

Candidate Ali lays out program at campaign rally



Seven killed as London tram comes off the rails



India's shock bank note ban sparks cash chaos



Oh, Canada! Canadiens, Oilers start strong north of border



WORLD IN SHOCK, US ON NEW PATH AFTER TRUMP'S VICTORY

CLINTON CONCEDES • OBAMA INVITES MOGUL • AMIR SENDS CONGRATULATIONS



Min 10°
Max 29°
High Tide 06:34 & 20:18
Low Tide 00:49 & 13:07

AMIR: DNA TESTS ONLY FOR FELONS

KUWAIT: DNA testing will only be applied on convicted felons and no one else, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah told Al-Jarida newspaper yesterday. Sheikh Sabah said that discussions on the issue of DNA testing, also known as DNA fingerprinting, were over, stressing that no tests will be applied on ordinary citizens. Recently, HH the Amir directed HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to revise and reconsider the DNA testing law, calling on him and the government to apply constitutional standards on the proposed decree.

The Amir also addressed the situation in the region, saying that "hopefully matters of dispute will be resolved swiftly in order for development to thrive". He stressed that Kuwait should always play a part in "resolving problems facing the region". Regarding the donors' conference to support education in Somalia, the Amir affirmed that Kuwait is interested in supporting the cause, which will hopefully bring enlightenment and peace to the fellow Arab nation.

On a different subject, Sheikh Sabah discussed the recent opening of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah Cultural Center, saying that the facility was a gift to the Kuwaiti people aimed at entertaining and educating the masses on the values of culture and arts. — KUNA

POLICE RAID TWO PLACES HOLDING TRIBAL PRIMARIES

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The interior ministry said yesterday police raided two places in Ahmadi in the fifth constituency where some people were suspected of holding tribal primaries under the guises of "consultations". Tribal primaries are banned under the law and carry a jail term of five years for violators. The ministry said it arrested a number of people and referred them to the public prosecution, without giving their numbers.

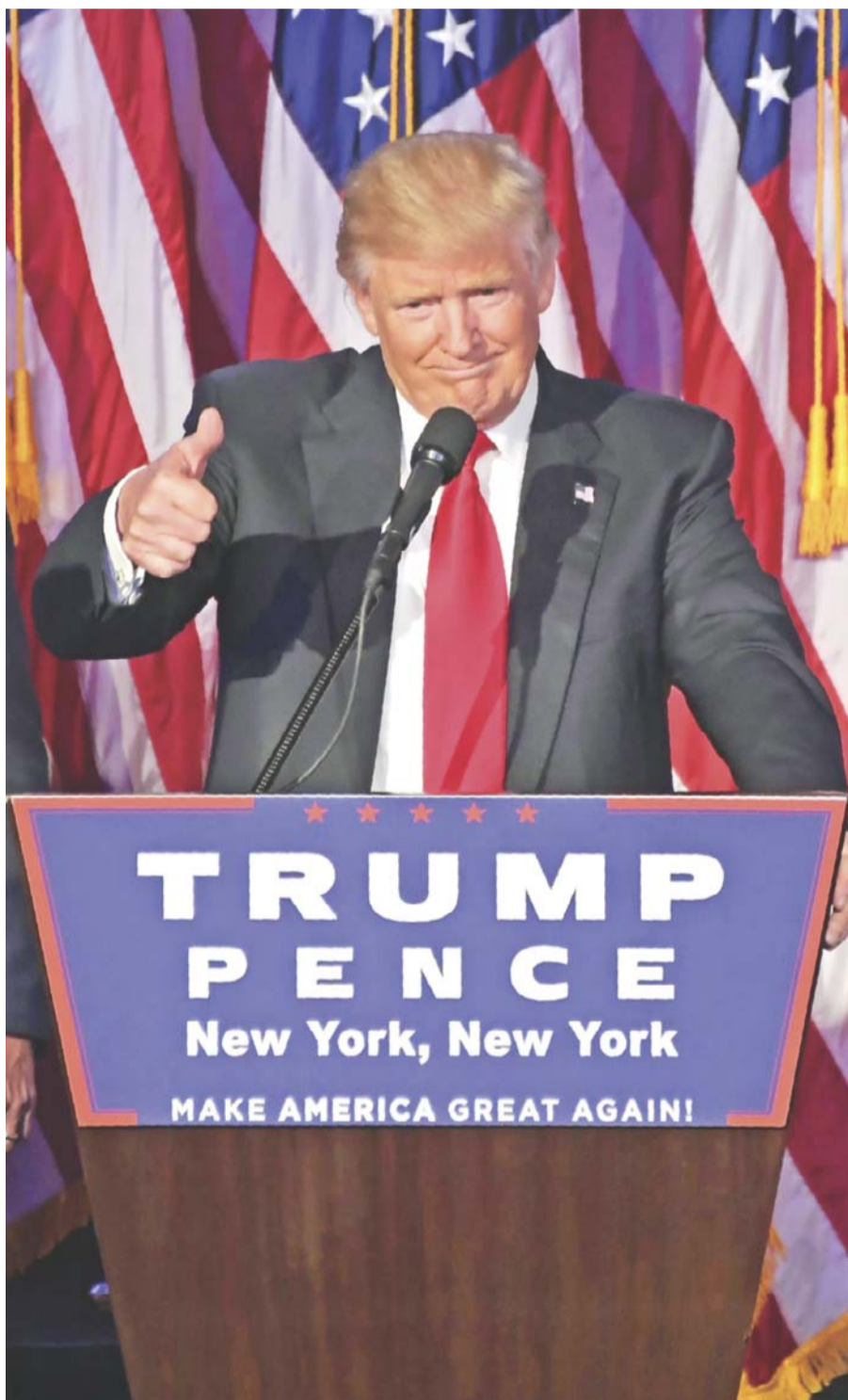
Meanwhile, the appeals court yesterday upheld the election authorities' decision of barring former Shiite MP Abdulhameed Dashti and candidate Mohammad Al-Hufaiti from running in the election. The administrative court last week rejected the government's decision and allowed the two candidates to remain in the race. The case will now go to the court of cassation.

Dashti and Hufaiti were among 47 candidates barred by the election authorities from running in the election for either having been previously convicted in court or for failing to complete proper procedures of registration. In another case regarding Dashti's registration, the appeals court on Tuesday declared that he cannot file his nomination papers through his son or anyone else and he has to personally submit them.

Dashti has been living outside Kuwait for the past several months, claiming he is receiving medical treatment. Kuwaiti courts have sentenced him to 31 years and six months in jail for insulting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The rulings mean that Dashti's chances of running for reelection have become extremely difficult, if not impossible.

The administrative court also supported the election authorities' decision to bar three candidates - former MP Mohammad Al-Juwaihel, lawyer Hani Hussein and pro-opposition activist Mahmoud Shaker - for being previously convicted by the court.

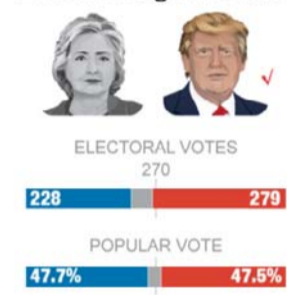
Continued on Page 13



NEW YORK: Republican President-Elect Donald Trump gives a victory speech on election night at the New York Hilton Midtown early yesterday. — AFP

ELECTION '16

Election night results



Results as of 3 a.m. EST



NEW YORK: US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton makes a concession speech yesterday.

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's extraordinary US election victory sent shockwaves across the world yesterday, as opponents braced for a "dangerous" leader in the White House while fellow populists hailed a ballot-box revolution by ordinary people. Trump stunned the world by defeating heavily favored rival Hillary Clinton, ending eight years of Democratic control of the White House and sending America on a new, uncertain path.

A wealthy real estate developer and former reality TV host, Trump rode a wave of anger toward Washington insiders to win Tuesday's White House race against Clinton, the Democratic candidate whose gold-plated establishment

resume included stints as a first lady, US senator and secretary of state. Trump's victory marked a crushing end to Clinton's second quest to become the first woman president. She also failed in a White House bid in 2008. "Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead," Clinton, 69, said in a concession speech in New York yesterday morning, joined by her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and daughter Chelsea. Speaking in front of a row of American flags, she told supporters her loss was painful "and it will be for a long time," and that she had offered to work with Trump on behalf of the nation.

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UNCERTAINTY IN MIDEAST

BEIRUT: Uncertainty spread across the Middle East following Donald Trump's US election win, with questions hanging over the war against the Islamic State group, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Iran's nuclear deal. In some parts of the region the surprise victory was welcomed with calls for Trump to take action, in others it sparked alarm. But it was unclear what impact Trump's isolationist views would have on US engagements in the Middle East, adding more confusion to an already volatile region.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rushed to congratulate Trump on his win, calling him a "true friend" of the Jewish state. "I look forward to working with him to advance security, stability and peace in our region," the rightwing premier said in a statement.

"I am confident that president-elect Trump and I will continue to strengthen the unique alliance between our two countries and bring it to ever greater heights." Netanyahu's office said Trump invited him to a meeting "at the first opportunity".

Continued on Page 13

MANY MUSLIMS VOICE DISMAY AT TRUMP WIN

JAKARTA/ISLAMABAD/CAIRO: Many Muslims around the world expressed dismay yesterday at Donald Trump's election as US president, saying they feared it might raise tensions between the West and Islam and contribute to radicalization. While Egypt's president made an early congratulatory call to Trump, ordinary Muslims were worried that his victory would be a propaganda gift to jihadist groups. Others were apprehensive that the president-elect would implement campaign pledges to clamp down on Muslims entering the United States.

"Trump has espoused highly inflammatory rhetoric against Muslims. Voters there will expect him to fulfil his promises. That makes me worry about the impact on Muslims in the US and in the rest of the world," said Yenny Wahid, a prominent



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Muslim school girls pose for a selfie with a cutout of US President-Elect Donald Trump during an event to follow the election results yesterday. — AFP

mainstream Muslim figure in Indonesia. The world's 1.6 billion Muslims follow a multitude of sects and schools of thought, constitute a majority of the population in countries as varied as Indonesia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Albania, and hold a vast array of political views.

Yet Trump's previous comments about Muslims - saying that those from abroad should be barred entry or intensely scrutinized beforehand - and the presence of vocal anti-Islam activists among his supporters, have alarmed many. During a bitter election campaign, Trump also attacked his opponents for what he characterized as their denial of the threat posed by militant Islam, which he said was "coming to our shores", adding that he would quickly form a commission on it.

Continued on Page 13

GOP MAINTAINS GRIP ON CONGRESS



MINNEAPOLIS: Ilhan Omar, candidate for State Representative for District 60B, arrives for her victory party on election night on Tuesday. Omar, a refugee from Somalia, is the first Somali-American Muslim woman to hold public office. — AFP

WASHINGTON: Republicans thwarted Democratic efforts to retake Congress in Tuesday's historic US election, using a show of conservative force to maintain control of the Senate and House of Representatives. Riding the coattails of populist Republican nominee Donald Trump, who proved no drag on fellow conservatives as he steamrolled to White House victory over Hillary Clinton, the party managed to repel the Democrats' sharp threat in the 100-member Senate.

The chamber was in Republican hands, 54 to 46 and in danger of sliding into Democratic control. But they rallied to minimize their losses, with incumbents in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Wisconsin snatching crucial victories to prevent a blue takeover. "This is a big night for Republicans, a testament to what can be accomplished when our party comes together," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement.

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MUSCAT: Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani looks on as OOC and KPI officials sign the agreement. — KUNA

OMAN OIL COMPANY TO PARTNER WITH KPI FOR DUQM REFINERY

PROJECT TO TURN AREA INTO WORLD'S ENERGY HUB: KPC CHIEF

KUWAIT/MUSCAT: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for Oman's Al-Duqm port project has been signed between Oman Oil Company (OOC) and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh announced yesterday.

Saleh, who is also Acting Oil Minister, said that the endeavor is part of efforts to bolster economic ties between Kuwait and the Sultanate. Moreover, he noted that this project represents a Kuwaiti foray into international oil markets, as he underscored the Al-Duqm port project as a significant and lucrative one.

On the project, with an expected energy capacity of 230,000 barrels, he said that it also includes oil products with competitive prices that meet international standards. He also pointed out that this project would be instrumental to the development of the economies of both nations. "This strategic partnership is a success story for Kuwait and Oman," he said.

World hub

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani said the Duqm Refinery project would help turn the

Omani area into a world hub for energy industries. Adsani's press statement came after OOC and KPI signed the MoU to cooperate in the development of Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Complex in the Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Oman's Al Wusta Governorate.

He hoped that the project would be the catalyst and ignition towards the start of similar ones in the energy field between GCC countries, where this mega project will ultimately lead towards transforming the Duqm area into one of the most important hubs for energy related industries regionally as well as internationally, eventually leading to a move from classical competition between GCC countries towards integrating and complimenting each other.

This opportunity offers an example of the spirit of economic cooperation between Kuwait and Oman and helps achieve two major goals, satisfying KPC's strategy of investing in strategic markets, in regions that strengthen and consolidate KPC's current markets and building strong economic ties with a sister GCC country, he added.

Mega projects

In the meantime, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum

International Ltd (KPI) Bakheet Al-Rashidi said that besides the local Omani rich experience in the oil related industries, KPI's ample international experience in mega refinery and petrochemical projects, which KPI will cross fertilize and bring about to the Duqm Project from its European and Asian operations, will further support and guarantee the success of the project and will create a pool of regionally trained work force for this project and future projects in the oil industry.

Rashidi added that the opportunity has attracted vast local and international attention due to its unique nature, as well as the benefits it will bring about to the region and two countries, in addition to paving the road for further cooperation between both countries.

The Duqm refinery project is situated in the special economic zone in Al-Duqm, in the South East Al Wusta Governorate of the Sultanate of Oman. Once accomplished, the refinery will have the capacity to process 230,000 barrels of crude oil daily that will serve both local and international markets. The Duqm Refinery and Petrochemical Industries Company was founded in 2012 as a joint venture between Oman Oil Company (OOC) and the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC).—KUNA

HILARY CLINTON WINS MOCK ELECTIONS AT US EMBASSY

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Hillary Clinton won a mock election at the US Embassy on Tuesday night in Kuwait. Both US citizens and noncitizens participated in the event to celebrate Election Day, which was attended by diplomats and invited guests who shared their thoughts about the American elections and how significant this year's polls are.

US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman said the elections mark the beginning of the presidential voting and democratic transition process in the United States. "Here in Kuwait, we will know the result only tomorrow, then we will begin the other great American - and international - pastime: Speculation about the likely policies of the new presidential administration. So the elections represent a beginning as much as the end of a long campaign," he said. Silverman was particularly elated to mention the growing numbers of Kuwaiti students in the US, and noted many of the visitors were graduates of American universities. "As a result of your experiences in the United States, you may know more about the local politics in America's states and towns than some of the commentators," he said. "With 15,000 Kuwaitis currently studying in my country, many more will have experienced an American presidential election this year than ever before. We look forward to hosting even more Kuwaiti students at our universities," he noted.

Silverman said US diplomats, embassy personnel and staff are nonpartisan because they all serve the president chosen by the American people. "The US constitu-

tion provides for presidential elections every four years; election of all members of the House of Representatives every two years; and election of a third of the members of the Senate every two years. Our constitution establishes the foundation of our representative democracy," he said.

Silverman also mentioned the anticipation of many over the upcoming parliamentary elections in Kuwait. As inheritors of a democratic tradition, the ambassador said people have the responsibility of fostering this tradition for their benefit, but for generations to come. "Today, Americans all over the United States are exercising their right to vote for the next president, members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, state legislatures, and on local initiatives, judges and more. And thanks to absentee and early voting, many have already cast their ballots," he added.

Silverman explained that in the US, the federal government does not organize elections, and this responsibility falls on the states. "It also falls on the states to ensure that the voting process is fair and transparent," he said. The ambassador also quoted former President Woodrow Wilson, who said over 100 years ago: "I believe in democracy because it releases the energies of every human being." Silverman said the embassy will carry on its usual business of representing America and advancing its friendship with Kuwait, regardless of who wins. "The strategic partnership that the United States and Kuwait have built will continue regardless of which party inhabits the White House - because it is in our mutual interest," he pointed out.

GOVT TO FOCUS ON 'CLEAR PLANS'

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The government asked the Supreme Council of Planning and Development to prepare its program to introduce it in the new parliament when it convenes, said informed sources. The sources added that the government asked the council to focus on clearly defined plans and programs, explaining the begin-

ning and end of each of them, and the legislations needed so that the parliament can tend to them without delay. The sources said that the program would be ready by the end of the month so that it could be reviewed by the new Cabinet to ask each minister to add new ideas within his jurisdiction, and eventually have the program ready by the first half of December.

UNION CONDEMNS POLICE RAID OF LAWYER'S OFFICE

VOTE BUYING VIOLATIONS SUSPECTED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Arab Lawyers Union (ALU)'s secretariat general condemned raiding a lawyer's office by police over allegations that he had been buying votes for the upcoming parliamentary elections, and described the raid as a 'severe violation of the law profession as well as all national and international laws'. ALU also stressed that an official search warrant had to be issued by the public prosecutor and the Lawyers Society chairman had to be notified prior to searching a lawyer's office and arresting him. In addition, ALU expressed hopes that Kuwaiti officials would realize their mistake and bring mat-

ters back to the right track. It also expressed full support for the Kuwait Lawyers Society.

Indian cactus

Endocrinologist and diabetes specialist at Al-Sabah Hospital Dr Adel Redha warned of what he described as the dangerous trend of using Indian cactus to treat some diseases, because it is very dangerous for the body's vital functions and leads to increasing liver enzymes. Redha stressed that social media stories about the plant and claims that it can magically treat thyroid problems is scientifically untrue and leads to many dangerous side effects. Redha urged the interior ministry to intervene to stop the sale

of such a harmful product and other similar ones promoted through social media.

E-link

Farwaniya medical zone director Dr Humoud Al-Zobei said there is a future plan to electronically link the basic healthcare center and Farwaniya Hospital's medical files. Speaking on the sidelines of Farwaniya health zone's commemoration of World Diabetes Day at Menahy Al-Ossaimi Clinic, Zobei said special awareness programs are in place all year long for various diseases, namely diabetes. He also called for identifying the reasons and dangers of diabetes to patients and prevention and follow-up with physicians.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS AT \$303 BILLION IN 2015: CENTER

KUWAIT: The world's investments in renewable energy projects had reached \$303 billion in 2015, said the Diplomatic Center for Strategic Studies yesterday. According to a report by the center, the investment shares in renewable energy resources in 2015 was at 17 percent, an increase by one point from 2014's 16 percent.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) revealed renewable energy usage between 2011 and 2015 increased by 40 percent due to the low cost in harnessing solar and wind powers, said the center. The report added that renewable energy had contributed immensely to the production of electricity by 154 megawatts in which around 76 percent was solely produced by wind turbines and solar panels.

As for the numbers in the Middle East, the report claimed that countries in the region had tripled its renewable energy investments in 2015. The center has attributed the keen interest in renewable energy in the Middle East to the developing technologies in this field and low costs. In Morocco, the lowest wind speed produced electricity that amounted to \$28 kilowatt hour while in Dubai it amounted to \$30 kilowatt hour, said the center's report. The report also touched on the upcoming World Future Energy Summit (WFES), to be held on January 16-19, 2017 in Dubai, saying that the event will look into matters that would reinforce development within the domain of renewable energy.

Hammering on the validity of renewable energy investments in the region, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) revealed that the cost for producing electricity through solar panels in the UAE went down to a staggering 75 percent between 2008 and mid-2014 from \$7 to 1.5 per watt.

Renewable energy

In other news, the petroleum sector's efforts to promote the use of renewable energy was highlighted at the regional Sustainable Built Environment Conference, currently held in Doha. Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has presented a research paper to the conference on the petroleum sector's role in



DOHA: KNPC's Research and Technology Department Manager Suaad Al-Radhwan speaks during the regional Sustainable Built Environment Conference in Doha, Qatar.—KUNA

widening the use of renewable energy, KNPC's Research and Technology Department Manager Suaad Al-Radhwan said on the sideline of conference.

Increasing Kuwait's reliance on renewable energy is a translation of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision of securing 15 percent of Kuwait's energy consumption from renewable energy sources by 2030, she pointed out. She argued that the petroleum sector has went further in its strategy which with plans to materialize His Highness

the Amir's vision by 2020 instead of 2030.

Radhwan unveiled that the sector has already completed the feasibility study and is preparing to launch a mega project to establish a national power station to generate 15 percent of Kuwait energy consumption from renewable sources. The KNPC has recently operated two solar-powered fueling stations in Al-Zahra and Al-Raqqa neighborhoods, she noted, adding that it has chosen 44 other facilities to turn them to solar power in the coming stage. She stated that the company is embarking on a plan to apply green building code on its warehouses in Sabhan, Al-Ahmadi, and New Mutlaa cities.

Green building

Radhwan noted that KNPC has signed an agreement with the Gulf Organization for Research and Development (GORD) on environment cooperation and application of green building code in the petroleum sector's facilities. The KNPC has selected two buildings, including one still under construction, to apply the green building code to enhance the energy efficiency, she pointed out.

On the conference, which kicked off yesterday, Radhwan underlined the importance of the gathering which provides a platform for energy and environment entities to exchange experience and best practices in the domain. The Sustainable Built Environment Conference is the regional conference for GCC and MENA region on sustainable construction and urban development. The conference aims to drive innovation in the design of built environment, as well as promoting education and collaboration in the field and will serve as a platform for exchange between researchers and practitioners of the construction industry to foster the implementation of sustainability standards in the built environment.—KUNA



Deputy CEO of KOC Badria Abulraheem is pictured with her 'Best Oil and Gas Woman of the Year' trophy.

ADIPEC NAMES KUWAITI AS BEST OIL, GAS WOMAN OF YEAR

ABU DHABI: The Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) has named Deputy CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Badria Abulraheem as Best Oil and Gas Woman of the Year. "I am very proud of this achievement which will be added to the achievements of Kuwaiti women and show their ability to be creative and to shot to prominence in different domains and at different regional and international events," she said on Tuesday.

She pointed out that the award is "the fruit of huge efforts exerted throughout my career to enhance the role of women in the oil sector and encourage them to harness their skills through training courses, lectures and workshops." She added that today's honoring would incentivize her to do more to elevate Kuwait's flag at different regional and international events. Abulraheem thanked the award jury and all who helped her achieve success in her career and paved the

way for her to win such a prestigious award. In recognition of their commitment to and innovation in the energy sector, ADIPEC has honored eight winners of its 2016 edition on Monday. Thirty-one nominees were shortlisted after the opening round of assessment by the Regional Select Jury (RSJ), a panel of experts from the region's leading energy companies, academic institutions, and professional associations. Each shortlisted entry was thoroughly screened by members of the RSJ, with the winners selected after a meticulous evaluation process.

ADIPEC 2016, which kicked off Monday, marks its 19th edition with its largest event to date, bringing together more than 2,000 exhibiting companies, 25 country pavilions, 850 speakers, 8,500 delegates, and 100,000 attendees from more than 125 countries. Kuwait is participating in the conference with a large delegation including 56 engineers.—KUNA

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT ACTIVATES ATV BAN

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Maj Gen Fahd Al-Showai said traffic patrols started yesterday a campaign to monitor the use of motorcycles and ATVs on main roads and residential and coastal areas. He said riding an ATV will result in its impoundment. He said the traffic department is exerting efforts to curb the bad behavior of driving ATVs, adding that there will be several field teams from the security supervision to monitor such behaviors to eradicate them. He said misuse of ATVs results in deaths and severe injuries. Showai urged parents to watch their children to stop traffic accidents. He said an ATV should be driven within legal conditions and technical specifications. In other news,

the traffic organization department for airport security impounded 26 vehicles, in addition to issuing 1,860 citations.

Expos

The relations and security information department at the interior ministry said two expos will be held at the Avenues and Gate Mall from today for three days to give information about voter registration numbers at committees and their locations for the parliamentary elections that will be held on Nov 26. The department urged citizens and their families who wish to take advantage of this service to visit these expos from tomorrow until Saturday from 10 am until 10 pm.

Candidates Speak

Government, parliament limited political activities: Candidate

Enezi to address solidarity, prisoners of opinion, humanitarian issues

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Fourth constituency candidate for the 2016 parliamentary elections and former Municipal Council member Abdullah Fahhad Al-Enezi said his motive for running was the government's and the previous parliament's failure in achieving the Kuwaiti people's aspirations. He accused both of selectiveness and revenge and using various tools to pressure political blocs and limit political activities, instead of achieving social security.

Enezi holds a BA in engineering from North Carolina University in the US. He was a Municipal Council member from 2009-2013 and chaired the council's technical and Jahra committees and the structural plan committee. He holds a human rights activist certificate from the Arab League, has been an Arab Arbitration Center fellow, member of KES and founding member of Kuwait's Council for Green Buildings.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times, Enezi added the one-vote electoral system divided the society and boosted sectarianism

One-vote system divided the society and enhanced sectarianism and tribalism

and tribalism, which was clearly detected in the previous parliament. Enezi noted that the most important topics on his agenda include strengthening the domestic front, releasing prisoners of opinion, giving back citizenships that had been politically withdrawn, stopping security pursuits, fixing the deterioration in humanitarian issues, solving the bedoon problem and protecting citizens' dignities.

Failure

Kuwait Times: What is the reason behind your decision to run for elections?

Abdullah Al-Enezi: In view of the government's and the previous parliament's failure in achieving the Kuwaiti people's aspirations and using various tools to oppress political powers instead of achieving social security, and after consulting my constituents, I decided to run to defend public gains and achieve public wishes.

KT: What do you think of the one-vote electoral system?

Enezi: This system has divided the society and enhanced sectarianism and tribalism, which were clear in the outcome of the previous parliament.

I will also give due care to youth to help them achieve their aspirations and hopes

KT: If you win the elections, will you try to amend it?

Enezi: We will work hard on amending this decree and seek a fair electoral system that enhances democracy.

Main issues

KT: What are the main issues you will tackle?

Enezi: I will focus on national solidarity, releasing prisoners of opin-

This is message from the boycotters to the government, telling that it was going through the wrong paths

ion, giving back citizenships that had been politically withdrawn, stopping security pursuits, fixing deterioration in humanitarian issues, solving the bedoon problem and protecting citizens' dignities.

I will also give due care to youth to help them achieve their aspirations and hopes under an umbrella of social justice and equal opportunities. I will also work on providing them with proper housing to end their sufferings in a country that possesses all potentials.

I will also work on developing services in Jahra and Farwaniya in particular and the country in general by passing development projects, following up their execution and holding those accused of dereliction accountable.

KT: What do you think of the previous parliament?

Enezi: The previous parliament disappointed us and was not up to its responsibilities, and I expect a great deal of change in the coming one.

KT: How do you view the participation of the opposition that had boycotted previous elections?

Enezi: This is message from the boycotters to the government, telling it that it was going through the wrong paths and that this needs to be set straight to make the people the source of all powers.

Women are highly valued by the entire society as mothers, sisters and wives

KT: Do you think any female candidates will make it to the coming parliament?

Enezi: Women are highly valued by the entire society as mothers, sisters and wives. They are not to be taken lightly and surely have what it takes to become MPs. But I expect only one of them to win a parliamentary seat.

KT: What is the percentage of change you expect in the coming parliament?

Enezi: For the past three years, people have been angry with lawmakers' performance and I expect an 80 percent turnover in the coming parliament.

KT: What percentage of participation do you expect? Why?

Enezi: Now that the Kuwaiti people have seen the shortcomings of the dissolved parliament, I expect a 75 percent turnout in the elections due to the tense regional situation that calls for effective participation. We also witnessed human right violations, restricting liberties and a systematic 'assault' on citizens' pockets and incomes, which affected the lives of many and made them detect danger. Therefore, I expect higher rates of participation to protect citizens, because laws passed by the previous parliament were against them.



Abdullah Fahhad Al-Enezi's elections poster, with a motto that reads "safe-guarding a nation."

False promises

KT: What do you think of the false promises made by some previous MPs?

Enezi: The dissolved parliament was one without will. We all agree that MPs' performance was way below par, although they had promised not to affect citizens' income, but what happened is that they took part in doing so in the very first test of such promises. This will not deceive the Kuwaiti people.

KT: Is the bedoon issue on your electoral program?

Enezi: The government must acknowledge the contributions of bedoons who protected this land side by side with citizens in times of distress. The problem has to be humanely and legally resolved in a way that achieves decent lives for them and grant them full human rights, especially since we live in a 'humanitarian center'. The government must also grant citizenship to those who deserve it and not use these demands for political bargaining.

KT: What do you think of the DNA law?

Enezi: This law is against the sharia, norms and traditions. I do thank HH the Amir for setting things right and ordering the government to restudy it. If I win, I will assess the government's reaction to this law and will help it if it respects HH the Amir's wishes. Otherwise, the government will be held accountable for any religious or constitutional violations.

KT: What is your impression about writing off loans?

Enezi: Consumer loans is surely an issue that affects all Kuwaiti families. The people have been suffering because of loans they would not have resorted to if it were not for the government's failures and blunders. Justice must be observed for everyone on writing off such loans.

CANDIDATE AL-ALI LAYS OUT PROGRAM AT RALLY

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Lawyer Ali Mohammed Al-Ali, a candidate from the first constituency, held a symposium on Tuesday at the Regency Hotel to meet voters of the district and speak about his election program. "People know there are problems in the health and educational sectors, in addition to other poor public services, but they need solutions to resolve them. This is the reason why I am running in this election," he said.

Youth

"Young people have a lot of free time, so we should establish sports clubs that will graduate professional players. I also suggest separating the ministry of information from the ministry of youth. Furthermore, I disagree with the amendment of the juvenile law, which will go in effect in January, as it reduces the age of criminal liability from 18 to 16 years. According to this law, a 16-year-old juvenile may be sentenced to death," noted Ali.

"MPs should submit financial disclosures and the conditions for being a candidate should be changed in terms of their education," he said.

Women

"The Kuwaiti constitution sets equity between

genders, yet the woman is oppressed in many areas compared to men. Her foreign husband or children can't get her nationality or inheritance, while the wife and children of a Kuwaiti man can. So we need to make some changes in this discriminatory law. Women candidates should also work on changing this," explained Ali. "Children of Kuwaiti women should get citizenship to prevent losing their identities. They should also get the same allowances as children of Kuwaiti fathers," he added.

"Many decisions against the disabled are unjustified, as it's not allowed to appeal against a decision of the medical committee that is reviewing their cases. For more than 12 years, I have defended many of their cases free of charge as I believe that not having the right to appeal a case is great injustice. Also, a ministry decree was issued that stopped paying allowances for light and medium disabilities, and limited it to major disabilities. I will file a case against this decision," Ali stated.

Tenders

"I will submit a draft law banning selling tenders to subcontractors, as this makes services bad. We should instead let foreign investors to prove their capabilities," he pointed out.

"We can't cancel this service or stop sending



KUWAIT: Lawyer Ali Mohammed Al-Ali speaks during the symposium. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

patients abroad for medical treatment, as this will affect actual patients who are benefiting from this service. But I suggest investing in establishing medical spas and centers of international standards, so patients can receive medical services here in Kuwait. Only actual patients will benefit from it and medical tourism will stop," concluded Ali.

CARICATURISTS INCREASE VOTERS' AWARENESS AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Caricaturists have been playing a significant role for enhancing electorate's political awareness ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections due on November 26. Through simple, amusing and satirical works of art that depict realities of a community, caricaturists reflect deep thoughts and ideas, and smoothly deliver messages to a wide range of the population, that can even change political convictions.

Amid the hectic run-up to the elections, KUNA had separate interviews with a host of caricaturists on the role the art of caricature in reflecting the proceedings of electoral process. They all agreed that the art of caricature can teach visual literacy like no other form of art does, saying it is a lively satirical of funny representation that in most cases carries pungent criticism or views. It is a strong art that smoothly creeps into people's minds, and affect their views, positively or negatively, they all said. The art is essentially effective in the elections, as it touches upon major and sensitive issues, caricaturist Mohammad Al-Thallab said.

The National Assembly (parliament) elections due later this month offer a profound source and inspiration for a caricaturist, who can express people's concerns and expectations, as well as his own, through simple clear images and comments, that even stir thinking and raise discussions, Thallab added. Caricature is integral to modern press in Kuwait, he said, noting that the country has hosted several events on the art. He pointed to of serious steps, almost being finalized, to declare the formation of a Kuwaiti caricature association.

The art of caricature plays an effective role in any society, shedding light on issues of concern to the people, caricaturist Mohammad Al-Qahtani said. It is well employed by caricaturists to deliver specific views, he added. No doubt, caricatures affect voters' thinking, and decision-making, he said. In this way, they can widely be used as an influential tool to form a public opinion. It is as easy as ever for caricatures to find their way to people, through the media, or even faster through social networking, Qahtani noted.

Caricaturist Basil Buhemid pointed to the intense effect of the art on directing voters. Good caricatures must help people make decisions on who to vote for, depicting certain positive, as well as the negative points of candidates, for instance, he said. Buhemid added that the history of the art of caricature in Kuwait is distinct, compared to other countries in the region. He attributed this fact to the broad range of freedom of speech and expression in the country. Kuwait has welcomed several renowned Arab caricaturists, such as Najj Al-Ali, Bahaa Bukhari, Abdul-Redha Kamal, and Abdul-Salam Maqboul, Buhemid said. Meanwhile, caricaturist Mohammad Al-Mashmoum said that the significance of the art of caricature is that it reflects receivers' thoughts and thinking.

It is a light, yet deep art, that spares people the fatigue of reading long articles, and delivers a concept easily and smoothly, with a sense of relaxation, Al-Mashmoum said. Thanks to the breath-taking progress of the media and information technology, the art has been widely

spread, exceeding print press to social networking, he said. A caricaturist is a self-monitored artist, who enjoys a strong sense of responsibility as an active member of the society, Al-Mashmoum indicated. — KUNA

57 MPs REPRESENTED 4TH CONSTITUENCY UNTIL 2013

KUWAIT: Some 57 MPs have represented the Fourth Constituency in 12 assemblies between the years 1981 and 2013. Musallam Al-Barrak and Mubarak Al-Khurainji, two kingpins of the Fourth Constituency, lead the pack of recurrently elected MPs, having each served for six legislative terms.

Moreover, Talal Al-Ayyar served for five legislative terms, while Mubarak Al-Duwaila, Hussein Al-Daihani, Daifallah Bourumiya and Ali Al-Diqbasi each served for four. They are followed by Ahmad Al-Sheraiyan, Mohammad Al-Busairi, Mohammad Al-Khalifa, Saad Al-Rashidi and Askar Al-Enezi, who represented this district for three legislative terms.

Meanwhile, MPs that had served two terms include Falah Al-Hajraf, Abbas Al-Mussailim, Barrak Al-Noun, Faisal Al-Duwaish, Mnaizil Al-Enezi, Ghannam Al-Jumhour, Mohammad Daifallah Sharar, Mferej Al-Mutairi, Talal Al-Saeed, Mohammad Al-Mutairi and Hussein Al-Mutairi.

Furthermore, those that have served just one term include Khaled Al-Mesab, Fayiz Al-Rashidi, Mohammad Al-Barak, Nayif Al-Mutairi, Abdulkarim Al-Juhaidli, Mutlaq Al-Shlaimi, Mutalq Al-Massoud, Mohammad Al-Enezi, Mohammad Al-Mussailim, Yousef Al-Makhled, Ali Al-Saeed, Mohammad Al-Muhmel, Saud Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Haifi, Eid Al-Rashidi, Awad Al-Enezi, Mohammad Al-Feji, Mezel Al-Nimran, Khothar Al-Enezi, Nasser Al-Duwaila, Shuaib Al-Muwaizri,

Reja Al-Mutairi, Mohmmad Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Walaan, Mohmmad Al-Rashidi, Sultan Al-Shimmeri, Saud Al-Herajji, Majid Al-Mutairi, Mohmmad Al-Enezi, Mansour Al-Thaferi and Abdullah Al-Adwani.

In 2012, in an unprecedented turn of events, a parliamentary lineup elected in February was rendered null and void, subsequently, invalidating the memberships of MPs Abeer Al-Wasmi and Osama Al-Munawer. In December 2012, MPs Saud Al-Herajji, Thekra Al-Rashidi, Khaled Al-Shulaimi, Mohammad Al-Barrak, Mishari Al-Husseini, Mubarak Al-Arraf, Mubarak Al-Najada had their memberships invalidated.

Five MPs from the Fourth Constituency have served as ministers since 1981 to the present time. In 1996, Mohammad Daifallah Sharar served as Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs in 1998. Eid Al-Rashidi was appointed Minister of Public Works in 1999, while Talal Al-Ayyar served as Minister of Electricity and Water and Minister of Social Affairs in 2001.

Shuaib Al-Muwaizri was appointed Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs in February 2012. Thekra Al-Rashidi was appointed Minister of Social Affairs in December 2012, while no MPs from this constituency served in a ministerial position in the governments of the years; 1981, 1985, 1992, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2013. — KUNA

YOUTH LOOK FOR ANSWERS AS ELECTIONS LOOM

KUWAIT: Youth unemployment is one of the most perennial challenges faced by many of the world's most developed nations, a top policy concern that has been the focal point of global development goals. With parliamentary elections less than a month away on November 26th, many candidates are scurrying for the ever so crucial votes of the nation's youth, a segment of society seen as the decisive factor for this year's elections. Moreover, as the youth head to the polls on election day, the issue of unemployment is sure to weigh heavily on their minds. According to national statistics, the unemployment rate in the country stands at 19.40 percent.

In an effort to get an inkling on how this year's parliamentary candidates plan to remedy the burning issue of youth unemployment, KUNA spoke with a number of candidates in the Second and Third Constituencies to get their vantage points on the best possible solutions to address this problem. In the Second Constituency, there appeared to be a consensus on who to put the onus on, as the candidates that KUNA had spoken to laid the blame on the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Two candidates in this constituency opined that the CSC should undertake more initiatives to provide jobs for the nation's youth, in collaboration with the public and private sectors. Recently, the CSC had announced

its decision to stop recruiting expatriates under its services category, in a measure to make room for an influx of national college graduates. Furthermore, they urged greater expedition in sorting through the employment process, where it is not uncommon for applicants to get employed more than a year after they had submitted their employment applications.

Meanwhile, KUNA spoke to another pair of candidates in the Third Constituency, who offered varying perspectives on how to deal with the issue of youth unemployment. One candidate extolled the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SME), an endeavor that aims to combat unemployment and buttress youth ideas.

Furthermore, another Third Constituency candidate made similar remarks, as he encouraged young entrepreneurs to translate their ideas into viable projects that will be financed and supported by the SME. "That way, we can ease the burden on the CSC to employ thousands of young citizens," he argued. He also underscored the need of closer cooperation between the public and private sectors, pressing the latter to make more efforts to lure youth employees in an attempt to create a "more level playing field." As election day inches closer, the nation's youth remain hopeful that the next National Assembly will deliver on lofty promises. — KUNA

In Brief

AMIR CONGRATULATES MOTOCROSS RACER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Kuwaiti racer Barrak Al-Jasmi, congratulating him on his win at an international motocross championship which was held in the US State of California. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent him similar cables. — KUNA



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

KUWAIT: Environment Public Authority's (EPA) chief said a Gulf journey of Kayaks, due to begin today, aimed at raising awareness over importance of protecting environment at domestic and Gulf levels. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah, EPA's Board Chairman and Director General, said the journey of the Kayak4Kuwait team aimed at raising awareness over the preserving of marine environment and stopping the ruining of beaches. He told a press conference that this "tough" journey complimented EPA's objectives to stop illegal fishing and all negative practices harming marine environment.—KUNA



FOUNDATION PRAISED

MANAMA: Bahrain's Minister of Information Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi praised the great cultural and literary achievements carried out by Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation. He made this remark yesterday during his meeting with Kuwaiti poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, the foundation's chairman of the board of trustees, who is visiting Bahrain to be honored by the Isa Cultural Centre for his enrichment of cultural activities in the Gulf region, Arab countries and internationally. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: An artificial lake located in the heart of the Boulevard Park in Salmiya. The 353,000 square meter park contains a cricket field, basketball courts, shopping center, restaurants and other attractions. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

KUWAITIS KEEN ON HUMANITARIAN, CHARITABLE EFFORTS ABROAD: OFFICIALS

WEST JAVA, Indonesia: Due to their continuous efforts within the domains of humanitarian relief aid and charity, Kuwaitis had made the name of their country known to many people around the globe. Speaking on separate occasions, a number of Kuwaiti relief aid workers said that their job was in line Kuwait's leadership policy, stressing that the UN honoring of Kuwait as a humanitarian center and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah global humanitarian leader was due to the Gulf country's relentless effort in this field.

During their visit to the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad village in Indonesia, executive at the Zakat House Mohammad Al-Otaibi said that the village included several facilities aimed at the service of the residence. This is a small gesture of hope that Kuwait would like to provide to the dwellers of this Indonesian village, said Otaibi.

Providing a similar input, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Waleed Al-Ammar said that Kuwait has several charity projects running in Indonesia, noting that the village was an important milestone for Kuwaiti relief aid efforts. The Ministry and the Zakat House continue to collaborate in Indonesia and elsewhere to provide help to the needy, affirmed Al-Ammar who commended other Kuwaiti charitable organizations for their efforts.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director at the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Salem Hamada said that his organization offered various kinds of assistance to the Indonesian people, noting that recently the IICO opened a Quran school where around 150 students learn to recite and memorize the holy script.

He indicated that the opening of the new village was an addition to the Kuwaiti long



heritage of helping other people, affirming that the IICO and other Kuwaiti bodies will continue the country's humanitarian mission.

Institutes

Separately, Indonesia's deputy governor of West Jawa Helmi Budiman has extolled the Kuwaiti humanitarian aid provided to Indonesians. This came on Tuesday in Budiman's speech delivered during a festival of International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO), co-sponsored by Sheikh Aisha Mubarak Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Sheikhha Mariam Al-Sabah on the occasion of opening two institutes: a training center for boys and housing units for girls. A number of Kuwaiti donors funded the projects in the

Garut town in the province of West Java.

Garut's population numbering three million appreciates highly the Kuwaiti projects, mainly the town as it includes facilities and an education body, Budiman said. He added that the institutes inaugurated today are considered the two largest ones in West Java as they are serving about 2000 male and female students. He called for supporting humanitarian and developmental projects in the province. Budiman lauded the level of the Kuwait-Indonesia relations in different fields, voicing his appreciation to all Kuwaiti bodies backing his country.

Solidarity

Meanwhile, Sheikhha Aisha Mubarak Al-



Sabah said carrying out such developmental and humanitarian projects for Indonesians reflect the deep meaning of cooperation and solidarity amongst peoples of the Muslim world.

She added that the State of Kuwait and Kuwaitis have been backing brothers, sisters and friends who are in distress all over the world, expressing her pride for being in the Indonesian town to attend the opening ceremony.

She noted that Kuwait's strong role in humanitarian action has caught the attention of the world and all global institutions. She recalled that His Highness the Amir was named by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2014 as a "Humanitarian Leader," and Kuwait

as a "Humanitarian Center" due to the efforts exerted in this regard.

In the meantime, First Secretary at the Kuwait Embassy in Jakarta Abdullah Al-Fadhli said Kuwait and Indonesia have deep-rooted relations in all fields, mainly the humanitarian action. He expressed his pride that Kuwaitis have been providing humanitarian action to needy people across the globe. Mohammad Al-Aloush, a donor, said such projects carried out in Indonesia aim to alleviate effects of crises and natural disasters facing the country with a largest Muslim population. Kuwait's aid has been reaching all places across the globe, thanks to Kuwait's men and women who devoted their lives to help needy people through such projects, he noted. — KUNA



KUWAIT DELIVERS 3,000 FOOD BASKETS TO DISPLACED IRAQIS FLEEING MOSUL

IRBIL: Some 3,000 food baskets were delivered to Iraqis fleeing the military operations in Mosul city, said a Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday. Kuwait General Consul to Mosul Dr Omar Al-Kanderi said that his country was keen on helping dis-

placed Iraqis fleeing from the city of Mosul which is under the grip of the so-called Islamic State (IS). The aid campaign is a reflection of the Kuwaiti leadership and people's continuous efforts to help Iraqis during their darkest time, said

Kanderi. Relief aid officials in the Kurdistan region commended the efforts by Kuwait, saying that these efforts were well received by the locals. Kuwait has handed around 170,000 food baskets since the beginning of 2016. —KUNA

KUWAIT CONDUCTS 2ND PHASE OF KUWAIT-NASA WATER PROJECT

KUWAIT: NASA scientist at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Essam Heggy announced yesterday the beginning of the second phase of the water discovery project in Kuwait's desert, using Radar Sounding technology. Heggy said at the end of his visit to Kuwait that he held several meetings with officials from The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to follow up on the cooperation agreement in the development of the technology of underground water in the desert areas. He noted that the project is still in its infancy and he is preparing for a series of visits during the few months to conduct field studies to understand the development of the groundwater in the Middle East.

He explained that the project's goal is to apply the technology used in the Mars project to locate previous-

ly unknown aquifers in arid regions, adding that the project in Kuwait would allow NASA's technology to be calibrated for desert conditions. Dr Essam Heggy is an Arabic-French

Research Scientist in the Radar Science Group at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Visiting Associate in Geology at the California Institute of Technology. — KUNA



NASA scientist at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Essam Heggy



TURKISH AIRLINES RECORDS UP TO 25% ANNUAL GROWTH ON KUWAIT'S ROUTE

NEW OFFICE OPENED IN KUWAIT

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines is registering a 20-25 percent growth in sales annually on its Kuwait route. "We moved to this new office in Al Dhow Tower as we needed a bigger place. In 2011, there were five flights weekly between Kuwait and Istanbul. The number then went up to five flights daily. The Kuwait destination is growing faster than other destinations. This is why we need bigger offices and be in the center of the city," Adem Ceylan, Vice President, Sales - Middle East and Cyprus, told Kuwait Times during the opening ceremony of the new office.

"During winter, there are three flights daily between Kuwait and Turkey, while in summer there were six flights daily. Also, more destinations were added to our schedule. We fly to two airports in Istanbul - Ataturk and Sabiha - in addition to other Turkish cities including Antalya, Trabzon, Izmir and Bursa. We aim to add new destinations every year," Ceylan added.

'Exclusive Drive'

Turkish Airlines provides special services for passengers from Kuwait and Dubai flying to the United States. "Passengers from Kuwait are important to us and there are many Kuwaiti students and businessmen flying to the States. So we have prepared a special service for them called 'Exclusive Drive', which offers Business Class passengers to US a complimentary limousine drive from their house to the airport, both in Kuwait and Dubai, as well as from the airport in the US to their house or hotel," explained Ceylan.

"We also have an Arabic-language call center in Turkey. In addition, we have social media accounts on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook in Arabic, which other European carriers are not providing. Furthermore, we provide ground services at Istanbul Airport with Arabic-speaking staff," he noted.

Ceylan said the situation is impeccable in Turkey. "We registered an increase in visits from Arab tourists in August and September compared to the same period last year. When I visit shopping malls in Istanbul, I notice the large number of Arab tourists. Many of them are buying houses in Turkey. Not only during summer, but people the country in winter as well," concluded Ceylan.

New office

Turkish Airlines, Europe's best airline for the sixth year in a row, celebrated the opening of its new office, in which it welcomed its



KUWAIT: Officials cut the cake during the ceremony. (Inset) Adem Ceylan, Vice President, Sales - Middle East and Cyprus speaks during the press conference. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

partners and stakeholders to an evening reception. The office is located at Khalid Ibn Al-Waleed Street, Al-Dhow Tower, Block 7/1, Sharq, in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

The event welcomed the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait, along with the airline's top travel agents from all over the country, as well as journalists, at the Al-Dhow Tower in Kuwait City. The guests were able to witness the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the new premises, followed by an entertaining cocktail reception.

Turkish Airlines has continued to meet the demands of its customers in Kuwait and throughout the globe by successfully launching several key flights to new destinations. In 2016 alone the airline launched new flights to Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Kosice, Slovakia; Bogota, Columbia's capital; Panama City, Panama; Atlanta, USA; Cluj, Romania; Hanoi, Vietnam; Erbil, Iraq, and Mahé, Seychelles.

Through the expansion of these new flights, Turkish Airlines showcases its commitment to continuously providing its customers with the best possible services, which is also evident through its fleet of 334

aircraft, the airlines said in a press release.

"Today marks another great day for Turkish Airlines as we continue to expand throughout the GCC region," Ceylan said during the event. "Kuwait is one of the centers of commerce and tourism within the region and is a market of opportunity in our expansion plans. Moreover with the growing demand of our passengers and customers in the Kuwaiti market, by opening this new office, we aim to provide them with a full on-ground support and a smoother access to leisure and business connectivity."

Crucial part

Sami Aydogan, General Manager, Turkish Airlines, Kuwait City, said: "We are delighted to celebrate this day with our distinguished guests. Our relations with our travel agents and key media journalists are a huge and crucial part of our growth, which is why it is only fitting for us to celebrate this new milestone with them. Over the decades we have focused thoroughly on enhancing our customers' experience by providing them with the best in-flight and airport services possible, especially via our business class flights,

which has helped us in earning their respect and loyalty. Our philosophy is to always maintain a competitive advantage over other airlines by being a customer-oriented airline committed to the highest standard of services and we will stay loyal this mind-set"

He added: "Some new direct flights were also launched earlier last year for the first time from Trabzon, Bursa, Izmir, and Antalya to Kuwait, providing Kuwaitis with the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of these Turkish cities."

MAGIC MALL HOSTS AWARENESS FORUM

KUWAIT: Under auspices of Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and with participation of a number of public and private bodies concerned with health, environmental safety, recreation and agriculture, Ahmadi governorate will tomorrow Friday launch its first recreational and awareness forum at the Kuwait Magic Shopping Mall in Abu Halifa. The activity will be sponsored by the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK).



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Accordingly, Ibrahim Al-Foudery, the governorate's technical office manager and head of the 'My Governorate is More beautiful' project, said that the project aims at boosting Ahmadi residents' awareness in terms of health, agriculture and environmental safety.

Meanwhile, Hamed Al-Ibrahim, the governorate's coordinator of government relations and the forum's coordinator, said that the organizing committee had toured the forum's venue at Kuwait Magic to check the final preparations.

Notably, the forum will attract participants from NCCAL, Central Blood Bank, Dasman Diabetes Institute, KOC, EPA, CAN, the Agricultural Engineers Society, Kuwait Society of cardiology in addition to the Kuwaiti farmer, Yousif Al-Kraibani who will present 5000 rare plants' saplings to the visitors as gifts.

Thursday Thrills (10.11.2016)

Al Alali Skipjack Tuna in Sunflower Oil 170gm 3's 1.350 0.795	Perdix Chicken Thighs 900gm 2's 1.950 1.195	Samsung Galaxy A310 16GB 4.7 69.900 54.990
Samsung Curved UHD TV 49" 49 299.990 199.990	Heys Hard Trolley 4wheel 21inch 22.900 11.450 26inch 27.900 13.950 30inch 33.900 16.950	

Fantastic Friday (11.11.2016)

Nestle Kit Kat 2 Finger 20.5gm 36+ 6 Free 2.590 1.690	Cheffline Frypan 2Pc Set 2.900 1.600	Sadia Chicken Leg 2.5Kg 2.395
Lenovo Tab3 A7-30 44.990 32.990	Onida Full HD LED TV 43" 43 89.990 69.990	

Saturday Surprises (12.11.2016)

Pillsbury Cake Mix 485gm 3's 1.770 0.795	Chicken Dum Biryani /kg 1.500	Fa Assorted Bath Soap 125gm 6's 0.990 0.395
Ariel/Tide Washing Powder 4.5kg /PC 1.990	Kenwood Food Processor FP 190 21.900 13.900	Reebok Mens/Ladies Sport Shoes 24.900 11.900

Fantastic Friday (11.11.2016)

Seara Chicken 1.1 Kg 2's 1.000	Al Marai UHT Milk 1Ltr 4's (Full Fat/Low Fat) 1.000	Harpic Toilet Cleaner 500ml 2+1FREE 1.000
White Pomfret (Medium) /kg 6.390 5.690	New Zealand Beef Back Ribs /kg 2.790 2.090	Prawns Saudi /kg 3.290 2.790

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EGAILA-SALMIYA-DAJEEJ-AL QURAIN-AL RAI-FAHAHEEL

Al-Qabas

WE ARE FAR AWAY FROM DEMOCRACY

By Abdellatif Al-Duaij

Democracy is not just about elections only. Democracy is freedom of opinion and expression, and without freedom of expression in any shape, there won't be democracy, and there is no individual who doesn't play his role freely with enough abilities to allow him to choose what he thinks is in his interest. Freedom of expression cannot take place completely and effectively without the "freedom to reach it", or events or judicial rulings. Here, we do not lack the required encouragement to search, investigate and make opinions. Rather in reality, everything is dark and protected by banning getting involved in it.

The human being here is born with a packaged mentality that he gets, or rather imposed on him, by the sacred religious and social inheritance. This mentality is not imposed and taught to the young only - rather he will be banned from touching it after he becomes an adult and his physical built becomes complete, because he does not grow "mentally" at all. He is born with the mentality of his fathers and grandfathers. This ban is by the law, enshrined in article 19 of Kuwait's media law and its amendments.

So, it is natural to quarantine the freedom of opinion in all shapes, and that the citizen should overlook this freedom, although the founding fathers were keen on instilling it in article 175 of the constitution: "The provisions relating to the Amiri system in Kuwait and the principles of liberty and equality, provided for in this constitution, may not be proposed for revision except in relation to the title of the amir or to increase the guarantees of liberty and equality."

Based on backward mentality and malicious unconstitutional laws, two distinguished parliamentary candidates such as Safaa Al-Hashem and Abdelhameed Dashti were struck out, without anyone caring or being angry. That means that banning the freedom expression has become a tool used by anyone who wants to isolate or block the opportunities of representing the nation from whoever is seen as a danger or negatively affects them.

We do not suggest bad intentions in the disbaring here, just as much as we do not suggest perfections in those who were struck out, but there remains that every individual has the right to freely express his opinion in a democratic society. He should not be held to account politically later or at any time, as the case was for some people over the practice of their freedom and enjoying the rights the founding fathers were keen to provide and guarantee for them.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

THE SIXTH SENSE

Al-Anbaa

By Saad Al-Motesh

Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle said that the main human senses are five - smell, hearing, sight, taste and touch. One cannot smell using his sense of touch or fingers. We cannot hear using our eyes. The only person who could see through his nose was the famous police character Abu Kalabcha in the popular old comic series Sahn Al-Noum. He believed that his nose was always right.

Well, I believe that Aristotle was wrong with regards to the sense of taste, because like so many of you, he thinks that things can only be tasted by mouths and tongues which tell the difference between salty and sweet, hot and cold and distinguish between various flavors. I will prove that things can be tasted through other organs.

All sects of the Kuwaiti people noticed and saw how so many people changed their principles with regards

to taking part in the parliamentary elections after they rejected it and accused those participating of treason. These very same people are now very keen on taking part in the elections to win parliamentary seats, forgetting all about the previous statements they made. They are actually fighting fiercely amongst themselves, though they had refused taking part or running for elections in the past. They even justify their participation.

Well, this proves that parliamentary seats have delicious and sweet tastes only known to those who have experienced them and lost the taste for a while. This also refutes Aristotle's argument that taste is felt by the mouth and tongue. It can be done by other organs in some people's bodies. So, this is what should be described as the sixth sense!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

These very same people are now very keen on taking part in the elections to win parliamentary seats

Crime

Report

SHEPHERD COMMITS SUICIDE AT PEN

KUWAIT: A shepherd committed suicide at his sponsor's animal pen. The sponsor told police he found the shepherd hanging from the ceiling. The body was recovered by the coroner, and investigations are underway.

Swindling

An Egyptian man working in the construction business told an Iranian and a bedoon he needed a large quantity of gravel, as they made him believe they had a contracting company. The Egyptian handed them KD 30,750, but days went by without delivery. So he went to Khaitan police station and lodged a complaint. Detectives located the bedoon's residence in Khaitan and arrested him. He was found wanted for 11 swindling cases, and told police where his partner was. The Iranian said he had transferred his share to his country, and returned KD 1,340, which was all that was left.

'Sorcerer' caught

Financial crimes detectives arrested a Syrian man for sorcery, who charged KD 450 per session. The Syrian claimed he could make a woman love a man, drive a wedge between couples, etc. Detectives acted after receiving several complaints from his victims who did not get what they paid for. An undercover agent was sent to him, who paid him KD 200 and promised to pay KD 250 after the job is done. Police found sorcery tools and herbs in addition to pictures of men and women with their mothers' names.

Pharmacist arrested

An Egyptian woman turned the pharmacy she managed into an outlet for selling medicines she got from the health ministry at half price. Detectives' investigations revealed that the pharmacist used an Asian cleaning worker who works in a government hospital to bring certain medicines at cheap prices, then she resold them. Detectives raided the pharmacy and found a large quantity of drugs in the toilet, and a similar amount in the trunk of her car. The pharmacist confessed to selling the drugs and told police about more drugs in her Salmiya apartment.

Fight

A fight broke out between women in a multipurpose hall, when one of the guests started to take pictures with her smartphone. The party organizer became angry and the two got into a fight. The incident is being investigated by police. — Al-Rai

KFH PARTICIPATES IN AAOIFI CONFERENCE IN BAHRAIN

GROUP DELEGATION ENCOMPASSED SENIOR SHARIA AND BANKING EXPERTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions AAOIFI's and World Bank's 11th annual conference for Islamic Banking and Finance organized jointly by the (AAOIFI), the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and the World Bank Group, under a major sponsorship of KFH Group. The two-day conference convened in Bahrain under the theme "Islamic Finance in the Post Oil Economic Scenario" brought under its umbrella senior Sharia scholars and experts in the field of Islamic Banking.

KFH delegation encompassed senior sharia and banking executives from KFH and KFH-Bahrain represented by KFH Board Member Noor Alrahman Abed, CEO KFH- Bahrain Abdulhakeem Alkhatyat, Sharia Supervisory Board Chairman Dr. Sayyed Mohammad Al-Sayyid Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtaba'e, and Group Chief Financial Officer Shadi Zahran, in addition to a number of executives at the bank.

Alkhatyat received the 'Shield of Honor' from Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa the Chairman of Board of Trustees, AAOIFI. The conference sessions focused on the post oil economic scenario of the Muslim world and its impacts on the Islamic finance industry globally, in general and in the region in particular. The conference also honored a key figure from the Islamic Finance industry.

Moreover, the conference discussed the effects on Islamic finance strategies of the changing economic environment, and the role of Islamic finance with the governments in the

changing economic environment. The 6 sessions discussed topics of the Islamic agrifinance, effects of IFRS 9 on the Islamic finance industry and the debut of gold products in Islamic finance and the upcoming AAOIFI Sharia standard on gold.

It is noteworthy that the conference is part of AAOIFI's on-going consultative process with the international Islamic finance industry on the development and review of its standards on Sharia, accounting, auditing, governance and ethics of Islamic finance.



KUWAITI PROTEINS COMPANY JOINS HORECA KUWAIT 2017

KUWAIT: In view of the growing number of companies announcing intentions to take part in the Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition, Kuwait Proteins Company recently announced participating in the exhibition as a Golden sponsor.

In this regard, Deputy CEO Soud Fauzan Al-Fauzan stressed that Horeca Kuwait has major economic impact in view of the constant development in the hospitality sector through building new hotels and restaurants. He added that taking part in this year's exhibition is a great opportunity for the company to emphasize its excellence among its peers in the business. Fauzan also noted that the presence of hospitality business decision makers in one place would be a good opportunity to display and explore new ideas.

Further, Fauzan stressed that Proteins Company has an over 34 years long career in the business of supplying cooperatives, hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, clubs, wholesalers, catering companies, minimarkets, bakeries, pastries, convenient stores and retail food outlets with various food products. He added that Proteins Company is also the official supplier of many international food and beverage brands that satisfy Kuwaiti consumers' taste. In addition, Fauzan said that Proteins



Soud Al-Fauzan

Company would display outstanding gourmet products at Horeca Kuwait, in addition to the distinctive services it has been providing for years.

Horeca Kuwait is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company. It is due to be held at Mishref International Fair Ground in the period of January 16-18, 2017 under auspices of the Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

GRATEFUL SONS AWARDS WINNERS HONORED AT KHAIRAN



KUWAIT: The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) is keen on communicating with visitors and coordinating with all concerned bodies and establishments, Public Relations Director Sager Al-Bader said. In this regard, TEC recently hosted the Al-Baghli Award for Grateful Sons, which was held for the 8th consecutive year at Al-Khairan Resort under the patronage of the Chairman of Board of the Ibrahim Taher Al-Baghli charity, he said.

Bader added that, the event's organizing committee organized a special open day activity at Al-Khairan Resort for participants and guests, who included residents of geriatric houses, senior citizens receiving special care at their own houses, as well as the volunteers serving them including scouts, high school graduates, their families and the resort visitors. He added that the activities included recreational, cultural and social ones, in addition to competitions, lunch and a cruise. Al-Khairan Resort's manager Nasser Qaddoumi said meanwhile that such activities help bridge the gaps between generations and encourage youth to take part in them to reinforce family bonds and ties.





Populists surge on several continents

SHOCK, DESPAIR, SILENCE AT CLINTON'S CAMP

RISING SUICIDE TOLL RINGS ALARM BELLS IN TUNISIA

TUNIS: Six years since a young Tunisian stallholder set himself on fire, triggering revolutions across the Arab world, his country's suicide rate is surging over economic and social woes, experts say. Mohamed Bouazizi, who self-immolated on December 17, 2010 in protest at unemployment and police harassment and died a month later, was among hundreds of Tunisians who have killed themselves in recent years. The rising suicide rate "had already been noticed... over a decade ago", Fatma Charfi, a child psychiatrist and head of the Committee for the Prevention of Suicide said.

Last year, authorities recorded 365 suicides in a population of 11 million around 3.27 per 100,000 people. While that rate is low compared to other countries, the data is likely skewed by social and religious taboos, meaning the real figure may be much higher. The toll is particularly high among the young-around half the victims were aged between 20 and 39. Charfi said the continuous rise in recorded suicides was "a very serious matter". The committee she heads was set up in 2015 in response to warnings from experts that suicides were on the rise.

It has been charged by the health ministry with collecting better data and creating a national strategy to tackle the problem. Tunisia does not yet have a national suicide register. Under the regime of former dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who was toppled in 2011 following mass protests sparked by Bouazizi's suicide, the data was incomplete, experts said. "There was this complex: 'We don't have suicides, we don't have violence,'" Abdessattar Sahbani of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Political Rights (FTDES) said.

But Charfi said comparisons of forensic data from 1990, 2000 and 2010 showed a clear rise. After Bouazizi's death, self-immolation became the second-most common method of suicide in Tunisia (15 percent of cases) after hanging (60 percent). Between January and June 2011, several dozen Tunisians set themselves on fire in suicide attempts-a phenomenon that continues today. "It was expected that in 2015, we would start to experience a decline (in self-immolations), but it

has remained stable since 2011," Charfi said.

Suicides usually have multiple causes, often including depression and other mental illnesses. But Tunisia's economic woes and high unemployment also appear to be key factors. "It's definitely linked... the result of an absence of hope," said Sahbani. Tunisia's economy has struggled to recover since the revolution. Authorities have failed to resolve the poverty, unemployment and corruption that were rife under the Ben Ali regime. The all-important tourism sector was devastated by a series of jihadist attacks in 2015 that left dozens of foreign tourists dead and slashed visitor numbers. Some 15 percent of the workforce was unemployed in the second quarter of 2016, according to the National Statistics Institute.

A 2014 World Bank report said joblessness was as high as 30 percent in Tunisia's impoverished interior, which has been the heart of a simmering jihadist insurgency since 2011. Forensic scientist Mehdi Ben Khelil of the Charles-Nicolle Hospital in Tunis is co-author of a study on the revolution's impact on suicide. He said he found an increase in suicides between 2011 and 2012, then a small reduction before a second peak in 2014. He linked the second rise to the country's difficult political transition and the impact of the economic crisis on individuals. "There are more people without jobs (and) with financial problems," he said.

Historically taboo, suicide has received growing coverage in the Tunisian media. But that itself has its dangers, say experts. "We are talking about suicide in Tunisia but mostly in an inappropriate way," Ourida Boussada, a lecturer at IPSI, the country's oldest journalism school, said at a recent seminar. Boussada said too much coverage was sensationalist and revealed intimate details about the victim's life. IPSI is working with the journalists' union and HAICA, the body responsible for broadcasting, to improve reporting on the issue. "We must tackle suicide... as a public health problem, not isolating it to a single cause," she said, "so that vulnerable people will not be tempted to take the same course of action." — AFP



TUNIS: A Tunisian girl poses for a photo in front of the logo of the Carthage Film Festival on Habib Bourguiba avenue in Tunis. — AFP

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IS TURNS TO TUNNELS IN LAST STAND FOR IRAQI TOWN

BASHIQA: Iraqi Kurdish forces came under heavy fire from a salmon-colored house on the edge of the Islamic State group-held town of Bashiqa, but when they stormed it, it was empty. "The fiercest resistance was coming from here," said Corporal Hawkar Weis, pointing to the two-storey house on the eastern side of Bashiqa, which is now under the control of Kurdish peshmerga forces. "But when we entered, there was no one here. The Daesh fighters were using tunnels to cross from this house to the other neighborhoods," the portly peshmerga fighter said, using an Arabic acronym for the extremist group. Peshmerga forces recaptured Bashiqa from IS this week, after street fighting and air strikes that heavily damaged many of the town's low, brightly painted homes and rows of shops.

Seizing it was a final step in securing the eastern approaches to Mosul, three weeks into an offensive by Iraqi forces backed by a US-led coalition to retake the country's second city. Even after

the Kurdish forces overran most of Bashiqa, they struggled to clear out a handful of IS fighters scurrying through a network of tunnels dug under its residential neighborhoods. As the jihadists made their last stand in Bashiqa on Tuesday, they used the underground pathways to transport fighters and suicide bombers to inflict as much damage as possible.

The pink house was the network's nerve centre. Weis and two other peshmerga corporals walked gingerly through hallways littered with shattered glass and filthy bedding. Their weapons were raised, they explained, because there could still be one or two IS militants hiding out in the home. They turned the corner into a rectangular room, darkened by thick blankets hung up on the windows and dominated by a gaping hole several meters deep. A small motor was suspended above the hole on thick metal pipes, attached to a hook. IS fighters used the motor to haul buckets of dirt

out, dumping them into the surrounding rooms but never outside.

'Stay above ground'

"If (IS fighters) take the dirt outside, then the coalition warplanes will see them and know where they are. So they hide the dirt from the tunnels inside the rooms," Weis said. Indeed, the surrounding bedrooms were full of small mountains of dirt-sometimes crowned with a wheelbarrow or shovels. IS fighters had taped a hand-drawn map above the tunnel mouth to indicate at least ten other entrances scattered around Bashiqa, with distances marked in metres between certain rooms, houses, and streets. Peshmerga fighters described a twisted game of whack-a-mole, waiting for IS fighters to emerge from their underground maze to strike. "IS fighters are protecting themselves from coalition air strikes by hiding in the tunnels," said Major General Iskandar Hajji, a local peshmerga com-

mander. "We have a problem with these tunnels—we can't do anything except wait for them to come out so we can fight them," he told AFP.

At least one senior officer lost his life on Tuesday when a trio of suicide bombers emerged from a tunnel mouth in eastern Bashiqa. "A major general came back from retirement to fight Daesh here. Suicide bombers jumped out of one of the tunnels. He was able to kill two of them, but the third one detonated himself," Weis said. Another tunnel entrance in the same house could be entered via a crude set of dirt steps. A lanky peshmerga fighter who identified himself as Corporal Idris peered into the tunnel and fired his assault rifle into the abyss, pausing to listen for any return fire or ricochet. He pulled his shirt over his nose and mouth and ventured a few meters into the tunnel before turning back. "We are still not sure what is in there. It's better to stay above ground," he said. — AFP



MOSUL: A member of the Iraqi forces prepares ammunitions for 122mm howitzers at an army position in the village of Arbid on the southern outskirts of Mosul yesterday, during the ongoing military operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State (IS) group. — AFP

CRUCIFIXIONS AND VICE PATROLS SHOW ISLAMIC STATE MAINTAINS MOSUL GRIP

FIVE CRUCIFIED BODIES HUNG UP AT ROAD JUNCTION

BAGHDAD: Islamic State militants fighting to hold on to their Mosul stronghold have displayed the crucified bodies of five people they said gave information to "the enemy," and are back on the city streets policing the length of men's beards, residents say. The five bodies were put on display at a road junction, a clear message to the city's remaining 1.5 million residents that the ultra-hardline Islamists are still in charge, despite losing territory to the east of the city. Thousands of Islamic State fighters have run Mosul, the largest city under their control in Iraq and neighboring Syria, since they conquered large parts of northern Iraq in 2014.

They are now battling a 100,000-strong coalition including Iraqi troops, security forces, Kurdish peshmerga and mainly Shiite paramilitary groups, which has almost surrounded the city and has broken into eastern neighborhoods. Residents contacted by telephone late on Tuesday said many parts of the city were calmer than they had been for days, allowing people to venture out to seek food, even in areas which have seen heavy fighting over the last week. "I went out in my car for the first time since the start of the clashes in the eastern districts," said one Mosul resident. "I saw some of the Hisba elements of Daesh (Islamic State) checking people's beards and clothes and looking for smokers".

Islamic State's Hisba force is a morality police unit which imposes the Sunni jihadists' interpretation of Islamic behaviour. It forbids smoking,

says women should be veiled and wear gloves, and bans men from Western-style dress including jeans and logos. Hisba units patrol the city in specially marked vehicles. "It looks like they want to prove their presence after they disappeared for the last 10 days, especially on the eastern bank," the resident said. Mosul is divided into two halves by the Tigris river running through its centre. The eastern half, where elite Iraqi troops have broken through Islamic State defenses, has a more mixed population than the western, overwhelmingly Sunni Arab side, where Islamic State fighters are believed to be strongest.

Crucified corpses

The militants are putting up a fierce defense after their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, told them in a speech last week to remain loyal to their commanders and not to retreat in the "total war" with their enemies. Iraqi military officials say they have sources inside the city, helping them identify Islamic State positions for targeting by the US-led air coalition supporting the campaign, which is also backed by US troops on the ground. The gruesome public display of the bodies in east Mosul appeared to be a warning against other potential informers. "I saw five corpses of young men which had been crucified at a road junction in east Mosul," not far from districts which had seen heavy fighting, said another resident.

"The Daesh people hung the bodies out and

said that these were agents passing news to the infidel forces and apostates," he said referring to the Western allies backing the campaign and the Shi'ite-led government of Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. In another sign of a clamp-down on contact with the outside world, one retired policeman said Islamic State officials were trying to inspect SIM cards to check on all communications. "I went to get my pension as usual, but the man at the office refused to give it to me unless I handed over my SIM card," the 65-year-old man, who gave his name as Abu Ali, said. "These are the instructions from Daesh," the man told him.

Many residents close to the fighting have said the scale of the clashes has been terrifying, with the sound of gunfire, mortar bombardments and air strikes echoing through the streets. In the Zuhour district, still controlled by Islamic State on Mosul's eastern bank, witnesses said that cars carrying mortars roamed the streets on Tuesday, but were not seen being fired - unlike in the previous two days. The relative quiet may reflect a reduction in fighting since Iraq's special forces first broke into eastern Mosul a week ago. They faced fierce resistance, and have not sought to any major advance since then. One witness said traffic had almost returned to normal in most parts of eastern Mosul and markets were operating, albeit not as busy as before the start of military operations. — Reuters

TRUMP PRESIDENCY BUOYS ISRAELI LEADER AND RATTLES PALESTINIANS

US PRESIDENT-ELECT SEEN AS MORE PRO-ISRAEL

JERUSALEM: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was one of the first Arab leaders to congratulate Donald Trump on his election win yesterday, but analysts say a Trump presidency may be profoundly negative for Palestinian aspirations while buoying Israel's confidence. Israel's right-wing prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, expressed confidence that he and Trump can work together to bring US-Israeli relations to "new heights".

In a statement, Abbas appeared to hold out some hope that Trump, with no clear foreign policy program, may turn a new leaf when it comes to the Middle East. "Abbas congratulates the US President Donald Trump on his election and hopes just peace can be achieved during his tenure," said the statement on the official Wafa news agency. That may be wishful thinking. During the campaign, Trump won support in Israel with a promise to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, all but enshrining the ancient city as Israel's capital.

While that has been promised many times by presidential candidates in the past, Trump is the sort of leader who may well make it happen, and he would likely have full backing from the Republican-dominated US Congress, too. If it does occur, it would override decades of international diplomacy that holds that the status of Jerusalem is not finalized until a negotiated settlement is reached between Israel and the Palestinians, who want East Jerusalem as the capital of their state, together with the West Bank and Gaza. Netanyahu, who has had a rocky relationship with President Barack Obama, issued a statement congratulating Trump and hailed him as a "true friend" of Israel.

"I am confident that President-elect Trump and I will continue to strengthen the unique alliance between our two countries and bring it to ever greater heights," Netanyahu said. He said he looked forward to working with Trump "to advance security, stability and peace in our region". US-backed peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014. Israeli Education Minister Naftali

Bennett, a right-wing party leader who backs Israeli settlement building and opposes a Palestinian state, made the implications of Trump's win very clear in a rapidly released statement. "The era of a Palestinian state is over," Bennett said.

Shattered dream?

The national aspirations of the Palestinians are already in difficulty for at least two reasons: animosity and division between Abbas's Fatah party and the Islamist group Hamas, which has shattered political unity, and the extent of Israel's settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which is slowly eating away at the land left for a state of Palestine. Israel has occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem since the 1967 Middle East war. There are now 350,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank and 250,000 in East Jerusalem. The Palestinian population of the West Bank is about 2.8 million, while around 300,000 live in East Jerusalem.

Under President Trump, Israeli analysts expect there to be less pressure from the United States to halt settlement building, meaning the settler population will grow unchecked, pushing the faint possibility of a two-state solution - the aim of diplomacy for decades - further out of reach. "The Palestinian people hold no hope that the change of American president will mean a change in policy towards the Palestinian cause," said Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri. "That policy is constant and biased in favor of Israel's occupation".

George Jackman, the chairman of the Ramallah-based Institution for Democratic Studies, says it is possible that Trump will surprise as president since his policy ideas, especially in the Middle East, are so unclear. "We shouldn't expect that slogans announced by Trump during his electoral campaign will remain unchanged," he said. "What distinguishes Trump is that no one knows what policies he may embrace because there are no detailed plans." That could be both positive and negative. But from the perspective of Palestinian political analysts, it's negative. — Reuters



RAMALLAH: Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa (left) and former Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit (center) arrive to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. — AP

COALITION STRIKE 'KILLS 20 CIVILIANS'

AIN ISSA: US-backed forces pressed offensives yesterday on the Islamic State group's strongholds in Syria and Iraq, as an air strike by the American-led coalition reportedly killed 20 civilians near the Syrian city of Raqa. Supported by coalition air raids, Iraqi forces have pushed into IS's Mosul stronghold and a Kurdish-Arab militia alliance has been advancing on the jihadists' de facto Syrian capital Raqa. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a coalition strike overnight had hit the IS-held village of Al-Heisha, about 40 kilometers north of Raqa. Rami Abdul Rahman, the head of the Britain-based monitoring group, said nine women and two children were among the 20 civilians killed and that 32 others had been wounded.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the militia alliance which Washington is supporting in the assault, denied the civilian deaths. "There is no such thing, and any such claims are IS news," SDF spokeswoman Jihan Sheikh Ahmed said. Colonel John Dorrian, a spokesman for the coalition said it appeared there had been strikes in the area. "After an initial assess-

ment... the coalition confirms it did conduct strikes in the area described in the allegation," he said. "However, more specific information is needed to conclusively determine responsibility" for civilian casualties. The Observatory said the latest deaths brought the number of civilians killed since US-led air strikes in Syria began in September 2014 to 680, including 169 children.

'We left everything behind'

Some 200 families had fled Al-Heisha, according to an SDF official. "Daesh fighters brought heavy weapons to our village and stayed among us so that if there were strikes they would hit us," 45-year-old Saada Al-Aboud said after fleeing the town, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "They wouldn't let us leave. We had to escape by running out into the fields, with our children and old people. What else could we do? We left everything behind." The SDF launched the drive towards Raqa on Saturday, upping pressure on the jihadists three weeks after Iraqi forces began their assault on Mosul. — AFP

IRAN URGES TRUMP TO STICK TO AGREEMENTS

BUCHAREST: Iran's foreign minister called yesterday on US president-elect Donald Trump to stick to international agreements following his threats during the election campaign to tear up a nuclear deal with Tehran. "Every US president has to understand the realities of today's world. The most important thing is that the future US president stick to agreements, to engagements undertaken,"

Mohammad Javad Zarif said in Romania.

Trump has vowed to rip up last year's deal with world powers which lifted international sanctions in return for curbs on Iran's nuclear program. Tehran insists its nuclear program is peaceful and has so far met its obligations under the deal, but supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said he would happily "burn" the agreement if Trump

decides to tear it up. Some Iranians believe the US president-elect will not make good on his threat.

"The Trump of the campaign is different to Trump the president," said Allaeddine Borujerdi, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs committee. "It is natural that the American president is constrained by international rules and must apply them, notably on the nuclear deal," the ISNA news agency quoted him as saying. Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said it was prepared for any eventuality. "We have defined our nuclear program in such a way that we can continue in any situation," spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told the state broadcaster. The deputy commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, Hossein Salami, said it made no difference to Iran who was in the White House.

"When the Republicans were in power, they threatened us and showed their hostility... and when the Democrats were in power, the policies of the United States were the same," Salami told the Fars news agency. Iran says the United States has not stuck to the spirit of the nuclear deal since it came into force in January, because a raft of unilateral US sanctions remain in place that have left it frozen out of the international banking system. The US Congress is due to vote next month on whether to renew those sanctions, which are linked to Iran's human rights record and ballistic missile tests. — AFP



BUCHAREST: Romanian Foreign Minister Lazar Comanescu (right) and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif sign bi-lateral documents at the Romanian Foreign Ministry in Bucharest yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP'S TRIUMPH PUTS ITALY'S RENZI IN A DIFFICULT POSITION

ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT 5-STAR MOVEMENT AHEAD IN POLLS

ROME: Donald Trump's unexpected victory in the US presidential election is likely to make it even harder for Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi to win a crucial referendum on constitutional reform set for December. Renzi was one of the few world leaders to publicly endorse Hillary Clinton and Trump's triumph has not only put the Italian premier in a difficult diplomatic position, it has also underlined the rise of anti-elite sentiment around the world.

"This factor is weighing against Renzi because at the moment for many Italians he represents the establishment," said Roberto D'Alimonte, politics professor at Luiss University in Rome. Renzi has said he will resign if he loses next month's ballot and was already facing fierce headwinds, with all opposition parties pitted against him and almost every opinion poll over the past two months showing the 'No' camp ahead. However, a large number of Italians remain undecided, helping to fuel government confidence that the 'Yes' vote will eventually win and stave off a renewed bout of political uncertainty that is feared by the financial markets.

"The Trump win does show that populism continues in 2016 and suggests a 'no' vote in the Italian referendum could be stronger than we assumed," David Zahn, the head of European fixed income at US fund manager Franklin Templeton, said. The spread between Italian and German 10-year benchmark bonds was up 7.8 basis points at 1200 GMT at 154.05, the highest level since June when the closely watched gap jumped in the wake of Britain's vote to leave the European Union. The constitutional reform proposes drastically curbing the role of the upper house Senate, a move that Renzi says will simplify decision-making and ensure stable government. Opponents say it will make the legislative process more complicated and reduce checks and balances.

We are the barbarians!

Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement currently heads the opinion polls and its founder, Beppe Grillo, hailed Trump's victory, seeing it as a vindication of his own maverick



Italian Premier Matteo Renzi

Clinton stance had weakened Italy's standing. "From this day forward Matteo Renzi is politically finished, he is a dead man walking," Brunetta said in a statement. "No other European country sided with one of the two contenders like Italy did. Now Renzi must reap the consequences and take responsibility for his bad choices." Renzi himself offered Trump his congratulations and said Italy's relations with the United States, its NATO ally, were "solid". The new US president is due to visit Italy next May when the country hosts the 2017 summit of Group of Seven leaders. — Reuters



NANTERRE: President of the French far-right party and presidential candidate for the 2017 French Presidential elections Marine Le Pen delivers a speech during a press conference yesterday in the party headquarters in Nanterre. — AFP

FRANCE'S LE PEN: COULD SHE PULL OFF A TRUMP IN 2017?

PARIS: The victory of Donald Trump in the US election and the Brexit camp's win in Britain have made 2016 a humbling year for political forecasters. In France, few now will dare write off the prospects of the far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in next year's presidential election—even if the country's two-round electoral system makes it harder to pull off an upset. It was no coincidence that Le Pen was one of the first political figures to congratulate Trump on his win. "Congratulations to the new president of the United States Donald Trump and to the free American people," she tweeted over an hour before the election was called for the Republican.

The vice-president of Le Pen's National Front (FN), Louis Aliot, hailed "Uncle Sam's giving the finger to an arrogant elite" and noted that the result coincided with the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. "Today, the United States, tomorrow France. Bravo America!" Le Pen's father, FN founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, cheered. In April, the French will begin voting for a leader who enjoys even greater executive powers than the US commander-in-chief, including the authority to send the country to war without parliamentary approval. Polls currently show Le Pen making it past the first round to the May run-off among the top two vote-getters but then being defeated by the conservative candidate, widely expected to be former prime minister Alain Juppe.

'Marine Le Pen can win'

But as the world reeled from the shock of Trump's win, voices on France's political left and right warned all bets were off. "The boundaries of reason disappeared with Brexit. The main lesson for us in France is that Marine Le Pen can win," former Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, a Juppe backer, told RTL radio. Another former prime minister, Dominique de Villepin, echoed that assessment, saying that "what is possible in the US is possible in France." The left-wing Liberation daily said the US election meant "the world's biggest power is now in the hands of the far right" and

called it "a further warning for those who think that Marine Le Pen cannot win power in France in 2017."

Rampant de-industrialization, high unemployment, a wave of terrorist attacks and an influx of migrants have seen disillusioned voters decamp in their droves to the "French first" FN. In echoes of Trump's "Make America Great Again" or Brexit's "Take Control" slogans, Le Pen has declared "the time of the nation state has come again." "There's a global awakening," she told reporters at a party rally in September, where she bashed the EU, the euro and immigration.

As FN leader back in 2002, her father caused the biggest upset in French post-war political history when he reached the second round of the presidential election. Jacques Chirac, a conservative, soundly beat Le Pen, with support from leftists. Fourteen years later, 48-year-old Marine Le Pen is trying to overcome the last remaining pockets of anti-FN resistance. "She is absolutely convinced she can win," one of Le Pen's advisors told AFP recently.

Newcomer's advantage

But polls still show the lingering stigma around the FN tripping her up, with her second-round rival, tipped to be the moderate Juppe, expected to easily defeat her. Convinced she can close the gap, Le Pen is continuing her drive to sanitize the FN's image. Gone is the overt anti-Semitism and race-baiting of the past—her rhetoric on Muslims and migrants is softer yet still resonates in a country and on a continent reeling from an unprecedented terror threat and the Syrian crisis.

But she cannot escape her father's embarrassing comments that the Nazi gas chambers are a "detail of history" and her party's pledge to pull France out of the euro has drawn scorn from economists. The FN has blamed the EU for much of France's ills and pushed for a "Frexit" referendum on France's EU membership. Last year, the party topped the poll in regional elections with 28 percent. — AFP

POPULISTS SURGE ON SEVERAL CONTINENTS

PARIS: Donald Trump's election as US president is the latest example of surging political populism fuelled by supporters' fears that globalization is leaving them behind. Here are examples from three continents:

Making America Great Again?

Despite the fact that he has never held public office—or maybe because of it—brash billionaire Trump won the US election after one of most bitter campaigns in memory. Trump pledged to "Make America Great Again" and restore jobs to middle- and working-class Americans worried about immigration and an exodus of jobs. His insults against Hispanics, Muslims and women were perceived by millions as plain-speaking, or at worst, "locker-room talk", by a support base made up strongly of non-college-educated white voters. His backers also welcomed a man they perceived as a business-savvy white knight who would protect domestic production against foreign trade, and put national interests over international agreements like on Iran or climate change.

Philippines' Duterte

Rodrigo Duterte's foul-mouthed tirades against the Filipino elite helped him cultivate a man-of-the-people image that propelled him to the presidency in June. The firebrand populist has made clear he is willing to forsake human rights for law and order, vowing to kill tens of thousands of criminals. His war on drugs and other crime has already claimed more than 4,100 lives. Duterte has shifted the Philippines' political alignment away from its key alliance with the US, strengthening ties with China. He has taken his blistering anti-American rhetoric far enough to call US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore", although he later apologized for that remark.

'Take back control' Brexit

Commentators have drawn strong comparisons between Trump's victory

and Britain's shock referendum vote in June to quit the European Union, which was driven by anger over immigration and the perception that Brussels bureaucrats wield too much power. Defying polls and much of Britain's political and media elite, 52 percent of British voters backed a divorce from the 28-nation bloc. Populist Nigel Farage led the anti-EU UK Independence Party into the bitter campaign, becoming the face of a movement to "take back control" of Britain's borders and immigration policy. Trump had vowed in his final campaign push Monday that the US election would be "Brexit plus plus plus". Farage was among those to congratulate the president-elect Wednesday, saying: "2016 is, by the looks of it, going to be the year of two great political revolutions."

Europe's rightwing tide

A populist tide has been sweeping Europe as it battles its worst migration crisis since World War II, struggling to cope with the arrival last year of hundreds of thousands of refugees and other migrants from the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. In France, Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front is set to make it into next May's presidential run-off, although polls predict she will be beaten by a more mainstream conservative candidate. From Austria to the Netherlands, Germany and even famously tolerant Scandinavia, once-fringe parties are gaining ground and public acceptance.

Germany's anti-migrant, anti-Islam Alternative for Germany (AFD) is polling at around 12 percent nationally after winning a slew of seats in state assemblies, providing a major headache to Chancellor Angela Merkel as she heads into an election year. Hungary's rightwing premier Victor Orban has become a figurehead for anti-refugee sentiment in eastern Europe, while the Austrian far-right's Norbert Hofer is hoping to win December 4's re-run vote for the presidency, a largely ceremonial role. — AFP

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Trump's joy is Obama's pain



NEW YORK: Republican presidential elect Donald Trump (left) applauds next to his son Barron, his wife Melania, his son Donald John, and daughters Ivanka and Tiffany during election night at the New York Hilton Midtown yesterday. —AFP

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's jaw-dropping White House win is a slap in the face for Barack Obama, elected eight years ago as the country's first black president on the promise of a nation united. At the political level, Hillary Clinton's defeat is certainly a setback for Obama, who campaigned hard for his former secretary of state, traveling across the country and employing the charisma and charm that she sorely lacks. But, aside from being the loss of a typical battle between the two major American political parties, the 70-year-old real estate tycoon's success is also a stinging personal blow for Obama.

It certainly appears that as if this ever calm, cerebral and optimistic president failed to understand a large slice of the American electorate and appreciate their reflexes, fears and concerns. Indeed, it would seem Obama has failed to take the pulse of this other America, a world of working class whites who felt they have been left in the lurch amid rapid fire change from

globalization and an increasingly multicultural society. Over the short term, Obama, whose approval ratings remain high as he prepares to leave office in January, might well ask what will even be left of his legacy after a Trump administration.

Trump has promised to scrap or overhaul many of Obama's signature initiatives, such as the health care plan that bears his name, the battle against climate change and the Paris accord of 2015, and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Obama has stated adamantly that Trump, criticized as a loose gun on everything from foreign policy to his treatment of women, is a danger to democracy. "We can't afford the other guy. Can't do that! Can't do that!" Obama said in Las Vegas a few days ago.

Tolerance on the ballot

At the political and human levels, it is hard to imagine two people more different than Obama and

Trump. This means their world view but also their views on women—Trump was accused during the campaign of sexual misconduct—family, money and institutions, and even their style, the way they speak and the words they use. Obama, the son of a Kenyan father and an American mother, forged a path that led him to Harvard and Yale. Trump inherited money from his family and developed a real estate empire centered on hotels and casinos. He has boasted about paying as little as possible in taxes. Obama is an intellectual who likes intricately reasoned discourse, at times to a fault. Trump is a businessman who speaks his mind in blasts of short, aggressive and sometimes vulgar phrases. "Democracy itself" is at stake in the election, Obama said recently as he lashed out at Trump. "Civility is on the ballot," Obama added. "Tolerance is on the ballot. Courtesy is on the ballot. Honesty is on the ballot. Equality is on the ballot."

Kindness is on the ballot.

Obama had personal reasons to try to stop Trump. In 2011, Trump was not yet a candidate for the White House but had displayed a taste for the limelight, controversy and conspiracy theories. For months, he fueled the so-called "birther" movement that questioned whether Obama had been born on US soil and was thus eligible to be president. An exasperated Obama called this nonsense and held a press conference to show off his birth certificate. He was born in Hawaii. A few days later, at the White House Correspondents Dinner, attended by Trump, Obama cheerfully said what he thought of Trump. "No one is happier, no one is prouder to put this birth certificate matter to rest than the Donald," Obama said. "And that's because he can finally get back to focusing on the issues that matter—like, did we fake the moon landing?" Just over five years later, Obama is getting ready to give up the White House to his former foil.—AFP



A 'Naked Cowboy' performer sings about Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump outside Trump Tower in New York City. —AFP

US elections: Twists and turns aplenty

WASHINGTON: The 2016 presidential campaign has been a roller coaster ride with twists and turns that left voters alternately elated, distraught and in the end, just downright exhausted. Donald Trump is headed to the White House after defeating Hillary Clinton in a shock upset, concluding a bruising 18-month campaign unlike any other in modern American history. As America and the world look back on a campaign fraught with insults and surprises, here's a snapshot of some of the most memorable moments:

Clinton email redux

Clinton thought a controversy over her use of a private server to send email while secretary of state had been put to rest in July, when FBI chief James Comey recommended no criminal charges against her. All that changed in late October, just 11 days before the election, when Comey surprised Americans by announcing the discovery of new, potentially relevant emails without giving further details. The news was a boon for Trump, who repeatedly called the revelations "the biggest political scandal since Watergate." He saw a bump in the polls. The 69-year-old former first lady once again apologized for using the private server, which her opponents said put classified information at risk, calling it "a mistake." Comey closed the case again just two days before the election, saying the new review had not changed the FBI's conclusions from July. It was welcome news for the Democrat but certainly played a role in deflating her momentum in the sprint to the finish line.

Trump video revealed

Trump attracted plenty of flak for his demeaning remarks about women, but a video made public on October 7 marked a new low that opened the candidate up to accusations of sexual assault. In the 2005 clip, Trump is apparently unaware his microphone is on when he describes groping and forcing himself on women in vulgar, predatory language. "When you're a star, they let you do it. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything,"

Trump is heard bragging.

Following the video's release, around a dozen women came forward to accuse the 70-year-old real estate mogul of unwanted sexual advances in the past. "He has said that the video doesn't represent who he is," Clinton said during an October 9 debate. "But I think it's clear to anyone who heard it that it represents exactly who he is, because we've seen this throughout the campaign." Trump dismissed the comments as "just words" and "locker room talk," and denied the sexual assault allegations, threatening to sue his accusers after the election.

The billionaire's taxes

Trump refused to release his income tax returns, defying a four-decade tradition among candidates for the White House. During a September 26 debate, Clinton offered several hypotheses as to why Trump might decline to make that information public, musing "maybe he doesn't want the American people, all of you watching tonight, to know that he's paid nothing in federal taxes." Trump seemed to imply the accusation was correct, responding only: "That makes me smart." On October 1, The New York Times reported that it had obtained three pages of Trump's 1995 tax returns from an anonymous source. The documents showed that the businessman had declared a loss that year of nearly \$1 billion, allowing him to legally avoid paying taxes for almost two decades.

Keep'em guessing

Trump launched an unprecedented assault on American political convention at the final debate, when he refused to say that he would respect a Clinton victory on Election Day. For weeks, he lambasted the political system, saying the vote was "rigged." When asked whether he would commit to recognizing the result of the vote no matter what, the reality television star said: "I'll tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense, OK?" Clinton declared herself "appalled" by what she said was an attack on 240 years of US democracy.—AFP

President-Elect: The man who tapped into American anger

WASHINGTON: When Donald Trump glided down an escalator in Trump Tower in June 2015 with his wife Melania and announced his bid for the White House, he was probably the only one in the room who thought he could win. Seventeen months later, the 70-year-old Republican billionaire tycoon and former reality TV star who has never held public office has, against all odds, been elected the 45th US president.

He surged to victory over Hillary Clinton on the back of acute anger among part of the electorate: those Americans who feel abandoned and betrayed by establishment politicians, and worried over free trade accords they see as threatening or having already stolen their jobs. In his final campaign rallies on Monday, Trump promised a Brexit-style win an allusion to the unexpected win of the "leave" camp in the British referendum in June in favor of quitting the European Union. Trump has kept his word. And in defying polls that made Clinton the favorite, American voters have decided to give him a chance, even though two-thirds of them think he does not have the temperament to be president. The improbable victory has placed the world in deep uncharted waters.

Amusement to astonishment

US media initially expressed amusement over the presidential aspirations of the braggadocious real estate tycoon with a stream-of-consciousness speaking style, the onetime television reality star with the weird yellowish hair. Trump had already flirted with the idea of a White House run a few years back but nothing came of it. In his speech announcing his bid, Trump painted a horribly grim picture of America, saying it was turning into a third world country.

He complained about politicians who were "all talk, no action." "I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created," Trump promised. He also pledged to build a wall along the border with Mexico to keep out undocumented foreigners and said America's southern neighbor was sending rapists and drug dealers across the border. The comment raised howls of protest, and was just the first of many that would earn Trump criticism that he was bigoted and racist.

As he made the rounds of TV talk shows and interviews in the weeks that followed, Trump continued to provide a sort of punch-in-the-gut entertainment. Americans reacted with befuddlement and indignation. But there was no deny-



Supporters of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump pose for photographs during election night at the New York. —AFP

ing Trump resonated with working class whites who feel left out by the fast-paced change of economic globalization and ignored by Beltway insiders. Trump faced 16 other Republicans in the primaries, including former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the son and brother of ex-presidents who had the support of the party and major donors. Trump ridiculed Bush as being "low energy" and gave other rivals insulting names such as "Little Marco" for Florida senator Marco Rubio. He made fun of businesswoman Carly Fiorina's face. The Republican Party tried in vain to keep Trump in check.

Anti-elite

Trump pledged to "make America great again" with his shocking comments criticizing immigrants and promising to tear up free trade agreements that the United States has signed. Trump proposed simplistic solutions to complex problems, promised to destroy the Islamic State group without saying how, and had kind words for Vladimir Putin, calling the Russian autocrat a strong leader. Crowds of mainly white people packed Trump rallies, chanting his slogans and forgiving him his gaffes and insults. They loved his politically incorrect talk, which reflected their deep-seated frustration and worry over their place in a culturally shifting nation.

The Manhattan property mogul, who invited Bill and Hillary Clinton to his third wedding and played golf with Bill, took on the role of the outsider fighting what he called the corrupt elite, and the American political system and economy. With support so widely dispersed in the primaries, Trump was able to win the

Republican presidential nomination. Former presidents George W Bush and his father George HW Bush declined to take part in the convention at which Trump was nominated, as did Mitt Romney, who lost in 2012 to incumbent President Barack Obama. The party hierarchy held its nose but could not stop Team Trump, which he financed with his own money.

No filter

On Twitter, Trump spoke his mind—ad nauseum—with no kind of filter. In three presidential debates against Clinton, a policy wonk who came out very well prepared, Trump seemed to just wing it, with little detailed knowledge of policy and little apparent interest in it. In these clashes Trump said so many things that were not true that fact checkers lost track. The first debate was watched by a record audience of 84 million people. His campaign was marked by myriad self-inflicted wounds as Trump locked horns with a judge of Mexican descent and the Pakistani parents of a Muslim soldier who died in Iraq. He came to call Clinton "crooked Hillary."

Trump also reshuffled his campaign leadership several times. Several times the press gave Trump up for dead, especially after the release in October of a 2005 video in which Trump boasted that his fame allowed him to grope women with impunity. He promised Monday to "close the books" on the Clintons and what he called their lies and corruption. Despite all her decades of experience in public life, Clinton could not withstand Trump and all the anger that he has tapped into.—AFP

Shock, despair, silence at Clinton's camp

NEW YORK: A stony silence cast a pall yesterday over what was meant to be Hillary Clinton's presidential victory party as, one by one, states turned Republican red for Donald Trump. The billionaire property mogul had not yet won the White House but for many, it was only a question of time. No one was expecting such a violent slap in the face. Some were saying it would be close, and many Democrats said they were nervous as they arrived at Clinton's event at the Javits Center on the west side of Midtown Manhattan.

But no one imagined the night would turn into a political funeral. At the food court, located underneath the hall where Clinton had been expected to write her name in the history books, two young women sobbed, and the alcohol was free-flowing. At a table, two other women stared blankly, their hands on their heads. "It is surreal," said one government employee who gave her first name Margarita, a beer in front of her. She says she fears a new era in America-not just in terms of politics, but also from those who voted for the 70-year-old Trump. "Our lives are not safe-as queer women, as brown women," she said, struggling to put her feelings into words.

Many spoke about what they felt was total ignorance among Trump supporters. "I think these people probably flunked out of school-they don't know history, they don't understand the world," said Elmy Bermejo, who traveled to the Big Apple from San Francisco for the occasion. But Bermejo tried to see the bright side on a dark night. "After I have a stiff drink of tequila, I'm going to get up, and since I'm a hopeful person, then I'll do whatever I can to make sure we vote him out of office, because that's what democracy is about," she said.

'We knew it would be close'

Shock was the dominant reaction, rather than anger at what looked like a stunning loss. New York is a Democratic bastion, one that voted for Clinton-and seems far from Trump's America that disdains Washington insiders. "We definitely knew it was close-not this close," said 22-year-old Eynn Stengel, who started drinking before the disheartening results started trickling in. "We feel like we live in a bubble-voting for

Trump to me is so shocking." Next to Stengel, 25-year-old Yanni Trittas, a local elected official, said: "They're people who hold on to racism and xenophobia," an intolerance that stems from what he said the Republican Party had "ensured by underinvesting in education."

'We need a miracle'

Faces once bright with the hope of seeing America's first female president elected started growing longer and longer at about 9:00 pm, when the results appeared to be leaning Trump's way. "Not great," said Joan Divenuti, a retired rail worker who came from Massachusetts. "Florida was always a problem," she said, shaking her head. It was not long before the US television networks called the Sunshine State for Trump. Then the Clinton supporters-initially quite talkative about the prospects for a Clinton presidency and many of them dressed in Clinton garb-clammed up as the hundreds of journalists on the scene began documenting the palpable anxiety.

Heads were shaking in front of the giant screens beaming the results to the crowd, and the voices of reporters echoed in the huge hall, which was otherwise silent. Supporters manically refreshed their smartphones in search of better news. But The New York Times only had bad news for them, with their forecast for Trump's chances of winning rising as the night wore on. In a desperate bid to motivate the crowd, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said: "We believe that Hillary Clinton is going to be the next president of the United States."

At 10:44 pm, the Times gave Trump a 93 percent chance of winning. Team Clinton vanished, avoiding reporters like the plague. She, her husband Bill and her entourage were holed up at a hotel not far from the venue. After midnight, when The Times put Trump's chance of winning at 95 percent, some started to leave the party-turned-funeral. A few brave campaign volunteers kept reporters from going into a large hall where several thousand dejected supporters were gathered. "I am praying-and I am not religious," said Anabel Evora, a 51-year-old from Tennessee who works at a non-profit organization. "We need a miracle. I am sad. I'm about to cry." —AFP



This combination of pictures created shows supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reacting in various cities across the United States. Donald Trump has stunned America and the world, riding a wave of populist resentment to defeat Hillary Clinton in the race to become the 45th president of the United States. —AFP



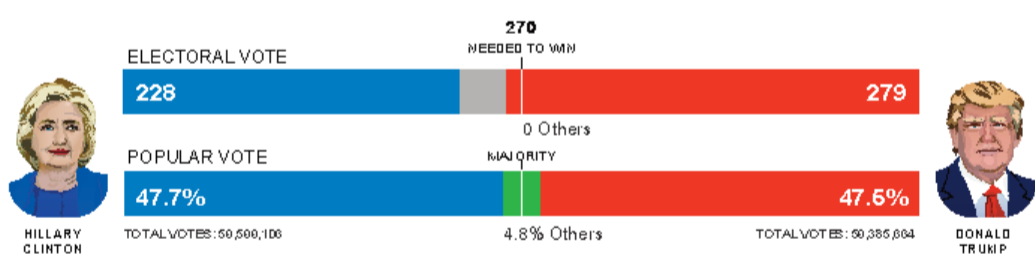
NEW DELHI: Right-wing activists of India's Hindu Sena celebrate the victorious outcome for US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in the US presidential elections in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP



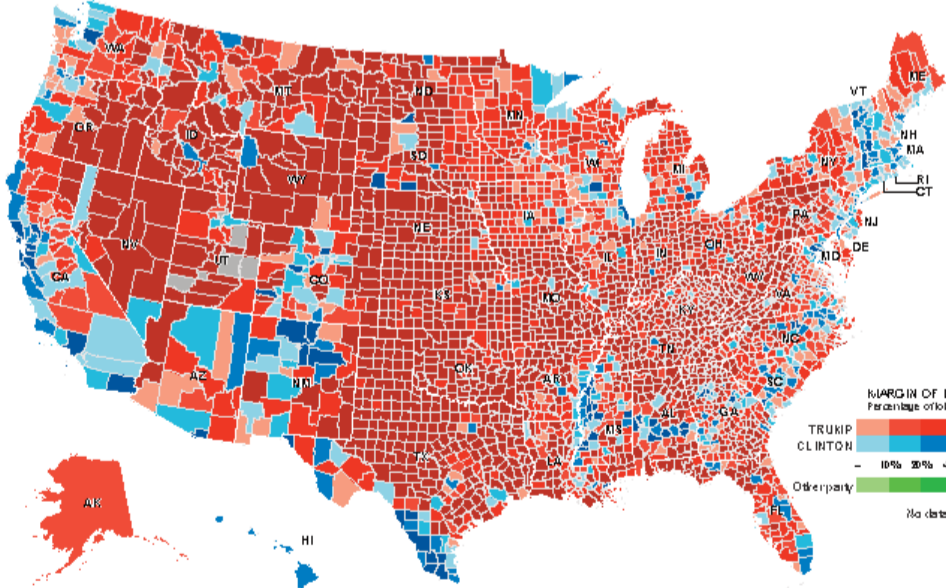
MOSUL: Members of the Iraqi forces react as they watch Donald Trump giving a speech after he won the US president elections in the village of Arbid on the southern outskirts of Mosul yesterday. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi congratulated Donald Trump on his election as president and said he hopes for continued US and international support in the war against jihadists. —AFP

ELECTION '16

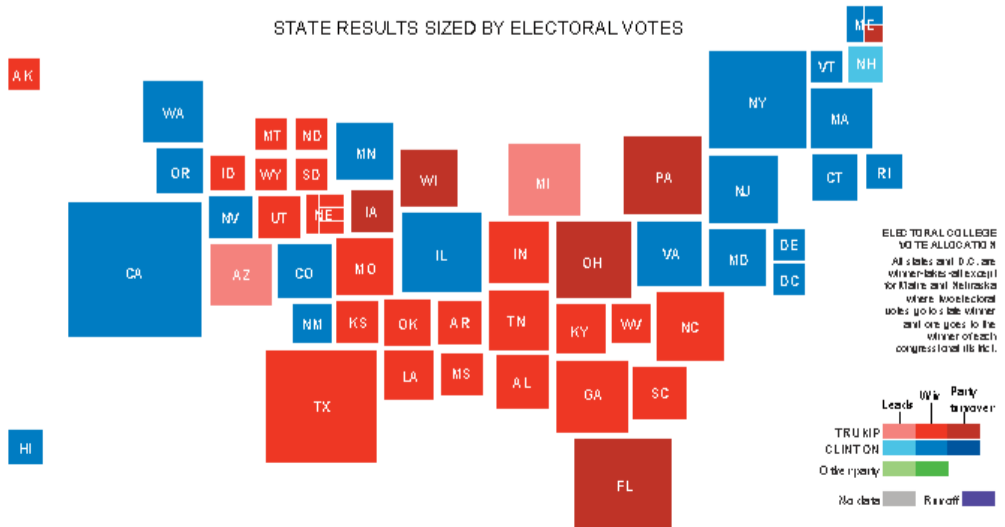
Presidential election results



THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE POPULAR VOTE



STATE RESULTS SIZED BY ELECTORAL VOTES



Data as of 1:13 p.m. EST
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WORLD IN SHOCK, US ON NEW PATH...

Continued from Page 1

President Barack Obama, who campaigned hard against Trump, invited him to the White House for a meeting today. "We are now all rooting for his success in uniting and leading the country," Obama said at the White House, saying he and his staff would work with Trump to ensure a successful transition. "We are not Democrats first, we are not Republicans first, we are Americans first."

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable yesterday to Trump on winning the US presidential elections. The Amir expressed hopes that Kuwait and the US will continue their strong historic relations, working together for a brighter future for the world. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Trailing in public opinion polls for months, Trump pulled off a major surprise and collected enough of the 270 state-by-state electoral votes needed to win, taking battleground states where presidential elections are traditionally decided, US television networks projected. His four-year term begins on Jan 20 and he will enjoy Republican majorities in both chambers of the US Congress. Television networks projected the party would retain control of the 100-seat Senate and the House of Representatives, where all 435 seats were up for grabs.

"He just earned a mandate and we now just have a unified Republican government," House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters in Wisconsin, crediting Trump's Election Day momentum with helping Republican victories that maintained the party's control of Congress. Worried that a Trump victory could cause economic and global uncertainty, investors fled risky global assets. The US dollar, Mexican peso and world stocks fell on Wednesday but fears of the kind of shock that wiped trillions of dollars off world markets after Britain's "Brexit" vote in June failed to materialize immediately. But US stocks were little changed yesterday, rebounding from stunning overnight losses fueled by the election result. Sectors such as banking and steel that appeared poised to benefit from a Trump presidency led the charge.

Trump appeared with his family early yesterday before cheering supporters in a New York hotel ballroom, saying it was time to heal the divisions caused by the campaign and find common ground after a campaign that exposed deep differences among Americans. "It is time for us to come together as one united people," Trump said. "I will be president for all Americans." He said he had received a call from Clinton to congratulate him on the win and praised her for her service and for a hard-fought campaign.

His comments were an abrupt departure from his campaign trail rhetoric in which he repeatedly slammed Clinton as "crooked" amid supporters' chants of "lock her up". But Trump's campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, yesterday did not rule out the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton's past conduct, a threat Trump made in an election debate last month. Despite losing the state-by-state electoral battle that determines the US presidency, Clinton narrowly led Trump in the nationwide popular vote, according to US media tallies.

Republican National Committee senior strategist Sean Spicer told MSNBC that Trump and his senior aides were meeting at Trump Tower in New York yesterday to "start the proper transition" to a Trump presidency. Prevailing in a race that opinion polls had clearly forecast as favoring Clinton, Trump won avid support among white non-college educated workers with his promise to be the "greatest jobs president that God ever created." "Such a beautiful and important evening! The

forgotten man and woman will never be forgotten again. We will all come together as never before," Trump wrote on Twitter early yesterday.

In his victory speech, he said he had a great economic plan, would embark on a project to rebuild American infrastructure and would double US economic growth. Trump, who at 70 will be the oldest first-term US president, came out on top after a bitter and divisive campaign that focused largely on the character of the candidates and whether they could be trusted in the Oval Office. The presidency will be Trump's first elected office, and it remains to be seen how he will work with Congress. During the campaign Trump was the target of sharp disapproval, not just from Democrats but from many in his own party.

Trump campaigned on a pledge to take the country on a more isolationist, protectionist "America First" path. Trump survived a series of blows on the campaign, many of them self-inflicted, including the emergence in October of a 2005 video in which he boasted about making unwanted sexual advances on women. He apologized but within days, several women emerged to say he had groped them, allegations he denied. He was judged the loser of all three presidential debates with Clinton.

A Reuters/Ipsos national Election Day poll offered some clues to the outcome. It found Clinton badly underperformed expectations with women, winning their vote by only about 2 percentage points. And while she won Hispanics, black and young voters, Clinton did not win those groups by greater margins than Obama did in 2012. Younger blacks did not support Clinton like they did Obama, as she won eight of 10 black voters between the ages of 35 and 54. Obama won almost 100 percent of those voters in 2012.

During the campaign, Trump said he would "make America great again" through the force of his personality, negotiating skill and business acumen. He proposed refusing entry to the United States of people from war-torn Middle Eastern countries, a modified version of an earlier proposed ban on Muslims. His volatile nature, frequent insults and unorthodox proposals led to campaign feuds with a long list of people, including Muslims, the disabled, Republican US Senator John McCain, Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly, the family of a slain Muslim-American soldier, a Miss Universe winner and a federal judge of Mexican heritage.

A largely anti-Trump crowd of about 400 to 500 people gathered outside the White House after his victory, many shocked or in tears. Protests against Trump also broke out overnight in downtown Oakland, California, where demonstrators set ablaze a likeness of him, smashed store front windows and set garbage and tires on fire. Throughout his campaign, Trump described a dark America that had been knocked to its knees by China, Mexico, Russia and Islamic State. The American dream was dead, he said, smothered by malevolent business interests and corrupt politicians, and he alone could revive it. He has vowed to win economic concessions from China and to build a wall on the US border with Mexico to keep out illegal immigrants. His triumph was a rebuke to Obama, a Democrat who spent weeks flying around the country to campaign against him, repeatedly casting doubt on his suitability for the White House. Obama will hand over the office to Trump after serving the maximum eight years allowed by law.

Trump promises to push Congress to repeal Obama's signature healthcare law and to reverse his plan to curb greenhouse emissions mainly from coal-fired power plants. Even though the FBI found no grounds for criminal charges after a probe into her use of a private email server rather than a government system while she was secretary of state, the issue allowed critics to raise doubts about her integrity. Hacked emails also showed a cozy relationship between her State Department and donors to her family's Clinton Foundation charity. — Agencies

UPROOTED, INDIAN OCEAN CHAGOS ISLANDERS DREAM OF HOME

PORT LOUIS: Collateral victims of the Cold War, the inhabitants of the Chagos Islands are striving to return home, 40 years after their eviction to make way for a US military base. "It is our reason for living: the struggle to return to Chagos," said Saminaden Rosemond, an 80-year-old native of Peros Banhos, one of the 55 coral keys that make up the Indian Ocean archipelago, and who dreams of dying on the island where he was born. Rosemond was among those expelled from the Chagos Islands in 1973 and has since then lived in Mauritius, more than 1,200 kilometers away.

Once the islanders were removed, the best-known atoll, Diego Garcia, was turned into a vital US military base. "It is our parents who are buried in cemeteries in Peros Banhos, Diego Garcia, Solomon. How can we agree not to place flowers there to honor our parents?" said Olivier Bancoult, President of the Chagos Refugees Group in

Mauritius and standard bearer of their cause. Descended from slaves, Chagossians are prisoners of their own misfortune, their bad luck being to have lived on islands made strategic by the Cold War.

'An ignoble blackmail'

As its colonial empire collapsed, Britain purchased the Chagos Islands from Mauritius. "The Mauritius authorities in 1965 suffered an ignoble blackmail, but gave way. From their point of view at the time, it was a choice between independence or not," said Paul Berenger, an opposition leader and former prime minister of Mauritius. A year later Britain leased the Chagos Islands to the US for 50 years-until December 2016 — with a possible extension up to 2036. Between 1968 and 1973 around 2,000 Chagos Islanders were uprooted, a process blithely described in a British diplomatic cable

of the time as the removal of "some few Tarzans and Man Fridays".

Most were shipped to Mauritius and the Seychelles. The strategic nature of the remote and isolated Diego Garcia base became increasingly important through the 1970s as the fall of Saigon, the Khmer Rouge takeover of Cambodia and an assertive Soviet navy extended communist influence in the Indian Ocean. Later, it became a staging ground for the US bombing campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. Faced with the joint power and common interests of the US and UK, the stateless Chagossians hold little sway, yet they continue to fight, with the assistance of the Mauritian government which claims sovereignty over the islands.

In September, Mauritius Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth pleaded the Chagossians' cause at the UN General Assembly and new British-Mauritian dis-

cussions are scheduled, with Mauritius reserving the right to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice. To help push their case, pro-Chagossians have recently sought to disassociate the presence of the US base from the cause of their return. "For us, the struggle is for independence. Mauritius does not dispute the existence of a base in Diego Garcia these days," said Berenger. Bancoult, however, rails against the injustice whereby employees of the base are allowed to live on Diego Garcia but Chagossians are not. "Why is Diego Garcia accessible to Filipinos, Singaporeans, Sri Lankans, the British, the Americans and not the Chagossians?" he fumed.

Underhand tricks

Despite the promise of talks, many Chagossians believe Britain is playing an underhand game. In 2010 the UK declared

the islands part of a 'Marine Protected Area,' arguing that people should not be permitted to live there, but the move backfired as a UN tribunal declared the move illegal in 2015. "It's just a matter of time before Mauritius regains sovereignty over the islands," said Berenger.

Today, around 10,000 Chagossians and their descendants are divided among Mauritius, the Seychelles and Britain. Many still hope to return to live in the archipelago or at least be able to visit, like Claudie, the adult daughter of Rosemond, who was just four years old when the family left Peros Banhos. She has no memory of the place but her father's vivid stories have kept the islands alive for her. "We often ask papa to tell us stories. Sometimes even the grandchildren laugh. So many memories. It's beautiful, and sad at the same time." At her side, Rosemond silently stares, lost in memories of Peros Banhos. —AFP

PAKISTANIS WORRY - PRESIDENT TRUMP MAY FAVOR RIVAL INDIA

INDIA MAY SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ISOLATE ITS NEIGHBOR

ISLAMABAD: Donald Trump's surprise election as US president has Pakistanis wary that he may accelerate what they see as a shift in American policy to favor arch-foe India in the long rivalry between nuclear-armed neighbors, analysts said yesterday. Historical allies in the region, Islamabad and Washington have seen relations sour over US accusations that Pakistan shelters Islamist militants, a charge Pakistan denies. They hit new lows in May when a US drone killed the leader of the Afghan Taliban movement on Pakistani territory.

At the same time, Pakistan's ties with traditional rival India have also deteriorated this year, with India saying Pakistan-based militants killed 19 of its soldiers in a September attack on an army base in the disputed Kashmir region. To many Pakistanis, Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric - he once proposed banning Muslims entering the United States - and business ties to India are signs that his administration could shift further toward New Delhi.

"America will not abandon Pakistan, but definitely, Trump will be a tougher president than Hillary Clinton for Pakistan," said Hasan Askari Rizvi, Lahore-based foreign policy analyst. "I think India will have a better and smoother interaction compared to Pakistan." Trump has yet to lay out a detailed policy for South Asia, although he recently offered to mediate between India and Pakistan in their dispute over the divided territory of Kashmir. He also told Fox News in May he would favor keeping nearly 10,000 US troops in Afghanistan "because it's adjacent and right next to Pakistan which has nuclear weapons."

CONGRATULATIONS, ASSURANCES

Yesterday, a US diplomat in Pakistan sought to assure the country that Trump's election did not signal a drastic policy change. "Our foreign policy is based on national interest and they don't change when the government changes," Grace Shelton, US Consul General in Karachi, told Geo News television. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif congratulated Trump. "Your election is indeed the triumph of the American people and their enduring faith in the ideals of democracy, freedom, human rights and free enterprise," Sharif said in a statement.

Still, the uncertainty of a Trump presidency has many Pakistanis on edge, even if the country has leaned towards China in recent years for investment and diplomatic support. "Trump is a bit of a wild card," said Sherry Rehman, a Pakistani senator and former ambassador to the United States.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani resident Dr Faiza speaks with an AFP journalist about the US election, in Islamabad yesterday. Donald Trump has stunned America and the world, riding a wave of populist resentment to defeat Hillary Clinton in the race to become the 45th president of the United States. —AFP

"Pakistan obviously cannot rule out engaging with whomever America elects, but his anti-Muslim rhetoric may cast a shadow on relations in times of uncertainty."

India hopeful

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated Trump yesterday. "We look forward to working with you closely to

take India-US bilateral ties to a new height," Modi said in a tweet. Trump has partnered with Indian businessmen on a handful of real estate ventures, but apart from courting the Indian-American vote he has not articulated how he would develop the bilateral relationship. India-US ties have flourished under President Barack Obama and Modi, who came to power in 2014,

with the two countries striking key defence agreements this year.

Modi's government has also waged a campaign to isolate Pakistan diplomatically. Shaurya Doval, director of the India Foundation, a think-tank close to Modi's government, called Trump's election "a very positive development", but added that India and the United States would have continued to grow closer under a Hillary Clinton presidency as well. "My sense is that India-US relations are not dependent on individuals - there are strong institutions and processes there," he said. One fringe Hindu nationalist group in India held a victory gathering at New Delhi's speakers' corner yesterday. "He's an American nationalist. We are Indian nationalists. Only he can understand us," Rashmi Gupta of the Hindu Sena, or Hindu Army, told Reuters. "We expect him to support us when it comes to terrorist attacks on India from Pakistan."

Afghanistan war

Trump will also have to decide whether to maintain the number of US troops in Afghanistan or change the scope of the mission, 15 years after a US-led campaign toppled the hardline Islamist Taliban government. The United States has spent some \$115 billion in aid for Afghanistan since 2002, but the country is still caught in conflict, with a third of the country out of government control and thousands of Afghan civilians, soldiers and police dying every year. Afghan officials have voiced concern that the conflict is being forgotten in Washington, and warned privately that the West will pay a huge price if that continues. "The people of Afghanistan are tired of war. We want (Trump) to invest heavily in bringing peace to war-torn Afghanistan and stabilize our region," said Umer Daudzal, former Afghan minister of interior.

Obama's original aim of pulling out of Afghanistan entirely has been put on hold in the face of mounting gains by Taliban militants, with US air power and special forces still regularly involved in combat. As recently as last week, two US Green Berets were killed near the northern city of Kunduz. Although Afghan security forces have been fighting largely alone since the end of the main NATO-led combat mission in 2014, their performance has been patchy and they continue to rely heavily on US air power. The Taliban yesterday urged Trump to withdraw all US troops. "They should not cause damage to their economy and their military in this failed war," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said of the American government in a statement. —Reuters

PAKISTAN DEPORTS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 'AFGHAN GIRL'

PESHAWAR: An Afghan woman immortalized on a National Geographic cover was deported by Pakistani officials yesterday to her war-torn homeland following a brief period of detention for using fraudulent identity papers. Sharbat Gula, whose blazing green eyes were captured in an image taken in a Pakistan refugee camp in the 1980s that became the magazine's most famous cover, was discharged from hospital where she was being treated for Hepatitis C and taken to the border overnight, officials said. "We have deported Sharbat Gula to Afghanistan. She crossed the border to Afghanistan at around 2:30am. She was also accompanied by her four children," Asmatullah Wazir, an administration official in the border town of Torkham said.

A second official, requesting anonymity, confirmed the move and said Gula, 45, was accompanied by officials from the Afghan embassy. Speaking to AFP last week, Gula said she was "heartbroken" at the prospect of returning. "Afghanistan is only my birthplace, but Pakistan was my homeland and I always considered it as my own country," she said. "I had decided to live and die in Pakistan but they did the worst thing with me. It's not my fault that I born there (in Afghanistan). I am dejected. I have no other option but to leave."

Gula said she first arrived in Pakistan an orphan, some four or five years after the Soviet invasion of 1979, one of millions of Afghans who have sought refuge over the border since. Since July hundreds of thousands have returned to Afghanistan in a desperate exodus amid fears of a crackdown, ahead of a March 2017 deadline for the final return of all Afghan refugees. Last month UNHCR said more than 350,000 Afghan refugees-documented and undocumented-had returned from Pakistan so far in 2016, adding it expects a further 450,000 to do so by the year's end. —AFP

'LONG LIVE TRUMP'

DUTERTE WANTS NO MORE QUARRELS WITH US

KUALA LUMPUR: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte congratulated Donald Trump on his election win and said yesterday he now wished to stop quarrelling with ally the United States, recalling his anger at the Obama administration for criticizing him. The maverick leader, dubbed "Trump of the East" for his unrestrained rants and occasional lewd remarks, has repeatedly hit out at Washington in recent months, threatening to cut defense pacts and end military joint drills. "I would like to congratulate Mr Donald Trump. Long live," Duterte said in a speech to the Filipino community during a visit to Malaysia. "We are both making curses. Even with trivial matters we curse. I was supposed to stop because Trump is there. I don't want to quarrel anymore, because Trump has won."

Duterte won a May election by a huge margin and is often compared to Trump, having himself been the alternative candidate from outside of national politics. He campaigned on a populist, anti-establishment platform and struck a chord among ordinary Filipinos with his promises to fix what he called a broken country. But the biggest surprise of Duterte's presidency so far has been his hostility towards the United States, shown during near-daily eruptions of anger over its concerns about human



KUALA LUMPUR: Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte (center) leaves after meeting with Philippine nationals living in Malaysia during an official visit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Duterte is on his first official visit to Malaysia. —AFP

rights abuses during his deadly war on drugs. He has also threatened repeatedly to sever a military relationship that has been a key element of Washington's "pivot" to Asia.

Duterte on Wednesday told Filipinos how angry he had been at Washington, saying it had threatened to cut off aid and had treated the Philippines like a dog tied to a post. "They talk as if we are still the colonies," he said. "You do not give us the aid, shit, to hell with you," he said, recall-

ing comments he had directed at Obama. Teddy Locsin Jr, Duterte's incoming ambassador to the United Nations, said there were a few parallels between Trump, who stunned the world by defeating rival Hillary Clinton in Tuesday's presidential election, and Duterte. "I remember Trump in the middle of one of his statements, he said 'I will not talk like this after I become president,'" Locsin said on TV. "I remember someone who also said the same thing." —Reuters

News

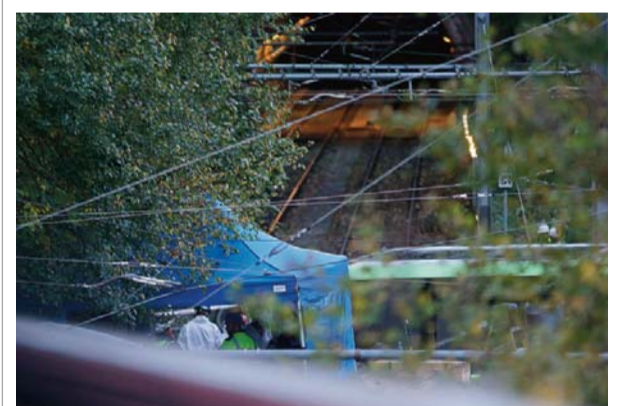
in brief

Chinese court jails 49 over huge explosions

BEIJING: Chinese courts yesterday jailed almost 50 people over last year's giant explosions in the port of Tianjin that killed 165 people, state media reported. The blasts at a chemical warehouse owned by Rui Hai International Logistics sent a huge fireball soaring into the sky and mangled structures kilometers away. Social media users recorded the scene of what rapidly became the country's highest-profile industrial accident in years. A swathe of the northern port was devastated and fears of toxic pollution were rife, with cyanide levels in the disaster zone far above national limits. Those convicted yesterday were 24 company managers and staff members and 25 government officials, the official news agency Xinhua said. The charges ranged from illegal storage of materials to abuse of power. The head of Rui Hai, Yu Xuewei, received a two year suspended death sentence-normally commuted to life in prison-and was fined 700,000 yuan (\$103,252) for his role in the disaster. In the aftermath of the explosions Xinhua described Yu as a former executive at state-owned chemical company Sinochem, and said another of Rui Hai's owners was the son of the former port police chief.

26 Iranian pilgrims die in bus accident

TEHRAN: At least 26 Shiite Muslim pilgrims headed to Iraq were killed and 28 injured in a bus accident in southern Iran, the ISNA news agency reported yesterday. The bus was carrying pilgrims to the shrine city of Karbala to mark the festival of Arbadeen, when its brakes failed and it flipped over on Tuesday evening. Some 2.5 million Iranians are expected in Karbala this month for Arbadeen, which marks the 40th day after the death in the seventh century of Imam Hussein, one of the pivotal figures of the Shiite faith. An estimated 16,000 people were killed in road accidents in Iran in the year to March 2016. Erratic driving is common on Iran's roads, but there has been an improvement compared with a decade ago when an average of around 28,000 people a year were killed.



LONDON: Members of the emergency services work at the scene of a derailed tram, in Croydon, south London yesterday. —AFP

5 killed in London tram derailment

LONDON: Five people were killed and more than 50 injured when a tram derailed in south London during a heavy rainstorm before dawn yesterday, police said. London Mayor Sadiq Khan, visiting the scene, said the number of dead "may well increase." "A number of those who are at hospital are in a serious condition," Khan said. Emergency workers worked for hours to free five people trapped in the wreckage of the two-carriage tram that tipped on its side next to an underpass in the Croydon area. The tram appeared to have come off the rails on a sharp bend. British Transport Police said they had arrested a man - reportedly the tram's driver - and rail accident investigators were working to determine the cause. "Five people have sadly died following this incident," police said. Liam Lehane of the London Ambulance Service described many of the people hurt as "walking wounded" but said others suffered serious injuries.

Palestinian stabs an Israeli soldier, shot

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian stabbed an Israeli soldier with a screwdriver before being shot and wounded at a checkpoint in the northern West Bank yesterday, the Israeli army said. The incident took place at the entrance to Huwara, south of the city of Nablus, a military statement said. "In response to the immediate threat, soldiers fired towards the assailant who was detained and is being treated at the scene," the army said, without providing further details on his condition. The soldier was stabbed in his protective vest and was not injured, the army said. Since October 2015, violence has claimed the lives of 238 Palestinians, 36 Israelis, two Americans, a Jordanian, an Eritrean and a Sudanese, according to an AFP count. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out attacks, according to Israeli authorities. Others were shot dead during protests and clashes, while some were killed in air strikes in the Gaza Strip.

GOP MAINTAINS GRIP ON CONGRESS

Continued from Page 1

"With a Republican Congress firmly in place and Donald Trump in the White House, we can get to work on fixing Washington and bringing prosperity back to the American people." Just days ago, polls predicted a four-seat swing or higher in favor of Clinton's Democrats, in large part because Republicans held 24 of the 34 seats up for grabs in 2016. But it was not meant to be. In the House, Republicans were on track to take 239 seats to the Democrats' 196, according to NBC's House model. That would be an eight-seat gain for Democrats, but still well short of what would be necessary to snatch the 435-member chamber back from Republican control.

Trump's White House victory marks a stunning political trifecta for Republicans that would allow them to control the legislation that sets its way through Congress and to the president's desk. Snatching control of the Senate would have provided Democrats with a policy check on Trump in the event he won the presidency. Instead, Trump will have an easier time pushing through legislation.

Democrats needed to gain five seats for a clean majority. In the event the Senate is 50-50, control goes to the party that wins the White House, because the US vice president holds a deciding vote in the event of a tie. Democrats claimed a quick pick up

Tuesday in Illinois, where two-term congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, an Iraq war veteran who lost her legs when the Black Hawk helicopter she was co-piloting was shot down there, defeated incumbent Senator Mark Kirk.

But Senator Marco Rubio kept his seat in Florida, as did incumbent Richard Burr in North Carolina, while congressman Todd Young of Indiana denied a former senator, Evan Bayh, from reclaiming his old seat. When Senator Pat Toomey was projected as winner of his tough re-election fight against Katie McGinty, an environmental aide to then-president Bill Clinton, Democratic hopes of regaining the chamber were dashed.

Rubio had been a rapidly rising GOP star until he challenged Trump for the Republican primary and got swept aside. He had said he would leave Congress, but changed his mind earlier this year and mounted a strong comeback. In a victory speech before jubilant supporters in Miami, Rubio sought to soothe heated tempers and appeal to Americans of all stripes after a toxic 18-month presidential campaign overwhelmed by rhetoric, accusations of racism and xenophobia, and anger on both sides. "While we can disagree on issues, we cannot share a country where people hate each other because of their political affiliations," Rubio, 45, said. "I hope that I and my colleagues as we return to work in Washington, DC can set a better example of how political discourse should exist in this country." — AFP

MANY MUSLIMS VOICE DISMAY AT TRUMP WIN

Continued from Page 1

"I'm worried about (my relatives in America) because they are Muslims, Egyptian Muslims ... and he is not going to treat Muslims well," said Ali Nabil, a 20-year-old student in Cairo. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was the first world leader to congratulate Trump on the phone. Sisi's office said, a welcome to the next president that was echoed by some other Arab leaders who disliked Hillary Clinton's Middle East policies.

But other Muslims saw Trump as a hostile figure. "Whatever happens to America affects everybody and with all these promises of doom by Trump to the blacks, to the Muslims, the minority, so it's not something we're happy about," said Ganiu Oluokanga, a Nigerian Muslim resident of Lagos. Muslims who live as members of a religious minority in Western countries and have previously expressed fear at what they see as increasingly negative portrayals of their faith, also voiced worry at Trump's election.

"It is hugely worrying that a man who has called for discrimination against Muslims and other minorities has become the leader of a superpower nation," said Haroun Khan, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Great Britain, in a statement. He also congratulated Trump on his victory. Some Muslims said they feared Trump's election as president might encourage a view that the United States was hostile to Muslims and that this would hinder efforts in Islam to counter radicalization. "Trump's victory will be an enormous gift to a failing jihadist movement, that will have now have a renewed rallying cry," said Ammar Rashid, an academic and member of Pakistan's Awami Workers Party, on Twitter. "If jihadi ideology

has a source of sustenance, it is the image of the US as the evil anti-Muslim crusader. They will milk Trump's win dry," he added. In jihadist social media forums, militants said Trump's election had merely revealed the true position of the United States towards Muslims. "The masks have slipped," one wrote. But some other Muslims were more hopeful, including Umer Daudzai, a former Afghan minister of interior, citing the record of Ronald Reagan who was US president from 1981-89. "Ronald Reagan ended the Cold War. I hope Donald Trump will end all wars and become a hero of peace in the world," he told Reuters.

Despite expressions of concern by some officials, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the body that represents Muslim states, issued no statement early yesterday. In Indonesia, the most populous Muslim nation, an official from the faith's top clerical body there said Trump's election could create new tension between the United States and the Islamic world. Trump had made negative and cynical comments about Muslims in the past, Din Syamsuddin, a senior official at the Indonesian Ulama Council, told reporters in Jakarta. "He had forgotten that many Americans are immigrants."

"I'm very afraid, will there be more wars? Will America attack Muslim countries again?" asked Indonesian activist Alijah Diete, as Muslims reeled from Trump's shock victory. "I'm in disbelief," said Diete, 47. "I thought Americans are supposed to be intelligent and mature. How is it possible Donald Trump won? I am very concerned that the relationship between the US and Muslim countries will become tense again," said Diete, while law firm employee Nikken Suardini said the proposal to bar Muslims from the US was "just not fair".

POLICE RAID TWO PLACES HOLDING...

Continued from Page 1

The three candidates have the right to challenge the ruling at the court of appeals. The court however reinstated former opposition Islamist MP Bader Al-Dahoum after delaying his verdict, in addition to candidates Iyad Al-Hasawi and Mohammad Al-Haddad. The government is expected to challenge the three verdicts. Former MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi said yesterday that he totally supports the reform initiative launched by a group of leading personalities a few days ago, which called for reforming the voting system in the country and preventing ruling family members from interfering in the election, among other things. Qudhaibi said the interference of ruling family members in the election has greatly damaged the process through the election of lawmakers who represent those ruling family members. He said the current single-vote system has led to the election of a heterogeneous

Assembly due to the absence of blocs or groups. Former opposition MP and candidate Hussein Al-Mutairi vowed that the government will not be able to revoke citizenship of opponents like it did in the past if he and other opposition members are elected. He also said that MPs will not allow the government to impose taxes before the finance ministry stops of squandering of public funds and foreign aid. He insisted that these measures will not be allowed to go through without questioning. Election campaigns in the meantime have intensified in the past few days as the Nov 26 election date approaches. A large number of candidates launched their campaigns by holding rallies, while others have announced dates for their rallies. Economic reforms and the increase in fuel prices and other commodities topped the issues at the campaigns and a large number of candidates vowed they will not allow the government to increase prices if they reach the Assembly.

UNCERTAINTY IN MIDEAST

Continued from Page 1

Meeting Netanyahu in New York in September, Trump pledged to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided" capital if elected, in a break with longstanding US policy. Trump's adviser on Israel, David Friedman, also said last month the candidate was "tremendously skeptical" about the prospects for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads the hardline Jewish Home party, said that with Trump's election: "The era of a Palestinian state is over." Palestinian reaction to Trump's win was muted. "We are ready to deal with the elected president on the basis of a two-state solution and to establish a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders," Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman said. Nabil Abu Rudeina said failure to resolve the decades-old conflict would mean "the unstable situation will continue in the region".

During the campaign Trump repeatedly pledged to "destroy" the Islamic State group, but presented no clear plan for how. A US-led coalition is backing Iraqi forces and a Syrian militia alliance as they battle to drive IS from Mosul and Raqqa, its last major strongholds in the two countries. How Trump moves forward with the anti-IS offensive will depend on how he intends to deal with traditional US allies in the region, in particular Sunni Arab Gulf states, and his approach to the war in Syria.

Washington has backed rebel forces opposing President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria's five-year civil war, and Hillary Clinton was especially supportive of regime change. But Trump has repeatedly voiced admiration for Vladimir Putin and advocated a US rapprochement with Russia - one of Assad's strongest supporters along with Iran. Trump said earlier this year that fighting both IS and Assad simultaneously was "madness, and idiocy".

Waddah Abed Rabbo, editor-in-chief of pro-regime Syrian daily Al-Watan, said Trump's win came as a "nice surprise" in Damascus. "It is time for the policies of the United States to change and stop being hostage to the catastrophic wishes of the Gulf countries, which have destroyed several countries in the region," he said.

A Syrian rebel official said opposition forces were actually

hoping for more support from Washington. "The Americans, by their hesitation, have allowed the regime and its allies to commit barbaric massacres against civilians in Syria," said Bassam Mustafa of the Nureddin Al-Zinki rebel group, one of the more powerful factions in rebel-held areas of Aleppo city.

Displaced Syrians near the Turkish border reacted with cynicism to Trump's win. "The new American president won't be any different from the last one," said Abdul Rahman Ahmad, a teacher and one of millions forced to flee their homes since 2011. "When it comes to us Syrians, both of them have the same viewpoint. They don't care about the Syrian people, all they care about is killing Muslims."

While Trump's intentions elsewhere in the Middle East may be vague, his stand on last year's nuclear deal between world powers and Iran was clear - Trump described it as "disastrous" and said it would be his "number one priority" to dismantle the agreement. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, who staked his political reputation on the deal in the face of fierce headline opposition, said there was no way Trump could rip it up. "The accord was not concluded with one country or government but was approved by a resolution of the UN Security Council and there is no possibility that it can be changed by a single government," Rouhani said, according to state television. "The United States no longer has the capacity to create Iranophobia and to create a consensus against Iran," Rouhani said.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Trump needed to "understand the realities of today's world." "The most important thing is that the future US president stick to agreements, to engagements undertaken," he said.

Washington's longstanding allies in the Gulf have bristled under President Barack Obama, who they felt was reluctant to get involved in regional conflicts and did not do enough to check the ambitions of their regional rival Iran. Congratulating Trump on the win, Saudi Arabia's King Salman praised "historic and tight" ties with the United States and wished him success "in your mission to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and worldwide." United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan also said his country was eager to strengthen "strategic relations" with Washington.

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FOCUS

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL
ON SHAKY GROUND

Donald Trump's election as president raises the prospect the United States will pull out of the nuclear pact it signed last year with Iran, alienating Washington from its allies and potentially freeing Iran to act on its ambitions. Outgoing President Barack Obama's administration touted the deal, a legacy foreign policy achievement, as a way to suspend Tehran's suspected drive to develop atomic weapons. In return Obama, a Democrat, agreed to a lifting of most sanctions. The deal, harshly opposed by Republicans in Congress, was reached as a political commitment rather than a treaty ratified by lawmakers, making it vulnerable to a new US president, such as Trump, who might disagree with its terms. A Republican, Trump ran for the White House opposing the deal but contradictory statements made it unclear how he would act. In an upset over Democrat Hillary Clinton, Trump won on Tuesday and will succeed Obama on Jan 20.

A businessman-turned-politician who has never held public office, Trump called the nuclear pact a "disaster" and "the worst deal ever negotiated" during his campaign and said it could lead to a "nuclear holocaust". In a speech to the pro-Israel lobby group AIPAC in March, Trump declared that his "Number-One priority" would be to "dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran." He said he would have negotiated a better deal, with longer restrictions, but somewhat paradoxically, he criticized remaining US sanctions that prevent American companies from dealing with Iran.

By contrast, he has conceded it would be hard to destroy a deal enshrined in a United Nations resolution. In Aug 2015, he said he would not "rip up" the nuclear deal, but that he would "police that contract so tough they don't have a chance". Iran denies ever having considered developing atomic weapons. But experts said any US violation of the deal would allow Iran also to pull back from its commitments to curb nuclear development. Those commitments include reducing the number of its centrifuges by two-thirds, capping its level of uranium enrichment well below the level needed for bomb-grade material, reducing its enriched uranium stockpile from around 10,000 kg to 300 kg for 15 years, and submitting to international inspections to verify its compliance.

'Divisive Deal'

"Say goodbye to the Iran deal," said Richard Nephew, a former US negotiator with Iran now at Columbia University. "There is very little likelihood that it stays, either because of a deliberate decision to tear it up by Trump, or steps that the US takes which prompt an Iranian walk back." The spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Behrouz Kamalvandi, was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency: "Iran is prepared for any change," adding that Iran would try to stand by the deal. The nuclear deal was divisive in Iran, with hardliners opposed to better relations with the West arguing that pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani was giving up too much of the country's nuclear infrastructure for too little relief. Rouhani said yesterday the US election results would have no effect on Tehran's policies, state news agency IRNA quoted him as saying. Some of Washington's closest Middle East allies have been skeptical of the nuclear deal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been outright hostile. Gulf leaders say the deal has emboldened Iran's pursuit of regional hegemony in part through support for proxy groups fueling regional conflicts. Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, whose power supersedes that of Rouhani, regularly criticizes the United States and says it should not be trusted, but ultimately assented to the terms of the deal, known by its acronym JCPOA.

Khamenei Big Winner

"The big winner in the aftermath of a Trump victory is Iran's Supreme Leader," said Suzanne Maloney, a foreign policy expert at the Brookings Institution. "He will have the most cartoonish American enemy, he will exult in the (hopefully brief) crash of the American economy, and he will be able to walk away from Iran's obligations under the JCPOA while pinning the responsibility on Washington."

Further complicating any Trump effort to renegotiate the deal is that it is a multilateral agreement involving US allies in Europe as well as fellow world powers Russia and China. European and Asian firms have been returning to Iran and making major investments there, meaning the United States would likely be alone in pulling out of the deal, possibly isolating it from its partners. Yesterday, the head of gas, renewables and power for French oil and gas company Total TOTF.PA in Iran said Trump's election would have no impact on investments. Khamenei has already promised to "set fire" to the nuclear deal if the West violates it. Iran has repeatedly complained it has not received benefits promised. Though European companies have been eager to explore business prospects in Iran, few deals have been enacted in part because European banks have been reluctant to finance deals involving Iran. "As to whether he can negotiate a 'better' deal, it takes two (or seven) sides to agree to begin that process, something I rate as highly unlikely," said Zachary Goldman, executive director of the Center on Law and Security at New York University and a former US Treasury official. "And if we walk away from the deal I think we will be in the worst of all worlds - Iran will feel freed from its commitments and we may be blamed for the deal falling apart." — Reuters

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POPULIST TSUNAMI THREATENS EUROPE MAINSTREAM

Back in May, when Donald's Trump's victory in the US presidential election seemed the remotest of possibilities, a senior European official took to Twitter before a G7 summit in Tokyo to warn of a "horror scenario". Imagine, mused the official, if instead of Barack Obama, Francois Hollande, David Cameron and Matteo Renzi, next year's meeting of the club of rich nations included Trump, Marine Le Pen, Boris Johnson and Beppe Grillo.

A month after Martin Selmayr, the head of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's cabinet made the comment, Britain shocked the world by voting to leave the European Union. Cameron stepped down as prime minister and Johnson - the former London mayor who helped swing Britons behind Brexit - became foreign minister.

Now, with Trump's triumph over his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, the populist tsunami that seemed outlandish a few months ago is becoming reality, and the consequences for Europe's own political landscape are potentially huge. In 2017, voters in the Netherlands, France and Germany - and possibly in Italy and Britain too - will vote in elections that could be colored by the triumphs of Trump and Brexit, and the toxic politics that drove those campaigns.

The lessons will not be lost on continental Europe's populist parties, who hailed Trump's victory on Wednesday as a body blow for the political mainstream. "Politics will never be the same," said Geert Wilders of the far-right Dutch Freedom Party. "What happened in America can happen in Europe and the Netherlands as well." French National Front founder Jean-Marie Le Pen was similarly ebullient. "Today the United States, tomorrow France," Le Pen, the father of the party's leader Marine Le Pen, tweeted.

Daniela Schwarzer, director of research at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), said Trump's bare-fisted tactics against his opponents and the media provided a model for populist European parties that have exercised comparative restraint on a continent that still remembers World War Two. "The broken taboos, the extent of political conflict, the aggression that we've seen from Trump, this can widen the scope of what becomes thinkable in our own political culture," Schwarzer said.

Huge Influence

Early next month, Austrians will vote in a presidential election that could see Norbert Hofer of the Freedom Party become the first far-right head of state to be freely elected in western Europe since 1945. On the same day, a constitutional reform referendum on which Prime Minister Renzi has staked his future could upset the political order in Italy, pushing Grillo's left-wing 5-Star movement closer to the reins of power. "An epoch has gone up in flames," Grillo said. "The real demagogues are the press, intellectuals, who are anchored to a world that no longer exists."

Right-wing nationalists are already running governments in Poland and Hungary. In western Europe, the likelihood of a Trump figure taking power seems remote for now. In Europe's parliamentary democracies, traditional parties from the right and left have set aside historical rivalries, banding together to keep out the populists.

But the lesson from the Brexit vote is that parties do not have to be in government to shape the political debate, said Tina Fordham, chief global political analyst at Citi. She cited the anti-EU UK Independence Party which has just one seat in the Westminster parliament.

"UKIP did poorly in the last election but had a huge amount influence over the political dynamic in Britain," Fordham said. "The combination of the Brexit campaign and Trump have

absolutely changed the way campaigns are run."

UKIP leader Nigel Farage hailed Trump's victory on Wednesday as a "supersized Brexit". As new political movements emerge, traditional parties will find it increasingly difficult to form coalitions and hold them together. In Spain, incumbent Mariano Rajoy was returned to power last week but only after two inconclusive elections in which voters fled his conservatives and their traditional rival on the left, the Socialists, for two new parties, Podemos and Ciudadanos.

After 10 months of political limbo, Rajoy finds himself atop a minority government that is expected to struggle to pass laws, implement reforms and plug holes in Spain's public finances. The virus of political fragility could spread next year from Spain to the Netherlands, where Wilders's Freedom Party is neck-and-neck in opinion polls with Prime Minister Mark Rutte's liberals. For Rutte to stay in power after the election in March, he may be forced to consider novel, less-stable coalition options with an array of smaller parties, including the Greens. In France, which has a presidential system, the chances of Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front, emerging victorious are seen as slim.

The odds-on favorite to win the presidential election next spring is Alain Juppe, a 71-year-old centrist with extensive experience in government who has tapped into a yearning for

responsible leadership after a decade of disappointment from Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy.

But in a sign of Le Pen's strength, polls show she will win more support than any other politician in the first round of the election. Even if she loses the second round run-off, as polls suggest, her performance is likely to be seen as a watershed moment for continental Europe's far-right. It could give her a powerful platform from which to fight the reforms that Juppe and his conservative rivals for the presidency are promising.

In Germany, where voters go to the polls next autumn, far-right parties have struggled to gain a foothold in the post-war era because of the dark history of the Nazis, but that too is changing. Just three years old, the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AFD), has become a force at the national level, unsettling Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, who have been punished in a series of regional votes because of her welcoming policy towards refugees.

Merkel could announce as early as next month that she plans to run for a fourth term, and if she does run, current polls suggest she would win.

But she would do so as a diminished figure in a country that is perhaps more divided than at any time in the post-war era. Even Merkel's conservative sister party, the Bavarian Christian Social Union, has refused to endorse her. — Reuters

HOW TRUMP CRUSHED NAYSAYERS
WITH COALITION OF THE FORGOTTEN

Donald Trump was right. Countless others were wrong. The pundits and pollsters who said the former reality TV star could not win the US presidency, the Republicans who shunned him, the business leaders who denounced him and the Democrats who dismissed him failed to fully understand the depth of his support. In a stunning victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton, Trump stuck to a plan that worked to perfection in the Republican primary, a campaign built around his blunt-talking celebrity persona, his command of social media, and his anti-establishment message of change.

"Ours was not a campaign, but an incredible and great movement," Trump said in his victory speech yesterday. It was a movement driven by discontent. The Reuters/Ipsos Election Day poll found that most Americans who came to the polls were clearly angry with the direction of the country. Six out of 10 people said they felt the country is on the wrong track. Some 58 percent said "more and more I don't identify with what America has become" and 75 percent said "America needs a strong leader to take the country back" from the wealthy.

Those who felt the country was on the wrong track were three times as likely to vote for Trump as Clinton. In a bitter and divisive campaign, Trump cleared a series of obstacles that would doom any other candidate: An audio tape in which he talked of groping women; a refusal to release his tax returns; violence at his rallies; his mockery of a disabled reporter; and his attacks on the heritage of a federal judge and the Muslim family of a US soldier. "He was an imperfect candidate with a near-perfect message," said Ford O'Connell, a Republican strategist who has long backed Trump. "I don't think a lot of people understood that."

In a year when voters in the United States and abroad showed their antipathy toward the political establishment,

the globalized economy, and corporate welfare, Trump guessed correctly he could ride that wave of discontent to the White House.

He exploited a growing divide in the country between whites and minorities, urbanites and rural residents, the college-educated and the working class. Trump beat Clinton among white men without a college degree by 31 points and white women without a degree by 27 points, according to the Reuters/Ipsos polling.

He also benefited from an opponent with her own flaws. Clinton was continually dragged down by questions over her use of a private email server while secretary of state and the activities of her family foundation, while her corporate-friendly background left some Democrats skeptical and unenthusiastic. That appeared to cost her support among women, young voters and minorities - three groups that are critical for Democrats to win big. Clinton won each of these groups, but by smaller margins than President Barack Obama held when he defeated Republican candidate Mitt Romney in 2012.

Some 49 percent of women supported Clinton, the first woman nominee of a major party, while 47 percent supported Trump. Among women between the ages of 18 and 34, about 55 percent supported Clinton, while 38 percent supported Trump. In 2012, 62 percent of young women supported Obama, while 36 percent supported Romney.

White voters, especially men in rural areas, flocked to Trump in record numbers. Trump appealed to voters unhappy with the hollowing out of the country's manufacturing sector and fearful of the country's changing demographics, campaigning on a harsh anti-immigration message. Trump won 56 percent of the white vote, while Clinton won just 39 percent. He dominated to an even greater degree in rural areas, where he beat Clinton by 27 points.

AT UNDER \$5 EACH, TRUMP'S VOTES CAME CHEAP

Donald Trump pulled off one of the biggest upsets in American political history when he toppled Hillary Clinton in the US presidential election on Tuesday - and he did it using far less cash than his rival. Relying heavily on an unorthodox mix of social media, unfiltered rhetoric, and a knack for winning free TV time, the New York real estate businessman likely paid less than \$5 per vote during his insurgent White House bid, about half what Clinton paid, according to a Reuters analysis of campaign finance records and voting data. Those figures assume the candidates spent all the funds they raised.

Trump's cost-effective win has upended prevailing concepts about the influence of money in American politics and raised the question of whether a lean, media-savvy campaign can become the new model for winning office in the United States. Political strategists and academics tend to agree, however, that Trump's performance would be tough to repeat. A household name for his luxury brand resorts, reality TV stardom, and ability to surround himself with non-stop controversy, Trump held advantages that many political candidates lack.

"I think this is a case where Trump had unique characteristics as a candidate that allowed him to pursue a different type of strategy," said Tony Corrado, a professor of government at Colby College in Maine. In total, Trump raised at least \$270 million since launching his campaign in June 2015, a little more than a third of

the money that Obama's re-election campaign spent in 2012, according to the most recent filings with the Federal Elections Commission. With vote counting wrapping up in the early hours of Wednesday, Trump had won some 59 million votes nationwide in the general election. That amounts to less than \$5 per vote for the \$270 million he spent. According to data analytics firm mediaQuant, Trump garnered about \$5 billion worth of free media coverage during the election campaign, more than twice the amount earned by Clinton, a lifelong politician who served as secretary of state, senator, and first lady at different times in her career. mediaQuant adds up all the unpaid coverage the candidates earn in newspapers, magazines and social media and then compares the sum to what a comparable amount of coverage, with the same kind of reach, would have cost in advertising. Trump has also frequently dominated news cycles with provocative rhetoric that breaks taboos, including unabashed insults targeting women he dislikes over Twitter, or unusual policy proscriptions like his call to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the country to prevent domestic attacks, or to force Mexico to pay for a multi-billion dollar border wall to keep out immigrants.

Big Donors

Trump made his self-funding a selling point early in his campaign as he fended off 16 Republican rivals for the party nomina-

tion, arguing that by eschewing big donors he was not beholden to special interests. But once he secured the nomination, Trump changed course and began fundraising in earnest, replicating the small dollar fundraising juggernaut of another insurgent candidate, Democrat Bernie Sanders, along the way. Clinton raised at least \$521 million, according to filings.

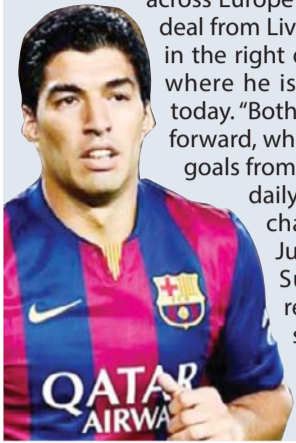
The former secretary of state stuck to the more traditional campaigning model of launching expensive television ads and funding hundreds of staffers who fanned across the country to work to increase voter turnout on Election Day. She spent more than \$237 million on television ads and more than \$42 million on hundreds of staffers.

She also benefited from spending by the Super PACs supporting her candidacy, which are allowed to raise and spend unlimited amounts of money but cannot coordinate directly with the campaign. More than a dozen people, including hedge fund magnate Donald Sussman and global financier George Soros, wrote multi-million checks to Priorities USA, the primary PAC supporting her campaign, according to filings.

Michael Traugott, a political science professor at the University of Michigan, said the traditional US model for picking presidents might seem odd to people in other nations, where campaigns are shorter and require less cash. "The system is clearly broken," Traugott said. — Reuters

SUAREZ IN BLOCKBUSTER EXTENTION TALKS

BARCELONA: European Golden Shoe winner Luis Suarez said negotiations to extend his contract with Barcelona until 2021 were running smoothly. The 29-year-old, who claimed the award for a second time after finishing top scorer across Europe last season, originally joined Barcelona on a five-year deal from Liverpool in 2014. "Negotiations are moving along nicely in the right direction," Suarez told a press conference in Uruguay, where he is preparing for a World Cup qualifier with Ecuador today. "Both parties want this deal to go through," said the centre-forward, who scored 40 Liga goals in 35 games last season and 59 goals from 53 games in all competitions. Barcelona-based sports daily El Mundo Deportivo reported yesterday the Spanish champions had offered Suarez an improved deal until June 2021, two years beyond his current contract. "Luis Suarez, ready," read its headline, while Marca also reported the imminent deal. "His salary rise will be substantial," said Marca. "Right now he earns 16 million euros (\$17.6 million) a season, his new deal will push that to 25 million euros a season," it added. —AFP

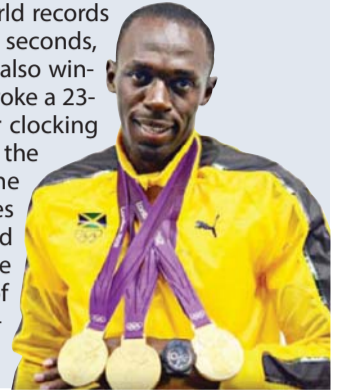


BRITISH MPs TO QUIZ BRAILSFORD OVER DOPING

LONDON: Team Sky principal Dave Brailsford will appear before British politicians as part of an inquiry into anti-doping practices in cycling, it was revealed yesterday. The Culture, Media and Sport select committee is looking into how British cycling has handled anti-doping issues and the use of therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs). Brailsford is likely to be asked about Sky's Bradley Wiggins being granted three TUEs for the banned anti-inflammatory drug triamcinolone to treat a pollen allergy. "Sir Dave Brailsford has been one of the most senior figures in British cycling over the last 10 years and we thought it important to speak to him as part of our inquiry into how the sport has handled anti-doping issues and the ethics around TUEs," committee chairman Damian Collins told The Times. "We are now talking to Team Sky about a date when he can come and speak to us." Wiggins's use of triamcinolone was revealed following a leak of his personal medical data by presumed Russian cyber hackers the Fancy Bears in September. —AFP

BOLT AND THOMPSON UP FOR IAAF AWARDS

LONDON: Jamaican Usain Bolt and Elaine Thompson both made the short-lists for the IAAF's World Athlete of the Year awards yesterday after cleaning up the sprint golds at the Rio Olympics. Ethiopian distance runner Almaz Ayana made the shortlist in recognition of her stunning 10,000 metres victory in Rio. Bolt, a five-time former winner of the award, became the first person to win three consecutive 100 and 200 metres Olympic golds in Rio de Janeiro in August. He also holds the world records in the two disciplines, 9.58 seconds and 19.19 seconds, respectively. Thompson matched Bolt's feat by also winning the 100m and 200m golds in Rio. Ayana broke a 23-year-old record to win the 10,000 metres after clocking 29:18.45 at the Rio Games where she also took the bronze in 5,000 metres. Bolt was joined on the men's list by two-time 5,000 and 10,000 metres Olympic champion Mo Farah of Britain and South African Wayde van Niekerk, the double 400m Olympic champion. Anita Wlodarczyk of Poland also made the women's list after retaining her hammer title in Rio. —Reuters



Abdul Aziz Matar



Brian Capper

BRIAN CAPPER, ABDUL AZIZ MATAR TO SET KUWAIT ON FIRE

KUWAIT: From the edge of space to the Marina Beach, Red Bull sports adventures never cease to fascinate fans and onlookers around the world. Red Bull Bar Bahr is no exception, since not only is it a race that will attract those who have passion for speed, but also an exclusive experience filled with prizes, titles, trophies and thrilling motorsport shows.

On his second visit in Kuwait, Brian Capper will perform a side act during Red Bull Bar Bahr on Friday, November 11. After having performed his first shows earlier this year, Red Bull athlete Brian Capper is set to carry out a show on his motor trial bike, raising the adrenaline levels amongst spectators and participants alike. Born in South Africa, Brian started riding MX at the age of nine, started trial biking at 11, and won his first National title at 18. Adding an extra kick of excitement

on to the water track, Abdul Aziz Matar will perform a Jet Ski show as a side act during Red Bull Bar Bahr this Friday. Matar is a Jet Ski freestyler who started riding Jet Skis back in 2010 and had previously participated in two championships during 2015: UAE Jet Ski Championship in Abu Dhabi in which he won the third place, and Kuwait Jet Ski Championship in which he won the first place, then the second.

Brian Capper, who came all the way from South Africa to perform his show during Red Bull Bar Bahr, expressed his pleasure to be visiting Kuwait, saying: "This is my second visit to Kuwait and I'm very excited to meet the Kuwaiti audience again during the show which I will be performing over the weekend. I invite everyone to come and enjoy the race and the shows during Red Bull Bar Bahr".



TOKYO 2020 OKS BASEBALL GAMES IN FUKUSHIMA

TOKYO: Tokyo 2020 Olympics organisers yesterday approved a plan to hold part of baseball's qualifying rounds in the disaster-hit Fukushima region to support its recovery from the 2011 tsunami and nuclear accident. The organising committee "would like to contribute" to the quake-hit region, spokeswoman Hikoiko Ono said at a press conference. "None of the board members voiced their objection," she said.

The move still has to be formally approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), with a final decision expected sometime in December, Tokyo 2020 spokesman Tetsuo Ogura told AFP earlier in the day.

The tsunami, triggered by a massive undersea quake on March 11, 2011, left more than 18,500 people dead or missing and swamped the emergency power supplies at the Fukushima nuclear plant, sending its reactors into meltdown as cooling systems failed.

Tens of thousands of people evacuated their homes and farms at the time. The Japanese government has been working to rebuild the region but some areas near the crippled plant remain uninhabitable because of radiation dangers.

Fukushima has two baseball stadiums with a capacity of 30,000 each, located dozens of kilometres away from the "difficult-to-return zone" designated by the government. Tokyo 2020's decision comes after IOC President Thomas Bach met last month with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and said the committee was considering the plan as an option.

It would "contribute to the regeneration of the area... as well as showing to the world by 2020 how this regeneration is making progress," Bach said.

The approval of the plan comes after experts warned the total Games budget could hit an eye-watering \$30 billion-four times the initial estimate and almost triple that of the 2012 London Olympics. Tokyo metropolitan officials, led by Governor Yuriko Koike, are pursuing cheaper options, such as relocating the canoeing and rowing events while scaling back plans for a new swimming venue. Last week, IOC executive director Christophe Dubi said that the rowing and canoeing could take place in Miyagi prefecture, also part of the region hit hardest by the 2011 disaster. —AFP

MINDING, O'BRIEN DOMINATE HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

LONDON: Outstanding filly Minding and her Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien dominated the main European racing awards. Minding, which won the Cartier Award for Horse of the Year, won the English 1,000 Guineas and Epsom Oaks classics under the guidance of the 46-year-old O'Brien who was given the merit award. She saw off strong competition from stablemate Found, who led home an unprecedented O'Brien 1-2-3 in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, and French colt Almanzor, who pulled off the Irish and English Champion Stakes double. Minding could add more Group One success to her list as she looks set to stay in training as a four-year-old.

Found—who never finished outside the first three in 10 starts this term — won the award for older horses while Almanzor was the best three-year-old colt. Found is now in retirement whilst Almanzor will probably remain in

training. O'Brien—who fell three short of the late Bobby Frankel's world record haul of 25 Group One wins in a year—also saw his Arc third placed Order of St George pick up the stayer of the year title.

O'Brien's fourth award winner was Churchill, who won the two-year-old colt award. Lady Aurelia became the first American horse to collect a Cartier gong, winning the two year old fillies category after two major successes in Europe.

O'Brien, who will face serious opposition from his son former Derby winning jockey Joseph next year, was widely praised by his peers. Jim Bolger who taught O'Brien the ropes when he was his assistant said it had been a blow when O'Brien went off to train. "I'd have done anything short of marrying him to keep him working for me," said the 74-year-old 2008 Epsom Derby winning handler. —AFP

THE GULF BANK 642 MARATHON

Partners with

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

SIGN UP AND RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR REFUGEES

<https://voices.unhcr.org/syria>

VOICES
for refugees
صوتك يرفع صوتهم

Give refugees your voice, so the world can hear theirs.

'GULF BANK 642 MARATHON' PARTNERS WITH UNHCR'S 'VOICES FOR REFUGEES'

KUWAIT: The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' has partnered with the UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, to raise awareness about the plight of Syrian refugees through their 'Voices for Refugees' campaign.

The 'Voices for Refugees' is an online awareness and fundraising campaign being conducted by UNHCR (the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees) to stand with Syrian refugees and make their stories heard so people will keep remembering that they are human. It seeks to bring back hope to the men, women, and children who have lost everything through no fault of their own. To date there are over four million Syrian refugees and 39% are under the age of 11. More than 12 million Syrians have been forced to abandon their homes.

Adding your voice is simple, please go to their website: www.voices.unhcr.org and add your voice and/or support them financially. By adding your voice to the

#Voices4Refugees campaign, you will be calling for immediate and practical steps that can improve humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those in need inside Syria. You will also learn the life stories of what some refugees are being forced to endure.

Through this collaboration, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' aims to spread awareness throughout the community and invites you to add your voice in calling for continuous humanitarian actions, and to stop the targeting of civilian and children in wars. UNHCR works around the world to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war or disaster at home. Since 1950, UNHCR has been protecting the rights and well-being of refugees all over the world. They have provided vital assistance to save lives and build better futures for millions forced from home. Their work and advocacy

helps transform broken lives by providing protection, shelter, access to healthcare, and safeguarding individuals.

This year's marathon will take place on Saturday, 19 November at Souq Sharq. It includes: Family Fun Run for new beginners (5KM); the Souq Run for regular runners (10KM); the Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM); and the Full Marathon (42KM). The route for the race will start and end at Souq Sharq and take place on Gulf Road, passing by Kuwait Towers, the Gulf Bank head office, and other landmarks. We will again be coordinating with relevant authorities to close the road to ensure the safety of the walkers and runners.

To find out more about the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, visit the dedicated website at: www.gulfbank642marathon.com or its Instagram account GulfBank642. The number 642 represent the number of muscles in the human body.

JAGS' GUS BRADLEY COULD BE FIRST COACH TO GO

NEW YORK: The Gus Bus might be first to hit the road. This was supposed to be the year Gus Bradley turned the Jacksonville Jaguars into a contender. After going 12-36 in his first three seasons, Bradley got a one-year contract extension through 2017. That came with heightened expectations.

After all, the Jaguars spent more than \$350 million (nearly \$150 million guaranteed) in free agency the last two years to sign 10 starters. They assembled a roster of talented young players.

All signs pointed toward a major step forward. Instead, the Jaguars are 2-6 and headed nowhere in the weak AFC South. There have been at least six coaching changes in the NFL in each of the past six off-seasons. Bradley could be the first to go this season, and there's no guaran-

tee he makes it through the second half.

Here are other coaches on the hot seat:
REX RYAN: The Bills haven't made the playoffs since 1999, the longest drought in the NFL. Ryan vowed to end that streak when he took over last season. He failed in his first try, going 8-8. Ryan fired offensive coordinator Greg Roman after a 0-2 start this season, but he could be in trouble if Buffalo (4-5) has a losing season.

CHIP KELLY: The 49ers have lost seven in a row since opening the season with a shutout win over the Rams. Kelly has three years left on his contract and the 49ers fired Jim Tomsula one season into a four-year deal after 2015, so it's unlikely they would do it again. But if Kelly wants to return to college football, he'll get a comfortable push out the door.

JEFF FISHER: The Rams had four

straight losing seasons under Fisher in St. Louis and they're headed toward another one in their first season back in Los Angeles. If the Rams (3-6) don't turn things around in the second half, Fisher may not stick around to see the Jared Goff era.

MIKE MCCARTHY: The Packers have reached the playoffs eight times in McCarthy's 10 seasons and seven years in a row. But they've had disappointing playoff losses since winning the 2011 Super Bowl and are 4-4 this season. Unless Aaron Rodgers gets them back on track, McCarthy's time in Green Bay could be up.

CHUCK PAGANO: The Colts (4-5) beat the Packers on the road to get back in the race in the AFC South. Pagano led the Colts to three straight

11-win seasons, but he was in trouble last year after going 8-8 with Andrew Luck missing a chunk of games. He signed a four-year contract extension in January, so that gives him some security. But Pagano may have to win a playoff game to stick around in Indianapolis.

MARVIN LEWIS: The Bengals have reached the playoffs seven times in 13 seasons under Lewis, including the last five years. They're 0-7 in those games. At 3-4-1, Cincinnati's postseason run is in jeopardy. That could lead to the first coaching change since 2003.

JOHN FOX: The Bears are 2-6 after going 6-10 in Fox's first season. Fox led the Panthers and Broncos to big jumps in his second year, but that's

not happening in Chicago. He might not get a third season.

JIM CALDWELL: The Lions are 5-4 after rallying for an impressive win at Minnesota. They won 11 games and reached the playoffs in Caldwell's first season, but they started 1-7 in 2015 and needed a 6-2 finish to preserve his job. A collapse down the stretch could lead to Caldwell's departure.

TODD BOWLES: The Jets are 3-6 and reeling, a season after going 10-6 and narrowly missing the playoffs. Bowles could be gone if they continue to spiral downward.

MIKE MCCOY: The Chargers tumbled to 4-12 last year after going to the playoffs in each of McCoy's first two seasons. Now they're 4-5 and another losing season could cost McCoy his job. —AP

DOPING SYSTEM IMPOSED ON RUSSIA IS NOT EFFECTIVE

BERLIN: The drugs testing system imposed on Russia following revelations of widespread doping is inefficient and the country must be part of the decision-making process to battle the problem, Russia's outgoing Olympic Committee (ROC) chief has said. Alexander Zhukov said in a speech released yesterday that while doping was a problem in Russia there was no such thing as a state-backed doping system, which the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said it had uncovered in the country.

"There is no state-supported doping programme in sport in Russia and it has never existed," Zhukov told the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne.

The WADA-commissioned reports, including one by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren, revealed widespread state-sponsored doping in Russian sport.

WADA also alleged that Russian testers had helped local athletes at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics by changing drugs-tainted samples for clean ones with the aid of the secret service to give their competitors an advantage.

The results triggered a ban on all but one Russian track and field athlete at the Rio de Janeiro Games in August and widespread calls for a blanket ban on all athletes until the country could prove it had a clean drug-testing system.

Zhukov said Russia needed a stronger presence within WADA and that the suspended anti-doping authority RUSADA had to be in charge of testing again. WADA wanted a blanket ban on Russian athletes in Rio but the IOC allowed more than 270 Russians to compete at the Games.

With RUSADA suspended, foreign testers have been put in charge of sample collection and testing in the country.

However, Zhukov said this was ineffective, claiming the limited number of testers were unable to process enough samples.

"How is WADA planning to solve this when, even right now, they say that the UK Anti-Doping Agency, which is entrusted with all the powers, can hardly manage to analyse 6000 samples, let alone a larger quantity which is required for us?"

Russia and WADA have been at odds throughout the scandal with the latter blaming Russian hackers for leaking the details of therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs), which allow athletes with medical conditions to take otherwise banned substances.

The TUE details relating to several high profile athletes, including Britain's Tour de France cycling champions Chris Froome and Bradley Wiggins and tennis grand slam winners Serena Williams and Rafa Nadal, were leaked in September.

Zhukov said rules regarding TUEs should change with too many athletes requesting them. "It is pure nonsense when athletes with serious, at times even chronic, illnesses become Olympic champions and medalists by taking substances which are prohibited for other athletes," Zhukov said.

"It happens with increasing frequency and becomes common practice. Soon, healthy athletes at competitions will become an exception. Should we really accept this?" Zhukov is leaving the ROC to focus on his other job as first deputy speaker in the lower house of the Russian parliament. —Reuters



Mako Vunipola

CORBISIERO HAILS 'WORLD CLASS' MAKO VUNIPOLA

LONDON: Alex Corbisiero believes England successor Mako Vunipola is now the "best loosehead prop in the world".

Vunipola has been in fine form for English and European champions Saracens so far this season, with his work at the set-piece once a source of criticism as well as in open play winning impressive reviews.

The injury-hit Corbisiero, who started a sabbatical from rugby last year after winning 20 England caps and two for the British and Irish Lions, was in no doubt of Vunipola's all-round quality. "In my opinion Mako is the best loosehead in the world and I will defend that view against anyone. He's moving into a class of his own," Corbisiero said. "His set piece has become so consistent and it's ever-improving. He's becoming a dominant scrummager."

"Everything he does around the field is incredible - his work-rate, his defence, his turnovers, his carrying, offloads, passes out the back." Corbisiero, speaking at an event to launch the N-pro head guard, which aims to reduce the risk of concussion, added: "He's never in the wrong position and is a great, intelligent rugby player who makes the right decisions who can make an impact while covering the basics that a prop needs to do."

'CROSSES DIVIDE'

England scrum coach Neal Hatley said the set-piece game of Vunipola, whose brother Billy is Saracens and England's No 8, had come on leaps and bounds.

"Mako has been absolutely outstanding for Saracens in the first half of the season," Hatley said. "There aren't many props in world rugby that can do what he does with the ball in hand. His set-piece has come on immeasurably."

"Sometimes people get pigeon-holed as a carrying prop or a scrummaging prop and I think he crosses that divide. He's been very sound from a set-piece point of view. We've made a few little technical changes to his bind and that's had a real positive effect."

"There are a lot of good players around, but he's definitely getting there in terms of being the best loosehead in the world. If Corbis said that, it's a pretty good endorsement."

England open their end-of-year international programme against a struggling South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday, with the Springboks having lost five of their last nine Tests including a record 57-15 defeat by world champions New Zealand in Durban last month.

But former London Irish prop believes South Africa, renowned for their physical approach to rugby union, will still pose formidable problems up front for an England side looking to make it 10 wins out of 10 under Australian head coach Eddie Jones.

"They will probably go with a big pack and a big back five in the way they've tried to do for most of the year. It will be a good side," Hatley said. "They have been a state of flux, but when they've played well they have been very impressive. The Lions did well in Super Rugby. We're expecting a good side to turn up."

"They have a very good scrum and will probably load up on that back five. There will be big bulk there so it will be a testing day from a scrum point of view." Both England and South Africa are due to name their teams today. — AFP

ENGLAND'S FORD RULES OUT JOINING FATHER AT TOULON

LONDON: England fly-half George Ford says there is no chance of him joining father Mike at French big-spenders Toulon. Mike Ford was appointed head coach of the Top 14 side in place of former Italy international Diego Dominguez in October, after initially joining Toulon as backs coach.

He moved to France after being sacked as coach of English Premiership side Bath-the club George still plays for-following a poor league season that saw the west country team finish ninth in the 12-strong table. His appointment as head coach of Toulon sparked speculation that father and son could be re-united in France.

But that would mean George having to effectively give up his international career because England do not select overseas-based players for Test duty, except in "exceptional circumstances".

It is a policy that pre-dates Eddie Jones's reign as England coach but one the Australian is determined to uphold.

"I don't know what was going on there last week to be honest," Ford, speaking at England's training base on Tuesday, said of the speculation. "It was news to me, anyway," added the 23-year-old ahead of England's opening end-of-year international against South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday.

"Obviously my dad's there but I want to play for England so I want to play in England," insisted Ford, who has appeared in 26 Tests. "After it all came out I had a quick chat with Eddie and said, 'I don't know where all that's come from'."

Ford did not rule out playing overseas at a much later stage in his career, saying: "I think it would be a great life experience playing somewhere like France."

"It is a different way of playing and living-you'd probably see the sun and the beach a lot more... I'll see where I am in a few years' time." But right now Ford's focus is on helping England make it 10 wins out of 10 under Jones when they face the Springboks-a team they have not beaten since 2006.

This weekend's clash is set to see Ford and childhood friend Owen Farrell continue their twin playmaker partnership at fly-half and inside centre respectively.

A niggling injury that meant Farrell could not kick sidelined him for six weeks at the start of the season.

But his return saw the goal-kicker produce a man-of-the-match display as reigning English and European champions Saracens beat Toulon 33-21 on October 15.

"I wasn't surprised by Owen's form," said Ford. "He would have been on top of things constantly even if he was not training to his full capacity. He is obsessed with the game."

Farrell is one of three England players on a six-strong shortlist for World Rugby's player of the year award, together with Billy Vunipola and Maro Itoje — also two of his team-mates at London club Saracens. The winner will be announced on Sunday and Ford said: "There have been some outstanding performers in the team and those three especially. "Other players could have made it as well." — AFP



Robert Allenby



George Ford

HAFEEZ TO UNDERGO TESTS ON HIS BOWLING ACTION

ISLAMABAD: Suspended Pakistan off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez is set to undergo testing on his bowling action in Australia later this month.

An International Cricket Council spokesman yesterday said the testing would be conducted on Nov. 17 in Brisbane. The Pakistan Cricket Board

wanted Hafeez to undergo testing at an ICC-accredited bio-mechanical laboratory in Brisbane because if his bowling action is cleared, he could possibly join the Pakistan squad on its tour to Australia.

Pakistan is scheduled to tour Australia for three tests and five one-

day internationals, starting with the first test at Brisbane from Dec. 15. Hafeez was banned last year from bowling in international cricket after he was reported for the second time in 12 months.

He was first officially reported in 2014 while bowling during the first

test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi.

After being cleared in a re-test, he was once more reported during a test match against Sri Lanka at Galle and was subsequently banned from bowling in international cricket. According to ICC regulations, if a player who has

had a bowling action assessed and cleared is reported a second time within two years, a minimum one-year suspension is triggered.

Hafeez is expected to leave for Brisbane on Nov. 14 and the assessment report of his test could take at least two weeks. —AP

ROOT, ALI FRUSTRATE INDIA IN FIRST TEST

RAJKOT: Joe Root said England played fantastic cricket yesterday after his sparkling century helped the tourists reach 311 for four at stumps on the opening day of the first Test against India.

The 25-year-old put on 179 with Moeen Ali, who reached the close one run shy of his century, after India's spinners had reduced the tourists to 102-3 on a placid track. Ali, who is on the verge of his fourth Test century, was at the crease with Ben Stokes who was on 19 at Rajkot's Saurashtra Cricket Association ground.

Root smashed 11 fours and a six during his 124-run knock before being caught and bowled by Umesh Yadav, who almost dropped the chance as he rushed to celebrate the dismissal.

With Ali standing tall at one end, England looked set for a big first innings total, vindicating captain Alastair Cook's decision to bat first.

Root celebrated his 11th Test ton, and third against India, by waving his bat towards a grateful England dressing room.

In completing the feat, Root became the first overseas player to score a century in India since Australia's Michael Clarke in 2013. "The way we played throughout the day was fantastic," Root said after the day's play. "We always thought that seam bowling would be useful early on, but the guys handled it well and that allowed the boys in the middle order to build partnerships. I look forward to watching Moeen bat all day tomorrow too. It's pleasing, something to build on and a good position to be in."

IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

Ali put in a focused performance, negotiating 192 balls during his 243-minute stay

at the crease. The Root-Ali pair piled on the misery for India who were also set back by an injury to pace spearhead Mohammed Shami. Earlier, a gripping opening session saw opener Haseeb Hameed, 19, become the fifth youngest player to play for England.

The youngster, dubbed "Baby Boycott" for his unflappable style, made 31 during his 98 minutes at the crease before falling lbw to top-ranked spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (2-108). Ashwin also dismissed Ben Duckett for 13 but went wicketless in the last two sessions. Hameed and Cook (21) both benefited from the largesse of India's fielders who dropped some early chances.

Cook was dropped off Shami on the third ball of the innings, while Hameed got a reprieve on 13 when Murali Vijay grassed his catch at first slip.

The England skipper, who surpassed Michael Atherton's record of 54 Tests as England captain, was adjudged leg before off left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

TV replays showed the ball would have missed the leg stump but Cook did not refer to the third umpire even though the decision review system is being used for the first time by India in a home series. Hameed showed little sign of nerves against top-ranked India, hitting Shami for boundaries twice in an over and driving Ashwin for an elegant four in the covers.

India's batting coach Sanjay Bangar conceded the sloppy fielding had cost his side dearly. "They (England batsmen) applied themselves really well and made full use of the conditions on offer," he said.

"It's still day one and had we taken those catches, we could have taken six wickets and conceded 25-30 less runs." — AFP



HARARE: Sri Lanka wicket keeper Kusal Janith Perera keeps a watchful eye as Craig Ervine plays a ball on during the fourth day of the second test match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club, yesterday. — AFP

HERATH SPINS SRI LANKA TOWARDS ZIMBABWE SWEEP

HARARE: Rangana Herath registered his second five-wicket haul in as many days as Sri Lanka closed in on victory in the second Test against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Herath followed up his five-wicket haul in the first innings with 5 for 45 in the second as Zimbabwe, set 491 to win, went to stumps on the fourth evening on 180 for seven.

While Herath's 5 for 89 on Tuesday had made him just the third bowler to take five-wicket hauls against all nine Test opponents, on Wednesday he became the first bowler to take 50 wickets in the current calendar year, having done so in just eight Tests.

"He's bowled really well. It's very rare to see him bowl a loose ball, which is his strength," said Sri Lanka batsman Dimuth Karunaratne.

"The wicket is two-paced and has some uneven bounce, and he's been bowling wicket-to-wicket, which is the key." The tourists began the fourth day on 102 for four in their second innings, with an overall lead of 334, and spent the first half of the day extending that advantage. With first innings centurion Karunaratne anchoring the innings with a patient 88 and Kusal Perera adding a quickfire 62 towards the end, Sri Lanka were able to declare their second innings on 258 for nine to set Zimbabwe 491 to win.

Although they were unable to claim 20 wickets for an eighth straight Test match, Zimbabwe's bowlers managed to slow Sri Lanka's scoring in the first session, then picked up wickets when the visitors went on the attack after lunch.

Leg-spinner Graeme Cremer finished with figures of 4 for 91 after taking three late wickets, while fast bowler Carl Mumba took 3 for 67. "There was a lot of pressure before we came into the day," said Zimbabwe batsman Sean Williams.

"I think we were really good with the ball-our bowlers came back well. "But then with the bat, senior players such as myself are getting starts and not finishing."

Left with 136 overs to bat in order to save the match, Zimbabwe saw Brian Chari bowled by Herath in the eighth over of their innings, before the left-arm spinner trapped Hamilton Masakadza lbw in his next over.

After tea, Herath struck again, having Tino Mawoyo caught at slip, before Williams and Craig Ervine battled back with a 74-run stand for the fourth wicket.

The pair counter-attacked to good effect, but were eventually separated when Williams edged a delivery from Lahiru Kumara to slip to depart for 45.

Malcolm Waller fell for a duck in the very next over, before Herath snapped up two more quick wickets late in the day, completing the seventh 10-wicket match haul of his career. Ervine batted through to reach the close of play on 65 not out, but will only have tail-enders for company on the final day. "Craig is batting well, but we'll work on their other batsmen to try and pick up the last three wickets as soon as possible," said Karunaratne. — AFP



RAJKOT: England's batsman Joe Root raises his helmet after scoring hundred runs during the first day of the first test cricket match between India and England in Rajkot, India, yesterday. — AP

SCOREBOARD

RAJKOT, India: Scoreboard on yesterday at stumps on the first day of the first test between India and England at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium:

England 1st Innings		India 1st Innings	
Alastair Cook lbw b Jadeja	21	Ansari, Adil Rashid, Stuart Broad.	
Haseeb Hameed lbw b Ashwin	31	Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-76, 3-102, 4-281.	
Joe Root c and b Yadav	124	Bowling: Mohammed Shami 12.1-2-31-0, Umesh Yadav 18.5-1-68-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 31-3-108-2, Ravindra Jadeja 21-2-59-1 (1nb), Amit Mishra 10-1-42-0.	
Ben Duckett c Rahane b Ashwin	13	India: Murali Vijay, Gautam Gambhir, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (captain), Ajinkya Rahane, Ravi Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravindra Jadeja, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami.	
Moeen Ali not out	99		
Ben Stokes not out	19		
Extras: (1b, 2lb, 1nb)	4		
TOTAL: (for 4 wickets)	311		
Overs: 93. Minutes:	362.		
Still to bat: Jonathan Bairstow, Chris Woakes, Zafar			



RAJKOT: England's batsman Moeen Ali raises his bat after scoring fifty runs during the first day of the first test cricket match between India and England in Rajkot, India, yesterday. — AP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka yesterday:

Sri Lanka first innings 504 all out (D. de Silva 127, A. Gunaratne 116, Tiripano 3-91, Cremer 3-136)		Bowling: Mpofo 21-8-51-1, Mumba 19-4-67-3, Cremer 21.4-2-91-4, Tiripano 11-4-14-1, Williams 6-0-21-0, Chari 1-0-3-0, Masakadza 2-1-1-0.	
Zimbabwe first innings 272 all out (B. Chari 80, C. Ervine 64, R. Herath 5-89, D. Perera 3-51)		Zimbabwe second innings	
Sri Lanka second innings		T. Mawoyo c de Silva b Herath	15
D. Karunaratne lbw b Mpofo	88	B. Chari b Herath	8
K. Silva c Waller b Mumba	6	H. Masakadza lbw b Herath	11
K. Mendis c Mpofo b Mumba	0	C. Ervine not out	65
U. Tharanga lbw b Cremer	17	S. Williams c K. Mendis b Kumara	45
D. de Silva c Chari b Mumba	9	M. Waller c K. Perera b de Silva	0
A. Gunaratne lbw b Tiripano	39	P. Moor c K. Mendis b Herath	20
K. Perera c Williams b Cremer	62	G. Cremer b Herath	5
D. Perera c Masakadza b Cremer	2	D. Tiripano not out	0
R. Herath b Cremer	4	Extras (4b, 5lb, 3w)	12
S. Lakmal not out	21	Total (7 wks, 45 overs)	180
Extras (6b, 4lb)	10	Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Chari), 2-32 (Masakadza), 3-39 (Mawoyo), 4-113 (Williams), 5-114 (Waller), 6-166 (Moor), 7-176 (Cremer)	
Total (9 wks dec, 81.4 overs)	258	Still to bat: C. Mumba, C. Mpofo	
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Silva), 2-16 (Mendis), 3-44 (Tharanga), 4-84 (de Silva), 5-153 (Gunaratne), 6-198 (Karunaratne), 7-201 (D. Perera), 8-211 (Herath), 9-258 (K. Perera) Did not bat: L. Kumara.		Bowling: Lakmal 11-2-47-0, Herath 16-3-45-5, D. Perera 6-1-27-0, Kumara 9-0-42-1, De Silva 3-0-10-1.	
		Series: Sri Lanka leads two-match series 1-0.	

YORKSHIRE FEAR HEADINGLEY DELAY COULD COST THEM ENGLAND GAMES

LONDON: Yorkshire chief executive Mark Arthur has voiced concerns that delays over the redevelopment of Headingley could leave the county without international cricket for four years.

The headquarters ground of English county champions Yorkshire, Headingley already faces stiff competition for international cricket from several other venues.

But unlike those rivals, Headingley is home to two sports, with Super League side Leeds Rhinos playing on the adjoining rugby league ground.

Yorkshire and Leeds share Headingley's main stand, which is due to undergo a £38 million (\$47 million, 43 million euros) upgrade.

This was due to begin in January but Wednesday saw the Rhinos announce the work was being delayed due to "complex planning matters" relating to the South Stand.

That should still mean that Leeds will be operating in a capacity stadium next season but the impact on Yorkshire could be far more severe.

Improved facilities are a key part of Yorkshire's bid when the 2020-2024 round of England fixtures are allocated next year and Arthur fears any uncertainty about Headingley could see Yorkshire,

the county of England stars Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow, miss out completely, as well as being ignored for the 2019 50-over World Cup in England.

"The 2020-2024 major matches will be allocated in the summer of 2017, therefore this delay could mean that Headingley will no longer be considered fit for Test match cricket-or to host any World Cup matches in 2019," he said.

"Not only does this delay impact the club's ability to stage internationals, it would also have profound consequences to both Yorkshire's and Leeds Rhinos' valuable and long-standing work within the wider community," added Arthur, who has previously warned that, without improved facilities and strong ticket sales, both issues for Yorkshire in recent years, Headingley could "fall off the cliff face" of international cricket.

The county's existing staging agreement with the England and Wales Cricket Board guarantees Headingley one Test a year until 2019, when the ground will stage its first Ashes match since 2009.

Rhinos chief executive Gary Hetherington said: "We are desperately disappointed to be making this announcement but remain hopeful that the scheme will go ahead as planned in the near future." —AFP

BAYERN'S CAPTAIN LAHM DROPS RETIREMENT HINT

BERLIN: Philipp Lahm, Germany's World Cup-winning captain and Bayern Munich's current skipper, hinted that he may retire from football at the end of the season. Lahm stepped down from international football after leading Germany to the 2014 World Cup and has a Bayern

contract until 2018, but admitted he might hang up his boots in June 2017. "I wouldn't rule it out," Lahm, who turns 33 on Friday, told magazine Sport Bild. "I said nine months ago that it could happen and nothing has changed since then. "I want to be able to measure myself

at the very highest level and to recognise when it is the right time to end my career." Lahm has won every possible domestic major title with Bayern, whom he first joined in 1995 as a 12-year-old. He lifted the 2013 Champions League trophy and has also claimed seven Bundesliga titles, six German Cups and

both the Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup in 2013. Bundesliga leaders Bayern are on course to win a fifth straight German league title this season, but Lahm says any further silverware will not influence his decision. "I definitely won't make a decision

based on any titles, more like how my body feels and then decide how to continue," he added. In the past, Lahm has said he wants to stay in football when his career is over and Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has said they will find a role for him when he finally retires. —AFP

ROSBERG ONE WIN AWAY FROM HIS FIRST TITLE

SAO PAULO: Win in Brazil on Sunday, win the Formula One title: Nico Rosberg's task sounds simple enough but is a lot harder to achieve.

The German is one step away from securing his first championship, which he will do if he wins at Interlagos regardless of where Mercedes team mate, triple champion and title rival Lewis Hamilton finishes.

The odds are in Rosberg's favour—he has won for the past two seasons from pole position in Sao Paulo whereas the anti-clockwise circuit has yet to reward Hamilton with a victory.

And yet the pressure of being within touching distance of a lifelong dream can play on the mind, and increase the pressure, while the fickle Sao Paulo weather can wreak havoc with the best laid plans.

Last year, Hamilton had already won the title and his focus was elsewhere. This time he comes on the back of two successive wins and, like Rosberg, seeking a hat-trick.

Another win for the Briton would take the battle down to the wire at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina and, if Rosberg were to fail to score in Brazil, a potential 'winner takes all' scenario.

"I'll wait until the end of the year," said Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone when asked whether he felt Rosberg looked a 'fairly safe bet'.

Rosberg will not be changing his 'one race at a time' approach.

"There are still two races to go and anything can happen in this sport, so I need to focus my energy on the factors that I have in my control," he said.

Hamilton is in unfamiliar territory, with the title outcome out of his hands even if

he wins in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, but needs no reminding that it is not over until it's over. Reliability, or lack of, can swing the momentum either way and Mercedes will be doing all they can to ensure both drivers have no mechanical issues.

The memory of his first championship with McLaren in 2008, secured in Brazil with an overtake on the last corner of the last lap just when it seemed local favourite Felipe Massa had clinched the title, is always there.

"It's an unusual scenario to be in-fighting for something and not knowing for sure that what you do will guarantee you're able to make it," said Hamilton. "One outcome would be painful and the other would be a great achievement."

"Regardless, I'm going to keep pushing. Since the beginning of my Formula One career I've seen that everything can change even at the very last moment, so you have to fight to the bitter end. I've never won in Brazil, so I go into this weekend focused on changing that."

Away from the title battle, both Mercedes drivers will have to watch out for Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen.

Vettel must also watch his language, after turning the air blue in Mexico with his radio rants. Massa meanwhile will soak up the atmosphere one last time, with Sunday being his home farewell before retirement from Williams.

McLaren's Jenson Button will also be making what could be his last appearance at the track where he won the 2009 championship. — Reuters



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, spins towards the basket as Atlanta Hawks' Thabo Sefolosha (25) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland, Tuesday. The Hawks won 110-106. — AP



Nico Rosberg

UNBEATENS KOVALEV, WARD FACE VEGAS TITLE SHOWDOWN

LOS ANGELES: Former world champion Andre Ward says the winner of next week's showdown of unbeatens between himself and world light-heavyweight champion Sergey Kovalev should be seen as boxing's pound-for-pound king.

"It would be really hard to go against that, based on both our resumes and us stepping up and being willing to fight," Ward said Tuesday on an international conference call. "The winner of this fight should be pound-for-pound number one."

The November 19 matchup in Las Vegas will see Russia's Kovalev, 30-0 with one draw and 26 knockouts, defend the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organization crowns for a fifth time since beating Bernard Hopkins for them all in a unification bout. "This fight is a great opportunity for both of us to show the boxing world who is the best pound-for-pound," Kovalev said. "It's going to be a war between us."

Ward, a 32-year-old American, is 30-0 with 15 knockouts. He was the 2004 Athens Olympics light heavyweight champion, the most recent US fighter to claim Games gold. "I've heard people say I'm not the same fighter I was in my 20s and I hope I'm not," Ward said. "I should be getting better." After an 18-month layoff, Ward fights for the third time in 17 months, his most recent triumph a unanimous decision over Colombia's Alexander Brand three months

ago before a hometown crowd in Oakland, California. "It's surreal," Ward said. "Fighting as a young kid we never got too caught up in ourselves. I get a little scared to look back on what we've accomplished and relish it because the clock is still ticking. I'm still going. I've got to show up and do what I'm still doing. When I do peek back, just for a split second, it's overwhelming."

Ward, who held a share of the world super middleweight crown from 2009 to 2013, says the fight will go beyond easy labels of Kovalev as a big puncher and Ward as an elusive target trying to get rivals off their game. "If it was just about me being a neutralizer some of these big punchers would walk right through me. There's more to me than that," Ward said. "He's not a brawler. He thinks in there. We're ready for whatever he brings. That's the key. It's about making constant adjustments. "There's a lot at stake. It's going to come down to who wants it more. I'm ready, I'm excited and I can't wait to fight. I just have to make the most of this."

'I WANT TO DESTROY HIM'

Kovalev, 33, had been in talks to fight for an undisputed title with Haitian-born Canadian southpaw Adonis Stevenson, the World Boxing Council champion who is 28-1 with 23 knockouts, but when no deal could be struck, Kovalev surrendered his mandatory challenger rights to face a fighter he said he thinks will be his toughest foe yet. "He has never lost before. But it's my job. Let me do it and break his zero," Kovalev said. "I don't have any different strategy. My strategy is just to win."

"He's in the way of my goals and my dreams. I can't give this to him. I want to destroy him."

Kovalev, coming off a victory in Russia last July over Malawi's Isaac Chilemba, says he expects Ward will be an elusive target but eventually a sore one. "He will be changing positions the whole fight. He will be feeling uncomfortable after feeling my punches," Kovalev said. "If I happen to knock him out, it will be a bonus for boxing and for me as well." "Ward is patient and crafty," added Kovalev trainer John David Jackson. "But you can't be that patient and crafty when your opponent has bombs in both hands. This fight here, he has to fight." — AFP



Sergey Kovalev

CAVALIERS BEATEN BY HAWKS

CLEVELAND: Dennis Schroder scored a career-high 28 points as Atlanta handed reigning NBA champion Cleveland its first loss of the season, 110-106 on Tuesday. Cleveland (6-1) cut a 96-81 deficit early in the fourth quarter to 101-97 on LeBron James' basket with 3:14 to play. The Hawks scored the next six points, but 3-pointers by James and Kyrie Irving made it 106-103 with 48 seconds left. Kent Bazemore scored 25 points while Paul Millsap added 21. Dwight Howard, who received four stitches for a bloody lip in the first half, had 17 rebounds. Kyrie Irving led Cleveland with 29 points. Kevin Love added 24 while LeBron James, who scored two points in the first half, had 23.

NETS 119, TIMBERWOLVES 110

Brook Lopez scored 26 points as Brooklyn kept Minnesota winless on the road. Trevor Booker added 15 points and Sean Kilpatrick had 14 for the Nets. Andrew Wiggins scored a career-high 36 points for the Wolves, making a career-best six 3-pointers. Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points, but scoring wasn't the problem for Minnesota.

GRIZZLIES 108, NUGGETS 107

Marc Gasol scored on an inbounds pass from Vince Carter at the buzzer to lift Memphis. Gasol had 19 points for the Grizzlies, who had lost two straight, while Zach Randolph added 16. Emmanuel Mudiay had 23 points and Danilo Gallinari added 21 for the Nuggets.

TRAIL BLAZERS 124, SUNS 121

Damian Lillard scored 38 points, including key free throws in the waning seconds, as Portland edged Phoenix. CJ McCollum added 33 points for the Blazers, who have won three straight. Portland led by as many as 18 points early in the game but the Suns threatened down the stretch. Lillard hit a 3-pointer with 6:45 left that put Portland in front 101-95. Eric Bledsoe made a free throw to pull Phoenix within 115-114 with just under a minute left, but he missed the second attempt that would have tied it and Lillard scored a layup on the other end. Bledsoe finished with 31 points and Devin Booker had 23.

MAVERICKS 109, LAKERS 97

Harrison Barnes scored 31 points and Seth Curry added 23 as Dallas won its second straight game. JJ Barea had 18 points, seven rebounds and eight assists for the Mavericks, who beat the Lakers for the 11th consecutive time. Dallas forced 17 turnovers and held the Lakers off down the stretch, scoring 10 straight points midway through the fourth quarter to take control. Jordan Clarkson scored 22 points and Nick Young had 20 as the Lakers' three-game winning streak ended. Lou Williams scored 15 points for Los Angeles, which rallied from an 11-point deficit in the second half before failing to execute in the final minutes.

KINGS 102, PELICANS 94

DeMarcus Cousins had 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter for Sacramento, which never trailed in defeating winless New Orleans. It was the second straight victory for the Kings (4-5), who were 1-7 in their first eight games last season. Rudy Gay had 21 points and Aaron Afflalo added 15 for the Kings, who had dropped six straight games to New Orleans, dating to 2014. Kings point guard Darren Collison had nine points in his first game this season. Collison, who

NBA results/standings									
Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB						
Toronto	4	2	.667	-	Oklahoma City	6	1	.857	-
Boston	3	3	.500	1	Portland	5	3	.625	1.5
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	1.5	Utah	4	4	.500	2.5
NY Knicks	2	4	.333	2	Denver	3	4	.429	3
Philadelphia	0	6	0	4	Minnesota	1	5	.167	4.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	6	1	.857	-	LA Clippers	6	1	.857	-
Detroit	4	3	.571	2	Golden State	5	2	.714	1
Chicago	4	3	.571	2	LA Lakers	4	4	.500	2.5
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	2	Sacramento	4	5	.444	3
Indiana	3	4	.429	3	Phoenix	2	6	.250	4.5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Charlotte	5	1	.833	-	San Antonio	5	2	.714	-
Atlanta	5	2	.714	0.5	Houston	4	3	.571	1
Orlando	3	4	.429	2.5	Memphis	4	4	.500	1.5
Miami	2	4	.333	3	Dallas	2	5	.286	3
Washington	1	5	.167	4	New Orleans	0	8	0	5.5

entered the game late in the opening quarter, missed the first eight games, serving a suspension for a domestic violence incident in the summer. Anthony Davis had 34 points and eight rebounds for the Pelicans, who have started the season with eight straight losses, matching the 2004-05 team for the worst start in franchise history. Rookie guard Buddy Hield had 12 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter and E'Twaun Moore added 13. — AP



MEMPHIS: Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley (11) drives against Denver Nuggets guard Emmanuel Mudiay (0) in the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, in Memphis, Tenn. — AP

GROWTH IS GOOD, BUT ASIAN SOCCER STILL HAS GRASSROOTS ISSUE

SEOUL: For all the new investment and advancements driving unprecedented growth in Asian football, it's an old problem that is still causing concern at the grassroots.

Billions have been invested in Super Leagues in China and India, the 2022 World Cup is coming to Qatar and the flow of players to Europe is on the rise, giving Asia some prominence in the global game, but regional soccer administrators are still grappling with match fixing. The good news is, they're fighting it. On Monday, the Asian Football Confederation suspended four players from the Laos national team on suspicion of match manipulation. All four were involved in Laos' opening game against Sri Lanka at the inaugural Solidarity Cup, for the lower-ranked teams in the continent.

Steve Darby is a former head coach of Laos - he was in charge during its failed qualifying run for the 2018 World Cup - and said he was shocked and angered

by the news. Two of the four accused were in his team.

"They trained well and always gave 100 percent in matches. I trusted them," Darby told The Associated Press. "One of the others I dropped from the squad but that was for form and nothing else." Darby said that, at least while he himself was in Laos, the fourth player - a goalkeeper - was not playing regularly at the top club level.

"He has made a rapid rise from about eighth choice to becoming the national team keeper," Darby noted. "You have to ask how this occurred."

Darby has seen it from a rival team's perspective. In 2014, nine players of Vietnamese club Ninh Binh were found guilty of match-fixing in an AFC Cup match with Malaysian club Kelantan, which Darby was coaching at the time.

"It is hard to accept when it is you that is being cheated," Darby said. "Like in all southeast Asian nations, there are rumors - some you think are feasible,

some outlandish. You don't know who is fixing."

Southeast Asia has long been regarded as a hotbed of match-fixing. Singapore, home to high-profile alleged match-fixers such as Dan Tan, has made recent progress in tackling the problem, according to Chris Eaton, FIFA's former head of security and now an independent sports integrity adviser.

"Singapore has taken decisive action to contain locally-bred match fixers," Eaton said. "Singapore ultimately realized that it has a duty of care to all nations for its home-grown criminality."

The problem is by no means contained to one region. In 2011, South Korea had a major scandal of its own with more than 50 players and coaches, past and present, charged with rigging matches.

The country's leading club Jeonbuk Motors, which is preparing for the final of the 2016 Asian Champions League later this month, is under the shadow of

its own scandal.

In September, the team was stripped of nine competition points by the K-League authorities after a club scout was convicted of bribing referees in 2013. The punishment cost the club, which denies any knowledge of wrongdoing, a third successive domestic title. It is also possible that the AFC will bar Jeonbuk, champion of Asia in 2006 and finalist in 2011, from entering the 2017 tournament.

Chinese soccer had periodic outbreaks of corruption until the authorities got tough in 2010, jailing officials and referees. "It has done a great deal over the past five years to address the problem with significant criminal prosecutions of players and referees," Eaton said, although adding that some level of fixing still exists.

Eaton said if the Asian Football Confederation had really adopted a harsher and more proactive approach to fighting match fixing, "that will

not only be good for regional football, but global football also."

In a statement released to the AP, the AFC reiterated a "zero tolerance" to match manipulation and said it was determined to stamp it out.

But Darby said while catching the players is necessary, more needs to be done to bring the orchestrators of corruption to justice.

"They have caught the foot soldiers but need to catch the generals," he said. "If the players are guilty there is somebody above them, they cannot do this on their own."

He points to illegal gambling as a major problem. Eaton agrees. "Match-fixing is absolutely and clearly holding Asian football back," Eaton said. "The only way to drive organized crime out of sport is to deny it the money."

He said reforming sports betting by legalizing it would help ensure it was regulated properly at "national, regional and global levels." — AP

NO ALCOHOL IN STREETS, PUBLIC PLACES AT WORLD CUP: QATAR

DOHA: Alcohol will be banned from streets and public places and if Qatari officials get their way even stadiums during the 2022 World Cup, the head of the country's tournament organising committee said on Tuesday.

The comments by Hassan Al-Thawadi will further alarm football traditionalists already unhappy that the tournament will be moved to the winter because of fierce summer temperatures in Qatar. A ban on alcohol inside stadiums - there has long been speculation about what the conservative Muslim country would do on the tricky issue of alcohol for the World Cup - could bring organisers into conflict with FIFA and powerful sponsors.

"There will be no alcohol consumption on the streets, squares and public places and that is final," Al-Thawadi, secretary-general of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, said in an interview printed on the website of Arabic language newspaper Al-Sharq. "We are against the provision of alcohol in stadiums and their surroundings." There will not be a total alcohol ban, but drinking will be permitted only in "far-away places", said Al-Thawadi, without going into details. Drinking of alcohol is not illegal in Qatar and alcohol is available in hotels, while expats who live in the Gulf emirate can buy drink after applying for a licence. Public drinking however is prohibited and bringing alcohol into the country is also forbidden.

The official said Qatar would resist

attempts to change the country's laws for the tournament, as has happened with previous World Cup hosts. "I did not get into a discussion with FIFA on this matter and there has been great pressure from FIFA on Russia (2018 hosts) to change its laws," he said. "But our position is clear - we will legalise according to Qatari law and commensurate with the customs and traditions." This could potentially lead to problems with football's governing body FIFA and major sponsors, including beer giant Budweiser. In the run-up to the tournament in Brazil in 2014, it was widely reported that FIFA demanded alcohol be served at stadiums, which was against Brazilian law at the time. The South American hosts finally relented.

As well as the impact on cultural traditions there has been growing concern in Qatar about the link between alcohol and the behaviour of fans, especially following clashes at the Euros in France earlier this year, most notably between English and Russian fans.

Organisers have already stated they feared alcohol helped contribute to some of the violence seen in France.

Al-Thawadi said earlier this year that drunken fans during the 2022 World Cup would be treated "gently". It has been estimated by organisers that up to one million fans could descend on Qatar for the 2022 tournament. Many of these could stay in hotels, specially designed campsites and cruise ships. — AFP



VESPASIANO, Minas Gerais, Brazil : Argentina's Lionel Messi attends a training session of the national football team at the Atletico MG Training Centre in Vespasiano, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on Tuesday ahead of their 2018 World Cup qualifier match against Brazil. — AFP

MESSI BACK FOR ARGENTINA, CHILE LOSES SANCHEZ FOR QUALIFIER

BELO HORIZONTE: After missing three matches with an injury, Lionel Messi is back in the lineup for Argentina in its crucial World Cup qualifier against Brazil. But there's bad news for Copa America champion Chile: Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez is out of today's match at Colombia with a leg injury. Injuries and suspensions could play a key role as South America's top teams chase places at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Argentina is happy to have Messi back after three lackluster matches - which ended with two draws and a loss. Brazil has meanwhile won its first four games under new coach Tite and will be looking to turn the page on Thursday when it returns to the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte where it was crushed 7-1 by Germany in the 2014 World Cup semifinals.

Brazil leads the qualifying group with 21 points from 10 games, one ahead of Uruguay, four ahead of Colombia and Ecuador, and five up on Argentina and Chile.

After beating Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Venezuela, Argentina will give Tite his biggest challenge yet - containing Barcelona star Messi in a game that renews one of the biggest rivalries in world soccer.

"He (Messi) is extremely intelligent and has a great finishing skill, so we have to do double marking on him whenever we can," Brazil midfielder Renato Augusto said. "We have to close the gaps for all Argentina players, and we have to remove Messi's passing angle whenever he has the ball." Argentina, which lost the World Cup final two years ago to Germany, is coming

off 2-2 draws against Venezuela and Peru, and a 1-0 loss to Paraguay.

Back in September, Messi scored in a 1-0 victory over Uruguay in the only match he's played under Argentina's new coach Edgardo Bauza. And the timing of his return couldn't be better.

"We are happy that Messi is back. We know how much he can give and it would be great to win here," midfielder Lucas Biglia said. "Brazil is the ideal rival to get us on track."

Under former coaches Dunga and Argentina's Gerardo Martino, Brazil and Argentina drew 1-1 in Buenos Aires in their first 2018 qualifier.

The top four teams qualify automatically for the World Cup. The fifth-place team advances to an intercontinental playoff.

Here is a look at other teams in action this week:

URUGUAY

Second-place Uruguay will face two extra problems against Ecuador in Montevideo: defender Alvaro Pereira and striker Edinson Cavani are both suspended. The team also has concerns off the pitch. On Monday, the players wore shirts without sponsors' names because of a controversy over image rights. In the news conferences given by players, banners with sponsors were also banned.

"We are trying to reclaim our rights that we understand are ours - and legitimate," Uruguay captain Diego Godin said. "It is the tool we are using to try to help our football and our football players." Fortunately for Uruguay, the visitors

have their own problems.

Coach Gustavo Quinteros will be missing 10 players, with Antonio Valencia, Jefferson

Montero, Pedro Quinonez, Matias Oyola and Angel Mena all out because of injuries. Enner Valencia, Luis Caicedo, Leonel Ramirez and Arturo Mina are suspended, while Marcos Caicedo could not travel because of legal issues.

COLOMBIA

An injury that has ruled out Chile's star forward Alexis Sanchez should make life easier for Colombia in its home game at Barranquilla.

Chile's soccer federation said Tuesday that Sanchez will not travel to the game after picking up a leg muscle injury in training. The setback comes after Chile was awarded two extra points following a FIFA ruling that said Bolivia had used an ineligible player in a 0-0 draw.

The 3-0 victory awarded to the Copa America champions meant they have 16 points, just one less than Colombia, but still only in fifth place.

"We have to worry about getting back to our level and not about other things," Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo said. "We have to start with the idea that we are out of the World Cup."

The biggest concern for Colombia is about who will lead the attack. Coach Jose Pekerman has to pick between Miguel Angel Borja and Radamel Falcao. The first is one of the top scorers in South America at the moment, and the second is returning to the team. Elsewhere, bottom of the group Venezuela hosts fellow struggler Bolivia and Paraguay plays Peru. — AP

LEHMANN ESCAPES HUGE TRAFFIC FINE

BERLIN: Former Germany goalkeeper Jens Lehmann yesterday dodged a 240,000-euro (\$263,000) fine, which was reduced to 42,500 euros, when he appeared in a Bavarian court on charges involving two separate driving incidents.

The 46-year-old was initially accused of coercion and attempted bodily harm after allegedly grabbing another driver by the throat in a roadside dispute in November 2014 in Starnberg, 30 kilometres south of Munich. With his two lawyers alongside him, Lehmann told the court in Starnberg that he had felt threatened by the other driver during the motorway incident. "I felt that he wanted to ram me, I was frightened to death," said the ex-Schalke, Borussia Dortmund and Arsenal keeper, who now works as a television pundit.

But the other driver gave a contradicting statement, saying Lehmann had braked hard, jumped out of his car and "yelled something and grabbed me by the throat".

Based on his salary, Lehmann had initially been fined almost a quarter-of-a-million euros for the incident out of court, but he appealed the decision, which took the matter before a judge. A deal between the defence and prosecution subsequently led to the judge dropping both the coercion

and attempted bodily harm charges on Wednesday. Instead, Lehmann received the 42,500 euros fine for a separate incident last year when he failed to provide sufficient information and left the scene of an accident. In September 2015, Lehmann was the passenger in a Mercedes in Munich which collided with another car.

He gave the driver of the other vehicle an incomplete address and called himself 'Gerhard Lehmann' - using his middle name. "Now everything is all right," he is alleged to have said before getting back into the Mercedes and being driven away before police arrived. Yesterday, Lehmann left the Starnberg courtroom in silence having hoped to be acquitted of all charges.

The ex-Germany shot-stopper won 61 caps for his country between 1998 and 2008. Lehmann succeeded David Seaman as Arsenal goalkeeper and played in every league game of the 2003/04 'Invincibles' season when the Gunners were unbeaten in the Premier League.

He made 148 league appearances for Arsenal between 2003 and 2008, but was infamously sent off early in the 2006 Champions League final which Barcelona eventually won 2-1 at the Stade de France in Paris. — AFP



STARNBERG: Jens Lehmann (C), former goalkeeper of the German national football team, stands between his lawyers Stephan Tschaidse (L) and Eva Wietersheim prior to the start of his trial at court in Starnberg near Munich, southern Germany, yesterday. Lehmann had to appear in court to appeal a 240,000 euros (\$265,183) fine for attempted bodily harm from an incident in November 2014. — AFP

BALE RETAINS WELSH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

LONDON: Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale was named Welsh Player of the Year for the fourth successive year and sixth time in seven years in Tuesday's Football Association of Wales awards. Bale, 27, inspired Wales to a shock semi-final showing at Euro 2016, scoring three goals in the group phase, and needs three goals to equal Ian Rush's national scoring record of 28.

The year has also seen him win his second Champions League title with Madrid. "Massive honour to be named @FAWales Player of the Year!" Bale wrote on Twitter. "Big thank you to all the Boys, Staff and Fans." Manager Chris Coleman received an FAW Special Award at the ceremony in the Vale of Glamorgan, south Wales.

Stoke City midfielder Joe Allen, named in the Euro 2016 team of the tournament, was voted Players' and Fans' Player of the Year, with Reading full-back Chris Gunter collecting the media award. — AFP



Gareth Bale

Sports

Root, Ali frustrate India in first Test

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Unbeatens Kovalev, Ward face Vegas title showdown

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DOPING SYSTEM IMPOSED ON RUSSIA IS NOT EFFECTIVE

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MONTREAL: Goaltender Carey Price #31 of the Montreal Canadiens makes a stick save while teammate Andrei Markov #79 defends against David Backes #42 of the Boston Bruins during the NHL game at the Bell Centre on Tuesday in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Montreal Canadiens defeated the Boston Bruins 3-2. — AFP

CARTER SCORES TWICE, KINGS BEAT MAPLE LEAFS

LOS ANGELES: Jeff Carter scored two goals while Peter Budaj earned his second straight shutout as the Los Angeles Kings defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs. Dustin Brown, Tanner Pearson, Tyler Toffoli, Kyle Clifford and Dwight King also scored for the Kings. Toffoli also had an assist while defenseman Derek Forbort recorded three assists. Budaj, who was starting his 10th consecutive game, made 19 saves. He also got the shutout in Saturday's 5-0 victory over the Calgary Flames. Frederik Andersen stopped 22 of 26 shots in the Maple Leafs' goal before being replaced during the second period by Jhonas Enroth, who stopped 14 of 17 shots.

Alexander Radulov shot at 18:58 of the third period. The Bruins challenged for goaltender interference, but the call stood. Shea Weber and Alex Galchenyuk also scored for Montreal, while Radulov picked up two assists. Colin Miller and David Pastrnak connected for the Bruins. Carey Price stopped 41 shots for the Canadiens. Rookie netminder Zane McIntyre, making his second NHL start, made 20 saves for Boston (7-6-0).

DEVILS 3, HURRICANES 2 (SO)

PA. Parenteau scored in regulation and converted his shot in a shootout, lifting the New Jersey Devils to a 3-2 win over the Carolina Hurricanes. Taylor Hall also scored in the shootout as New Jersey (6-3-3) earned its second consecutive win. Devils goalie Cory Schneider stopped both Carolina shootout attempts after making 31 saves through regulation and overtime.

CANADIENS 3, BRUINS 2

Paul Byron scored the game-winner with just over a minute remaining to lift the Montreal Canadiens to a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins. Byron poked home the rebound of an

PENGUINS 4, OILERS 3

Connor Sheary scored his second goal of the game with 1:42 remaining as the Pittsburgh Penguins overcame the Edmonton Oilers' top-line speed and a two-goal deficit. The Oilers' fleet line of Patrick Maroon, Connor McDavid and Jordan Eberle capitalized on a succession of up-ice rushes to open a 3-1 lead in the second period, but Evgeni Malkin tied it in the third with a one-handed sweep of Phil Kessel's pass. Eberle scored twice, and McDavid set up all three Oilers goals.

RED WINGS 3, FLYERS 2 (SO)

Andreas Athanasiou scored his second goal as the sixth shooter of the shootout, snapping a shot past Flyers goaltender Steve Mason to give the Red Wings a 3-2 win. The win snapped a five-game losing streak for the Red Wings. Jimmy Howard stopped 26 shots, including three in the shootout, to earn the win for the Red Wings (7-6-1). Mason made 35 saves, including two in the shootout in the loss for the Flyers (6-6-2). Left winger Tomas Tatar also scored for the Red Wings in regulation.

CANUCKS 5, NY RANGERS 3

Loui Eriksson and Alexandre Burrows scored their first goals of the season to help the Vancouver Canucks snap a nine-game losing streak with a 5-3 victory against the New York Rangers. Burrows added an empty-net goal with 3:06 remaining. Henrik Sedin and Sven Baertschi also scored for the Canucks. Goaltender Jakob Markstrom made 23 saves. Rick Nash, Pavel Buchnevich and Mike Zibanejad scored for the Rangers. Goaltender Antti Raanta stopped 20 of 22 shots.

SHARKS 3, CAPITALS 0

Joe Thornton had a goal and an assist, and Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Brent Burns scored as the San Jose Sharks snapped a three-game losing streak with a 3-0 victory over the Washington Capitals. Goaltender Martin Jones, pulled early in the Sharks' 5-0 loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday, finished with 24 saves. San Jose (7-6-0) ended Washington's five-game winning streak.

JETS 8, STARS 2

Patrik Laine scored his second hat trick of the season to propel the Jets to an 8-2 victory over the Dallas Stars. Laine now leads the league in goal scoring with 11. He scored his first hat trick last month in a 5-4 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs. Mark Scheifele had four points, giving him 18 on the season and propelling him into the NHL scoring lead.

PREDATORS 3, SENATORS 1

Pekka Rinne stopped 32 shots as the Nashville Predators won for just the second time in seven games with a 3-1 decision over the Ottawa Senators. James Neal and P.K. Subban scored on Nashville's first two shots of the sec-

NHL results/standings

New Jersey 3, Carolina 2 (SO); Vancouver 5, NY Rangers 3; Detroit 3, Philadelphia 2 (SO); Pittsburgh 4, Edmonton 3; San Jose 3, Washington 0; Los Angeles 7, Toronto 0; Montreal 3, Boston 2; Nashville 3, Ottawa 1; Winnipeg 8, Dallas 2.

Western Conference					Eastern Conference								
Central Division					Atlantic Division								
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Chicago	9	3	1	47	33	19	Montreal	11	1	1	42	30	23
St. Louis	7	4	2	31	34	16	Tampa Bay	7	5	1	41	38	15
Minnesota	6	4	1	33	22	13	Detroit	7	6	1	38	37	15
Winnipeg	6	7	1	42	43	13	Ottawa	7	5	0	30	31	14
Nashville	4	5	3	31	36	11	Boston	7	6	0	32	35	14
Dallas	4	6	3	33	46	11	Florida	6	6	1	35	33	13
Colorado	5	7	0	24	37	10	Toronto	5	5	3	37	48	13
							Buffalo	5	5	2	25	29	12
Pacific Division					Metropolitan Division								
Edmonton	9	4	1	43	35	19	Pittsburgh	9	2	2	41	34	20
San Jose	7	6	0	30	32	14	NY Rangers	10	4	0	58	34	20
Anaheim	6	5	2	35	30	14	Washington	8	3	1	33	27	17
Los Angeles	7	6	0	35	32	14	New Jersey	6	3	3	29	27	15
Vancouver	5	8	1	27	41	11	Philadelphia	6	6	2	49	51	14
Calgary	5	8	1	36	51	11	Columbus	5	3	2	32	21	12
Arizona	5	7	0	35	44	10	NY Islanders	5	6	2	37	40	12

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

ond period to break a scoreless tie. Ryan Ellis added a goal in the third period as the Predators (4-5-3) picked up a point in their fourth straight game, two of them shootout defeats.

COYOTES 4, AVALANCHE 2

Jordan Martinook scored goals in the first minute of the first and third periods, while

Anthony DeAngelo scored in his NHL debut as the Arizona Coyotes beat the Colorado Avalanche. Max Domi had a goal and an assist and Louis Domingue had 25 saves for the Coyotes. Anthony Duclair and Radim Vrbata had two assists each. Nathan MacKinnon and Rene Bourque scored for Colorado. Galvin Pickard stopped 21 shots for the Avalanche. — Reuters



Romelu Lukaku

LUKAKU MUST LEAVE EVERTON TO FULFIL POTENTIAL: KOEMAN

LONDON: Everton striker Romelu Lukaku will have to leave Everton to realise his full potential, his manager Ronald Koeman said yesterday. The 23-year-old Belgium international joined the Premier League club on loan from Chelsea in 2013 before making the move permanent in an Everton record 28 million-pound (\$34.8 million) deal in 2014.

British media reported that Lukaku asked for a transfer this year but he remained at Goodison Park and has scored seven league goals this season. "His potential is greater and higher than Everton as a final destination," Koeman told Belgian newspaper HLN. "If Romelu was to play at Everton until the end of his career I know he has left something behind," the Dutchman added. "I

gave him confidence and he has himself recognised that it was good for his development to play another year at Everton. What after this season comes, no-one knows." Koeman likened the powerful Lukaku to former Netherlands striker Patrick Kluivert who he coached at Barcelona. "Kluivert was also a striker who was quite young when he was in the picture and had a fantastic career. Eventually, Kluivert played for Barcelona which could happen with Lukaku," Koeman said.

"Lukaku can hold a ball and be a target man and because he is tall and physically strong, you can play directly with the long ball," Lukaku, who started his career with Anderlecht before joining Chelsea in 2011, has scored 17 goals in 52 internationals. — Reuters



NASHVILLE: Mike Ribiero #63 of the Nashville Predators skates against Zack Smith #15 of the Ottawa Senators during the third period at Bridgestone Arena on Tuesday in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP



UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION AS EGYPTIAN POUND FLOATS



NEW YORK: Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) the morning after Donald Trump won a major upset in the presidential election yesterday in New York City. — AFP

WALL STREET SLUMPS ON TRUMP WIN
 EUROPEAN STOCKS PARE EARLY LOSSES

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks dipped early yesterday in choppy trading following Donald Trump's shock win in the US presidential election, as hopes of a pro-business agenda partially blunted the higher uncertainty. Markets initially plunged in after-hours trading on Trump's win, but steadied once trading opened, veering in and out of positive territory. Some analysts said the Republican's pledges of increased infrastructure spending and lower taxes could boost the economy. About 50 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.1 percent at 18,316.03. The broad-based S&P 500 lost 0.4 percent to 2,130.44, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index fell 0.6 percent at 5,162.27. Analysts said the election outcome opens a period of policy uncertainty after Trump's campaign favored a variety of potentially radical steps, including tearing up international trade agreements, putting political pressure on the Federal Reserve and pursuing a more friendly relationship with Russia.

"What people promise on the campaign trail and what actually happens are two different things," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade. "So we're still speculating until he actually takes office and the new Congress comes."

"It's now looking like a bad day, but no sense of panic," Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank, said the muted reaction seen the first day after the vote may not persist.

"Investors don't like uncertainty and Trump's presidency embodies uncertainty," Ablin said. "Emotions will dominate market action over the next several trading days, potentially leading to exaggerated market swings." Pharmaceutical stocks, seen as vulnerable to price caps in a Clinton presidency, rallied. Pfizer surged 6.6 percent, Mylan 5.2 percent and Biogen 5.2 percent.

Bank stocks, which had also been seen as vulnerable to tougher regulation in a Democratic-led Washington, pushed higher. JPMorgan Chase jumped 3.7 percent and Bank of America 3.2 percent. Caterpillar was another winner, surging 6.5 percent on anticipation of greater infrastructure spending.

But hospital stocks were pummeled in expectation Trump will follow through on a pledge to revoke Obamacare. HCA Holdings sank 16.4 percent, Tenet Healthcare 27.5 percent and Community Health 26.4 percent. Technology stocks fell, with Apple losing 2.3 percent, Amazon 2.9 percent and Google parent Alphabet 1.7 percent.

Partial recovery

The European stock markets reacted with a sharp initial downturn to maverick Republican Donald Trump's shock election win yesterday, but quickly recovered their poise with surprising resilience.

Asia kicked off a "Trump slump", with Tokyo diving on concerns over the untested policies of the billionaire businessman and reality TV star. Europe followed suit, tipping about two percent lower at the open in Frankfurt, London and Paris. But all three markets rebounded into slender gains after Trump's conciliatory victory speech and as Wall Street opened firmer before nervously flitting in and out of negative territory.

"Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election has, so far, had less impact on financial markets than most anticipated," said Andrew Kenningham, Senior Global Economist at Capital Economics. "We suspect that it has also made little difference to the immediate outlook for the global economy," he said, adding however that there were "bigger question marks" over longer-term prospects.

'Broadly inflationary'

"After that initial plunge, European markets have seen a remarkable recovery this post-election yesterday," said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. "A surprisingly presidential Trump victory speech seems to have reassured investors, the talk of infrastructure spending and a lack of usual volatility allowing for a relative aura of calm."

"As people have come to make considered assessments, the reaction seems more rational," added David Jane at Miton's. Summarizing the impact of Trump's expected economic policies, Jane concluded that they will

be "broadly inflationary". This means, he said, that they will be "supportive of equity markets and negative for bonds".

The extraordinary US election outcome has drawn direct comparisons with Britain's shock Brexit vote in June to leave the European Union. "Of course, just as Britain has not yet Brexit'd, America has not officially entered the era of Trump," said Campbell.

'Plenty of volatility'

"That does, however, leave plenty of room for volatility as 2016 begins to wrap up, let alone the months and years of an actual Trump presidency." Investors fled to safe-haven assets, including gold and German government bonds. Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at stockbroker Interactive Investor, noted there were "significant" worries over Trump's policies. "Trump is a huge leap into the unknown," she told AFP.

"Trump is likely to cut taxes, invest in US infrastructure, be very pro-growth at home but be highly protectionist when it comes to the rest of the world." The incoming president insists he could bring jobs back to America by renegotiating international trade deals, while he has repeatedly vowed to ruthlessly pursue growth of the world's biggest economy.

Winners, losers

Pharmaceutical stocks rebounded as Clinton's campaign for cheaper drugs was off the table after her defeat, with Sanofi, Bayer and AstraZeneca all sharply higher. Defence stocks also rose on expectations of higher US military spending, with Thales shares hitting an all-time high in Paris and BAE Systems rising in London. ArcelorMittal surged in Paris on expectations of higher infrastructure spending by a Trump administration. Auto shares, meanwhile, dropped on fears of protectionist measures imposed by Trump, which sent BMW, Peugeot and Mercedes shares tumbling. Financials were mixed, but Spain's second-biggest bank, BBVA, fell more than eight percent, punished by investors for its high exposure to the Mexican market. — Agencies

INDIA'S SHOCK BANKNOTE BAN SPARKS CASH CHAOS

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: Indians struggled to pay for basics goods like food and fuel yesterday and fretted about their savings, after the government withdrew 500 and 1,000 rupee notes from circulation in a bid to flush out money hidden from the tax man. The shock measure also sent shudders through the investment community on a day when the markets were also reeling at the election of Republican candidate Donald Trump as the next US president.

India's National Stock Exchange share index slumped as much as 6.3 percent in early trade before recovering most losses to close the day off 1.3 percent. The currency move, announced late on Tuesday night by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to bring billions of dollars worth of unaccounted wealth into the mainstream economy and curb corruption.

The biggest disruption in decades to cash transactions, which power much of the rural economy, comes months before a series of state elections including in India's most populous Uttar Pradesh state.

Critics have warned that ordinary people who do not have access to the banking system will be hardest hit, and that Modi risks upsetting his ruling party's support base of small traders and businessmen who largely deal in cash. It will also affect politicians running for office in a country where there is no state financing for elections and many campaigns are funded by unaccounted wealth.

"This is a pre-election disaster for political parties, the piles of cash sitting with them are worthless," said one tax official, who

asked not to be named. Modi, however, came to office in 2014 promising a war against the shadow economy that won him support from middle-class Indians who accuse elite politicians and businessmen of cheating the system. "If elections can become cheaper as a result of this decision, it would be a good beginning," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told a news conference.

The replacement of the old currency was also designed to stop anti-India militants suspected of using fake 500 rupee notes to fund operations.

NOT ENOUGH CASH

From midnight, the larger bank notes ceased to be legal tender for transactions other than exchanging them at banks for smaller notes. Retailers refused to accept the bills, worth around \$7.50 and \$15 respectively, and people were unable to

access ATMs after banks closed them down.

Deepak Urs, a staff trainer at a financial services company in India's southern tech hub of Bengaluru, said he would need to take time off work to exchange his old notes.

"Once the ATMs start operating, there will be long queues," he said. "Maybe tomorrow onwards, every two, three weeks, I will have to go the ATM or bank to get cash."

India's "black economy," a term widely used to describe transactions that take place outside formal channels, amounted to around 20 percent of gross domestic product, according to investment firm Ambit. New bills of 500 and 2,000 rupees will be introduced from Nov. 10. Jaitley said it would take two to three weeks to replace the old notes, amid concerns over the availability of cash. — Reuters



AMRITSAR: An Indian fuel station employee counts 500 rupee notes as motorists queue at a fuel station in Amritsar yesterday. — AFP

News

in brief

UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION AS EGYPTIAN POUND FLOATS

WITHDRAWAL OF CB LEAVES DEALERS WITHOUT GUIDANCE

CAIRO: In a Cairo bank, foreign exchange traders cluster anxiously around a dealing terminal, preparing to make their first transaction since the central bank floated the currency. "Should we engage?" one trader wonders. "What should we quote?" asks another.

Dealers have been thrown into turmoil by the central bank's Nov. 3 decision to let the Egyptian pound trade freely for the first time in order to boost competitiveness and unlock IMF loans and foreign investment. After years of looking to the central bank for guidance, they scrambled to find their own prices in the first week of the float, contributing to wide spreads, volatile quotes and ultra-thin trading volumes as they cautiously tested the system.

At one point on Tuesday, bid and ask quotes for the pound against the dollar ranged from 16.65/17.35 at one bank to 17.80/18.30 at another. Until last week it was pegged at 8.8 to the dollar.

"We are not used to this. We are used to Daddy guiding us and setting the price," one trader said of the central bank's absence. "But Daddy is not here anymore." Egyptian banks have experi-

enced a more flexible exchange rate before, but have never had this level of freedom. Between 2003 and 2013, Egypt had a managed floating system which allowed the central bank to intervene heavily in the currency market through two banks-Suez Canal Bank and Arab African International Bank-who acted as market makers.

With foreign reserves dwindling after the 2011 uprising that drove off tourists and foreign investors, the central bank began to intervene more aggressively to defend the pound against downward pressure. From 2013 until last week, it kept the pound pegged in a tight range against the dollar, rationing dollar supply through central bank auctions that created a severe shortage and pushed companies to obtain foreign currency on the black market.

For three years, bank dealers recall, they rarely glanced at the price pages on their dealing terminals, which were mostly stable. Trading migrated to a booming black market in hard currency, where prices changed from one hour to the next.

But as markets opened on Sunday, the

first trading day after the float, traders were glued to their screens watching bid and ask quotes change constantly.

"There is confusion, for sure, and that reflects in the pricing," said a banker at a private bank who, like most of his peers, declined to be named because of commercial sensitivities.

COMPETING FOR DOLLARS

As the pound drifts lower to levels that are cheap enough to attract dollars into the interbank market, competition among banks seeking to hoover up greenbacks has become fierce. Bank branches have been staying open until 9 p.m. to try to persuade ordinary Egyptians to sell their dollars, while many have turned to the former black market for their hard currency needs, sucking liquidity bank into the formal banking system.

"Banks are acting like a black market, raising prices on each other and stealing each other's clients by offering higher rates to buy dollars," one frustrated trader said. Long gone are working days that began at 9 a.m. and ended in the late afternoon, as dealers work late into the

night to source foreign currency for dollar-hungry clients.

"The price is created by demand and supply until we reach equilibrium... Giving guidance, that does not make any sense," a trader at a private bank said. But uncertainty means it could take months for the interbank market to become fully functional and the pound to stabilize.

Bankers said there was no consensus on where the pound would stabilize, with some believing it might hit 20. That has raised speculation that the central bank may step in, perhaps using state-owned banks to inject dollars once the first \$2.75 billion installment of Egypt's IMF loan arrives.

The authorities expect to receive that money as early as next week, part of a \$12 billion loan package they hope will avert an economic crisis and halt the slide in the currency. "As long as there is a scarcity of dollars, they will keep raising prices like the black market was doing because they want to suck up dollar liquidity," said Abu Bakr Emam, head of research at financial firm Prime Holding.

"We have a crisis in liquidity and the central bank can resolve that." —Reuters

KENYA PLANS TO BOOST ROASTING COFFEE BEANS TO LIFT EARNINGS

OTHAYA, Kenya: Kenya plans to increase coffee roasting and is encouraging farmers to link up with foreign partners who can help build markets abroad, to add value to its raw bean exports that are a major source of foreign exchange. Kenya grows just 1 percent of the world's coffee a year, but punches above its weight in quality as many global firms seek its arabica beans to blend with lower quality varieties.

However, most of its produce is exported as cleaned beans and just 5 percent is roasted, so Kenya misses out on the added value from selling roasted and packaged coffee.

Kenya produced 45,000 tons of beans in the 2015/16 season and forecasts output of 50,000 tons in 2016/17. It is seeking to raise the amount of coffee roasted locally by 5 to 10 percent annually over the next five years, Richard Lesiyampe, principal secretary for agriculture, told Reuters. "Any value addition that can give us more money, that is the direction we want to take. We should actually go to 50 percent if possible," he said. "It is really ambitious but can be done."

In the coffee growing region of the central highlands, Othaya Farmers Co-operative is installing a roasting machine and a grinder at a cost of 50 million shillings (\$500,000) to produce packed coffee for local retail and export in future.

The aim is boost earnings for the co-operative's 15,000 farmers, who now earn a maximum of 78 shillings per kg on the best quality raw beans but could earn 100 shillings after roasting, co-operative chairman James Gathua told Reuters. While a 50-kg bag of top grade AA coffee fetches about \$500 at the weekly auction in Nairobi, a bag of lower grade coffee goes for about \$150. But experts say the value of this lower grade coffee can be doubled when roasted.

"Opportunities exist for private partnerships with roasters abroad, who have expressed interest in investing in roasting machinery in Kenya," Kenya's industry regulator, the Coffee Directorate, said in response to questions. Among the new entrants, Denmark's African Coffee Roasters (ACR) set up a roasting facility this year.

For now, local roasting is dominated by C. Dorman Ltd, which operates a chain of coffee shops in Kenya and also exports to foreign markets, and Java House, which has a fast growing chain of coffee shops and restaurants that is expanding beyond Kenya.

President Uhuru Kenyatta launched a study this year into ways of revive coffee production, now roughly half output at its peak in the 1980s.

Growers want the government to support producers including by removing duty on roasting machines. "If the government can support us, the portion of locally roasted coffee can go to 10 percent in the next three years," said Matthew Mugo, the managing director of Gibsons coffee Co. —Reuters



HONG KONG: A student runs past a man checking his phone in front of a display showing bank notes of different currencies in Hong Kong yesterday. Share markets plunged yesterday and the dollar tumbled against the yen and the euro as Donald Trump was elected US president, in a stunning upset with major implications for the world economy. —AFP

TRUMP'S ENERGY POLICIES YET TO BE DEFINED: EXPERT

LONDON: Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election will trigger a race among journalists, analysts and traders to explain what it means for energy policy and markets.

But the president-elect does not yet have clearly formed policies on most energy issues so the implications will become clear only in the weeks and months ahead as he starts to build an administration. Energy analysts tend to make the mistake of assuming that everyone thinks about the detail of energy policy as much as they do themselves.

Trump's energy-related policies are probably not even known in detail to the president-elect himself-much less knowable by anyone else.

In contrast to his rival Hillary Clinton, who conducted a classic programmatic campaign, accompanied by highly detailed energy policies, Trump mounted a values-based

campaign, with few detailed commitments. Some of the broad contours of Trump's energy agenda can be discerned from his statements as a candidate and comments made by his advisers.

Trump has promised to end the Obama administration's "war on coal" and overturn unnecessary federal regulations on oil, gas and coal production.

Trump has also promised to overturn the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which is being litigated in the courts. Trump is far less concerned about global warming and climate change than either his rival or the current administration.

He wants to take a much tougher line on Iran, which may include the reimposition of nuclear-related and other sanctions.

Trump also wants big tax cuts and a business-friendly pro-growth agenda, though that is complicated by his

instinctive protectionism and hostility to trade agreements.

In general, a Trump administration is likely to be much friendlier towards oil, gas and coal producers, and less receptive to arguments from renewable energy and clean technology firms.

Trump's administration will pay closer attention to the concerns of the American Petroleum Institute and less to arguments from green groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The rhetoric of energy policy will undergo a transformation as the focus shifts from climate change to energy security and affordability. But it is much less clear how far and how fast energy policy will change in practice because the incoming administration will face formidable institutional constraints to its freedom of action and difficult policy trade-offs. —Reuters

OPEC oil price stands at \$42.22 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$42.22 a barrel Tuesday, compared with \$41.98 the previous day, the OPEC said. The annual average of the OPEC basket price for 2015 hit USD 49.49 pb, it said in a statement yesterday. During their recent meeting in Algiers, OPEC oil ministers had agreed to cut the production level between 32.5 and 33 million barrel per day, in order to accelerate the ongoing drawdown of the stock overhang and bring the rebalancing forward.

Morocco buys \$100m of World Bank's 'green bonds'

RABAT: Morocco's central bank said yesterday it completed a deal to buy \$100 million of "green bonds" issued by the World Bank, marking its first purchase of this type of debt. The North African kingdom's central bank wants to take advantage of its foreign reserves which have risen to an unprecedented level in the last decade. At the end of September, net international reserves had reached 251.68 billion dirhams (\$25.79 billion) up 17.7 percent from a year earlier. The 3-year \$100 million bonds mature on December 15, 2019, and have a semi-annual fixed rate coupon payment, it said. World Bank green bonds support the financing of projects in member countries that meet specific criteria for low carbon and climate resilient growth, seeking to mitigate climate change or help affected people adapt to it, a joint statement from the two banks said.

ACWA Power sets up renewable energy unit

KHOBAR: Saudi-based power and water project developer ACWA Power has set up a new business that will house its existing renewable energy portfolio and drive the firm's expansion in emerging market renewables, the company said yesterday. Chris Ehlers, currently chief operating officer of renewables at ACWA Power, has been appointed chief executive officer of the new firm, ACWA Power RenewCo. ACWA did not say where the new company would be based. The increasing interest in renewables from Middle Eastern and African governments, which make up the majority of the 13 countries in which ACWA operates, means that around half of all ACWA's business is now in "clean" energy. In June, ACWA's CEO Paddy Padmanathan said he was "very optimistic" about Saudi Arabia's plans for generating 9,500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy under its Vision 2030 economic plan, while he was also "very excited" by Dubai's announcement for 1,000 MW of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) capacity.

OIL REVERSES MOST LOSSES AFTER TRUMP'S SHOCK WIN

LONDON: Oil reversed most of its early losses of almost 4 percent to trade near \$46 a barrel yesterday, as the market recovered from an initial Brexit-like reaction to Donald Trump's surprise victory in the U.S. presidential election.

The result sparked a flight from risky assets in a move analysts compared to June's referendum in which Britons voted to leave the European Union. But the dollar and European stocks pared losses, with traders citing what some saw as a conciliatory speech by Trump following his win.

Brent crude was down 15 cents at \$45.89 a barrel by 1220 GMT, after falling to \$44.40, the lowest since Aug. 11. US crude was down 30 cents to \$44.68.

Oil analysts said while Trump's victory raised concerns about future economic growth and oil demand, there were supportive factors for prices such as a potential shift in U.S. policy towards Iran.

"There are a lot of unknowns about what will be the Trump position in the geopolitics of the Middle East," said Olivier Jakob, analyst at consultancy Petromatrix. "President Obama from the start of his election worked towards a detente with Iran and we can't be sure that President Trump will continue in the same direction."

Trump has criticised the West's nuclear deal with Iran, an accord that has allowed Tehran to increase crude exports sharply this year. Iran on Wednesday said Trump should stay committed to the deal. Oil prices are less than half of their level of mid-2014, pressured by excess supplies. Other analysts cited bearish impacts from the election result.

Daniel Yergin, vice-chairman of analysis firm IHS Markit and author of The Prize, a well-known history of the oil industry, said it could compound supply-side headwinds with demand concerns. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.940
Indian Rupee	4.552
Pakistani Rupee	2.896
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.048
Nepali Rupee	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	303.850
Canadian Dolla	227.265
Sterling Pound	377.235
Euro	336.500
Swiss Frank	297.175
Bahrain Dinar	803.255
UAE Dirhams	82.955
Qatari Riyals	84.170
Saudi Riyals	81.750
Jordanian Dinar	428.155
Egyptian Pound	18.662
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.055
Indian Rupees	4.549
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippines Peso	6.236
Cyprus pound	160.145
Japanese Yen	3.900
Syrian Pound	2.420

Nepalese Rupees	3.840
Malaysian Ringgit	72.940
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.170
Thai Bhat	9.670
Turkish Lira	96.040

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	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

CURRENCY	Australasia	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.224887	0.236887
New Zealand Dollar	0.216301	0.225801

CURRENCY	America	SELL
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

CURRENCY	Asia	SELL
Bangladesh Take	0.003371	0.003955
Chinese Yuan	0.043374	0.046874

Hong Kong Dollar	0.037001	0.039751
Indian Rupee	0.004161	0.024650
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	0.006636
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

AUB REPORTS NET PROFIT OF \$442.1 MILLION FOR 9 MONTHS

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank BSC (AUB) reported a net profit attributable to its equity shareholders of \$442.1 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2016, an increase of 5.5 percent as compared to \$ 419.2 million achieved in YTD Q3/2015. The net profit achieved for the third quarter of 2016 was \$ 140.9 million, similar to 2015 third quarter reported profit of US\$ 140.9 million. The Basic Earnings per Share in YTD Q3/2016 increased to US 6.3 cents, from US 6.2 cents in YTD Q3/2015.

The growth in net profit of AUB was underpinned by the growth in its total assets to \$ 35.8 billion (+5.3 percent) from \$ 34.0 billion at 2015 year end. Net interest income grew by 2.5 percent from \$ 604.8 million to \$ 619.7 million. Fees, commissions & other income grew by 4.9 percent from \$ 123.2 million to \$ 129.3 million. As a result, net operating income increased by 5.2 percent to reach \$ 763.7 million. With the continued applica-

tion of our "intelligent spend" policy, operating expenses were contained at \$ 235.1 million (+2.4 percent) resulting in a cost to income ratio of 28.3 percent (YTD Q3 / 2015: 27.5 percent).

Asset quality parameters continued to be healthy with a non performing loans ratio of 2.1 percent backed by a conservative total provision coverage ratio of 173.2 percent, inclusive of collective impairment provisions. With collaterals, the coverage ratio increased to 287.8 percent.

The Group's Return on Average Equity (ROAE) for YTD Q3/2016 increased to 17.0 percent, based on improved operating results as compared to 16.7 percent achieved in the prior period. Return on Average Assets was higher at 1.9 percent for YTD Q3/2016 (YTD Q3/2015: 1.8 percent).

Hamad Al-Humaidhi, AUB Chairman, commented: "Despite tighter fiscal policy and weaker private sector activity resulting in lower liquidity in the banking system and moderate regional eco-

mic growth, AUB sustained its positive core performance trend in the first nine months of 2016. AUB's growth is a testament to AUB's well-managed business model based on diversification and cross border flows and of the success of its selective growth initiatives to increase profitability and mitigate risk challenges in its target markets."

"In October 2016, the Ahli United Bank K.S.C.P., AUB's subsidiary in Kuwait, successfully completed a \$ 200 million issue of Additional Tier 1 Perpetual Basel III Compliant Sukuk. The Issue was well received in international markets with more than three times subscription. This also represents a clear testimony of the AUB Group's strong credentials among prime international and regional investors as a well-managed, successful and credit-worthy financial institution. AUB will continue to seek, identify and tap organic as well as inorganic growth opportunities within an acceptable risk-return framework," added Al-Humaidhi.



AUB Chairman Hamad Al-Humaidhi

GULF MARKETS ABSORB SHOCK TRUMP VICTORY

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets dependent on foreign funds, such as Dubai and Qatar fell yesterday as the region absorbed the shock of Donald Trump's US election win and prepared for more volatile trading ahead. Trump, feared by markets because of his views on trade, immigration and taxation, may enact policies that could affect the oil price, the strength of the dollar and capital flows, said Monica Malik, chief economist of Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

"More uncertainty could place downward pressure on oil prices and capital flows. Trump has also supported increasing hydrocarbon production to support jobs growth, which could delay the re-balancing of the oil price," she said. Some analysts consider that the impact on the region may be less severe than on other emerging markets since the Gulf economic bloc does not have direct trade pacts with the United States.

"The Gulf region as a whole does not trade much with the US directly, and there are no binding trade ties, so even Trump's protectionist policies will have little impact in terms of trade," said Mohamed Shabbir, a Dubai-based independent investment advisor.

The expectation that interest rates will remain anchored at current low levels may benefit those Gulf economies pegged to the dollar and for governments and corporates planning to issue bonds.

"One upside could be that interest rates may be lower for longer, with the probability of a Fed rate hike in December now falling," added Malik. Nevertheless, protectionist trade rhetoric from Trump could lead to a drop in capital inflows as the Gulf's trade partners in Asia are likely to suffer from a decline in trade with the United States.

"One of the biggest worries, and the one that will impact the region most, is his opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, this is likely to negatively impact emerging economies, which the Gulf largely trades with," Hussein al-Sayed, FXTM's chief market strategist for the Gulf and Middle East.

Other economists voiced similar concerns. "The prospect of protectionism and lower global growth will hit equity markets and risk assets worldwide. Emerging

markets are particularly vulnerable given their dependence on global trade," said Keith Wade, chief economist and strategist at London-based Schroders.

"We still don't know what his foreign policy will entail, another risk which investors will be pricing into the markets."

STOCK MARKETS

Yesterday stock markets in the region initially plunged but closed well off their lows as investors absorbed the initial shock to focus on regional fundamentals. "Global markets, the Gulf and Egypt included, were pricing in a Clinton victory over the last couple of sessions, and instead they got Trump in the White House, but investors in the region then turned their focus on domestic factors especially in Saudi Arabia and Egypt," said Shabbir.

In Cairo, the index of the 30 most valuable shares extended gains for a fourth straight session and closed up 1.3 percent at 10,226 points, a fresh 8 year high. Trading volumes surpassed Tuesday's session. Global Telecom Holding gained 3.3 percent and investment firm EFG Hermes soared 6.3 percent. "The positive reaction following the currency float and with the IMF \$12 billion loan inching closer investors shrugged off the global negative sentiment," said Shabbir.

It is now up 20 percent since the Egyptian pound was floated today. The broader index outperformed the blue chip benchmark for a second day, gaining 3.2 percent. Riyadh's index, which is usually traded by local investors, closed up 0.8 percent to 6,380 points, after it fell as much as 3 percent in morning trade. Domestic-focused shares were the top gainers, with mobile operator Zain KSA jumping 5.9 percent.

But Dubai's index, which is more vulnerable to foreign fund flows, lost 0.8 percent to 3,279 points, although it closed 64 points above its session low. Emaar Properties lost 0.3 percent, but its unit Emaar Malls Group rose 0.8 percent. Qatar's main index, another Gulf market sensitive to foreign fund flow, closed down 0.1 percent as a little over half of the listed shares declined. Vodafone Qatar lost 1.6 percent, but commodities producer Industries Qatar recovered to add 1.8 percent.— Reuters

EUROZONE RAISES 2016 GROWTH OUTLOOK, BUT SLASHES 2017

ECONOMY FACES NEW CHALLENGES DUE TO BREXIT, RISING INEQUALITY

BRUSSELS: The European Union yesterday edged up its eurozone growth forecast for this year but trimmed it for 2017, warning that the economy faced new challenges due to Brexit and rising inequality.

Brussels also nearly halved its economic growth outlook for Britain itself next year due to uncertainty over the country's vote to leave the bloc. Pointing to increased global risks for the 19-country single currency area as shown by the shock victory of Donald Trump in the United States, the European Commission said economic growth this year would reach a modest 1.7 percent.

The commission also said that eurozone growth would slow to 1.5 percent growth next year, as the negative effects of Britain's looming divorce from the EU began to be felt more deeply.

"In these volatile and uncertain times, no effort must be spared to safeguard and strengthen this recovery—and ensure that all sections of society feel its benefits," said EU Economics Affairs Commissioner Pierre

Moscovici. Asked about the impact of the Trump vote in the US, Moscovici stressed the need to boost economic recovery.

"The frustration expressed in the US clearly echoes that of European voters," Moscovici said. "Many of our citizens feel excluded from the economic recovery and many of them feel disconnected from government," he said. Inflation, long stuck near negative territory, would accelerate sharply, the commission said, as rising oil prices began to lift consumer prices.

The commission said inflation in the eurozone would hit 1.4 percent in 2017, up from an expected 0.3 percent for 2016. This will come as a relief to the European Central Bank which has embarked on a controversial stimulus program to get inflation nearer to the official target of close to 2.0 percent. Growth in all 28 EU nations would hit 1.8 percent in 2016, the commission said, with a drop to 1.6 percent next year. The EU nearly halved its economic growth outlook for Britain in 2017 due to the impact of the Brexit vote to leave the bloc. It is set to edge up again to 1.2 percent in 2018.

Growth in the UK was projected to fall to 1.0 percent from 1.9 percent in 2016 "reflecting the impact of heightened uncertainty following the referendum," the commission said.

Britain voted to leave the EU in a referendum on June 23, with the government expected to trigger two years of divorce negotiations in March of next year. The "UK 'leave' vote ... has raised uncertainty and can be seen as an indicator of heightened policy risks in the current volatile political environment," the commission forecast said. Greece will be the only eurozone member in recession this year with a contraction of 0.3 percent as fallout from debt crisis continued to affect the economy. But the economy would turn around sharply to 2.7 percent expansion next year, the commission said.

Growth in Ireland and tiny Malta would lead the single currency zone with a 4.1 percent expansion this year. The Commission forecasts also cleared the air for France, which will achieve enough growth this year to reduce its deficit to 2.9 percent of GDP, just inside the EU's three percent limit, according to the estimates. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Traveller Somnath Kale (L) holds his son's hand after arriving following a 36-hour train journey from Pune at New Delhi railway station in the Indian capital New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

SIX QUESTIONS ON INDIA'S RUPEE SHAKE-UP

MUMBAI: India's government yesterday withdrew the two largest-denomination banknotes from circulation in a bid to tackle tax evasion and corruption.

Here are answers to key questions surrounding the shock move:

What has happened?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced late Tuesday that 500 and 1,000 rupee notes (\$7.50, \$15) would be withdrawn from circulation. As of midnight Tuesday the notes were no longer legal tender. Customers have until December 30 to exchange their old bills for new ones or deposit them in bank accounts. All banks and cash machines were ordered closed on Wednesday to prepare for the new notes.

Why has it happened?

Modi came to power in 2014 pledging to crack down on so-called black money financial transactions in which cash is used to avoid tax. Tuesday's announcement was part of that promise but there are also political reasons. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party faces key state elections next year and this decision may hinder attempts by its opponents to stockpile campaign cash.

The move is likely to curb the high use of fake notes, a common problem in an heavily cash-based economy. Modi particularly singled out Pakistan-based extremist groups, saying they finance attacks on India using counterfeit notes.

Has this happened before?

Yes. In January 1978 the government removed 1,000, 5,000 and 10,000 rupee notes from circulation at short notice, sparking a brief panic with consumers rushing to banks. However, the overall disruption was limited as the monetary value of 1,000 rupees was so high back then that the move did not affect most Indians.

How has it been received?

Long queues formed outside ATMs ahead of

the midnight deadline as customers made a last-minute dash to withdraw 100 rupee notes—the highest denomination note left in circulation. There was also a rush by motorists to petrol stations, which will continue to accept the old bills until the end of the week as will transport operators and hospitals.

The Bombay Stock Exchange plunged six percent at the open yesterday before stabilizing at around three percent down in late-morning trade. Despite the slump business leaders widely praised the move, saying it would force more money into the formal economy and boost GDP.

Who are the main winners and losers?

There were a lot of nervous Indians yesterday, particularly those who hoard cash at home to avoid paying tax. Only around three percent of Indians pay any income tax at all and they face the prospect of serious scrutiny if they cannot account for a sudden increase in their bank balance. Temples and ashrams, where lavish donations can be a front for money-laundering, will be

figuring out what to do next, as will those running illegal cricket betting rings and property dealers who often deal in black money.

Small traders who deal in cash transactions and workers such as maids and drivers who may not have bank accounts are likely to be hit in the short term. The middle classes and companies who operate in the formal economy, however, will benefit from a reduction in the cost of doing business due to a drop in backhand payments.

What happens next?

Banks and ATM will reopen on Thursday when customers will be able to swap their old notes and withdraw the new 500 rupee and 2,000 notes—but there will initially be a limit on the value of transactions. A newly-designed 1,000 bill will be also gradually reintroduced in coming months.

Analysts anticipate a massive drop in consumption over the next few days as consumers will be short of cash. It will also likely take some time for the new notes to circulate widely. — AFP

OPEC'S JOB HAS JUST BECOME TOUGHER WITH TRUMP WIN

DUBAI/LONDON: OPEC's job of trying to prop up oil prices has just got much harder. With Donald Trump winning the US presidential election, the 14-country oil-producing cartel may have to battle a sourer outlook for the global economy and weaker demand for crude.

It also faces the prospect of increased US oil output - a major bugbear for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - given Trump's pledge to open all federal land and waters for fossil fuel exploration. OPEC's internal dynamic could change, with Trump promising to tighten policies on Iran just as oil companies begin slowly to return to the Islamic Republic.

"Buckle up your seatbelts for a more turbulent and uncertain global economy that is ahead," Pulitzer Prize-winning US oil historian Daniel Yergin, vice-chairman of the IHS Markit think tank, told Reuters. "The outcome of the US election adds to the challenges for the oil exporters because it will likely lead to weaker economic growth in an already fragile global economy. And that means additional pressure on oil demand," Yergin said.

Oil prices fell almost 4 percent early yesterday but recovered to trade up slightly at around \$46 per barrel by 1055 GMT. OPEC will meet on Nov. 30 in an effort to curtail output and reduce the global oil glut that has seen prices more than halve since 2014.

OPEC sources said they expected oil to remain weak in the days and weeks ahead due to worries about the global economy and uncertainty about Trump's policies for the Middle East. "Oil is doomed," one of the sources said. A second source said the OPEC meeting in November might fail to have a strong impact on prices even if it strikes a deal to limit output: "I don't think prices will go up much more than the current levels."

Trump has promised to double US economic growth but also pledged protectionist

trade policies. "This will have huge negative implications for Asia, given how much their GDP is tied to trade with the US. Hence it is negative for growth and oil demand, at least due to the uncertainty that Trump creates," said Amrita Sen, of the think tank Energy Aspects.

Trump's energy policies have been limited in detail so far. But what he has said will be seen as supportive for the share prices of US independent oil and gas producers as well as oil majors with large exposure to the US shale industry such as Chevron, ExxonMobil and Shell.

"Trump has vowed to lead a fossil-fuel revival to underpin job growth and has also put man-made climate change denial at the forefront of his energy policy," JBC Energy analysts said in a note. Trump said he was in favour of removing oil-sector regulations, opening federal land to drilling, and vowed to revive a major trans-Canadian and trans-US oil pipeline project while pledging to support the coal industry. The stocks of oil majors BP and Shell were down in line with the price of crude, while France's Total underperformed peers.

Earlier this week, Total signed a deal with Iran to help it develop a huge gas field, becoming the first Western energy company to ink a major deal with Tehran since the lifting of international sanctions this year. Trump has criticized the West's nuclear deal with Iran, adding to uncertainty and frustrating Tehran's push for foreign investment to revive its economy.

An executive from an oil major negotiating with Iran said that given Tehran wanted to repay investments slowly, maybe over five to 10 years, many oil firms would take a slow approach in finalizing deals until Trump's policies became clearer. "It is a significant amount of money that will be put at risk should sanctions be brought back," the executive said. — Reuter

SUDAN STEPS UP ARRESTS TO QUELL FUEL PRICE PROTESTS

KHARTOUM: Sudanese security agents seized an opposition party leader from his home early yesterday, the latest in a wave of arrests aimed at stifling protests over fuel price increases, his party said. At least nine other opposition leaders have been detained over the past two days as the government seeks to prevent a repeat of two months of protests in 2013 that required a deadly crackdown to crush.

Sudanese Congress Party leader Omar Al-Digair was taken from his home in Omdurman—the capital's twin city—at 2:00 am (2300 GMT Tuesday), party spokesman

Mohamed al-Arabi told AFP.

Four other party members, including deputy leader Khaled Omar, were already in custody. Arabi said security agents also raided the party's headquarters on Tuesday evening and arrested five student activists.

The party had joined the Communist Party and the Baath Party in calling for protests over subsidy cuts that triggered a 30 percent spike in the price of petrol and diesel. Groups of protesters have staged small rallies in parts of Khartoum and in the town of Medani south of the capital, but they were quickly dispersed by anti-riot police. — AFP

MEXICANS, PESO THUNDERSTRUCK BY TRUMP WIN

MEXICO CITY: Mexicans bowed their heads in disbelief, the peso tumbled and the government prepared a response as Donald Trump, whose anti-immigrant rhetoric infuriated the country, won the US presidential election.

At an American barbecue restaurant called Pinche Gringo in Mexico City, a festive mood turned somber as Mexicans and Americans rubbed their necks and could barely utter a word as they watched television networks confirming Trump's victories in key states against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"I feel very sad. It's a nightmare, with a lot of uncertainty about what's going to happen," said Erick Sauri, a 35-year-old architect, who wore a blue T-shirt reading "Hillary Clinton for President."

"For now we're already making less (money) than we making yesterday," Sauri said, referring to the national currency's fall to a record low. The dol-

lar was buying 20.78 pesos, eclipsing the Mexican currency's previous low of 19.93 set in September.

Mexicans have closely watched the US presidential campaign ever since Trump burst into the scene last year by calling migrants "rapists" and drug dealers. The Republican real estate tycoon has pledged to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, force Mexico to pay billions of dollars for a border wall, freeze remittances migrants send back home and renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Mexican Finance Minister Jose Antonio Meade and central bank chief Agustín Carstens were due to address the media early Wednesday to outline actions the government will take in response to the peso's fall. Meade said last week he expected such market "volatility" if Trump won, while Carstens said the government had an unspecified contingency plan in place to weather the storm.

Foreign Minister Claudia Ruiz Massieu, meanwhile, cancelled a late night news conference. An official said she would speak after both Trump and Clinton have spoken.

Meeting Mexican president

In the runup to the election, Mexicans vented their anger in different ways, crushing Trump pinatas, burning his effigy and organizing an exhibit of cartoons mocking him as a Nazi or excrement.

Their president, Enrique Peña Nieto, tried a different approach, shocking many in his country when he met Trump at his official residence in Mexico City on August 31. Peña Nieto's failure to forcefully condemn Trump during a joint press conference angered Mexicans. While the Mexican leader later tweeted that he had told Trump that his government would never pay for



SINGAPORE: People queue in front of a money changer at the Raffles Place business district in Singapore yesterday. The dollar tumbled against the yen and euro while the Mexican peso fell off a cliff as polling results in the knife-edge US presidential race pointed to a strong showing by Donald Trump. — AFP

the wall, several analysts saw the visit as a mistake that helped Trump burnish his presidential image and Peña Nieto himself later admitted that the invitation was "hasty." But his invitation may pay off now, since Peña Nieto said his goal was to open dialogue with a man who could become the next US president.

refers to an insult lodged against Americans. "I'm dismayed. It's incredible that so many people voted for a message of hate. It's like a bad dream," said Monserrat Valencia, a 25-year-old economist, who left the restaurant ever before Trump was declared the winner.

But not all saw doom and gloom. Carlos Arturo Fernandez, a 36-year-old Uber driver navigating heavy traffic on a rainy night, said things may not turn out that bad with Trump as US president. "Whether it's Trump or Hillary, it can bring bad things and good things," Fernandez said. — AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 09 November 2016

Summary table showing Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low, Volume, and Value (KWD).

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Oil & Gas, Basic Materials, and Metals.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Consumer Goods, Health Care, and Financial Services.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Investment Instruments, Technology, and Insurance.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Banks, Telecom, and Real Estate.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Energy, Chemicals, and Pharmaceuticals.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Media, Retail, and Services.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Utilities, Transportation, and Miscellaneous.

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinvest.com

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

Table of Global Stock Indices including Dow Jones, NASDAQ, S&P 500, and others.

Table of MENA Stock Indices including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and others.

Table of Global Currencies Exchange Rate including Kuwait Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, and others.

Table of MENA Currencies Exchange Rate including Kuwait Dinar, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, and others.

Table of Global Interest Rates for various currencies and terms.

Table of Global Bond Yields for various countries and terms.

Table of Commodities including Kuwait Oil, Brent, West Texas, Gold, and Silver.



NISSAN INTRODUCES NEW ELECTRIC-MOTOR DRIVETRAIN: E-POWER

DUBAI: Nissan Motor Co Ltd, yesterday introduced its new drive system called e-POWER to customers. It marks the first time that e-POWER technology is available for consumers, marking a significant milestone in the electrification strategy under Nissan Intelligent Mobility.

e-POWER borrows from the EV technology perfected in the Nissan LEAF, the best-selling pure electric car in history, with more than 250,000 units sold. Unlike the LEAF, e-POWER adds a small gasoline engine to charge the high-output battery when necessary, eliminating the need for an external charger while offering the same high-output.

The technology of e-POWER

The e-POWER system features full electric-motor drive, meaning that the wheels are completely driven by the electric motor. The power from a high-output battery is delivered to the e-POWER's compact powertrain comprised of a gasoline engine, power generator, inverter, and a motor. In conventional hybrid systems, a

low-output electric motor is mated to a gasoline engine to drive the wheels when the battery is low (or when traveling at high speeds). However, in the e-POWER system, the gasoline engine is not connected to the wheels; it simply charges the battery. And unlike a full EV, the power source originates from the engine and not just the battery.

This system structure generally requires a bigger motor and battery because the motor is the only direct source to drive wheels. This has made it hard for the automotive industry to mount the system in compact cars. However, Nissan has cracked the code and learned how to minimize and reduce weight, develop more responsive



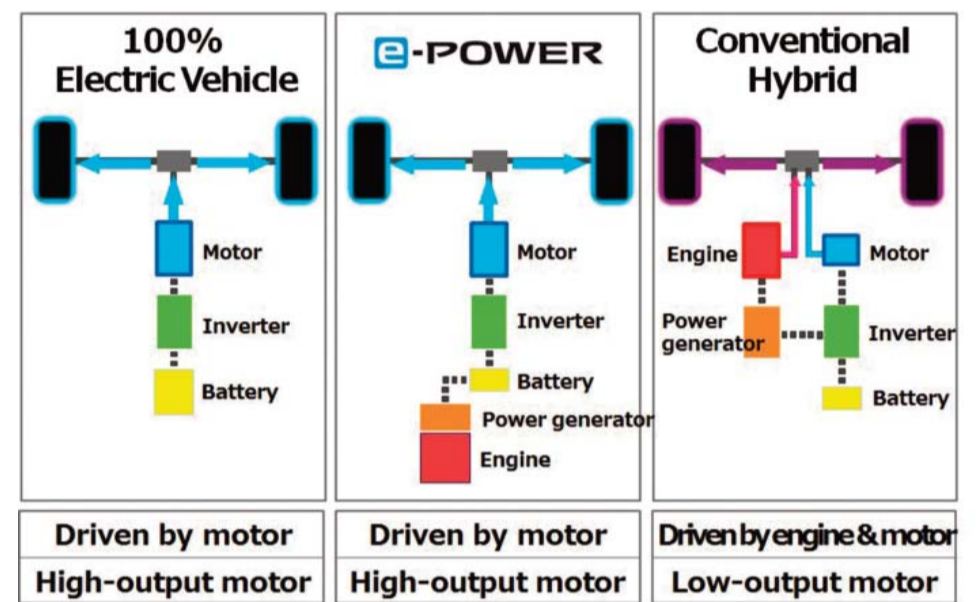
motor control methods and optimize energy management. As a result, e-POWER uses a smaller battery than the LEAF, but delivers the same driving experience as a full EV.

e-POWER delivers massive torque almost instantly, which enhances drive response and results in smooth acceleration. Also, the system operates very quietly, much like a full EV. Because e-POWER relies on the engine much less frequently, its fuel efficiency is comparable to that of leading conventional hybrids, especially during around-the-town commutes. The e-POWER system

allows you to enjoy all the benefits of an EV without having to worry about charging the battery.

Development history

Nissan is actively pursuing a zero-emission, zero-fatality world for driving through its EV program and autonomous drive technology. To make this vision a reality, Nissan is developing "Nissan Intelligent Mobility," which anchors critical company decisions around how cars are powered, how cars are driven, and how cars integrate into society,



all while staying focused on creating more enjoyable driving experiences. e-POWER is another step towards achieving our zero-emission vision through a new and more efficient electric powertrain.

In 2006, Nissan experienced a breakthrough in its energy management technology. Nissan's engineers were able to reduce the battery capacity to match its competitors' hybrid vehicles while still delivering desirable EV qualities, such as quietness and efficient energy use. In addition, application of Nissan's technologies, such as the integration of a power-generating engine, electric motor drive for compact car use, strengthening of the powertrain's rigidity and improvements in NVH levels, became the foundation of e-POWER and its implementa-

tion in the compact-car segment.

Nissan is committed to developing electric-powered powertrains that use various fuels to cater to the different requirements of the world's markets. e-POWER is but one example of that quest and will strengthen Nissan's lineup of electric-powered powertrains. Nissan is also conducting research and development of the SOFC (Solid Oxide Fuel Cell) fuel-cell vehicle, and will continue to introduce innovative new products into various areas and promote the worldwide use of EVs.

Note: The e-POWER system is classified as a series hybrid. The Note e-POWER represents the first mass-production compact segment car ever to be equipped with a series hybrid system.

CHINA OCT FACTORY PRICES RISE MORE THAN FORECAST

CONSUMER PRICES ALSO PICK UP

BEIJING: China's producer prices jumped more than expected in October as prices of coal and other raw materials surge in the midst of a supply crunch and a pickup in the economy. Consumer prices also beat expectations, accelerating to a six-month high, though analysts say the room for further rises is limited.

"We think producer price inflation will recover further in coming quarters but will top out at a little over 4 percent y/y before dropping back again," Capital Economics economist Julian Evans-Pritchard said in a note. "The scope for further rises in consumer price inflation is likely be more limited given that credit growth has begun to slow, house prices are starting to cool and farmers have responded to high pork prices by boosting pig supply."

With producer prices pulling out of nearly five years of deflation and the economy showing broad signs of stabilization, pressure on Beijing to support growth has eased, with the policy focus now on controlling asset bubbles and other risks.

Factory prices rose 1.2 percent on-year, the fastest pace since December 2011, after turning marginally positive in September for the first time in nearly five years, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday. The reading handily beat forecasts for a 0.8 percent rise, with the increase led by higher prices for companies involved in the production and processing of raw materials.

On a month-on-month basis, producer prices rose 0.7 percent. Coal prices in China are in the midst of a month's long rally, with prices hitting fresh records on an almost daily basis in recent weeks after government-enforced closures tightened supplies for utilities, triggering a scramble for raw materials ahead of the winter. Stronger factory prices have helped boost industrial profits, relieving some pressure on companies squeezed by higher costs and weak demand, though there are concerns some of the gains are due to speculation and are not sustainable.

Improved cash flows should also give companies more room to service heavy debt loads, a key concern for the government. Corporate China sits on \$18 trillion in debt, equivalent to about 169 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), according to the most recent figures from the Bank for International Settlements. Most of it is held by state-owned companies.

CONSUMER PRICES PICK UP

China's consumer prices also rose in October, increasing at the fastest pace since April as food prices picked up. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.1 percent in October from a year earlier, compared with a 1.9 percent increase in September.

Analysts had expected a 2.1 percent gain. A jump in food prices fueled faster consumer inflation. Food prices rose 3.7 percent, compared with a 3.2 percent gain in the previous month. Non-food prices inched up 1.7 percent versus September's 1.6 percent gain.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.1 percent. Prices for health care rose 4.8 percent, the fastest-rising CPI sub-category.

China's producer price index is expected to continue to increase year-on-year in the coming months, statistics bureau spokesman Sheng Laiyun said in late October. "I believe PPI in the coming months will continue to show positive growth year-on-year, but it could be volatile month-on-month," Sheng told a group of foreign reporters.

Factory activity increased at the fastest pace in over two years in

October, China's official purchasing manager survey showed last week. The rebound in pricing power may be reaching its limits, however, as prices of some materials surge to multi-year highs and a property boom shows signs of peaking. China's main commodity exchanges have even launched a series of fee hikes and margin increases for some of their most volatile, niche contracts from coke to glass as authorities cracked down on speculation that is fuelling a surge in prices.

Data from industry consultancy Custeel.com suggested steel mills have been cutting output and even starting maintenance work earlier than usual as soaring costs for raw materials such as iron ore and coking coal squeeze profits.

Data on Tuesday showed China's imports of iron ore, crude oil, coal and copper all fell in October. China's economy expanded at a steady 6.7 percent in the third quarter and looks set to hit Beijing's full-year target, fueled by stronger government spending, record bank lending and a red-hot property market that are adding to its growing pile of debt. —Reuters

TRUMP'S WIN A VICTORY AGAINST GLOBALIZATION, SAY EXPERTS

PARIS: After Britain's shock vote to quit the EU, Donald Trump's victory is a new powerful sign of a popular backlash against the drive for globalization and more free trade.

The maverick Republican tycoon propelled himself into the presidency of the world's largest economy with an anti-free trade message to undo the harm such pacts had caused American workers.

It resonated with many US voters who may not have benefited from the start of a pickup in the US economy, as did Trump's promise to renegotiate the trade deals and win back jobs. His victory comes at a key time for several free trade deals, including the sweeping Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the US and EU.

"The global economy is struggling. Those who are suffering are left with impressions that globalization is to blame," said Seiji Katsurahata, senior economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute in Tokyo.

French economist Thomas Piketty, who shot to prominence with a book arguing that wealth inequality was growing as investors gained better returns than overall economic growth, has a similar view.

"Working classes in particular believe that they are paying the costs of globalization," he told AFP. The disillusionment may have been reinforced by trade deals being negotiated behind closed doors, leaving people feeling vulnerable and sending thousands onto European streets to protest.

Problem of 'perception'

"I think that there is the perception, and I think it's correct, that these trade agreements were basically designed for and by corporate interests," Nobel award-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said during a recent visit to Paris. The international push to increasingly tear down barriers to free trade has exasperated many in industrial countries as they lose their jobs or see their wages stagnate. —AFP



BRUSSELS: European Union Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom (left) and European Union Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness Jyrki Katainen (right) talk to the media about commission's proposal for a new methodology for anti-dumping investigations at the European Union Commission headquarters in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

EU FOR REFORMED TRADE DEFENSE AGAINST CHINESE DUMPING

BRUSSELS: The European Commission proposed yesterday a new way to assess whether Chinese manufacturers are exporting products such as steel at unfairly low prices in response to Beijing's demand for change by the end of the year. The European Union and many of China's other trading partners have been debating whether to grant China "market economy status" (MES) from mid-December, which Beijing says is its right 15 years after it joined the World Trade Organization.

For now, China is treated as a special case. EU investigators seeking to pinpoint dumping compare Chinese export prices to those of a third country, such as the United States, rather than to domestic prices in China. The United States has warned China it has not done enough to qualify for market economy status. Beijing has insisted it be treated like any other WTO member. Not doing so is seen as risking a wave of litigation and a trade war.

EU trade ministers are expected to discuss the new anti-dumping measures at a meeting on Friday along with other plans to modernize the EU's trade defence arsenal.

The Commission's proposal, which would need approval from the 28 member states and the European Parliament to become law, says that in general the normal reference value in dumping cases involving WTO members would be the domestic prices.

However, if there are "significant distortions" affecting domestic prices as well, investigators can instead use international benchmark prices. Such significant distortions primarily relate to state interference, whether directly or indirectly such as public policy leading to cheap finance.

"This does not mean today we say that China is a market economy. It clearly isn't," EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom told a news conference.

Outside, some 15,000 steel workers marched to demand action to

protect the sector. Protection against Chinese dumping is a central demand. Steel has been the focus of recent EU trade action against China, with many steel grades now facing duties.

Aegis Europe, an alliance of 30 European manufacturing industries, said the anti-dumping proposal crucially shifts the burden of proof, meaning EU producers must show such distortions. Under the current regime, it is for Chinese firms to prove they are operating under normal market conditions.

To counter this, the Commission says it will issue reports identifying such distortions in certain countries or certain sectors. EU manufacturers may be able to rely on a report to calculate what the normal reference price should be.

Aegis also said it created legal uncertainty and called for improvements. The conservative EPP group in the European parliament said it was important to ensure the rules were safe from challenges at the WTO. —Reuters



Get chance to test drive luxurious Infiniti Q50 sport 400 hp in Marina Crescent this Friday

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, gives its clients the chance to test drive its luxurious Infiniti Q50 Sport 400

HP in marina crescent this Friday the 11th of November at 1 pm till 5 pm to offer the mall's visitors a chance to experience its bold design, meticulously crafted luxurious interior and

powerful performance and an instant opportunity to book an exclusive test drive.

Leading the way is the new Q50 Red Sport 400, the performance-orientated version of the refreshed sports sedan. Its 3.0-liter V6 twin-turbo gasoline engine with direct injection delivers 400hp and is the focal point of the power plant.

Continuing the list of powertrain options, the number of Q50 trim levels is extended to four for the sports sedan. An additional turbocharged V6 powertrain is also available for the Q50 with a 300hp output, included in the Q50 Sport. A 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbocharged unit that produces 208hp is packaged in the standard Q50. Customers seeking a performance hybrid model will also be able to opt for the Q50 Blue Sport which combines a 3.5-liter 24-valve DOHC aluminium-alloy V6 and a compact laminated lithium-ion battery with an innovative one-motor, two-clutch control. The hybrid system net power is 350 hp with a combined torque of 536 Nm, providing strong acceleration and lean fuel economy.

The new Q50 features INFINITI's Dynamic Digital Suspension (DDS) for the first time,

which gives the new sports sedan an optimal blend of ride comfort and class-leading response and agility. For those drivers looking for a blend of dynamic settings tailored to their own particular requirements and tastes, the Q50's Drive Mode Selector (DMS) can be augmented with 'Personal' mode (as before), which permits a bespoke mix of engine, suspension and steering characteristics.

As standard, Q50 models equipped with the new 3.0-liter V6 twin-turbo engine (300 hp) feature INFINITI's new Rack Electronic Power Steering. When making steering inputs, traditional steering systems can create an unnatural feeling through imprecise control of the power assistance, reducing the feeling of linearity. To counter this, INFINITI's Rack Electronic Power Steering precisely increases the steering effort required as the vehicle's yaw rate changes, before adjusting to provide more assistance when the wheel returns towards on-center. This all-new system provides a linear and in-control driving experience that can be tuned through the Drive Mode Selector.

The new version of Direct Adaptive

Steering works with Active Lane Control (Speeds over 70km/h) to maintain lane positioning against crosswinds and uneven road surfaces. This semi-autonomous capability is a precursor to future steering systems that will form a key building block on the way to achieving fully-autonomous driving.

The new INFINITI Q50 delivers in spades on safety and security technologies, ensuring that drivers are empowered with a plethora of assistance and safety aids. Key technological enhancements include: Blind-Spot Warning with Intervention, Lane Departure Warning with Intervention, Lane Departure Prevention with Active Lane Control, Back-up Collision Intervention with Cross Traffic Alert, Predictive Forward Collision Warning and Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection.

Infiniti Al Babtain aims to always hold activities that bring the product closer to the customer considering his desires and aspirations. The Company invites the lovers of Infiniti to visit Marina Crescent and experience the unique details of Q50 Sport 400 HP, in addition to the repeated invitation to visit its showroom in Al-Rai.



MEZZAN HOLDING REPORTS Q3 2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS

3.6% RISE IN REVENUES FOR 9 MONTHS ENDED SEPT 30

KUWAIT: Mezzan Holding KSC, one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of food, beverage, FMCG, and pharmaceutical products in the Gulf, today announced the company's financial results for Q3 2016. Third quarter revenue was up 3.0 percent as it stood at KD47.7 million, bringing the total revenue for the first three quarters of the year to KD156.2 million, an increase of 3.6 percent over the same period last year.

The Company's overall performance in Q3 comes in line with management expectations given prevailing challenging macro-economic environment in some of the markets in which the company operates. Financial results for the 9-month period ended 30 September 2016 were supported by growth in revenues of Food manufacturing & distribution segment by 7.3 percent on the back of increased production and new business. Profitability was supported by Food manufacturing & distribution and Non Food Fast Moving Consumer Goods Groups which compensated for pressure from the Catering business. The company's profitability for the quarter was also impacted by expected operational losses from newly acquired Al-Safi Foods (now rebranded to Mezzan Foods KSA). The strategic acquisition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was executed in Q3'16 and is currently undergoing a successful turn-around involving various business optimization initiatives and the introduction of new SKUs into the Saudi market.

Underlying net profit for the quarter was KD3.1 million, representing a 3.5 percent increase from the same period last year. As a result of a strong quarter, the company was able to counter the decline in catering revenues that was seen earlier in the year. Mezzan Holding's year-to-date underlying net profit stood at KD13.5 million, representing a subtle decline of 0.7 percent from the same period last year.

Mezzan Holding CEO, Garry Walsh, said: "Our



Mezzan Holding CEO Garry Walsh

year-to-date performance is in line with our previously announced outlook with the exception of the expected impact on our bottom-line by Mezzan Foods KSA, which is undergoing a turn-around plan and performing above expectations. Our market outlook for the next four quarters is conservative given the predominant market dynamics, however being a consumer company with 80 percent of our portfolio comprises consumer and household staples we are well positioned to continue our healthy performance in this resilient and defensive sector."

Financial Highlights:

- Revenue: KD156.2 million, up 3.6 percent
- Underlying Net Profit: KD13.5 million, down 0.7 percent*
- Reported Net Profit attributable to Equity

holders of the Parent Company: KD13.1 million, down 18.7 percent

Q3 2016 Financial Highlights:

- Revenue: KD47.7 million, up 3 percent
- Underlying Net Profit: KD3.1 million, up 3.5 percent
- Reported Net Profit attributable to Equity holders of the Parent Company: KD 3.1 million, down 14.5 percent

YTD (nine-month 2016) Financial Performance Review:

- Food Business Line: The Food Business Line generated KD114.0 million in Revenue, or 73.0 percent of Group Revenue, representing an increase of 4.5 percent compared with the same period in 2015. The Business Line comprises three divisions, and they are Manufacturing and Distribution (52.3 percent of Group Revenue), Catering (12.3 percent), and Food Services (8.5 percent).
- Non-Food Business Line: The Non-Food Business Line generated KD42.0 million during the period, or 27.0 percent of Group Revenue, representing an increase of 0.8 percent compared with the same period in 2015. This Business Line comprises two business divisions, and they are FMCG and Pharmaceuticals (24.2 percent of Group Revenue), which grew by 2.4 percent, and Industrials (2.8 percent of Group Revenue), which declined by 11.3 percent in the period.
- Regional Business Highlights: Mezzan Holding operates in seven countries, with over 90 percent of revenue generated in Kuwait (66.8 percent), UAE (16.3 percent) and Qatar (9.3 percent). In Kuwait, revenues grew by 3.8 percent, in UAE revenues were slightly down by 3.9 percent, and in Qatar revenues grew by 12.4 percent. The company also saw revenue growth of 28.2 percent in Jordan, contributing 4.6 percent to of the Group's total revenue for the period.



MASTERCARD OPENS OFFICE IN PAKISTAN

DUBAI: In a move aimed at further strengthening its footprint across the wider Middle East and Africa region, Mastercard, a leading technology company in the global payments industry, today formally commenced its operations in Pakistan, with the opening of a dedicated Mastercard office in Karachi.

Building on the company's growing presence in the market since the 1990s, Mastercard Pakistan Private Limited will provide a wide range of industry-leading payments services, including debit, credit, prepaid, corporate, Mastercard Payment Gateway Services, Mastercard Rewards Solutions and digital payment solutions.

Mastercard's recent achievements in Pakistan include the global launch of Masterpass QR, the country's first interoperable digital payment service that allows banking consumers to use their mobile banking app to pay for in-store, bill payments (invoices) and for delivery with one secure account. The service is expected to benefit a large number of existing and potential customers with a fast, secure and convenient payment experience on mobile banking apps.

"Pakistan has always been a key strategic market for Mastercard and in the last couple of years, we have further sharpened our focus in the market to tap

into the country's tremendous growth potential and appetite for innovation in payments technology. We are proud of the strong business relationships we share with all the prominent partners across the country, and look forward to collaborating and engaging with them on a deeper level to advance the cause of financial inclusion in Pakistan and drive the country's shift from cash to a cashless economy," said Khalid Elgibali, Division President, Middle East and North Africa, Mastercard.

Mastercard is also at the forefront of driving online payments in Pakistan, by powering two of the key acquiring banks, including Bank Alfalah and MCB Bank. Recently, Mastercard also introduced HomeSend, a remittance solution with Meezan Bank, one of the key Islamic financial institutions in the country. Enabling card payments for smaller and micro merchants, Mastercard launched the first Mobile Point-of-Sale (mPOS) service in the country in collaboration with Habib Bank Limited in 2015.

Dedicated to expanding the reach of its industry-leading offerings across Pakistan, Mastercard currently has 17 key issuers in the country, covering the entire spectrum of payment card issuance from debit and credit, and corporate cards.

ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 28TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' WEEKLY DRAW

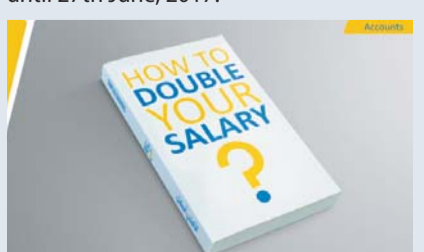
KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 28th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 7th November, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017.

The winners of this week are:

- 1) Loulwah Saud Ali Al-Saadi, Head Office Branch
- 2) Sirinivasa Rao Suriyanarayana, Fahaheel Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 14th November, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.



AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD SAVING PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on November 02 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the



amount of KD 25,000/- is: HASAH DALEEL SHAMROUKH.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: IBRAHIM SAMEER AL SARTAWI, SARAH RASHED AL TUKHAIM, ABDULSALAM MAHMOUD AL MATROUD, SHAHAD NOUR EDDINE BOUROGAA, MISHAAL ABDULLAH AL SHUWAYEB, MATASHAR SHAHER AL SHMERI ATEQ RASHED AL AZMI, HASAN ABDULLAH HAZAA, MOHD MUTLAK ABDULLA AL TUWARI, FAHAD MATROUK AL RASHEEDI, ABDULLAH MOTLAG MNAHI, SANTHI RAMESH, BOUCHRA BENTAYB, ROAYA ABDULREDDHA ASAD, KHADIJA MAWLAI ALHUSAIN, AHMED MAHDI AL ORAYEDH, BAD-

ER ABDULLA BADER, TAJEH SAYED ALI NASER, KEVIN LEROY, NOOREYA SHAIKH EBRAHIM, AHMED BAQER ABDULWAHAB, RABAB MANSOOR A.HASAN, MOHAMMED A.RAHMAN AL SHAFIE, ADNAN S.A.NABI RADHI HASHEM, KHALIL EBRAHIM SAIED.

The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

CANON CENTRAL AND N AFRICA BOOSTS REGIONAL PRESENCE

KUWAIT: Canon Central and North Africa (CCNA), highlighted its commitment to the region and strengthened its presence by hosting the Annual Partner Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, which brought together more than 100 partners from 44 countries in Africa.

A significant event that further underlines Canon's focus on being closer to its customer and strengthening its regional presence, the three-day Annual Partner Conference served as a key platform for the company to highlight its achievements in 2016 and to outline the strategic growth priorities and opportunities in 2017.

Roman Troedthandl, Managing Director of CCNA, said: "The Annual Partner Conference is a flagship event by Canon that aims to discuss business growth opportunities and strengthen our association with our partners, who contribute significantly to our success. Africa region is of strategic importance to us, and with the support of our partners, we have been able to make strong inroads in building our market share."

"This year has been eventful for us as we expanded our presence through several local initiatives, and we aim to take our growth to the next level in 2017 through innovative new approaches. Across all our initiatives, our goal is to create value for our partners and deliver the highest level of product and service excellence to our customers."

At the Conference, Roman Troedthandl explained the path-breaking initiatives by Canon in the region

including its collaboration with partners in Morocco, Tunisia, and Nigeria to open three new showrooms in these countries and the launch of Canon direct presence in Nigeria market by opening new office. This reflects Canon's emphasis on being closer to customers and providing on-ground support to them. The expansion also complements Canon's sustainability program Miraisha, which has been inspired by the company's corporate philosophy that embodies the idea of living and working together for the common good. Canon participated in a number of award ceremonies this year including its collaboration with Kenya Fashion Awards to help recognize the most talented personalities in the fashion industry in Kenya, and the Uganda Press Photo Awards for which CCNA joined hands with Uganda Press Photo to extend support to African talent, enhance their skills, share knowledge on advanced photography solutions, and celebrate excellence in photography.

CCNA signed three key partnership agreements this year with Invest in Africa, National Film and TV Institute in Ghana (NAFTI) and Kenyatta University in Kenya to train and mentor small and medium (SME) sized printing companies and strengthen the knowledge and skills levels in film and photography in Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya, with the goal of creating new and rewarding career opportunities for young professionals.

Roman Troedthandl added: "With our corporate philosophy of 'Kyosei', meaning 'living and working together for the



common good', we will look to maintain our growth and prosperity in the region through new business initiatives while also promoting our CSR activities. We have set ambitious goals for the African region with the aim of growing our market share in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ivory Coast & Ghana, and further enhancing our presence in Egypt, Kenya and Uganda. One of the key objectives for 2017 will be to maximize our growth in all the countries which we believe have a high potential."

Other upcoming regional activities

for CCNA include the Lagos International Trade Fair to be held in Nigeria from Nov. 4 to 13; the Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF) from Nov. 13 to 20; as well as the Dealer Seminar in Ghana in December.

Canon also plans to open new B2B showrooms such as the MFI Customer experience Centre in Kenya, the Japan Motors showroom in Ghana, and the Jamaica Trading showroom in Nigeria. Other showrooms to be launched later this month are Semelic in Algeria, KPS in Egypt, Arkeos in Algeria, MFI in Uganda

and Tanzania and Devea Group in Senegal.

CCNA will continue to build on the momentum through its objectives set for 2017 including growing and enhancing the market through market assessment with a key focus on new partner development, in addition to channel expansion and adding market value. The company's plan and strategies for the next year also include maintaining its market share by providing a full range of products and managing them by using its overall business operations.

REPORT OF DIFFERENT SAMSUNG PHONE MODELS EXPLODING

PARIS: A Samsung phone user in France says her Galaxy J5 smartphone caught fire and exploded on Sunday. The model is different from the Galaxy Note 7 that has been recalled worldwide.

Lamy Bouyirdane told The Associated Press on Monday that she noticed the phone was very hot after she asked her four-year-old son to pass it over during a family gathering at her home. She said she threw the phone away when she realized it had "swollen up" and smoke was coming out.

"I panicked when I saw the smoke and I had the reflex to throw it away," said Bouyirdane, a mother of three in the southwestern French city of Pau. The phone then caught fire and the back blew off. Her partner quickly extinguished it. Bouyirdane said she bought the phone new last June on a website offering discounts. The South Korean company recently recalled millions of its Galaxy Note 7 smartphones globally because of a problem that caused the batteries to overheat and catch fire.

William Stofega, a mobile analyst for

IDC, said the incident in France was most likely an isolated one, noting that the phone has been on the market for several months now and this is the first report of a battery fire that he's aware of.

"These reports tend to cluster," he said. He added that problems involving lithium-ion batteries used in not just smartphones, but also laptop computers, have been around for years and there's no easy fix for them. Manufacturing defects or even a small amount of damage can cause a short circuit, resulting in an overheated battery and potentially a fire.

Samsung said in a statement that it cannot comment on the case yet because the company has not investigated it. "We are unable to comment on this specific incident until we obtain and thoroughly examine the device. Customer safety remains our highest priority and we want to work with any customer who has experienced an issue with a Samsung product in order to investigate the matter and support them," it said in the statement. "The issues with the Galaxy Note7 are isolated to only that model!" —AP

GOPRO RECALLS NEW KARMA DRONE

SAN FRANCISCO: GoPro on Tuesday announced the recall of all Karma drones sold since sales launched last month. The company said it is recalling all of the approximately 2,500 Karma drones it has sold due to instances when power cut out during flight.

"Safety is our top priority," GoPro founder and chief executive Nicholas Woodman said in a release announcing the recall. "A very small number of Karma owners have reported incidents of power failure during operation."

GoPro shares plunged more than nine percent to \$9.88 in after-market trades following the announcement. The company complete refunds, saying it is coordinating the recall with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The drones were priced at \$799. There have been no reports of injuries or property damage from the power loss, GoPro said.

"We are very sorry to have inconvenienced our customers and we are taking every step to make the return and refund process as easy as possible," Woodman said.

GoPro introduced its highly anticipated drone in the hope of lifting profits battered by competition from all sides. The launch of the Karma drone, tailored for its first-per-

son-action mini-cameras, came with the debut of improved Hero5 cameras that ran into a production problem blamed for hampering opening sales.

The drones boast simple joystick and touch-screen controls, and fold easily into a padded backpack that is provided. An image-stabilizing grip in the drone is designed to hold Hero cameras, which are not included in the backpack.

GoPro's Karma trouble comes as the California-based company strives to distinguish itself in an increasingly competitive market for mini-cameras that can be used to capture adventures or sports from personal perspectives.

GoPro became an early hit with extreme sports enthusiasts who used the mini-cameras to film their exploits, and went on to win over teens and young adults interested in sharing videos on YouTube and social networks.

The company went public in June 2014 with shares initially priced at \$24 that soared in subsequent months, more than tripling in value at one point.

But the stock price slid last year as investors worried about the company's growth prospects and the possible saturation of an increasingly competitive market. —AFP



LISBON: Former Brazilian football star Ronaldinho Gaucho (L) and football player Luis Figo (R) hold balls on the main stage at the Web Summit at Parque das Nações, Lisbon on Tuesday. Europe's largest tech event Web Summit will be held at Parque das Nações in Lisbon from Monday to Thursday.—AFP

LINE STICKS TO THE GLOBAL SHADOWS DESPITE ITS IPO

FOCUS ON TAKING MESSAGING TO THE NEXT STAGE

LISBON: It staged one of the year's biggest IPOs but messaging app Line, while a huge draw among teens in Asia, says it has no big ambitions to take on Western giants such as Facebook on their home turf. The Japan-based company known for its popular cartoon "stickers"—a virtual communication tool for users too busy to write a text—instead means to focus on taking messaging to the next stage in its core Asian markets of Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand.

"Our goal at Line is for the app to become the gateway to access all online services," chief executive Takeshi Idezawa told AFP in an interview at the annual Web Summit in Lisbon.

Line's service lets users make free calls, send instant messages and post photos or short videos, along with a host of other paid services.

It combines attributes from Facebook, Skype and WhatsApp with games and a mobile payment service also on offer. The company, which grew out of Japan's 2011 quake-tsunami disaster and is owned by a South Korean Internet provider, staged a \$1.3 billion initial public offering in July with a dual listing in New York and Tokyo that it said would help its international reach.

That was met with some skepticism by analysts at the time who wondered how effective Line's lineup of products would prove beyond Asia, and Idezawa agreed it was hard to crack Western markets where Facebook-owned WhatsApp or Messenger are already the leader.

"A chat app has a very strong network effect (across the business), so we are focussing on the four Asian countries," he said. "Asia is going to see very big economic growth and it is also a market where American companies are not finding it so easy to enter."

Line reckons there is plenty of room to grow closer to home. Japan, despite pioneering advanced handsets in the pre-iPhone 1990s, still only has 60 percent market penetration for smartphones while in Indonesia the figure is less than half.

Keep em coming

And the company believes it can extract much more from its 220 million "active month-

ly users", as WeChat is doing in China. Idezawa aims to make the basic app a "one-stop shop" offering multiple services such as games, music and payment services built on a chatbot that, exploiting artificial intelligence, can guide users' needs.

"If users don't see a benefit in staying online, they won't stay, and that's where we have to be creative to get users to stay." The app can already connect to a smart fridge and tell you if your beer

supply is running short. But Idezawa downplayed security concerns surrounding devices plugged into the "internet of things". "Our security level is high," he insisted, touting Line's end-to-end encryption as rivaling that offered by WhatsApp.

In the first nine months of 2016, the company's revenues increased year-on-year by 17 percent to 103 billion yen and net profit came

to 5.3 billion yen, against a net loss a year before. It plans to increase the revenue share for advertising from 40 percent now; among the rest, 30 percent comes from games and 20 percent from the stickers. The stickers, a kind of animated language analogous to emoticons which users can buy individually or in sets, have proved hugely popular in Japan. The company is also experimenting with locally designed ones to entice customers in fledgling markets such as France.

Branded sponsorship of the stickers combines advertising with Line's most emblematic feature. Idezawa pulled out his phone to display cutesy animal images sent to millions of Japanese users—one by e-commerce company Rakuten and another from Yahoo Japan. "The general view of us is that we're very strong at monetisation," he said. "Other chat apps haven't succeeded so much at that." — AFP

TIME WARNER SHARES FALL ON CONCERN TRUMP WILL BLOCK AT&T DEAL

NEW YORK: Shares of media group Time Warner Inc fell more than 2 percent yesterday on concerns that US President-elect Donald Trump will make good on his vow to block a proposed \$85 billion acquisition by AT&T Inc. Trump said in October that the telecommunication company's proposal to buy the owner of HBO, CNN and the Warner Bros film studio was an example of a "power structure" that was rigged against him and voters.

AT&T Chief Financial Officer John Stephens on Wednesday said his company was looking forward to working with Trump and "optimistic" regulators would approve the deal. Stephens spoke at the Wells Fargo technology, media and telecoms conference in New York. Time Warner's shares fell 2.1 percent to \$86.03, while AT&T shares were down 0.4 percent at \$36.88. The Dow and S&P 500 were both higher in early trading.

The election results mean "increased risks" for the AT&T-Time Warner deal, Angelo Zino, analyst at CFRA Research, said. "At the very least, there are going to be individuals put in place (by a Trump administration) that are going to make the deal a lot more challenging to complete," he added. AT&T offered \$107.50 per share for Time Warner last month, aiming to acquire content to attract online customers. It has said the US Department of Justice will review the deal, which likely faces intense scrutiny since lawmakers are already concerned about cable company Comcast Corp's \$30 billion acquisition of NBCUniversal. It is "too early to say" that Trump will block the deal, Josh Duitz, portfolio manager at Alpine Funds that owns AT&T shares, said. "Candidates say a lot to help them win election, and when reality sets in, you have to see what they do," Duitz said.— Reuters



OLYMPIC VALLEY: This file photo taken on September 19, 2016 shows a GoPro Karma foldable drone seen flying during a press event in Olympic Valley, California. GoPro announced the recall of all Karma drones sold since sales launched last month.—AFP

TANZANIAN HERDERS, HIT BY DROUGHT, TRADE FIREWOOD FOR FOOD

NAMANGA: It is only 6 am but Veronica Lemungat is already setting up shop at the Namanga open-air market, on the Tanzania-Kenya border. She brushes twigs off her striped red and blue dress, and places a bundle of firewood at her feet. Her back still aches from carrying the 10 kg (22 lb) load on the two-hour journey from Longindo, her village in northern Tanzania. "I collect the firewood from the bush in the evening and go to the market in the morning because it is not too hot," she explained. Prolonged periods of drought in the region have depleted grazing land, forcing pastoralists to travel with their herds for weeks at a time - sometimes months - to look for greener pastures.

With their men gone, pastoralist women like Lemungat must find new ways to boost their income - by collecting and selling firewood, for example. "Drought dries up rangeland vegetation, making firewood readily available in the bush," Lemungat told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. For a 10 kg bundle of firewood, the mother of three makes 4,310 Tanzanian shillings (about \$2) each day.

"With this money, I buy maize flour and vegetables to cook for my family," she said. "It's better than staying at home like I used to, with only sour milk to survive on during drought."

Kenya ban

Although Tanzanian law doesn't expressly forbid collecting firewood in the wild, the country's minister for agriculture, livestock and fisheries, Charles John Tizeba, told a conference in Nairobi in September the practice could lead to deforestation and encroachment of protected areas. Harvesting rangeland vegetation is illegal in Kenya, however, which drives Kenyan traders to cross the border at Namanga, looking for firewood. "I rely on firewood to make charcoal," said Thomas Mwanzia, a Kenyan charcoal trader who buys wood at the Namanga market. "Getting firewood in Kenya is becoming very difficult because the government protects natural resources like forests and rangelands." Another looming threat for Lemungat and other traders is Tanzanian youth, who have also identified firewood

as a potential income source and trade it riding motorbikes.

"A motorbike can carry five times what I can carry on my back and reach the market faster," said Lemungat. "The higher number of sellers is bringing firewood prices down in Tanzania." Collecting and selling firewood is not what she had hoped for in life.

In 2014, she tried to convince her husband to sell part of the family's livestock and use the money to invest in a fresh milk business in Namanga. But he refused, saying his animals were more important. According to Hellen Ntinina, a Maasai community leader in Namanga, "the main occupation among the Maasai is livestock herding - a man who owns livestock is respected by others."

Bracelets and bees

Dyno Keatinge, chair of the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture, a food security alliance, acknowledged that practices like collecting firewood may lead to deforestation in East African countries with

out laws to protect forests and the environment. But there are other ways for pastoralists to boost their income without depleting rangelands, he added. "Rather than directly exploiting natural resources, herders should have a good mixture of income-boosting activities to then withstand recurring drought if needed," he said. "Maasai women, for instance, are very good at making ornaments like bracelets and necklaces - the government should support that activity by linking the women to markets."

George Marona, a community elder in Namanga, said non-profit groups like World Neighbors are training communities to set up modern beehives on rangelands, instead of harvesting the vegetation for firewood and charcoal burning. The beehives have wooden frames where the honey is stored, which can be removed without crushing the bees, he said. "This prevents people from using fire to scare away bees and harvest honey, as they normally do for traditional beehives, with flames that can lead to dangerous bush fires," he explained. — Reuters



KINSHASA: Photo shows in the 'Lola ya bonobo' Parc near Kinshasa, a mother bonobo and her child. Just like humans who rely on reading glasses when they age, older wild bonobo apes can benefit from magnifying eyewear, new research shows. — AFP

AGING BONOBOS COULD USE GLASSES TOO: STUDY

WASHINGTON: Just like humans who rely on reading glasses when they age, older wild bonobo apes can benefit from magnifying eyewear, new research shows. Bonobos among the closest primate relatives to humans begin showing symptoms of far-sightedness when they reach 40 years old, according to research recently published in the journal *Current Biology*. "We were surprised that the pattern found in bonobos is strikingly similar to the pattern in modern humans," Heungjin Ryu of Kyoto University's Primate Research Institute said. Researchers using digital photographs found the range at which the primates preen each other increases exponentially with age, implying that their eyesight worsens over time.

Just like elderly people holding newspapers at arm's length, aging bonobos stand back to better spot insects and twigs on their friends. "The results we found were very surprising even for us," Ryu said. "When I started to collect data, I did not expect that age could be such a strong predictor of long-sightedness." The findings suggest that difficulty seeing up close is not necessarily a modern affliction resulting from too much screen time or reading, but a genetically deep-rooted effect of aging. Aging patterns in humans and bonobos do vary in other ways, however. As people grow older, their ears get longer, while bonobos' remain unchanged. — AFP

ROW OVER ROMANIA'S LAND OF DRACULA AND GOLD SPILLS ONTO NEW INTERNATIONAL STAGE

RESIDENTS FEAR THE MINE WOULD POLLUTE THE ENVIRONMENT

ROSIA MONTANA: A battle over plans to build a huge gold mine in Rosia Montana, a Romanian village boasting intact Roman mining shafts and 18th century houses, has moved to an international stage, sparking residents' fears that the project could be resurrected. Sitting atop one of Europe's largest gold deposits, Rosia Montana has for 15 years been at the centre of a battle between villagers and Canada-listed mining company Gabriel Resources.

Gabriel Resources said the \$1.5 billion project to build Europe's largest gold mine would provide a major boost for Romania's lagging economy and create hundreds of jobs for the Transylvania region - the legendary home of Dracula. But local residents fear the mine would destroy historic Rosia Montana, surrounding hillsides, and pollute the local environment with cyanide used in the mining process.

Opposition to the mine sparked nationwide protests in 2013 described as the biggest since the early 1990s anti-communist marches and, facing pressure from locals and international environmentalists, the government blocked the mine. Gabriel Resources has now moved the fight to the World Bank's international arbitration tribunal to seek a reported \$4 billion in compensation - about two percent of the Romanian economy - for the stalled project. Residents struggling to keep abreast of developments fear Gabriel Resources and Romania's cash-strapped government - which faces an election in December and has a minority stake in the project - are working together to keep locals out negotiations.

Alburnus Maior, the campaign group set up by Rosia Montana villagers, fears Gabriel Resources is using a back door to try to revitalize the project while the government delays decisions that would block the mine. "International arbitration breaches the right of local communities to decide for themselves what kind of development they want," said Eugen David, a farmer and head of Alburnus Maior who counts actress Vanessa Redgrave among his supporters. "It also ignores the rulings of national courts, thereby creating a parallel justice system that is accessible only to foreign investors," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Billionaires and vampires

David said the villagers had been unable to access any documents related to the tribunal process, concerned the mining company and government were blocking access. But Gabriel Resources Chief Executive Jonathan Henry said issues of transparency and production of documents were a matter for the International Centre for Settlement

of Investment Disputes (ICSID) which began on Sept. 23 to hear the case. No second hearing is yet set.

"It is the tribunal that sets up the process regarding transparency after consulting with the parties," Henry told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. This is not the first time the massive gold project has hit world headlines. The battle first took an international twist about a decade ago when highlighted by Swiss-born journalist Stephanie Roth who moved to Romania to fight plans for a Dracula theme park. She stumbled across Gabriel Resources' plan and alerted the likes of Redgrave with appeals even made to Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, who is a strong supporter of Transylvania's natural environment and heritage.

But the new international battlefield is the ICSID in Washington, D.C., which is empowered to settle international disputes about investment and is underpinned by a multilateral treaty signed by more than 150 countries. An ICSID spokesman said the first hearing only involved debate on "provisional measures" and legal process. Marcos Orellana, a lawyer from the Centre for International Environmental Law who specializes in international commercial arbitration, was an observer at the first hearing and said arrangements made it hard for the public to follow the case.

He said the hearing was only transmitted on closed circuit TV inside the building although the tribunal can broadcast hearings live on the internet - if the parties allow - and PowerPoint presentations were not made available. "It is reasonable to conclude that Romania agreed with the company that access should be restricted (and) that the Romanian government did not want its citizens to have access to the hearing," he said. The hearing comes as Romanian central bank governor Mugur Isarescu this month kept interest rates on hold, warning that the 2017 budget plans were a risk for the economic outlook. Earlier this year he said he had never "in 25 years seen bigger dangers to Romania's economic and financial stability".

Anxieties revived

The ICSID spokesman confirmed to the Thomson Reuters Foundation that all the arrangements for the hearing, including using CCTV and a prohibition on recording the hearing, were made "in consultation with the (two) disputing parties". He said so far the parties involved in the dispute - the mining company and the Romanian government - had not "authorized" publication of "any of the documents so far submitted to or issued by

the tribunal". Alburnus Maior originally requested documents relating to the case from the tribunal, stating it needed to see the papers to submit its arguments.

The ICSID spokesman said the documents would be published on its website once the two parties agreed to make them public. A spokesman for Romania's Ministry of Finance told the Thomson Reuters Foundation it was the ICSID's responsibility to release information and that it could not make a unilateral decision to release the documents.

This was echoed by Henry from Gabriel Resources. Villagers have taken action previously to access documents related to the mining project. Alburnus Maior asked the Romanian Ministry of Finance in 2015 to make court documents public with the request lodged in a court in Cluj-Napoca, the unofficial capital of Transylvania. The court ruled in favor of the villagers but the ministry has since lodged an appeal and no papers have been forthcoming. This start to the tribunal - and several moves by the government to drag its heels on some other key decisions - has made villagers and activists fear the mining project could gain ground again.

David said villagers' fears were further fuelled when Gabriel Resources issued a press release during the September tribunal hearing welcoming a Romanian decision to withdraw a tax claim for \$13 million. The Romanian tax authority confirmed to the Thomson Reuters Foundation that it had given up its claim for the money and it would reassess Gabriel's tax records. "The company has always stated it remains ready to explore an amicable resolution of the dispute that includes development of the project," Henry said in the statement. Residents also say they want to see progress on an official application to make Rosia Montana a UNESCO World Heritage site that would iron clad its protection.

The government has put the village on a tentative list but confirmed it has yet to complete the official application. Activists worry too that legislation to ban cyanide-based mining in Romania, sent by the parliament to the government for a legal opinion last year, has not yet received the green light. Roth, who won the Goldman Environmental Prize for her support for Alburnus Maior, said she feared arbitration might conclude with a compromise that would let the mine go ahead. "As long as the government refuses to learn by listening to the tens of thousands of citizens who took the streets for Rosia Montana during Romania's autumn, mistrust, injustice and instability will prevail," she said. — Reuters



TAFOUGHALT, Morocco: A general view shows solar panels that are connected to a generator which feeds a pump extracting water from underground in Tafoughalt, a little village deep in the mountains of Morocco's eastern Berkane province. — AFP



TAFOUGHALT: A Moroccan farmer walks past solar panels that are connected to a generator which feeds a pump extracting water from underground in Tafoughalt. — AFP

TURNING SUN INTO WATER IN PARCHED RURAL MOROCCO

TAFOUGHALT: In the arid mountains of eastern Morocco, people know the value of water all too well. "Every drop is like gold. It should almost be measured by the carat," said local activist Najib Bachiri. Eight hundred kilometers away in bustling Marrakesh, negotiators are this week thrashing out the details of a landmark global agreement designed to stave off disastrous climate change. But in Tafoughalt, a little village deep in the mountains of Morocco's Berkane province, that impact is being felt already. Rising temperatures are among the factors making the rains increasingly unpredictable.

As a consequence, life for the residents of Tafoughalt who largely survive on subsistence farming is becoming harder than ever. "Here, the farmers work on small plots that are barely enough to feed their families," says Bachiri, head of campaign group Homme et Environnement ("Man and Environment").

The group is working to reverse an exodus from the mountains as people seek easier lives elsewhere. Bachiri says local problems feed into each other; isolation makes life difficult, which encourages people to quit the countryside. Abandoned fields lead to land erosion, which in turn also spurs on the exodus. And in the background, there is the constant shortage of water.

Smuggling crackdown

"For their fields, in the absence of electricity farmers rely either on rainwater or on pumping groundwater with diesel-powered generators," says Bachiri. Until recently, fuel for the generators was at least available cheaply thanks to rampant smuggling from across the nearby Algerian border. But Algerian authorities have cracked down on the illicit trade since 2013, leading to a tripling in prices - from 10 euros (\$11) for a 30-litre (eight-gallon) can to 30 euros. And to make matters even worse for the fuel-reliant farmers, the Moroccan government has called a halt to diesel subsidies. "Small-scale farmers here have not been able to keep up, which has aggravated the agricultural crisis in these isolated villages and encouraged people to leave," says Bachiri. But a simple solution is making a big difference: using the sun from above to draw up what's underground.

Cheaper and cleaner

With the help of local funds and international donors, Bachiri's group has installed two solar water pumps in the mountains of Tafoughalt. Two rows of black solar panels, two meters (2.2 yards) across and 10 meters long, are connected to a generator which feeds a pump extracting water from underground. The equipment is durable and low-maintenance. The sunlight is unlimited in supply, but carries none

of diesel's downsides in terms of pollution and ill-health.

"Solar energy is so much better," says 60-year-old local farmer Mahta Allal. "The pumping is weaker in winter or when it's cloudy. But it's good for us when the sun is there - it can double the pumping and irrigation." Siddiq, who has guarded the local well for 17 years and as such is in charge of the community's water-sharing arrangements, said the new system was far more convenient. "Before, you had to go and collect fuel from very far away," he said. "It was very tiring - and then there was the noise, the fumes, mechanical problems. Today it's much better with the clean solar energy."

The price of an hour's irrigation has gone down by 75 percent, from 50 dirhams (\$5) to 12.5 dirhams. "It encourages agriculture," says Siddiq. "Even if you don't have a lot of land, at least you'll be guaranteed a harvest to eat." Solar energy alone won't be enough to solve Tafoughalt's perennial water shortage. "That's why we've installed tanks to collect river water, and we're also working on installing technology to make the use of water more efficient," said Bachiri. But he said 450 farmers were already using the two solar pumps to water 100 hectares (250 acres) of crops. "Some farmers are coming back to the village to work the soil again - it's a good sign," he said. — AFP

'ZIKA CAN BREAK OUT ANYWHERE'

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Brazilian doctor who first linked the Zika virus to brain damage in babies warns that rich countries are not safe from the disease, urging them to increase research funding. Obstetrician Adriana Melo was the first person to make the connection between an outbreak of Zika in Brazil and a surge in babies born with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads. Melo, who works at the heart of the outbreak in the northeast Brazilian city of Campina Grande, sent her first sample of amniotic fluid in for Zika tests on November 10, 2015.

The positive result - the first of many for mothers whose babies had the debilitating neurological condition - sparked a chain reaction of alarm. It culminated in February, when the World Health Organization declared an international public health emergency over the link between Zika and microcephaly. Melo said the world has not done enough since then to understand and fight this "neglected" disease. She urged wealthy countries to wake up to recent findings that Zika, which is typically spread by tropical mosquitoes, can also be transmitted sexually, and possibly through other bodily fluids.

"We know there are other transmission vectors and that (Zika) can break out anywhere, in any country," she told AFP in an

interview in Rio de Janeiro, on the sidelines of an international conference on the disease. "It's a disease that doesn't interest rich countries much because they think it won't reach them. But it's a risk to underestimate this virus. I am very afraid of viruses," she said. Melo called for more clinical studies of Zika, which has been linked not only to microcephaly in babies but also a potentially deadly neurological disorder called Guillain-Barre syndrome in adults. There is currently no treatment or vaccine for the virus, whose mild, flu-like symptoms belie its potentially devastating side effects.

'Here to stay'

Brazil has been the country hit hardest by Zika, with 1.5 million people infected and more than 2,000 babies born with brain damage. The disease, which originated in Africa, has swept Latin America and the Caribbean since it was first detected in Brazil last year. "Traveler's Zika" - cases brought back by people who spent time in affected countries - also reached Europe and the United States. Then, last July, US health authorities announced that locally transmitted Zika cases had been detected in Florida. Meanwhile, warnings were emerging that tropical mosquitoes were not the only vector for the disease. — AFP



SAO PAULO: Photo shows the pupas of transgenic mosquito *Aedes aegypti* OX513A. Governments and philanthropists announced an \$18 million plan to release mosquitoes resistant to Zika, dengue and other viruses in urban areas of Colombia and Brazil. — AFP

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

SUSTAINABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE HOUSING NEED OF THE HOUR: ARCHITECT

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The construction industry is primarily responsible for the degradation and deterioration of the environment across the world as it is contributing significantly to the climate change today. Unless we make sustainable interventions to check this, we are in for major catastrophes," said renowned Indian architect Padmashri G Shankar. "The environment is getting badly mutilated and forest cover is dwindling at an incomprehensible pace. The pace and intensity of environmental degradation matches with the pace and intensity of urbanization. It is very critical. We see signs of unrest," Shankar told the Kuwait Times in an interview.

Shankar spoke about his philosophy of cost-effective and energy efficient housing in the context of a growing concern over climate change. Shankar is known in India as people's architect by developing construction techniques that are eco-friendly, energy-efficient, culturally appropriate and cost-effective. He arrived in Kuwait to deliver a keynote speech at FOCUS Kuwait's annual event. "Today, the developing world is reeling under an energy crisis. The crisis is at our door step and unless we find a viable alternative, we are in for trouble," he cautioned.

"I don't think we ever had a harsher summer in Kuwait than this year's weather. We are slowly inching towards a day time temperature of 60 degrees Celsius in Kuwait while nights are becoming cooler. It is a perceptible change and this change is happening all over the world," Shankar said. Shankar said construction sector is intricately linked to this change. "We are using highly energy-intensive material like steel and cement unnecessarily in our construction. It is adding to the pressures on energy," he elaborated. Shankar has constructed 150,000 individual buildings and half a million mass housing units in various countries across the world. He has also headed several rehabilitation missions following natural disasters in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia etc.

In his view, governments across the world have become helpless and the world is losing its options without resources



Indian architect Padmashri G Shankar

in addressing the energy crisis. According to him, many disasters can be prevented if people make sustainable interventions. Though there are many initiatives and protocols such as Kyoto and Paris where people talk of sustainable development, they are not becoming mandates, he said.

Simple lifestyle

"I strongly believe that only people can bring changes not governments. Here, I am talking about multi-dimensional interventions to prevent environmental degradations and climate change." "By promoting eco-sensitive, energy efficient and resource-efficient architecture, I am trying to tell the people that if houses become simple and people adopt simple lifestyle, it can make a paradigm change in the habitat sector."

Elaborating on how incremental housing differentiates

between dreams and needs, he said "We have to begin to look at our basic needs. Dreams can come later. In India, we have had the heritage of building happy homes. Our forefathers never suffered by building houses. But for the present generation, building a house has become an insensitive exercise which is fraught with tension and mental torture."

Quoting his mentor and renowned American architecture Frank Lloyd Wright, Shankar said, "If one were to construct a building on a hill, it should be of it, not on it. Land is god given. Human beings do not have the right to manipulate it by defacing the profile of the nature. It is the essence of organic architecture. And by destroying the profile of the nature, you are inviting calamities," he added.

Habitat summit

The first habitat summit 'Habitat I' was held in 1976 in Vancouver under the UN mission on habitat called the United Nations Human Settlement Program (UNCHS) headquartered in Nairobi. "It was for the first time that the world debated the challenges in the habitat sector with a slogan 'Housing for All' after it realized the fact that there were millions across the world who did not have adequate shelter," he said.

"Twenty years later in 1996, a review system was held in Habitat 2 summit Istanbul. I had a huge opportunity to participate in the Istanbul summit as a representative of civil society organization and raise the issue of adequacy of housing. Shankar attended the Habitat III summit that took place from October 17 to October 20 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. "To my disappointment, I found out that the whole habitat sector was hijacked by insensitive bureaucracies, so-called international development agencies and academicians. The initiative was completely trivialized and voices were not heard," he said.

"It is a kind of going back on the promises that were made in 1996. Present slogan before the world is 'Housing at the Centre'. So it is from 'Housing for All' in Vancouver in 1976 to 'Adequate Housing' in 1996 to 'Housing at the Centre' in

2016. We are not really going forward," he said. Elaborating on his definition of adequate housing, Shankar said, "We told the world that adequacy of housing means access to portable water, access to clean cooking space and access to clean sanitation facilities as three mandatory requirements."

More than 50 percent of the urban population was still being denied of these basic facilities in the 1990s. The pace and intensity of urbanization was not as frenetic as it is today. But for the first time, we thought of a sustainable human settlements development in an increasingly urbanizing world. The world realized the significance of it and they became mandatory UN agendas with around 140 countries endorsing them. Now 180 plus countries are participating in UNCHS summit," he said.

Shankar believes that housing must be made as a fundamental right. It is a multi-dimensional issue where the dimensions of safety, security and access to basic urban infrastructure are critical issues and to be addressed seriously. "And there are several sub-headings to that such as labor management, material management and new dimensions in architectural designs," he said.

Urbanization

Consultant to various international organizations like Cordaid (Netherlands), Architecture and Development (France), BGS, Germany, Shankar looks at urbanization as a positive phenomenon. "It can be a promise as well as a curse. Urbanization is all about connectivity. People migrate to urban areas in search of livelihood opportunities, better healthcare, education and better transportation etc. The world is getting urbanized because the city will remain a home as a promise. It has the potential to rope people in. At the same time, the world has begun to realize the fact that urbanization is bringing a lot of problems. Bad urbanization could drive poor people who are living on the margins out of the scene in the name of beautification," he said. "Urbanization can be a positive phenomenon if sustainability becomes a primary criterion," he argued.

HIGH APPROVAL FOR CANNABIS, OTHER MEASURES IN US VOTE

LOS ANGELES: US voters on Tuesday weighed in on a slew of ballot measures, including several related to marijuana, gun control and the death penalty. Here's a look at how Americans voted on some of these hot-button issues:

Marijuana

Voters in California, the nation's most populous state, handed a major victory to backers of marijuana legalization by approving recreational use of the drug. The vote will give momentum to efforts to end federal prohibition of marijuana and treat it in a way similar to how alcohol is regulated. Arizona, Massachusetts and Nevada also approved the use of recreational marijuana and voters in Maine were considering a similar measure. In Florida, voters overwhelmingly approved a measure allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Arkansas and North Dakota were also deciding on a similar measure. In Montana, voters were deciding on whether to ease restrictions in an existing medical marijuana law.

Gun control

Voters in four states were asked to decide on measures linked to gun control. In California, one of the states with the toughest gun control laws, partial results indicated voters were set to approve Proposition 63, which prohibits the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines and requires certain people to pass background checks in order to purchase ammunition. Nevada voted to require universal background checks for weapons sales, including private handgun transactions. Voters in Maine appeared set to reject a similar measure. Washington state voters approved a measure allowing judges

to prevent dangerous people from possessing guns.

Death penalty

In California, which houses about 25 percent of the country's death-row inmates, early results showed that voters had rejected a measure that would have abolished the death penalty and replaced it with life without parole. They approved however Proposition 66 which would overhaul the appeals process to quicken the pace of executions passed. In Oklahoma, voters overwhelmingly approved a measure affirming the death penalty in the state. The ballot measure allows the legislature to approve any method of execution not prohibited by the US Constitution. In Nebraska, a conservative state, voters reinstated the death penalty after state lawmakers abolished it last year.

Condoms

California voters rejected a measure that would have required adult-film actors to wear condoms during sex scenes.

Plastic bags

California became the first US state to do away with single-use shopping bags after the controversial measure was approved by voters.

Assisted suicide

Colorado voters approved a proposition that makes it legal for terminally ill patients to end their lives with the assistance of a physician. The state joins five others, including California, that allow assisted suicide.— AFP



WASHINGTON: Photos shows a marijuana plant and its buds at Alternative Solutions, local medical marijuana producer in Washington, DC. — AFP

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AL-SAYER STAFF PARTICIPATE IN BLOOD DONATION DRIVE



Al-Sayer Group Holding Corporate Excellence Department and its medical division Al-Sayer Medical Company, organized 2016 blood donation campaign at their Head Office as well as Toyota showroom at Al-Rai in cooperation with Central Blood Bank (CBB) Kuwait as part of corporate sustainability and community interest. 100+ employees voluntarily participated, who showed greater care towards such noble cause.

According to Nehad AlHaj Ali, DGM Corporate Excellence "300 ml of blood can save one precious life. This blood donation campaign supported by Al-Sayer Group Holding employees is supporting many lives, and sending a positive message with in our work force, and to the society."

As a token of appreciation all donors were honored with a bottle of "natural honey" promoting healthy well bring. To facilitate knowledge sharing educational brochures were also distributed highlighting the importance of blood donations listing various health benefits.

Dr Hossam Affify General Manager Al-Sayer Medical Company said "In addition to the noble cause of saving life, blood donation makes the body work to replenish blood. This stimulates the production of new blood cells, to help maintain good health. Al-Sayer medical company reflects our commitment through participation in such events as part of our mission and CSR activities to support our society."



The Ambassador of France to Kuwait Christian Nakhle hosted a reception on the occasion of the French - German culture fair at his residence recently. The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa attended the event, along with diplomats, students and media persons. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

THE PROMENADE SPONSORS RUN Q8 CHARITY INITIATIVE

As part of its commitment to supporting effective social initiatives in Kuwait, the Promenade, the distinguished neighborhood destination at the heart of Kuwait, announced its platinum sponsorship of Run Q8. The sixth in the

under Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute, a non-profit organization. The Unit specializes in providing comprehensive and specialized care for children with special needs. It provides comprehensive treatment programs for children who have

site (runq8.org), or by visiting the registration booth on the ground floor of the Promenade on Thursdays 05:00-08:00 pm and on Saturdays 02:00-06:00 pm. Participants may collect their race uniforms on Thursday and Friday, November 10-11, to prepare for the race.

Commenting on the event, Alyah Al-Jasser, Al Othman Portfolio Marketing Manager said: "We are honored to support the goals of Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute, as it is a non-profit organization working to promote awareness about this key category in society. We are supporting this initiative as part of our social responsibility towards the Kuwait community which we serve with pride."

The Promenade is a charity mall owned by the Abdulla Abdullatif Al Othman Charity Fund which provides funds for buildings mosques, schools, as well as helping the orphans and families in need. The Promenade is also home of the Promenade Culture Centre, the cultural arm of the Promenade. It is a multi-purpose development, created to act as a canvas for artistic expression in Kuwait. Its mission is to actively encourage and host a variety of artistic and cultural activities for the community.



series, Run Q8 will be held on November 12th.

Run Q8 is one of the charitable sport initiatives in Kuwait. It aims to foster awareness and drive financial support moral support for Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Unit,

physical injuries, growth disorders, speech and communication disorders, behavioral issues, difficulty in learning, among others.

It is worth mentioning that registration is now open for athletes who want to participate through the web-



MARRIOTT HOTELS CELEBRATE GLOBAL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION WEEK



Marriott Hotels in Kuwait launched their annual community engagement program; known as the Global Customer Appreciation Week (GCAW), from November 6 until November 10, 2016. A wide range of events is hosted to express Marriott's appreciation to their customers and community throughout the week.

Focused on celebrating this occasion, the JW Marriott Kuwait City, the Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait City and the Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City have put together various activities all under the theme "Making Greater Connections". The different activities included calling and thanking the top producing companies for their business and distributing certificates of appreciation and gifts. Business partners were also invited for an exclusive dinner at the newly opened Crossroads Restaurant at the JW Marriott Kuwait.

Further initiatives included a telemarketing campaign designed to call and personally thank all the guests for their business, in addition to organizing a blood donation drive in cooperation with Pharaoh Bikers and Kuwait Blood Bank. Marriott takes both the communities and the environment in which they operate very seriously and strive to ensure that all the business practices are conducted in the most ethical way possible. Marriott hotels in Kuwait have established a reputation for serving the society with active involvement in various local charities.

Cluster General Manager of Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, George Aoun, said "We are delighted to celebrate the Global Customer Appreciation Week 2016. This is a great opportunity for us to express our appreciation to our valued customers for their continuous support and loyalty."

VIGOR EVENTS ADDRESS WORLD'S #1 BUSINESS CHALLENGE WITH STEVE JOBS' EXECUTIVE COACH

In a continuous initiative to tackle the market's business challenges and provide a platform to resolve them, Vigor Events announced they are bringing the best-selling author and one of the world's top leading authorities on talent, leadership and culture, and the Executive Coach for Apple Inc. former CEO - Steve Jobs - to deliver a powerful one-day seminar titled "Talent Management and Succession Planning" on November 29th 2016.

The seminar by John Mattone is based on a research-based program that uses Mattone's "Talent Cultural Model" as the foundation for teaching the critical high-potential assessment and development practices that will make a positive impact on leaders, future leaders and the bottom-line!

The seminar is designed to address the world's top business challenge nowadays where attendees will understand and articulate the numerous internal and external Talent Management challenges their organization is facing, the predictive relationships that exist between high-potential leadership assessment and coaching systems and practices, key leadership "leading indicators", individual and team perform-

ance, and ultimate operating metrics and benchmark their own organization's effectiveness in identifying and developing high-potential leaders and create action plans designed to create or improve their high-potential identification and development systems and practices

With a vast experience of over 30 years in the fields of leadership development, human capital management, and personal success as an entrepreneur who has built two successful consulting firm; John Mattone is known as the world's leading "game-changing" leadership and talent management authority. He has been nominated for the prestigious 2013 Thinkers 50 Leadership Award. He is the co-author of one of the most respected studies of leadership and talent management in the world, The Trends in Leadership Development and Talent Management and the host of The CEO Magazine's show The C-Suite Coaching Show with John Mattone. Vigor Events is organizing the seminar in cooperation with Algas events and media support from the International Advertising Association Kuwait Chapter. The seminar is announced to take place at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel (Messilah Ballroom).

WRITERS' FORUM'S MONTHLY MEETING REGALES



It was at the residence of the Hindi poet Aamir Diwan that the Writers' Forum met for its monthly meeting on October 28. One of its senior members Syed Qamar Minto was the Chief Guest on the occasion, whereas one of the relatively new entrants- Nazneen Ali presided over the evening's meeting. In the absence of Umesh Sharma-the President of the Forum, the meeting was conducted by senior poet and literary critic-Maimuna Ali Choughe.

The first session comprised the story narration session, wherein Rajesh Verlekar read a short story in English, titled The Soft Hand of Maid Mafia. Two literary stalwarts of India were also fondly and respectfully remembered: Sahir Ludhianvi and Amrita Pritam-October being the month of passing away of the two legends. Senior members-Maimuna Ali Choughe and Sunil Sonsi reminisced about the powerful ways in which the two doyens of Urdu and Punjabi literature respectively, ruled the hearts and minds of millions.

The poets were invited to present their poetry in the second session. Dr Navniit Gandhi, Sunil Sonsi and Aamir Diwan recited in Hindi; Ibrahim Sangeraja, Kamaal Ansari, Ameeruddin Ameer, and Shabih Ahmed in Urdu, while Rajesh Verlekar recited in English.

The Chief Guest - Syed Qamar Minto shared his observations on the soul-stirring recitations of the evening, and also recited his own poem in Urdu. Nazneen Ali also expressed her deep appreciation of how the various poets, in their unique styles, regaled everyone with a brilliant weaving of words. She recited her own poem in Urdu. The hosts were profusely thanked and the members left enriched with yet another evening etched on their memories.

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 River Monsters
- 01:45 Bondi Vet
- 02:40 The Vet Life
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Untamed & Uncut
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 River Monsters
- 06:49 The Vet Life
- 07:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:15 The Vet Life
- 10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 The Vet Life
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Untamed & Uncut
- 18:25 River Monsters
- 19:20 Wildest Europe
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 My Wild Affair: The Rhino Who Joined My Family
- 22:05 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 23:00 Wildest Europe
- 23:55 Gator Boys

- 15:30 I'd Kill For You
- 16:20 Nowhere To Hide
- 17:10 Shadow Of Doubt
- 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 Killer Confessions
- 23:00 Six Degrees Of Murder
- 23:50 Redrum



- 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 Elena Of Avalor
- 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 Bunk'd
- 17:05 Star Darlings
- 17:10 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:00 Backstage
- 18:25 Liv And Maddie
- 18:50 Bizaardvark
- 19:15 Bunk'd
- 19:40 Disney Cookabout
- 20:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 20:30 Jessie
- 20:55 Liv And Maddie
- 21:20 Austin & Ally
- 21:45 Backstage

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
- 01:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
- 02:00 I Was Possessed
- 03:00 Deadly Wives
- 04:00 The Haunting Of...
- 05:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
- 06:00 I Was Possessed
- 07:00 The First 48
- 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 Crimes That Shook Britain

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Redesign My Brain
- 01:20 Buggin' With Ruud
- 02:10 The Lion Queen
- 03:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:40 Dirty Jobs

- 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 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Street Outlaws
- 01:10 You Have Been Warned
- 02:00 X-Ray Mega Airport
- 02:50 Magic Of Science
- 03:15 Magic Of Science
- 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 You Have Been Warned
- 11:25 X-Ray Mega Airport
- 12:15 Magic Of Science
- 12:40 Magic Of Science
- 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 Salvage Hunters
- 21:50 What On Earth?
- 22:40 British Treasure, American Gold
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud



SWORD OF VENGEANCE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 08:10 E! News
- 09:10 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
- 12:00 E! News
- 12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 15:00 E! News
- 15:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 18:05 Celebrity Style Story
- 18:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 21:00 Catching Kelce
- 22:00 Botched By Nature
- 23:00 E! News

- 14:15 Keep It In The Family
- 15:10 The Chase
- 16:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 16:55 Gino's Italian Escape / Gino's Hidden Italy
- 17:20 Together
- 17:50 Mr Selfridge
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:10 The Chase
- 21:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 01:00 Legion
- 02:45 Jersey Shore Shark Attack
- 04:15 Dragon Blade
- 06:30 Sword Of Vengeance
- 08:00 Swelter
- 09:45 The Dogs Of War
- 11:45 The Berlin File
- 14:15 The Taking Of Pelham 123
- 16:15 Sword Of Vengeance
- 18:00 Swelter
- 20:00 S.W.A.T.
- 22:00 Duplicity

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:00 Rosewater
- 03:00 Invasion Day
- 05:00 Memories
- 07:00 Red Wing
- 09:00 Reach Me
- 11:00 Rosewater
- 13:00 Stranded
- 15:00 Odd Thomas
- 17:00 Reach Me
- 19:00 Kajaki
- 21:00 The Kings Of Summer
- 23:00 Madame Bovary

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:00 Harriet The Spy
- 03:00 Clockstoppers
- 05:00 Minions
- 07:00 Little Man Tate

- 09:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
- 11:15 The Education Of Little Tree
- 13:15 Paranorman
- 15:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian
- 17:00 Ghost Squad
- 19:00 Earth To Echo
- 21:00 Black Beauty

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:30 Chloe And Theo
- 03:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 05:30 Transcendence
- 07:30 Chloe And Theo
- 09:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 11:30 Madoff Part 1
- 13:00 Madoff Part 2
- 14:45 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis
- 16:15 Make Your Move
- 18:15 The 5th Wave
- 20:15 Pixels
- 22:00 The Brothers Grimsby

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Dom Hemingway
- 02:00 The Proposal
- 04:00 What If
- 06:00 Ghostbusters
- 08:00 Ghostbusters II
- 10:00 What If
- 12:00 The Proposal
- 14:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 15:45 Ghostbusters II
- 17:45 How Do You Know
- 20:00 Now Add Honey

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:30 Foreverland
- 03:30 Les Miserables
- 06:30 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
- 09:00 Two Men In Town
- 11:00 Foreverland
- 12:45 Les Miserables
- 15:30 I'll Follow You Down
- 17:15 Two Men In Town
- 19:15 Legends Of The Fall
- 21:30 The Hurricane

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 02:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 06:00 Barnyard
- 07:45 Bolts And Blip
- 09:30 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 11:15 The Heart Of The Oak
- 12:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 14:30 Egon And Donci
- 16:15 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 18:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 20:00 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 22:00 Egon And Donci

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 00:20 Body Bizarre
- 01:10 Botched Up Bodies
- 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 Iyana: Fix My Life
- 04:20 Little People, Big World
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 06:50 Cake Boss
- 07:15 Cake Boss
- 07:40 Love, Lust Or Run
- 08:30 Little People, Big World
- 09:20 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 Iyana: Fix My Life
- 13:30 Suddenly Royal
- 14:20 7 Little Johnstons
- 14:45 7 Little Johnstons
- 15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 16:00 Little People, Big World
- 16:25 Little People, Big World
- 16:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 17:40 Love At First Swipe
- 18:05 Cake Boss
- 18:30 Oprah's Master Class
- 19:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 19:45 Say Yes To The Dress
- 20:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 21:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
- 21:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
- 21:50 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 22:40 90 Days To Wed

- 13:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 13:00 George Lopez
- 13:00 Community
- 14:00 Life In Pieces
- 14:30 Crowded
- 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 The Last Man On Earth
- 19:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 19:30 Modern Family
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Scrubs
- 21:30 Scrubs
- 22:00 Ballers
- 22:30 Ballers
- 23:00 You're The Worst
- 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:40 Nextworld
- 01:30 How Do They Do It?
- 01:55 Food Factory
- 02:20 Creating Synthetic Life
- 03:10 Ecopolis
- 04:00 Powering The Future
- 04:48 Nextworld
- 05:36 Creating Synthetic Life
- 06:24 Mythbusters
- 07:12 How Do They Do It?
- 07:36 Food Factory
- 08:00 Sci-Fi Science: Physics Of The Impossible
- 08:25 Sci-Fi Science: Physics Of The Impossible
- 08:50 Ecopolis
- 09:40 Mega Engineering
- 10:30 Nextworld
- 11:20 Telescope
- 12:10 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
- 13:00 Stephen Hawking's Grand Design
- 13:50 When Robots Rule
- 14:40 Creating Synthetic Life
- 15:30 Powering The Future
- 16:20 Futurcar
- 17:10 Prototype This
- 18:00 Sci-Fi Saved My Life
- 18:50 Sci-Fi Saved My Life
- 19:40 Sci-Fi Science
- 20:00 Sci-Fi Science
- 20:30 Ecopolis
- 21:20 Ways To Save The Planet
- 22:10 Jupiter: Close Encounter
- 23:00 Ways To Save The Planet
- 23:50 Sci-Fi Saved My Life



TRANSCENDENCE ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Kids vs Film
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 Redesign My Brain
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Dirty Jobs
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:05 How It's Made
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Kids vs Film
- 16:35 Doki
- 17:00 Secret Space Escapes
- 17:50 Man v The Universe
- 18:40 Redesign My Brain
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Secret Space Escapes
- 22:00 Man v The Universe
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

- 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
- 09:00 The Lion Guard
- 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 09:40 Goldie & Bear
- 09:40 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
- 12:00 Goldie & Bear
- 12:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

ID X

- 00:40 Guns On Campus: Tamron Hall Investigates
- 01:30 Dates From Hell
- 01:55 Dates From Hell
- 02:20 Betrayed
- 03:10 I Almost Got Away With It
- 04:00 Guns On Campus: Tamron Hall Investigates
- 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 06:24 I'd Kill For You
- 07:12 Nowhere To Hide
- 08:00 Evil Online
- 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 10:30 I'd Kill For You
- 11:20 Nowhere To Hide
- 12:10 Disappeared
- 13:00 Evil Online
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

- 08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:00 Supa Strikas
- 09:50 Danger Mouse
- 10:20 Annedroids
- 10:45 Annedroids
- 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: Bionic Island
- 15:30 Danger Mouse
- 15:55 Kirby Buckets
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Annedroids
- 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
- 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 Booster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

- 00:00 Chopped South Africa
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:00 The Kitchen
- 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 09:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:00 Chopped
- 11:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:00 Man Fire Food
- 13:30 Man Fire Food
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 The Kitchen
- 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 16:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Iron Chef America
- 19:00 The Big Eat
- 20:00 Private Chef
- 21:00 Jenny Morris Cooks Morocco
- 21:30 Jenny Morris Cooks Morocco
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 The Big Eat

food network

- 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 00:36 Max & Shred
- 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
- 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbits Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Harvey Beaks
- 14:12 Rabbits Invasion
- 14:36 One Crazy Cruise
- 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 16:36 The Loud House
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 17:24 Rabbits Invasion
- 17:48 Breadwinners
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners

nickelodeon HD

- 00:10 Keep It In The Family
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase
- 03:25 Brief Encounters
- 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 05:15 Mr Selfridge
- 06:10 Keep It In The Family
- 07:05 The Chase
- 08:00 Brief Encounters
- 09:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:00 Mr Selfridge
- 10:55 Keep It In The Family
- 11:50 The Chase
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street

itv hd CHOICE

- 00:10 Keep It In The Family
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase
- 03:25 Brief Encounters
- 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 05:15 Mr Selfridge
- 06:10 Keep It In The Family
- 07:05 The Chase
- 08:00 Brief Encounters
- 09:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:00 Mr Selfridge
- 10:55 Keep It In The Family
- 11:50 The Chase
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street



TWO MEN IN TOWN ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CROSSWORD 1426



ACROSS

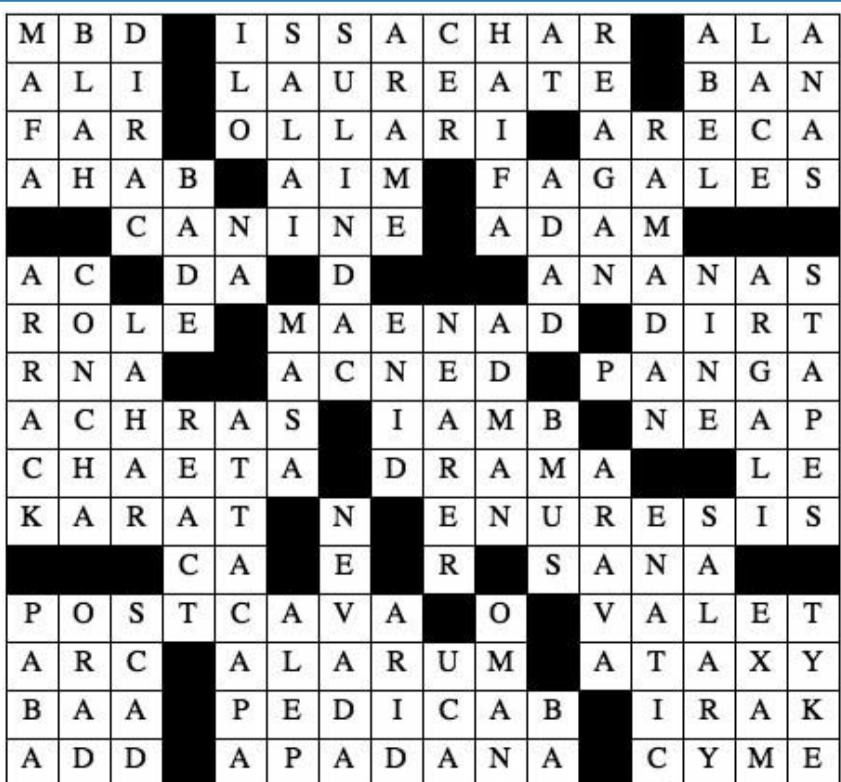
1. Make synchronous and adjust in time or manner.
5. A pit over which lumber is positioned to be sawed by two men with a long two-handed saw.
11. A royal treasury.
15. The habitation of wild animals.
16. Type genus of the Alaudidae.
17. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
18. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
19. Wife of Balder.
21. A city in south central Mexico (southeast of Mexico City) on the edge of central Mexican plateau.
23. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series.
24. The act of using.
25. God of wealth and love.
27. Treated with oil.
29. The highest level or degree attainable.
32. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
33. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
36. Worthy of high praise.
40. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
43. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
44. Tooth on the rim of gear wheel.
45. Extremely pleasing.
47. Stem of plants of the Gramineae.
48. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
50. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
51. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
52. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
54. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
56. A book of the New Testament.
59. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
60. A mound of stones piled up as a memorial or to mark a boundary or path.
62. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
63. An Anatolian language.
71. (archaic) Of persons.
75. Top part of an apron.
76. The mechanical process of wearing or grinding something down (as by particles washing over it).
78. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
79. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
80. Minute freshwater crustacean having a round body enclosed in a transparent shell.
81. By bad luck.

DOWN

1. A blow from a flat object (as an open hand).
2. River in eastern Asia.
3. Pleasant or pleasing or agreeable in nature or appearance.
4. Perversely irritable.
5. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
6. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike

7. An ambitious and aspiring young person.
8. The basic unit of money in Ireland.
9. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
10. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
11. Not in accordance with the fact or reality or actuality.
12. A Greek epic poem (attributed to Homer) describing the siege of Troy.
13. The scum formed by oxidation at the surface of molten metals.
14. A hardy cabbage with coarse curly leaves that do not form a head.
20. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
22. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
26. Italian histologist noted for work on the structure of the nervous system and for his discovery of Golgi bodies (1844-1926).
28. Being nine more than ninety.
30. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
31. Tending to undergo or resulting from mutation.
34. A coterie of undesirable people.
35. A large fleet.
37. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
38. Of or relating to or derived from or containing boron.
39. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
41. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
42. Of or relating to the dura mater.
46. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
49. A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
53. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
55. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
57. An associate degree in nursing.
58. Of or relating to or characteristic of Yemen or its inhabitants.
61. Having help.
64. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
65. (anatomy) A somewhat rounded subdivision of a bodily organ or part.
66. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
67. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
68. The food served and eaten at one time.
69. A small cake leavened with yeast.
70. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
72. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
73. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
74. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
77. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This morning, you may find yourself at odds with others regarding regular routine matters. A little give-and-take will help to create some changes that you will like. You will be able to insert some positive, commonsense alternatives that may be helpful. Connecting with others through an attitude of teamwork will make for profitable results. Your enthusiasm and drive could become catching, particularly if you point out the good points of others. You make people like themselves a little bit more. This makes you ideal as a teacher or group leader, especially with young people. Know when to pull back and take the back seat. You will feel real harmony this afternoon from those around you. Music or perhaps dancing can be quite fun tonight.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone. Those around you, or the situation you find yourself in, may not feel right to you. It is good to know that this situation is of short duration-you are in the mood to seek the right solution for all. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting to the point and starting over from scratch-healing comes from destroying the roots of a disturbance. You have a love affair with the mind and you value all of the offspring: words, ideas, thoughts and such. You love to solve riddles and mysteries; think about creating a few riddles and mysteries for others to solve. These stimulating mental adventures either alone or with others are some ways in which you could earn a good income.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a great time to be with others and to work as a team. Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this takes place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Learning what makes people tick is exciting and enlightening psychological information. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting down to the essentials and starting over from scratch-healing comes from destroying the roots of a disturbance. An emphasis on close relationships and a preoccupation with ideas of fairness and harmony are part and parcel of the mental cycle you have just begun.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are powerfully motivated, even driven, and there is a tendency to be impulsive. The tendency is to act first and ask questions later. You have blind courage and sheer guts-a self-starter. Now that you have the idea, know that power struggles could occur today. You will be able to overcome any of these difficulties with your sense of awareness. You set a good example for others. A burst of creativity is strong this afternoon and you enjoy putting your creative skills and talents to use. You will find a change of subject, including others in the decision making, praise, constructively working with others are just what your department or division needs. You look to home and family for giving and receiving the most important support and encouragement.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have discovered some ways to save money and now is the time you also give confidence to others. You will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things-penetrating. You may be sought after for your recommendations regarding work issues. This afternoon you may receive a phone call from a young person in your family. You will be able to be understanding and handle whatever is of importance to this youth. You are able to understand what is really true in most any situation and you have the words that will make a positive difference. You are at your most practical and can deal with others with the utmost respect. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of business-very physical too.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The makings for a bright and witty day are at hand. Your emotions or the emotions of others seem to finally be in balance and in sync with the group. At this time, you are not interested in stirring the pot, as it were. This is a period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others. Intellectualism, the exchange of ideas and the idea of being smart as a fox are the things that have special appeal now. You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech and communication. You should be able to get your ideas across with ease. Your communication skills are at a high-water mark. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. Stress relief is what you give away today.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Someone may challenge your values or good taste today. You will benefit from taking a more inward direction, turning away from the outward world and allowing new ideas to have time to filter through to others. This day will become more positive moment by moment. Your instinct at this time is toward getting down to basics and closing old issues, files, records, cases or anything else that has remained too long. It is time to move forward. You work to stay strong and not give into your timid and squeamish side. All life is an adventure and is sometimes difficult but sometimes quite beautiful. A positive attitude attracts unexpected help today or support from others for whatever you want to accomplish. This is a good evening for music.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There is a simple view of life: keep your eyes on the target or the goal and move forward. Of course, a few sidetrack adventures make the travel a bit more interesting. Today may just be such a day. Expect surprises and surround yourself in the happenings of the day. You can get back to your own schedule soon. Work projects will not be abandoned but they may not move ahead as quickly as you expect. You are disciplined, work hard and are good at getting others to work with and for you. You might consider a business of your own. The secret to advancement in the workplace just now, however, is teamwork. Friends are the main components that make up the rest of this day. Good memories are yours for the making this evening. Happy birthday!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are in a strange mood this day-perhaps meditating. You sense things with the mind and understand that feelings are thoughts too. You enjoy moving quickly through your day but you may also realize that there is more to life than rushing through each day at high speed. Poetry, music and the arts interest you, as do psychology and the psyche. You may decide to return to school for more education. It is likely that you will be in some sort of social work soon. It might be fun to take a job placement test at one of the community colleges in your area; if it is not free, it will probably be a nominal price. This evening you could meet a friend for dinner. The stuff of gossip fascinate and calls to you from across the void. There is unrest.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

New forms of creativity and self-expression can be seen now, particularly as new avenues for accomplishment become available. This is very good, because as you know, the last few days have seemed rather stressful. Completing old, hard to end projects is a good accomplishment. Increased confidence and a more outgoing manner may be the key that opens many a new door in your career. Your support system consists of friends and family and becomes more secure now. While out this afternoon, you may find yourself waiting in line and wishing you had a little music streaming into your ears. You may become interested in meeting some of the people standing in line with you. You set a positive example for others to follow.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have an enhanced sense of personal possibility and potential, as you work with others in a group project. You can see the abilities of others and gain ideas for your own advancement in or out of the workplace. This is a time of positive psychological growth, which can lead to great personal success if you follow through with it. Everything points to your taking the initiative in the leadership arena. You will find yourself coming up with all sorts of favorable ideas. This could mean a new advertising strategy or new sales approach. At home, you express your artistic talents as you look to relieve the stresses of the day. Perhaps pottery or some form of painting would be beneficial. You may gain recognition soon for your artistic abilities.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Others usually follow your leadership. You may have noticed that people follow you lead because you have a way of working efficiently with advanced ideas, new methods or an eye for how things should be. This causes many people to come to you for answers or for something similar to enlightenment. The people that are with you in the workplace are, again, around you to learn. If you want to obtain and exchange information, you will need to move into different surroundings. You come up with plenty of new ideas for making the work you are doing run smoothly. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting down to business and completing tasks. Your career goes through important changes.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movie Actors 1

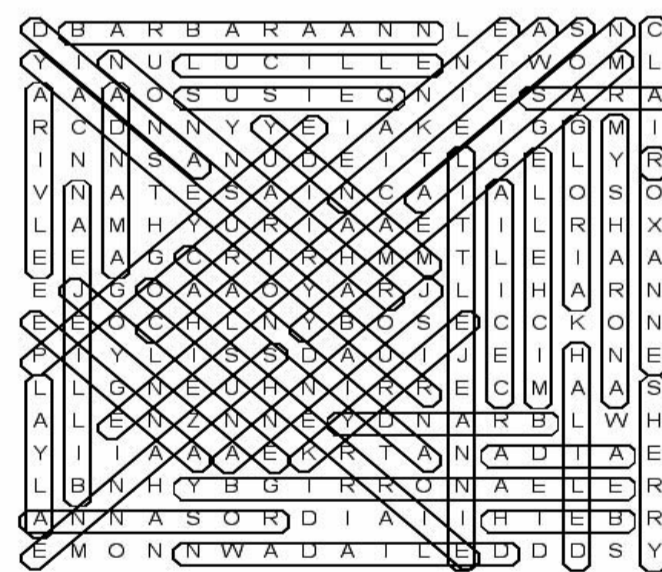
Find and circle all of the Movie Actors that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Jeremy Irons won an Oscar.



- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| BACON, Kevin | DUNCAN, Michael | MCKELLEN, Ian |
| BARDEM, Javier | FORD, Harrison | NEESON, Liam |
| BLACK, Jack | FOX, Jamie | PESCI, Joe |
| BRIDGES, Jeff | GIBSON, Mel | PHOENIX, Joaquin |
| CAINE, Michael | GOLDBLUM, Jeff | REEVES, Keanu |
| CAREY, Jim | GRANT, Hugh | RUSH, Geoffrey |
| CHAN, Jackie | GYLLENHAAL, Jake | RUSSELL, Kurt |
| CLOONEY, George | HACKMAN, Gene | SPACEY, Kevin |
| COSTNER, Kevin | HARTNETT, Josh | STATHAM, Jason |
| CUSACK, John | IRONS, Jeremy | TRAVOLTA, John |
| DAMON, Matt | JACKMAN, Hugh | VOIGHT, Jon |
| DANIELS, Jeff | JONES, James Earl | WAHLBERG, Mark |
| DEPP, Johnny | LAW, Jude | WEAVING, Hugo |
| DICAPRIO, Leonardo | MCCONAUGHEY, Matthew | WOOD, Elijah |
| DOUGLAS, Michael | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Songs With Girls' Names



- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| ADIA | DIANA | MY SHARONA |
| ALISON | ELEANOR RIGBY | NIKITA |
| AMANDA | ELVIRA | OH SHERRIE |
| ANGIE | GLORIA | PEGGY SUE |
| BARBARA ANN | JOANNA | RHIANNON |
| BETH | JOLENE | ROSANNA |
| BILLIE JEAN | KYRIE | ROXANNE |
| BRANDY | LAYLA | RUBY TUESDAY |
| CANDIDA | LITTLE JEANNIE | SARA |
| CARRIE ANNE | LUCILLE | SHERRY |
| CECILIA | MAGGIE MAY | SUSIE Q |
| CLAIR | MANDY | SUZANNE |
| DELILAH | MICHELLE | SWEET CAROLINE |
| DELTA DAWN | | |

The hidden song title is: LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



GOSSIP

Pixie Geldof isn't afraid of death

The 26-year-old musician-and-model has tragically been touched by death on two occasions in her young life; when she was just 10 years old when her mother Paula Yates died from a heroin overdose in 2000 and two years ago her older sister Peaches Geldof died in the same way. Despite the grief she has experienced, Pixie - whose father is Bob Geldof - doesn't fear death herself and just accepts it will come to her and whatever is next is the great unknown. In an interview with Stylist magazine, she said: "I don't think I'm scared

[of death]; I don't want to die. We don't know what happens so there's no point in being scared." When asked if there's one thing she wants to know before she passes away, Pixie added: "It's a really hard question. Maybe there's nothing I want to know. Some things should remain a mystery." The tragedy-hit singer - who has just released her debut album 'I'm Yours' - has spent time contemplating the meaning of life and believes the most important thing is to surround yourself with loving people. Musing on the meaning of life, she said:

"Having really good friends who share their lives with you." Discussing what the hardest lesson she has learnt is, Pixie - who has a younger half-sister, 19-year-old Tiger Hutchence the daughter of late INXS frontman Michael Hutchence and Paula - said: "That things don't always go as planned and to roll with the punches."

Roger Daltrey doesn't fear death

Roger Daltrey doesn't worry about dying despite having many fallen friends. The 72-year-old lead singer of The Who was honored with The Music Industry Trust Award at London's Grosvenor House on Monday where he said he doesn't lose sleep over the fact he could die soon, despite music legends including David Bowie and Prince passing away this year. He told The Sun newspaper: "I don't worry about that - that's just life. It might be me next year." The 'Pinball Wizard' hitmaker was presented with the accolade - to recognize his charity work for the Teenage Cancer Trust and music therapy charity Nordoff Robbins - by former 'Top Gear' host Jeremy Clarkson, who used his speech to say how much he thinks the legendary rocker should get a knighthood. Speaking at the star-studded bash, he said: "They've given knighthoods to Philip Green, Fred The Shred, Jimmy Saville, then Roger's sitting down there with a CBE. I mean come on?" Whilst on stage accepting his award, Daltrey dedicated the accolade to his living and dead Who bandmates, Pete Townshend and the late John Entwistle and Keith Moon, and praised the chari-

ties he works with. He said: "I got lucky. I found John Entwistle. I found Pete Townshend. I don't know if it was lucky but I found Keith Moon!" The Teenage Cancer Trust not only helps teenagers; it also helps parents. And it takes so much work to maintain where we are with Nordoff Robbins." It comes after Daltrey said he "didn't want to live" during his meningitis battle. The 'My Generation' star fell desperately ill with the infection in 2015, leading to him cancelling a series of planned appearances, and he admitted he was convinced he would not survive his health struggles. Speaking before The Who's performance at Desert Trip Festival in October, he explained: "I can't believe I am going to be there if I am honest. "A year ago, I was literally at death's door. I had meningitis. It was no joke, it was serious. "For a couple of days, I really thought I was going to die. I gave up. "I didn't want to live, it was so painful. It was horrible. Nothing worked and it was agony."



Brewster was 'really scared' of dying her hair

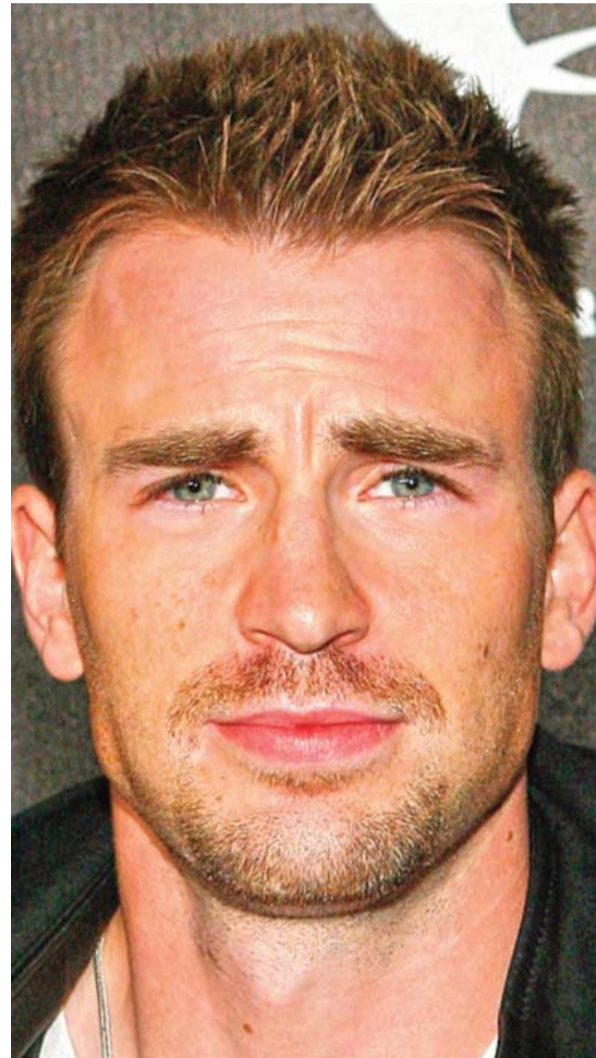


The 36-year-old actress has admitted she avoided changing the color of her long locks because she was terrified of the outcome, but the star has revealed after recently experimenting with the hair product she is now "really happy" with the final look. Speaking about her beauty fear, the brunette beauty said: "I was really scared to color my hair but I did it recently and I'm really happy with it." And the 'Furious 7' star - who is known for playing Vin Diesel's on-screen sister Mia Toretto in the racing series - has hinted she felt she needed to add "depth in tone" to her tresses because of her acting career. She explained: "Especially with TV, your hair color needs some depth in tone. I love the Shu Uemura Moisture Velvet because it keeps my hair from looking dry or ashy. Sometimes I'll style it myself, but I do go to Drybar in LA a lot." And Jordan - who is married to Andrew Form and have sons Julian, six, and four-month-old Rowan, both born via a gestational surrogate - is always seeking ways to add texture to her locks. She said: "Since I work out regularly, if I get a really good blowout, I'll just use the Ouai Dry Shampoo. Or I'll just leave my hair wet, put it in a loose low bun, and I get texture that way. Living in LA, you don't have to do much." Meanwhile the Panama City-born star has revealed she regularly turns to her mother Maria for beauty tips, because her parent is "more pristine" than she is. She explained to Into The Gloss website: "My mom is Brazilian, so I would say that's had an influence on who I am, beauty-wise. "My mother is more pristine than I am in terms of her looks-if she doesn't have any makeup on she'll put on dark glasses, but she'll always have makeup on in front of my dad. She was a model, too, so I defer to her on all things that involve skincare."

Tommy Hilfiger 'loves' festive traditions

The 65-year-old fashion designer - who founded his eponymous label in 1985 - has admitted he loves nothing more than getting into the Christmas spirit, and has revealed his "favorite memories" are spending quality time with his wife Dee Ocleppo and children Ally Hilfiger, Richard Hilfiger, Elizabeth Hilfiger, Sebastian Thomas Hilfiger and Kathleen Hilfiger over the festive season. The creative mastermind said: "I love festive traditions and some of my favorite memories are from holidays spent with my whole family." And Tommy, who recently unveiled the Tommy Hilfiger Autumn/Winter 2016 campaign for the fashion house, which stars brand ambassador Gigi Hadid and was photographed Gregory Harris, has admitted the catwalk icon has brought "festive spirit to life" in the commercial. Speaking to the HollywoodLife.com about the Hilfiger Holiday Voyage Christmas advert, which sees the blonde beauty adorn a metallic embellished t-shirt dress, and a navy blue sequin long-sleeved crop top with a coordinating maxi skirt, Tommy said: "This season, our global ambassador Gigi Hadid

really brings the festive spirit to life - her look is effortlessly glamorous with a relaxed twist. From embellished eveningwear to everyday essentials, our signature holiday style is all about celebrating the season with an elegant, playful edge." Meanwhile, Tommy has revealed the 21-year-old fashion icon is "the epitome" of the Tommy Girl. Speaking previously about Gigi - who was announced as the ambassador for Tommy Hilfiger in 2015 - Tommy said: "She has great personal style coming from Southern California, growing up in Malibu, going to school in Malibu, being very sporty and athletic and All-American with an exotic twist. I thought, 'This is the epitome of the Tommy Girl.'" And the catwalk icon is honored to be a part of the designer label and design her own capsule for the fashion house titled Tommy x Gigi because she has been a fan of the garments ever since a young age. Gigi - who has recently starred in the brand's latest fragrance campaign for The Girl perfume - said: "It's a dream come true - I've been a fan of Tommy all my life. So thrilled Tommy approached me to collaborate."



Chris Evans embarrassed by election result

Chris Evans is "embarrassed" by the US presidential election result. The 'Captain America' actor has slammed Donald Trump - and branded him a "bully" and a "hatemonger" and admitted he is "devastated" the former 'Apprentice' star triumphed over rival Hillary Clinton. Chris - who had earlier revealed he had cast his vote for the Democratic candidate - tweeted: "This is an embarrassing night for America. We've let a hatemonger lead our great nation. We've let a bully set our course. I'm devastated." Ariel Winter was also "devastated" by the result. The shocked star wrote on Twitter: "America, you have failed. Devastating. I won't recognize @realDonaldTrump as our president, ever. #dumptruck-trump (sic)" Family Guy' creator Seth MacFarlane thinks the result will leave many US citizens "genuinely fearful". He posted: "Some didn't like Bush. Some didn't like Obama. But this is different. Forget dislike. Many are genuinely fearful now. This is new. (sic)" 'The Help' star Octavia Spencer believes the result will give people perspective on "how good" things were under departing president Barack Obama. She tweeted: "Gonna miss Obama. maybe this country needs a Trump presidency to see just how good we had it and took it for granted!!!! #GodBlessTheUSA (sic)" But not all stars were disappointed in the result. Stephen Baldwin was "proud" to have openly campaigned for the businessman. As the votes were counted, he tweeted: "God is moving & America is speaking !! PTL @realdonaldtrump @KellyannePolls #MakeAmericaGreatAgain #GodBlessAmerica (sic)". He later added: "Soon the REAL work begins ... to #MakeAmericaGreatAgain ! Proud to have been a part of such amazing history !! "God bless America !! & our 45th President of the USA & the new first family ... (sic)" Musician Kid Rock endorsed the new president during the election campaign, and though he hasn't directly spoken about the result, he did share with his Twitter followers a YouTube video called 'Donald Trump - American Bad Ass'.



Atwell's

'Conviction' has been cancelled

The 34-year-old actress stars as Hayes Morrison in the legal drama currently airing on US television channel ABC, but it has now been revealed that the broadcaster will not be picked up for any additional episodes. According to TheWrap.com, the network will still produce the 13 episodes it had originally ordered, but no new episodes will be commissioned and the series will not be continuing. Created by Liz Friedman and Liz Friedlander, 'Conviction' followed the story of Hayes - the daughter of a former President - who is forced to take a job as the head of the Conviction Integrity Unit in Los Angeles after her nemesis Conner Wallace (Eddie Cahill) blackmails her with the threat of jail time for cocaine possession which could harm her mother's Senate campaign. Alongside her team of lawyers, investigators, and forensic experts, Hayes is then tasked with examining cases where there's suspicion the wrong person may have been convicted. In addition to Hayley and Eddie, the drama also starred names such as Shawn Ashmore, Merrin Dungey, and Emily Kinney. The cancellation comes after ABC recently decided to also cut down on the episode order for 'Notorious' - another legal drama starring Piper Perabo and Daniel Sunjata. 'Conviction' aired its fifth episode on Monday, and although the program was watched by 3.6 million viewers, it is unclear as of yet whether the show will retain its Monday night slot, or whether it will be moved in the wake of its cancellation. For Hayley, the news comes after she suffered a similar set back on another ABC show 'Agent Carter', the short-lived Marvel series which lasted just two nine-episode seasons.

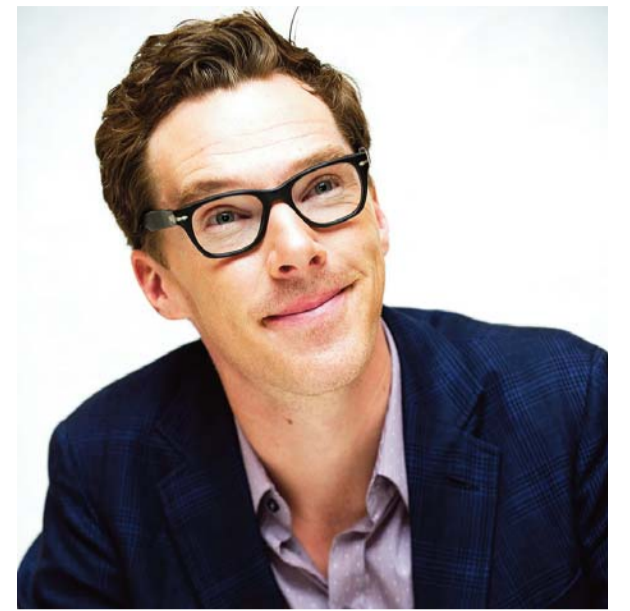


GOSSIP

Cumberbatch's shoes are being auctioned

Benedict Cumberbatch's shoes are being auctioned off in the world's biggest celebrity shoe auction. The 40-year-old actor is among the many stars to have donated a pair of their shoes to CharityStar.com, who are hosting the seventh annual Small Steps Celebrity Shoe Auction. The charity aims to use the money raised from the auction in order to help support children living on landfill sites who quite often will walk barefooted on the dangerous ground. CharityStars' MD Robert Robinson said: "Our aim is to deliver impacting and sustainable fundraising solutions for the non-profit sectors so we are delighted to be running this auction for Small Steps and hope to raise lots of money for a fantastic cause." Benedict has donated a pair of Tod's Loafers from his personal collection, and each shoe is signed on the inside. With 11 days to go

until the bidding. Alongside the 'Doctor Strange' star, the likes of Emma Watson, Kate Moss, Coldplay, Rita Ora, Matt Le Blanc and Oprah Winfrey are among just a few of the stars who have signed up to donate a pair of shoes to the cause. Founder and CEO of CharityStars Amy Hanson said of the celebrity support: "We are always blown away by the support that celebrities show us, and this year once again the response has been truly phenomenal. These celebrity donors are really using their status to help create awareness for children in poverty." At present, the most expensive pair of shoes are Emma Watson's autographed Nike Trainers. There are currently 77 open auctions for celebrity shoes, with the auctions closing on Sunday, November 20.



Charlize Theron has no age concern

Charlize Theron doesn't agree that Hollywood is ageist towards women as she works more now she's 41 than she ever did when she was in her 20s. The 'Mad Max: Fury Road' star accepts there are problems within the movie business but she thinks the days of actresses being sidelined and having less roles available once they hit their 40s are over. In an interview with Vanity Fair Italy, she said: "The time has come for women to realise that the way we look outside is not the most important thing and it's not true we are worth less when we age. "Now that I'm 41 I work much more than 20 years ago, and I enjoy it even more. And all the women I know say the same thing, so it's time to stop this. When told it was unusual to hear that opinion from an actress who makes her living in Hollywood, Charlize added: "I don't agree with that, and I'm not happy to hear people

talking like that about Hollywood ... Movies are just the mirror of society; the real problem is there. Hollywood's gender problem is nothing compared to the society's problem." Charlize - who has two adopted children, four-year-old son Jackson and daughter August - has never been afraid of ageing as she accepts it is an unavoidable aspect of life. The Best Actress Oscar winner says the best thing that has come with the passing years is the worldly wisdom she has acquired. She said: "How could I be afraid of something so natural? Ageing is part of our life, we can't avoid that. And a part of me is really grateful for all the things that have happened since I started ageing, now I'm much wiser than 20 years ago. A wrinkle is nothing compared to that."



OLIVIA MUNN IS 'REALLY HAPPY' WITH AARON RODGERS

The 'X-Men' actress has been dating the NFL player for over two years and things couldn't be better between them. She gushed: "I'm really happy, things are good." But the 36-year-old beauty insists that doesn't mean marriage is on the cards just yet. Asked how she deals with constant rumors she is getting engaged, she told E! News: "I think you only deal with that when it actually happens." For the time being, Olivia is looking forward to "making her own" holiday traditions with the 32-year-old sportsman and is particularly excited about getting a Christmas tree. She shared: "Putting up our tree is big, we just got a tree last year. "So, I'm excited about decorating the tree and having that up." Earlier this year, Olivia revealed she had taken steps to preserve her fertility by having some of her eggs frozen. She said: "I turned 35, then you're high risk. I did, years ago, freeze a bunch of eggs. I went to the doctor and did the whole test and he said, 'You know, you actually have a lot

of eggs. You're really lucky.' "A girlfriend of mine - we're the same age - she'd gone to the doctor, had a test and she had the egg count of a 50 year old. "For me, this is the count you'll have until your 30s, even 40s - you'll always have a lot." And the 'Mortdecai' actress thinks the practice has become increasingly more common and she believes every woman should freeze their eggs so they don't have to worry about their biological clocks ticking. She added: "I actually started telling my friends about it. "It's no longer on the experimental list and I think that every girl should do it. For one, you don't have to race the clock any more. You don't have to worry about it, worry about your job or anything. It's there. "It's also just like, why not do it, because I see so many women who go through this. Domsday is now like whatever's day, because I am prepared."



Jennifer Lawrence FaceTimes students for votes

Darren Aronofsky bribed students to vote for Hillary Clinton by offering FaceTime calls with Jennifer Lawrence. The 'Hunger Games' actress' director boyfriend was seen at the Duke University in North Carolina on Tuesday rallying around to get votes for the 69-year-old American politician, who ultimately lost out to Donald Trump in the US election. One fan took to Twitter to share a picture of the 47-year-old actor holding his phone with the 26-year-old beauty in a dressing gown video messaging a fan on the video conferencing app. Alongside the picture, the user with the Twitter handle @EthanUdell, wrote: "I just casually FaceTimed with Jennifer Lawrence. Darren Aronofsky is the man (sic)" Ethan said Darren and his beau shared banter over the phone about how the Jennifer should "volunteer to save the country". He told US Weekly magazine: "She was super cool and friendly. They cracked a couple of jokes. "Someone cracked a joke about how with this elec-

tion coming up we need her to volunteer as tribute to save the country." Another Twitter user wrote: "When Jennifer Lawrence's boyfriend is on campus bribing students to go vote in exchange for a FaceTime with her (sic)" The 'Black Swan' filmmaker had also offered lifts to the college's ballot office. He tweeted: "History will be made in #northcarolina. join me tomorrow at DUKE university chapel 1130-5pm to get a ride to the polls #dukevotest #imwithher. (sic)" Ethan told E! News: "Darren flew in this morning from New York to try to get more students to vote, since North Carolina is a swing state and duke had its lowest student early voting numbers since 2008. They walked around promoting voting all day. "Darren" even called cars for kids to head to the voting location." Despite the director's best efforts, Trump narrowly obtained victory in the state.



Pitt makes first public appearance since divorce

Brad Pitt has made his first public appearance since he split from wife Angelina Jolie. The 52-year-old actor looked noticeably thinner as he smiled and posted for pictures with his friend and 'Ocean's Eleven' co-star Julia Roberts at a private screening for upcoming movie 'Moonlight' - which is produced by Brad's Plan B company - in Los Angeles on Tuesday. The 'Fight Club' star donned a plaid shirt, jacket and jeans for the screening, at which his appearance was unannounced. Brad - who has children Maddox, 15, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and twins Knox and Vivienne, eight, with Angelina - is expected to walk the red carpet at the premiere of his new movie 'Allied' in California. And talk show host Wendy Williams has given him some advice to minimize the impact of his appearance on his bitter custody battle. She advised him to briefly praise his kids and only give red carpet interviews to Nancy O'Dell from 'Entertainment Tonight' and 'Extra' correspondent Mario Lopez. She said: "Brad, here's what you should know. We know

you're not going to be walking with Angelina because you guys are divorcing. "We know you're not going to be walking with your children, because depending on what you read, some of them might not like you so much. And the others are adjusting and it will take them time. "You shouldn't walk with your co-star [Marion Cotillard]. That French lady who is pregnant. Who a lot of people who accused you of having an affair with in the beginning. "Anyway, the point is that winning an Oscar - Brad - only talk to Nancy O'Dell or Mario Lopez and I'm going to tell you why. "Because Mario Lopez is so politically correct. He is perfection Ken Doll personified and he will not offend you, so you stop for him on the red carpet and Nancy O'Dell. And then keep it walking. "And when you get on the stage, Brad, you keep your speech really short. Don't talk about politics or human rights. You dedicate your entire thing to your children. "Here's how you do that. You list each child and one word that describes them, lovely."

Underwood met her husband at a fan meet & greet!

Carrie Underwood met her husband Mike Fisher at a fan meet-and-greet. The 33-year-old singer has revealed that she first met the Nashville Predators ice hockey player, 36, at a fan signing event in 2008, when he tracked her down in order to ask her on a date. Appearing on 'The Tyler Oakley Show', the host asked asked the 'Before He Cheats' hitmaker if she had ever made out with a fan, adding: "Wouldn't you hope that your husband is a fan of you?" The blonde beauty then revealed: "Yeah! No, he was! I met him at a meet-and-greet." Carrie and Mike married in 2010, and the couple now share a 20-month-old son Isaiah whom the country singer has previously said surprises her with "something new" every day. Asked whether the highlight of her year would be a professional or personal moment, the

'Church Bells' singer said: "There's a lot of intertwining of the two. The [Storyteller Tour] has been absolutely amazing, but Isaiah's been there the whole way so it's all colliding. Every day he does something new, every day is wonderful with him." And although the 'Jesus, Take The Wheel' musician loves to shower her son with love, she is also conscious of making time for her husband and putting extra effort into working on their marriage. She said previously: "Sometimes you have to make more of an effort to be with each other because it's really easy to put all of your time and energy into your baby. "It's been - not challenging, but just something that we've really just trying to be mindful of and try to make time for each other. We're planning a vacation right now - we need it!"



Grande 'in tears' after Trump's win

Ariana Grande was "in tears" after Donald Trump was announced as the new President of America. The 23-year-old singer has admitted she was reduced to tears when she heard the news of the 70-year-old Republican's victory on Tuesday, who has been vying with Hillary Clinton to be named the 45th US President, and the star is "utterly" terrified of what America may become with Donald as leader. The 'Dangerous Woman' hitmaker took to social media to share her disappointment. She tweeted: "well this is utterly terrifying. "I am in tears (sic)." However, the brunette beauty isn't the only one to be disappointed by the news of the businessman's success. Cher believes the world will "never" be the same again, and slammed the former 'Apprentice' mogul as a "petty, vengeful coward" and a "toilet". She tweeted before the result was

announced: "PLEASE [pray] BLK BROTHERS & SISTERS,VOTE HRC WE CANT HAVE RACIST,SUED BY GOV4NOT RENTING2N'rs'& MAN WHO SAID'BLKS R 2 LAZY2 COUNT MY [money],I WANT "MOM CANT BELIEVE,SHE LIVED LONG ENOUGH 2SEE A WOMAN BECOME PRESIDENT OFHILLARY'S GIVING MY 90YR Old MOM,HOPEMY MOM IS SO PROUD OF HILL "If [Donald] WINS,HE WILL STILL BE WHAT HE IS NOW...A PETTY VENGEFUL,COWARD AS GERMANY WAS IN THE 30's, THERES AN ANGER,A RAGE, THAT HAS CONSUMED OUR [America] "ask yourself 'DID I DO ALL I COULD HAVE DONE'Its a good Lesson.We r still Try'n 2have hope. SAW BREXIT RIP GB APART IN ONE NITE Must[Pray] "world will never be the same. I feel Sad for the young. will never be more than the toilet, I've used as a symbol 4 Him. U Can't Polish [a turd] (sic)." Meanwhile, Katy Perry - who made it known she

was a strong supporter of Donald's opposition and campaigned with Hillary - has revealed she voted for the Democrat to lead the nation despite her parents voting for rival, although she insisted their conflicting votes will not divide her family. Speaking about the Presidential election at Hillary's election night party at the Javits Center in New York, she said: "Tonight, my parents voted for Trump. But you know what? We will still all be sitting at the same table for Thanksgiving." However the 'Roar' hitmaker urged people to continue to stand up for their beliefs. She tweeted: "THE REVOLUTION IS COMING. "WE WILL NEVER BE SILENCED. #LOVETRUMPSHATE "Do not sit still. Do not weep. MOVE. We are not a nation that will let HATE lead us. "Gonna cry my false eye lashes off tonight.(sic)."



MUSIC & MOVIES

'Lazarus': David Bowie's musical legacy opens in London

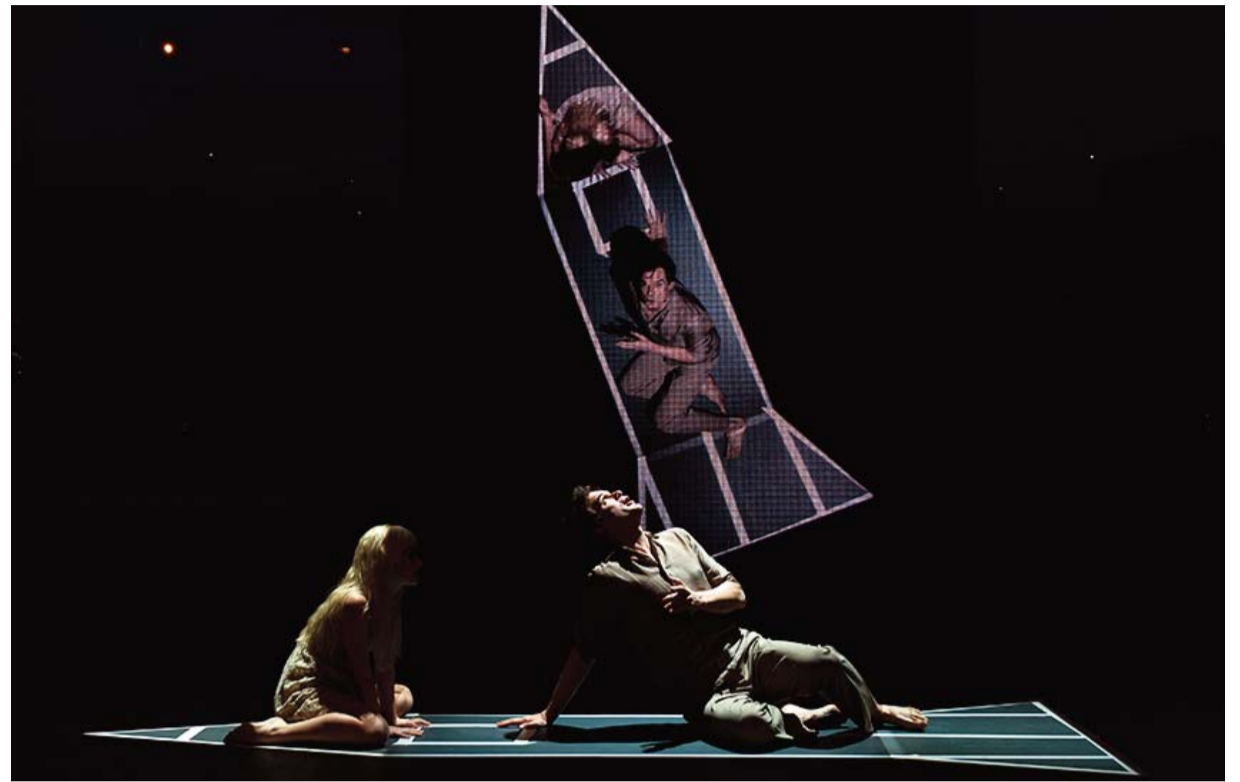
David Bowie's musical "Lazarus" has arrived in London, with an opening line evoking the spirit of the late British star: "Look up here, I'm in heaven." The play's run in the British capital brings Bowie's legacy back to his home city nearly a year after he died on January 10 following a 10-month battle with cancer. Bowie, who grew up in London's Brixton neighborhood, made his last public appearance at the show's gala night in New York on December 7 last year.

The sombre musical is inspired by Walter Trevis's 1963 science fiction novel, "The Man Who Fell To Earth", which was turned into a 1976 film featuring Bowie in the lead role. "Lazarus" recounts the tormented life of Thomas Newton, an alien in the guise of a human who finds himself on Earth and incapable of dying. He lives with just a television and a bottle of gin for company until the arrival of "another lost soul" who could set him free, that is, "With 'Lazarus', it is quite clear to me that Bowie deliberately placed his own death on stage," said the musical's Belgian director, Ivo van Hove, following Bowie's passing.

His death at 69 left millions of fans mourning the singer-songwriter genius, who contributed hugely to shaping the music scene and popular culture. Co-written by Bowie and Irish playwright Enda Walsh, "Lazarus" is now showing until the end of January at London's King's Cross Theatre. In discussing the musical with Bowie, Walsh said they talked about how a person experiences death: "We started talking about escape but we ended up talking

about a person trying to find rest. About dying in an easier way." The musical addresses themes close to Bowie: the search for identity, the feeling of solitude and abandonment, and relationships with others and the world.

On stage, Newton is played by Michael C Hall, known for his role as the undertaker in the TV show "Six Feet Under", and a killer in the series "Dexter". The American actor, who is dressed in pyjamas throughout the play, comes into his own while singing, during which his voice at times recalls that of Bowie. He is joined on stage by 15-year-old Sophia Anne Caruso, who despite her tender years plays opposite Hall as if a stage veteran. The minimal set features a bed, a fridge, a handful of accessories, and a huge vertical screen featuring digital images or videos, such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, which offer a counterpoint to the tale. In little under two hours the musical showcases 17 Bowie songs, including some of his biggest hits such as "Life on Mars" and "Heroes". The track "Lazarus" is also featured from Bowie's 25th and final album, "Blackstar", which was released two days before his death. — AFP



Michael C Hall and Sophia Anne Caruso perform in the David Bowie created stage show Lazarus during a press preview in London. — AFP



Actor Idris Elba presents an award, during the MTV European Music Awards 2016, in Rotterdam, Netherlands. — AP

British actor Elba questions media intrusion

British actor Idris Elba has questioned the need for stories about the private lives of actors during the red carpet London premiere of his new film "100 Streets". "The Wire" and "Star Trek Beyond" actor spoke after Britain's Prince Harry issued a rare statement on Tuesday condemning "a wave of abuse and harassment" into the private life of his American girlfriend, actress Meghan Markle. "Press have got to do a job, haven't they? That's it.

But, you know, the bottom line is that real people are real people even though we're actors. Anyway," Elba told Reuters on Tuesday. Elba, 44, used strong language on Twitter last month to shoot down media stories linking him romantically to American pop star Madonna. London-based drama "100 Streets", which also stars actress Gemma Arterton, is to be released in British cinemas on Friday. — Reuters

KEATON TO PLAY VILLAIN IN UPCOMING SPIDER-MAN REBOOT

Michael Keaton is returning to his superhero roots, this time as a villain, in next year's Spider-man reboot. Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige confirmed in an interview with the Toronto Sun that Keaton will play Vulture in "Spider-man: Homecoming."

Keaton played the title character in the 1989 version of "Batman" and its 1992 sequel, "Batman Returns." He was also nominated for an Oscar for his turn as an actor dogged by his days playing a superhero in 2014's "Birdman." "Spider-man: Homecoming" will be the first film in the franchise to be produced by Marvel Studios. It stars Tom Holland as the web slinger and is set for release in July. — AP



In this file photo, actor Michael Keaton poses for photographers upon arrival at the world premiere of the film 'The Beatles, Eight Days a Week' in London. — AP

'Mission: Impossible 6' gets summer 2018 release date

Paramount Pictures has scheduled Tom Cruise's "Mission: Impossible 6" for July 27, 2018. Cruise had announced in July, 2015, that he planned to go ahead with "Mission: Impossible 6." That notion that was strongly endorsed by the studio following a \$121 million global opening weekend for "Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation" with \$56 million in the US and another \$65 million from 40% of international markets. Cruise then promised in April at Cinemacon that the sixth Mission Impossible movie would have "...more incredible set pieces, stunts...and what I think is a very entertaining and compelling story."

He closed his deal in September for "Mission: Impossible 6", which is being produced and financed by Paramount and partner Skydance Productions, headed by David Ellison. Cruise is also a producer. "Rogue Nation" took in \$195 million domestically and \$682 million worldwide. Paramount has opted to open "Mission: Impossible 6" using the same late July slot that it used for "Rogue Nation." Paramount also announced Tuesday that it has set Alexander Payne's comedy-drama "Downsizing", starring Matt Damon, for Dec 22, 2017. "Downsizing" also stars Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Kristen Wiig, Jason Sudeikis, Alec Baldwin and Neil Patrick Harris.

"Downsizing" centers on an Omaha man who joins the throngs of people undergoing a new process that reduces people to a tiny fraction of their size before moving to one of the many communities of small people that are sprouting up around the world. Payne co-wrote the script with Jim Taylor. The duo

won an Oscar for best adapted screenplay for "Sideways." Paramount also said it would release an untitled "event horror film" in Imax on April 28, 2017, and an untitled event film on Nov 2, 2018. The five "Mission: Impossible" films-all starring Cruise as agent Ethan Hunt-grossed a combined \$2.8 billion at the worldwide box office. "Rogue Nation," which carried a \$150 million pricetag, was produced by Cruise along with J.J. Abrams, Bryan Burk, David Ellison, Dana Goldberg and Don Granger.

Christopher McQuarrie directed "Rogue Nation" from a screenplay he wrote with Drew Pearce. Each "Mission: Impossible" has employed a different director, starting with Brian De Palma for the franchise launch in 1996, followed by John Woo, Abrams, Brad Bird and McQuarrie. However, McQuarrie has signed on to direct "Mission: Impossible 6" and has been developing the script with Cruise. "Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation" brought back Ving Rhames, Jeremy Renner and Simon Pegg from the previous films and introduced Rebecca Ferguson's Ilsa Faust undercover agent character. It's been reported in recent months that Ferguson will return for the sixth film. Warner Bros has an untitled DC Entertainment movie slotted for the same opening date of July 27, 2018. Cruise's action sequel "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back", which carries a \$60 million budget, has generated decent business since opening three weeks ago for Paramount with \$113 million worldwide so far. — Reuters

The CMA 2016 Country Christmas



Singer-songwriters Jennifer Nettles (left) and Andra Day (right) perform on stage during the CMA 2016 Country Christmas in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP photos



Singer-songwriters Jennifer Nettles (left) and Amy Grant (right) perform on stage.



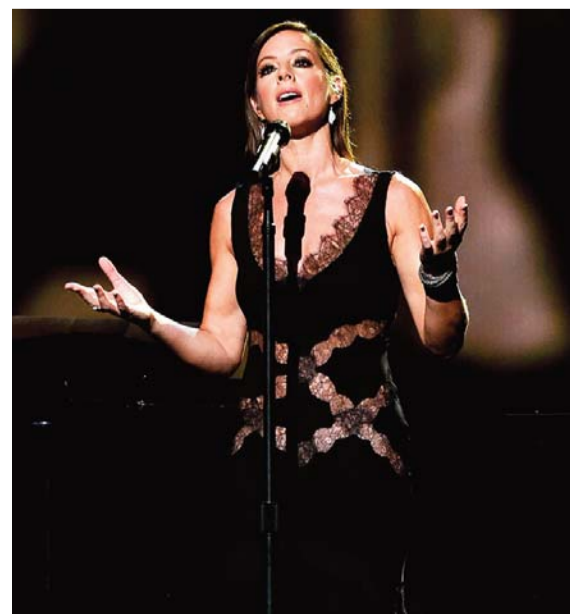
Singer-songwriter Jennifer Nettles (left) and Actress Idina Menzel (right) perform on stage.



Actress Idina Menzel performs on stage.



Singer-songwriter Kelly Clarkson performs on stage.



Singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan performs on stage.



Singer Jordan Smith performs on stage.



Michelin Guide international director Michael Ellis (center) stands with 'Gaon' executive chef Kim Byoung-Jin (left) and 'La Yeon' chef Kim Sung-Il during a launch event for the 2017 Seoul Michelin Guide, in Seoul. — AFP photos



Michelin Guide international director Michael Ellis (center) poses for a group photo with Michelin-starred chefs during a launch event for the 2017 Seoul Michelin Guide.

Michelin names two 3-star eateries in first Seoul guide

The Michelin food guide unveiled its first Seoul edition on Monday, with two upscale Korean restaurants receiving the coveted three stars, but recognition also for a humbler diner serving vegetarian temple food. A total of 24 restaurants in the South Korean capital received Michelin stars, reflecting the city's ambitions as a fine-dining hub and the emergence of Korean cuisine from the well-established shadows cast by those of Asian neighbors China and Japan. "I think it's widely seen as one of the hidden gems of world cuisine," said Michael Ellis, the international director of Michelin guides. Of the two three-starred restaurants, Gaon in Seoul's upmarket Gangnam area offers two multi-course menus based on the daily meals enjoyed by the kings of the Joseon era (1392-1910) and priced at 180,000 won (US\$157) and 250,000 won.

The guide cited Gaon for its "meticulously-prepared dishes" and commitment to promoting a "better understanding" of Korean food. Gaon's executive chef Kim Byoung-Jin said he was stunned and "extremely honored" with the three-star rating, crediting his kitchen team and an insistence on the finest seasonal produce. "All good food starts from fresh ingredients," he told AFP.

Overdue appreciation

Having spent the past 13 years honing his take on traditional

Korean cuisine, Kim said he hoped the ultimate stamp of approval from Michelin would help South Korean gastronomy "receive the appreciation it deserves". "In order for Korean cuisine to be universalized, it must meet a universal standard and I think the Michelin listing will help Korean food become a more approachable cuisine for many people," he said. Of the 21,000 restaurants featured in Michelin guides around the world, just over 100 are rated with three stars. Starred restaurants have in the past built big businesses after being recognized.

The other three-star recipient was La Yeon in the Hotel Shilla, which was praised by Michelin for the chef's contemporary touch on traditional Korean cuisine. Following the 2007 publication of the Tokyo guide-Michelin's first foray into Asia-Seoul is the latest city in the region to get its own version of the culinary bible. There are also editions exploring Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore. "Seoul is a gastronomic roller coaster," Ellis said. "There's so many things going on: brining, pickling, fermenting, frying, barbecuing, seasoning... great techniques," he added. Among the one-star recipients was Balwoo Gongyang, a popular lunch and dining spot which serves strictly vegetarian dishes based on Korean Buddhist "temple" cuisine.

Lucia Cho, the owner of Gaon and of another restaurant, Bicena, which was awarded one star, said it had initially been a

struggle to marry Korean cuisine and fine dining-not least because of resistance among Koreans themselves. "When we first opened Gaon, not many people appreciated the value of Korean food and complained about our pricing," Cho said. "But people pay 300,000 won on Japanese or Chinese course meals," she said, adding that attention from Michelin would "make Koreans think more about what defines good food".

Not everyone was impressed by the Michelin choice. Joe McPherson, founder of the country's oldest food blog, ZenKimchi.com, had given Gaon a damning review back in 2007. "It's the poster child for everything wrong with Korean concepts of fine dining. They just took basic Korean food, made it a little prettier and jacked up the price," McPherson said after the Michelin launch. The two and three-star restaurants on the list "felt like they had been put together by Korean businessmen, rather than food lovers," he added. The Michelin guides, first published in France more than a century ago to promote automobile travel, now cover 28 countries and spotlight diverse cuisines including Brazilian, Burmese, Cajun, Peruvian and Tibetan. — AFP



Three Michelin star executive chef Kim Byoung-Jin (center) works in his kitchen at the 'Gaon' restaurant.



White elephants, mahouts pay respects to late Thai king

While tens of thousands of mourners have paid their respects to Thailand's late king at Bangkok's Grand Palace, where his body is being kept before cremation, a different kind of visitor appeared in front of the palace gates Tuesday. Some 200 mahouts leading nine, specially chosen white elephants and two white-painted elephants arrived at the palace from around the country. The tusked giants and their riders knelt in front of the palace gates in a sign of respect for King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died last month at age 88 after reigning for 70 years, while the royal anthem was played on a lone trumpet.

Mourners waiting to enter the palace cried as they witnessed the elephants' prostrating. In Thailand, the white elephant is regarded as sacred and a symbol of

royal power, according to the Thai Elephant Conservation Center. The white elephant was on Thailand's national flag until 1917, but the symbol is still found on the ensign of the Royal Thai Navy. Historically, the statuses of kings were evaluated by the number of white elephants in their possession. Ittipan Kaolamai, manager of the Royal Elephant Kraal and Village in Ayutthaya province, said nine elephants in Tuesday's procession were white and two were painted, presumably to maintain conformity. He said one of the two spray-painted elephants carried a portrait of Bhumibol on its back and the other carried a drummer. — AP



Mahouts lead 11 white elephants to kneel in front of the Grand Palace in honor of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday. — AP photos

Ask a designer: New twists for the Thanksgiving table

Perhaps more than any other holiday, Thanksgiving is about tradition. The menu and tableware often vary little from year to year, and the day feels as reliable as a cozy sweater.

It can also feel repetitive

So as you honor tradition, why not bring a dose of fresh style to your Thanksgiving celebration? As interior designer and HGTV host Vern Yip puts it, just "get to the heart of why those traditions exist and what they're about. That opens up a whole new box of decor ideas." Here Yip and two other designers - Maxwell Ryan, founder of apartmenttherapy.com, and crafter Lia Griffith of liagriffith.com - offer advice on creating a memorable Thanksgiving table.

Bring nature in

Summer's blooms may be a distant memory, but nature can still brighten up your table. Go outside and see what's available, says Ryan: Collect pine cones, berries, vines and anything else that strikes you as beautiful. Cluster them on the table in different ways, adding other natural items like squash or pumpkins to the mix. Another natural touch: "Scoop out the middle of an apple in the same shape as a votive," Ryan says, and then tuck a votive candle into it. Do this with a half-dozen apples arranged on a dish, then light them. The candle flame warms the apples, releasing their sweet scent. As long as the top of the candle extends a few centimeters above the edge of the apple, the tiny flame remains a safe distance from the apple.

Yip suggests lining up tiny topiaries down the center of the table. He asks guests in advance what their wish is for the coming year or what they're thankful for, and then he writes those words on tiny paper tags attached to the topiaries. This gets guests talking about what's meaningful to them this Thanksgiving. Amid all this natural greenery, Griffith points out that you can mix in paper flowers to create a striking centerpiece or napkin rings.

She also suggests cutting an image of a bare tree out of butcher paper and hanging it on the wall. Cut leaves out of colored paper, have kids (or grownups) write what they're thankful for this year and paste the leaves on the tree branches. (You can find templates for the leaves at liagriffith.com.)

Feature the food

This year, try adding hand-written or typed paper flags or labels to your serving dishes, says Griffith. Beyond helping guests with food sensitivities or allergies, this lets you draw attention to the history of dishes, the relatives who made them and who contributed them this year. Consider letting the food take center stage on Thanksgiving, skipping a traditional centerpiece. Try displaying the food at various heights, says Ryan, by using cake stands or wide bowls overturned to serve as pedestals. And don't keep dessert hidden. Thanksgiving desserts, he notes, tend to look phenomenal.

"It's such a shame that these beautiful cakes and pies and cookies are kind of left in the kitchen," he says. Displaying them on cake stands in place of flowers or other decorations lets guests enjoy their sight and scent throughout the meal - and serves as a reminder to save room for dessert. Just be sure, Yip says, that nothing on the table is so tall that it blocks the view of other guests.

Try fresh colors

If your usual Thanksgiving palette is browns and oranges, try something new this year: Griffith suggests dressing your table in soft shades of purple with accents of metallic copper and gold. "The metallic trend is so hot right now," she says, and the warm beauty of purple is a striking backdrop for white china.



This photo shows a paper 'thankful tree,' which is a whimsical addition to Thanksgiving dinner decorating, says crafter Lia Griffith, but it's also a great way to keep kids busy during meal preparation and help them focus on the real meaning of the holiday. — AP photos

Conversation starters

Yip likes to ask guests before Thanksgiving to tell him something special about themselves, and then use that to personalize the table. For instance, he might ask everyone to name one place in the world they've always wanted to visit. Then he orders postcards (Yip says they're easily available online) to decorate each place setting. Guests can find their seat based on the destination, and talk with other guests about their choices. Or ask everyone for the title of a favorite book, and then place those books on the table in stacks or on each napkin. Each guest can explain why that book resonated with them, and each can go home with a recommended book. — AP



This photo shows printed recipe cards designed by crafter Lia Griffith and available for download on her website.

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Michelin names two 3-star eateries in first Seoul guide

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Portraits of famous personalities such as Mother Theresa, from right to left, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, Mahatma Gandhi and the Dalai Lama are painted on concrete parts of the Berlin wall in Teltow near Berlin, Germany, Monday. The painted sections of the wall are for sale. On No 9, 27 years ago, the wall fell in Berlin. — AP

Blue is the color: Diamond ring could fetch \$25 million

A diamond ring that's the ultimate in bling is set to go under the hammer, with an estimated price of \$15 million to \$25 million. Sotheby's auction house says the Cartier ring holds an 8.01 carat blue stone named the Sky Blue Diamond. It will be displayed in London on Thursday through Monday before a sale in

Geneva on Nov 16.

David Bennett, chairman of Sotheby's jewelry division, said Tuesday that the diamond was a "wonderfully clear celestial blue, presented in an extremely elegant square emerald cut." He said it would "captivate all collectors of exceptional gemstones." In May, the 14.62 carat

"Oppenheimer Blue" diamond sold for more than 56.8 million Swiss francs (\$57.6 million), including fees, crushing the previous record for the most expensive diamond ever sold at auction. — AP



A model displays the 'Sky Blue Diamond', a fancy vivid blue 8.01 carat jewel of imperial Russian heritage during a Sotheby's press preview in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday. The diamond is expected to be sold for \$15-25 million when it goes on auction in Geneva on Nov 16. — AP/AFP photos



A model poses with a diamond necklace with a stunning and delicate bowknot clasp during a press preview by Sotheby's auction house yesterday. The historical necklace commissioned as two separate pieces by Empress Catherine II, known as Catherine the Great (1729 - 1796) will be offered at a 'Magnificent jewels & noble jewels auction' in Geneva on November 16, 2016 with a pre-sale estimate of US \$3-5 million.



A model poses with a parure of antique coloured diamond jewels during a press preview by Sotheby's auction house yesterday in Geneva. The historical necklace part of a gift by Empress Catherine II, known as Catherine the Great (1729 - 1796), will be offered at a 'Magnificent jewels & noble jewels auction' in Geneva on November 16, 2016 with a pre-sale estimate of US \$3-5 million.



A general view shows the scaffoldings of the Colosseum (Coliseum) during the restoration funded by Italian brand 'Tod's' in Rome. — AFP photos

Rome metro row raises new fears for Colosseum

A row over the future of Rome's metro is threatening to delay urgent work to stabilize the Colosseum, adding to fears for the ancient amphitheatre after Italy's recent earthquakes caused troubling cracks in its exterior walls. The 2,000-year-old, partly-ruined structure was allocated four million euros in 2014 to carry out reinforcements deemed necessary to offset the impact of tunneling for a new underground train line which will pass close by. But the money was never released and guardians of the city's architectural heritage now fear it never will be after new mayor Virginia Raggi announced she plans to dissolve the underground company, Roma Metropolitana.

"By liquidating Roma Metropolitana, the mayor has left us without anyone to deal with regarding the financing needed for the urgent strengthening of the Colosseum," a spokesman for the superintendent of the city's archaeological treasures told AFP. The superintendent himself, Francesco Prosperetti, has warned that he will seek to block any further work on the still-unfinished metro extension if the funds are not released.

"The Colosseum cannot wait any longer," Prosperetti told Italian media. "As a citizen I would not like to delay the metro but as the defender of this monument I may not have any choice." Raggi has said work on the metro project will continue

with new management progressively replacing Roma Metropolitana, an organization she has accused of overseeing the "shameful squandering of public funds." The new line is supposed to run from the city center to the eastern suburbs. Most of it opened last year but the final section, which will bring it into the Colosseum area and connect with the capital's two other metro lines, remains unfinished.

Started in 2007 with a budget of 2.2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion), the work is now forecast to cost at least 3.7 billion and Raggi has put plans for a northern extension of the line on indefinite hold. Earthquakes in central Italy on August 24, October 26 and October 30 were powerful enough in Rome to result in a number of new cracks appearing in the Colosseum's exterior walls. But Italy's top tourist attraction has remained open to the public. The landmark site has survived dozens of earthquakes over the centuries although it was a tremor that led to the collapse of its southern wall in 1703.

Prosperetti said work was most urgently required on interior walls in the top section of the structure, which is not open to the public. The exterior of the Colosseum has recently been given a facelift thanks to a three-year clean-up financed by the upmarket fashion and footwear company Tod's. — AFP