe expert on chronic disease and health promotion, said allowing advertisers and the food industry to target children like this could have "huge health and economic consequences". —Reuters

DO THE BENEFITS OF REAL FRIENDSHIPS TRANSLATE ONLINE?

NEW YORK: A person's Facebook activity might be a window into their health and even predict their odds of dying in the short term, a new study suggests. Researchers stop short of saying that using the social networking website will either hasten or delay illness or death, but they conclude that how a person interacts on the site might say a lot about their level of risk. "We can't say using Facebook is good for you, but I think the study provides evidence that it's probably not bad for you," said James Fowler, the study's senior author, from the University of California, San Diego.

Past studies have found that people with more friends and social ties in their community tend to live longer, Fowler and his coauthors, which include a representative from Facebook, write in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Social connections may promote healthy behaviors, improve immunity and reduce inflammation, the research team writes. But past studies focused on real-life interactions, and it's been less clear if the same was true for online social connections.

For the new study, the researchers used anonymized data on about 12 million Facebook users living in California. All joined the site before October 2010 and were in their 20s through 60s during the first six months of 2011, the period of Facebook activity the researchers analyzed.

The study team tracked deaths and causes of death in the next couple of years by matching subjects to California Department of Public Health records of deaths in 2012 and 2013. In one analysis, the researchers looked at mortality rates among Facebook users and 89,597 non-users matched from

California voter records and found that Facebook users were 12 percent less likely to die during that time. For their other analyses, researchers focused solely on Facebook users and analyzed online activities like sending and accepting "friend requests," posting photos and "liking" other people's updates.

People who were popular and accepted the most friend requests were about 34 percent less likely to die than those who accepted the fewest requests. There was no benefit in sending the most friend requests, though. That result is a bit disappointing since it suggests seeking out new friendships may not lead to health benefits, Fowler told Reuters Health. The types of activities that did or did not seem to come with a lower risk of dying were telling, the researchers write, because the ones tied to a benefit seemed to point to an

active social life offline. They found that people who posted the most photos and the fewest "status updates" were about 30 percent less likely to die over the study period than the average Facebook user, for example.

Knowing the signs

But there was no decreased risk of death for those with the most online-only activities, such as writing wall posts or messages. "We didn't see any relationship between Facebook 'likes' and health," said lead author William Hobbs, of Northeastern University in Boston. The findings suggest real-life interactions drive any possible decrease in a person's risk of death, according to the researchers. Their analysis suggests the lowest risk of death was among people tagged in the most Facebook photos and those who engage on the website a moderate amount.

Knowing the signs of healthy behavior or risk might lead to ways of using Facebook to identify people at risk and promote healthy interventions, according to Fowler. For instance, knowing that certain activities on Facebook are tied to an increased risk of death from causes like suicide or heart disease can help researchers design programs that will flag the risk and allow a user's friends to intervene, he said. "These are really inexpensive interventions that can reach hundreds, thousands and possibly even millions of people," said Dr Michael Thase, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Similar programs could possibly be run through other social media, too, said Thase, who wasn't involved with the new study. "The monitoring function that's possible with social media-to know risks-is a good thing," he told Reuters Health. —Reuters



A general view of the mangrove field of Joal.



Farmers work in an oyster cultivation field in the mangrove of Joal.



This general view shows a portion of the mangrove field of Joal.

MANGROVE PROTECTION KEY TO SURVIVAL FOR SENEGALESE COMMUNITY

ALL THESE SPECIES ARE VICTIMS OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE MANGROVE

JOAL, Senegal: Pelicans, flamingos, monkeys and even hyenas are under threat in Senegal along with the livelihoods of the local people as thick clusters of mangroves are disappearing. And it seems that not even an ancestral spirit can save them. The protected marine area (AMP) of Joal in western Senegal, just to the north of the Gambia, is home to an incredibly rich biodiversity. The hardy mangrove shrubs thrive in salty water, thick mud and hot, humid conditions that would kill most other plants. Part of Senegal's peaceful Petite Cote, Joal's mangroves are being eroded by a combination of factors, including global warming, deforestation, public works, oyster and clam fishing, salination of the fresh water river and drought.

All along the riverbed, great swathes of sandy dunes have appeared in place of the once suffocating canopy of mangroves. "The empty spaces are areas where the mangrove has disappeared," said Abdoulaye Sagna, a manager at the Joal AMP. Mangroves are not just tough survivors. Scientists now believe the swamps are hugely important to the well-being of the planet as a whole. Senegal's mangrove system supports a vast range of species and organisms. Baobab trees and acacia shrubs grow in between the tangled roots, which are a habitat for molluscs, crabs and insects.

Animals such as monkeys and hyenas also live in the mangroves, and flamingos, pelicans, terns, herons and other types of birds nest in the trees. "All these species are victims of the disappearance of the mangrove," added Sagna. The protected area may be vast but outside of the AMP, the mangrove is receding, according to Abdou Karim Sall, a member of the Joal AMP's organizing committee.

'Degraded' mangroves

But he insists that the establishment of the 174-square-kilometre



JOAL-FADIOUT, Senegal: Abdoulaye Sagna, a manager of the Protected Marine Area (AMP) of Joal gestures while standing on the limit of the mangrove. —AFP photos

(67-square-mile) protected area has had a positive effect on safeguarding the local environment. "There was nothing here, no mangroves, but from 2009 we started reforesting," said Sall. "In villages not covered by the AMP, the mangrove is more degraded. We fear it will disappear in certain areas where entire hectares have been cut down." Despite the reforestation policy, Senegal is losing much of its mangroves, not least to those looking for firewood and construction materials.

"Senegal has lost 40 percent of its mangroves since the 1970s," said ecologist Haidar El Ali, a former minister of the environment. As the mangroves recede, it is becoming harder to find oysters and clams, which are among the mainstays of the local economy. "Before, all you needed to do was go 10 metres (32 feet) into the river to find oysters

and clams. But now, you have to go much further," complained Marie-Madeleine Diouf, head of a group of seafood traders in Joal. "We can't find the quantity we want and demand is increasing."

Other than the abundant mollusc fishing, Joal-famous for being the birthplace of Senegal's first president, Leopold Sedar Senghor, is also known for tourism and local handicrafts, based on clam shells and sea snails found at the island of Fadiout, which is linked to Joal by a bridge.

Ancestral spirit

But that has attracted many unscrupulous outsiders, and not even a local spirit in the deeply superstitious society can keep them from exploiting the mangroves. "Joal's ancestral spirit, Mama Ngueth, the town's protector, banned the cutting down of man-

groves," said Sall. "Everyone respected that ban and belief in that spirit was a factor in the conservation of the mangrove." But now there are a lot of migrants in Joal who couldn't care less about this spirit, or the conservation of the mangrove. "One solution has been to build an oyster farm in Joal to boost production. Yet another is to try to protect young molluscs."

Oyster farmer Leopold Ndong wields a knife to cut oysters from the intertwined mangrove roots to "plant" them in mud. "These are spat, baby oysters... After a year they will be mature," he said. According to Diouf, the fight to preserve the mangroves is not a forlorn one and is worth the effort. "We have to replant every day because people keep cutting (down mangroves)," she said. "People will keep cutting, and we'll keep replanting." —AFP

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MCDONALD'S LAUNCHES ITS NEW 'SIGNATURE COLLECTION' OF PREMIUM BURGERS

McDonald's Kuwait announced the launch of the newest addition to its menu with the new "Signature Collection", crafted using the highest quality pure and Halal 100% Angus beef and white chicken breasts. Customers can look forward to enjoying three new premium burgers made with the finest ingredients sourced from around the world: "The Mushroom", "The Clubhouse" and "The Chicken Mexicano".

McDonald's "The Mushroom" features a 100% Halal and pure premi-

um cut of thick juicy Angus beef patty which is offered with this big size for the first time at McDonald's. It is a mouth-watering mushrooms topped with good old-fashioned American cheddar cheese, gooey caramelized onion rings and a tasty black pepper mayo all brought together in a delicious buttered artisan Bun.

The "Clubhouse" beautifully brings together the golden-brown butter artisan roll, the tangy Big Mac sauce, caramelized onion rings, prime cuts of Angus beef, ground

into a generously thick juicy patty

topped with crispy beef Bacon Strips, lettuce leaf, Tomato slice, Emmental Cheese, finished up with another twist of Big Mac Sauce.

While chicken lover will drool over the new "The Chicken Mexicano", which comes in a golden-brown butter artisan roll, smothered in creamy mayonnaise, with melt-in-your-mouth delicious Emmental Cheese, a succulent white chicken breast breaded to perfection, and fiery Jalapenos, all topped off with a thick layer of zesty guacamole.

McDonald's is committed to serv-

ing the very best, and will not compromise on food quality. All products served at all McDonald's restaurants in the Middle East are Halal, inspected and approved by local authorities and Halal officers at the countries of export and customs officials at the port of entry. Chicken used in McDonald's restaurants can be traced back to a trusted supplier that shares its dedication to the highest quality standards. McDonald's ensures 100% supplier eligibility before adding any source to its database of approved suppliers.



KAMCO ORGANIZES DENTAL AWARENESS SESSION FOR EMPLOYEES

KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, organized a dental awareness session for its employees as part of the firm's ongoing corporate social responsibility initiative. The session

included a brief lecture about dental care, followed by a question and answer session with a dental surgeon from AKNAN Dental Center.

The purpose of the session was to educate employees on the importance of regular dental checkups,

causes and dangers of plaque buildup, and maintain proper dental hygiene. Dr Ahmed Abdelhaq led the internal dental awareness lecture and then gave employees a chance to address their dental concerns and queries while getting professional consultation. KAMCO employees also received exclusive offers from the dental center, as part of the campaign.

Ms Danah Al Jasem, Vice President and Head of the Marketing Department at KAMCO said, "We would like to thank Dr Ahmed and AKNAN Dental Center for their collaborative efforts with the Marketing team to deliver another successful internal event for KAMCO employees. Dental hygiene is an important issue that can lead to risky health conditions if not addressed appropriately with special care. This is yet another step in our corporate social responsibility initiative to organize informative sessions focusing on health, education and the environment, positively influencing our society."



AUK RECEIVES ABET ACCREDITATION ON COMPUTER ENGINEERING PROGRAM

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) announced that its Bachelor of Engineering (BE) in Computer Engineering has received accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, making it the first private university in Kuwait to receive this accreditation for its Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering.

Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Chair of the Board of Trustees of AUK, announced the news during the AUK Board of Trustees meeting. At the meeting, she thanked President Nizar Hamzeh, along with the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr Rawda Awwad, and the Chair and Faculty of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering for their commitment to this achievement. Sheikha Dana also recognized the diligent efforts of the Chair and

members of the AUK ABET steering committee whose hard work led to this milestone. "Collecting such acco-



Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah

lades goes in line with our commitment to graduate global citizens whose accomplishments speak of

the quality of knowledge and skills they gained at AUK," expressed Sheikha Dana.

Sought worldwide, ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision, and safety are of the utmost importance. Developed by technical professionals from ABET's member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn. ABET accreditation reviews look at program curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support and are conducted by teams of highly skilled professionals from industry, academia, and government, with expertise in the ABET disciplines.

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It currently accredits almost 3,500 programs at nearly 700 colleges and universities in 28 countries.



IEI KUWAIT CHAPTER ENGINEERS' DAY

The Institution of Engineers (India), Kuwait Chapter is pleased to announce the upcoming 49th Engineers' Day celebration today in Kuwait.

This day is celebrated in memory of Bharat Ratna, Sir M Visvesvaraya, greatest Engineer and Statesman of India on his birth anniversary. In addition to Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain, many dignitaries and distinguished guests from ministries, universities, KSE, KISR, engineers, technocrats, consultants, decision makers and business leaders will be attending the function. The theme for this year Engineers' Day is "Skill Development for Young Engineers to Reform the Core Sector: Vision 2025." Details are as below: Date: 7th November 2016, Monday Venue: Multi-Purpose Hall, Arab Fund Building, Shuwaikh. Time: 6:30pm onwards. The Registration will start at 6:30pm followed by function starting at 7:00pm. Please register your name through www.ieikuwait.org by clicking Event Attendance or kindly send an email to ieikwt@hotmail.com. Prior registration is must and all members are advised to be seated 10 minutes prior to the arrival of VIPs. For any question, please call at the chapter's office between 5:30pm and 8:30pm at 22445588 Extn. 314 or Contact Engr. Mohandas Kamath (Mob: 67030055) / Engr Sudhir Menghani (Mob: 97987455). Security badges will be issued. We look forward your participation in large numbers.



GTRC AND MAJD FOOD COMPANY SIGN NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Majd Food Company has appointed Gulf Trading and Refrigerating Company (GTRC), one of Alghanim Industries' businesses, as the sole and exclusive distributor of the Majdi brand in the local market. Ihab Al-Khatib, Vice President of GTRC, inaugurated this significant occasion alongside Majid Abdoh, Chief Executive Officer of Majd Food Company. The event took place at the JW Marriott in Kuwait City on November 2nd and was attended by many distinguished guests from the industry, key retailers and the local media.

GTRC is one of the prominent and largest Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) distributors in the local market. In 2008, it was ranked as the "number 1" distributor in Kuwait by ACNielsen, an independent global marketing research firm.

Majd Food Company, (MFC) owner of the well renowned "Majdi" brand, operates successfully and regionally in the FMCG field of grinding and packaging of spices, grains, seasonings and herbs. Since the brand's inception in 1961, MFC has been offering a wide range of prod-



ucts manufactured to the highest quality standards while offering competitive prices that suit different groups and segments of society.

Speaking on the occasion, Ihab Al-Khatib, Vice President of GTRC, commented: "We are adding to our portfolio one of Kuwait's most demanded brands-Majdi.

organization has detailed knowledge of the Kuwaiti market, and is committed to providing quality services to both our customers and suppliers, selling to all hypermarkets, supermarkets and grocery stores that are covering every corner of Kuwait. Our coverage shall also extend to non-traditional channels such as hotels and restaurants. Utilizing our extensive distribution network and Alghanim Industries' customer-centric approach, our priority will always be to satisfy our consumers' needs in Kuwait, at all points of sale."

In parallel, Majid Abdoh, Chief Executive Officer of Majd Food Company, stated: "On behalf of Majd Food Company, we are pleased and looking forward to working closely with a market leader in the FMCG distribution industry like GTRC. Together we plan to innovate and introduce a new range of product lines that will fulfill current and future needs of the market. This partnership marks a new era in the food industry, where two of the most noteworthy market players will collaboratively work hand-in-hand to deliver the highest quality products for our consumers in Kuwait."

Kuwait Music Academy opens the violin class for students of all ages and levels. We have a great pleasure to welcome on board our new violin teacher Kamoliddin Husanov from the National Conservatory of Tashkent. He performed solo and with orchestra all over the world. He performed solo and with orchestra all over the world.





IWG HOSTS FAMOUS RUSSIAN FASHION DESIGNER

By Faten Omar

The International Women's Group (IWG) held its monthly meeting on Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Narjes Al-Shatti, Board Member of IWG, told Kuwait Times "We are in the second month of our cultural season. Today's event is about fashion, where Elena, wife of the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait, invited Alexandre Vassiliev, a popular Russian fashion designer. He will give a lecture about his experience in fashion and tell our members about the history of the industry, fabrics, and traditional weaving." She stated that Vassiliev is going to host a fashion show for the international women's day in Kuwait soon.

Vassiliev said "I'm a stage designer. This is my first visit to Kuwait but I have been teaching and performing in the Gulf area mainly in Dubai. I'm looking forward to know more about Kuwaiti designs." Adding "I have been invited by the Embassy of Russia to talk about fashion subjects related to the east since I worked in Turkey where I was stage designer at the Turkish Opera. I worked in many countries as well such as China, Singapore, and Japan." Vassiliev revealed that he is going to organize an exhibition about historical fashion. "I'm a collector and have 55000 historical cloths in my collection and would love to bring it to Kuwait," he said.

Shatti noted that the painting and cooking workshops will be continued in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in Abdulaziz Hussein Cultural Center in Mishref, and the cooking classes at Ruby Tuesday. The IWG will also organize this month's sports activities for its members at Al-Shaheed Park.

Operation Turtles 2016



JAPANESE SOCIETY'S BEACH CLEANING CAMPAIGN

Japanese Association, will conduct the 16th beach cleaning up campaign, called "Operation Turtles" on Saturday, November 12th at Shuwaikh Beach Park, AM10:30-12:00, jointly with Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS). We hope that this volunteer "beach cleaning" event will enhance people's awareness of environment protection.

AAW SPONSORS MENTOR ARABIA'S GALA DINNER FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Under the auspices of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) announced it had sponsored Mentor Arabia's gala dinner under the theme, "Hand in Hand" in Kuwait on October 22.

Hosted at the private ballroom of AAW Chairman and Vice Chairman of Board of Trustees of Mentor Arabia Mr. Faisal Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa, the event was attended by President of Mentor International, Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, and Chairman of Mentor Arabia, Prince Turki Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz.

Mentor Arabia is a regional non-profit organization that aims to provide access to a safe and healthy life for children and youth through empowering them, arming them with knowledge, and enhancing their self-confidence to fight all forms of dangerous behaviors and challenges they might face.

More than 350 guests from public and private institutions worldwide attended to take a close look at the work of Mentor Arabia. The dinner included the distribution of Mentor Arabia Awards for young activists and influencers who have had a positive impact on social development, in addition to a live sand show about the foundation's work over the last 10 years. The event concluded with a display of



Kuwaiti heritage through an orchestra playing melodies conveying Kuwait's history and culture.

AAW Chairman, Mr Faisal Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa said in his opening address: "Companies, governments

and individuals have a duty to support non-profit institutions, and at AAW our objectives converge with those of Mentor Arabia in terms of the development of effective awareness programs, serving social issues, and empowering

children and young people. Together, we aim to provide them with the appropriate means to use their energy in a positive way, as well as helping them with any problems they might face in the future."

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 Gator Boys
- 01:45 Mountain Monsters
- 02:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 03:35 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 06:02 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 06:49 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 07:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:15 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Crime Scene Wild
- 18:25 River Monsters
- 19:20 My Cat From Hell
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Untamed & Uncut
- 22:05 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 23:00 My Cat From Hell
- 23:55 Gator Boys

- 17:10 Evil Online
- 18:00 Evil Online
- 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:30 I'd Kill For You
- 21:20 Nowhere To Hide
- 22:10 I Almost Got Away With It
- 23:00 Guns On Campus: Tamron Hall Investigates
- 23:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen



- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Violetta
- 01:45 The Hive
- 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:40 Hank Zipzer
- 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:30 Violetta
- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 06:00 Violetta
- 06:45 The Hive
- 06:50 Mouk
- 07:00 Jessie
- 07:25 Jessie
- 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 08:20 Liv And Maddie
- 08:45 Bunk'd
- 09:10 Austin & Ally
- 09:35 Shake It Up
- 10:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:50 That's So Raven
- 11:15 That's So Raven
- 11:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:30 Jessie
- 12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 13:00 The 7D
- 13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 13:40 Hank Zipzer
- 14:05 Star Darlings
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:35 Austin & Ally
- 15:00 Dog With A Blog
- 15:25 Jessie
- 15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 16:15 Hank Zipzer
- 16:40 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:05 Star Darlings
- 17:10 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:00 Backstage
- 18:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:30 Liv And Maddie
- 18:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:00 Jessie
- 19:25 Star Darlings
- 19:30 Bunk'd
- 19:55 Descendants Wicked World
- 20:00 Best Friends Whenever
- 20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts

- 12:00 Goldie & Bear
- 12:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 13:00 The Hive
- 13:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 13:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 14:30 Doc McStuffins
- 15:00 Sofia The First
- 15:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 16:30 Doc McStuffins
- 17:00 The Lion Guard
- 17:30 PJ Masks
- 18:00 Sofia The First
- 18:30 Goldie & Bear
- 19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:00 Doc McStuffins
- 20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:00 PJ Masks
- 21:30 The Lion Guard
- 22:00 PJ Masks
- 22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 23:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse



- 00:20 Street Outlaws
- 01:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
- 02:00 Curiosity: Devil's Triangle
- 02:50 Rebel Gold
- 03:40 Fast N' Loud
- 04:30 Extreme Collectors
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Deadliest Catch
- 06:50 Street Outlaws
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Gold Divers
- 09:20 Extreme Collectors
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Wheeler Dealers
- 11:25 Guy Martin: Fastest Man On Two Wheels
- 12:15 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 12:40 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 13:30 Storage Hunters
- 13:55 Extreme Collectors
- 14:20 Alaskan Bush People
- 15:10 Gold Divers
- 16:00 Deadliest Catch
- 16:50 Fast N' Loud
- 17:40 Street Outlaws
- 18:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 Gold Divers
- 20:10 Storage Hunters
- 20:35 Extreme Collectors
- 21:00 Gold Rush
- 22:40 Railroad Australia
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud



- 06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 06:25 K.C. Undercover
- 06:50 The 7D
- 07:00 Phineas And Ferb
- 07:15 Atomic Puppet
- 07:40 Danger Mouse



LAST KNIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- Kardashians
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 E! News
- 07:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:45 Courtney & Kim Take New York
- 10:10 E! News
- 10:40 Courtney & Kim Take New York
- 11:35 Celebrity Style Story
- 15:00 E! News
- 15:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 17:00 WAGS Miami
- 18:00 WAGS Miami

- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Keep It In The Family
- 15:10 The Chase
- 16:00 Broadchurch
- 16:55 Brief Encounters
- 17:50 Mr Selfridge
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 20:10 The Chase
- 21:00 Broadchurch
- 21:55 Brief Encounters
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Coronation Street

- 20:00 Cool Spaces
- 20:50 The Food Files
- 21:15 The Game Chef
- 22:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 22:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 22:55 American Food Battle
- 23:20 Croatia's Finest



- 00:00 Hammer Of The Gods
- 02:00 Snakehead Swamp
- 04:00 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem
- 06:00 Faster
- 08:00 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
- 10:00 The Maze Runner
- 12:00 Airplane vs. Volcano
- 14:00 Faster
- 16:00 Last Knights
- 18:00 The Maze Runner
- 20:00 Sabotage
- 22:00 Public Enemies



- 01:00 The Girl
- 03:00 No God No Master
- 05:00 Don't Wake Mommy
- 07:00 Viktor
- 09:00 Breaking Through
- 11:00 The Girl
- 13:00 No God No Master
- 15:00 Stolen From Suburbia
- 17:00 Breaking Through
- 19:00 The Reluctant Fundamentalist
- 21:30 Roadside
- 23:30 Plus One

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 It Takes A Killer
- 00:30 It Takes A Killer
- 01:00 The Haunting Of...
- 02:00 My Haunted House
- 03:00 The Jersey Slayings
- 04:00 It Takes A Killer
- 04:30 It Takes A Killer
- 05:00 The Haunting Of...
- 06:00 My Haunted House
- 07:00 Homicide Hunter
- 08:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 09:00 Homicide Hunter
- 10:00 The First 48
- 11:00 It Takes A Killer
- 11:30 Private Crimes
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 13:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 14:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 15:00 Homicide Hunter
- 16:00 It Takes A Killer
- 16:30 Private Crimes
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 20:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 21:00 It Takes A Killer
- 21:30 Private Crimes
- 22:00 Homicide Hunter
- 23:00 Gangs Of Britain...

Discovery Family

- 00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
- 01:30 Man v Expert
- 02:00 Man v Expert
- 02:10 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 03:00 Dirty Jobs
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival



THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 04:40 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:30 Man v Expert
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Dirty Jobs
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:05 How It's Made
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Kenny The Shark
- 16:35 Doki
- 17:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 17:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 17:50 Pick A Puppy
- 18:15 Pick A Puppy
- 18:40 Redesign My Brain
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 22:00 Pick A Puppy
- 22:25 Pick A Puppy
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival

- 20:30 Jessie
- 20:55 Liv And Maddie
- 21:20 Austin & Ally
- 21:45 Backstage
- 22:10 Girl Meets World
- 22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 23:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



- 00:00 Doc McStuffins
- 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopedidoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopedidoo
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 03:00 Calimero
- 03:15 Zou
- 03:30 Loopedidoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:45 Loopedidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopedidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopedidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 08:30 The Lion Guard
- 09:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 09:40 Goldie & Bear
- 10:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 10:10 Doc McStuffins
- 10:30 PJ Masks
- 10:40 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Doc McStuffins

- 07:50 Counterfeit Cat
- 08:05 Future Worm
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:00 Supa Strikas
- 09:25 Supa Strikas
- 09:50 Danger Mouse
- 10:20 Annetroids
- 10:45 Annetroids
- 11:10 Counterfeit Cat
- 11:35 K.C. Undercover
- 12:00 K.C. Undercover
- 12:30 Gravity Falls
- 12:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 13:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 13:45 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Supa Strikas
- 14:40 Supa Strikas
- 15:05 Lab Rats
- 15:30 Danger Mouse
- 15:55 Kirby Buckets
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Annetroids
- 17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:40 K.C. Undercover
- 18:05 Future Worm
- 18:10 Gravity Falls
- 18:35 Counterfeit Cat
- 19:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 19:25 Supa Strikas
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:45 Mighty Med
- 21:10 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister
- 22:35 Boyster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 00:00 Private Chef
- 01:00 Restaurant Takeover
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Man Fire Food
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:00 The Kitchen
- 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:00 Chopped
- 11:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:00 Man Fire Food
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 The Kitchen
- 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Iron Chef America
- 19:00 Restaurant Stakeout
- 20:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:00 Restaurant Takeover
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Restaurant Stakeout



- 00:10 Keep It In The Family
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 03:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 04:20 5 Star Family Reunion
- 05:15 Mr Selfridge
- 06:10 Keep It In The Family
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 09:00 Surprise Surprise
- 10:00 Mr Selfridge
- 10:55 Keep It In The Family
- 11:50 The Chase: Celebrity Specials



- 00:10 Fearless Chef
- 01:00 American Food Battle
- 01:25 Croatia's Finest
- 02:15 Eat Street
- 02:40 Bangkok Airport
- 03:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 03:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 04:20 Fearless Chef
- 05:10 Raw Travel
- 05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 06:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 06:25 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 06:50 American Food Battle
- 07:15 Croatia's Finest
- 08:05 Eat Street
- 08:30 Bangkok Airport
- 09:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 09:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 10:10 Fearless Chef
- 11:00 Raw Travel
- 11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 11:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 12:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 12:40 American Food Battle
- 13:05 Croatia's Finest
- 14:00 Eat Street
- 14:30 Bangkok Airport
- 15:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:50 Cool Spaces
- 16:45 The Food Files
- 17:15 The Game Chef
- 18:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 18:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 19:05 Eat Street
- 19:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:00 Gulliver's Travels
- 03:00 House Arrest
- 05:00 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
- 07:00 Three Wishes
- 09:00 Peter Pan Live!
- 11:15 Monsters University
- 13:00 Get Santa
- 15:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight
- 17:00 Mousehunt
- 19:00 Max
- 21:00 My Girl
- 23:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:00 Manglehorn
- 03:00 The Song
- 05:00 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- 07:00 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 09:00 The Duff
- 11:00 A Kind Of Murder
- 13:00 Kept Woman
- 15:00 To Write Love On Her Arms
- 16:45 The Rewrite
- 18:45 Jurassic World
- 21:00 The Gift
- 23:00 Spotlight

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Cyrus
- 02:00 Forces Of Nature
- 04:00 A Madea Christmas
- 06:00 The Single Moms Club
- 08:00 Jack
- 10:00 A Madea Christmas
- 12:00 Forces Of Nature
- 14:00 Coneheads
- 16:00 Jack
- 18:00 Just Married
- 20:00 Awful Nice
- 22:00 Someone Marry Barry

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:15 Dr. Strangelove
- 03:00 Days Of Heaven
- 05:00 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- 07:00 One Fine Day
- 09:00 Walking On Sunshine
- 11:00 Dr. Strangelove
- 13:00 Days Of Heaven
- 15:00 The Village
- 17:00 Walking On Sunshine
- 19:00 Lost River
- 21:00 Hard Eight
- 23:00 Tusk

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 04:15 Blackie And Kanuto
- 06:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 07:30 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas
- 09:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
- 10:45 Worms
- 12:30 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 14:15 Cher Ami
- 16:00 Marco Macaco
- 18:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
- 20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
- 22:00 Cher Ami
- 23:45 Marco Macaco

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Uncle Buck
- 00:30 Scrubs
- 01:00 Scrubs
- 01:30 Web Therapy
- 02:00 Web Therapy
- 02:30 Boredom
- 03:00 2 Broke Girls
- 03:30 Life In Pieces
- 04:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

- 05:30 George Lopez
- 06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 08:30 George Lopez
- 09:00 2 Broke Girls
- 09:30 Mad Love
- 10:00 Modern Family
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 12:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 13:00 George Lopez
- 13:30 Community
- 14:00 Life In Pieces
- 14:30 Mad Love
- 15:00 Modern Family
- 15:30 Scrubs
- 16:00 Scrubs
- 16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 2 Broke Girls
- 18:30 Life In Pieces
- 19:00 Mad Love
- 19:30 Modern Family
- 20:00 Truth Be Told
- 20:30 Uncle Buck
- 21:00 Scrubs
- 21:30 Scrubs
- 22:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
- 22:30 Modern Family
- 23:00 Bordertown
- 23:30 Truth Be Told



- 00:15 How Do They Do It?
- 01:05 What On Earth?
- 01:55 Food Factory
- 04:00 Ways To Save The Planet
- 05:36 Nextworld
- 08:50 Mega Engineering
- 09:40 Nextworld
- 10:30 How Do They Do It?
- 10:55 Food Factory
- 11:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 12:10 Nextworld
- 13:00 Mega Engineering
- 13:50 How Do They Do It?
- 14:15 Food Factory
- 14:40 Nextworld
- 15:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 16:20 Nextworld
- 17:10 Mega Engineering
- 18:00 Nextworld
- 18:50 Nextworld
- 19:40 Mythbusters
- 20:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 21:20 Cosmic Collisions
- 22:10 Curiosity: Sun Storm
- 23:00 Invent It Rich
- 23:50 Mythbusters



- 00:20 Love, Lust Or Run
- 00:45 Love, Lust Or Run
- 01:10 Nine Months Later
- 02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 02:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 02:50 Love At First Swipe
- 03:15 Cake Boss
- 03:35 Cake Boss
- 04:00 Cake Boss
- 04:20 Little People, Big World
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 06:50 Separated At Birth
- 07:40 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 08:30 Little People, Big World
- 08:55 Little People, Big World
- 09:20 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 10:10 Love At First Swipe
- 10:35 Cake Boss
- 11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 12:40 Cake Boss
- 13:05 Cake Boss
- 13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
- 13:55 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
- 14:20 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 16:00 Little People, Big World
- 16:25 Little People, Big World
- 16:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 17:15 Jon & Kate Plus 8

HARD EIGHT

IT'S LIVING THE EASY LIFE... THE HARD WAY



HARD EIGHT ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD

CLASSIFIEDS



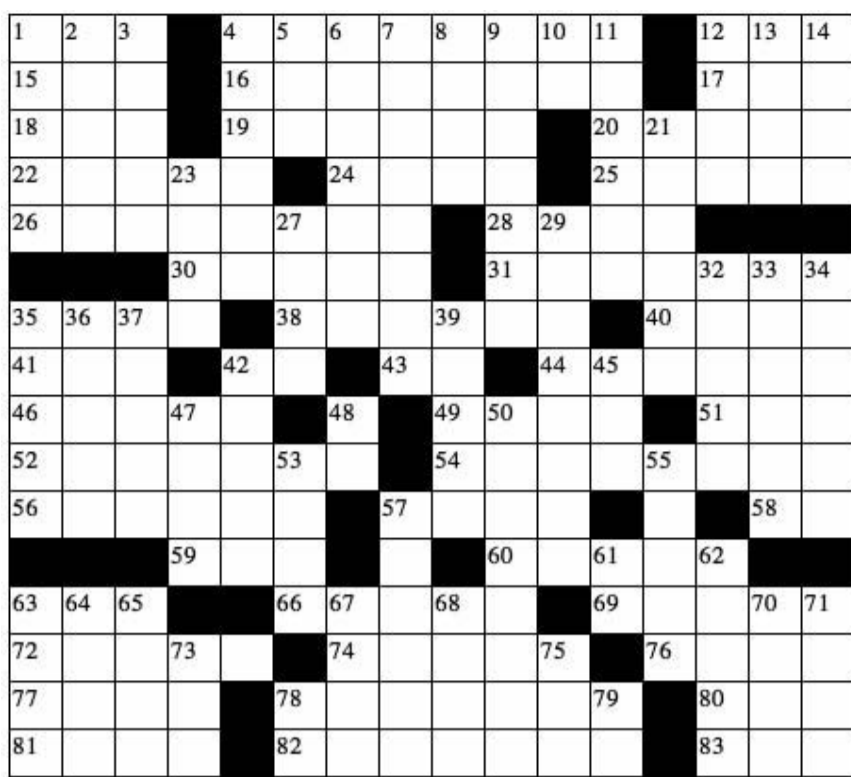
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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (03/11/2016 TO 09/11/2016)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
1:15 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS	6:45 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW	8:15 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE	12:45 AM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D
1:30 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS	8:30 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW	10:15 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE	NO FRI+SAT	2:30 PM
3:30 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS	11:00 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW	12:15 AM	DOCTOR STRANGE	TROLLS -3D	3:00 PM
3:45 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS	12:45 AM	UNDER THE SHADOW			FRI+SAT	3:00 PM
5:45 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS					TROLLS -3D	5:00 PM
7:45 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS					TROLLS -3D	7:00 PM
9:45 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS					TROLLS -3D	9:00 PM
12:05 AM	AMERICAN PASTORAL TROLLS					DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	11:00 PM
12:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
2:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
5:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
7:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
10:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
12:30 AM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
11:30 AM	THE ACCOUNTANT						
2:15 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
4:15 PM	THE ACCOUNTANT						
7:00 PM	AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi						
10:00 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
12:15 AM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
11:30 AM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK						
1:45 PM	THE ACCOUNTANT						
4:15 PM	THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX						
6:30 PM	AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi						
9:30 PM	THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX						
11:45 PM	THE ACCOUNTANT						
1:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
1:30 PM	TROLLS						
3:30 PM	TROLLS						
5:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
8:00 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
10:15 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
12:30 AM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
12:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
2:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
5:00 PM	TROLLS -3D						
7:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
9:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE -3D						
12:05 AM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
11:45 AM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK						
2:15 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK						
4:45 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
11:30 AM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
1:30 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
3:45 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
6:00 PM	AMERICAN PASTORAL						
6:45 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
8:30 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
11:00 PM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
12:45 AM	UNDER THE SHADOW						
1:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
3:15 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
5:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
7:45 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
10:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
12:15 AM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
12:00 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE						
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CROSSWORD 1423



ACROSS

1. The airforce of Great Britain.
4. Not one of the first three in a race or competition.
12. Edible tuber of any of several yams.
15. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
16. A city in southeastern Sicily that was founded by Corinthians in the 8th century BC.
17. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
18. A road that takes traffic around the edge of a town.
19. A store or supply (especially of food or clothing or arms).
20. A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
22. Muslum name for God.
24. A category of things distinguished by some common characteristic or quality.
25. The amount a salary is increased.
26. Husk of a pea.
28. United States inventor who manufactured the first elevator with a safety device (1811-1861).
30. Any system of principles or beliefs.
31. Rheumatic or myalgic pains in the arms or legs.
35. Not only so, but.
38. A road that takes traffic around the edge of a town.
40. Old World wild swine having a narrow body and prominent tusks from which most domestic swine come.
41. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
43. A state in northwestern North America.
44. A psychological state induced by (or as if induced by) a magical incantation.
46. A group of biological taxa or species that share features inherited from a common ancestor.
49. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
51. A loud harsh or strident noise.
52. Type genus of the Carriamidae comprising only the crested cariam.
54. According with custom or propriety.
56. Towards the shore from the water.
58. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
59. An advanced law degree.
60. A switch made from the stems of the rattan palms.
63. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
66. Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the legs.
69. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
72. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
74. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
76. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
77. An interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open.
80. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public.
81. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
82. French neurologist who tried to use hypnotism to cure hysteria (1825-1893).
83. A score in baseball made by a runner touching all four bases safely.

DOWN

1. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.

2. Small arboreal tropical American insectivorous lizards with the ability to change skin color.
3. A boy or man.
4. Irish prelate who deduced from the Bible that Creation occurred in the year 4004 BC (1581-1656).
5. A luminance unit equal to 1 candle per square meter measured perpendicular to the rays from the source.
6. The patterns of stress and intonation in a language.
7. The levorotatory form of dopa (trade names Bendopa and Brocadopa and Larodopa).
8. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
9. Money collected under a tariff.
10. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
11. An analgesic for mild pain.
12. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
13. Type genus of the Anatidae.
14. Produced by a manufacturing process.
21. Melon having yellowish rind and whitish flesh.
23. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
27. An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
29. Testacean rhizopods.
32. A Dravidian language spoken by the Gond people in south central India.
33. French tragedian who based his works on Greek and Roman themes (1639-1699).
34. A genus of tropical Asian and Malaysian palm trees.
36. A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
37. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
39. Jordan's port.
42. Relating to or resembling or made of or adorned with pearls or mother-of-pearl.
45. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.
47. Any of a class of alcohols having 2 hydroxyl groups in each molecule.
48. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
50. An iron-clad vessel built by the Confederate forces in the hope of breaking the blockade imposed by the North.
53. A written proposal or reminder.
55. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
57. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
61. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
62. An extreme state of adversity.
64. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
65. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
67. The 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
68. Queen of England as the 6th wife of Henry VIII (1512-1548).
70. Chevrotaian somewhat larger than the kanchil.
71. A primeval personification of air and breath.
73. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
75. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
78. A white trivalent metallic element.
79. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.

Yesterday's Solution

M	E	S	H		K	N	E	E	C	A	P		P	M	S		
A	N	T	I		E	A	R	L	O	B	E		L	A	M		
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S	I	N	E	C	U	R	E					D	I	S	M	A	L
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E	R	A	S	E		B			R	A	B	A	D	A	N		
G	A	B			C	A	M	I	O	N			C	O	C	A	
I	N	S	U	L	A	T	E			P	A	C		G	N	P	
L	E	O	N	I	D	A	S			E		R	A	M	E	E	
P	A	R	C	A	E			A	S	C	H		D	A	D	A	
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A	M			I				S	M	I	T	E		D	A	B	A
C	A	L	P	A	C			A	R	E	N	A			G	A	L
I	A	A			S	P	A	R	E	R	I	B			H	A	G
D	R	Y			H	A	C	I	E	N	D	A			A	L	A

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could find yourself on top of the roof, decorating for the winter season. This is a great time to be with others and to work in a group toward some fun happening. Just being yourself, living your life for the moment, being here-this is your attitude today. Others sense that your life is important. You are very sensitive, even vulnerable when it comes to expressing yourself. This creative intensity is good for music, poetry and art-particularly today. You go shopping with young people this afternoon to show them the importance of organic shopping. Most pesticides collect in apples, bell peppers, peaches, peanuts, raisins, spinach, strawberries and tomatoes-you encourage organic purchases that do not have these pesticides.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new subjects are some of the thoughts coming up in your mind now. It is possible that, like many of us-you are just ready to put on the feedbag and watch a movie, see the sports or just enjoy the break from the usual routine. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open new doors of opportunity. Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are having a special appeal now; transmitting ideas on a broad scale brings gain. Marriage and other close relationships give rise to great expectations-a new cycle begins in your life. This is a time to enjoy and appreciate your ties to others. Your support system-family, home and those who give you nourishment-seems more secure.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find your attention drawn to subjects like law, politics, education, travel or religion. Perhaps there is some special crime story you have been following lately. You have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts and common sense seems to rule with you. You may enjoy reading true crime stories for the ability to learn more of the psychology side of humanity. Whatever the case, this is the area of the library or bookstore where you may find yourself during your day. When discussing the latest crime you may find yourself listening carefully to other insights. Most of your day is most positive and this little sidetrack is just a helpful pathway to solving and understanding the many personalities that live in this world.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A time of expanding your mental horizon is at hand. Religion, philosophy, law and education are some of the things that may have special importance for you now. You may have become involved with some new realm of learning. Being in touch with faraway people and places satisfies an intellectual yearning-curiosity will take you anywhere and maybe everywhere. You love new or different theories and insights from people but you may discover that there is nothing new under the sun. Perhaps that is your life lesson; it could be only part of the lesson. It is about time you show off your creative work and an art gallery may have an interest in representing you. A friend might even help you sell your work. You will soon profit from your creative abilities.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A meeting with someone older or in authority is in order today. You may spend a great deal of time planning or worrying about the results for this person. The end may not go the way you think. You must realize that you are not in control-even if you have a piece of paper that says you are in control. As long as you do everything to create a positive outcome with this senior, everything will be positive. You will be pleased with your success in the sharing and receiving of new family information this afternoon. Your timing is perfect and others will find you most capable. Travel plans can be discussed or an event can be planned. This evening you can relax and just sit back and enjoy what you have, to live life. Romance is possible tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You appreciate a winner and are drawn to the successful and powerful-politics and such. You may make your living by virtue of your good taste, sense of quality and discrimination. New ways to organize and discipline yourself are possible. Here is an opportunity to get some insight into some of your problems and responsibilities that may prove very valuable in the years to come. A new cycle begins, signaling a greater than usual interest in relationships, social connections and the arts, on a more intellectual level than in the past, most likely. Seeing both sides of issues and finding resolutions to opposing views take on more importance in your life. You are determined to break up old habits-get out of ruts, etc. Bravo!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Plans for travel, social get-togethers and other ways to enjoy the people and things that you have acquired in your life may be considered now. Philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have a special appeal. Research brings you ideas of a mystical approach to health. Perhaps this is like a placebo effect to help a weak person overcome an ailment that might be nebulous at this time. Limit health risks arising from exposure to chemicals, drugs or seafood. Making your home situation more pleasant and attractive is a project you enjoy, particularly around the holidays. Today you may find an article that could guide you in constructing a centerpiece for the table at family dinners. You could make a beautiful centerpiece, which would be a great gift.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It is through your adventures that you can temporarily escape the pressures you have set upon yourself. Today you could relax to the sounds of music, the ocean, birds, quiet breezes through the pine trees, etc. You or a friend will be able to be refreshed in no time at all. You might enjoy a class in scuba diving, a new religious group or a walk in the park with a friend, etc. When you come back to the daily chores and weekly responsibilities, there begins a sort of remembering that all things work together and all is right with the world. You may even turn over a new promise to keep your life a bit more comfortable. A celebration is in order this evening and tonight there are family members and friends that want to help you celebrate you! Happy birthday!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A searing vision that cuts through what passes for conventional religion comes to your attention today-perhaps a vision of the endless process of life and the next generation. Your love of children and animals may put you in charge of someone's safety today. Invitations are beginning to come in with regard to social activities-you may do some careful planning. There is always the push to reciprocate. Picking and choosing your activities becomes an important issue. You have a renewed appreciation for the commitment of a relationship and will do everything in your power to make things positive. Your own growth and success may be linked to questions of security.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may feel like exercising or getting outside this morning. Walking around the house is a good way to check for problems or repairs that may be needed before winter weather comes. If you do not have a house, you might have a vehicle that will need care soon. You are on your own and this time marks the start of increased responsibility. Deep thoughts about goals may come into play-review of self. You can expect some sort of major reevaluation of your likes and dislikes, how and what you enjoy or appreciate about yourself and life: your value system. You may find that your appreciation for the quality of everything is stronger. A reappraisal could be in order with concern to some upcoming celebrations. Focus on priorities.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A visitor in your home this day may compliment you on your belongings. It is a fine day for tinkering with the high-tech stuff that is still in boxes. You are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing and, in general, your efforts are successful and reach new heights of originality-creative. New and unexpected emotions may arise. There is an urge to change and try new things that may prove challenging but fun. A kind of romantic nostalgic approach characterizes life this evening. This could mean a longing for a soul mate or a yearning to save the world; it could mean carrying a torch, as well. Secret loves, lost loves-all you need is love.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It could be a difficult time to solve problems or to look for insights and solutions, especially if you are feeling in great shape and ready for fun and fun activities. You may feel that your originality and independence are stifled or just not available to you. Sometimes you have to exert more energy to be patient and this could be one of those days. Know that all of this is short term so that you can get down to the job at hand as quickly as possible. You will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things-penetrating. Later this afternoon while visiting with a friend, you may find that you will want to reflect on your own youth or some event in the past. Continue to get feedback from your family; they will support your future plans.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Golf

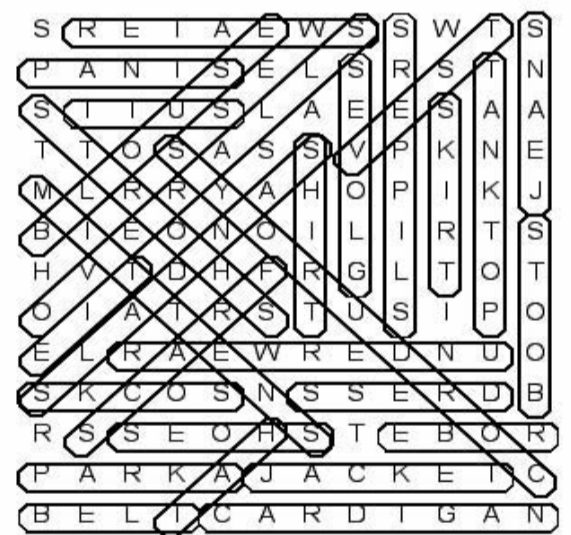
Find and circle all of the golf words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.

Y	D	S	E	E	R	T	P	G	R	E	E	N	G	E	E	B	
E	E	R	H	O	L	E	S	A	O	T	H	L	R	K	R	A	
F	C	G	A	S	E	L	U	R	C	C	R	A	C	O	O	L	
H	D	I	O	Z	C	H	I	P	A	I	P	A	E	R	C	L	
F	O	A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	D	S	C	T	S	C	
L	O	L	I	S	O	H	R	P	B	S	D	U	N	R	S	S	O
A	W	E	E	H	R	P	R	A	I	O	T	O	A	R	S	U	
G	S	R	S	I	P	E	C	E	H	R	D	E	O	H	O	R	
S	S	O	S	A	N	K	K	B	T	N	G	U	E	K	R	S	
T	B	C	W	N	N	O	U	N	O	A	G	B	A	O	G	E	
I	U	S	I	O	L	N	C	U	H	W	I	G	O	F	A		
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I	N	I	P	S	K	C	A	B	E	G	D	E	W	L	E	E	
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- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ALBATROSS | CLUBHOUSE | GREEN | ROUGH |
| APPROACH | CLUBS | GRIP | RULES |
| BOOTS | CONDOR | GROSS SCORE | SHOT |
| BACK NINE | COURSE | HANDICAP | SLICE |
| BACKSPIN | DIVOT | HOLE IN ONE | STROKE |
| BALL | DRIVER | HOLES | SWING |
| BIRDIE | DRIVING RANGE | HOOK | TEE OFF |
| BOGEY | EAGLE | IRON | TREES |
| BUNKER | FAIRWAY | NET SCORE | WATER HAZARD |
| CADDIE | FLAGSTICK | PAR | WEDGE |
| CART | FORE | PUTTER | WOOD |
| CHIP | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Clothing



The hidden clothing item is: SWEATSHIRT

Daily SuDoku

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	4	6	5					1
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		2				7		
	5		3			4		
7				2	3	9		
			8		1			6
	2		3					

Yesterday's Solution

8	2	6	5	1	3	7	9	4
4	7	5	2	9	8	3	1	6
9	1	3	6	7	4	2	8	5
2	8	9	7	3	6	5	4	1
3	5	1	4	8	2	6	7	9
7	6	4	9	5	1	8	2	3
5	4	7	3	2	9	1	6	8
6	3	8	1	4	7	9	5	2
1	9	2	8	6	5	4	3	7

GOSSIP



ADELE planning Christmas wedding

Adele is reportedly planning a Christmas wedding. The 28-year-old singer and her 42-year-old boyfriend Simon Konecki - who have son Angelo, four, together - are said to be hoping to wed in Los Angeles over the festive season so that Simon's nine-year-old daughter from a previous relationship can attend. A source told the Mirror: "The plan is to marry in LA. The wedding will be like it will be Christmas, but they want to keep details under wraps. Only want their nearest and dearest there." Adele Drop4Drop charity chief Simon were introduced by Ed Sheeran and recently celebrated their fifth anniversary. And Simon marked the special occasion by surprising her with handwritten confetti during her concert in Nashville, Tennessee. The businessman penned heartfelt messages on pieces of pink confetti that rained down on her and the audience during her final performance. The confetti is a regular feature at the 'Hello' hitmaker's shows, however it is usually white and features a song lyric on

each piece. During 'Rolling in the Deep', Adele exclaimed: "We've got pink confetti tonight!" The pieces of paper included messages such as "I love you", "You are an angel" and "Happy anniversary". And the loved-up couple will certainly have time for a honeymoon, as it was previously revealed the singer would be taking a break from touring in order to spend more time with her family. A source said: "Angelo is the number one priority for Adele. He is the most important thing in her life. She has brought him everywhere with her on tour but as he is starting school next year, he won't be able to join her any more." Adele doesn't want to miss a moment of Angelo growing up and it's an easy decision for her to give up touring for him. Right now she is saying she won't do another massive world tour like the current one for another 10 years."

Katona to renew wedding vows to Kay

Kerry Katona is planning to renew her wedding vows with George Kay. The Atomic Kitten singer allowed the 36-year-old former rugby star to move back into her home recently, which she shares with her five kids, and the pair are now happier than ever and looking ahead to the future. A source told The People: "They've had their ups and downs so they're not going to rush into it, but next year they want to cement their feelings for each other with a blessing and renewal of their vows. "Because of their difficult past together, they are really focusing on being good for each other right now." Kerry is already getting excited about another wedding though. She is in such amazing shape and has had liposuction, and is now training and looking after her figure - partially in preparation for the big day." While the couple were separated, Kerry, 36, filmed the Channel 5 show 'In Therapy', where she claimed she didn't want George back but she has since changed her mind. The insider explained: "Kerry was in a dark place during filming and really opened up to the therapist. She's tried to explain to George that the sessions helped her realise that she wanted to give her marriage another chance." George was arrested last year for alleged assault but no further action was taken after Kerry dropped the charges. And Kerry - who has children Molly, 14, Lilly Sue, 13, Heidi, nine, Maxwell, eight, and Dylan Jorge, two - said: "We're together and we're very happy. All I'm going to say is anyone who is in a marriage, you all have your ups and downs."



GEST'S FAMILY LAUNCH LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OVER WILL

David Gest's family have launched legal proceedings after he left them nothing in his will. The 62-year-old television personality died from a stroke in April and left family furious. "I am upset and his family are upset. He told me I would be looked after. And now David's sister Barbara Gerber, 60, has launched legal proceedings against the executors of the estate, who work at the same law firm as Bearman. Bearman received Gest's five-bedroom home in the US, clothes belonging to the late Michael Jackson and "a secret memorabilia collection worth David was found dead in his hotel room on April 12, with police saying his death was being treated as "non-suspicious". A subsequent post-mortem said David died of "natural causes" and Bearman later revealed his cause of death was a stroke. In May, Handi claimed to have heard the star suffer a fatal heart attack during their last phone conversation - four days before his body was found. Imad - who was friends with David for 16 years - said he received a silent phone call, which he believes was the entertainer trying to ask for urgent help, in the days before his body was found. He explained: "I answered the phone and was like, 'Hello, hello, hello?', and I heard something smash on the floor. "Part of me froze and then the phone went dead. Knowing David and his OCD I thought, 'He's dropped something on the floor, he's going to hang up and clean it up. He'll call me back'. Unfortunately, he didn't call me back. "I did try and call that evening and on Saturday and there was no answer. I believe he passed away on the Friday."

Rosie wishes she lived closer to her family

The 29-year-old model lives in Beverly Hills with her fiancé Jason Statham and though she knows being in the US is good for her career, she struggles with the fact she can't see her loved ones as often as she'd like. She said: "The one big downside is not having my family within reach. I would love to be able to invite them over for a roast dinner, or be able to say to my brother or sister, 'Why don't you pop over for a glass of wine tonight?' but I can't and it weighs heavily on me." Despite being Britain's highest-earning model, Rosie insists she'll never be complacent as there'll always be new things she wants to achieve. She said: "I don't think you can ever sit back and think, 'I've made it now I can relax.' As soon as you start to have that attitude, that's when you lose it. "My mum taught me never to be complacent, I'm always thinking, 'What else is there left to do and where I can go now?' I have always been drawn to women who have built something for themselves and who are unashamedly themselves. To me, that's the true power of a woman." Rosie's ambition and desire to succeed stem from her "humble beginnings". She told Harper's Bazaar magazine: "I come from very humble beginnings. I grew up on a farm in Devon and I left school at 16. So when I decided to go full-time as a model there was no option to give up. That survival instinct is what keeps me focused." — BangShowbiz



Prince Harry's model dates

Prince Harry reportedly enjoyed a number of dates with a Burberry model while wooing Meghan Markle. The 32-year-old royal is said to be smitten with the 35-year-old 'Suits' actress, who he started dating during the summer but it has been claimed that before things got serious, Harry also pursued Burberry model Sarah Ann Macklin, 27, who previously dated David Gandy. A source told the Mail on Sunday: "Their fling is an open secret among her friends. "David Gandy knew that Harry was pursuing her and tried to get her back. At for her affection, and the novelty was not lost on her. "She ended up turning David down and dating Prince Harry. It eventually fizzled out but they are on friendly terms." Another source added: "They were introduced at a social gathering and Harry made a beeline for her. She was very flattered by the attention and they went on a few dates. Everything was kept very below the radar. "They got on, but are quite different. She is very clean

living and barely drinks and in that respect they were on a different wavelength. Harry also seemed a bit non-committal and it never really got off the ground. Things fizzled out before he went to Africa for a month in August." And Harry is now said to be smitten with US actress Meghan, with former royal butler Grant Harrold saying the pair are "in love". He told The Sunday Mirror: "Harry loves her and she loves him. "And that will be what matters in the eyes of the Queen and Prince Charles. I don't see any reason why Meghan couldn't be The One." Meghan finishes filming 'Suits' in November and is expected to travel to the UK to spend time with Harry over the festive season. A source told the Sunday People: "Obviously, Meghan's not expecting to be some time with Harry somewhere. "They're both happy to travel for each other whenever necessary. It's a sign of how committed they are."



Susan Boyle talks love life

Susan Boyle has opened up about her relationship with a doctor from Florida. The 55-year-old singer - who has never been in love - met the man while touring America before embarking on her first romantic relationship with him and although they have not seen each other in some time, she is hopeful that they will have a future together. Speaking to Event magazine, she said: "Well, I just haven't seen him for a while. He's a nice man, he took me out for a meal and we got friendly, you know. Everyone was going daft looking for me and there I was with this lovely guy. Potentially it's not finished. I'd like to see him more. But I'm very busy, and it's been a long time but I would like someone. I'm very sensitive. I can be loving and loyal, and then sometimes I can be pretty hard to get." Susan also spoke about her late father's temper, admitting that he hit her when she was younger. She said: "My father, though a very good man, had a temper. He showed it to me and he hurt me. He didn't mean

to but I held on to this for years and when he was dying [he passed away in 1997 aged 81], I had to let it go. You have to accept it, that's maturity. "It's not easy, but you have to let it go and replace it with a new self, that's what I've been focusing on in the past six months. It's difficult, I've a lot of good and bad memories. I've been coming to terms with it. All of these things that happened in my life, you have to let go of the bad. I've seen the Queen and sung at her birthday, all of that is wonderful." Meanwhile, Susan left fans worried when she suffered a meltdown at Heathrow Airport earlier this year but the star - who suffers from Asperger's syndrome, a form of Autism - insists she is fine and has been trying to fly less because it is so stressful. She explained: "I was feeling rushed. It was a misunderstanding that's been resolved. I wrote an apology to the airport and now everything is OK, but I'm trying not to fly much now because I don't want to get agitated. I'm dealing with it."



Chyna 'to give birth in same suite' used by Kardashian

Blac Chyna will give birth in the same hospital as Kim Kardashian West and Kourtney Kardashian. The 28-year-old model - whose real name is Angela White - is pregnant with Rob Kardashian's baby and has booked in for a caesarean section at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, where her fiancé's sisters also gave birth, TMZ reports. The luxurious maternity suite features three beds, two bathrooms and a lounge area. Meanwhile, it was previously claimed that Rob and Chyna could make "hundreds of thousands of dollars" by allowing cameras into the delivery room for the birth of their little girl. Rob and Chyna are said to be in talks for a baby special of their reality show 'Rob & Chyna', which will include footage of the birth, Chyna's baby shower and the run up to the birth. It will also document the first few days of their daughter's life. It also claims Chyna - who already has a son, King Cairo, by ex Tyga, who is now dating Rob's younger sister Kylie Jenner - is deciding whether to let cameras get really intimate footage of the birth. The Kardashians are no strangers to giving birth in front of the cameras as Rob's older sister Kourtney, gave birth to two of her children, Mason, six, and Penelope, four, for 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians'. Meanwhile, Chyna recently revealed how she plans to follow a "strict" eating and fitness regime as soon as she gives birth to her second child, which is due on November 16. She said: "My goal is to gain, like, 100 pounds this pregnancy. I'm gonna tear it up, then I'm gonna snap back. Strict diet, waist training, detox tea and working out." She has regularly shared updates about her weight gain on social media app Snapchat, and she still has a long way to go to reach her target, as she shared less than two weeks ago that she's put on 50lbs during her pregnancy so far.

MUSIC & MOVIES



Democratic presidential nominee former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (right) raises her arms with recording artist Katy Perry (left) during a get-out-the-vote concert at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. — AFP photos



Democratic presidential nominee former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton looks at a cape worn by recording artist Katy Perry during a get-out-the-vote concert.

Katy Perry the latest in string of stars to sing Clinton's praises

Hillary Clinton doesn't go out for the weekend without a star or two in tow. Three days before the election, pop singer Katy Perry gave a Philadelphia performance Saturday hoping to boost the Democrat's momentum. Superstar Jennifer Lopez headlined a recent Miami concert hoping to rally voters for Clinton, and Friday night the US secret service said 10,000 hip hop fans turned out in Cleveland, Ohio for a free star-studded rally concert headlined by power couple Beyonce and Jay Z.

"All the campaigning in the world doesn't mean any-

thing if people don't vote," Clinton said, shortly before presenting her fervent supporter Perry, who already stumped last year for the Democratic presidential candidate. "When you get knocked down, which everybody does, what matters is get back up," Clinton said.

"Stand up for what you believe. Know the power of your own voice." The 32-year-old Perry then performed her hit "Roar," a standard on the White House hopeful's official playlist. Celebrity performances on the campaign trail are not unique to Clinton: Barack Obama attracted some

80,000 people to a 2008 Bruce Springsteen concert in Cleveland just days before Americans headed to the polls. Despite strict controls at the door, the smell of marijuana wafted throughout the stands at the first sounds of Jay Z. Several other top rappers appeared at the event in an attempt to woo young voters.

The artists worked to instill a sense of urgency in their fans just days before the vote. Beyonce voiced pride at having had a black president for the past eight years, and called for the US to elect a woman this time. The Clinton

campaign's concerts are aimed at attracting voters who would rather spend their weekend nights anywhere but an election rally. "I heard on the radio 'Katy Perry live,'" said Josh Burns, a 24-year-old architect. "I didn't know it was a Hillary thing." "It's a good tactic, I like it." But was the young voter convinced? "It's good that artists are supporting Hillary," he said. "It makes you realize how worried they might be." — AFP



Washington, Davis become instant Oscar frontrunners in 'Fences'

Denzel Washington's big-screen adaptation of August Wilson's "Fences" has arrived, and it's an Oscar player to reckon with this year. But that's hardly a surprise for a project based on Pulitzer Prize-winning source material that has landed major Tony Awards in two separate Broadway productions. The film unspooled for industry audiences Saturday, screening in Westwood before a crowd that included Screen Actors Guild nominating committee members, Academy voters and press. Washington was on hand for a post-screening Q&A; moderated by Variety's Jenelle Riley, along with co-stars Viola Davis, Stephen McKinley Henderson, Jovan Adepo, Russell Hornsby, Mykelti Williamson and Saniyya Sidney.

When asked what drew him to the role of Troy Maxson, Washington let loose a chuckle and quipped, "The role of Troy Maxson." Indeed, when producer Scott Rudin first sent him the script for the film, which Wilson had penned himself, Washington wasn't interested in diving into it as a movie immediately. He wanted to work through the material on the stage first, which led to Rudin raising the money for the 2010 Broadway revival. "August Wilson wrote a masterpiece," Washington said. "It's one of the great plays of all time. It's the gift that keeps on giving and as we found out, it works as a film as well." Washington had directed Davis previously, in the 2002 film "Antwone Fisher." The actress said she considers herself "a friend and a fan," and spoke about how easy Washington made things for her and the other actors.

Frightening statement

"The two things he said to us before we started was, 'Remember the love,' and the second thing he said, which is a frightening statement for actors, was, 'Trust me'—and we did," Davis said. "A lot of people don't know what to say to actors to unlock it. A lot of times they know what to do to keep it in there, and make you afraid, but not Denzel. He's a great leader. And he's an extraordinary man. He's a man of God and a man of great integrity, and I think it shows in his work."

Reviews of the film are currently embargoed until December, but it's fair to at least note that both Washington and Davis have now charged ahead in their respective Oscar races. The crowd certainly seemed to agree with that sentiment, greeting the whole team with an enthusiastic standing ovation and threatening to blow the roof off when Davis was introduced. Washington's performance, to start, is infused with the same bravado and energy that brought him a Tony six years ago. It's incredibly layered, maybe even career-best work. He feels like the odds-on frontrunner in the lead actor category, and as laid out in a recent column, it seems to be him and "Manchester by the Sea" star Casey Affleck leading the pack: two strikingly different performances that nevertheless feature interesting parallels.

But three Oscars? Only six actors have ever done it. Washington's previous wins came for "Glory" (best supporting actor in 1989) and "Training Day" (best actor in 2001), but this performance towers over them both. And in a year already set to hold the #OscarsSoWhite sentiment at bay with contenders like "Fences," "Hidden Figures," "Moonlight" and—if it manages some support—"The Birth of a Nation," what a moment it would be for Washington to become just the seventh actor on a list that includes Ingrid Bergman, Walter Brennan, Daniel Day-Lewis, Katharine Hepburn, Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep. As for Davis, the Academy can probably go ahead and engrave the statue. Due respect and appreciation to Michelle Williams, Naomie Harris, Nicole Kidman and the rest of this year's supporting actress contenders, who give exceptional performances and will rightly be in the thick of the conversation—but this race just ended.

— Reuters

Electronic music pioneer Jean-Jacques Perrey dies aged 87

Frenchman Jean-Jacques Perrey, who pioneered electronic music and whose scores were used by Disney and in the hit children's TV series "Sesame Street," died on Friday aged 87. Perrey died in the Swiss lakeside city of Lausanne after a battle with lung cancer, his daughter Patricia Leroy said. The self-taught Perrey quit medical school in 1952 when he met George Jenny, inventor of the Ondioline—a new type of electronic keyboard instrument that was a forerunner to the commercial synthesiser and launched a career in music.

He was an early user of the Moog synthesiser which revolutionised electronic music in the 1960s. Perrey experimented with several musical genres, producing two albums aimed at helping sleep. His music featured on a Beatles

1968 Christmas record and has been used by hip-hop artists and rappers such as Gang Starr, Ice Cube and Dr Dre. It has also been used at Disney theme parks. Perrey said his music was fun and had no ponderous messages. "Unlike some composers who aim at communicating a 'message' to humanity through their works, I have no such intention," he wrote in 1968.

"My only purpose is to try to bring the listener some joy and pleasure. There is nothing more than a message of humour in my music," he said. Perrey retired in 2010 after 27 albums. His music is still used for advertisements as well as cartoon and TV shows including "South Park" and "The Simpsons". — AFP

Jean-Jacques Perrey



This file photo shows Brazilian actress Sonia Braga (left) with French producer Emilie Lesclaux (right) holding a protest sign for the screening of the film 'Aquarius' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Brazil a changed country, says movie star Braga

It was a screening to promote her latest film, but actress Sonia Braga could not help weighing in on the political situation in her native Brazil, just weeks after the ouster of its first woman president. "There is a coup in Brazil, (but) it is not a military coup," Braga lamented late Friday after the screening of "Aquarius," a movie some see as a symbol of political resistance. Latin America's biggest country has endured months of political upheaval, culminating with the removal from office in August of Dilma Rousseff on charges that she violated government budget laws.

The leftist Rousseff was replaced by her Temer, her vice president and a political rival from the center-right—a change that makes Braga chafe. "It is very hard for people outside of Brazil knowing exactly what's happened and (the) dimension of the danger that we are going through right now," the film star continued. "Brazil is not the country I used to know," she continued, speaking at a cinema in Miami's Little Havana district, home to one of America's largest concentrations of Latinos.

When "Aquarius" had its debut at the Cannes Film Festival, the cast and crew created a sensation by staging a red carpet protest against Rousseff being suspended from power, holding signs that read "Brazil is experiencing a coup d'etat" and other slogans. That protest has led some to see the film as subversive, while those on the left have hailed it as an act of political courage.

Braga's childhood of poverty and want has led her to press for social progress for Brazil's least fortunate. "I want for Brazil what I always wanted for Brazil since I was nine," she said.

"From that age I learned social problems, I learned about society. All my life I had this intuitive feeling about what is good, what's

fair, what's justice, for my country, for my people and for ourselves. And what I can do best is talking out loud what I feel." Braga is known for her starring turn in a number of popular movies, including "Kiss of the Spider Woman" in 1985 and "Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands" in 1976, as well as numerous television outings. She became a soap opera sensation in her native Brazil before achieving even greater fame and fortune in Hollywood.

Still a vibrant, raven-haired beauty at 66, Braga now lives in New York, but feels a close emotional tie to the country of her birth. With its recent sharp swerve to the right, however, "it doesn't seem like to be the country that I knew and I lived in and I loved so much," Braga said. The actress said she was also dumbfounded over the election in Rio de Janeiro last week of a rightwing government, and is left to wonder where the political change will end.

"Right now we are in a position—all Brazilians, I think—where they know that something must be done to not lose something that was very hard to get: A democracy," Braga said. "Democracy in Brazil is very young," she continued, adding that after its recent political travails, Brazil is a country "divided in two." Free-flowing political discourse has been stifled, said Braga, decrying "positions so radical that there's no debate." She sees "Aquarius," about a woman who defies a real estate developer's bid to push her from her home, as part of a broader bid to change that. "This movie opens the debate about what's our country now, and what we want for the future," Braga said. — AFP

'Train of Salt and Sugar' named best film at Inaugural Joburg Film Festival

Brazilian-born helmer Licinio Azevedo's powerful Mozambican war drama, "Train of Salt and Sugar," was named best film at the first Joburg Film Festival, which wrapped Nov 5 in Johannesburg. Set in Mozambique in the 1980s, during the country's brutal civil war, pic offered a humane portrait of the risks ordinary people faced as they struggled for survival, with the jury noting how it "triumphs in showing the resilience of the human spirit." Accepting on behalf of Azevedo, producer Elias Ribeiro expressed his gratitude to the Johannesburg audiences, saying, "We were showered with love this whole week."

The award for best African film went to Zola Maseko's "The Whale Caller," an adaptation of South African scribe Zakes Mda's novel about an unlikely love triangle between a man, a whale, and the woman who comes between them. Praising its "fable-like quality" while drawing a contrast to the more conventional output of a South African film biz which typically heeds to Hollywood-style storytelling, the jury singled out its "uniqueness, poetry, and strength of imagination."

Hard-hitting portrait

Veteran documentarian Rehad Desai took home honors for best South African film for "The Giant is Falling," a hard-hitting portrait of the country's ongoing political turmoil, which followed on the heels of his Emmy-winning "Miners Shot Down." Accepting the award, which came with a cash prize, Desai deadpanned, "I could pay my children's school fees now. Drinks are on me tonight." A jury special mention was also given to "The Wedding Ring" by Rahmatou Keita, of Niger, for its moving tale of a young woman suffering from the pain of lost love.

For a festival meant to showcase the dynamism of South Africa's cultural and economic engine, it was a sluggish closing night, as auds trickled in for a brief awards ceremony that was followed by the African premiere of Nate Parker's "The Birth of a Nation." Perhaps it was a fitting way to wrap the first edition, with fest consultant Lesedi Oluko Moche, the closing night's emcee, alluding to "the bumpy and

rough edges" of a festival that seemed at times to be learning on the fly. "There were cinemas packed with people and some packed with crickets," Moche acknowledged. "We've had exhilarating highs and devastating lows."

With empty seats scattered throughout the theater, it was a night marked by absence. Many in the country's tight-knit film industry were still reeling from the passing of veteran producer Junaid Ahmed, who died Thursday in Durban at the age of 57. Condolences poured in on social media throughout the weekend, with actress Thishive Ziqubu writing on Twitter, "We are richer having had him in our lives." Moche also took time to acknowledge what she called "the elephant in the film industry room," tackling the issue of women's representation that was a frequent topic in private conversations in Johannesburg throughout the week.

Strong female leads

Pointing to a lack of diversity in the festival program, she called out her industry colleagues to open the door for more female directors, as well as films with strong female leads. "The Joburg Film Festival is not exempt from the obligation of coming to the party," she said. "We should and we can do better." Moche then singled out the female helmers in attendance, praising "their insistence on telling stories in an industry that tells you should not." Despite the bumps along the way, the festival wrapped with a sense of conviction that this cosmopolitan city offers a unique potential to become a crossroads of the African and international film worlds.

The decision to pair the fest's first edition with Discop Africa, the continent's largest TV content market, also signaled the intent of the organizers and the local government to use the JFF as a driver to grow the South African film biz. As the festival turned its eyes toward next year's second edition, there was no small sense of triumph at a time when the host country has been reeling from a string of political and economic crises. "One of the many successes of the Joburg Film Festival is that it happened," said Moche, to rousing applause. — Reuters



FEATURES



Syrian weaver Abu Mohammad displays an unfinished carpet at a workshop in the village of Ariha. — AFP photos



Syrian weaver Abu Mohammad (left) works on a loom at a workshop in the village of Ariha.



Abu Ahmed works on a weaving loom at a workshop in the village of Ariha.

Syria's last weavers abandon looms without thread



Syrian weavers work on looms at a workshop.



Syrian weavers work on looms at a workshop.



A Syrian weaver spins thread at a workshop.



Syrian weavers Abu Mostafa (front) and Abu Mohammad work on looms at a workshop.



Abu Mohammed (second left) sits with his colleagues Abu Mostafa (second right) and Abu Ahmed during a break at a weaving workshop.



A general view shows a weaving loom at a workshop in the village of Ariha.



A general view shows threads at a weaving workshop in the village of Ariha.

'Ariha is the most well-known in making this product'

With the deftness of decades of experience, Abu Mohammad wove thick green thread with a wooden loom in northwest Syria, creating a vibrant geometric pattern renowned among Arabic textiles. It was the last day before the weaver in his 50s would be forced to close the workshop, leaving the last five remaining looms in his hometown of Ariha in Idlib province to gather dust. "This trade is dead now... Today is our last day of work on the loom, as we don't have any more thread," the balding man told AFP.

Weaving has been devastated by Syria's five-year civil war, with thread becoming too difficult to procure from Aleppo—the country's artisanal hub but now ravaged by fighting and bombardment. The battered city, 70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of Ariha, was the main provider of the rough thread needed to weave Arabic textiles, versatile fabrics turned into rugs, furniture covers, and other household items. But now Aleppo's rebel-held eastern districts are besieged by government forces, making it impossible to obtain thread from there, and materials from the regime-controlled west are too expensive, Abu Mohammad said. On his last day, he worked as enthusiastically as he had since his teenage years, pulling down wooden levers to lay down colorful acrylic fibre across a white base. The sound of the panels smacking against each other was interrupted only by Abu Mohammad's nasal singing, or a brief tea break with fellow weavers reclining on a shabby couch.

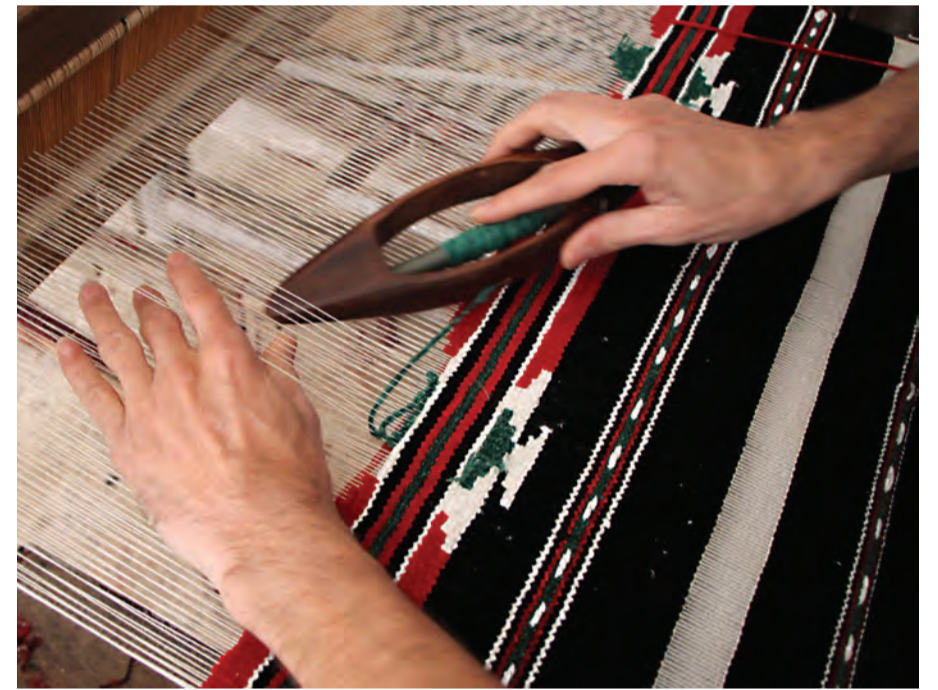
'I challenge any computer to make something like this!'

'All we have left'

"Ariha, in Idlib province, is the most well-known in making this product," said Abu Mohammad, gesturing to the green-and-red blankets and pillow covers hanging on the wall behind him. "We make all household items, from rugs for bedrooms to covers for the Quran. We would furnish entire houses." "Before the war, there were more than 100 looms in Ariha, but the only ones left are the ones in this shop," he said. As the siege on Aleppo's east tightened and access to thread became more difficult, only three looms in the Ariha workshop remained active. "Before the war, our trade was booming. We could buy thread for pennies from Aleppo," Abu Mohammad said.

He pulled out a small box containing dozens of spools of colorful thread: "This is all we have left." Today, a kilogram (around two pounds) of the blend of cotton and polyester used for the textiles costs 3,500 Syrian pounds (\$7), up from 175 pounds before the war. Abu Mohammad points to a rug hanging on the wall: "Before, I could make this whole rug with just 200 Syrian pounds." Another lifelong weaver, 40-year-old Abu Mostafa, said he began working a loom when he was about 12.

He tried to find stable work in a different field but never felt comfortable doing anything except weaving, he said, as he pumped the wooden panels below his loom. "I went to Lebanon and worked in construction and then to Turkey for a few months, but I couldn't hold any job that kept me away from a loom for too long."



A Syrian weaver works on a loom at a workshop.

'It's a shame'

Abu Mostafa beamed with pride as he reminisced about the robes and pillow covers he would produce. "No one else could make the pieces we made. They looked as if they were printed," he said. "I challenge any computer to make something like this!" The products from rebel-held Ariha were once sold across Syria. Even as the war raged on, they were exported to areas controlled by regime forces like Damascus and Hama, as well as regional markets like Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

But today transporting the woven goods—whether in or outside Syria—takes between two and three months and is exorbitantly expensive. "We used to send our products to Damascus at 10:00 am and they would get there by 2:00 pm," Abu Mohammad said. Despite the pressures, Arabic textile production will resume eventually, the veteran weaver insisted. If there was enough thread, "we could work 100 looms at once. The looms are all ready, we just need the thread." "It's a shame it's going to end like this." — AFP



This undated photo provided by Daniel Buck Auctions & Appraisals shows the right front pocket on a pair of 1893 Levi-Strauss denim blue jeans in pristine condition that will go up for auction. — AP photos

THESE JEANS ARE BEYOND VINTAGE: '1800S LEVI'S UP FOR AUCTION

There are vintage jeans. And then there are jeans from the American Wild West that are up for auction. A Maine auction house is putting up for bid a bona fide pair of Levi's blue jeans bought in 1893. Daniel Buck Auctions & Appraisals says the jeans were ordered for Solomon Warner, who participated in the creation of the Arizona Territory. Warner wore them only a few times. The jeans ended up in a trunk.

The 123-year-old pants go up for auction Saturday in Lisbon Falls, Maine, and are expected to bring in tens of thousands of dollars due to their pristine condition. Warner was a big fella. The cotton jeans with button fly feature a size 44 waist and 36-inch inseam. — AP



The front of a pair of 1893 Levi-Strauss denim blue jeans.



The leather label on a pair of 1893 Levi-Strauss denim blue jeans.

TRAVEL



This picture shows two Red Dao ethnic women walking past Topas Ecolodge on the outskirts of northern Sapa tourist town. — AFP photos



A young couple relaxing at Topas Ecolodge on the outskirts of northern Sapa tourist town.



Hubert de Murard, manager of Topas Ecolodge, speaking during an interview with AFP at his resort.



Hmong hilltribe women walking along a street as they sell tourist souvenirs in the northern Sapa tourist town.



Tourists disembarking from a cable car at the station near the top of Fansipan Mountain in the northern Sapa tourist town.



New hotels under construction on the hillside in northern Sapa tourist town.



People walking in front of a church in the very heart of northern Sapa tourist town.

Tourism boom threatens VIETNAM'S 'TONKINESE ALPS'

At the top of Vietnam's Fansipan Mountain, throngs of giddy tourists wielding selfie sticks jostle for a photo op on the once-remote peak in the Sapa region, famed for its breathtaking views across undulating rice terraces. Getting to the top traditionally takes a two-day trek but these days most visitors opt for a 20-minute ride by cable car instead—the latest flashy tourist attraction to heighten concerns over rapid development destroying Sapa's natural beauty. Known by some as the Tonkinese Alps, the former French outpost has seen a tourism boom in recent years with a new highway from the capital and hotels popping up at breakneck pace.

"If more and more building (happens), then one day we will lose Sapa, we won't have any more mountain," said guide Giang Thi Lang, from the Black Hmong ethnic group. Vietnam's tourism industry has taken off in recent years, especially among domestic visitors with growing appetites and budgets for travel. The country has also become a draw for foreign visitors turning their backs on better-known Southeast Asian destinations such as Thailand's Chiang Mai, seeking instead a road less travelled.

But some lament the commercialization of Vietnamese treasures, with reports of locals complaining about multi-course meals served in Ha Long Bay's famous caves, or trash-strewn beaches in the resort town of Phu Quoc.



A Dao ethnic woman selling tourist souvenirs in front of a new hotel under construction in the northern Sapa tourist town.

'They didn't listen'
In Sapa town, where heaps of rubble mark hotel sites under construction, the number of rooms has surged from 2,500 in 2010 to 4,000 last year, according to official figures. Visitor numbers have snowballed too, reaching around 700,000 last year, and revenues have more than tripled since 2010 to \$50 million. Part of that growth is thanks to the cable car—the longest of its kind in the world according to operators—which opened in February with the capacity to ferry 2,000 people to the top of the mountain daily. "It's good for Sapa when they can attract more tourists... and we have a big number of the local people that can find jobs," said Nguyen Van Manh, deputy director of Sapa's Tourist Information Center, adding that the sector provided employment to thousands.

But some locals tell a different story. "Before the cable car, there were more porters from the village with regular work," said Hmong trekking guide Ma A Tro from Fansipan's summit, where he had just led a two-day trip. "Now with the cable car there, village residents no longer have jobs, mostly becoming freelance construc-



Local ethnic minority women walking along a street as they sell tourist souvenirs.

tion workers." The government ignored opposition to the cable car, he said, lamenting that business has dwindled since its construction with fewer people climbing the mountain. "We talked to them, but they didn't listen. The central government came and said they had to do it, so they did it," he added.

'Disappointed'

Some tourists also say Sapa is losing its appeal, with Fansipan's picturesque summit replaced by concrete steps, souvenir shops and still-under-construction temples. "I imagined I would come to the top and it would be really natural, but it's developed here, so for me it's a bit disappointing," said trekker Duong Hoang Minh, who hiked to the top of the 3,143-metre (10,311-foot) peak. But still, he decided to take the cable car down and agreed that more people can enjoy the mountain because of it.

"For other people I think it's better because it's safer for them," said the 23-year-old teacher, his white sweatpants slicked with fresh mud. Most tourism operators agree the boom has brought much-needed development roads, schools and clinics, for example—to a region where the majority of the population belong to one of Vietnam's 53 ethnic minorities, who have traditionally lagged behind the rest of the country. But without sustainable growth Sapa risks "shooting itself in the foot," said Hubert de Murard, manager of the Topas Ecolodge about 18 kilometers (11 miles) from Sapa town. The lodge, with its 25 white granite bungalows overlooking a rice terraced valley, employs mostly locals, was built using materials found nearby and was designed to blend in with the surrounding environment—a business model de Murard said he'd like to see newcomers adopt. He worries that some investments have been short-sighted, aimed at maximizing the number of visitors. "For a natural destination like here, with a preserved environment, this would not really be good," he told AFP as the sun set over the yawning valley behind him. "We need to be a bit more careful to avoid the mistake of mass tourism in Sapa." — AFP



A cable car passing over rice terraces and mountains between the top of Fansipan Mountain and the northern Sapa tourist town.



Tourists walking up from a cable car station to the top of Fansipan Mountain in northern Sapa tourist town.



A tourist looking at mountains from a coffee shop in downtown of northern Sapa tourist town.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Syria's last weavers abandon looms without thread

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The 27th Carthage Film Festival



Cinephile women arrive at the closing ceremony of the 27th Carthage Film Festival on Sunday in the Tunisian capital Tunis. — AFP photos



Egyptian actor Gamil Ratib arrives for the closing ceremony.



Tunisian director Khaouther Ben Hnia (center) poses after receiving the Golden Tanit award for his film 'Zaineb n'aime pas la neige'.



Egyptian actor Adel Imam delivers a speech during the closing ceremony of the 27th Carthage Film Festival.



Egyptian actor Adel Imam delivers a speech.



French actor Foued Nabba receives the award for best actor for his role in the film 'Chouf'.



Egyptian director Mohamed Diab (right) poses after receiving the silver Tanit award for his film "clash".



Palestinian director Mai Masri (right) poses after receiving the Bronze Tanit award for his film '3000 Nuits'.



Tunisian actress Mariem ben Chaabane (left) and Tunisian actor Lotfi Abdelli react on stage.