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 Interior
 Ministry
 ready for
 elections

 S Korea's Park
 faces resignation
 calls at huge
 protest rally

 IMF approves
 \$12bn loan
 to support
 Egypt economy

 'RunQ8' boosts
 awareness about
 people with
 special needs


GOVT AUSTERITY MEASURES TOP ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

MPs SLAM RAMPANT CORRUPTION, LACK OF REFORMS


 150 FILS
 NO: 17049
 40 PAGES

 Max 32°
 Min 12°
 High Tide
 10:55 & 22:40
 Low Tide
 04:40 & 16:53

OPPOSITION RETURNS TO BALLOT DIVIDED

KUWAIT: The upcoming election will give Kuwait a chance to elect new representatives to what is arguably the Gulf's most powerful legislature, as the country is squeezed by low oil prices and fearful of extremist attacks. But what does one prominent candidate think ranks among the greatest dangers facing this OPEC nation? Cross-fit. "Competing athletes play in a mixed environment, with foreign and even some Kuwaiti women wearing indecent clothes, like sports bras, in a public and mixed environment," railed Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, a prominent opposition figure. "This is shameful and unacceptable."

Tabtabaei's comments and those of others show how splintered Kuwait's opposition is despite many now saying they'll take part in the Nov 26 poll after boycotting the last election, which followed tumultuous Arab Spring protests. Since the National Assembly was dissolved in late October, 454 hopefuls have registered to run for the 50-seat parliament. Lawmakers on paper have four-year terms, though most parliaments are dissolved early in Kuwait.

Among those running are many who sat out of Kuwait's 2012 election, including conservative Islamists and liberal reformers. Others remain imprisoned, like opposition politician Musallam Al-Barak, who is serving a two-year sentence for a political speech deemed offensive to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

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YELLOW PARADE LIGHTS UP GULF ROAD



KUWAIT: Over 100 yellow cars, buses and motorbikes take to Gulf Road yesterday to promote compassionate driving, like following traffic rules, giving way to others and being considerate and cheerful on the road. The Yellow Parade, which coincides with World Kindness Day, aims to spread values of kindness and positivity on the road, Chairperson of Al-Nowair Initiative, a co-organizer, Sheikh Intisar Salam Al-Ali Al-Sabah (seen seated in the car) said. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)

KUWAIT: Candidates in Kuwait's parliamentary elections have focused their campaigns on unpopular government austerity measures, as the oil-dependent country faces financial stress due to low crude prices. Kuwait, which sits on around seven percent of the world's proven crude reserves, has resorted to a series of measures to cut spending and boost non-oil revenues in a bid to diversify its economy.

But measures including raising power and water charges and hiking petrol prices have triggered a political crisis, leading to the parliament being dissolved last month and snap polls being called for Nov 26. "The government has tried to resolve the economic crisis by raising funds from citizens, like hiking petrol prices," independent candidate Hisham Al-Baghli charged at an election rally last week. "This policy will result in serious consequences for ordinary citizens," warned Baghli, a former lawmaker.

Before crude prices began to slide in mid-2014, Kuwait generated around 95 percent of its income from oil. But the country's oil revenues dropped from a massive \$97 billion in the fiscal year 2013/2014 to just \$40 billion last fiscal year, which ended on March 31, according to finance ministry figures. And oil income is projected to slide further to around \$35 billion this fiscal year. In 2015/2016, the OPEC state posted its first budget deficit of \$15 billion after 16 years of surpluses.

The government - which had increased its expenditures to record levels between 2006 and 2015, mainly on wages and subsidies - cut its spending by around 15 percent after oil prices dropped by 60 percent. It has lifted subsidies on diesel and kerosene, hiked petrol prices by 40 to 80 percent and decided to raise power charges from next year. The measures have triggered fiery reactions from parliamentary candidates seeking to drum up public support.

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News

in brief

Man murders wife with hammer, screwdrivers

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A citizen killed his wife yesterday with a hammer during a fight in their house in Salwa. Hawally detectives arrested the suspect, identified as 45-year-old Sayed Ibrahim Khalil, after relatives called the police. Security sources said detectives found two screwdrivers and a hammer the suspect used to kill his 36-year-old wife, also a Kuwaiti. The sources added the suspect is undergoing psychiatric treatment.



Prince Turki, brother of Saudi king, dies

RIYADH: Prince Turki bin Abdel Aziz, a brother of Saudi Arabia's king, has died, a statement from the palace published on the official news agency SPA said early yesterday. Prince Turki - who was born in 1934, according to his official biography - was a son of the kingdom's founder, King Abdul Aziz bin Saud, and a member of a formidable bloc of brothers known as the Sudairi seven, after their mother Hassa bin Ahmed Al-Sudairi. The group also included King Fahd and princes Sultan and Nayef, all now deceased, as well as the present Saudi monarch King Salman. Prince Turki, who was deputy minister of defense from 1968 to 1978, was to be buried yesterday. Spain announced King Felipe VI had canceled a three-day visit which was to have begun yesterday.

Minister: India ATM reset to take 'weeks'

NEW DELHI: India's cash machines will take several weeks to reset with new bills, India's finance minister said yesterday, as public anger mounted over a decision to pull the highest denomination notes from circulation. People queued outside banks for the third day straight, trying to replace 500 (\$7.50) and 1,000 rupee notes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced they would no longer be legal tender in a blitz against corruption and tax evasion. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said ATMs could only dispense the newly-designed 500 rupee and 2,000 notes after several weeks because of a technical issue. "The technology takes about two-three weeks to recalibrate. The central switch needs to be changed and each machine needs to be altered individually, about 200,000 machines," Jaitley told reporters in New Delhi. "And because the size of the new notes is different, the machines are being recalibrated slowly."

PROTESTS SPREAD AS TRUMP SOFTENS RHETORIC MOGUL DOESN'T RULE OUT 'AMENDED' OBAMACARE: WSJ

NEW YORK: Thousands of Americans spilled into the streets yesterday for a new day of protests against Donald Trump, even as the president-elect appeared to back away from the fiery rhetoric that propelled him to the White House. The Republican billionaire - huddled with his transition team at his Manhattan residence - has sought to strike a conciliatory tone since his election sent a shockwave

around the world, announcing Friday he no longer intended to scrap Barack Obama's signature healthcare law, Obamacare.

"This will prove to be a great time in the lives of ALL Americans. We will unite and we will win, win, win!" he tweeted yesterday, as up to 15,000 people prepared to march on Trump Tower under the rallying

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BERLIN: A demonstrator protesting against US President-Elect Donald Trump displays a heart-shaped placard during a demonstration yesterday. — AFP

ZUCKERBERG, FACEBOOK USERS DECLARED 'DEAD'

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook accidentally declared its founder Mark Zuckerberg and many other users dead on Friday, acknowledging after fixing the problem that it had committed a "terrible error". "For a brief period today, a message meant for memorialized profiles was mistakenly posted to other accounts," a Facebook spokesperson told AFP. "This was a terrible error that we have now fixed." Media reports indicated that some two million errant memorials were posted on profile pages. Even Facebook co-founder and chief



Mark Zuckerberg

executive Zuckerberg was memorialized in a message at his profile page expressing hope that people who loved him would take comfort in posts people shared in tribute to his life. "Poor Mark," read an @JudiD23 tweet that included weeping face emojis. "Couldn't happen to a nicer guy."

The social network apologized and said it worked as quickly as possible to correct the problem. "Damn. I should have used Facebook Live to show how I was Facebook Dead," Search Engine Land

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PAK SHRINE BLAST KILLS 43

QUETTA, Pakistan: At least 43 people died and scores of others were injured when a bomb exploded at a remote Sufi shrine in southern Pakistan's restive Balochistan province yesterday, officials said. The blast, claimed by militant group Islamic State, hit a crowd of worshippers participating in a ceremony at the shrine of the Sufi saint Shah Noorani in Khuzdar district, some 750 km south of provincial capital Quetta. "At least 43 people have been killed and dozens of others wounded," Sarfraz Bugti told a press conference in the southwestern port town of Gwadar, without providing a precise figure for those injured. Authorities earlier said 25 people had been killed and at least 35 others wounded.

Hakim Lasi, a rescue official with the Edhi Foundation, Pakistan's largest welfare organization, told Geo TV channel the charity had received radio reports that nearly 100 others were wounded, including women and children. Local officials said worshippers were taking part in a devotional dance session, which is held daily before dusk, when the blast occurred. Rescuers were scrambling to reach the shrine, which is located in a remote, mountainous region with limited med-

ical facilities. Authorities have dispatched ambulances and medical workers from Karachi, a three-hour drive from the blast site.

Pakistan Army spokesman Lieutenant General Asim Bajwa said troops and medical teams had been dispatched but that "difficult terrain and long distance" were hampering their progress. Bajwa said that 20 ambulances and 50 soldiers were about to reach the site, while a further 45 ambulances 100 troops were also on their way, along with medical teams. A military helicopter would attempt evacuations at night, he added, but medical teams could not access the area by plane as their were no air strips close by.

President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the bombing in separate statements. "The government is determined to eliminate terrorism and extremists from the country," Hussain said in a statement expressing sympathy with the victims and their families. A statement from Sharif's office said the prime minister called for the "best medical treatment" to be given to the wounded.

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HUB, Pakistan: Rescue workers and volunteers unload an injured victim of a bomb blast at a Sufi shrine from an ambulance upon his arrival at a local hospital in this town near Karachi yesterday. — AP

AMIR TO ATTEND SUMMITS IN MOROCCO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah heads today to Morocco to partake in the UN Climate Change Conference and the African Union's (AU) Summit to be held in Marrakech. His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation will then head to Equatorial Guinea to partake in the fourth Africa-Arab summit to be held in the capital Malabo.

The participation of His Highness the Amir in the 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 22, reflects great interest in addressing global environmental issues, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Morocco said yesterday.

Kuwaiti envoy Abdulatif Ali Al-Yahiya said that His Highness the Amir's participation in this global environmental event is the embodiment of his role as 'Humanitarian Leader,' a title that was bestowed upon him by the UN for his great efforts in bettering all aspects of life. His Highness the Amir is aware that a healthy environment secures healthy generations that are able to achieve sustainable development,



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

especially in countries that suffer from poverty.

Yahiya lauded Morocco for hosting this international event, which is taking place in Marrakesh on November 7 to 18. More than 70 world leaders, 30,000 civic societies representatives, and delegates from 197 nations, are attending the Marrakesh climate change confer-

ence. In 1994, Kuwait signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); an international environmental treaty which entered into force on 21 March 1995. Kuwait also signed Kyoto Protocol in 2005; an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. In addition, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, representing Kuwait, signed Paris Agreement last year in New York.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud yesterday, expressing his deepest sympathy over the death of Prince Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister also sent similar cables to King Salman. —KUNA

'HEADING GLOBAL' CONFERENCE PROMOTES SMART, SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE GROWTH

KUWAIT: The 'Heading Global' Conference, which will be held under the patronage of his Excellency Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, discusses knowledge economy, and leading change through knowledge economy to build better future, official spokesperson of the Public Authority For Applied Education And Training (PAAET) Fatemah Al-Azemi announced. The event takes place from the 14th to the 16th of November in Futouh Ballroom in Regency Hotel. Entitled 'Journey to Excellence,' the vision of the conference is promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Public Authority For Applied Education And Training, as one of the biggest academic institutions in Kuwait, believe that education, training and development are the heart and soul of knowledge for the development vision 2030. In this conference where educators, policy makers, practitioners and individual citizens will engage and interact to frame current emerging challenges



Fatemah Al-Azemi

and derive solutions and opportunities for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for the region.

There are different themes that will be discussed in this conference by national, regional and international keynote speakers such as, Smart Business Environment, Smart Cities, Smart ICT, Smart Mobility, Smart Energy, Smart Society and Smart Negotiation.

There are a lot of sessions that include full papers and technical presentations distributed over the conference. An exhibition will be opened on the first day and will continue for two days with many participants from different organizations. "We believe in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training that youth are the backbone to every nation and can change the future of the society, so we must motivate them," Azemi said. "A student contest called 'Smart Kuwait' is organized for them and different fields for this competition are offered. Winners will be awarded on the opening of the conference." Pre-conference Training courses and workshops will start today and some of them will last for five days and most of these training courses are certified from KM Institute. The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training takes great pleasure in inviting you to attend and participate in this event that will be held in Regency Hotel, Futouh Ballroom tomorrow at 9:00 am.



KUWAIT: Yellow vehicles participate in a parade during the initiative.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

OVER 35,000 ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SIX MONTHS

KUWAIT: A total of 35,695 accidents took place during the first half of 2016, resulting in 305 deaths, a senior Interior Ministry official said yesterday. However, these statistics show shows a three percent decrease in fatalities compared to 314 recorded during the first nine months of 2015, Relations And Security Media Director Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said, attributing this drop to "awareness efforts and campaigns."

Hashash made his statements

at the sidelines of a special ceremony organized by the Nowair Al-Kuwait initiative under auspices of Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah. Indicating that kindness is at the base of the civilized world's values, Hashash stressed that the initiative aims at spreading awareness regarding the importance of civilized manners on roads such as giving way, as well as following and respecting traffic laws and safety regulations through using signals, leaving enough space ahead and dealing with other

motorists with a smile.

Hashash added that all state departments are mainly concerned with finding suitable solutions to the violence phenomena among youth in various venues such as schools, within families or at various markets and shopping malls. In addition, Hashash urged all motorists to respect speed limits, avoid driving through red traffic lights, leave enough space, fasten seat belts, have kids seated in backseats and abstain from using mobile phones while driving.



INTERIOR MINISTRY LAUNCHES LICENSE DEPARTMENT AT KMC ASIMAH BRANCH

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's Traffic Department and Kuwait Motoring Company (KMC), the premier driving school, recently launched the License Department at KMC premises, Asimah. The event was graced by Major General Fahad Al-Shuwaye, the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary of the Traffic Affairs, Colonel Mishal Al Hajraf, Colonel Salem Al Hajji, KMC management, as well as local press.

At the event Saqer Al-Rashoud, Public and Governmental Relations Manager at KMC, commented by saying: "Our partnership with Kuwait General Traffic Department clearly shows

our commitment to provide customers with convenient solutions." He stated that the new License department was a great added value that would speed up the paperwork and enhance KMC customers' experience. Rashoud underlined that KMC is always eager to exceed customers' expectations and its goal is to create a "one-stop shop" experience for them. Having the License department in KMC Asimah branch is the first step in KMC's plan for 2017 and its ambition is to expand the same service to its other two branches in Farwaniya and Sabahiya.

As Kuwait's first and most prominent provider of driving education, with history spanning over two decades, KMC has established itself as an institute that focuses on trust, safety and professionalism. KMC has multiple state-of-the-art facilities that provide a range of general and specialized courses across different categories of motor vehicles. Living by its motto 'Safety is our priority,' KMC aims at reducing traffic accidents by providing high quality driving training which encourages customers to develop attitudes and behaviors focused on safety awareness.



KUWAIT: Major General Fahad Al-Shuwaye (second from left) opens the licenses department at KMC Asimah branch.—Photos by Joseph Shagra



Gulf Establishment

would like to inform our esteemed clients that

Mr. Umer Farouk Sundal

the son of late

Mr. Mohammed Akhter Sundal,

has joined us as

our new Operations Manager.

We want to assure you that we will continue to provide the same high level of service and satisfaction which you have come to expect from our brand for over 30 years.

General Manager

Abdul Rasoul Ahmad Mousa Al Sahhaf



KUWAIT: An archive photo showing citizens participating in elections to elect the first parliament in Kuwait. — KUNA

FIRST PARLIAMENT CHURNS OUT NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis prepare to head to the polls on November 26 for parliamentary elections that will set in motion the National Assembly's 15th legislative term. Despite the fact that more than half a century has elapsed since democracy first surfaced in the country, Kuwait's very first parliamentary election remains the most significant happening in the nation's history, where on January 23, 1963 the first members of parliament were elected.

Moreover, the inaugural parliamentary elections were contested by a total of 205 candidates, as 50 MPs formed the first parliament which served its first term on January 28, 1963, featuring a lineup comprised of 15 ministers with the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah at the helm.

On January 29, 1963, the first parliamentary session was held with Abdulaziz Al-Saqer chosen as National Assembly Speaker and Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq as his deputy. Furthermore, in an unprecedented turn of events, a parliament speaker tendered his resignation

citing constitutional infractions dealing with ministers occupying other positions while serving their posts. Subsequently, eight MPs followed suit and resigned due to similar constitutional violations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait lost a proponent of democracy when Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, a man credited with introducing democracy to the country, passed away on November 24, 1965, as his brother, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah succeeded him to become Kuwait's 12th ruler.

Parliament's first legislative term was a highly eventful one, as more than 170 new laws were enacted and 268 suggestions pitched. The laws dealt with issues that ran the gamut from compulsory education and industry to aviation and finance, amongst other notable ones including Kuwait's entry into the International Parliamentary Union. The end of parliament's first legislative term paved the way for new elections held on January 25, 1967, which heralded the start of the second term. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's long history of joint governance, which dates back to the 18th century, crowned a very unique and pioneering democratic experience that was crowned by the 1962 Constitution. A struggle for democracy continued in the subsequent years but results were different depending on the local and regional circumstances and variables. Compared to the rest of the Gulf, the Kuwaiti experience of democracy is a leading one and is one of the best experiences of democracy in the Arab world.

To elaborate on this subject, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) interviewed a number of senior-level academicians, foreign policy experts and renowned journalists have extolled the deep-rooted democratic process enjoyed by the State of Kuwait, saying it represents a beacon in the region.

Regulating mechanism

Marcela Ganea, an international journalist based in Bucharest, Romania, said that free elections are vital for a country as they work like a regulating mechanism ensuring a balance of visions and representation.

She added that "through elections, Kuwait can preserve its political stability, security and openness for further economic development based on knowledge and innovation. Kuwait is already a pillar of stability in the Gulf." She pointed out that in all countries, voters cast their ballot for a better life, adding that Kuwait has regional security and economic challenges because of the decline of the oil prices.

Michael Herb, Director of the Middle East Institute in the United States said meanwhile that Kuwait has, in many respects, stronger political institutions, adding that elections are very largely free and fair, where the National Assembly gives citizens a voice in how policy is made by the government.

Unprecedented system

Dr Ahmad Abdulmalik, Media Professor at the Community College of Qatar and media and academic researcher indicated that Kuwait has succeeded in establishing an unprecedented democratic system in the Arab region, adding that application of democratic life and the sustainability of the culture of popular participation, which is absent from many of the peoples of the earth, is a success or an anchor for the normal growth of democracy.

"Of course, every march, whatever its motives are, is subjected to hindrance over priorities between the Democracy House and Government House, saying that such benefits the march," he said. "I believe that the Kuwaiti people's cohesiveness around their legitimate government during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was a safety valve for the continuation of the democratic approach in Kuwait, and reaffirmation of the right of the people of Kuwait in practicing their partnership in administration of the country's public matters." However, "we should not underestimate the errors that accompanied democratization, because there had been nations which preceded Kuwait in the Democratic process, and faced those mistakes."



The National Assembly

Abdulmalik asserted that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has always been 'leader of democracy' especially amidst critical and complicated situations. He said that it is important that any parliament becomes strong which in turn would solidify the government against any threat.

He said that stability of the democratic experience in Kuwait has become an unprecedented in the Arab countries, adding that Kuwait's leading position in the world puts a great responsibility on it to play a role in the stability of societies, head towards positive development and fight corruption. The State of Kuwait, he said, has played a positive role in resolving many regional disputes and offered generous aid, and perhaps the most recently was the establishment of a fund to assist the Syrian people, besides hosting the Yemeni talks.

'Deep-rooted'

Furthermore, Mohammad Ismael Harbi, head of the diplomatic section in the Qatari Al-Watan newspaper also said that the democratic process in Kuwait is an example to be followed by many countries in the region, describing it as "deep-rooted and ancient."

He said that Kuwait had known democracy since the beginning of the 3rd decade of last century with the formation of the first consultative council in 1921 as a way by the Kuwaitis to establish some sort of a developed council so as to run their affairs following their success in the issuance of the 'Social Justice' and 'Diving Law' which was like a social contact between ship owners and those concerned with the main revenue of the country then, which all had positively reflected on the prosperity and stability of the country.

He praised the Kuwaiti rulers, since the founding of Kuwait, for giving the people the chance to co-run the affairs of the country, thus, substantiating the genuine spirit of democracy

in the Kuwaiti society on shura, come-together and cohesiveness, especially the big role played by diwanis which were like small local parliaments prior to the establishment of the current parliamentary councils.

"Such steps had positively reflected on relations between the ruler and the people becoming a one family," he said. He also extolled the heroic stances of Kuwaiti parliamentarians who supported the legitimacy during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, describing their stances as "honorable and courageous."

Political heritage

Kuwaitis are proud of their active political heritage. Elections were first held in 1963. The National Assembly building became an icon for Kuwaiti independence after the invasion by Saddam Hussein in 1990.

The Constitution of Kuwait was ratified in 1962 and has elements of a presidential and parliamentary system of government. The constitution stipulates that Kuwait must have an elected legislature (the National Assembly). Citizens who have reached the age of 21 years can vote. Parliamentary candidates must be eligible to vote and at least 30 years old.

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

Baddah, also Head of the Europe and the Americas department told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the foreign media department has invited 75 senior-level experts in the field of media and journalism including CNN, Al-Arabia, Sky News as well as a number of other prestigious newspapers to cover the upcoming elections in Kuwait. — KUNA

INTERIOR MINISTRY SAYS READY FOR ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Director General of the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media at the Interior Ministry Adel Al-Hashash unveiled yesterday that some 4,000 police personnel would be distributed across the country to secure the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26.

Hashash said that the ministry is fully ready for the upcoming elections, adding that the security institution would spare no effort to substantiate axioms of democracy in the country and would take all necessary measures to ensure a smooth process for the elections.

He pointed out that the ministry has also made all preparations to ensure smooth flow of traffic and security during the election process and make sure that voters can exercise their rights at ease and select their candidates with transparency and integrity under the full supervision of the judicial body until election results come out.

Hashash said that the ministry is also taking charge of spreading awareness for candidates, their delegates and voters on the traffic and security precautions pertinent to elections, in addition to making it easy for the foreign press wishing to cover the elections.

He added that preparations for setting up a press and media center equipped with the latest media means have been completed, revealing that some 20 self-service devices have been distributed at a number of co-operative societies and commercial



Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash

complexes through which voters can inquire directly about their voting information and locations of the polling centers.

He also said that the ministry has prepared short messages containing the needed measures and awareness texts pertinent to legal, traffic and security measures and coordinate with the telecommunications companies to spread the awareness messages to the voters.

He concluded by saying that the ministry has facilitated a website, on the ministry's official website, for inquiry about the voting registration information, in addition to the publication of posters containing awareness messages and billboards for the candidates in all areas, intersections and main roads. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Young Kuwaiti journalist Ghalyah Talal Al-Ghannam delivers a national poem. — KUNA

CHILDREN AT ELECTORAL HQS: A STEP ENHANCES CULTURAL AWARENESS ON DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

KUWAIT: In light of the ongoing democratic process witnessed by the country, many parents are seen accompanying their children to various electoral headquarters arranged by the candidates ahead of the parliamentary elections slated for November 26th. The parents believe in the importance of instilling values of belonging and loyalty to the homeland as well as enhancing their children's cultural awareness of the genuine democratic process in the country.

And within the framework of instilling the democratic values and political upbringing, Ghalyah Talal Al-Ghannam, a young Kuwaiti journalist delivered a

national poem on the importance of loyalty and love for the homeland at one of the electoral headquarters. Such step will for sure have a positive impact on citizens on the importance of patriotism, belonging and loyalty as well as instilling values of democracy and freedom in the hearts of the young generation.

And when innocence of children blends in with eagerness for knowledge, a new generation emerges carrying the banner of freedom, success and innovation to complete the march of development and reform in a country that seeks progress and prosperity by the hands of its people. — KUNA



WOMEN ELECTORAL HQS: SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM BEFORE ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Women electoral headquarters are considered significant educational platforms to spread awareness on the importance of popular participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26th. Such headquarters will host a number of seminars and lectures that precede the elections.

Many of these headquarters will also

be dedicated to discuss issues pertinent to women, as well as their ambitions in a unique democratic atmosphere. The Kuwaiti woman, since given her political right to vote and run for elections in 2005, has actively interacted in the various political, social and economic issues and left a good impression that made her society proud. — KUNA

In Brief



PRINCE CHARLES
LAUDS TIES

MANAMA: Prince Charles of Wales lauded yesterday the strong and historical ties linking Kuwait and Britain. This statement came on the sidelines of a dinner banquet held by King of Bahrain Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa in honor of Prince Charles. While attending the dinner banquet, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah lauded the statement by Prince Charles, hoping that both nations will seek more venues of cooperation in the near future. — KUNA



BRITAIN SUPPORTS
KUWAIT

LONDON: British Minister of State for Middle East and Africa Tobias Ellwood reaffirmed Friday that his country stands by the State of Kuwait, and is ready to help it if asked to do so. Speaking on the occasion of the 54th anniversary of the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah's approval of the 1962 Constitution, Ellwood lauded Kuwait's great efforts to promote its democracy, and hoped that Kuwait would continue developing its democratic practices. — KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE
DOWN TO \$40.03
PER BARREL

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by \$1.08 to \$40.03 per barrel (pb) Friday after it was at \$41.11 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price of the Brent Crude also went down by \$1.09, hitting \$44.75 pb. The American crude also went down \$1.25 to \$43.41 pb. — KUNA

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man performs an acrobatic stunt while participating in a jet ski competition organized recently in Kuwait. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



ZAIN PARTICIPATES
IN CCSE JOBS FAIR

COMPANY SHOWCASED AVAILABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation in the Jobs Fair held by the College of Computing Sciences and Engineering (CCSE) in the main campus in Al-Edaliya. Zain was present at the job fair, which served a large number of students majoring in various computer sciences and engineering studies. The company highlighted to visiting students the available job vacancies in the company, especially in the fields of IT engineering. The company also provided a detailed explanation of the nature of work at various departments and divisions as well as answering any questions and inquiries the students had.

Zain is keen on participating in career fairs as part of its Human Resources strategy, which closely focuses on supporting the educational sector hand in hand with various universities, colleges, and educational institutions in Kuwait to provide Kuwaiti students and graduates with career opportunities in the private sector. Zain is committed to playing an active role in the investment in the human element. The company seeks to provide young and eager Kuwaitis with suitable job opportunities that allow them to apply their practical skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.

KIB SPONSORS 'HOW TO USE PR' WORKSHOP AT GUST

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently sponsored the 'How to Use PR' workshop, a two-day educational seminar organized by the Public Relations (PR) Club at Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST). The Bank's sponsorship of the event came in line with its continuing efforts to support youth and students across all areas. It also fell under the umbrella of KIB's ongoing strategic partnership with the GUST PR Club. The workshop featured Ahmed Al-Mutawaa, CEO and Founder of Mubaader Services, who addressed the key role public relations plays in the success of small and medium sized businesses, exploring how aspiring entrepreneurs can best utilize this fundamental communications area for both personal and professional development. Throughout his seminar, Mutawaa encouraged students to believe in their

own abilities, calling on them to identify their personal strengths and areas of passion in order to realize their ambitions and turn their projects into a reality. Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB said: "Our sponsorship of this workshop comes as part of our ongoing support of the PR Club at GUST. It also stems from our belief in the importance of enhancing awareness and understanding about the field of public relations amongst youth, especially given that this key communications area is considered to be a fundamental component of both successful business and modern advanced societies." He further added: "KIB firmly believes that youth are one of the most important assets a country has, and they play a major role in driving national development and growth. This is why KIB continuously

seeks out opportunities to help support this segment, in line with our social responsibility commitment towards supporting education and youth-focused initiatives." Najia reiterated that KIB is committed to investing in young local talents, actively participating in various youth-led events and activities, and offering support to numerous youth-driven projects. The Bank also aims to maintain an ongoing open dialogue with the youth population in Kuwait, utilizing every available communication channel, including social media, in order to better understand their needs and interests. Within this context, the Bank strives to offer innovative banking products and services especially designed to cater to the needs of youth - including the Shabab Al-Dawli Account, which combines the benefits of saving and investment.



DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT PASSED HIGHEST RATE OF LAWS: GHANEM

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Former speaker and the second electoral constituency candidate Marzouq Al-Ghanem said thanks to activating the role played by the Audit Bureau through the 2013 parliament, 52 percent of the violations in various ministries over the past decade have been addressed. Speaking to constituents in Faiha, Ghanem stressed that the Audit Bureau's remarks are the real indicators of violations and corruption. He added that the bureau made remarks to all ministers and gave them a one-month period to respond to those remarks, which eventually helped reduce violations by 52 percent. Ghanem also said the 2013 parliament passed 114 laws - the highest rate of legislations by any parliament. He noted that the parliament resolved a great deal of the housing problem by building new cities and distributing 30 percent more units than those distributed since 1956.

Job opportunities

The Egyptian labor attache in Kuwait Mohammed Safan said 1,200 job opportunities were found for Egyptians over the past two months and that more were yet to materialize in the near future.

Suspended companies

The manpower authority instructed all labor departments concerning the procedures to be followed with various companies according to special codes. The authority explained that companies' files suspended under codes 31, 32, 72, 331, 332, 231, 233 and 131 would remain totally suspended and they are only allowed to cancel residencies pending departure. The authority added that all types of transactions would remain suspended for files under code 71, while those suspended under code 73 would not be allowed to add new workers or renew work permits. "Those suspended under code 74 cannot add new files, while those under codes 333 and 234 are only allowed transfers or cancellations

for departure," the authority explained.

Social allowance

Secretary General of the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program Fauzi Al-Majdali said the government aims to limit and reduce social allowance paid to citizens in the public sector. Majdali explained that the aim was to fight all forms of violations, forgery and unlawful payment through fake recruitment of citizens only to get the allowance.

Economic unity

GCC Economic Development authority members, in a meeting in Riyadh, set a special schedule to put the GCC unified customs and unified market decisions into practice by the end of 2017 in order to eventually achieve complete economic unity by 2025. Assistant secretary general Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Owaisheq said the focus is on these issues and that specialists in GCC countries would coordinate to exchange views so that they could all work in parallel to Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan.

MINISTRY: RUMORS ON FAKE CANCER MEDICATION 'UNTRUE'

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health dismissed as "untrue" rumors on the administering of fake cancer drugs. The Ministry said in a statement yesterday that a committee was formed to investigate the matter. After examination, the committee proved that all cancer medication that was described as "fake" on social media had undergone technical and bioequivalence testing before they were registered at the Ministry as "fit" for cancer medication.

Cancer therapists also stressed that no complications or side effects have been recorded on those who have been taking these medications. The committee pointed out that the medicines were purchased in accordance to regulations by GCC joint tender for drugs and healthcare products and European Medicines Agency (EMA). The Ministry urged the public to disregard these rumors that attempt to impact health security in the country, emphasizing that the Ministry is administering the best and safest medications. — KUNA

BIDDERS INVITED TO MANAGE SHARE DISTRIBUTION OF AZ-ZOUR NORTH ONE

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Authority of Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority has invited bidders, banks and local financial firms, to present offers consultative and financial services for managing the distribution of the shares of the first Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula (Az-Zour North One) on Kuwaiti citizens. The authority said in a statement yesterday that 50 percent of the Az-Zour North One shares will be offered to Kuwaitis in Initial Public Offering (IPO), with a nominal value of 100 fils for each share. Az-Zour North One, is the first gas-fired combined cycle power and water desalination plant in Kuwait, with a capacity of minimum 1,500 megawatts of electricity and 102-107 million imperial gallons of water per day.

The gas-fired combined cycle power and water plant is the first phase of Az-Zour

North Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP). A consortium GDF SUEZ and Sumitomo has been undertaking the operation, and maintenance of Az-Zour North One on 50:50 basis.

Initial operation of the Az-Zour North One started on 7 May, 2015, after 18 months of construction, installation and examination, the authority said. Commercial operation began on 28 June 2015, as the plant started providing electricity. Full commercial operation is due to kick off before the end of this month. The winner consultative body of the bid will be in charge of making sure that Az-Zour North One has fulfilled all guarantees and documents that all procedures for commercial operation have been completed in line with the ministry and GDF SUEZ, the authority statement added. — KUNA

KUWAITI ACADEMIC WINS L'OREAL-UNESCO AWARD

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) said Saturday Dr Laila Habeeb, a professor of medicine at Kuwait University, had won L'Oreal-UNESCO award for its research: 'For Women in Science'.

On the prize, granted by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the professor said the award spotlights women's significance role in various scientific fields, and encourages women to manifest their

research capabilities in order to promote and develop their societies, the KFAS said in a statement. She said the annual prize is given to five efficient specialists in science from each world region, depending on their scientific research careers and influence in society. She noted that she had conducted research and tests pertinent to muscular dystrophy, the KFAS pointed out. She voiced much appreciation to the significant role of the KFAS in conducting her medical research. — KUNA

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الجريدة

Al-Jarida

THE MOST RECENT ISSUE

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

Kuwait will be facing many challenges in the few coming years regardless if the coming parliament will remain in office for four years or less. Locally, Kuwait is likely to become incapable of paying salaries out of its income soon. There are also possible educational problems if expatriate teachers refuse to work in Kuwait. The health ministry was devastated by Ali Al-Obaidi, while Kuwaiti sports activities' suspension deprives our youth from representing their country, in addition to many other concerns.

Internationally, the world is very close to finding alternatives to oil produced by regional countries, the Middle East is rapidly changing in view of accelerating regional conflicts, and the election of the new US president may also have an impact on the entire world.

Amidst such a vortex of problems and challenges, I find it unreasonable and unacceptable that most parliamentary election candidates' campaign programs revolve around the most recent issue viewed by the previous parliament - which is the increase of petrol prices that is being used by them all, including those who approved it in the previous parliament and are now against it only for electoral reasons. Keeping talking about this issue only implies how shallow and visionless many candidates are, which is surely a very dangerous indicator about how things might be run in the future if these candidates make it to the next parliament.

A good follower and observer of the last five parliaments or more would easily notice people's choices in subsequent elections were made according to the most recent issue discussed by the previous parliament. For instance, the 2006 parliament was elected upon candidates' adoption of calls to follow the five-constituency electoral system. Elected MPs approved the bill and then started fighting and fragmenting over it.

In the 2008 parliament, selection was made upon adoption of calls to increase payrolls, and as soon as this was approved, we went into the Dow conflict, upon which the following selection was made. In the first annulled parliament of 2012, selection was made based on those in favor of dismissing the former PM and an unprecedented majority was formed, but was very random, blundering and lost, which was revealed to everybody within only four months.

Nowadays, we either do the same thing again and try to follow the same path with hopes of achieving different results, or look for other more serious options with more depth that can be worthy of true parliamentary membership that is capable of facing the current challenges and circumstances threatening us. But changing faces alone is not enough unless it is accompanied with new serious visions and real reflections of ideas that would push the country forward, because this is how countries prosper.

Candidate Waleed Al-Tabtabaei held his first electoral seminar under the slogan 'Everything Except the Holy Mosque!', a topic chosen in view of press headlines on the previous day. Three other candidates took part in the seminar. That seminar and its title prove the lack of vision they suffer from, because the fact its title was based on a news story published a day earlier makes us wonder: What if the story was not published then?!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



النباة

Al-Anbaa

‘MUGASEES’ MARKET

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

In the decades before Kuwait struck oil, we had many old markets. Some of these still exist, while others have vanished and ceased to exist. These include ‘Wajef’ (standing), Harem (women), Ibn Duajj, Jatt (fodder), Meat, Fish, Vegetable, Tin, Blacksmiths, Charcoal, Water, Dates, Al-Mojel, White, Jews, Inner, Besht (cloak) and Mugasees markets.

The Mugaseess market is one of those that are not needed anymore. It used to convene following the Asr (evening) prayers on Fridays and lasted till sunset. Etymologically, the word ‘mugasees’ means destitute people who usually sold furniture or household items they owned to make some money to tide for themselves and their families. In addition, many stolen items were usually sold in this market, where people could make prized bargains and buy things cheaply.

In 1935, the late Amir Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

gave my late father, Mohammed Saleh Al-Ojairi, a piece of land in Salhiya (the location of Salhiya fire station nowadays), where we built a house, a mosque and another house as an endowment annexed to the mosque. One day at noon, worshippers preparing for prayers found that a pulley used to draw water out of a well was missing. They reported the theft to my father, who asked if they had seen the thief, but none of them had seen him and they failed to describe him.

“I will bring it back to you before sunset,” he told them with his usual sure words and wit. The people thought he was going to buy a new one for them, but to their surprise, just before sunset, he brought them back the very same pulley. “How did you get it back?” they asked. “I simply bought it very cheaply from the thief himself at the Mugasees Market,” my father told them!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

In addition, many stolen items were usually sold in this market

Crime

Report

COASTGUARD OFFICER CAUGHT WITH DRUGS

KUWAIT: A coastguard agent was arrested for abusing meth and walking around in his uniform in Hawally without realizing where he was going. The man was taken to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) for further action.

Fatal accident

An Asian was killed and five others, including an American, were injured when six vehicles collided into each other along Abdaly highway. In other accidents, a Yemeni man was arrested for running over a 25-year-old citizen in Hawally. The citizen was rushed to hospital with various injuries. Meanwhile, a 37-year-old Iranian was injured when he lost control of his bike and collided into a citizen's vehicle in Sharq. Separately, an Egyptian sustained a serious head injury when he lost control of his vehicle and it turned over along the Seventh Ring Road.

Armed robberies

A policeman assigned to guard a suspect facing charges in 25 armed robberies was detained when the suspect managed to escape from the Jahra prosecution office, said security sources, noting that the policeman was detained until the bedoon suspect turned himself in.

Drunk

A drunk citizen was arrested at a shopping mall in Ahmadi while he was trying to locate his vehicle in the parking lot. Security sources said the man turned out to be wanted for assault.

Policemen assaulted

Three citizens were arrested for assaulting police detectives who stopped one of them for assaulting a girl in Hawally.

Purse stolen

An Egyptian woman reported that an unidentified robber stole her purse at a Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh shopping mall. The woman claimed that she had cash and jewelry in her purse and described the robber as someone in sportswear. A case was filed.

Passed out

A non-Kuwaiti man was arrested after he passed out after abusing meth, said security sources, adding that the man was found unconscious behind the wheel in Farwaniya, and that he finally woke up in custody.

Theft

A citizen reported that someone broke his vehicle's window and stole his wallet with his IDs and KD 90 in cash, along with a mobile phone.

Illegal sale

Farwaniya detectives arrested three expats for illegally selling meat at their residence in the most unhygienic manner using primitive tools, said security sources, noting that the source of the meat was also unknown. Meanwhile, a Sri Lankan man was arrested for selling homebrewed liquor in Fahaheel. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Mijbil Alayoub



Ooredoo and Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Association members in a group photo.

OOREDOO DONATES LAPTOPS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

IN COOPERATION WITH AL-NOURI CHARITY ASSOCIATION

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network for 2016, announced that it has donated laptops to families in need in Kuwait in order to develop themselves in their careers and education in cooperation with Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Association.

The laptops were gifted to Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Association by Mijbil Alayoub, Senior Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait and were received by Amine Khalaf Al-Nabhan, Resources Development and

Media Manager at Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Association.

Commenting on this initiative, Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Senior Director at Ooredoo Kuwait said, “We are pleased to tie up with Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Association to promote good will and the act of giving back to society, which is an integral component of our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy in addition to instilling the values of humanity in society.” Ayoub added, “This initiative came from our employ-

ees to lend a helping hand to those in need and to stress that laptops are vital for career development as well as education”.

It is worth mentioning that Ooredoo collaborated with Abdullah Al-Nouri Charitable Association during Ramadan in a campaign that aimed at providing Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan with the help required to fulfill their minimum needs. The donations were received last August on the Lebanese-Syrian border.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait launched a beach cleaning initiative to protect the environment and migratory birds.

GULF BANK WELCOMES RED ACCOUNT'S DRAW WINNER

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank welcomed Soad Abdullah Houran Al-Marzook, the 8th winner of the monthly cash draw for the Red Account 2016, at the head office at Gulf bank. Manal Barakat, Manager, Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank congratulated her on winning the KD1,000.

New Red Account customers who open or transfer their student allowance will be eligible to enter the

monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Escalade Cadillac. For further information about Gulf Bank's red account and other prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at www.e-gulf-bank.com.



Manal Barakat, Manager, Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank congratulates Soad Abdullah Houran Al-Marzook, the 8th winner of the monthly cash draw for the Red Account 2016.



Ban sure Trump will drop rhetoric, show leadership



SEOUL: South Korean protesters hold up signs that read “Step down Park Geun-hye” during a rally calling for South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down yesterday. —AP

PRESSURE ON S KOREA PRESIDENT TO QUIT

ANGRY ‘MILLION’-STRONG PROTEST DEMANDS OUSTER OF PARK

SEOUL: Pressure on South Korea’s scandal-hit president to resign escalated sharply yesterday, with organizers claiming a million-strong turnout at one of the largest - and loudest - anti-government protests the country has ever witnessed. Chanting “Step down Park Geun-Hye!” enormous crowds, including high school students, Catholic nuns, laborers, farmers, retirees and young couples with babies, massed in the streets of central Seoul in a powerful display of popular anger and dissent.

While police put the turnout at 260,000, organizers said one million people took part in what was the third in a series of weekly protests over a corruption scandal that has left Park fighting for her political survival. On the back of official appeals for calm, police deployed around 25,000 officers, many of them in full riot gear, while police buses and trucks blocked every access road - major or minor - around the presidential Blue House.

As night fell, Seoul’s main ceremonial boulevard Gwanghwamun became a moving river of flickering candles held by the banner-waving, slogan-chanting demonstrators

calling on Park to quit. “It was our wedding anniversary yesterday but we cancelled our anniversary trip and came to Seoul because we thought it was more important for our daughter,” said Cho Joo-Pyo, who came with his wife and their two-year-old.

Cho’s family had travelled from Jeonju, around 200 km south of Seoul - one of tens of thousands who travelled from cities across the country to participate in the biggest anti-government rally since the pro-democracy protests of the late 1980s.

Fraud and Scandal

The scandal engulfing Park for the past three weeks has focused on her close friend, Choi Soon-Sil, who is currently under arrest on charges of fraud and abuse of power. Prosecutors are investigating allegations that Choi, 60, leveraged their friendship to coerce donations from large companies like Samsung to non-profit foundations which she set up and used for personal gain. She is also accused of interfering in government affairs, despite holding no official position.

Lurid reports of the unhealthy influence Choi wielded over Park have seen the president’s approval ratings plunge to five percent - a record low for a serving president. And yesterday’s rally was a focal point for a litany of other complaints, from plunging rice prices to the government’s handling of the 2014 Sewol ferry disaster. One group dressed in traditional funeral gear carried a large “presidential coffin” covered with a banner reading: “Step down Park Geun-Hye, killer of agriculture, farms and farmers.”

The family-friendly protest was peaceful but sometimes reached deafening volumes as performers and activists whipped the crowds into a raucous frenzy from a giant stage. “We’re so close to the Blue House. Let her hear us roar!” yelled one speaker who was rewarded with a massed bellow of approval.

Spurned Apologies

In an effort to soothe public anger, Park has issued several public apologies, voicing her personal “heartbreak” at being the cause of such widespread anger and distress. She has

also reshuffled top officials and even agreed to relinquish some of her extensive executive powers, but the popular calls for her to step down have been relentless. “She has apologized but I don’t think it was sincere,” said college student Ahn Ye-jin. “As Korean citizens, it is up to us to bring about change in this country and that is why I am here today. Park has to go,” Ahn said.

Most experts have suggested the president, who has just over a year left of her single five-year term, will be able to ride out the crisis and remain in office, albeit with her authority and ability to govern seriously undermined. Opposition lawmakers have largely avoided direct resignation calls and appear more interested in extracting further concessions from Park in terms of devolving power to the legislature.

But the sheer size and volume of yesterday’s demonstration will be impossible to just ignore. “Judging from what I saw today, people’s resentment against her is simply too strong for Park to stare this down,” said Lee Yeon-Ho, a political science professor at Yonsei University. “People are literally seething with anger,” Lee said. — AFP



BAGRAM, Afghanistan: Afghanistan’s National Army soldiers block the main road to the Bagram Airfield’s main gate yesterday. — AP

FOUR AMERICANS KILLED IN US BASE ATTACK IN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: Four Americans were killed yesterday in a suicide bombing inside the largest US military base in Afghanistan, Pentagon chief Ashton Carter said, in a major breach of security. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing inside the heavily fortified Bagram Airfield, north of the capital Kabul, which left 16 other US service members and a Polish soldier wounded as the insurgents ramp up attacks on Western targets.

The dead included two American soldiers and two contractors, in an assault which highlights rising insecurity in Afghanistan nearly two years after US-led NATO forces formally ended their combat operations. “Force protection is always a top priority for us in Afghanistan, and we will investigate this tragedy to determine any steps we can take to improve it,” defense secretary Carter said, adding he was “deeply saddened” by the news. “We will not be deterred in our mission to protect our homeland and help Afghanistan secure its own future.”

The blast was caused by a suicide attacker who blew himself up near a dining facility inside the base, said Waheed Sediqi, spokesman for the governor of Parwan province where Bagram is located. “The attacker was one of the Afghan laborers working there,” Sediqi told AFP. Bagram district governor Abdul Shakoor Qudusi described the explosion around 0100 GMT as “powerful”, saying it reverberated across the area. The base was put on lockdown following the attack.

The attack represents a brazen security

breach inside one of the most heavily guarded military installations in Afghanistan. The United States has around 10,000 troops in Afghanistan, with the largest contingent stationed at the Bagram base. The base is enveloped by multiple layers of Afghan and American guards, security cameras and watch towers, and a surveillance blimp keeps a close watch on the surrounding areas.

“To the family and friends of those who lost their lives today, we share your loss and our thoughts are with you. We offer you our deepest condolences,” said John Nicholson, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan. “For the family and friends of those wounded in today’s attack, let me assure you they are receiving the best care possible, and we will keep them in our thoughts today.”

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said one of the insurgent group’s suicide bombers carried out the assault, claiming it inflicted “heavy casualties on US invaders”. The militants are stepping up attacks nationwide before the onset of winter, when the fighting usually ebbs. Bagram Airfield has frequently come under attack by Taliban insurgents. Last December, a motorcycle-riding Taliban suicide bomber killed six US soldiers near the base in one of the deadliest attacks on foreign troops in the country in 2015.

The latest assault came after a powerful Taliban truck bomb struck the German consulate in Afghanistan’s northern Mazar-i-Sharif city late Thursday, killing at least six people and wounding more than 100 others.

The uptick in attacks comes just days after a bitter US presidential election. Afghanistan got scarcely a passing mention in the election campaign - even though the situation there will be an urgent matter for the new president. President-elect Donald Trump is set to inherit America’s longest war with no end in sight. — AFP

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DAMASCUS, ALLIES UPBEAT ON TRUMP WIN, AWAIT POLICIES

BEIRUT: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and his allies hope to benefit from Donald Trump's election win, believing it has saved them from the risks of an interventionist Clinton administration. Trump's win may have already shifted the course of the Russian-backed military campaign in Aleppo. A senior pro-Assad official told Reuters that plans to capture the rebel-held east by January were shaped around an assumption Clinton would win.

The confidence in Damascus will have been justified if some of Trump's comments on Syria crystallize into policy, though there are questions over how far he will follow through on suggestions such as cooperating with Russia - Assad's most powerful military ally - against Islamic State. One complicating factor could be Trump's tough stance on Iran, Assad's other main military backer. Trump has threatened to rip up the nuclear deal with Iran and heaped criticism on the sanctions relief it brought. Long-standing Republican aversion to Assad may also block any big

policy shift, analysts say. Yet Trump has struck a different tone to current US policy on some aspects of the multi-sided Syrian conflict, where the United States with allies Turkey and Saudi Arabia has backed some of the insurgents who have been fighting to topple Assad for more than five years. Trump has questioned the wisdom of backing rebels, played down the US goal of getting Assad to leave power, and noted that while he didn't like him, "Assad is killing ISIS" with Iran and Russia. ISIS is an acronym for Islamic State.

"This is very comforting for us and our allies in Syria," said the senior official in the military alliance fighting in support of Assad, who is backed by the Russian air force, Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Lebanon's Hezbollah, and other militias. "The wave is currently with us, serving our interests, and we must benefit from it as fully as possible," said the official, who declined to be identified by nationality or affiliation so he could give a frank assessment.

The war has shattered Syria into a patchwork of areas controlled by Assad's state, rebels battling to topple him, a powerful Kurdish militia, and the Islamic State group. It has killed hundreds of thousands of people, and created the world's worst refugee crisis. While Washington has provided significant support to the opposition, it has never matched the backing given to Assad by Russia and Iran. The rebels have seen US policy as a betrayal of their revolt, with Washington focusing mostly on the fight against IS in the last two years.

Trump's New Factor for Damascus

The ground war between Assad and the rebellion has this year focused largely on Aleppo, in the north west of Syria. The government is trying to recapture the rebel-held east of the city, the opposition's most important urban stronghold. Expectations of a Hillary Clinton win have been shaping military planning in the Aleppo campaign for some time, and the

aim had been to conclude the campaign before the new US president took office, the senior official said.

While that is still the plan, the official said Trump's victory was a "new factor." Russian President Vladimir Putin would "certainly have a different approach towards the entire Syrian crisis based on what will happen with Trump". The Syrian newspaper Al-Watan said most Syrians had felt "joy" at the result, and that many had spent the night up following the US election. Trump had no designs in Syria, or the region, it declared. While some in the opposition expressed concern about Trump's statements and views on Putin, others still hold out hope for a US policy that serves their cause. A senior rebel leader noted Trump's views on Iran were "positive" for the Syrian opposition. "Today, the role of the United States remains active and essential in Syria, regardless of whether he tries to distance himself from it, he won't be able to," said the rebel, who declined to be identified so he could talk freely. — Reuters



HASSAN SHAM, Iraq: Displaced Iraqi men, who fled from Mosul, carry mattresses at a camp for internally displaced people east of Mosul yesterday. — AP

‘INTENSE’ FIGHTING RAGES IN MOSUL AS CIVILIANS FLEE

FORCES MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS RAQQA

MOSUL: Elite Iraqi forces engaged in "intense" fighting with militants in eastern Mosul yesterday, an officer said, as civilians who had been trapped by the fighting sought to flee the city. Iraqi forces launched a massive operation to retake the country's second city from the Islamic State group on October 17, and the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) special forces have pushed the jihadists back from some Mosul neighborhoods. In neighboring Syria, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said they were making progress towards Raqqa, the other remaining city in the cross-border "caliphate" that IS declared two years before.

But there are still weeks if not months of fighting ahead in Mosul, and Raqqa may take even longer, with the SDF saying it is still some 30 km from the city. "The fighting is intense this morning. We're trying to fortify our positions in Arbajiyah before continuing our attack into Al-Bakr," said CTS Staff Lieutenant Colonel Muntadhar Salem, referring to two Mosul areas.

Salem later clarified that the aim was to surround Al-Bakr but not to assault it for now. Staff Lieutenant Colonel Ali Fadhel also confirmed

that objective, saying: "We... are advancing towards Al-Bakr so that we can surround it." "There were three car bombs coming out from Al-Bakr toward our positions that we spotted with our drone and hit with our tanks," Salem said. The militants are also using drones for observation, one of which was shot down by CTS forces, Fadhel said. The gun and mortar fire in the city lessened in intensity as the day wore on, though there was still some sniper fire in the afternoon.

Trapped for 10 Days

As fighting raged deeper in the city, civilians, some of them carrying white flags, walked toward its outskirts, gathering near an Iraqi military truck that would take them out of the city to safety. In the Arbajiyah area, CTS escorted a group of about two dozen civilians, some of them wounded, away from the front line. "We've been stuck for 10 days," Luay Abdelqader Mohammed, a resident of Arbajiyah, told AFP. "Today, these guys came and we called out to them. We put up the white flag and they got us out," Mohammed said,

referring to CTS forces. "Eight of my family members were wounded in the fighting, but (CTS) treated us here. I'm going to try to get out and go to Baghdad, and we'll only return if the situation here calms down," he said.

More than 49,000 people have now been displaced since the Mosul operation began, the International Organization for Migration said yesterday. Aid workers have said that a million or more people could be displaced by the battle for Mosul, meaning that the worst may still be ahead. In neighboring Syria, SDF forces have recaptured villages from IS as part of their advance on Raqqa, a spokeswoman said.

They were nearing the end of the first phase of the operation, the goal of which is besieging IS in the city, Jihan Sheikh Ahmed told AFP. "Yesterday six villages and a number of farms and strategic hilltops were liberated," Ahmed said yesterday. "We are now 30 kilometers from Raqqa," she said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said that at least seven SDF fighters were killed and others wounded in an IS ambush north of Raqqa on Thursday, but Ahmed denied that report. — AFP

IRAQI TROOPS LISTEN IN ON IS WALKIE-TALKIES IN MOSUL

MOSUL: "Two grooms are coming," a low voice crackles over the walkie-talkie, prompting a lanky Iraqi special forces soldier listening in Mosul to shout: "Boys! They've just dispatched two suicide bombers!" The small walkie-talkie that Iraq's elite Counter-Terrorism Service seized from an Islamic State group member in Mosul last week has proven priceless in their drive for Iraq's second city. All day, members of the CTS's Mosul and Najaf regiments take turns clutching the device up to their ears to intercept communications between jihadists in the city, the last one IS holds in Iraq.

They try to decipher IS codes and pick up where exactly militants are positioned in nearby neighborhoods. "Last week, we saw a man transporting some goods on his motorcycle in this neighborhood, and we suspected him of being an IS member," said Staff Lieutenant Colonel Muntadhar Salem, head of the CTS's Mosul regiment. He raised his voice to a near-yell so he could be heard over the incoming and outgoing mortar fire in Mosul's eastern Al-Samah neighborhood as he related how the walkie-talkie was obtained.

"I saw he had this walkie-talkie clipped to his shirt, so we took it from him and kept it," Salem said, refusing to elaborate on what happened to the man, whose name was apparently Abu Yusef. "Someone on the other end was calling 'Abu Yusef, Abu Yusef,' and Abu Yusef wasn't answering," he chuckled. The battle to retake Mosul is now in its fourth week, and CTS forces have been at the forefront of the assault on the city's east, pushing IS back from several neighborhoods. But there are still weeks, if not months, of fighting still to go.

Keep Tabs on IS Moves

Five IS walkie-talkies have been seized so far in Mosul and divvied up among various CTS regiments so that each can keep constant tabs on IS movements. The Najaf regiment was the unit that figured out references to grooms indicated incoming suicide attackers. "It's because they believe they'll go to heaven and marry many women," scoffed Staff Lieutenant Colonel Ali Fadhel, commander of the regiment which has been monitoring Abu Yusef's walkie-talkie this week. "They haven't changed their channels, which means they haven't figured out that we're listening," Fadhel said.

Two of his fighters - Ahmed and Mohammed - are on walkie-talkie duty. Brows furrowed, the device sandwiched between them, they crouch outside the two-storey house that CTS forces have made their base in Al-Samah. "That was an accent from Mosul, but sometimes you hear Algerian or Moroccan accents," Mohammed said. A voice speaks up from the walkie-talkie: "Hussam? Hussam?" Ahmed rolls his eyes, explaining that much of his time listening is spent waiting for valuable information or trying to make sure he doesn't lose the signal.

"But sometimes they reveal which neighborhoods they're in and which weapons they're going to use against us - whether mortars, rockets, snipers, or car bombs," he said. Ahmed - who first warned about the two incoming suicide bombers - called out to his comrades just a hundred meters ahead, giving the position of IS fighters. "Al-Qahira! They're between Al-Qahira and Tahrir!" CTS members started firing mortar rounds towards the Tahrir area as Ahmed pressed the walkie-talkie back up to his ear once more. — AFP



MOSUL: A soldier from the Iraqi Special Forces 2nd division listens to the walkie-talkie as forces engage Islamic State fighters pushing through the eastern Samah area and into the Arbajiyah neighborhood on Friday. — AFP

SYRIA REGIME ROLLS BACK REBEL GAINS IN ALEPPO

RUSSIAN FLOTILLA OFF SYRIAN COAST

BEIRUT: Syrian government forces have recaptured all of the areas taken by rebel fighters in a recent assault intended to break the regime siege on eastern Aleppo, a monitor said yesterday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the army had recaptured key areas including the western district of Dahiyyet Al-Assad and the village of Minyan outside the city. Regime forces also advanced south of the city, seizing two areas from the rebels.

The reversals undo all of the progress made during a recent push by opposition fighters,

including former Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham front, as they tried to end a government siege on the east of Aleppo city. Government forces surrounded the city's rebel-held east in July, severing the last supply line into opposition neighborhoods and imposing a blockade that has led to food and fuel shortages. Rebels have tried several times to break the siege, succeeding briefly in August, but no aid has entered east Aleppo since July.

The monitor said that more than 450 fighters and civilians had been killed since the rebels began their latest bid to break the siege on Oct

28. The dead include 215 Syrian and foreign opposition fighters, including some who carried out suicide bomb attacks, and 143 regime forces. Nearly 100 civilians have also been killed, the majority of them in government-held west Aleppo where 30 children were among those killed in waves of rebel rocket fire.

Five civilians including one child were killed yesterday in rebel shelling of government-held sectors of the city, the Observatory said. And a reporter working for Iran's state television channel IRIB was killed on Saturday in a rebel mortar attack in Minyan, the broadcaster said. Iran supports President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by the war that began with anti-government protests in March 2011. The city has been divided since mid-2012, and in September, the government announced an operation to recapture all of Aleppo.

The government assault, backed by Russian warplanes, has killed hundreds of people in east Aleppo and damaged and destroyed infrastructure including hospitals. A flotilla of Russian warships including the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov is now in the eastern Mediterranean off Syria's coast, a naval commander has confirmed. Russia's Interfax news agency had on Friday cited a Russian military and diplomatic source as saying that MiG and Sukhoi jets have been regularly flying into Syrian airspace from the Kuznetsov to "determine combat missions". More than 300,000 people have been killed in Syria's five-year war. — AFP



MINYAN, Syria: Syrian pro-government forces walk around in this village west of Aleppo after they retook the area from rebel fighters yesterday. — AFP

LEADERSHIP TENSIONS FLARE ON ARAFAT DEATH 'VERSARY

GAZA: Days after the 12th anniversary of the death of Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leaders descended into new recriminations over who may have been involved in the demise of the former president. Coming two weeks before a meeting that is expected to overhaul the leadership of Fatah, the party of Arafat and President Mahmoud Abbas, the accusations underscore a growing animosity that threatens the movement's stability.

Speaking at a memorial on Thursday in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Abbas said he knew who was behind Arafat's death and that an investigating panel would soon reveal its findings. "The result will come out in the nearest time possible and you will be surprised to know who did it," Abbas said. Although he stopped short of naming suspects, Abbas's comments were widely seen as referring to his main political rival - Mohammad Dahlan, a former Fatah security chief.

Dahlan, a fierce Abbas critic who lives in self-imposed exile in the United Arab Emirates, took to Facebook yesterday to point the finger at Abbas. "He (Abbas) is not qualified to make accusations and he personally is in the circle of accusation and the sole beneficiary of Abu Ammar's disappearance," Dahlan wrote, referring to Arafat by his nickname. Abbas's office could not be reached for comment.

Officials within Fatah are growing increasingly impatient with Abbas' leadership and rival groups have been emerging ahead of a party congress, the

first since 2009, set to take place this month. Dahlan, 55, retains influence within Fatah's revolutionary council and central committee - the equivalent of Fatah's parliament. Abbas, 81, is expected at the party congress to push for the election of a new central committee and revolutionary council that would be free of Dahlan loyalists.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab states have been pressuring Abbas to resolve divisions in Fatah and with the rival Hamas movement. Neighboring states and diplomats fear the festering divisions could lead to conflict. Arafat, who signed the 1993 Oslo interim peace accord with Israel but led a deadly uprising after subsequent talks broke down in 2000, died in 2004 aged 75 in a French hospital four weeks after falling ill.

The official cause of death was a massive stroke, but French doctors were unable at the time to determine the origin of the illness and no autopsy was carried out. Palestinian leaders have blamed Israel. Israel denies involvement. A French investigation was opened in 2012 at the request of Arafat's widow, and his remains were exhumed for tests that were examined separately by French, Russian and Swiss experts. The Swiss reported their results were consistent with but not proof of poisoning by reactive polonium. The French concluded he did not die of poisoning and Russian experts were reported to have found no traces of polonium in his body. The investigation was closed in 2015. — Reuters

DEATH PENALTY GETS BOOST IN THREE US STATES

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's upset presidential election win has dominated global headlines, but for those against capital punishment, Election Day offered other surprise: Three states voted to reinstate or otherwise support the death penalty. The measures voted through in Oklahoma, Nebraska and California via referendum are not expected to spark a sharp rise in the number of executions, but activists say they are a step in the wrong direction.

"Those states have chosen a failed, broken policy when they had the chance to move towards a new dawn," said Shari Silberstein, director of the advocacy group Equal Justice USA. "The death penalty's demise is inevitable. We have a long list of evidence why that's true," she added. In 2016, the United States is on course for its lowest number of executions since 1991. This comes as post-conviction appeals in capital cases tend to become more and more frequent than in other cases, increasing the time and cost before an execution can actually be carried out.

There is also a shortage of the chemicals needed

for lethal injections because pharmaceutical firms, mainly those located in Europe where the death penalty has been abolished, refuse to supply them. The death penalty was not a major issue in the presidential campaign, as neither Trump nor Hillary Clinton oppose it. But in three states of varying political stripes, voters chose to back it.

Nitrogen Gas

In Oklahoma, the death penalty was legal, but it faced mounting challenges in court over the lethal injection materials used, with lawyers for inmates charging that they cause undue suffering - a violation of the Eighth Amendment, which bans "cruel and unusual punishment". Besides voting 65 percent in favor of Trump, voters in this conservative Midwestern state made clear they are tired of executions being delayed.

They voted two to one for a measure enshrining the death penalty in the state constitution - a clause designed to counter possible judicial appeals from

defense lawyers of death row inmates. The new law in Oklahoma also allows the authorities to choose "any method of execution not prohibited by the United States Constitution". Authorities in Oklahoma now hope to be able to use nitrogen asphyxiation.

Ban Lifted

Nebraska, a bit further to the north and also strongly Republican, reinstated the death penalty by a vote of 61 percent in favor. The referendum rescinds a law banning the death penalty that the state legislature passed last year. But this Great Plains state, where the last execution was carried out in 1997, will likely run into a shortage of lethal chemicals. This problem affects nearly all of the 31 US states that allow the death penalty.

"Nebraska has no avenue to purchase killing drugs and has no execution process in place. There will be no executions there any time soon," said Helen Prejean, a nun whose work fighting the death penalty was immortalized in the Oscar-winning film "Dead

Man Walking". Prejean urged those against capital punishment not to be discouraged by the Election Day setbacks, the third of which came in California, where voters faced a radical choice.

Californians had to vote on two contradictory measures. One aimed to ban capital punishment; that was rejected by 54 percent of voters. The other aimed to speed up the procedure and limit prospects for appeal; it passed. California has not executed anyone for a decade, but it has the most crowded death row of any US state, at 741 inmates. Executions are now on hold in the Golden State because of lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the lethal injection method. Experts expect longer delays in carrying out executions. Elsewhere, in Georgia, authorities announced Thursday that Steven Frederick Spears, convicted of murdering his ex-girlfriend in 2007, would be put to death next week. If the execution goes ahead, the southern state will have carried out six executions this year - a record since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment four decades ago. — AFP

US-RUSSIA HOSTILITY IS ON HOLD - BUT FOR HOW LONG?

WASHINGTON: After years of rising US-Russia tensions over Ukraine, Syria, cyber attacks and nuclear arms control, Donald Trump's election as US president may offer a narrow window to repair relations as he and Russian President Vladimir Putin size up each other. But Trump's ascent to the White House carries the risk of dangerous miscalculation if the US president-elect and Putin, two wilful personalities and self-styled strong leaders who have exchanged occasional compliments, decide they have misjudged one another, according to Russia experts and others.

US officials and private analysts predict that Putin, who has reasserted Moscow's military and political muscle from eastern Europe to the Middle East, will avoid openly provoking Trump before he takes office. "Putin has the ability to advance his interests in many different ways. Sometimes tactical diplomacy can help," said Fiona Hill, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank. "We're in temporary truce phase," said Hill, who has served as the US national intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia in the George W Bush and Obama administrations and co-authored a book on Putin.

Michael McFaul, a former US ambassador to Moscow under President Barack Obama, said Putin likely will wait to see if he can reach some accommodation with Trump to allow the lifting of Ukraine-related sanctions imposed by Washington and the European Union that have contributed to Russia's growing economic woes. During the campaign, Trump was criticized by his Democratic Party rival, Hillary Clinton, for praising Putin as a strong leader and saying ties with Russia should be improved at a time when Moscow and Washington are at odds over Syria and Ukraine.

Trump rattled Washington's European allies with comments questioning NATO's mutual self-defense pledge and suggesting that he might recognize Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region. Putin last year called Trump "a really brilliant and talented person" and the Kremlin said on Thursday that the US president-elect's foreign policy approach was "phenomenally close" to that of the Russian leader.

Putin "has a future president who has expressed a desire to cooperate, who has

expressed a desire to move away from the Obama policies. Why would you screw that up with a provocation?" asked McFaul, now at Stanford University. In Syria, a US official said, Putin appears to be extending a "humanitarian" pause in air strikes against moderate rebels holding the eastern side of Aleppo to give Trump an opportunity to affirm the willingness he expressed during the campaign to seek a more cooperative US-Russian relationship.

"I think they were holding their fire for the purpose of decreasing the international pressure on them, and now, like the rest of the world, they may be taking stock of the current situation," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. But US officials caution that Russia still may feel compelled to launch more attacks after dispatching a naval task force led by the aging aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov to the eastern Mediterranean in a show of force.

Conflict in Cyberspace

The US government has publicly accused Moscow of hacking the Democratic National Committee and other party organizations during the election campaign, which Russia has denied. Trump declined to blame Russia, and the Election Day Russian cyber attacks that some officials feared never materialized. Trump has not laid out a detailed Russia policy, and many in his party, including potential top advisors and cabinet officials, have taken a hawkish view of Moscow.

Former House of Representatives speaker Newt Gingrich, a Trump ally rumored for a senior post, lambasted in 2014 what he called Obama's weak response to Russia's land-grab in Ukraine. Putin, Gingrich wrote, is "a ruthlessly determined leader motivated by nationalism and an imperial drive." And while there was celebration in Moscow after Trump's victory over former secretary of state Clinton, who has been sharply critical of Putin, some Russians cautioned against euphoria.

"The idea that it will be easier to strike a deal with Trump than Clinton is wrong. ... Everything will be tested when we get down to business," analyst Vladimir Bruter told the daily pro-Kremlin tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda before Tuesday's election. — Reuters

BAN SURE TRUMP WILL DROP RHETORIC, SHOW LEADERSHIP

UN CHIEF SPEAKS WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT BY PHONE

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced confidence on Friday that Donald Trump will shed the strident rhetoric that propelled him to the White House and engage with the world to confront global crises like climate change. Ban told AFP in an interview that he hopes to meet with the US president-elect in the coming weeks to explain how the United Nations expects the United States to "continue to work for humanity". Trump won the US presidency on a platform that calls for closer ties with Russia, pulling out of the Paris climate deal, shaking up security alliances and questioning US funding of the United Nations.

"This is what he said during the campaign period, on the campaign trail," Ban said in the interview at UN headquarters where the Trump victory has shocked world diplomats. "Now, post-election, when he creates his transition team with experts and people with vision and expertise, I am sure that the United States will continue to play a leading role," he said. Ban spoke by phone with Trump on Friday afternoon and the two men agreed to stay in contact, said a UN statement.

Worrying Statements

Ban, 72, is stepping down on Dec 31 after 10 years as the world's diplomat-in-chief with the biggest success of his tenure under threat: the Paris climate agreement. During his campaign, Trump described global warming as a hoax invented by the Chinese, vowing to renege on US pledges to cut down greenhouse gas emissions and help finance the shift to a new green economy worldwide. "He has made a lot of worrying statements, but I am sure that he will understand the whole importance and seriousness and urgency," he said. "The presidency may be important, but humanity and all our lives and our planet Earth are eternal."

Ban argued that there was a strong consensus in the United States and across the world on the need to address global warming, suggesting Trump would be recklessly out-of-sync if he scrapped the deal. "Now business communities are fully on board. Civil society members are fully on board. How can one change all this course? It's a huge trend," he said. "It will create serious problems if anybody wants to undo it, or unravel all this process." The interview was Ban's first full



NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon answers questions during an interview with Agence France-Presse on Friday at the United Nations. — AFP

assessment of the impact of the Trump electoral victory on global diplomacy.

Real Values

The UN chief watched the election results unfold on Tuesday from his Manhattan home and retired just as news channels were beginning to predict a Trump win. "I got up at 4:00 am and I found that the whole world had changed," said Ban. He described the outcome as "quite a surprise". He brushed aside the suggestion that the United States, by far the biggest financial contributor to the United Nations, could cut funding or sidestep the world body in addressing global issues. "I am not much worried, much concerned about what has been talked (about) during the electoral process," he said.

The former South Korean foreign minister

was elected UN chief in 2006 with strong backing from the United States under the Republican presidency of George W Bush. Ban expressed gratitude to Bush for agreeing to UN-led talks on climate change even though it was a long road to the Paris accord reached in December last year and now signed by all 193 UN member-states.

While Trump has yet to outline his policies, Ban sought to downplay anxiety over a new world order under his presidency, saying all US administrations since the founding of the United Nations after World War II have been committed to core principles. "As I have seen in all many different presidencies," Ban said, "there has not been much difference when it comes to real values and principles for the United Nations charter - and for humanity." — AFP

TRUMP COULD RESHAPE JUSTICE DEPT'S FOCUS ON CIVIL RIGHTS

WASHINGTON: A Donald Trump administration could radically reshape the Justice Department, particularly civil rights efforts that became one of its most pressing and high-profile priorities over the past eight years. The department, under the Obama administration and the country's first two black attorneys general, has investigated about two dozen police agencies for civil rights violations and reached court-enforceable consent decrees with many of them. It refused to defend a federal law that banned the recognition of gay marriage. It sued North Carolina over a bathroom bill that it said discriminated against transgender people. And it implemented new profiling limits on federal law-enforcement agencies.

But Trump's election has stirred concern from civil rights advocates that some of that work could be undone, set aside or at least minimized under a Trump administration. "The Civil Rights Division was just building a head of steam over the last two, three years, and it raises really serious concerns about whether we now lose traction on these issues," Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said of a section that former Attorney General Eric Holder called the "crown jewel" of the department.

One overt change could come in the department's approach toward policing and relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, an issue that's moved to the public forefront in the last two years. Trump's talk of a "law and order" approach to crime fighting and his praise for stop-and-frisk police tactics are out of step with a Justice Department that has advocated community policing and decried strategies it considers unconstitutional or discriminatory.

"He talked about things like the war on police, that we need more stop and frisk, that the Black Lives Matter movement has

placed police officers at risk, in ways that are really concerning," said Jonathan Smith, a former Justice Department civil rights official who oversaw the investigation into discriminatory practices by the Ferguson, Missouri, police force. The rhetoric resembles that of Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor who's expected to be considered for the position of attorney general.

Under the Obama administration, the Justice Department has opened wide-ranging investigations of 23 police departments, including those in Baltimore, Chicago and Ferguson. It's enforcing 19 agreements, including 14 court-enforceable consent decrees. While those agreements are unlikely to be reversed, new attorneys could be lax in enforcing them or in requiring meaningful change when additional police departments come under scrutiny.

Approach

And different leadership may see less value in some of the community meetings and round-table discussions promoted by Justice Department officials as a way to seek reconciliation between police and minorities. Also subject to change is the department's overall approach to the thousands of drug prosecutions it brings each year, embodied in a 2013 policy initiative that discouraged prosecutors from seeking harsh prison sentences for nonviolent offenders. A new administration might also seek changes on the national security front, including how terrorism cases are prosecuted and broader surveillance powers - particularly of Muslims.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch acknowledged the prospect for change Thursday, saying in a speech that "some policies and priorities may shift over the span of time or the turn of the electoral wheel." But she also said all Justice Department employees "are united by a love of country and a commitment to service regardless." — AP

WASHINGTON: When a South Carolina congressman shouted "You lie!" during a speech by President Barack Obama in 2009, House members rebuked him for violating norms of civility. After this year's presidential campaign, the idea that people were once troubled by the outburst seems almost quaint. Civility in politics has been declining for years, both a cause and symptom of a changing culture where anonymous verbal assaults are fired freely across the Internet, and cable TV routinely broadcasts words once banned from the airwaves.

But Donald Trump's presidential run took name-calling and mockery - things that voters long said they detested in their candidates - and normalized them into a winning political strategy. Now Trump, the president-elect, is calling for unity in words that draw attention precisely because they sound so unlike Trump, the candidate. But many question whether it is possible to reverse the campaign's damage to political discourse and

its ripples out to the way Americans speak to and about each other.

"There's plenty of blame to go around on this subject, but I think in this particular election that an embrace of Donald Trump was an embrace of incivility and vulgarity and insults and bullying, and unfortunately we saw very little public repudiation of that from any Trump supporters," said Mark DeMoss, an Atlanta public relations executive and conservative Republican whose clients are mostly Christian religious organizations.

DeMoss, who abandoned a campaign called the Civility Project in early 2011 after only three members of Congress would sign a pledge to act respectfully, watched the degradation of political speech for years. Then Trump's campaign, he and other longtime observers say, stomped well past what was thought to be acceptable. "We can all point to incidents in campaigns across history, but I think this one probably does represent a new place in terms of incivility," said James



BERLIN: A demonstrator protesting against US president-elect Donald Trump displays a placard featuring a likeness of Trump during a demonstration at the Brandenburg Gate yesterday. — AFP

Mullen, president of Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, which awards a prize each year for civility in public life. "What worries me the most is we're becoming almost numb," Mullen said.

When Allegheny - which first polled Americans about political civility in 2010 - did so again in October, researchers noted a "disturbing" decline in those rejecting insults in politics. The number who disapprove of political comments about someone's race or ethnicity declined from 89 percent to 69 percent. The number who said it was unacceptable to shout over a debate opponent fell from 86 percent to 65 percent.

Many observers blame Trump, who called Mexican immigrants "rapists", tarred his adversaries as "Lyin' Ted" and "Crooked Hillary" and complained that a TV journalist's dogged questioning was just a sign she had "blood coming out of her wherever". He said all of those things, not on long-forgotten tapes, but in front of millions of voters. At Trump's rallies, supporters followed suit, chanting "Lock Her Up!" about Clinton and wearing T-shirts with the slogan, "Trump That B****!"

Shifts

In some ways, Trump's rhetoric is an outgrowth of cultural and political shifts. A generation before the Internet, political backers were leaving fliers attacking rivals on voters' windshields in the dark and blanketing neighborhoods with anonymous direct mailings. Social media made it possible for ordinary people to disparage political enemies widely with no risk, saying things they might previously have told only their close friends.

"Into that world comes a candidate who uses Twitter as a primary mode of communication," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania who studies political communication. "He lives in a world in which this stuff is being trafficked back and forth, and that normalizes this kind of discourse for you as a candidate." But with their words, Trump, Clinton and other politicians set the tone for a much larger conversation. — AP

AFRICA WAITS AND WONDERS ON TRUMP'S FOREIGN POLICY

JOHANNESBURG: Across Africa, the approaching presidency of Donald Trump has provoked deep uncertainty over how the United States will pursue policies ranging from counter-terrorism and trade, to aid and climate change. Many African countries had high hopes that Barack Obama would bring transformative benefits to the continent and were left disappointed as he winds down his time in office. But Trump's rise to power poses fresh questions that reveal the lack of concrete detail on his foreign policy plans while the president-elect himself has seldom addressed African issues directly.

One possible pointer is Trump's often repeated vow to kill "terrorists", which may lead to more aggressive US intervention against Islamist forces such as Nigeria's Boko Haram, linked to the Islamic State group, and Shabaab militants in Kenya, Somalia and elsewhere.

"Donald Trump can be described as a strongman leader, and strongman leaders tend to only

see military solutions," Ryan Cummings, director of the intelligence firm Signal Risk in Cape Town, told AFP.

"The US directly deploying in Africa or having a more overt presence would be a salient recruitment tool for many armed groups. "The question is whether he is going to assist on the democratization reforms and other projects that help stop extremism?"

Any increased US intervention would, however, go against Trump's isolationist stance—a paradox that highlights increased unpredictability under his watch. One of Trump's clearest themes on the campaign trail was his opposition to international trade deals that he says have put millions of Americans out of work. That could spell trouble for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which gives 39 African nations duty-free access to the US market on about 7,000 products including textiles, cars, fruit and wine.

Less aid money?

Obama used AGOA as a tool to promote human rights, cutting Swaziland out of the deal in 2015 over alleged oppression in the small southern African nation. In contrast, Trump's victory acceptance speech on Wednesday suggested a more protectionist approach to international relations, stressing "we will always put America's interests first". Trump's potential pivot to isolationism could also impact the aid money that the US spends on health, education, agriculture and humanitarian crises across Africa. USAID spent \$700 million in Malawi alone over the last five years on a program to improve quality of life in one of the world's poorest countries. "Isolationism is implicit in all of his 'make America great again' rhetoric," said Zachary Donnenfeld, researcher at the Pretoria-based Institute of Security Studies.

"There is also evidence to suggest that he may have support for rolling back America's commitments to improving human development abroad."

Africa is seen as especially vulnerable to drought and floods caused by climate change, and Trump's election has shaken the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He has dismissed alarm about global warming and threatened to renegotiate or cancel US backing for the landmark Paris climate deal signed last year.

As African leaders rushed to congratulate the incoming president, Peter Vale, a professor of humanities at the University of Johannesburg, advised them to try to build whatever relationship they can with the Trump government.

"Africa is likely to slide down the list of foreign policy priorities of a Donald Trump administration," Vale wrote in an analysis briefing.

"He is going to be intolerant and disinterested in issues around the domestic politics of African countries. "The worst that African countries can do, however difficult it will be politically, would be to show their displeasure and hold their noses." — AFP



BELGRADE: Migrants and refugees walk near the village of Simanovci along a motorway that links the Serbian capital Belgrade to the Croatian border yesterday. Some 100 migrants in Belgrade, mostly young men from Afghanistan and Pakistan, began a march and set off on foot towards the Croatian border in the hope of entering the European Union. — AFP

FROM BREXIT TO TRUMP, EU REELS FROM YEAR OF CRISES

FMS FROM 28 COUNTRIES TO MEET IN BRUSSELS TODAY

BRUSSELS: The European Union's founders believed its unity would be forged in crisis, but after Brexit and the election of Donald Trump to the White House the bloc looks shakier than ever.

Today, foreign ministers from the 28 EU countries will hold talks in Brussels on the impact of a president who has previously questioned the decades-old transatlantic pact to defend the continent. With populists on the rise, Russia posing an increasingly menacing presence to the east, the migration crisis and the endless fallout from the eurozone debt crash, many fear perpetual turmoil.

EU President Donald Tusk said on Wednesday that the events of 2016 were a "warning sign for all who believe in liberal democracy" and urged Europe to "finally get our act together". But Trump's election has made it harder to regroup, given that Europe while trying to stay pragmatic in dealing with Washington has no idea what to really expect from the billionaire.

And European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker is worried that a lot of time could be wasted teaching Trump about Europe. "Mr Trump, during his campaign, said that Belgium was a village somewhere in Europe," Juncker told students in Luxembourg on Friday.

"We must teach the president-elect what Europe is and how it works," he said. "I believe we'll have two years of wasted time while Mr Trump tours a world he doesn't know."

'Leadership blow'

Soul-searching has been the order of the day

in Brussels ever since the body-blow of Britain's vote in June to become the first country to leave the EU in its 60-year history. Tusk warned at the time that the "Western political civilization" that has kept Europe at peace since World War II was now at risk.

That "civilization" has seen both sides of the Atlantic broadly sharing the same commitment to the free market and liberal democracy, with America propping up Europe's defenses.

Until now, Trump's campaign threats to abandon the collective defense pledge that is the bedrock of the NATO military alliance was a major shock for Europe. Juncker also warned that Trump's campaign rhetoric displayed huge ideological differences with Europe. He noted the businessman-turned-reality TV star had "taken a view of refugees and non-white Americans that does not reflect European convictions and feelings".

Both Germany's Angela Merkel and France's Francois Hollande have called on Trump to uphold democratic values in a sign of Europe's concerns. Trump's apparent closeness to Russia will also be ringing alarm bells in Europe as it debates whether to keep up sanctions over the Ukraine crisis and looks for solutions to the conflict in Syria.

"The post-Second World War global leadership role of Western liberal democracy was already challenged," said Fabian Zuleeg of the European Policy Centre think-tank.

"But a Trump administration will increase US isolationist tendencies, which is a further blow to this leadership role."

'Plenty more shocks'

Rattled European leaders have issued calls, after both Brexit and the Trump win, for Europe to seize its own destiny and tackle what they have dubbed a "polycrisis". Trump and Brexit are at least being seen in some quarters as an opportunity to boost EU unity, with the bloc's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini saying it can be a "superpower" for peace.

Officials insist the bloc is more resilient than it is given credit for—just as the EU's founding father Jean Monnet wrote in his memoirs that "Europe will be forged in crises".

But so far the EU's main response has been its time-honored one: Call more meetings. Analysts say that is not enough. "Europeans are muddling through," Judy Dempsey of the Carnegie Europe think-tank told a seminar this week. "One wonders how many wake-up calls the Europeans actually need to do something."

The timing is increasingly urgent. France holds presidential elections next year and far-right leader Marine Le Pen's chances of pulling off a Trump-like coup are suddenly being taken more seriously.

Far-right parties are also hoping for a boost in polls in the Netherlands and Austria, while Merkel, increasingly taking a role as the EU's moral anchor, is up for re-election.

Brexit-in-chief Nigel Farage exults over what many others fear. "Don't think that the democratic revolution is over," he tweeted. "There are plenty more shocks to come. 2017 may surprise us as much as 2016." — AFP

KEY PARIS ATTACKS SUSPECT 'RADICALIZED' AFTER ARREST

THE HAGUE: The main Paris attacks suspect, Salah Abdeslam, has become even more radicalized since being imprisoned for his presumed role in the slaughter of 130 people a year ago, his former lawyer has said. "He's got a beard, he's become a true fundamentalist whereas before he was a kid wearing Nike trainers," Belgian lawyer Sven Mary told Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant's yesterday edition.

Belgian-born French national Abdeslam is believed to be the only jihadist survivor of the November 13 attacks in the French capital that Belgian authorities claim were orchestrated by the Islamic State high command.

After four months on the run, the 27-year-old of Moroccan origin was arrested in Brussels in March and subsequently transferred to France in April. Lawyer Mary said Abdeslam's detention conditions at a prison in the Parisian suburb of Fleury-Merogis amounted to "psychological torture" and had contributed to his apparent radicalization.

He is kept in solitary confinement and subjected to round-the-clock video surveillance. Abdeslam is accused of having provided logistical support to the seven jihadists who died at the various scenes of the terror attacks: the Bataclan concert hall, the Stade de France national stadium and several bars and restaurants in central Paris.

In July, his lawyers had attempted unsuccessfully to end the constant surveillance, but authorities had deemed the "exceptional character of terrorist acts" as justifying that "all precautions are taken".

Last month both Mary and another lawyer, Frank Berton, gave up defending Abdeslam over his refusal to answer investigators' questions since being transferred to France. Mary said then that the lawyers felt they were doing nothing more than paying "social visits to the prison" and had decided to quit the defense. Abdeslam's brother Mohamed last month urged him to speak to French authorities but also said he felt Salah "is more radicalized now, rather than de-radicalized".

Jihadist denial

Meanwhile, jihadist Oussama Atar denied investigators' claims that he was the "mastermind" of the Brussels attacks in March that left 32 dead in a letter to his mother, a Belgian newspaper reported yesterday.

La Derniere Heure (DH) published the entire letter without explaining how it obtained a copy that the daily said came from the 32-year-old Moroccan-Belgian, who is believed to be based in Syria.

"No, I am not the mentor or mastermind who directed the Brussels attacks and I wasn't aware of what Brahim and Khalid were planning (may Allah have mercy on them)," Atar wrote, referring to the El Bakraoui brothers, distant cousins who were two of the three suicide bombers responsible for the Brussels attacks. Atar is believed to be a member of the Islamic State group and is also suspected of being a key plotter of the Paris attacks in November last year.

The letter, sent to Atar's mother Malika Benhattal after connecting with one of his sisters through Facebook, made no mention of the Paris attacks. Investigators believe that Atar, using the pseudonym Abou Ahmad, was one of the commanders of the attacks both in Brussels and in Paris, which will mark the first anniversary of the massacre that killed 130 people today.

Regarding his current whereabouts, he told his mother he was not in Europe and had no plans to return as he blasted the "lies" said about him and the "war" against his family.

"No, I am not Osama bin Laden, nor the right hand of (IS chief) Abu Bakr Baghdadi," Atar wrote, adding that "at no time" did he meet the latter "in prison or elsewhere". He has been on the radar of European security forces for more than a decade. After being arrested in Iraq in 2004 following the US-led invasion of the country, he spent time in various jails including the notorious Abu Ghraib prison used by American forces. — AFP



BORDEAUX: Former French president and candidate for the right-wing Les Republicains (LR) party primaries ahead of the 2017 presidential election, Nicolas Sarkozy speaks as (front row, 2L) Former French minister and Mayor of Troyes Francois Baroin listens, during a campaign rally in Bordeaux, southwestern France. — AFP

AFRICAN UNION ANGRY OVER EU PAYMENT FOR SOMALI TROOPS

NAIROBI: The African Union has lashed the EU for saying it will pay Burundian peacekeepers in Somalia directly, rather than through their government, ostensibly to prevent the money being diverted to the regime in Bujumbura. In a statement issued late Friday after a meeting of its military operations coordination committee in Addis Ababa, the AU said it "strongly rejects" the EU's decision to "differentiate its payment procedure" to the Burundian military contingent in Somalia.

Such payments are discriminatory, as Burundian troops are part of an overall AU deployment, it said, noting "the sacrifices being paid by the forces on the ground". It called on the EU "to urgently consider modalities for reversing this decision, which could have far-reaching negative consequences on AMISOM operations and the overall security gains achieved in Somalia". The AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was deployed to back Somalia's internationally-backed administration in fighting the Shabaab jihadist militia.

The Shabaab was forced out of the

capital, Mogadishu, five years ago but continues to attack military, government and civilian targets. AMISOM, whose wages are paid by the EU, comprises 22,000 troops. Burundi, with 5,400 troops, is its second biggest contingent after Uganda.

Friday's meeting in Addis, gathering military chiefs from countries providing troops for AMISOM, included Burundian General Prime Niyongabo, who had been on a swing through partner countries in a bid to gain support in the dispute with the EU. The EU's payment for the Burundian contingent amounts to five million euros (\$5.43 million) each month, but the bloc has refused for months to make this payment via Bujumbura.

No pay for months

The funds will be disbursed by the EU as soon as the AU finds a way to pay the troops directly, without having to go via the Burundian government, an EU diplomat told AFP. The first vice president of Burundi, Gaston Sindimwo, has told AFP that the Burundian members of AMISOM have received no pay for 10 months. — AFP

KURDS PROTEST AGAINST ERDOGAN IN GERMANY



COLOGNE: Pro-Kurdish demonstrators protest against Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the political repression that followed July's failed military coup, in Cologne. — AP

BERLIN: About 25,000 Kurds and Alevis rallied in the German city of Cologne yesterday against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, after the arrest of pro-Kurdish politicians earlier this month, the DPA news agency reported. Kurds and Alevis, a moderate Islamic sect who make up 20 percent of Turkey's population, said they were demonstrating "for democracy, peace and freedom" and against sweeping purges by Turkish authorities since the failed July coup.

Some held up pictures of jailed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan, detained since 1999 on the prison island of Imrali, off the coast of Istanbul. Others held portraits of Selahattin Demirtas, the young co-leader of the People's Democratic Party (HDP), arrested last week with several other members of the pro-Kurdish group accused by Erdogan of being a front for the PKK.

Cologne police reported a group of young Kurdish troublemakers at the edge of the demonstration. "Flares were ignited by a few individuals. When police tried to prevent them, stones and other objects were thrown at them," said a police statement.

One policeman suffered an injured hand and one protestor was detained, according to DPA. Germany is home to about 1 million Kurds, more than any other European country, as well as the world's largest Turkish diaspora community, and fears of tension between them on German soil are fuelled by Erdogan's repression. — AFP

INDIA'S CASH CRUNCH HITS VILLAGES, WEDDINGS IN TROUBLE



NEW DELHI: An Indian police officer pleads to an elderly man to stay in the queue as people crowd outside banks to deposit and exchange discontinued currency notes in New Delhi yesterday. —AP

DUDKO, India: In the dusty village of Dudko, farmers and villagers are desperate for new currency notes after the Indian government banned 500 and 1,000 rupee notes last week in an effort to flush black money out of the economy. Residents of the sleepy village, 75 km (45 miles) southwest of the capital Delhi, say they are struggling to pay for basic goods like food and fuel in the absence of an effective banking and exchange system.

Much of India's rural economy is powered by cash transactions with few people having bank accounts or operating one even if they have an account. Villagers, mostly women, swarmed around the gates of Dudko's only bank branch on Friday to exchange old and defunct currency notes for new 2,000 rupee notes or the old 100 rupee notes still in circulation. They began to lose patience after being told the new notes had not arrived.

"If someone's child falls sick, they are not even going to the doctor because

they do not have the money to pay to the doctor, it is a big problem," Booty Bai, a widow, said as she jostled with other customers to enter the bank. Bank officials said they were only taking deposits of old currency notes and did not have fresh notes to offer.

Sunita, whose daughter is getting married in five days, worried she would not have the cash to cover the large expenses associated with an Indian wedding. "My daughter's wedding is on the 16th of this month and we are really worried about how to arrange the money for such a big occasion. Bank officials are saying that they will give the money on Monday, how will we make our purchases?" she said.

The currency move, announced last Tuesday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to bring billions of dollars worth of unaccounted wealth into the mainstream economy and curb corruption. 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.

Despite the problems in Dudko, there was strong support for Modi's move to target black marketers and hoarders. "This is a very good move by the government but our concern is how long will the current problem last?" said village elder Prahalad Singh.

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 have been introduced from Nov. 10 but it would take two to three weeks to replace the old notes, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has said.

Chand Singh, a former village chief, said the shortage of new notes was a small price to pay for the expected long-term benefits to the economy. "This will put a lid on black marketeering," he said. — Reuters

MEDIA NETWORK SLAMS ARREST OF MYANMAR MEDIA EXECS

YANGON: An Asian news network yesterday called for the release of two Myanmar media executives jailed for alleged defamation, the latest case to highlight limits on free speech under the country's new democratic government. The CEO of Eleven Media Group and a chief editor of a newspaper it publishes were detained by police Friday over a column that accused the government of having "rosy relations" with corrupt officials.

The defamation lawsuit was brought by a minister from Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy party, which came to power earlier this year after sweeping historic elections that ended five decades of military rule.

The column also accused the minister of receiving a \$100,000 watch from a businessman who later won plum contracts. Although neither were directly named in the piece both later called press conferences to deny the allegations.

On Saturday editors from the Asian News Network—a consortium of English-language outlets across the region, including Eleven Media group—expressed "shock and dismay" over the arrests of CEO Than Htut Aung and editor Wai Phyo. The incident threatens to "impede the democratic

processes that Ms Aung San Suu Kyi and her party had fought long and hard for," the network said, calling for the two men's immediate release.

Police said they are preparing to charge the journalists with violating a defamation clause under Myanmar's broadly worded telecommunications law-legislation that was frequently used by the former quasi-military government to punish critics.

Despite hopes democracy activist Suu Kyi would usher in a new era of free expression, several people have been prosecuted for defamation since her party took over in late March.

In September a man was handed a nine month jail sentence for calling President Htin Kyaw-Suu Kyi's ally—"crazy" in a Facebook post. A researcher for the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) was also charged under the law for criticizing the still-powerful army in a Facebook post.

"While the new government has made some attempts to amend long-standing repressive laws that target activists and media workers, this case shows that those attempts do not go far enough," said Rafendi Djamin, Amnesty International's Regional Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. — AFP



KABUL: Afghan villagers wait for customers to sell their agriculture products on the outskirts of Bagram city, north of Kabul yesterday. —AP



YANGON: A Myanmar Daily Eleven newspaper (right) displayed on a news stand in Yangon yesterday shows a front page picture of Than Htut Aung, CEO of the Eleven Media Group, raising his handcuffed hands while being put in a police station. — AFP

BANGLADESH ARRESTS SUSPECT IN BLOGGER, PUBLISHER MURDERS

DHAKA: Bangladesh police said yesterday they had arrested an Islamist militant leader wanted in connection with the murder of a blogger and publisher. Khairul Islam "directly took part" in the killings of Niloy Chottopadhyay and Faisal Arefin Deepan last year, police said, two of the dozens of deadly attacks on secular activists and foreigners.

Detectives nabbed the 24-year-old, an intelligence wing leader of the banned outfit Ansar al-Islam, also known as Ansarullah Bangla Team, from Dhaka's main railway station late Friday.

"He directly took part in the (two) killings besides running reconnaissance for months on the victims," Masudur Rahman, Dhaka police spokesman, told AFP. "The killings took place by the order of Major Zia," the official said, referring to Syed Ziaul Haque, a former army officer who allegedly

heads ABT—one of two major banned domestic terrorist outfits blamed by the government for the wave of violence.

Chottopadhyay, a blogger, was hacked to death in August last year at his home by machete-wielding assassins. Deepan, a publisher, was killed in his office in October 2015. Bangladesh has been roiled by gruesome killings, with a particularly bloody massacre in July that left 22 dead after an assault on an upscale cafe in the capital. The Islamic State group and Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent have said they were behind most attacks, but Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government has blamed ABT and another banned outfit Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

The July carnage triggered a security force crackdown on Islamist extremists, with police shooting dead nearly 40 suspected militants since. — AFP



AMRITSAR: Indian Sikh devotees gather at the railway station at Attari, some 35kms from Amritsar yesterday as they prepare to leave on a Pakistani train bound for Lahore to mark the 547th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. —AFP

AFGHAN PARLIAMENT SACKS 3 MINISTERS

NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION COURT HEARS ITS FIRST CASES

KABUL: The Afghan parliament sacked the minister of foreign affairs and two of his cabinet colleagues yesterday citing poor performance, in a sweeping move that underlined the fragility of President Ashraf Ghani's struggling government.

Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Public Works Minister Mahmood Baligh and Social Services Minister Nasreen Oryakhel all failed to win confidence votes in parliament and were declared to have been dismissed by the speaker. All three were dismissed for their performance and failure to spend all allocated budgetary funds on time, in accordance with provisions in the Afghan constitution which gives parliament the power to sack ministers. Fourteen other ministers are due to face similar confidence votes.

At a time when the Taliban insurgency is threatening security across Afghanistan, the move creates further confusion for the national unity government which has been mired in infighting ever since it was set up following the disputed election of 2014.

A suicide attack by Taliban militants on the German consulate in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif this week killed four people and wounded more than 100 others. Former rivals Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah have presided over an uneasy alliance that also includes the volatile vice President General Rashid Dostum and has featured regular rows between the main leaders.

Patched together with US backing after accusations of electoral fraud on both sides, the government was supposed to have overseen fresh parliamentary elections and a constitutional grand council to re-establish political legitimacy. However, a two-year deadline has passed with none of the promised steps taken, leaving question marks over the future of the government at a time when political uncertainty is already being stoked by rising ethnic tensions.

Anti-graft court

Afghanistan's new anti-corruption court heard its first cases yes-

terday, a small step forward in President Ashraf Ghani's efforts to combat graft at the highest levels of government.

The Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Centre was created by Ghani's administration in June to bolster the legal system's ability to tackle corrupt ministers, judges and governors, who have largely been immune from prosecution. The first two cases heard by the court, which included a female judge, did not involve top government officials but a Supreme Court prosecutor and a private bank official — a fact highlighted by defence lawyers.

"I wish the start of this court was by a million dollar corruption case, not by a 50,000 afghani (\$761.04) corruption case," Farid Arabzai, a

lawyer representing the prosecutor, told the three-judge panel at the Kabul court hearing.

The government has said it would pursue dozens of cases of corruption involving senior government officials, but has not provided any names. "There are more cases under investigation at this centre and as soon as the investigation of those cases is over the ACJC will announce its decision," said Jamshid Rasouli, spokesman for the attorney general's office, on the sidelines of the small courtroom packed with media, civil society organizations and diplomats.

Ghani is under pressure to step up the fight against endemic corruption as international donors demand more results in return for billions of dollars in foreign aid.

Michael Hartmann, chief of the rule of law unit at the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, welcomed the start of the court hearings, saying it showed that Kabul's anti-graft fight was a top priority. Afghanistan is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, ranked 166th out of 168 nations by watchdog group Transparency International. US officials say the problem undermines its fight against the Taliban. US senators in September warned that failure to address corruption could lead Washington to rethink its annual spending of around \$5 billion per year in Afghanistan. Ghani has taken steps including addressing financial wrongdoing, cancelling suspicious fuel contracts and firing corrupt civil servants. — Reuters



KABUL: Afghanistan's National Army soldiers guard, blocking the main road to the Bagram Airfield's main gate in Bagram, north of Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday. —AP



SEOUL: This long exposure photograph shows protesters marching towards the presidential house during an anti-government rally in central Seoul yesterday. Tens of thousands of men, women and children joined one of the largest anti-government protests seen in Seoul for decades yesterday, demanding President Park Geun-Hye's resignation over a snowballing corruption scandal. — AFP

HUNDREDS OF BOKO HARAM FIGHTERS SURRENDER IN CHAD

MILITARY TASK FORCE SAYS 240 EX-FIGHTERS IN DETENTION

DAKAR: Hundreds of Boko Haram fighters and their families have surrendered in Chad in the past month, security and UN sources said, in a sign the military campaign against them is making headway. Boko Haram, which has killed and kidnapped thousands of people, had seized an area approximately the size of Belgium in northeastern Nigeria by last year but has since lost significant ground amid growing regional military pressure. Analyst and security sources think the fighters are probably recent recruits that Boko Haram has struggled to retain as it has ceded territory. Defections of Boko Haram fighters have been reported in Nigeria but are not known to have previously occurred on such a large scale.

"They surrendered to our troops on the front line in Lake Chad," said Colonel Mohammad Dole, Chief Military Public Information Officer for the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) headquartered in Chad's capital N'Djamena. "The surrenders are taking place because of the firepower of our operations. The groups, many of them armed, have been arriving since September and their number keeps increasing," he said.

Some 240 fighters, most of whom are Chadian, are now being held in detention along with their families, Dole said.

The MNJTF, with troops from Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Benin and intelligence, training and logistical support from the United States, launched a regional operation in July against the group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

It has since continued patrols around the waterways of Lake Chad - one of the world's poorest regions whose villages were last year regularly struck by fighters, sometimes aboard canoes.

Around 2.6 million people have been displaced in the Lake Chad Basin where Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon meet. Signs that regional armies are wresting back control of the Chadian part of the lake is significant since it had been a recruitment hub, even if the group never sought to conquer territory there, said Ryan Cummings, director of consultancy Signal Risk.

"Their presence in Chad was more for recruitment and for resources. Its strikes in the country were punitive," he said, referring to revenge attacks on regional military heavyweight Chad, which has supplied 3,000 troops for the MNJTF.

FORCED RECRUITMENT

Chadian military officials are currently profiling the

detainees currently housed at two detention centres in the remote town of Baga Solo, some of whom arrived this week. Based on previous patterns, it is likely that many were abducted or forcibly recruited by Boko Haram whose name means "Western education is sinful" in the local Hausa language. Stephen Tull, UN Resident Coordinator in Chad, said a total of around 700 people were being held, including men, women and children. It was unclear how many were fighters, he said. Boko Haram has in the past deployed child soldiers and female suicide bombers.

"They are mostly Chadians and appear to all be more recent recruits," he said citing information from a UN visit to the centres earlier this month. Islamic State named Abu Musab al-Barnawi as Boko Haram's leader in August although another branch loyal to former head Abubakar Shekau is still operational. It was not clear from which branch the fighters surrendered, nor how senior they are.

Philippe Barragne-Bigot, head of the UN children's agency in Chad, said that it had set up a centre for the children, who he said should be treated as former hostages. "We want to profile them and make sure they have the right psychological rehabilitation," he told Reuters. — Reuters

News

in brief

6.2 quake hits eastern Japan

TOKYO: A strong 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit eastern Japan yesterday, the US Geological Survey said, but there were no immediate reports of damage. The quake, at a depth of 44 kilometres (27 miles), struck shortly after 6:42 am (2142 GMT) near the northeast coast of the main Honshu island, some 350 kilometres from Tokyo. No tsunami warning was issued. Japan sits at the junction of four tectonic plates and experiences a number of relatively violent quakes every year, but rigid building codes and their strict enforcement mean even strong tremors often do little damage. A massive undersea quake however that hit in March 2011 sent a tsunami barreling into Japan's northeast coast, leaving more than 18,000 people dead or missing, and sending three reactors into meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

Woman set on fire in Japan restaurant

TOKYO: A man set a woman on fire following an argument in a restaurant in Japan, local media reported yesterday, in a rare act of violence in the country. The 52-year-old Iranian man was seen pouring liquid over his 36-year-old Filipina girlfriend before setting her alight at the eatery in Ibaraki prefecture, north of Tokyo, on Friday, reports cited police as saying. Workers at the restaurant called an ambulance, saying: "People are burning." The couple was taken to hospital with severe burns and both remain unconscious, public broadcaster NHK said. There were several customers inside the restaurant at the time of the incident, but no one else was injured, the reports said. Police are treating the case as attempted murder. The man and woman had been advised by police to stay away from each following a dispute involving their child, Kyodo News reported.

China ships sail near disputed islands: Japan

TOKYO: Chinese coast guard vessels sailed into territorial waters around disputed islands in the East China Sea yesterday, Japan's coast guard said, marking the second such incident in a week. The four ships entered the waters surrounding the island chain, controlled by Japan and known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in China, at around 10:30 am (0130 GMT) and left within two hours, according to the coast guard. A similar incident last Sunday prompted Tokyo to lodge a complaint with China's foreign ministry through its embassy in Beijing, saying the uninhabited islets are "an inherent territory of Japan". Japan has made dozens of protests through diplomatic channels this year over what it says have been more than 30 days of intrusions by Chinese vessels in the contested waters. The two countries have been locked in a long-running dispute over the islands, which are believed to harbour vast natural resources below their seabed, with China claiming them as its own. Beijing is also involved in maritime disputes in the South China Sea. It asserts sovereignty over most of the area despite rival partial claims by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.



TOKYO: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pose in front of Shinkansen bullet train before heading for Hyogo prefecture at Tokyo station in Tokyo yesterday. Modi is on a three-day visit to Japan. — AP

NIGERIA PROBES REPORTS OF FOOD AID STOLEN FROM REFUGEES

YOLA, Nigeria: Local lawmakers in northeast Nigeria are investigating fresh allegations that officials have diverted food aid intended for people who have fled from Boko Haram. The allegations in Adamawa state center on officials and market traders accused of selling food items donated by Nigeria's customs service, said Hassan Barguma, chair of a committee focused on refugees in the Adamawa state assembly. "Stealing food meant for starving children is beyond the pale and only adds insult to injury," Barguma said.

Boko Haram's seven-year-old insurgency has killed more than 20,000 people and displaced more than 2.6 million in Nigeria and neighboring Cameroon, Niger and Chad. Lawmakers and officials are already investigating reports that food aid was stolen in Borno

state, the birthplace of Boko Haram where the UN has warned that tens of thousands of children could die from malnutrition.

The reports sparked protests from refugees who at one point blocked a main highway heading into Maiduguri, the northeast's largest city. Nigeria's customs service in August released 11 trucks of food aid including rice, oil and spaghetti for refugees in Adamawa state. Yet Barguma said many of the items did not reach refugees and were instead sold to local markets. Sadiq Daware, deputy coordinator of Adamawa's poverty alleviation office, denied the allegations.

"Whoever tells you the items were diverted is very far away from the truth," he said. He said local officials followed an approved distribution plan, though he noted that this called for some

of the aid to be given to politicians and officials acting as intermediaries. Refugee community representatives in Adamawa said they were infuriated by reports of stolen food aid and called for a thorough investigation. "We are being fed only once or twice daily," said Habu Ali, a community leader in Fufore. He said most refugees preferred to go out and fend for themselves rather than "being treated like animals" in the camps.

Falmata Ali, another refugee, said children in her camp were always crying out for more food. "We are tired of all these inhuman treatments. Let them take us back to our towns in Borno," she said. Adamawa state once housed 60,000 refugees, though Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency reported on Friday that the figure had dropped to 18,958 as people returned home. —AP



MAIDUGURI: Children displaced by Islamist extremists wheel food handed out to them at the Bakassi camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria. — AP

FIRST OF 18 AUSTRALIAN CASINO EMPLOYEES RELEASED IN CHINA

CANBERRA: One of 18 employees of Australia's largest casino operator detained in China a month ago for suspected gambling crimes has been released on bail, the company said yesterday.

A Chinese national who was a junior Crown Resorts Ltd. employee was the first of the staff to be released, the company said in a statement. Crown did not identify the employee. Jenny Chiang, a 33-year-old Shanghai-based Chinese citizen who had worked for Crown for more than five years as an executive assistant, was released on Friday, The Australian newspaper reported.

The head of Crown's VIP International team, Jason O'Connor, was among three Australian and 15 Chinese employees detained on Oct. 13 and 14 in raids across China.

They had been caught up in an apparent crackdown on overseas tours for high rollers. The Chinese foreign ministry said the employees had been detained for suspected involvement in gambling crimes, but did not provide further details.

Casino gambling is illegal on the mainland and Chinese law prohibits agents from organizing groups of more than 10 Chinese citizens

to gamble abroad. The crime is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment. The industry has been known to skirt the ban by touting destination packages.

Casino operators have sought to lure Chinese high-rollers who have avoided Macau since President Xi Jinping's ongoing corruption crackdown deters visits to the offshore enclave that is the only place in China where casinos are legal.

Last year, police arrested 13 South Korean casino managers and 34 Chinese agents for selling packages with free tours, free hotels and sexual services. — AP

FUGITIVE BUSINESSMAN RETURNS TO CHINA

BEIJING: A former drug company chairman who was on a list of China's 100 most-wanted fugitives abroad has returned after 15 years on the lam in New Zealand and Australia, the government announced yesterday.

Yan Yongmin surrendered to police and was returned to China in cooperation with New Zealand authorities, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said.



BEIJING: In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, Yan Yongmin (center) arrives at Capital International Airport in Beijing yesterday. Yan, a former drug company chairman who was on a list of China's 100 most-wanted fugitives abroad has returned after 15 years on the lam in New Zealand and Australia. — AP

There was word on what charges he might face. Yan, former chairman of Tonghua Golden Horse Pharmaceutical Group in the northeastern city of Tonghua, fled to Australia in 2001 after being accused of fraud and embezzlement, according to earlier news reports. He later became a New Zealand citizen under the name William Yan. Yan was on a Chinese government list of the top 100 fugitives sought abroad in a marathon dragnet known as "Sky Net." As of July, 33 people on that list had been returned to China, according to the government newspaper China Daily.

China has few extradition treaties with other governments. Beijing is expanding cooperation with foreign law enforcement but that has been hampered in some cases by concern charges might be politically motivated and that China has executed convicts for non-violent offenses such as tax evasion. In Yan's case, Chinese media said having him returned from New Zealand without his cooperation would be almost impossible. Eleven of the suspects on the "Sky Net" list are believed to be living in New Zealand, the No. 3 destination for Chinese fugitives after the United States and Canada, according to the business news magazine Caixin.

A New Zealand court in August approved the seizure of assets from Yan valued at 43 million New Zealand dollars (\$31 million), according to Chinese news reports. They said that was the biggest seizure in New Zealand to date of assets related to crimes alleged to have occurred in China. Earlier, Australian authorities also seized some \$2.8 million from Yan, according to Caixin. — AFP

GOVT AUSTERITY MEASURES TOP ELECTION...

Continued from Page 1

"Undermining the income of citizens through government measures is a red line... and will be firmly confronted by the next parliament," said Askar Al-Enezi, a former lawmaker who hopes to be re-elected. Kuwait has been providing a generous cradle-to-grave welfare system to its nationals, who make up 30 percent of its population of 4.7 million. "We won't allow the government to plug the budget deficit from the pockets of citizens," said Jamal Al-Omar, another candidate.

The government has insisted that without austerity measures, it may not be able to pay wages, which account for over half of expenditures. Hamad Al-Matar, who is also running in the polls, said Kuwait's dependence on oil as its only source of income put the country in a precarious situation after the price slump. "What has aggravated the economic crisis is rampant corruption in many state institutions," the former opposition member of parliament said. He and other candidates said the government has failed to carry out economic reforms

and diversify sources of income to reduce its dependence on oil.

During its 16 years of surpluses, Kuwait amassed reserves worth \$600 billion invested mostly abroad. But to plug growing budget shortfall, the country has started borrowing for the first time in two decades. The government has issued domestic bonds worth \$4.6 billion as part of measures to finance the budget deficit, the finance minister said on Tuesday. It plans to start issuing foreign bonds totalling around \$10 billion early next year, he said.

The Fitch Ratings agency believes fiscal measures in Kuwait will be implemented only partly, it said on Wednesday. "Execution risks are also high for other proposed reforms... as they could prove to be complex and politically contentious," it said in a report. A total of 454 candidates, including 15 women, have registered to stand for election to the 50-seat parliament. The election sees the return of major opposition groups and individuals, ending a four-year boycott in protest against the government for amending the voting system. — AFP

OPPOSITION RETURNS TO BALLOT DIVIDED

Continued from Page 1

"We believe that we delivered a clear message by boycotting the previous elections," said Mohammed Al-Dallal, a member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement, Kuwait's version of the Muslim Brotherhood. "However, despite the fact that things have not changed, we feel that the upcoming period necessitates that we participate in the elections," he said. "We need to take an active role in dealing with the extraordinary political and economic circumstances that the region is going through."

Kuwait allows far more public dissent than other countries in the region, many of which have outlawed the Brotherhood and jailed its members. Parliament routinely calls powerful politicians to account, and the recently dissolved group of lawmakers had planned to question a host of government officials in the coming weeks about widely unpopular subsidy cuts. While Kuwait has the world's sixth largest proven oil reserves, its economy has been reeling. The global price of oil has been halved from heights of over \$100 a barrel in the summer of 2014, forcing the government to cut gasoline subsidies and scale back cradle-to-grave benefits for its 1.4 million citizens.

The stalwart US ally has also grown increasingly worried about possible militant attacks. In 2015, an Islamic State-claimed suicide bombing at a Shiite mosque in

Kuwait City killed 27 people and wounded scores. In October, an Egyptian who allegedly was an Islamic State supporter rammed a garbage truck into a vehicle carrying US soldiers, wounding only himself.

The government is in some ways shackled by the political freedoms its citizens enjoy, ratings agency Moody's suggested in a note to investors in October. "These democratic elements of the system ... can be particularly disruptive to government effectiveness, which has been repeatedly demonstrated by the government's inability to implement reforms," Moody's said.

Many candidates so far seem to be focusing on less urgent issues. Tabtabaei, who is sweating the arrival of Cross-fit, began his campaign with remarks about a ballistic missile launch by Shiite rebels in Yemen that Saudi Arabia denounced as being fired toward the holy city of Makkah.

Saleh Al-Nafisi, a political science professor at the Gulf University for Science and Technology, said Tabtabaei's campaign showed the lack of a cohesive strategy among the Kuwaiti opposition, and risked inflaming sectarian tensions among Kuwait's Shiite and Sunni populations, who live together largely in peace. "The opposition as it stands today is certainly fractured," he said. "Beyond its divisions and lack of leadership, there is no clear agenda of what they want to achieve." — AP

PROTESTS SPREAD AS TRUMP SOFTENS RHETORIC

Continued from Page 1

cry of "Trump is NOT my president". In downtown Chicago, several thousand marched peacefully to chants of "No hate. No fear. Immigrants are welcome here." Four days after his shock election, the world is scrutinizing the maverick's every move for clues to how he will govern.

President-elect Trump's U-turn on Obamacare - which the candidate Trump had branded a "disaster" - was prompted by his White House meeting with the outgoing president a day earlier. In his first post-election interview, Trump told The Wall Street Journal he may maintain a ban on insurance companies denying coverage because of so-called pre-existing conditions. He also said he may continue to ensure that children can remain on their parents' policies until the age of 26, a key Obamacare tenet. "I like those very much," the 70-year-old real estate mogul and political novice said of both points.

It marked one of several moves by Trump and his advisers away from his more sweeping campaign positions. Asked by the Wall Street Journal whether he would, as threatened, name a special prosecutor to investigate his opponent Hillary Clinton over her use

of a private email server as secretary of state, Trump deflected. "It's not something I've given a lot of thought, because I want to solve

healthcare, jobs, border control, tax reform," he said - a far cry from his stump rhetoric leading crowds in chants of "Lock her up!"

Top Trump surrogate Newt Gingrich also cast doubt on whether Trump would make Mexico fund his proposed border wall - another rallying cry for his supporters. "He'll spend a lot of time controlling the border. He may not spend very much time trying to get Mexico to pay for it, but it was a great campaign device," Gingrich was reported as saying by The Washington Post.

Despite his more measured tone, the Republican has yet to respond to mounting calls to reassure the US public who fear a xenophobic crackdown under his authority. The South Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, tracked more than 200 incidents of election-related harassment and intimidation in the three days following the election. More than 47,000 people have signed an SPLC petition urging Trump to clearly distance himself from "haters" - from white nationalists to anti-Muslim and anti-gay extremists - who are celebrating his victory. — AFP

PAK SHRINE BLAST KILLS 43

Continued from Page 1

Up to 600 people were at the shrine at the time of the attack, according to local official Tariq Mengal, who told Geo TV that many devotees travelled to the site from Karachi during weekends. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack via Amaq, its affiliated news agency. "35 dead and 95 wounded Shiite visitors in a martyrdom operation attack by the Islamic State fighter that targeted a shrine in a city in Balochistan," the agency said. The bombing follows the

killing of Amjad Sabri, a renowned Sufi singer, by two gunmen in Karachi in June. Some observers have said that Sabri may have been assassinated because he was a high-profile Sufi.

Sufism, a mystic Islamic order that believes in living saints, worship through music, and is viewed as heretical by some hardline groups including the Taliban. Balochistan, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, has oil and gas resources but is afflicted by Islamist militancy, sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims and a separatist insurgency. — AFP

ZUCKERBERG, FACEBOOK USERS DECLARED 'DEAD'

Continued from Page 1

editor Danny Sullivan said in a message fired off at Twitter. Facebook Live feature lets people broadcast video in real-time at the leading social network. The mistaken memorial notices contained links to forms that can be submitted to have people's accounts at the leading social network modified into online memorials after they die. Part of the process is showing proof of death. Some wondered whether the mishap was a botched test promotion of the feature, rather than a software glitch.

Comments tagged #FacebookDead or #FacebookRapture went viral at Twitter, with people joking that the scenario marked a fitting end to tumultuous week. "I think this is Facebook's way of flagging the people who died inside on Tuesday," read a tweet from @billkalpak. A darkly humorous post on Twitter by @JnPhillip was in the form of a note reading "Dear Facebook, Donald Trump does not get inaugurated until January 20th. Nuclear annihilation occurs Jan 21st." "Naturally, Facebook waited until 2016 to kill us all," tweeted @kriheil. — AFP



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Focus

TRUMP CAN ERASE
OBAMA FOREIGN
POLICY LEGACY

US President Barack Obama's foreign policy legacy rests in part on a foundation of unilateral actions that his successor Donald Trump could reverse with the stroke of a pen. Due to take office on Jan 20, Trump, the winner in Tuesday's election, campaigned at times to dismantle Obama's nuclear deal with Iran and to re-impose sanctions Obama eased on Cuba. Trump also disagreed with foreign policy decisions that included the way Obama has deployed troops abroad to combat Islamist militant groups.

In his most notable foreign policy achievements, Obama, a Democrat, used executive authorities that offered a convenient legal path around a Republican-controlled Congress committed to blocking his agenda. The US Constitution gives a president broad executive powers to enact foreign policy. Both Republican and Democratic presidents have sought to exercise those powers by issuing executive orders, presidential memoranda and what are called findings. "He (Obama) relied on executive authority to build a foreign policy legacy," said Thomas Wright, director of the Project on International Order and Strategy at the Brookings Institution. "That is all vulnerable to countervailing executive authority by a Trump administration," Wright said. Obama had hoped to pass his legacy on to Democrat Hillary Clinton, his former secretary of state, but she lost the presidential election to Trump, a Republican businessman who has never held public office or served in the military.

Trump Plans Unclear

Often contradicting himself during the campaign, Trump made it difficult to know for sure what policies he would pursue. Major constraints include budget caps, laws he cannot reverse without Congress, and the pressure that will emerge to replace policies he chooses to abandon. Trump said in an October speech that he would "cancel every unconstitutional executive action, memorandum and order issued by President Obama" on his first day in office, without saying who would determine their constitutionality. A Trump spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment on Thursday on his latest plans.

Executive Orders, Enacted and Rescinded

Perhaps nowhere has Obama faced more congressional opposition than in his pursuit of the 2015 deal with Iran, which Republicans and some Democrats said put too few restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in return for too much sanctions relief. Trump has vowed to dismantle it, although his statements on the deal have been contradictory. A president may tighten and relax economic sanctions by executive order. "Anything enacted by executive order can be rescinded by executive order," said Zachary Goldman, a former US Treasury official now at New York University. Obama drew enough support from Democrats to block a Republican-led resolution rejecting the Iran deal, achieving a political victory but falling short of a consensus. Trump will have the added advantage of working with a US Senate and a House of Representatives controlled by fellow Republicans. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said on Wednesday he hoped Trump would "see how much he can undo the unilateral actions the president took all by himself, which would not require us".

Cuba, Drones

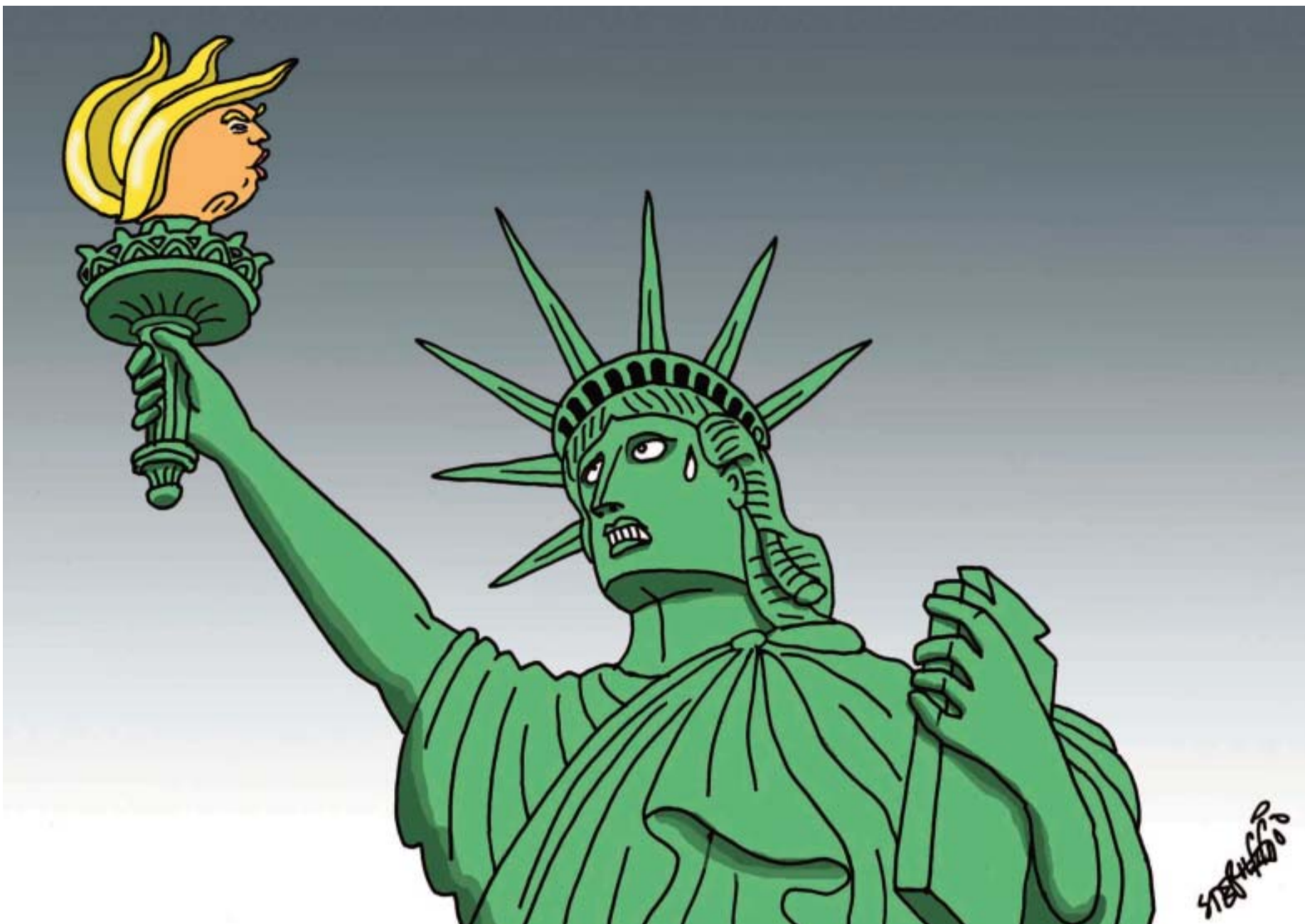
Breaking with longstanding US policy on another issue, Obama restored diplomatic ties with Cuba in 2015. But facing opposition in Congress to lifting a broad economic embargo, especially from Republicans, he used executive actions to ease some US sanctions. Obama capped his Cuba efforts last month with a sweeping "presidential policy directive", which also is reversible and sets forth mandates for government engagement, people-to-people exchanges, and greater US business ties.

Trump has taken contradictory positions on whether he supports the embargo or not. Obama's aides said the easing of restrictions was aimed at securing enough benefits for US businesses and travelers that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for any Republican president to reverse the opening to Cuba. Trump could roll back Obama's efforts to create greater transparency about drone strikes. Obama issued an executive order in July requiring annual disclosures about such strikes.

Military Power

As commander-in-chief, Trump will wield the power to mobilize the US military on short notice and without first seeking approval from Congress. Obama deployed US troops to Iraq, Syria and Libya to help fight the Islamic State militant group by relying on the authority Congress granted President George W Bush to battle Al-Qaeda. That same authority would allow Trump to ramp up US deployments in fights against Islamist militants if he chose to do so. One former US intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the president can approve covert action and needs only to brief relevant leaders in Congress once the operation is under way. Trump's powers, however, are limited. He pledged to expand the Army, grow the Marine Corps, boost the Navy from 276 to 350 ships and submarines, and raise the number of Air Force tactical aircraft from 1,100 to 1,200. For starters, that would require that Congress scrap government spending caps under the Budget Control Act. —Reuters

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Washington Watch

WHAT JUST HAPPENED AND WHY I WON'T ACCEPT IT

By Dr James J Zogby

My wife came down to breakfast Thursday morning still in a daze over the outcome of the election. She said, poignantly, "I feel just like I did after my father died. I used to wake up each day with a sense of dread saying 'that really didn't happen, did it?' But it did happen, just like this election happened, and I'm having that same sense of dread."

She's not alone. Millions of Americans, myself included, are reeling and in shock. That Donald Trump is the president-elect is simply unbelievable. Some are telling us to get over it; to respect the democratic process and accept the will of the people; and to honor the integrity of the office to which Donald Trump has been elected. I understand why President Obama has been gracious, promising a peaceful transition of power. That is what he must do. But, with all due respect, I cannot.

Pundits are horrible at predicting, but great at dissecting, after the fact. And so despite being wrong for months, they have now discovered why Trump won. They are saying that he spoke to voter anger. He tapped into their fears. He connected with their alienation from and frustration with the establishments of both parties. Voters simply didn't trust Hillary Clinton. She was inauthentic. She was an elitist who embodied the establishment. I get all that.

What I don't get and what is disturbing and even traumatizing, is that the president-elect is a crude, corrupt, and contemptible charlatan. He is a self-proclaimed billionaire whose bankruptcies have cheated thousands of workers and small business owners out of their paychecks. His "university" robbed hundreds of their money and their dreams of advancement. And his dishonest dealings with dozens of charities cheated them out of promised support.

Feigning concern for the "forgotten middle class", Trump did prey off the fear and anger of those who have felt betrayed by a system that was, in fact, rigged against them. But he provided no constructive solutions, offering instead the vague promise of a return of "lost glory", all the while fueling their fear and stoking the embers of their anger with scapegoats to strike out against:

Mexicans, immigrants, Muslims, and the urban poor. He made fun of the disabled and displayed a deplorable lack of respect for women. And on a number of occasions, he brazenly encouraged his supporters to use violence against those who opposed him.

Appeal

The pundit class never understood Trump's appeal. During the primary season they repeatedly and mistakenly predicted his demise. As he insulted, in rapid-fire succession: women, his opponents, Senator John McCain, popular Fox TV host Megyn Kelly, Mexicans, Muslims, a disabled person—they announced that he had gone too far and would soon drop in the polls. What they failed to understand then, and only now see, was that Trump had tapped into a vein of raw anger in a portion of the electorate. He might be a crude bully - but he was their crude bully and he was lashing out for them and they loved it.

It is a wrong to argue that Trump's values are un-American. They are, sadly, very much a part of our history that we must not ignore. We've seen it before - rage and violence against African Americans, Native Americans, successive waves of immigrants from foreign lands, the "Red scare", and gays, to name a few. As Trump unleashed his campaign of hate, the pundits, living in their rarefied elite world, never understood, until it was too late, that his message would resonate and he could win. Now that he has won, with a dismissive wave of the hand, they want us to put our concern and disgust aside and move on. I disagree because even if Trump surprises us by pursuing a moderate governing agenda, the hate he has unleashed and validated will not easily be contained.

The other reason I cannot so easily move on is because throughout this long election season Trump's language has been so vulgar and his behavior toward women has been so disgusting that parents had difficulty explaining him to their children. It became so problematic that my own grown children agonized over whether or not to let my grandchildren watch news coverage of the election. The entire campaign was a nightmare, which we couldn't wait to end.

Nightmare

It now appears that the nightmare is only beginning. What we are struggling with is how to explain to our children and grandchildren that the man who said what he said and did the things that he did will now be our president.

I, too, have done a postmortem of this election. Within the Democratic Party, I am arguing, as I have for decades, that we have slighted the white working class. Despite having been the backbone of the Democratic Party, we ignored the hardships they endured as they became victims of economic and social dislocation. We forgot to speak their language and failed to identify with their narratives and have even demonstrated disdain for their culture and values. I agree with the arguments advanced by Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden: it is precisely because we turned our back on this critically important constituency of Americans that we left them vulnerable to the hateful message of Donald Trump.

I accept this criticism and am committed to changing this sorry state of affairs. But what I can't accept is that Donald Trump will be my president. His election is not a death in the family. Death is irreversible, elections happen every four years.

Now some might suggest that by saying I cannot accept Trump as president, I am being un-American. I profoundly disagree. By working with allies in Congress and civil society to defend the vulnerable - Mexicans, African Americans, Muslims, and gays - who have, in just the few days since this election, been targets of acts of hate and violence in schools and in their neighborhoods; by defending women from being degraded and assaulted; and by drawing, quite clearly, the line between what is acceptable and what is unacceptable - I am being very American.

Working for justice is also a proud part of our history. Our children need to learn this lesson. They need to know that we will protect them and others who are victims of injustice. And they need us to teach them right from wrong. They deserve this from us. And so, I respectfully dissent and proudly state that I will not accept Donald Trump as my president.

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

DANGEROUS GAME OF PARSING TRUMP'S WORDS

Move over, Janet Yellen. The Federal Reserve chief has a challenger for the title of speaker most scrutinized by Wall Street, and it's Donald Trump. All new US president-elects are closely monitored by the financial community for clues about what their policies mean for markets. But Trump's speaking style, often using enclaves or incomplete sentences that leave room for interpretation, along with vague or contradictory campaign promises make him all the more challenging to decipher.

"His statements are crazy. He says peculiar things, like building the wall and getting Mexico to pay for it, that you know are just not going to happen," said Allan Meltzer, a Fed historian and professor of political economy at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh. "But his actions as opposed to his statements have been very moderate," he said.

Exhibit A for how Trump has policy makers and investors hanging on his every word came shortly after the Republican's conciliatory acceptance speech early Wednesday. Bonds fell and stocks gained as investors placed tentative bets that Trump's somewhat vague platform of economic stimulus would translate into corporate profits and higher inflation.

The stakes are high. With a Republican controlled House and Senate, Trump has the opportunity to use his time in office to radically reshape the American economy. He has pledged dramatic tax cuts, infrastructure spending and economic deregulation, and wants to repeal Obamacare. These measures he says will turbo-charge growth and help boost the wages of those who have lost out in a globalized world where "middle-class" jobs have been squeezed.

With the US budget deficit at just 3.2 percent of gross domestic product, compared with 9.8 percent in 2009, and near record low interest rates, Trump has room to undertake a large-scale fiscal boost, at least in the short term. His restrained acceptance speech hinted that infrastructure was a priority. Trump said he would "rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals (and) our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none."

On the campaign trail, Trump's speeches were

full of superlatives and unfinished thoughts that only complicated matters for traders and economic policy watchers. These enclaves are a rhetorical device at the heart of a persuasive speaking style that has helped catapult the billionaire to the White House. Trying to parse his words is one thing. Actually putting money to work quickly base on them brings far more risk than usual, according to Brian Shapiro, CEO of SPAG Funds, a small global macro hedge fund manager based in New York. "I won't react to it, but the world will," he said. "I think people will have a heart attack if they react to every word."

'Trump Lite'

Economic advisory firm Fathom Consulting dubbed the election outcome "Trump Lite": a world in which as President-elect he would be unwilling or unable to enact some of his more extreme policies such as building a wall at the Mexico border, mass deportations of immigrants and wide-ranging protectionist measures. "Markets are waiting to see if we are going to have the campaign Trump who spoke in rhetoric, or Trump the president who is going to be more pragmatic in his approach," said Komal Sri-Kumar, president of Sri-Kumar Global Strategies.

Economists and fund managers, as well as the Fed's policymakers, are looking to see which issues Trump will prioritize. So far, indications are he would pursue tax cuts, additional military spending, and revamping President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, dubbed Obamacare. Chicago Fed President Charles Evans, speaking to reporters as Americans voted on Tuesday, said he would try to figure out whether or not the new president's fiscal policies "would be more stimulative, about the same, or worse," adding the level of market volatility would provide a clue.

Trump has no defined economic team. It is unclear whether he will follow the lead of say Peter Navarro, a professor at the University of California at Irvine, whose studies suggest a tougher trade stance against China; or whether he could cleave to Wall Street allies such as former Goldman Sachs alumnus Steven Mnuchin, who has been mooted by Trump as a potential Treasury Secretary. —Reuters

TOUGH REALITY CHECK FOR
PLEDGE OF JOBS, WAGES

Donald Trump's promise to revive small town America faces a tough challenge in an economy that for decades has been wired to direct income and opportunities towards urban hubs and the better educated. Little in the president-elect's so far sketchy economic plans indicates the trend can be reversed any time soon, according to interviews with experts on income inequality and recent occupational trends.

The manufacturing jobs Trump pledges to bring back have disappeared as much because of automation as the trade deals he has promised to rewrite, and that process will only continue. A promised infrastructure revamp would boost middle wage jobs but for only as long as the programs last, economists point out. During President Barack Obama's eight years in office incomes for the best off continued to diverge, despite nearly 10 million new jobs and recent strength in those paying middle-tier wages.

On a pre-tax basis, the share of income to the top fifth of households increased from 50.4 percent to 51.4 percent between 2008 and 2015 at the expense of all the others, according to census estimates. Without the sort of tax and redistribution policies Republicans have traditionally opposed, Trump may struggle to make good on his promise to help those left behind in the global economy, economists who study inequality trends say.

"We have 30 to 40 years to catch up on...Lots of money has gone to the top and to change that is going to be a long and slow process," said David Madland, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a think tank with close ties to Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's campaign. Trump campaigned promising to shake up a Washington

establishment he argued was responsible for destroying middle class jobs with bad trade deals. The message hit home across rural America and mid-sized cities, where voters felt they missed out on the fruits of the seven-year economic recovery that big cities may have enjoyed.

Charlotte has been growing fast as a financial hub that attracts college educated talent from around the country, and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton did better there than Obama did in 2012, handily beating Trump by 137,000 votes. But in the state's textile and furniture belt just northwest from here, Trump's promise of economic renewal and anxieties of a shrinking white majority more than offset Clinton's urban victory, giving him 76 out of 100 North Carolina's counties.

The Catawaba County region, one of the nation's hardest-hit by cheap imports from China, now has a more diverse economy and even the furniture industry has begun adding jobs. But many still live in poverty and rely on disability and social services for support. "The trade argument was as prominent as any. That is certainly the bet that the Trump campaign has made," said John Dinan, a political scientist at Wake Forest University.

Taking Out Obamacare

Trump has not highlighted income inequality the way Clinton did, but to help low-wage industries such as textiles or offer a "new deal" for blacks, he would need to tackle the income gap. Recent data show how hard it may be if Trump relies on economic growth alone: Despite a record jump in household income and a continued surge in middle wage jobs nationally, the effect on income inequality was "statistically insignificant" according to census estimates. —Reuters



—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

RUNQ8: OVER 2,000 TAKE PART IN ANNUAL EVENT

KUWAIT'S MOST PROMINENT CHARITY SPORTING EVENT CELEBRATES ITS SIXTH YEAR

KUWAIT: RunQ8, the iconic non-profit initiative organized by Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI) with the support of Founding Partner Agility, returned for its sixth year with a massive show of support from across the community in Kuwait.

More than 2,000 people gathered at The Scientific Center Kuwait yesterday morning, coming together to lend their support to children with disabilities.

The annual event, which has become one of the largest charity sporting events in Kuwait, aims to raise awareness and funds to support FSRI's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) - a non-profit pediatric facility providing specialized interdisciplinary treatment and care for children with disabilities. CERC provides a full spectrum of care to the children in Kuwait - including rehab for physical injuries, developmental disorders, speech, language and swallowing difficulties, behavioral difficulties, learning disabilities, and much more.

This year, the RunQ8 was generously supported by a number of local companies and organizations, including RunQ8's Founding Partner Agility; Platinum Sponsor The

Promenade Mall; Venue Sponsor The Scientific Center; Silver Sponsors Al-Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR) and EQUATE; Bronze Sponsors Fitness First and Intersport; Friend Sponsors Jumeriah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Porsche Behbehani Motors, Al-Essa Health Shop, Ikea; Media Sponsors Al Anbaa, Ahlan and Kuwait Times; Social Media Partners Khaleesque and EverythingKuwait; and Payment Sponsor Tap. In its sixth edition, RunQ8 featured two chipped distances - 5km and 10km - offering something for every participant, regardless of their age and fitness level.

The 10km race proved to be an exciting challenge for the serious athletes and competitive runners who took part. Renata Hoppova nabbed first place in the women's adult division, with Taiba Al-Nouri and Amal Al-Roumi coming in second and third place respectively. Amongst the male participants, Pedro Carvalho came in first place followed by Tito Rodriguez and then Ahmmad Bahrami.

As for the youth category, featuring participants ages 16 to 18, Noora Al Sabah came in as the top female finisher and Abdulaziz Al Duaij as the top male finisher. RunQ8 also added a new category this year with the mas-

ter division, dedicated to participants ages 55 and above. In that category, Patricia Petrelli placed first amongst female runners and Ronald Scott placed first in the male division.

The 5km competition proved to be just as exhilarating for those who opted to compete in the shorter distance. Lulu Al Askar was the top female runner in that category, with Sulaiman Abdulrahman coming in first amongst the male participants.

In keeping with its tradition, RunQ8 was just as fun and enjoyable for everyone who came to the event, regardless of their fitness level. Participants of all ages lent their support in whichever way suited them best: Walking, jogging and even pushing along their baby strollers. Families and friends of participants gathered at the RunQ8 Village where a number of local vendors and businesses had set up booths, offering snacks, beverages and much more. The RunQ8 Village also featured a number of fun activities throughout the day, including a number of fitness activities to make sure everyone who showed up was able to get a healthy dose of exercise.

Funds raised by RunQ8 go towards helping FSRI's CERC to continue providing specialized quality care for children across the community in Kuwait. The majority of raised funds are used to help families facing financial difficulties, giving them access to much-needed treatment at a subsidized lower cost, or even for free in some cases.

"We are all so proud of just how far RunQ8 has come over the past six years, and I am in absolute awe of the level of support we receive from everyone in this community year on year," said Dr. Elham Al-Hamdan, President & Medical Director of FSRI.

She further added "I would personally like to thank everyone who showed up today to contribute to our cause: our participants and their families, our sponsors and partners, and everyone else in this community. The collective contributions of everyone involved will have a tremendous effect on helping us fulfill our mission, providing children with disabilities with the expert specialized care they need."





TWIN TRIUMPH FOR LEXUS RC F IN ROUND 7 OF 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT SERIES

BANGKOK: The WedsSportADVAN Lexus RC F driven by Yuhi Sekiguchi and Yuji Kunimo emerged victorious in the GT500 race class after leading from start to finish in the seventh round of the 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series, which took place recently at the Chang International Circuit in Thailand. Lexus RC F earned a second podium finish in the much-anticipated race of the season with the Wako's 4CR Lexus RC F team comprising Kazuya Oshima and Andrea Caldarelli securing third place.

Starting the race from pole position, WedsSportADVAN Lexus RC F put on a stupendous performance under bright and clear weather conditions to hold its lead all the way to the finish line, running virtually unchallenged to provide the team with its first victory in the GT500 class. For the Lexus RC F it was the second win of the season and second in a row following its victory in the last round at the Suzuka Circuit in Japan. According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor

Corporation, "It has been a memorable seventh round of the championship for Lexus RC F teams, with the twin podium finish once again demonstrating the extraordinary performance and reliability of our vehicles. Both the Lexus winning teams performed splendidly throughout the race, and for WedsSportADVAN Lexus RC F to have finished at the top of the pack without once dropping their lead is a remarkable feat given the strong field."

"This triumph adds to our proven record in motorsports and we emphasize on using the experience gained on the race track to build 'ever-better cars'. We deeply appreciate the support we have received from fans, and we look forward to enjoying their continued backing through the rest of the season," Yoshitsugu added.

The keenly-anticipated race got off to an exhilarating start as the pole-starting No. 19 Lexus RC F, with Yuhi Sekiguchi in the driver's seat, led the pack into the first corner. The speed of the No. 19 Lexus RC F was evident as Sekiguchi pulled away from the rest of

the field rapidly, repeatedly clocking quick lap timings and extending his lead to nearly four seconds within four laps. The teams began to make their pit stops around lap 28. With preparations underway for the No. 19 Lexus RC F to come in for a pit stop in a couple of laps, the left rear tire of car burst when completing lap 32 however Sekiguchi was able to control his Lexus RC F and get it into the pit without any serious damage to the car and the team was able to change the tires and get the car back in the race still in the lead with Yuji Kunimoto in the driver's seat. Although the second-place competitor car No. 15 was closing in fast, Kunimoto made sure a sufficient margin was maintained to lead his team to a comfortable victory.

Meanwhile, the competitor car No. 12 that had been running in 2nd place was called in for a drive-through penalty on the 49th lap for violating pit-work rules during its pit stop, allowing the competitor car No. 15 to reclaim 2nd position, while the No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR Lexus RC F moved into 3rd position.

The three lead positions of car No. 19, car No. 15 and car No. 6 respectively remained unchanged until the end of the race.

The triumph at the state-of-the-art Chang International Circuit marked the long-awaited first win in the GT500 class for WedsSportADVAN driver Yuhi Sekiguchi. For co-driver Yuji Kunimoto, too, it was his first win since the final round of the 2013 season and the second of his GT500 career.

With two podium finishes in the seventh round, Lexus RC F claimed four out of the top five positions in the overall series rankings. The No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR Lexus RC F moved into second position with 46 points followed by the No. 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F, No. 39 DENSO KOBELCO SARD Lexus RC F and winners of the seventh round, the No. 19 WedsSport ADVAN Lexus RC F.

Proceedings now move to the Motegi Gt Grand Final, Round 8 of the 2016 Autobacs Super GT series which will be held from Nov 11-13, 2016 at Twin Ring Motegi in Japan.



MEDVEDEVA, FERNANDEZ LEAD AT ISU GRAND PRIX

PARIS: World champions Evgenia Medvedeva and Javier Fernandez moved closer to a spot in next month's ISU Grand Prix of figure skating final as they led the women's and men's competitions at the ISU Grand Prix de France on Friday.

Medvedeva landed all of her jumps cleanly as she bettered her previous short programme best of 76.24 set on her way to victory at Skate Canada last month.

The 16-year-old Russian achieved 78.52 points-the second best score ever — for her performance to "River Flows in You" and "Winter" to lead Canada's Gabrielle Daleman (72.70) and Russia's Maria Sotskova (68.71). "I am pleased with today's performance, but this is still not the limit," warned Medvedeva, the reigning Grand Prix final champion. Japan's three-time world champion Mao Asada slumped to eighth in the 12-woman field with American Gracie Gold also slipping to tenth after struggling in their routines.

Asada, 26, a former two-time Paris winner, finished sixth in the season-opening Skate America with her hopes of reaching the elite Grand Prix final in Marseille from December 8-11 slim.

Two-time men's world champion Fernandez, fresh from his third Cup of Russia gold, survived a fall on his opening quadruple to score 96.57, the Spaniard comfortably leading American Nathan Chen (92.85) and Kazak Denis Ten (89.21). Germany's Aliona Savchenko and Bruno Massot lead the pairs with French ice dancers Gabriella Papadakis

and Guillaume Cizeron topping the short dance in the fourth of the six-round Grand Prix series. Medals will be decided with all four free skates on Saturday. Despite Savchenko's zipper of her dress popping the in-synch Germans skated on impressing with perfect throws, lifts, spirals and step sequences. They scored 77.55, placing ahead of two Russian pairs-Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov (76.24) and Natalia Zabijako and Alexander Enbert (71.36). "I was surprised when the zipper broke but it didn't effect us too much," said Savchenko.

Two-time world ice dancing champions Papadakis and Cizeron got their season into full swing earlier Friday. The French duo improved their previous short programme best by two points, scoring 78.26 to lead Russia's Elena Illyukh and Ruslan Zhiganshin by over ten points. Their score was second only to the 78.89 achieved by Americans Meryl Davis and Charlie White's 78.89 on the way to gold at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Competing in their first Grand Prix of the season, the 21-year-old dancers performed their new programme to Blues and Swing rhythms in front of their home crowd in the Paris-Bercy Arena. "We're delighted to start the season with a score like this," said Cizeron. "There are still things to improve as the season progresses which will be interesting too" The pair will bid for third straight European and world title next year before their bid for gold at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang in 2018. —AFP



PARIS: Russia's Evgenia Medvedeva performs during the Ladies short program at the Trophee Eric Bompard ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Paris on Friday. — AFP

SHIFFRIN WINS WORLD CUP SLALOM OPENER

LEVI: Even with less pre-season slalom training than usual, American skier Mikaela Shiffrin keeps dominating her favorite discipline. The Olympic and world champion shifted her focus in practice to super-G and even downhill, but her reign in the slalom discipline has remained unaffected. Shiffrin held on to a comfortable opening-run lead to win the first women's World Cup slalom of the season yesterday.

She finished in a two-run combined time of 1 minute, 52.71 seconds, 0.67 ahead of Switzerland's Wendy Holdener. Slovakia's Petra Vlhova came 0.75 back in third.

"Now I almost feel like I wish there was more time before the next races so I could train more and improve more," Shiffrin said about increasing the number of speed events on her schedule. The rest of Saturday's field trailed Shiffrin by at least a second, while Sweden's Frida Hansdotter, who was runner-up after the opening leg, failed to finish her second run.

"I am never confident, really," said Shiffrin, who has won all nine slaloms that she has competed in since February 2015. However, Hansdotter took the slalom title last season as Shiffrin missed five races because of a knee injury. Shiffrin's ninth consecutive win left her one short of Janica Kostelic's record. The Croatian great won 10 straight slaloms that she competed in between December 1999 and February 2001.

Still, Shiffrin wouldn't take anything for granted, referring to the strength of her challengers. "Frida went out, and Wendy skied really strong but she had a huge mistake the first run," the American said. "Without that mistake she would have been even faster, and Petra was really good as well." The victory in northern Finland earned Shiffrin an usual prize - a reindeer. She got one from her previous win here in 2013 and called him 'Rudolph'. This time she was going to call him 'Sven' - after the reindeer from the movie "Frozen". It was Shiffrin's 21st career win and 20th in slalom, matching Kostelic's number of wins. Only Austria's Marlies Raich (35) and Swiss pair Vreni Schneider (34) and Erika Hess (21) won more slaloms.

Racing down the slope in the orange glow of the setting Arctic sun, Shiffrin took a 0.72-second lead over Hansdotter and Holdener, who shared second place after the opening run.

While Holdener put pressure on Shiffrin with a near-flawless second attempt, Hansdotter straddled a gate when she entered the steep pitch and failed to finish. Shiffrin wasn't clean from the start of her final run and had lost 0.13 on Holdener at the first split, but the American accelerated to extend her lead to 0.92 before avoiding risks in the final part of her run. The victory gave Shiffrin, who placed second in the season-opening GS last month, the lead in the overall standings with 180 points, 80 clear of Lara Gut. The overall champion from Switzerland won the race last month but usually does not compete in slaloms. The 18-year-old Melanie Meillard of Switzerland, who was competing in her fourth World Cup race, started in 40th but finished sixth, 1.87 off the lead. Austria's Bernadette Schild, younger sister of retired slalom great Marlies Raich, failed to qualify for the second run after damaging the edge of a ski early in her run and finishing 3.92 seconds behind Shiffrin. A men's slalom on the same course is scheduled for today. — AP



LEVI: First placed Mikaela Shiffrin poses with man dressed as Santa Claus on the podium of an alpine skiing women's World Cup slalom, in Levi, Finland, yesterday. —AP

LINDSEY BREAKS ARM IN TRAINING

COLORADO: Battered once more by injury, Lindsey Vonn begins what has become an all-too-familiar cycle of recovery and rehab. The four-time overall World Cup champion broke her arm during a crash while training in Colorado. She said on Facebook the wipeout happened at Copper Mountain on Thursday and she had surgery that night in nearby Vail to fix the bone in her upper arm that was "severely fractured." Vonn posted X-ray pictures of her right arm on social media. On her Twitter account, Vonn wrote: "I don't know why these things happen to me but I know I am a fighter and I refuse to let it bring me down! I will never give up!" Late last February, Vonn sustained three significant breaks near her knee joint during a super-G crash in Andorra.

She tried to ski through the pain - she was in contention for the World Cup overall title - only to end her season a few days later. She was thinking long term - toward the 2017 world championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland, and the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. The 32-year-old Vonn has been steadily healing and was tentatively hoping to be back for the World Cup races in Lake

Louise, Alberta, in early December. Now, there's no timetable for her return to the start gate. "While I am beyond frustrated by this latest setback, at least my knees are OK and I will return to the slopes as soon as possible, as I always do!" Vonn posted on Facebook. Over the years, Vonn's list of ailments has continued to pile up. She hurt her left ankle in New Zealand during training camp before last season. In November 2015, Vonn needed stitches in her right thumb after trying to break up a fight between her dogs over a Frisbee.

Through all the adversity, Vonn became the winningest female World Cup racer with 76 victories. She has closed the gap on the career mark of 86 victories by Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden.

This fall, Vonn has made the rounds promoting her new book, "Strong is the New Beautiful," which provides tips in such areas as strength, fitness, food and attitude. — AP

BRAVO AXED BY WINDIES OVER ‘BIG IDIOT’ BLAST

ST. JOHN'S: Darren Bravo was axed by the West Indies yesterday after the key batsman blasted the team's top official as "a big idiot" in row over contracts.

Bravo, 27, was dropped from the squad for the forthcoming tri-nations one-day series in Zimbabwe after he hit out at the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) for their offer of a C-category contract.

In a Twitter outburst, the Trinidadian

told WICB president Dave Cameron to quit over the handling of new deals offered to the leading stars of the sport's fallen giants.

"You have been failing 4 d last 4yrs. Y don't u resign and FYI I've neva been given an A contract. Big idiot @davec51," tweeted Bravo. A WICB spokesman said Bravo had been replaced in the squad by Jason Mohammed "due to inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour, which is

contrary to his contractual obligations to the WICB".

Bravo's exit leaves the West Indies short of a player who has made 95 ODI appearances and 2,595 runs. The 30-year old all-rounder Mohammed recently captained West Indies A Team in the 3-0 series win over Sri Lanka A in Sri Lanka where he scored 105 not out, 58 and 14.

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo has been named in the squad to replace off-

spinner Sunil Narine who has withdrawn from the squad for "personal reasons", said the spokesman. Bishoo was the leading bowler for West Indies in the recent Test Series against Pakistan in United Arab Emirates - where he took 18 wickets in the three matches.

The 31-year-old has played 13 ODIs, with 20 wickets at an average of 23.8. The West Indies, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka feature in the tri-nation series

from November 14-27.

West Indies squad:

Jason Holder (captain), Sulieman Benn, Devendra Bishoo, Carlos Brathwaite, Kraigg Brathwaite, Jonathan Carter, Johnson Charles, Miguel Cummins, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shai Hope, Evin Lewis, Jason Mohammed, Ashley Nurse, Rovman Powell. — AFP

ENGLAND IN DRIVER'S SEAT IN FIRST TEST

RAJKOT: Teenager Haseeb Hameed struck an unbeaten half-century on debut as England put themselves in a dominant position in the first Test against India at Rajkot yesterday. At the end of day four, the tourists were 163 runs ahead of the top-ranked hosts with Hameed (62 not out) and skipper Alastair Cook (46 not out) giving their side a flying start in the second innings.

Hameed, watched by his Indian-born father in the stands, batted confidently, hitting five fours and a six during his 141-minute stay at the wicket.

At stumps, England were 114-0 after making 537 in their first foray at the Saurashtra Cricket Association ground, hosting its first Test ever. India were bowled out for 488 in the post-lunch session with leg-spinner Adil Rashid (4-114) emerging as the most successful bowler. With three sessions to go on a batsman-friendly wicket, England have now put themselves in a position to dictate terms to their formidable rivals. Rashid chose to be cautiously optimistic of England's chances of finishing the game on top.

"There's still a lot of cricket to be played tomorrow (Sunday)," said Rashid.

"First we have to come out and put runs on the board and see where we are at lunchtime. "If we are in a good position we might have a little bowl at India and see what happens." Rashid was also all praise for Hameed, calling him a "great talent" who worked very hard in the nets and was a good player of spin. England came into this five-match series after a demoralising first-ever Test defeat to minnows Bangladesh, and with a squad packed with inexperienced players.

The home side owed much to Ravichandran Ashwin, who struck a crucial half-century to restrict India's first-innings deficit to 49 runs. Ashwin, who came in to bat when the hosts were placed on a shaky 349 for five, made 70 off 139 balls to frustrate the visitors.

KOHLI'S HIT-WICKET

Ashwin completed his seventh Test half-century in the process, emphasising once again his all-round skills.

When England last toured India in 2012, Ashwin had proved to be a thorn in their flesh, averaging over 60 with the bat. It was also the last time that a visiting team took a first-innings lead in a Test in India. Indian batsman Murali Vijay said he expected his side to bounce back in the game. "It's still a pretty good wicket but it has gone slower. There is a lot of assistance for spinners," he said.

"We still have a chance and if we take 3-4 early wickets it will be an interesting game." The morning session saw India losing in-form skipper Virat Kohli to a freak dismissal when the batsman was on 40. Kohli's back leg hit the stumps and dislodged a bail as he tried to pull away a short delivery from Rashid.

He became the second Indian skipper to be hit-wicket after Lala Amarnath in the 1948-49 series at home against the West Indies. Kohli was also out in a similar fashion in a one-day international against England in Cardiff in 2011.

India, 319-4 overnight, started the day cautiously with Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane (13) not taking any unnecessary risks against a disciplined England attack.

But they were quick to latch on to poor deliveries, with Rahane imperiously pulling a short ball from Chris Woakes to the square leg fence. Rahane's flourish, however, proved short-lived as he lost his stumps to Ansari after completely misjudging the length.

But it was the dismissal of Kohli, who has scored two Test double centuries this year, which hit India the hardest.

The otherwise prolific Kohli had been keen to improve his dismal average against England but failed to build on his good start. He hit five fours in his 95-ball knock. The home team have won 12 and drawn one of their last 13 Tests at home since England's historic 2-1 triumph in India in 2012. — AFP



HOBART: South Africa's Temba Bavuma (R) runs for a quick single as Australia's wicketkeeper Peter Nevill (L) looks on during day one of the second Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Hobart yesterday. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA LEAD BY 86 AFTER AUSTRALIA COLLAPSE

HOBART: South Africa routed Australia for 85 and then weathered a batting crisis of their own before pushing to a lead of 86 runs after a bowler-dominated opening day of the second test in Hobart yesterday.

Temba Bavuma, unbeaten on 38, and wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock (28 not out) guided South Africa to 171-5 at stumps at Bellerive Oval, after paceman Mitchell Starc threatened to drag the hosts back into the game with a fiery spell after tea. On a gloomy, overcast morning, Proteas captain Faf du Plessis won the toss and sent Australia in to bat on a green-tinged wicket moistened by drizzle.

The call was a masterstroke as his fired-up pacemen, led by a five-wicket haul from Vernon Philander, bowled Australia out in 32.5 overs, for their lowest total at home since a 76 against West Indies in Perth in 1984.

It was also the lowest total of any team at Bellerive Oval and well short of Australia's previous nadir against the Proteas, a 111 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1994.

Thrashed by 177 runs in the opener in Perth, Australia's hopes of a series-levelling victory looked all but dashed. They face a monumental task just to save the match and prevent South Africa closing out the tournament with a game in hand. Captain Steve Smith was the only Australian batsman to show defiance with an unbeaten 48, while debutant paceman Joe Mennie (10) was his only team mate to reach double figures.

In response, South Africa cruised to 43 without loss at tea before wobbling after the break, as left-armed Starc dismissed openers Stephen Cook (23) and Dean Elgar (17), and JP Duminy (1) for three runs in a devastating spell on a day when 15 wickets tumbled.

Hazlewood trapped Du Plessis lbw for seven to leave the Proteas vulnerable at 76-4 but Amla (47) and Bavuma steadied the innings with a vital 56-run stand.

Amla was Hazlewood's second victim, nicking behind to wicketkeeper Peter Nevill, but his partner De Kock batted superbly in the final overs to frustrate the home side.

The day belonged to Philander, who took 5-21, having returned to the field after lunch following a heavy clash with Smith as the captain ran through for a single.

Australia were reduced to eight for four in the ninth over in a disastrous start, when Philander dismissed Adam Voges for a first-ball duck, his third wicket putting him on a hat-trick.

Debutant batsman Callum Ferguson, who replaced the dropped all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, saw off Philander's hat-trick ball before the bowler crashed in to Smith while

appealing for lbw. Philander exited the field and South Africa lost a review for the lbw appeal but moments later, Ferguson was run out by a direct hit from substitute fielder Dane Vilas at deep backward point.

Australia were reeling at 17-5 but Smith

spared Australia the indignity of a record lowest test score. Fast bowler Kyle Abbott, who replaced injured paceman Dale Steyn, took 3-41, and trapped recalled opener Joe Burns lbw for one in his first over before returning to clean up the tail. —Reuters

SCOREBOARD

HOBART, Australia: Scoreboard at the close on the first day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at Bellerive Oval in Hobart on yesterday.

Australia first innings		Rabada 6-0-20-1, Maharaj 4-2-2-0	
J. Burns lbw b Abbott	1		
D. Warner c de Kock b Philander	1		
U. Khawaja c Amla b Philander	4		
S. Smith not out	48		
A. Voges c de Kock b Philander	0		
C. Ferguson run out (sub-Vilas)	3		
P. Nevill lbw b Rabada	3		
J. Mennie b Philander	10		
M. Starc c Duminy b Abbott	4		
J. Hazlewood c Amla b Abbott	8		
N. Lyon c de Kock b Philander	2		
Extras (lb1)	1		
Total (all out, 32.5 overs)	85		
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Warner), 2-2 (Burns), 3-8 (Khawaja), 4-8 (Voges), 5-17 (Ferguson), 6-31 (Nevill), 7-59 (Mennie), 8-66 (Starc), 9-76 (Hazlewood), 10-85 (Lyon)			
Bowling: Philander 10.1-5-21-5, Abbott 12.4-3-41-3,			
South Africa first innings			
S. Cook c Nevill b Starc	23		
D. Elgar lbw b Starc	17		
H. Amla c Nevill b Hazlewood	47		
JP Duminy c Smith b Starc	1		
F. Du Plessis lbw b Hazlewood	7		
T. Bavuma not out	38		
Q. de Kock not out	28		
Extras (b3, lb6, nb1)	10		
Total (5 wickets; 55 overs)	171		
To bat: Vernon Philander, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Kyle Abbott.			
Fall of wickets: 1-43 (Elgar), 2-44 (Cook), 3-46 (Duminy), 4-76 (Du Plessis), 5-132 (Amla)			
Bowling: Starc 15-0-49-3 (1nb), Hazlewood 16-7-36-2, Mennie 14-1-47-0, Lyon 10-1-30-0			

AUSTRALIA'S BATTING IN CRISIS: LEHMANN

HOBART: Coach Darren Lehmann has voiced concern about Australia's batting lineup after a catastrophic display in which the hosts were bowled out for 85 by South Africa on the first day of the second test in Hobart yesterday.

Vernon Philander and Kyle Abbott made the most of overcast skies and a moisture-laden pitch, picking up eight wickets between them to wrap up Australia's innings in less than two-and-a-half hours.

Lehmann, who indicated that radical changes to the team may be needed, was asked by reporters if he thought Australia were in a batting crisis.

"When you get bowled out for 85, it probably is, isn't it?" he said.

Only two Australian batsmen reached double figures, pace bowler Joe Mennie making 10 and skipper Steve Smith a gritty 48 not out.

Lehmann said it was time the selectors reassessed their options.

"We believe this is the best squad we've got to play. On today's performance you'd

say we've got to change," the former left-handed batsman added. "We had seen it all before, but that didn't make it any easier to believe it was happening again, this time on home soil."

Lehmann said the performance brought back memories of the fourth Ashes test of 2015, when tourists Australia were bowled out for 60 in their first innings by England in Nottingham.

Saturday's debacle represented Australia's second-worst start in a home test when batting first since they lost six wickets for 31 against England in Brisbane in 1978.

Australia's last tour ended in a 3-0 series drubbing by Sri Lanka and they were beaten by 177 runs by South Africa in the first test of the current three-match series.

"Even four tests ago (when) we were number one. Now, we're way away from that," Lehmann added. Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood picked up two wickets each as South Africa reached 171 for five at stumps. — Reuters



RAJKOT: England's players celebrate the wicket of Indian batsman Ajinkya Rahane, center, on the fourth day of the first cricket Test match between India and England in Rajkot, India, yesterday. — AP

FLAWLESS WANG SURGES AHEAD AT SUN CITY

SUN CITY: South Korean Jeung-hun Wang defied difficult conditions at the Gary Player Country Club to shoot a superb third-round 64 and grab a three-shot lead in the European Tour's Nedbank Challenge yesterday.

Only 17 of the remaining field of 70 posted below-par scores but Wang made a mockery of those struggles with

the lowest round of the tournament, including six birdies and an eagle for a an aggregate total of 11 under par.

He finished three shots ahead of home favourite Louis Oosthuizen (70) with England's Andy Sullivan (68) in third on seven under, four shots behind the leader. The 21-year-old Wang is seeking his third European Tour victory of 2016

in what has been his breakthrough year.

He started the third round five shots behind halfway leader Alex Noren (74), but four birdies in his first six holes, including a chip in from off the green on the fourth, gave him momentum.

He rocketed to the top of the leaderboard with an eagle at the par-five 10th before adding birdies on 11 and 18.

Oosthuizen turned at level par for the round after nine holes but looked well in contention with four birdies heading back to the clubhouse, before dropped shots on 17 and 18.

The Race to Dubai looks as though it will go down to the wire at the season-ending DP World Tour Championship in Dubai next week after money-list leader

Henrik Stenson carded a 69 for an aggregate total of four under par, seven shots behind Wang.

The Swede could wrap up the title of Europe's top golfer in 2016 with victory at Sun City and a finish outside of the top 10 for his nearest rival, Danny Willett, who rallied on Saturday for a 67 that left him tied for 17th on level par. —Reuters

ROSBERG PIPS HAMILTON IN THIRD FINAL PRACTICE

SAO PAULO: Nico Rosberg bounced back to top the times ahead of Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in yesterday's third and final practice for this weekend's potentially decisive Brazilian Grand Prix. The world championship leader clocked a best time of one minute and 11.740 seconds on a damp morning at Interlagos to finish the session just 0.093 seconds ahead of the defending champion Hamilton, who was fastest in both sessions on Friday.

Rosberg, who holds a 19-point lead on the Briton with two races remaining, will win his maiden title if he completes a hat-trick of successive wins at the Brazilian event in today's race. Hamilton has never won in Brazil-one of only two venues on the current calendar that have not provided him with victory-but he also is seeking a hat-trick of three consecutive wins following triumphs in the United States and Mexico last month.

The weather conditions in Sao Paulo were significantly different on Saturday to the heatwave on Friday. The cooler air, coupled with intermittent drizzle, created a very different set of challenges and little or no consistency with the lap times as the drivers and teams went through their final preparations ahead of qualifying later. After struggling on Friday, Ferrari battled through the night to find improvements and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel was third-fastest, ahead of his team-mate Kimi Raikkonen.

Dutch teenager Max Verstappen was fifth ahead of Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo, Finn Valtteri Bottas of Williams and Jolyon Palmer for Renault. Local hero Felipe Massa was ninth in the second Williams ahead of two-time world champion Fernando Alonso of McLaren, the Spaniard returning to

action after a problematic Friday that saw him suffer a car failure. Meanwhile, Formula One stewards rejected Ferrari's request for a review of Sebastian Vettel's Mexican Grand Prix penalty on Friday, arguing that the Italian team had not presented any new evidence to warrant such a move. The governing FIA published their decision in a statement at the Brazilian Grand Prix after a teleconference involving the stewards from the Oct. 30 race in Mexico City and representatives of Red Bull and Ferrari. "Having received all the written and verbal submissions and carefully considered them, the Stewards decide there is no new element," it concluded.

Four-time world champion Vettel went from fourth on the track to third and then back down to fifth after stewards applied post-race time penalties to Red Bull's Max Verstappen and then himself.

The German was demoted for making a dangerous move while braking as Red Bull's Australian Daniel Ricciardo attempted to overtake. The penalty was the first for the offence since drivers were given a written warning at the previous race in Texas about such defensive manoeuvres.

Ferrari had said on Thursday that it considered "a number of new elements" had emerged to make the race day decision reviewable. The team, third in the championship with Red Bull second, said they felt it was important to have clarity when a precedent was being established.

Ferrari argued that race director Charlie Whiting had the 'power' to instruct Verstappen to relinquish a place to Vettel after he went off track to his advantage on the lap before the incident between the German and Ricciardo.—Agencies



CHICAGO: Jonathan Toews #19 of the Chicago Blackhawks tries to control the puck under pressure from Karl Alzner #27 of the Washington Capitals at the United Center on Friday in Chicago, Illinois. The Capitals defeated the Blackhawks 3-2 in overtime. — AFP

JOHANSSON, CAPITALS COOL OFF BLACKHAWKS WITH WIN

CHICAGO: Marcus Johansson scored at 2:20 of overtime and Braden Holtby made 32 saves as the Washington Capitals snapped Chicago's seven-game winning streak with a 3-2 victory over the Blackhawks on Friday night. Jay Beagle scored two goals, giving him three for the season, and the Capitals won for the sixth time in seven games in the opener of a three-game trip. Washington defenseman Dmitry Orlov made a nice pass to Johansson for the one-timer that beat Corey Crawford on the glove side. It was Johansson's seventh goal of the season. Marian Hossa had a goal and an assist for Chicago, which extended its point streak to 10 games. Defenseman Brian Campbell also scored, and Crawford finished with 24 stops.

DEVILS 2, SABRES 1, OT

Andy Greene scored on a penalty shot 29 seconds into overtime, giving New Jersey a win over Buffalo. Greene earned the penalty shot when he was held from behind by Buffalo's Evander Kane on a breakaway up the left side. Yannick Aurivu scored his first NHL goal and Keith Kinkaid made 25 saves to help the Devils win their third straight. Matt Moulson scored for Buffalo and Anders Nilsson made a season-high 41 saves, including 17 in the third period. The Sabres have lost three straight and are 0-4 in overtime games this season.

AVALANCHE 3, JETS 2, OT

Rene Bourque had two goals, including the winner in overtime when Nikolaj Ehlers scored into his own net, as Colorado beat Winnipeg. Bourque was credited with the goal when Ehlers, fighting for the puck along the side boards, backhanded the puck through the legs of teammate Toby Enstrom and past goaltender Michael Hutchinson 1:23 into overtime. Mikko Rantanen scored his first career goal and Semyon Varlamov had 16 saves for the Avalanche. Blake Wheeler had a goal and an assist, Mark Scheifele also scored and Ehlers had two assists. Hutchinson finished with 26 saves two weeks after blanking Colorado here.

SENATORS 2, KINGS 1

Mark Stone scored with 7 seconds left in regulation to lift Ottawa past Los Angeles. Stone tracked down a loose puck in the crease and put the Senators ahead less than four minutes after Zack Smith tied it. Craig Anderson finished with 32 saves for Ottawa. Dwight King scored early in the second period for the Kings. Jeff Zatkoff had a shutout going through the first two periods, stopping all 18 shots the Senators sent his way, but he was replaced to start the third by Peter Budaj, who had a shutout streak of 140:57 snapped Thursday night in Montreal. After Budaj made 12 straight saves, Smith was able to bat his own rebound out of the air and in with 3:54 remaining to tie it. Budaj finished with 13 stops.

STARS 3, OILERS 2

Patrick Eaves had a goal and an assist, Kari Lehtonen made 40 saves and Dallas won its second straight after losing six of seven. Lauri Kopikoski and Antoine Roussel also scored for the Stars. Patrick Maroon and Tyler Pitlick scored for Edmonton, which has lost two straight to fall to 2-4 1 since starting the sea-

NHL results/standings

New Jersey 2, Buffalo 1 (OT); Toronto 6, Philadelphia 3; Ottawa 2, Los Angeles 1; Washington 3, Chicago 2 (OT); Colorado 3, Winnipeg 2 (OT); Dallas 3, Edmonton 2.

Western Conference													
Central Division													
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS							
Chicago	10	3	2	51	37	22	Ottawa	9	5	0	34	33	18
St. Louis	7	5	3	33	39	17	Tampa Bay	8	5	1	45	39	17
Winnipeg	7	7	2	47	48	16	Detroit	8	6	1	41	38	17
Minnesota	7	4	1	37	24	15	Boston	8	6	0	37	37	16
Dallas	6	6	3	40	50	15	Toronto	6	5	3	43	51	15
Nashville	5	5	3	34	37	13	Buffalo	5	5	4	27	33	14
Colorado	6	7	0	27	39	12	Florida	6	7	1	37	37	13
Pacific Division							Metropolitan Division						
Edmonton	9	5	1	45	38	19	NY Rangers	10	4	0	58	34	20
Anaheim	7	5	3	41	35	17	Pittsburgh	9	3	2	43	38	20
San Jose	8	6	0	34	34	16	Washington	9	3	1	36	29	19
Los Angeles	7	8	0	37	38	14	New Jersey	7	3	3	31	28	17
Vancouver	5	9	1	28	44	11	Columbus	6	4	2	37	28	14
Calgary	5	9	1	38	55	11	Philadelphia	6	7	2	52	57	14
Arizona	5	8	0	37	47	10	NY Islanders	5	7	2	38	44	12
Eastern Conference							Carolina	3	6	4	33	45	10
Atlantic Division							Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						
Montreal	12	1	1	46	31	25							

son 7-1-0. Cam Talbot stopped 27 shots. Roussel got the tiebreaking goal with 5 minutes left in the second period, taking a partial breakaway pass from Tyler Seguin and beating Talbot. Edmonton had some solid chances in the dying minutes, but Lehtonen preserved the win.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, FLYERS 3

Morgan Rielly had a goal and three assists, while Zach Hyman had the go ahead score in Toronto's four-goal third period to lead the Maple Leafs. Martin Marincin, Leo Komarov, Nazem Kadri and Mitch Marner also scored for

Toronto, and Frederik Anderson stopped 30 shots. Wayne Simmonds scored twice and Travis Konecny also had a goal for the Flyers. Steve Mason finished with 17 saves. Marincin tied the score 3-3 at 4:03 of the third as he fired a slap shot from the point on a pass from Rielly for his first goal of the season. Hyman put Toronto ahead for good about 4 1/2 minutes later, shoveling in the rebound of Auston Matthews' shot off the cross bar for his first NHL goal. Komarov's unassisted backhander made it 5-3 with about 8 1/2 minutes remaining, and Marner capped the scoring with a snap shot with 3:43 to go. — AP

OOREDOO ANNOUNCES THIRD WINNER OF FANTASY PREMIER LEAGUE

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network for 2016, announced Omar Al-Kandery as the third winner of the Fantasy Premier League. Ooredoo announced the start of registration through its social media channels, which includes the company's Instagram account @OoredooKuwait, offering all interested participants the opportunity to win great prizes throughout the duration of the league.

Participation in the Fantasy Premier League is simple, Ooredoo created the following code for interested participants and football fans 1105539-285050. The code enables participants to collect the most points possible to compete for a monthly smart phone, and win the grand prize which is a trip for two including accommodation and tickets to attend one of the games of the English Premier League 2017/2018. Ooredoo emphasized that the foot-

ball season is one of the most common interests among its customers, and by providing them with the opportunity to register in the Fantasy Premier League, the company aims to add to their excitement and entertainment while simultaneously viewing these games during the season. The company hopes that the participants get the opportunity to win the great prizes offered by Ooredoo.

Fantasy Football is a game in which participants assemble an imaginary team of real life players and score points based on those players' actual statistical performance. The participant with the highest scoring team is announced as the winner of the Fantasy Football League.

For more information and updates on the Fantasy Premier League, please follow Ooredoo Kuwait's social media channels, through which the names of the winners will be announced.



GARY WOODLAND SHOOTS 65, LEADS OHL CLASSIC

PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Gary Woodland birdied three of the final four holes Friday for a 6-under 65 and a one-stroke lead in the PGA Tour's OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

Woodland played the first 36 holes without a bogey, following an opening 64 to get to 13-under 129 on Mayakoba's Greg Norman-designed El Camaleon course. He won the last of his two tour titles in 2013.

"I haven't been here since my rookie year, so it's been since 2009," Woodland said. "The golf course is in great shape. It sets up good for me. I can hit a lot of irons off the tees, lay back a little bit. The whole deal is to keep the ball in the fairway and then attack from there." d." Married last month, Woodland took last week and worked with instructor Butch Harmon off opening the new season in Malaysia and China.

"It was nice to have an off week last week," Woodland said. "Went out and spent some time with Butch. After the wedding, kind of got a little rusty. Took some time off, but nice to get back in the swing of things. Very comfortable with where I'm at right now." Webb Simpson was second after his second straight 65.

Scott Piercy had a 6 to reach 11 under. He tied for third in the season opener at

Silverado. "Just kind of plodding along and trying to pick up birdies where I can and kind of keep the scorecard pretty clean," Piercy said. "Felt pretty good. Just trying to pick up some marbles on the way and count them at the end of the week and see where we fall."

First-round leader Chris Kirk followed his opening 63 with a 70 to drop into a tie for fourth at 9 under with local favorite Abraham Ancer (68), Russell Knox (65), Charles Howell III (64), Ben Martin (64), John Huh (66) and Adam Hadwin (66).

Marc Leishman eagled the par-5 seventh and followed with a hole-in-one on the 134-yard, hitting a sand wedge for 134 yards. The Australian was 7 under after a 65.

"One-hopped past it and spun back into the hole," Leishman said. "Same thing on 8. High sand wedge and landed about a yard past it and zipped back into the hole. It was first hole in one I've had on tour. I've had quite a few others just in practice rounds and that, but that's always nice to see it drop in." Defending champion Graeme McDowell rallied to make the cut by a stroke, following an opening 75 with a 65 to get to 2 under.

Jim Furyk missed the cut, shooting 74-70 in his first event of the new season. — AP

POGBA'S GAME NOT ABOUT THE GOALS: DESCHAMPS

PARIS: France coach Didier Deschamps insists there is an awful lot more to Paul Pogba's game after the Manchester United star found the net again in his country's 2-1 win over Sweden on Friday.

The world's most expensive player headed in France's equaliser before Dimitri Payet got the winning goal in the World Cup qualifier at the Stade de France on Friday.

It was Pogba's eighth goal for his country and followed his winner in the 1-0 victory away to the Netherlands last month. The 23-year-old also scored a superb volley in United's 3-1 win at Swansea City in the English Premier

League last weekend but Deschamps said: "He is not a goal-scorer. He can score goals and has done so but I don't especially expect him to do that."

"All the better that he did so today but I am much more happy with his overall performance which followed on from what he did in the Netherlands."

"For Manchester he is used in a different position in a different system. He gave us a lot of fluidity with the ball and was good at winning possession back," Deschamps added.

"When Paul is playing like that and has a good partnership with Blaise Matuidi it is important for the team. If he

scores, all the better. I know he likes scoring but it is not what I or the team expect from him." France are three points clear of Sweden at the top of Group A four games into European qualifying for the 2018 World Cup thanks to Payet's 65th-minute winner.

There was a touch of controversy about the goal, however, as Antoine Griezmann was in an offside position in the build-up. The striker's presence then led to goalkeeper Robin Olsen fumbling a cross, allowing Payet to score.

"Sweden deserved a better result. It is a bit of a shame because the second goal was offside, but these things hap-

pen in sport," lamented visiting coach Janne Andersson, whose team had gone in front through a superb Emil Forsberg free-kick at the start of the second half.

Deschamps responded: "I saw that he was slightly offside. His tibia was offside. It wasn't given, and all the better for us."

"But there was also a cross and an error that led to the goal. It could have been given. There wasn't much in it and it went in our favour. I understand the anger and disappointment of my Swedish colleague."

The game was played almost exactly a year on from the terror attacks that struck Paris on Friday November 13,

2015. A total of 130 people were killed in the attacks, including one man when three suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the Stade de France while France were playing Germany in a friendly. A minute's silence was held for the victims to mark the anniversary before the Sweden game, while France's president Francois Hollande was in attendance. "Time goes on but nobody will forget, or can forget, what happened," said Deschamps.

"We need to go on but it is important to show our solidarity to the victims, their families and everyone who was so deeply affected a year ago now." —AFP

PAYET SHINES AS FRANCE BEAT SWEDEN

PARIS: France midfielder Dimitri Payet scored the winner after setting up the equaliser in a 2-1 victory over Sweden in a top-of-the-table clash as they opened up a three-point lead in World Cup qualifying Group A at the Stade de France on Friday.

The visitors went ahead in the 54th minute through Emil Forsberg before Paul Pogba and Payet hit back with goals in the 58th and 65th minutes respectively to put France on 10 points ahead of Sweden after four games.

The Netherlands, who travel to Luxembourg on Sunday, are in third place on four points.

A minute's silence was held before kick-off to mark the first anniversary of the Paris attacks that killed 130 people on Friday Nov. 13 when bars, restaurants and the stadium where Les Bleus were playing a friendly against Germany were targeted.

French president Francois Hollande, who was also at the France v Germany game last year, attended Friday's match along with invited presidents of the French Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 clubs.

"We have to remember. One year ago, almost to the day, we were here for a friendly game and three bombs were detonated, with one man being killed," Hollande told French TV.

"We have to remember there were 130 people who died and hundreds of others who were injured. For them and for those

who survived we must remember."

Security was tight, with some 1,200 stewards and 400 police officers deployed in and around the stadium but there were no incidents reported.

LIVELY OPENING

Sweden, who lost their backbone after goalkeeper Andreas Isaksson, midfielder Kim Kallstrom and talismanic striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic all retired from international football, still proved a tough nut to crack.

France pressed high, leaving little breathing space for the Swedes, who looked dangerous on set pieces.

Les Bleus had their first clear chance in the 15th minute when Payet's curled shot was parried away by Robin Olsen.

However, after a lively opening 20 minutes, France faded while Sweden grew into the game, threatening with a couple of sharp counter attacks.

The visitors went ahead nine minutes into the second half, when Forsberg's 25-metre free kick flew past keeper Hugo Lloris. France reacted swiftly, however, with Pogba heading home from Payet's free kick four minutes later. In the 65th, Olsen fumbled a cross into the path of Payet, who coolly turned the ball home to give France the points.

Sweden next face Belarus on March 25 when France, who host Ivory Coast in a friendly on Tuesday, visit Luxembourg. — Reuters



COLUMBUS: Carlos Vela #11 of Mexico battles for the ball with Jermaine Jones #13 and Matt Besler #5 of the United States in the second half during the FIFA 2018 World Cup Qualifier at MAPFRE Stadium on Friday in Columbus, Ohio. — AFP

MARQUEZ HEADER EARNS MEXICO'S DRAMATIC WIN

OHIO: Rafael Marquez headed in a late winner to secure Mexico's dramatic 2-1 victory over the United States in a CONCACAF World Cup qualifier match in Ohio on Friday.

With emotions running high, 'El Tri' delivered a brutal knockout punch to the Americans as Marquez directed a header into goal off a corner kick in the 89th minute to deflate the hosts who had dominated during a feisty second half.

The match between rivals featured eight yellow cards and a team-wide pushing match between both sides in extra time for an explosive start to the Hexagonal.

The showdown took on extra meaning just days after the US elected Donald Trump as President. Trump has threatened to build a wall along the border between the two countries in a proposed crackdown on illegal immigration.

"Mexico had the better first half, in the second half we were outstanding," US coach Jurgen Klinsmann told reporters.

"Overall, it was a very intense and exciting really quality battle. Now this puts us on our toes going down to Costa Rica (Tuesday) to try to get three points."

Mexico persevered through cold weather and physicality, however, and joined the trend of road teams winning the opening round.

Costa Rica defeated Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 and Panama beat Honduras 1-0 as each road side earned the opening three points.

The US also lost veteran goalkeeper Tim Howard who was forced out of the game in the 40th minute with what appeared to be a leg injury.

The 37-year-old went down when taking a goal kick, and was replaced by Brad Guzan.

Klinsmann said he does not expect Howard to make the trip to Costa Rica for Tuesday's game and the goalkeeper will undergo an MRI yesterday.

"The groin is sore for sure, we'll find out more tomorrow," Howard said. "I'm disappointed for the group. We gave as good as we got, and in the end a set piece let us down."

Miguel Layun opened the scoring for Mexico in the 20th minute and 'El Tri' looked oise to build a big lead as they spread out the Americans and ran free in space.

The US survived the assault then completely shifted the momentum in the second half where Bobby Wood tied the match in the 49th minute after a nice run and pass from team mate Jozy Altidore. Mexico held on to get the final say in the closing minutes. "We were working to get this result. I think we deserved this, and three points puts us in good position," Layun said. — Reuters

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
WORLD CUP 2018 EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS	
Bulgaria v Belarus	20:00
AD SPORTS 3 HD	
Luxembourg v Netherlands	20:00
AD SPORTS 3 HD	
Hungary v Andorra	20:00
AD SPORTS 5 HD	
Switzerland v Faroe Islands	20:00
AD SPORTS 5 HD	
Cyprus v Gibraltar	20:00
AD SPORTS 4 HD	
Belgium v Estonia	22:45
AD SPORTS 5 HD	
Greece v Bosnia & Herzegovina	22:45
AD SPORTS 1	
Portugal v Latvia	22:45
AD SPORTS 4 HD	



SAINT-DENIS: French President Francois Hollande (L) shakes hands with the newly elected president of the French Professional Football League Nathalie Boy De La Tour (R) during the 2018 World Cup group A qualifying football match between France and Sweden at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, on Friday. — AFP

ENGLAND WIN VS SCOTLAND COULD DETERMINE FUTURE OF 2 COACHES

LONDON: Gareth Southgate edged closer to being appointed England's permanent manager with a victory that weakened Gordon Strachan's grip on the Scotland job.

A trio of headers from Daniel Sturridge, Adam Lallana and Gary Cahill ensured a 3-0 victory on Friday that appeared far more convincing on the scoreboard than the actual performance by England in the 113th meeting of international football's oldest rivals. It gave Southgate seven points from the three competitive matches of his interim spell in charge of England following Sam Allardyce's abrupt departure after one match in charge over unguarded comments to undercover reporters.

Whether Southgate is handed the job permanently will be determined after England hosts Spain in a friendly on Tuesday. While the displays under Southgate have lacked the dynamism expected by fans of a team of Premier League stars, they weren't any better in recent years either. England was embarrassed at the European Championship in June, with Roy Hodgson quitting after a last-16 loss to Iceland.

"What I'm really pleased about is that I was given the task of picking the job up in a very difficult situation for everybody and I feel like we've prepared the team really well," Southgate said. "The rest is out of my hands. I've loved it. I've really enjoyed the role. I've enjoyed the responsibility."

I've enjoyed the challenge of every

part of it." If Southgate is handed a contract, rather than returning to the under-21s team, he might not be facing Strachan in the opposite dugout when England travels to Scotland in June. The spirited Scots did make the hosts uncomfortable at times at Wembley Stadium but had nothing to show for it. Strachan's side slumped to fifth place, six points behind unbeaten England, and the manager will face further scrutiny over his future as Scotland's hopes of making its first tournament since the 1998 World Cup fade. Strachan said he was only thinking about the impact of the "cruel" result of his players, "If anyone thinks at this moment in time I'm thinking about myself you are wrong," Strachan told reporters.

"Probably when I'm just about to die, I'll think, 'How did you get on Gordon?' Not a bad life," Strachan added. "At the moment in time ... it's nothing to do with me."

Slovenia is second after Benjamin Verbic clinched a 1-0 at bottom-placed Malta. Slovakia is third after beating Lithuania 4-0 through Adam Nemec's header before strikes from Juraj Kucka, Martin Skrtel and Marek Hamsik. Only the group winners automatically qualify for the 2018 finals in Russia. Unsurprisingly, the anthems were sung against a chorus of boos from rival fans - 144 years after this derby was first played. But the cross-border rivals were united in the buildup to the game by a two-week public spat

with FIFA over their desire to mark Armistice Day by wearing poppies which commemorate British Commonwealth forces who have died on duty since World War I. England and Scotland are set to be fined by FIFA for breaching rules banning political, religious, personal or commercial messages on official uniforms and equipment. After a pre-match minute of silence, the Scots pressed with purpose from kickoff but they couldn't keep it up and fell behind in the 24th minute. Raheem Sterling's initial shot deflected to the right flank and Kyle Walker returned the ball into the penalty area where an unmarked Sturridge angled a low header past goalkeeper Craig Gordon. It was a rare bright moment for the Liverpool striker, who has dropped in the pecking order at Anfield and has scored no goals in the league this season.

"It wasn't as comfortable as we would have liked," Lallana said. "We started the game very sloppily. We said a few things to each other at halftime and the manager did." Scotland missed opportunities to equalize at the start of the second half and England punished the visitors after five minutes with Lallana latching onto Rose's cross with a header. Cahill completed a miserable trip south of the border for Scotland in the 61st minute when he was left unmarked to connect with captain Wayne Rooney's corner.

"I don't know if we can work any harder than we do," Strachan said. — AP



LONDON: England's striker Wayne Rooney (C) collides with Scotland's defender Christophe Berra (L) during a World Cup 2018 qualification match between England and Scotland at Wembley stadium in London on Friday. — AFP

Sports

RunQ8: Over '2000
take part in
annual event



Rosberg pips
Hamilton in third
final practice



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016

BRAVO AXED BY WINDIES OVER ‘BIG IDIOT’ BLAST

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WASHINGTON: Trey Burke #33 of the Washington Wizards looks to make a pass in front of Kyrie Irving #2 of the Cleveland Cavaliers during the second half at Verizon Center on Friday in Washington, DC. — AF

CAVS DOWN WIZARDS, MILESTONE NIGHT FOR JAMES

WASHINGTON: Adding a win to their White House visit, LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers capped a perfect trip to the nation's capital by beating the Washington Wizards 105-94 on the strength of 14 3-pointers Friday night. A day after being feted as NBA champions by President Barack Obama, the Cavs improved to 7-1 this season, recovering quickly from their loss to Atlanta on Tuesday. James had 27 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, and Kevin Love finished with 14 points and 16 rebounds. Kyrie Irving scored 29 and helped the Cavs hold John Wall to only five of his 28 points after halftime.

CLIPPERS 110, THUNDER 108
Blake Griffin scored 25 points as Los Angeles beat Oklahoma City to improve the best start in franchise history to 8-1. Thunder star Russell Westbrook missed what would have been a game-winning 3-pointer in the closing seconds. Jamal Crawford scored 19 points and Chris Paul added 17 points and 10 assists for the Clippers, who have won five straight and own the league's best record. The Clippers avenged their only loss of the season. The Thunder won 85-83 on Nov. 2 in Los Angeles. Westbrook had 29 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists. Victor Oladipo scored 18 for Oklahoma City (6-3).

SPURS 96, PISTONS 86
Pau Gasol set season highs with 21 points and six assists as San Antonio snapped a

three-game home losing streak with a victory over Detroit. Gasol was 10 for 16 from the field as San Antonio snapped its longest home skid since dropping three straight in December 2014. He also had nine rebounds and two blocked shots. Kawhi Leonard scored 17 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs. Tony Parker had seven points and four assists in 21 minutes after missing the previous three games with a sore right knee. Andre Drummond matched his season high with 20 points and added 17 rebounds in Detroit's third straight loss.

RAPTORS 113, HORNETS 111
DeMar DeRozan continued his torrid pace, scoring 34 points as Toronto snapped Charlotte's four-game winning streak. DeRozan came into the game averaging an NBA-high 34.1 points. He shot 14 of 26 from the field and made several key jumpers down the stretch as the Raptors erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to win for the fifth time in six games. DeRozan has scored at least 30 points in seven of Toronto's eight games. His latest big night offset a huge performance from Hornets guard Kemba Walker, who scored 40 points on 12-of-19 shooting, including 7 of 12 from 3-point range. Walker also had 10 rebounds and six assists.

76ERS 109, PACERS 105, OT
Joel Embiid scored 16 of his 25 points in

the fourth quarter and overtime to lead Philadelphia over Indiana for its first victory of the season. Ersan Ilyasova added 14 points for Philadelphia, which was the last winless team left in the NBA. The 76ers snapped a 44-game losing streak in October and November that dated to Nov. 22, 2013. And they can thank Embiid, the No. 3 pick of the 2014 draft who missed the last two seasons due to a broken foot. Paul George had 26 points and Monta Ellis added 19 for the Pacers.

JAZZ 87, MAGIC 74
Gordon Hayward scored 20 points and Derrick Favors added 18 to lift Utah over Orlando. The Jazz bounced back from a loss in Charlotte and moved to 3-1 on their five-game road trip. The Magic, meanwhile, went more than 9 minutes without a basket and dropped their third straight. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 21 points, but was the team's only starter in double figures. D.J. Augustin came off the bench to score 19. Utah center Rudy Gobert finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

CELTICS 115, KNICKS 87
Isaiah Thomas scored 23 of his 29 points in the first half to help Boston snap a three-game slide by beating New York. Kelly Olynyk added 19 points and seven rebounds for the Celtics. The Knicks have yet to post consecutive victories this season. They played without Carmelo Anthony in the second half - he was ejected with 4:44 left in the second quarter after picking up back-to-back technical fouls. Anthony finished with 12 points and two rebounds. Brandon Jennings also was ejected late in the fourth quarter after receiving consecutive technical fouls.

TRAIL BLAZERS 122, KINGS 120, OT
Damian Lillard had 36 points and CJ McCollum scored 31 to lead Portland past Sacramento in overtime. The teams traded the lead over the final 2 1/2 minutes. Meyers Leonard made two free throws to give Portland a 121-120 edge with 32 seconds remaining, and Rudy Gay missed a jumper at the other end. Allen Crabbe hit one of two foul shots for the Trail Blazers with 14.3 seconds left, leaving the Kings with another opportunity. DeMarcus Cousins missed a jumper and Gay was off target on a 16-foot fadeaway at the buzzer. Cousins led Sacramento with 33 points. Gay had 29 points and 14 rebounds. - AP

GNABRY HAT-TRICK IN GERMANY 8-GOAL ROMP

SERRAVALLE: Ex-Arsenal winger Serge Gnabry scored a hat-trick on his senior Germany debut in Friday's 8-0 World Cup victory at San Marino as coach Joachim Loew set a new record. Gnabry, 21, who left the Gunners before the start of the season, is the first German to score a hat-trick on his debut since Dieter Mueller achieved the feat for West Germany in 1976.

"Of course, I didn't expect the hat-trick and I'm delighted to have helped the team," said Gnabry who joined Werder Bremen in August after a lack of chances at Arsenal.

"The last few years have been hard for me, so it's nice to have had a few goals and I hope it keeps going well."

Cologne left-back Jonas Hector also netted twice after Germany's stand-in captain Sami Khedira opened the scoring. Mattia Stefanelli scored a late own goal before substitute Kevin Volland netted Germany's eighth.

Germany maintain their perfect record of four wins to stay top of their 2018 World Cup qualifying group and five points clear of nearest rivals Northern Ireland.

After a decade in charge, this was Loew's 95th victory, in his 142nd international as coach, to better the 94 wins of legendary Sepp Herberger, who steered West Germany to the 1954 World Cup title. "We wanted to score as many goals as possible and let them do the running.

It worked out well," said Loew.
"Gnabry has showed for Werder, and for us in training, that he's in good form." With Toni Kroos and Jerome Boateng injured, Loew gave debuts to both Gnabry and 19-year-old Bayer Leverkusen right-back Benjamin Henrichs. Germany romped to a 13-0 win on their last visit to Serravalle in 2006 and took just seven minutes to take the lead against San Marino's part-timers. With goalkeeper and captain Manuel Neuer missing with a virus, Khedira skippered Germany and put his side ahead.

In pouring rain, Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan spotted Khedira's run into the box and the defensive midfielder buried his shot. Gnabry doubled the lead when a clearance from defender Davide Simoncini went straight to the Werder winger.

His shot beat Simoncini's twin brother Aido in the San Marino goal on nine minutes. Hector found himself in the strikers' position when Mario Goetze's pass picked him out and he tucked away Germany's third on 32 minutes. Mario Gomez stroked Thomas Mueller's pass into the net, but he was incorrectly flagged for offside and it stayed 3-0 at the break. The San Marino FA's Twitter account gleefully pointed out their half-time score was better than Brazil's 5-0 during the 2014 World Cup semi-final. Gnabry grabbed the fourth on 58 minutes after converting Joshua Kimmich's floated pass over the defence.

Then Hector added his second after good work from Goetze opened up the defence on 65 minutes. Schalke's Max Meyer replaced Goetze for the final 20 minutes and hit the post with his first touch of the ball.

Gnabry wrapped up his hat-trick 14 minutes from time before Stefanelli, who became a national hero by scoring their goal in last month's 4-1 defeat to Norway, turned the ball into his own net. Volland then came off the bench to score the world champions' eighth four minutes from time. — AFP

NBA results/standings

Philadelphia 109, Indiana 105 (OT); Cleveland 105, Washington 94; Toronto 113, Charlotte 111; Utah 87, Orlando 74; Boston 115, NY Knicks 87; LA Clippers 110, Oklahoma City 108; San Antonio 96, Detroit 86; Portland 122, Sacramento 120 (OT).

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	6	2	.750	-	Oklahoma City	6	3	.667	-
Boston	4	4	.500	2	Utah	6	4	.600	0.5
NY Knicks	3	5	.375	3	Portland	6	4	.600	0.5
Brooklyn	3	5	.375	3	Denver	3	5	.375	2.5
Philadelphia	1	7	.125	5	Minnesota	2	5	.286	3
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	7	1	.875	-	LA Clippers	8	1	.889	-
Chicago	5	4	.556	2.5	Golden State	7	2	.778	1
Milwaukee	4	4	.500	3	LA Lakers	5	4	.556	3
Detroit	4	5	.444	3.5	Sacramento	4	7	.364	5
Indiana	4	5	.444	3.5	Phoenix	3	6	.333	5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Charlotte	6	2	.750	-	San Antonio	6	3	.667	-
Atlanta	6	2	.750	-	Houston	5	3	.625	0.5
Orlando	3	6	.333	3.5	Memphis	4	4	.500	1.5
Miami	2	5	.286	3.5	Dallas	2	6	.250	3.5
Washington	2	6	.250	4	New Orleans	1	8	.111	5



Zain Group wins CommsMEA's Best Overall Operator award



ALLAHABAD: Indians crowd inside a bank to deposit and exchange discontinued currency notes in Allahabad yesterday. —AP

ANGER AS MILLIONS IN INDIA RUN OUT OF CASH

PEOPLE CROWD BANKS AMID GROWING DESPAIR AND CHAOS

NEW DELHI: Anger intensified in India yesterday as banks struggled to dispense cash following the government's decision to withdraw large denomination notes in an attempt to uncover billions of dollars in undeclared wealth. Chaotic scenes played out across India yesterday, with long lines growing even longer and scuffles breaking out, as millions of anxious people tried to change old currency notes that became worthless days earlier when the government demonetized high-value bills.

Tempers frayed as hundreds of thousands of people queued for hours outside banks for a third day to swap 500 and 1,000 rupee bank notes after the notes were abolished earlier in the week. The banned bills made up more than 80 percent of the currency in circulation, leaving millions of people without cash and threatening to bring

much of the cash-driven economy to a halt.

"There's chaos everywhere," said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a rival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing the premier of wreaking havoc on poor and working Indians while the wealthy found ways to skirt the new rules. Customers argued and banged the glass doors at a Standard Chartered branch in southern Delhi after security guards blocked the entrance, saying there were too many people inside already. Others turned on Modi, criticizing his ongoing visit to Japan while ordinary people suffered at home.

PM criticized

"He is taking bullet train rides in Japan and here you have old people knocking on bank doors for cash," said Prabhat Kumar, a college student who said he had spent six hours in the queue. "He has made a terrible

mistake." Modi said he would pursue the fight against corruption and tax dodgers even if it meant scanning decades-old records. In New Delhi, the capital, angry scuffles broke out after ATMs ran out of bills. Minor stampedes occurred at two banks in the city's old quarter when thousands of people waiting in line surged forward. Paramilitary troops posted at banks in some of the most congested areas of the city walked among the crowds urging people to stay calm. Frustrations grew as reports came in that some banks had run out of new currency notes. On Tuesday, India's government made a surprise announcement that all 500- and 1,000-rupee notes had no cash value, in an effort to tackle corruption and tax evasion.

"I am so angry at the lack of planning on the part of the government before taking

such an enormous step," said Raju Sundaram, an office executive, waiting outside a bank in the south Delhi neighborhood of Saket. Sundaram, who had been in a slow-moving line for four hours, said it was the third consecutive day that he was lining up outside his bank. "On Thursday and Friday, they ran out of cash before my turn," he said, as he clutched a bunch of identity papers and a bottle of water.

Winding lines were seen at major banks in central Delhi, as people waited to withdraw new currency bills. But there were problems as more than half of the more than 200,000 ATMs in the country had not been reconfigured to dispense the new 2,000-rupee notes introduced by the government. Meanwhile, anger was mounting as people, frustrated with the delays and long hours spent in serpentine lines, lost

their cool, lashing out at the government and bank employees. "If it's bad outside the bank, it's complete chaos inside," said Suniti Kumar, a housewife, as she elbowed her way out of a bank through a restive crowd.

Many banks ran out of currency notes, and overworked bank staff who have been working long hours, or in shifts, appeared helpless.

Disruptive step

"This is a hugely disruptive step," said a bank teller in Delhi's shopping hub of Connaught Place, as he stepped outside for a cigarette. "It required a lot more planning, but that didn't happen." He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Delhi police said they received more than 3,000 emergency calls reporting fights and scuffles in the city Friday as people crowded outside banks, waiting to exchange notes or withdraw money.

Nearly half of India's 202,000 ATMs were shut on Friday and those that operated quickly ran out of the new notes as scores of people descended upon them. Traders in Delhi's vegetable market said they were considering shutting down the market as cash was running out and banks were dispensing a limited amount.

"We might have to close down until the situation stabilises," said Metharam Kriplani, president of the Chambers of Azadpur Fruit and Vegetable Traders. People in Mumbai said grocers were charging 10 times the price of salt in return for accepting the old cash notes. The government has asked people to exchange the old 500 and 1,000 rupees notes by Dec. 30. The central bank said there was enough cash available with banks and that it had made arrangements to deliver the new bank notes across the country. Modi's move was aimed at shrinking the "black economy", the term widely used to describe transactions that take place outside formal channels and which could be as high as 20 percent of gross domestic product, according to investment firm Ambit. People swapping old notes will have to present proof of identity and depositors of abnormally large sums could be investigated by tax authorities. Much of India's rural economy is powered by cash, with few people regularly using a bank account.

Yesterday, nearly 200 calls had been received in the first four hours since the banks opened at 9 am local time, according to police. In the southern city of Kollam, furious crowds smashed glass panes and vandalized a bank after the manager announced to waiting clients that the bank had run out of new bills. —Agencies

INVESTORS FLEE EMERGING MARKETS AFTER TRUMP WIN

NEW YORK: Investing in Mexico, China and other emerging markets has never been for the fainthearted. Big swings have been a hallmark, caused by everything from the 1994 "tequila crisis" where Mexico devalued the peso to Russia's default on its debt in 1998. Here's the latest addition to the list: Donald Trump's victory on Tuesday, which some analysts are calling an "orange swan" event for emerging markets. Trump's election was unexpected, and investors were unprepared for it - the kind of event that economists liken to seeing a black swan for the first time - and it has caused stock markets to tumble from Mexico City to Seoul. As investors try to piece together what a Trump presidency will mean for stocks, a growing

consensus is that emerging markets will be some of the biggest losers, at least in the short term.

Funds devoted to emerging market stocks tumbled after the election, even while stocks in the United States were surging. The largest exchange-traded fund that tracks emerging-market stocks sank 2.6 percent Wednesday, when the S&P 500 index of US stocks jumped 1.1 percent. Vanguard's FTSE Emerging Markets ETF fell another 2.9 percent Thursday, while the S&P 500 added 0.2 percent.

The fear coursing through emerging markets is that Trump will follow through on his rhetoric from the campaign. More open trading rules kept factories whirring in Mexico,

China and other emerging markets, and the resulting growth helped those countries build up their own middle classes, which created more new customers for companies in emerging markets and elsewhere. But Trump has talked about pulling back from trade deals. That's why export-heavy emerging markets have seen some of the biggest declines recently. South Korean stocks lost 3.5 percent on Wednesday in dollar terms, and Taiwanese stocks fell 3.1 percent, according to MSCI indexes. The US is Mexico's largest trading partner, so trade restrictions would hurt it as well. It faces additional pressure from Trump's calls to build a wall along Mexico's border - at its expense - and for the deportation of immigrants living in the US illegally. That could cut off a lot of remittance payments headed back to Mexico from workers in the US Mexican stocks lost 9 percent in dollar terms Wednesday.

Besides the possibility of a trade war, emerging-market investors are also worrying about the ramifications of a stronger dollar and higher US interest rates that could arise from a Trump presidency.

Weaker emerging-market currencies hurt investors counting their returns in US dollars because they make each rand's worth of South African stock worth fewer dollars. And the rand has lost more than 5 percent of its value against the dollar since election day. The Mexican peso is at a record low.

A stronger dollar also adds pressure on emerging-market central banks to raise interest rates to support their faltering currencies. It at least gives them pause if they want to cut rates in hopes of boosting their economies. The big losses in recent days are a sharp turnaround from earlier this year,

when emerging-market funds were among the hottest investments. The Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets ETF returned more than 19 percent through early September, for example, and investors poured \$18.4 billion into emerging-market stock mutual funds and ETFs during the first eight months of the year. But the recent struggles are also just the latest turn in the whiplash love-hate cycle that investors have had with emerging markets. Stocks from developing economies are among the riskiest investments to own, and they have often followed up big gains with big losses.

Of course, the recent losses come with the big caveat that a President Trump may not be able to follow through on all his campaign rhetoric. Many Republicans still say they support the idea of free trade, for example. That high degree of uncertainty is one reason why Wasif Latif, head of multi-global assets at USAA, suggests investors take a breath and hold steady despite the tumult. He's not paring back on the emerging-market investments held in the mutual funds he oversees, including target-date retirement funds. Emerging-market stocks looked to be some of cheapest in the world, based on their prices relative to their earnings, and the recent declines make them look only cheaper. "The markets sometimes discount things too much, too quickly, at the Nth degree, and usually what ends up happening is the reality is somewhere in between," Latif says. "We are not jumping to conclusions about what's happening, and I think we need to take a slower, wait-and-see approach to see what the policies are. Then, we'll know what the real impacts are." —AP



NEW YORK: A sign for Wall Street outside the New York Stock Exchange. Global stocks were mixed on Friday and the dollar steadied, as investors sought greater clarity on the upcoming economic policies of President-elect Donald Trump. —AP

IMF APPROVES \$12BN LOAN TO SUPPORT EGYPT'S ECONOMY

FURTHER DISBURSEMENT DEPENDS ON PERFORMANCE

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund on Friday approved a three-year, \$12 billion loan for Egypt to help the country recover from its economic crisis amid soaring inflation and deficits.

The IMF executive board said it would release \$2.75 billion to Egypt immediately, while further disbursements will depend on the country's economic performance and agreed milestones in implementing the reforms. The program "will help Egypt restore macroeconomic stability and promote inclusive growth," the board said in a statement.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the IMF would be supporting an Egyptian "homegrown economic program" that addresses a huge budget deficit, rising debt, slow growth and high unemployment. "The authorities recognize that resolute implementation of the policy package under the economic program is essential to restore investor confidence, reduce inflation to single digits, rebuild international reserves, strengthen public finances, and encourage private sector-led growth," she said in a statement. She said that there were "significant" risks to implementing the program, but that those risks were mitigated by key actions already being taken by the government and "broad political support" for the loan program's goals.

Six years of turmoil

The loan announcement by the global crisis lender comes after Cairo took crucial preliminary reform steps in recent weeks to meet IMF requirements, including cutting fuel subsidies, announcement of a value added tax, and floating the Egyptian pound, which subsequently lost 45 percent of its value against the US dollar.

Egypt is reeling after six years of political and economic turmoil involving the ousters of two presidents. Police had to put down some small protests Friday against rising prices, and analysts warn the government will continue to face challenges. Cairo governments had avoided implementing the economic reforms for years fearing unrest, but President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said Egypt no longer has the luxury of postponing them.

The IMF said Egypt's economic program will be subject to five reviews over the life of the loan. The reviews are traditionally held every quarter, after which another tranche of the loan is released.

The IMF last month forecast the country's economy will grow 3.8 percent this year and 4 percent next year, but inflation is approaching 14 percent and was expected to surge above 18 percent in 2017. This is amid a budget deficit of 12 percent. The loan approval came hours after

Standard and Poor's announced it was upgrading the outlook on Egyptian sovereign debt to stable from negative, while keeping the rating at B-.

"A more competitive exchange rate could benefit Egypt's export of goods and services, particularly the depressed tourism sector, if the security environment stabilizes further," S&P said. However, S&P cautioned that floating the currency will increase inflation in the short term and "subsidy cuts on top of recent interest rate hikes will weigh on domestic consumption and may raise social tensions."

The IMF is fully aware of the potential for unrest, and has said repeatedly that social protection measures in the Egypt loan deal "are a cornerstone of the program, not an add-on or afterthought," and include providing for increases in food subsidies even while advocating budget cuts.

"Even if the IMF has changed and is no longer imposing the same austerity measures, the reality in the ground is that it's a very difficult agreement to implement," Bessma Momani, expert on the Arab world at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, told AFP.

Loans from Saudi Arabia and China will help Egypt gather the \$5-\$6 billion in additional financing required to complement the IMF loan. —AFP

Bayt.com weekly report

7 WAYS TO SPOT A BAD EMPLOYER BEFORE ACCEPTING A JOB OFFER

When receiving a job offer, there are more elements to consider before accepting the employment opportunity than simply the salary and benefits offered; prospective management is among these highly important determinants. After all, a manager who is great for someone might not be ideal for everybody else, which is why you need to ask yourself what it is that you want and don't want in your manager.

If you know what management style you prefer, you will be able to notice the signs that indicate a bad employer. Here are some of the signs Bayt.com recommends all job seekers to stay aware of:

1. Vague job descriptions

A manager who doesn't really know the vacant job cannot clearly explain your responsibilities in simple words, tell you what milestones you'll be expected to achieve, or show you how you will get promoted. Inability to specify these elements means that the manager hasn't fully thought about what she or he really needs from you. This is the type of manager who is more likely to surprise you with job responsibilities and outcomes different from what you agree to.

2. Negative office energy

When you walk into the office for your interview you should be very aware of the energy level. Pay attention to the general atmosphere as well as the employees' demeanor. Do the employees seem relaxed and happy? Or do they seem stressed and disconnected? Pay attention to your potential coworkers' behavior and watch how they interact with their supervisors as it can tell you so much about the work environment you might be joining.

3. Disorganization of the office

If the people interviewing you seem unready or unprepared, paperwork is scattered all over the place, or they are asking questions that are clearly answered in your resume, then those are also bad signs. This could mean that your interviewers haven't taken a look at your resume prior to your arrival. If the managers and interviewers are disorganized then that probably reflects that the work environment is disorganized as well.

4. Inappropriate interview behavior

The interviewer should always treat you professionally and respectfully. For example if they show up late for your interview, it is likely to suggest that they don't truly value you or your time. You can quickly tell when an interviewer is being rude, impolite and unprofessional. If they're checking emails during the interview, constantly making or receiving calls, or even stepping out of the office, then you should know that this is also the type of interaction you will have with your manager once you are hired.

5. More talking than listening

It is true that during the interview, you should be learning more about the employer and the company, but this should go both ways. If the employers only talk about themselves and their interests without regard to your own goals and needs, then that is a sign that your employer is not a good listener or is not accommodating.

6. Asking very personal questions

If a manager asks questions about your religion, marital status or irrelevant demographical enquiries, it shows that the manager isn't trained on ethical interview practices. Such questions are sometimes considered illegal during a job interview and only show an employer's insensitivity to such personal matters.

7. Poor employee feedback

Existing employees might not be comfortable to talk candidly about their managers as it could cause them problems. However, former employees don't have that concern and you can ask them about your future manager. You certainly don't need to, and probably shouldn't, go through the hiring company to contact their former employees. Fortunately, the internet is the tool; using websites like bayt.com, which gives you the option to search for a specific company and find a list of professionals who used to work there. You can easily contact them and get your answers right away in order to make a more confident decision regarding your job offer.

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 26,500,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.

KFH OPENS NEW SEASON OF BAITI CLUB

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has opened the new season of Baiti Club dedicated for Baiti account holders at AlFayhaa branch. The club serves in educating kids on conducting some basic banking transactions, such as depositing, withdrawing, account statements etc.

The club includes several activities under the supervision of a number of KFH female staff.

Baiti club targets schools and Baiti Account customers up to 14 years old. The club educates the children on the importance of saving, the economic cycle, the banks' role in the economy, in addition to some training on how to browse KFH website.

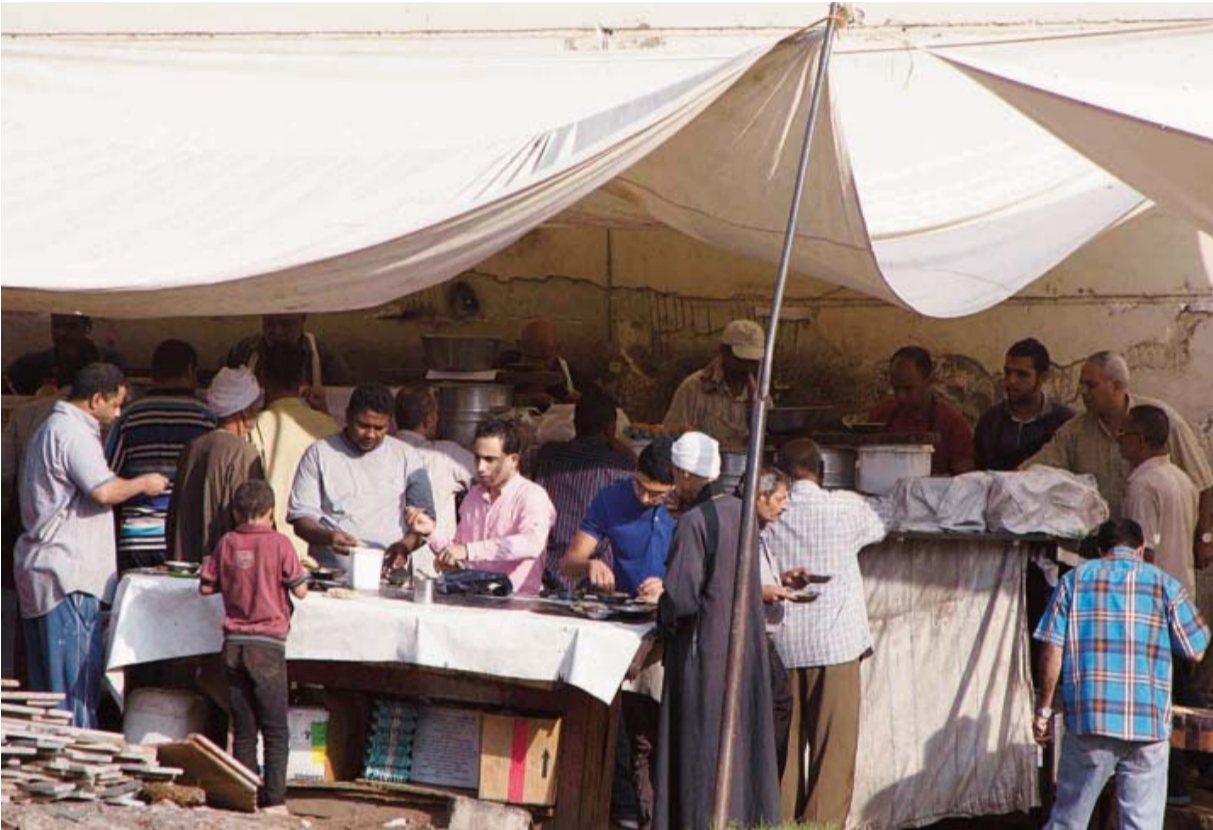
KFH strive to build a brighter future full of opportunities and success for children.

It is noteworthy that KFH successfully had concluded the activities of Baiti Reading' Club held at "That Al-Salasel" Library - Avenues mall where the event encompassed 250 children aged 4-7 years old.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.



CAIRO: Egyptians eat fava beans, a cheap and filling breakfast staple, at an open-air restaurant in Cairo, Egypt. —AP

MYANMAR PROBES CHINA-BACKED DAM

YANGON: Myanmar is probing whether to resume construction on a controversial Chinese-backed dam, state media reported yesterday, with promises to listen to fierce public opposition to the project.

The fate of the \$3.6 billion Myitsone dam in northern Kachin state has hung in the balance since it was abruptly halted by Myanmar in 2011 following protests over environmental and safety concerns. The hydropower project came to symbolise China's economic dominance in formerly junta-run Myanmar and now poses a delicate challenge to the country's new civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The veteran activist is eager to prevent renewed protests at home but also wants to maintain healthy ties with top investor Beijing,

which has been lobbying her government to unfreeze the project. China also holds strong sway over ethnic rebel militias along the two countries' restive border and has a key role to play in peace talks that Suu Kyi is determined to make progress on.

A commission advising Suu Kyi's administration on whether to scrap the dam submitted its first report to her government on Friday, according to the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar.

It said an environmental and social impact assessment was underway and that the commission had already met local officials and other stakeholders. A final decision on the project's fate would take into consideration environmental costs, the "desires and opinions of local people and societies and

potential effects on foreign investment", the report added.

Local opposition to the dam has been fuelled by a mix of concerns, including its location near an active seismic fault line, the impact of flooding on local residents and a general lack of transparency in a project viewed as a resource grab by Beijing. The dam was originally designed to funnel the vast majority of its electricity back to the mainland. China was instrumental in shielding Myanmar's former junta from international sanctions and was rewarded with lucrative concessions that often had little trickle down benefit.

Beijing is still by far Myanmar's largest foreign investor, despite democratic reforms in recent years that have seen Western firms pour in. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.940
Indian Rupees	4.552
Pakistani Rupees	2.896
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.048
Nepali Rupees	2.847
Singapore Dollar	220.470
Hongkong Dollar	39.088
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.269
Thai Baht	8.688

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.894
Qatari Riyal	83.317
ani Riyal	787.812
Bahraini Dinar	805.500
UAE Dirham	82.580

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	25.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	22.724
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	136.250
Jordanian Dinar	427.240
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021
Syrian Lira	2.0162
Morocco Dirham	31.253

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.150
Euro	339.830
Sterling Pound	381.360

Canadian dollar	227.500
Turkish Lira	97.790
Swiss Franc	315.120
Australian Dollar	234.330
US Dollar Buying	301.950

GOLD

20 Gram	263.30
10 Gram	134.57
5 Gram	68.13

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.700
Canadian Dolla	226.170
Sterling Pound	383.100
Euro	332.900
Swiss Frank	300.965
Bahrain Dinar	804.445
UAE Dirhams	83.080
Qatari Riyals	84.295
Saudi Riyals	81.870
Jordanian Dinar	428.790
Egyptian Pound	18.685
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.061
Indian Rupees	4.531
Pakistani Rupees	2.900
Bangladesh Taka	3.868
Philippines Peso	6.217
Cyprus pound	160.380
Japanese Yen	3.875
Syrian Pound	2.425

Nepalese Rupees	3.855
Malaysian Ringgit	72.365
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.170
Thai Bhat	9.650
Turkish Lira	94.695

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.377434	0.387434
Czech Korune	0.004272	0.016272
Danish Krone	0.040530	0.045530
Euro	0.0325652	0.034652
Norwegian Krone	0.032359	0.037559
Romanian Leu	0.084264	0.084264
Slovakia	0.009083	0.019083
Swedish Krona	0.029633	0.034633
Swiss Franc	0.301657	0.312657
Turkish Lira	0.090197	0.100497
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.221788	0.233788
New Zealand Dollar	0.209379	0.218879
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.219371	0.228371
Georgina Lari	0.137325	0.137325
US Dollars	0.299950	0.304650
US Dollars Mint	0.300450	0.304650
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003383	0.003967
Chinese Yuan	0.043374	0.046874

Hong Kong Dollar	0.037117	0.039867
Indian Rupee	0.000305	0.004184
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002782	0.002962
Kenyan Shilling	0.003127	0.003127
Korean Won	0.000252	0.000267
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068226	0.074226
Nepalese Rupee	0.002822	0.002992
Pakistan Rupee	0.002697	0.002987
Philippine Peso	0.006125	0.006425
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.210662	0.220662
South African Rand	0.015732	0.024232
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001651	0.002231
Taiwan	0.009542	0.009722
Thai Baht	0.008291	0.008841

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799929	0.808429
Egyptian Pound	0.015492	0.024745
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000187	0.000247
Jordanian Dinar	0.424695	0.433695
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000147	0.000247
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019932	0.043932
Nigerian Naira	0.001256	0.001891
Omani Riyal	0.783320	0.789000
Qatar Riyal	0.082704	0.084154
Saudi Riyal	0.079993	0.081293
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.131953	0.139953
Turkish Lira	0.090197	0.100497
UAE Dirhams	0.081357	0.083057
Yemeni Riyal	0.001377	0.001454



SMES CONTINUE TO DRIVE REGIONAL GROWTH: REPORT

SME EMPLOYMENT IN THE REGION EXPECTED TO REACH 20 MILLION BY 2020

KUWAIT: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) continue to reinforce their position as one of the key pillars in the Middle East and North African region's (MENA) economic landscape. In a recent study published by BLOOVO Middle East, 90 per cent of the total registered companies in MENA are SMEs. Currently in the GCC, SMEs employ approximately 17 million people and forecasts note that this number is expected to reach 20 million by 2020 at an annual growth rate of almost 2.5 per cent. The vast employment pool is a result of the large number of youth in the region's population, 40 per cent of which is below the age of 25.

In line with this, many countries in the GCC have included the development of their respective SME segments as part of their long-term objectives and national agendas. To emphasize SMEs increasing importance to the region, the Stars of Business Awards was developed to provide further incentive and recognize notable companies within the sector for their achievements and distinguished business practices as key influencers.

Orient Planet, one of the fastest growing marketing and communications consultancies in the Middle East, has recently been recognized at the Stars of Business Awards 2016

Media category of the Middle East Stars of Business Awards. The honor was presented last Thursday, October 27 2016, at Atlantis, the Palm, Dubai. This recognition was organized by CPI Business in association with Presenting Partner National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Strategic SME Partner Etisalat.

Nidal Abou Zaki, MD, OPG, said: "It is an honor to be recognized for such an important award among notable companies within the region. Orient Planet has always tried to create business strategies that are in line with the goals set forth by the UAE Vision 2021. As SMEs are the backbone of the regional econo-

my, and the UAE in particular, the public sector has continued to support the growth of this segment in line with its long-term economic agenda. Such accolades play an active role in enhancing and promoting SMEs within the country. As for Orient Planet, this will serve as further encouragement as we strive to create new benchmarks of excellence, pursue innovation and continuously instill the value of quality management across all our projects."

In the UAE, SMEs account for more than 94 per cent of the companies operating and their total number have reached 350,000. They have long been considered as the strongest catalyst

for economic diversification, innovation as they play a vital role in the nation's shift to a knowledge-based economy and the public sector is committed to boost SME share in national economy to 70 per cent 2021.

According to a World Bank 2015 report, the UAE was ranked 58 among 189 countries on the ease-of-doing business. In the Middle East, UAE has been a frontrunner within the region in terms of business transactions. The growth and notable activity of SMEs have also reinforced the UAE's position as an international business arena and a global business and trading hub.

KIB TAKES 'GET HALF YOUR SALARY CASH' CAMPAIGN TO THE AVENUES

KUWAIT: As part of its "Get Half Your Salary Cash" campaign, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) displayed booth at the Avenues Mall on November 11th and 12th. The new promotion from KIB offers Kuwaiti salary account customers the opportunity to receive half their salaries in cash upon transfer, up to KD 500 and without any draw.

The booth at the Avenues this weekend comes on the heels of the success of a similar booth last week. The booth featured a number of activities, including special draws with valuable prizes and the presence of a number of social media influencers and celebrities.

"KIB is always looking to provide its



Eugene Galligan

customers with added value and great benefits, by creating innovative new promotional campaigns that offer a lot of special rewards," said Eugene Galligan, Acting General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB. "Our new "Get Half Your Salary Cash" campaign enables customers to enjoy half a salary in cash, without the hassle of a draw."

Galligan also pointed that through these kinds of promotional activities and events, KIB aims to interact directly with both current and potential customers, showcasing all of the Bank's latest products and promotions.

He further added that the new promotion gives customers a host of great benefits, including the ability to apply for Qard Hassan up to five times their salaries, and up to KD5,000 in value. Customers will also be able to choose between receiving a free credit card for the first year or gas card worth KD50.

KIB is committed to providing customers with tailored banking solutions which offer an array of added value benefits. KIB's salary account is loaded with special benefits and great features, including: a free debit card which can be used in over a million ATMs worldwide, no minimum deposit and no minimum balance requirements, as well as Murabaha financing facilities.

The "Get Half Your Salary Cash" campaign is set to continue for two months, until Dec. 31st 2016 starting from the beginning of November.



SHANGHAI: A migrant construction worker (L) walks inside his dormitory after a working shift next to residential buildings in Pudong district of Shanghai. — AFP

SURPRISING MESSAGE FROM BONDS ABOUT A TRUMP PRESIDENCY

NEW YORK: He's called the spiraling federal debt a disaster, leads a party of avowed fiscal hawks and has promised to balance the budget.

But if you expect Donald Trump to act as a model of fiscal rectitude as president, the bond market has a message for you, and a very Trumpian one at that:

"Wrong!"

Investors have been yanking money out of bonds around the world since Trump's victory became apparent early Wednesday, sending prices tumbling and wiping out several months of gains. They expect higher debt, higher inflation and higher interest rates - all negatives for bonds.

Bond investors can get things horribly wrong, and it's only been a few days. But for a normally calm market, a sort of sleepy cousin of the stock market that has been mostly rising, it's been a stunning turn of events. "The bond market is supposed to be a dull, boring, stable place," said Colin Lundgren, head of US fixed income trading at Columbia Threadneedle Investments. "Instead, it's been at the center of the storm."

After years of too little inflation, investors are worried that Trump will inadvertently kick off too much and send the national debt up sharply. If that happens, he could do something long forecast, and much feared: kill off the three-decade-long bond bull market that has lifted prices so high, and pushed borrowing rates so low, many experts think it's a bubble ready to pop.

At the very least, investors are demanding more interest to lend to the US government now because they fear higher inflation is coming as Trump opens the spending spigots to get the economy to grow faster. He's promised to deliver 3.5 percent growth a year. That is much faster than the average 2 percent or so recently, and higher than many economists think possible on a sustained basis. To get there, Trump says he'll slash regulations and taxes, and use \$1 trillion from public and private sources to fix

and expand the nation's roads, bridges, airports and transit systems. That has helped send stocks higher in anticipation of bigger corporate profits.

But the country will likely need to borrow more under Trump's plans - a lot more, according to estimates from the non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. It says the combination of higher spending and lower taxes will add \$5.3 trillion to the nation's debt over the next decade. That is on top of the nearly \$20 trillion in debt that ballooned under President Barack Obama and his predecessor George W. Bush.

The Trump campaign says his spending won't be a problem because faster growth will increase tax revenue even at lower rates. Michael Lewitt, a bond fund manager who says he voted for Trump, isn't buying it. "Cutting taxes and spending more money and not reforming entitlements, that's going to send debt through the roof," said Lewitt of the Credit Strategist Group. "The market is saying he is not going to worry about this, and that's going to be bad for bonds - really bad for bonds."

Another possible problem for bond holders is Trump's protectionist leanings.

On the campaign trail, he threatened to slap tariffs on Chinese and Mexican goods and rip up trade pacts. If he follows through, that could stoke inflation by sending prices of imported goods sharply higher. Bond investors loathe inflation because it erodes the purchasing power of their fixed payments. A little more inflation might be a good thing, of course. If anything, the world has been suffering from too little of it. Consumer prices have risen 1.5 percent in the past year, about a half point lower than what is considered the ideal level.

Higher inflation is usually a sign of faster economic growth, and it has a way of building on itself. It causes people to spend right away on things out of fear they might have to pay more for them later, and that can stimulate even more growth. — AP

NEW YORK: It was perhaps the most surprising trade in a record-setting week on Wall Street: How quickly investors swapped presidential pre-election jitters for enthusiasm at Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton.

That enthusiasm - call it the Trump rally - ultimately propelled the Dow Jones industrial average to consecutive all-time highs this week and gave the Standard and Poor's 500 index its biggest weekly gain in two years. The rally lost some steam Friday, pulling the S&P 500 slightly lower. The Dow rose 39.78 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,847.66. The S&P 500 index fell 3.03 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,164.45. The Nasdaq composite index gained 28.32 points, or 0.5 percent, to 5,237.11.

For months, investors viewed Trump and his proposed agenda as a more risky bet for the economy and the markets than his rival, who had been widely perceived as the candidate most likely to keep the status quo in place. But then the billionaire won. And, more importantly, Republicans retained majorities in the House and Senate, ensuring that the president-elect's party will be in control when he takes office on January 20.

"I don't think people planned on a straight Republican sweep," said J J Kinahan, TD Ameritrade's chief strategist. "All of a sudden you realize some of the things that the markets have been wishing for have a chance to be done. That's why we've rallied so much. This scenario was such a low probability, nobody was planning for it."

Investors are now betting that Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress will have a clear pathway to boost infrastructure spending, cut taxes and relax regulations that affect energy, finance and other businesses.

That agenda flipped investors' priorities this week away from defensive assets like bonds, utilities and phone companies, which traders had favored for much of this year, to health care, industrial and financial stocks, which notched their best week since 2009. The trades marked a reversal from the last couple of years, when investors coped with government gridlock, sluggish economic growth and low interest rates by pricing less-risky assets and stocks like phone companies and utilities with high dividends.

Healthcare stocks are perhaps the best example of how investors' mindset has changed in just a few days. The sector had been one of the worst performers this year in anticipation that Clinton, who had mostly maintained a lead in the polls, would push to expand the government's role in health care and curb price increases by drugmakers. That began to turn around this week, as investors bid up shares in pharmaceutical companies.

Bank hurt

Banks also were seen to be potentially hurt by a Clinton win. But this week they went from being a laggard to one of the biggest gainers. The sector is benefiting from the expectation that the Trump administration will remove some of the regulations imposed on banks following the 2008 financial crisis.

"You're seeing strength in those sectors that are going to best be positioned for those changes," said David Lyon, global investment specialist at JP Morgan Private Bank. "There's been a massive shift toward a pro-growth bias within portfolios." Investors also are betting that

Trump's policies will lead to higher interest rates, which benefits banks by making it more profitable to lend money.

The anticipation of higher interest rates fueled the sell-off in bonds this week that sent bond prices lower and drove up the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to the highest level since January. On Monday it was 1.83 percent. It hit 2.14 percent as of late Thursday. Bond trading was closed Friday in observance of Veterans' Day.

That yield is a benchmark used to set interest rates on many kinds of loans including home mortgages.

The move away from bonds, utilities and other safe-play assets is likely to continue as long as investors believe that Trump's economic policies will lead to growth in the economy and usher in higher interest rates. "You've seen people rotating out of them this week because they don't feel the need for the straight safety play, they don't need necessarily the yield of the safe stocks longer-term if they believe that the interest rate market is going to continue higher," Kinahan said. — AP

SOUTH KOREA HOLDS RATE ON DOMESTIC TURMOIL, US DOUBTS

SEOUL: South Korea left its key interest rate unchanged Friday, with markets unnerved by political turmoil at home and global uncertainty following the shock result of the US presidential election.

The central Bank of Korea (BOK) held its benchmark rate at its record-low 1.25 percent for the fifth straight month. In a statement, the bank said it would closely monitor "uncertainties in domestic and external conditions" over the coming months, with a particular eye on any change in monetary policy by the US Federal Reserve.

The bank said it expected the global economy to maintain a modest recovery, but warned of the possible impact of economic policy changes by the new US administration and Britain's exit from the European Union. The

uncertainty generated by Donald Trump's unexpected election triumph has coincided with political paralysis in South Korea where a snowballing corruption scandal has left President Park Geun-Hye fighting for her job. The scandal, centred on a close personal friend of the president, has seen her approval ratings plunge into single digits and weekly mass protests that have seen tens of thousands take to the streets to demand Park's resignation.

The Bank of Korea made a surprise rate cut back in June, citing the need to support the sluggish economy. South Korea's exports, the mainstay of Asia's fourth largest economy, have struggled to emerge from a prolonged slump, and now there are real worries among major exporters that Trump's protectionist campaign message will become a reality. — AFP

BOURSA KUWAIT PARES LOSSES, EDGES UP

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	24,568,965	2.77%	907,645	0.90%	OIL & GAS	749.21	747.30	0.26%	-8.49%
BASIC MATERIALS	7,569,104	0.85%	1,901,958	1.89%	BASIC MATERIALS	929.59	920.45	0.99%	-5.76%
INDUSTRIALS	58,709,825	6.62%	10,475,095	10.42%	INDUSTRIALS	1,212.98	1,196.08	1.41%	16.29%
CONSUMER GOODS	5,229,737	0.59%	3,293,907	3.28%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,122.31	1,132.35	-0.89%	2.50%
HEALTH CARE	289,535	0.03%	66,927	0.07%	HEALTH CARE	1,113.31	1,070.60	3.99%	20.31%
CONSUMER SERVICES	46,358,435	5.23%	3,101,913	3.08%	CONSUMER SERVICES	919.01	922.39	-0.37%	-8.89%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	88,649,463	10.00%	12,555,516	12.49%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	598.78	580.32	3.18%	0.03%
BANKS	147,797,815	16.67%	40,496,421	40.27%	BANKS	823.87	807.81	1.99%	-9.17%
INSURANCE	2,466,282	0.28%	170,345	0.17%	INSURANCE	946.45	944.63	0.19%	-16.02%
REAL ESTATE	229,089,975	25.84%	11,880,206	11.81%	REAL ESTATE	817.61	805.67	1.48%	-13.09%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	275,691,591	31.10%	15,701,950	15.61%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	562.15	549.65	2.27%	-5.58%
TECHNOLOGY	165,600	0.02%	7,988	0.01%	TECHNOLOGY	992.32	995.15	-0.28%	20.99%

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,480.42 points, up by 1.31 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 2.14 percent after closing at 363.13 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 854.82 points up by 2.87 percent. Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover increased by 87.19 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 20.11 million, whereas trading volume average was 177.32 million shares, recording an increase of 79.16 percent.

The Boursa's three indices were able to meet in the green zone after the fluctuated performance witnessed in a week earlier, which came in light of the purchasing trend that included a wide range of listed stocks, especially the leading and operational ones which disclosed positive results for the third quarter of the current year, in addition to the random purchasing operations executed on some small-cap stocks of market value below its par and book value. Such performance came in light of the continued watch by the dealers for the listed companies disclosures for the nine months financial results of the current year before the end of the assigned legal disclosure period, which will end mid of the current month.

As per the daily activity, the Boursa was able to realize increase in the beginning of the week session supported by the leading stocks activity especially in the Banks sector, after such stocks were subject to some selling pressures in the previous sessions, the Boursa witnessed such performance in light of the noticeable growth in the trading activity compared to the previous session, especially the value, which recorded by the end of the session an increase of 123 percent to reach KD 18 million. The Boursa continued on the second session realizing gains for the three indices, supported by the speculative deal-

ing that included few idle stocks that are being traded below its par and book value, in addition to the continued purchasing operations on the leading stocks, especially in the Telecommunication sector.

On Tuesday's session, the Boursa continued in enhancing its three indices' gains, amid continued random trading on the leading and operational stocks and in light of the continued growth in the liquidity levels which reached by the end of the session KD 22.2 million, its highest level during the week.

On Wednesday's sessions, the Boursa train stopped at the profit collection station, where the three indices declined affected by the selling operations that included many traded stocks, which negatively affected the three indices that ended the session in the red zone for the first time this week, recording limited group losses, before it could compensate such losses at the end of week session and return to the green zone once again, supported by the purchasing operations that concentrated on the leading and heavy stocks.

By the end of the week, the market cap for the listed companies in the official market was able to cross the KD 24 billion level up, after reaching KD 24.64 billion, growing by 3.29 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached then KD 23.86 billion. On an annual level, the decline in the market cap for the listed companies in the official market dropped to reach 2.46 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27.

As far as Boursa Kuwait annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 2.40 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 4.87 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 5.07 percent loss.

MARKET ACTIVITY				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %	
Volume	886,586,327	494,866,438	79.16%	
Value (K.D)	100,559,870	53,722,030	87.19%	
Deals	20,575	12,777	61.03%	
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
24,643,247,279	23,858,190,549	3.29%	-2.46%	
TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
INOVEST	76.00	60.00	16.0	26.67%
MASAKEN	49.00	40.00	9.0	22.50%
NOOR	48.50	40.00	8.5	21.25%
GFH	128.00	106.00	22.0	20.75%
YIACO	236.00	198.00	38.0	19.19%
TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
SAFAT GLOB	39.50	49.50	-10.0	-20.20%
MARAKEZ	29.00	34.00	-5.0	-14.71%
IFAHR	150.00	168.00	-18.0	-10.71%
ISKAN	47.00	52.00	-5.0	-9.62%
MARIN	80.00	87.00	-7.0	-8.05%

Sectors' Indices

Nine of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other three recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 3.99 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,113.31 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 598.78 points recording 3.18 percent increase. The Financial Services companies sector came in third as its index achieved 2.27 percent growth, ending the week at 562.15 points. The Insurance sector was the least growing as its index closed at 946.45 points with a 0.19 percent increase.

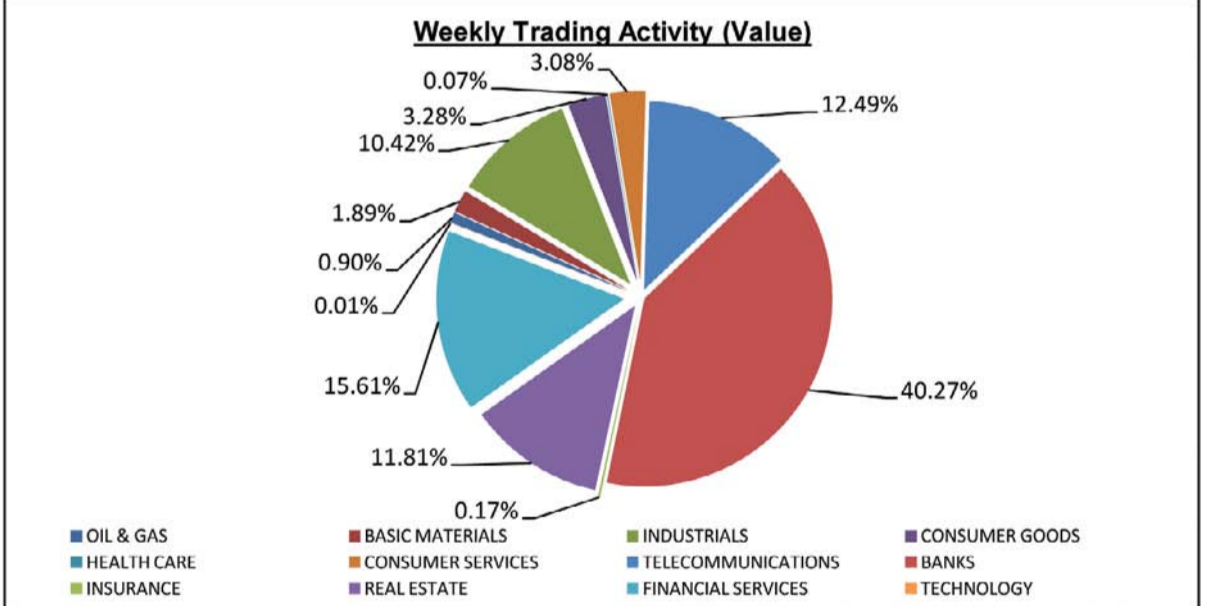
On the other hand, the Consumer Goods sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 0.89 percent to end the week's activity at 1,122.31 points. The Consumer Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.37 percent, closing at 919.01 points, followed by the Technology sector, as its index closed at 992.32 points at a weekly loss of 0.28 percent.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 275.69 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 31.10 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 25.84 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 229.09 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 40.50 million or 40.27 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 15.70 million representing 15.61 percent of the total market trading value.

— Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.



US STOCKS CLOSE HIGHER AS DOW SETS RECORD

WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP

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That enthusiasm - call it the Trump rally - ultimately propelled the Dow Jones industrial average to consecutive all-time highs this week and gave the Standard and Poor's 500 index its biggest weekly gain in two years. The rally lost some steam Friday, pulling the S&P 500 slightly lower. The Dow rose 39.78 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,847.66. The S&P 500 index fell 3.03 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,164.45. The Nasdaq composite index gained 28.32 points, or 0.5 percent, to 5,237.11.

For months, investors viewed Trump and his proposed agenda as a more risky bet for the economy and the markets than his rival, who had been widely perceived as the candidate most likely to keep the status quo in place. But then the billionaire won. And, more importantly, Republicans retained majorities in the House and Senate, ensuring that the president-elect's party will be in control when he takes office on January 20. "I don't think people planned on a straight Republican sweep," said J J Kinahan, TD Ameritrade's chief strategist. "All of a sudden you realize some of the things that the markets have been wishing for have a chance to be done. That's why we've rallied so much. This scenario was such a low probability, nobody was planning for it." Investors are now betting that Trump and a Republican-controlled congress will have a clear pathway to boost infra-

structure spending, cut taxes and relax regulations that affect energy, finance and other businesses. That agenda flipped investors' priorities this week away from defensive assets like bonds, utilities and phone companies, which traders had favored for much of this year, to health care, industrial and financial stocks,

which notched their best week since 2009.

The trades mark a reversal from the last couple of years, when investors coped with government gridlock, sluggish economic growth and low interest rates by prizing less-risky assets and stocks like phone companies and utilities with high dividends. Health care stocks are per-

haps the best example of how investors' mindset has changed in just a few days. The sector had been one of the worst performers this year in anticipation that Clinton, who had mostly maintained a lead in the polls, would push to expand the government's role in health care and curb price increases by drugmakers. That began to turn around this week, as investors bid up shares in pharmaceutical companies. Banks also were seen to be potentially hurt by a Clinton win. But this week they went from being a laggard to one of the biggest gainers. The sector is benefiting from the expectation that the Trump administration will remove some of the regulations imposed on banks following the 2008 financial crisis. "You're seeing strength in those sectors that are going to best be positioned for those changes," said David Lyon, global investment specialist at J P Morgan Private Bank. "There's been a massive shift toward a pro-growth bias within portfolios."

Investors also are betting that Trump's policies will lead to higher interest rates, which benefits banks by making it more profitable to lend money. The anticipation of higher interest rates fueled the sell-off in bonds this week that sent bond prices lower and drove up the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to the highest level since January. On Monday it was 1.83 percent. It hit 2.14 percent as of late Thursday. Bond trading was closed Friday in observance of Veterans' Day. That yield is a benchmark used to set interest rates on many kinds of loans including home mortgages. The move away from bonds, utilities and other safe-play assets

is likely to continue as long as investors believe that Trump's economic policies will lead to growth in the economy and usher in higher interest rates. "You've seen people rotating out of them this week because they don't feel the need for the straight safety play, they don't need necessarily the yield of the safe stocks longer-term if they believe that the interest rate market is going to continue higher," Kinahan said. Despite the market's enthusiasm this week, there is still an element of uncertainty about the Trump administration. Kinahan worries about the impact on the economy should inflation rise quickly.

"That's a major worry," he said. Then there's the question of what steps Trump will take to clamp down on illegal immigration and to renegotiate trade deals with other countries. "What sounded great on the campaign trail may not be actually so great to a lot of businesses, particularly technology," Kinahan said. In energy futures trading Friday, benchmark US crude fell \$1.25, or 2.8 percent, to close at \$43.41 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, slid \$1.09, or 2.4 percent, to close at \$44.75 a barrel in London.

Other energy futures also closed lower. Wholesale gasoline lost 3 cents to \$1.31 a gallon. Heating oil fell 4 cents to \$1.40 a gallon. Natural gas lost a penny to \$2.62 per 1,000 cubic feet. Among metals, the price of gold tumbled \$42.10, or 3.3 percent, to \$1,224.30 an ounce, while silver slid \$1.36, or 7.2 percent, to \$17.38 an ounce. Copper fell 4 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$2.51 a pound. — AP

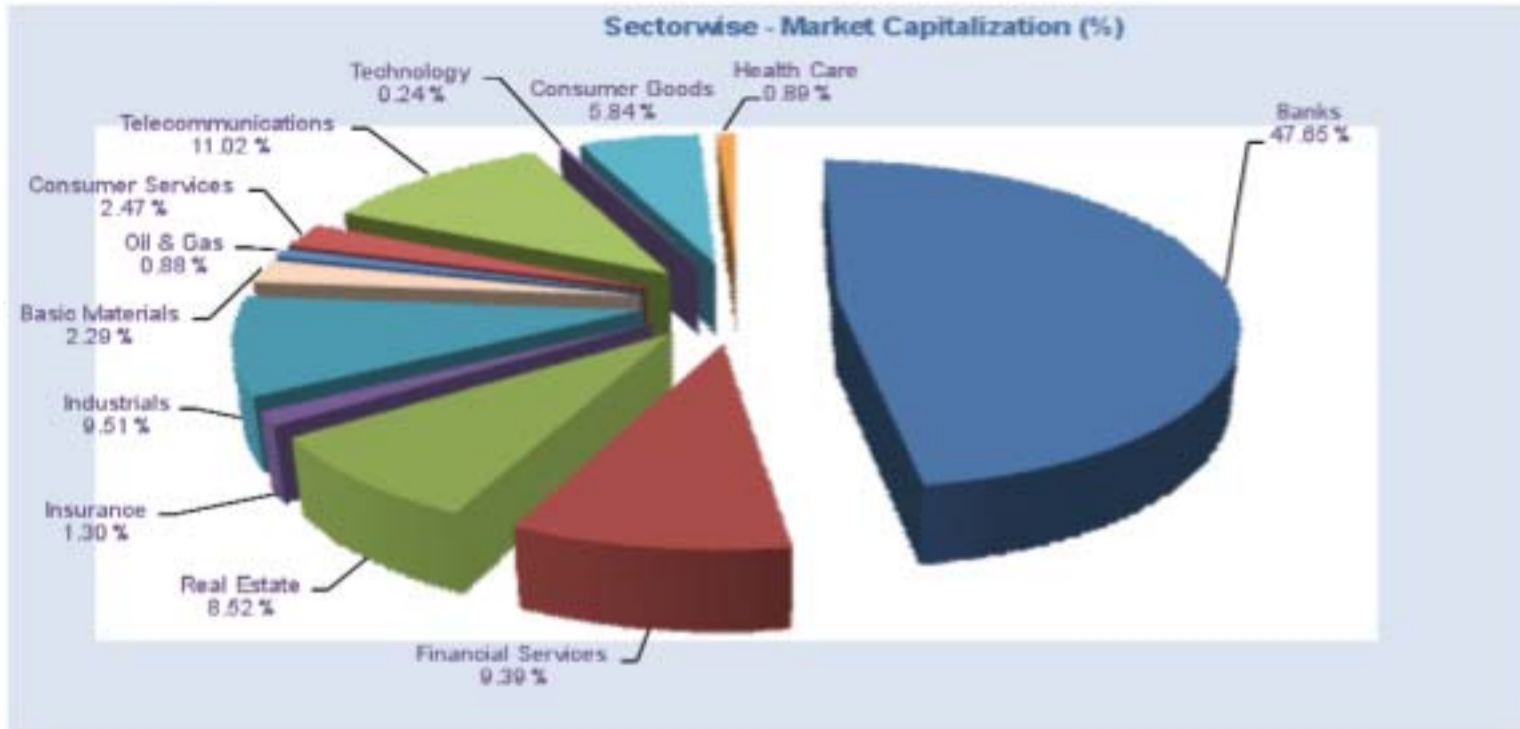


NEW YORK: Anthony Riccio (center) works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

Weekly Indices Performance & their Volatility					Week:	06-Nov-16	to	10-Nov-16
Indices	Week-end Stats				Volatility			
	Current	Previous	Change	Chg (%)	Current	Previous		
KSE Price Index	5,480.42	5,409.36	71.06	1.31%	5.43%	2.71%		
MUDX	561.67	544.16	17.51	3.22%	16.22%	8.38%		
KSE Weighted	363.13	355.51	7.62	2.14%	7.64%	11.37%		
KSX15	854.82	830.97	23.85	2.87%	8.94%	17.30%		

POSITIVE MOMENTUM BUOYS KUWAIT STOCKS

KFH Capital Weekly Report



Most Active Stocks	Current Week (’000 Share)	Prev. Week (’000 Share)	Chng	% Total Mkt	YTD- Turnover	Price Stats- Weekly		
						Current	Prev.	Chng.
Hits Telecom Holding Co. @	64,184	7,529	752.5%	7.24%	116.8%	0.040	0.037	8.1%
Al Mudon International Real Estate Co. @	49,143	28,185	74.4%	5.54%	347.3%	0.033	0.030	11.9%
Warba Bank @	48,335	27,736	74.3%	5.45%	30.0%	0.226	0.216	4.6%
Zima Holding Co. @	43,071	32,137	34.0%	4.86%	650.3%	0.046	0.045	2.2%
Investors Holding Group @	32,570	18,537	75.7%	3.67%	183.4%	0.021	0.020	5.0%

Top 3 Gainers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	
					Current	Previous
Inovest @	21.77	17.19	26.67%	0.087%	0.076	0.060
Noor Financial Investment	20.05	16.53	21.25%	0.080%	0.049	0.040
GFH Financial Group B.S.C @	288.84	239.20	20.75%	1.151%	0.128	0.106

Top 3 Losers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	
					Current	Previous
Privatization Holding Co.	26.84	34.70	-22.65%	0.107%	0.044	0.047
Real Estate Trade Centers Co. @	3.90	4.57	-14.71%	0.016%	0.029	0.034
IFA Hotels & Resorts Co.	95.32	106.75	-10.71%	0.380%	0.150	0.168

@ Islamic Stock @ Compatible Islamic Stock Market Cap is in KWD million. Market Prices are in KWD

VIVA WINS ‘BUSINESS INNOVATION IN RISK MANAGEMENT 2016’ AWARD

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait’s fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, is pleased to announce that it has been recognized under the category “Business Innovation in Risk Management” for the year 2016 during the Annual Excellence Awards for Revenue Assurance and Fraud Management (RAFM) sponsored by Subex Ltd at their 13th edition of Global User Conference held at Jaipur, India on 26th October 2016.

Subex Operator excellence awards are one of the key events in the industry calendar with nominations coming in from 200+ operators/communication service providers across the world. The awards celebrate the innovative approach to Risk mitigation, unique practices and out of box methodology and set the benchmark for outstanding performance throughout telecom industry.

On this occasion, Eng Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, CEO at VIVA said: “Since its inception, VIVA is committed, through its successful strategy, to play the leading role not only on operational level but also by applying the best practices and professional standards across all VIVA sectors, divisions and departments that support VIVA’s activities and plans. Obtaining Business Innovation in Risk Management Award for the year 2016 is a big achievement and VIVA is proud of. Definitely, this award reflects the efforts exerted by the Finance sector at VIVA and the revenue assurance team. He added: “VIVA is keen to apply all the new and advanced systems to mitigate the risk and to be in line with our principles, values and professional standards. Therefore we always seek to concentrate our efforts to achieve the best results through integrated professional team in timely and efficiently manner”.

Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Qatie, CFO at VIVA said: “The awards prove effective and outstanding efforts exerted by VIVA’s Finance and Revenue Assurance team to build the most innovative approach in risk management. This award is considered a great achievement if we compare the short life period of VIVA to the other big telecom and communications operators in the world.”

VIVA’s Representative at the awards Sai Devata, Financial Control Director, said: “At VIVA we have extended the scope of RAFM in several directions simultaneously and adapt to the technological changes in the industry thus creating competent processes to mitigate potential risks proactively. VIVA also upgraded its systems and automated the high risk controls whilst outsourcing some of the work in order to access the best skills available in the market.”

The award’s jury was composed of independent panel of expert judges from Orange Group, Time Warner Cable and Black Swan.



KUWAIT: The Boursa Kuwait Indices witnessed a positive week as indices increased this week. The price index closed at 5,480.42 an increase of 1.31 percent up 71.06 points compared to the previous week. As the MUDX witnessed a higher increase this week of 3.22 percent to close at 561.67 for the week. While the market blue-chip index the KSX15 closed on an increase this week of 23.85 points up 2.87 percent during the week to close at 854.82.

The reported weekly volumes were 886.60 million shares compared to 494.87 million shares in previous. Among the major contributors, the Financial Services Sector (contributing 31.11 percent) witnessed 275.69 million shares of trading compared to 166.84 million shares in the previous week, while Real Estate Sector (contributing 25.85 percent) witnessed 229.08 million shares of trading compared to 149.93 million shares in the previous week.

The overall Market Cap witnessed an increased this week as it stood at KD 25.09

billion up 2.1 percent on weekly basis. As for the blue chips, National Bank of Kuwait - NBK (Mcap - KD 3.43 billion) saw its market cap increase 3.39 percent during the week. While Mobile Telecommunication Co. - Zain (Mcap - KD 1.74 billion) saw its market cap increase by 3.85 percent. Moreover, Ahli United Bank - AUB (Mcap - KD 1.29 billion) saw its market cap decrease 2.06 percent during the week. On the total market breadth, Of the 56 Islamic Companies, 35 advanced while 4 declined during the week.

The Islamic universe market cap witnessed its market cap an increase of 3.91 percent to close at KD 6.69 billion. The universe heavyweights Kuwait Finance House - KFH (Mcap - KD 2.67 billion) saw its market cap increase 5.15 percent during the week. While Boubyan Bank (Mcap - KD 855.73 million) saw its market cap increase 1.28 percent. Kuwait Telecommunication Co - VIVA (Mcap- KD 429.48 million) saw its market cap increase 1.18 percent during the week.

Weekly KSE Statistics				
Key Parameters	Current	Previous	Chg.	%
Volume (Million Share)	886.60	494.87	391.74	79.2%
Value (KD Million)	100.56	53.72	46.84	87.2%
Deals (’000)	20.57	12.78	7.80	61.0%
Market Cap (KD Bln)	25.09	24.56	0.52	2.1%

Market Movers			
Advance	Decline	Unchanged	Not Traded
80	39	35	31



Note: Indices are re-based on 1,000 as of last week’s closing.

AHLI UNITED BANK SELECTED AS SECOND SAFEST ISLAMIC BANK IN KUWAIT IN 2016

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank Kuwait has been selected as the “Second Safest Islamic Bank in Kuwait 2016”, and the fourth across the GCC. The Bank’s recent award was announced for the second consecutive year by Global Finance magazine, one of the world’s most influential financial publications. Richard Groves, the Bank’s Chief Executive Officer said, “This is an award of which we can feel justifiably proud, especially as the selection for the award was completed after a thorough and comprehensive analysis process around the banking sector’s stability in the region. AUB’s achievement is a testament to its continued success as a leading innovative Sharia-compliant bank operating with international standards. This has also been recently demonstrated by our successful capital raising through a Perpetual Additional Tier 1 \$200 million Sukuk, which was more than three times oversubscribed by investors from the GCC, Europe and Asia.

AUB has also been awarded the “Islamic Bank of the Year 2016 for Kuwait” award from the international magazine The Banker for the fourth consecutive year. Groves added, “Receiving this award is a reflection of AUB’s continued development in a number of areas and mirrors the Bank’s renowned reputation. The continued success that AUB demonstrates outlines the Bank’s management’s commitment to drive and facilitate our up-to-date and innovative Sharia-compliant banking services to a large customer base. The Bank offers its services through a network of 38 branches across Kuwait.”

Groves expressed his gratitude to the Bank’s customers, where their trust and loyalty have contributed to AUB’s strength. Moreover, the commitment of staff and



ahli united bank

employees has also been at the core of the Bank’s success. Global Finance is a leading publication that covers international financial news across 192 countries. The magazine issues the “Safest Banks” report annually, which is based on evaluations and special standards that permits banks to be eligible for this list. This includes strong long term credit ratings from Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s, as well as Fitch.

It also includes assets of 500 banks across the Emerging Markets, and their ability to play a leading role in driving economic development in the regions they operate within, in addition to applying safety measures, an important practice in the banking industry that creates a strong trust and satisfaction channel with customers. These measures are then reflected positively on the bank’s varied activities.

One of the Safest Islamic Banks



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ZAIN GROUP WINS COMMSMEA'S BEST OVERALL OPERATOR AWARD

FOCUS ON CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND DIGITAL INNOVATION WIN PRAISES

KUWAIT/DUBAI: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa was awarded the highly coveted Best Overall Operator of the Year award at the 2016 edition of the CommsMEA Awards ceremony. Zain Iraq was also awarded the best Marketing Campaign of the Year accolade for its 'Hassa Eliya' (Now for Me) multi-faceted campaign that focused on inspiring and empowering young Iraqi talent.

At a gala event held at the Conrad hotel in Dubai on 9 November, 2016, Zain Group was identified as the region's best performing mobile

6) Enterprise, all of which are based on supporting Zain Group's effort to capture a significant market share of smart city and digital revolution developments.

Zain Group is currently placing a great deal of emphasis on implementing data revenue optimization initiatives and enhancing its customer experience, to positive effect. The operator's efforts to place the customer at the heart of everything it does has successfully built brand and loyalty, which has led it to maintain market leadership by customer numbers in the majority of markets in which it operates.

ing and empowering young Iraqi talent by encouraging them to explore their potential and skills, and equipping them with the necessary tools to help achieve their goals.

The first initiative utilized in the program was a specially created "Hassa Eliya" Facebook page that served as a platform for young Iraqis to voice their ambitions and which showcased a newly produced television commercial, which garnered an impressive five million views in its first 72 hours of release. Some six months later, this viewership number had increased to 16 million with 70 million impressions, with a total engagement that exceeded 550,000 young Iraqis inside the country and from around the globe.

The program's focus was particularly compelling given the state of socio-economic turmoil that exists in Iraq, where the youth in particular may feel as though their future prospects are bleak and that they do not have a great deal to contribute to society. "Hassa Eliya" managed to transcend being just an enormously successful marketing campaign for Zain, and ultimately made a real impact on people's lives in the country and throughout Iraqi community at large and deservedly the effort was recognized as the best marketing campaign of 2016.

Zain's efforts to constantly expand and improve its services are well-documented, with the operator having tied up with leading technology and content companies including UBER, Booking.com and global games developer, Zeptolab, to bring to market a number of popular applications, in many cases under some pretty unique and pioneering circumstances. Zain also made strategic investments in smart city consulting firm, neXgen and mobility solutions developer and consultancy firm FOO to fast-track its digital lifestyle offerings.

Additionally, Zain entered several service agreements to enhance its offerings for the provision of an end-to-end mobile money solution that saw the launch of mobile money services for the unbanked in Jordan and Iraq, and which is in the process of being deployed across other operations. Zain also introduced direct operator billing (carrier billing), making several Zain operations among the first in the region to enable customers to safely and seamlessly pay for goods from a third-party content or service provider digitally, by charging the transaction to their monthly mobile phone bill or through their pre-paid mobile credit.

Sustainability, transparency and thought-leadership are at the very core of Zain's business and this is reflected in every aspect of the company's day-to-day operational activities. Zain annual Sustainability Report highlights the company's continued hold of its regional leadership position in pursuing its sustainability agenda and supporting its communities through outreach activities such as capacity-building, education, socio-economic development, and environmental stewardship. In addition, with a focus on supporting the entrepreneurial start-up ecosystem, Zain partnered with the MIT Pan Arab Start Up Competition for the past two years and most recently supported the global MIT Innovate for Refugees competition.

Commenting on Zain Group's honor, Scott Gegenheimer, Group CEO said, "We operate in a highly competitive industry, where the margin between success and failure is very thin, and being identified as the Best Overall Operator for 2016 is some accolade. We would like to thank the judging panel for also recognizing Zain Iraq's marketing efforts, and let our customers know that we shall continue to innovate and work tirelessly to give them an exceptional mobile experience."

In March 2016, Zain's operation in Iraq launched a multi-faceted marketing campaign dubbed "Hassa Eliya," (Now for Me). The groundbreaking marketing initiative focused on inspir-

operator having devised a clear strategy that it is implementing over the next five years, which is based on taking advantage of the operator's competencies including its people, networks, leading brand and geographic coverage.

The CommsMEA awards judging panel acknowledged Zain Group's six strategic initiatives aimed at making the company future-ready and capture the enormous potential of the regional and global digital arena as being particularly insightful. These plans extend to 1) Customer Experience; 2) Cost Optimization; 3) Talent Development; 4) Zain Digital Frontier and Innovation; 5) Customer Value Management and



GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 6 November 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 30 October - 3 November 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 30/10): Sabeha Salaman Jabar Al-Anezy, Adel Mahmoud Mohammed Bin Nakhy

(Monday 31/10): Samir Hamad Ibraheem Al-Dawsary, Ahmed Haji Nasser Haji Bo Abbas

(Tuesday 1/11): Hasan Ali Hasan Abdullah, Shen Zhijiang

(Wednesday 2/11): Abdullah Baqer Hussain Khajah, Abdullah Haji Komber Lari

(Thursday 3/11): Sevan Alexander Bony Akrabian, Redha Mohammad Ali Al-Khayat

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw line-up includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the millionaire draw!

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.



Mazin Al-Nahedh



Mohammad Alshalfan

AL-NAHEDH: KFH SUPPORTS KMC TO EXECUTE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

AL-SHALFAN: \$750 MILLION KMC'S PROJECTS SIZE IN KUWAIT, GCC

KUWAIT: KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh stressed the importance of the strategic diversification of KFH businesses, indicating KFH general strategy aims to achieve strong performance and sustainable profitability. KFH supports The Kuwaiti Manager Holding Company (KMC) and its subsidiaries to efficiently take part in executing the development projects in Kuwait and the GCC in efforts to achieve further construction and civilizational boom.

Al-Nahedh expressed his confidence that KMC Holding has great growth potential, especially in light of its global consortiums and distinguished performance. The company has milestone achievements in Kuwait and the GCC, which allows it to be a key player in executing several mega projects. The company has First Class Rating from the Central Tenders Committee (CTC), and it obtained International Organization for Standardization certificate (ISO 9001: 2000). Meanwhile, Mohammed Al-Shalfan, General Manager-KMC Holding stated that the company endeavors to expand its businesses in activation of its ambitious plans and income diversifications, not to mention the comprehensive services that include construction, project management etc.

Building on 20 years of success, KMC

Holding projects size is worth \$ 750 million in Kuwait and the GCC. The company executes every real estate and construction project as per international standards and in line with highest levels of quality, which qualifies it to participate in the country's development projects. He hailed KFH's support to the company's businesses which is a motivation for further expansion and growth.

"Despite the fierce competition in contracting projects and construction sector, KMC Holding is currently executing a number of distinguished projects in Kuwait, most prominently, the National Museum of Kuwait project that is expected to be concluded Q2 2017, the Headquarters of Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs, public and service buildings in Wafra in addition to many other projects," added Alshalfan.

He said that the company is executing several projects in the GCC market including many construction and development projects in Bahrain, Saudi and Oman indicating that the company had concluded the construction of many hotels in Kuwait and the GCC.

He noted that KMC Holding owns many companies: KMC Project Management, KMC Contracting, KMC Electromechanical, KMC Readymix, KMC Building Materials and KMC Real Estate.



NISSAN AL BABTAIN DISPLAYS LATEST CARS AT RED BULL BAR BAHR'S EVENT

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the authorized agent of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait sponsored the exciting second edition of Red Bull Bar Bahr that was held on Friday.

During the event, attendees and partici-

pants had an opportunity to test drive Nissan's latest and mainstream line-up of models including Nissan X-trail, Nissan Altima 2017 and Nissan Patrol 2017 in the Racing Village where they could experience Nissan's Japanese functionality first-hand in the midst

of a vibrant and upbeat atmosphere. Nissan Al Babtain also showcased the hero of all terrain Patrol 2017, the Nissan Altima 2017, its coupe sports car Nissan 370 Z and the all new Nissan Navara Pickup truck at the event.



CONSUMER DRONE BUSINESS STUMBLES, BUT COMMERCIAL MARKETS BECKON

SAN FRANCISCO: The fledgling drone industry is in the throes of change as weak consumer demand and falling prices drive startups to shift their focus to specialized business applications. 3D Robotics - an early drone startup that raised more than \$125 million from investors - has seen its consumer business all but crash. This week, it unveiled a new commercial strategy, announcing a camera-equipped drone with imaging software designed for construction companies.

GoPro Inc this week announced a recall of about 2,500 drones for a refund after just a couple of weeks on the market - some units had sudden power outages - and didn't say when it would offer a replacement product. Europe's Zano, which made mini-drones for consumers, shut down last year.

While many drone-makers overestimated demand from hobbyists, they now see big opportunities selling to businesses under newly relaxed U.S. regulations. Beyond flying robots, investors and entrepreneurs see especially strong prospects in software and services that can make aerial imaging useful for industries including insurance, construction, agriculture and entertainment. Companies including Amazon.com Inc and Zipline, a drone startup, are also aggressively developing drones for delivery.

Most startups vying to sell consumer drones, often used for racing or photography, have been stung by China-based DJI. The company has dominated by slashing prices. DJI discounted its popular Phantom 3 drone, for instance, to about \$300 from nearly \$1,000 at the beginning of the year.

3D Robotics took a beating after releasing its Solo consumer drone last year for about \$1,500, said co-founder and CEO Chris Anderson. "It's no fun watching prices fall by 70 percent in 9 months," Anderson said, referring to DJI's price-cutting.

After shuttering warehouses and factories and laying off scores of employees, Berkeley-based 3D Robotics has all but scrapped its consumer business, Anderson said, despite having a backlog of drones sitting on Best Buy stores shelves. They now sell for one-third of their original price.

The chill is being felt widely. Venture capital financing for drone companies fell 59 percent in the third quarter, to \$55 million from \$134 million in the previous year, according to data research firm CB Insights. The drop reflects a widespread funding slump across the tech sector but also heightened caution about drone companies.

Any new company trying to compete with DJI on consumer drones would have "an extraordinarily difficult argument to make" to venture capitalists, said Rory O'Driscoll, a partner at Scale Venture Partners. "Consumers buy drones, and it's a disposable item," he said. "They play with it, and then they are done."

DJI, which eclipses many Silicon Valley startups with a workforce of 6,000, began making commercial drones and pursuing software development more than a year ago. "Four years ago, it was enough to take something out of a box, you push a button and it flies," said Adam Lisberg, DJI spokesman for North America. "The smart money is now in drone services."

New rules raise hopes

The industry's excitement about business applications stems in part from new Federal Aviation Administration rules, which took effect in August and offer a clearer pathway for commercial drone uses, though many restrictions remain. The new rules simplified licensing requirements, making it possible for small companies to certify themselves to operate commercial drones.

3D Robotics' new plan is to outfit the Solo with new technology to capture 3D images that show the shape, size and volume of items at a construction site. The company joins startups such as DroneDeploy and Airware that are focusing on software to make sense of images, whether it's the angle of a pipe laid at a new construction site or damage to a roof from a hurricane. The drone itself is almost an afterthought. A report in May from consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers estimated that, by 2020, about \$127 billion worth of labor and business services could be replaced by drones. A separate report released the same month from Grand View Research projected annual sales of consumer drones globally at just \$4.19 billion by 2024. That doesn't mean launching commercial drone businesses will be simple. Trimble Inc., which makes global positioning devices, last month spun off its line of Gatewing drones. Alphabet Inc has also pushed our managers and cut funding for commercial drone project, according to a Bloomberg report this week. — Reuters

EHOSTING DATAFORT AWARDED 'MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER OF THE YEAR' AT ICT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

DUBAI: eHosting DataFort (eHDF), the region's leading Managed Hosting and Cloud Infrastructure services provider, was recently awarded the 'Managed Services Provider of the year' by Computer News Middle East magazine at its seventh annual ICT Achievement Awards 2016 held at the Conrad Hotel in Dubai. The company was recognized for its delivery of the highest level of IT services and outstanding customer satisfaction at the region's premier awards event, which celebrated leadership and excellence in the ICT industry.

Speaking on their award, Yasser Zeineldin, CEO of eHDF said, "We are honored to be recognized by Computer News Middle East as the Managed Services Provider of the year. We thank the esteemed judges and the editors of CPI Publishing Group for selecting eHDF for this accolade. Such recognitions encourage us to raise the bar for ourselves and the industry and work to deliver more innovative and leading edge solutions to our customers."

"eHDF constantly innovates and invests in technologies and infrastructure to keep ahead of competition. In the past 12 months, we have invested heavily on Data Centre upgrades to strengthen and widen the portfolio of our services and address a larger customer base across business verticals. We have always strived to be innovative and provide true value to

our customers. In 2016, we invested in new technology and launched a Cyber Defense Centre to offer a portfolio of Managed Security Services including Real Time Threat Monitoring and response.

We also have an aggressive investment plan for 2017. We are committed to helping enterprises and SMEs in the region transform their IT infrastructure into competitive assets and focus on their core business," Zeineldin added.

A blend of the top vendors and end-users were commended for their efforts in creating value using technology through innovation at the seventh annual ICT Achievement Awards 2016. The winners were selected after a rigorous review process by a panel of judges comprising of CIOs, academics and consultants.

eHDF has received accolades for its Managed Services, Cloud Computing and Data Centre offerings for the last nine years in a row, and continues its efforts to focus on customer needs, enhanced service offerings and innovation.

With world-class data centers, resilient and scalable infrastructure and round-the-clock managed operations, eHDF has established itself as a market leader in the field of Cloud, Hosting and Managed IT services. The company has a team of domain and technical experts who are highly knowledgeable, committed, experienced and completely focused on keeping customer critical applications and



DUBAI: The eHosting DataFort team pose with the ICT Achievement award.

infrastructure working optimally without any downtime. eHDF is also the first company in the Middle East to achieve the Cloud Security Alliance's Security, Trust and Assurance Registry (CSA STAR) certification which audits the security capability levels of a company. Achieving the Gold rating is the highest rating that can be awarded to any Cloud services provider and the accolade has positive implications on eHDF's Managed Services portfo-

lio. eHDF is also certified to ISO 9001/ 20000/ 22301/ 27001 for the last seven years. The ICT Achievement Award complements eHDF's recent wins in the same category at the GEC Awards 2016 and the Intelligent CIO Technology Excellence Awards 2016. The company also won the 'SMB Managed Services implementation of the year' award at Channel Middle East's inaugural SMB Innovation Awards 2016 held in August this year.



DUBAI: Channel partners of Canon Middle East.

GET INSPIRED BY THE POWER OF IMAGING: CANON REITERATES COMMITMENT WITH CHANNEL COMMUNITY

DUBAI: Canon Middle East, a leader in imaging solutions reinforced its commitment to both channel partners by awarding them Middle East Channel Awards for their business performances and innovative selling practices.

This was part of an exclusive two-day event that saw 170 key operational decision makers from Canon's tier-1 and tier-2 channel partners from across the Middle East rediscover the power of imaging.

In the Middle East region, Emax UAE bagged the Canon Middle East Performance Award for 2016 in the DSLR and lens category, considered as a prime business section for Canon. Carrefour UAE bagged the Canon Middle East Performance Award for 2016 in the Compact Cameras & Selphy section. Media Square from Lebanon won the award for Pro-Imaging segment while Extra in KSA won the award for inkjet category of printers.

Canon also recognised their retailers for innovative selling practices across the Middle East region. Sharaf DG at Times Square in UAE and Sharaf DG in Bahrain won the Canon Middle East Customer Experience & Display 2016

award. The Lulu chain of Supermarkets won the Canon Middle East Innovative Selling Concepts 2016 award across their outlets in UAE, KSA, Oman and Qatar.

Held in Dubai, the 'Imaging Inspired' event showcased Canon's latest and most powerful technology across cameras, printers and projectors through a series of events. On day one of the event, the channel partners took part in a movie making workshop using Canon latest Cinema EOS and DSLR equipment while on day 2, they attended a session from Facebook on Digital Trends in the region. The event concluded with a gala show that included the User-Experience launch of the 5D Mark IV given by Mark Williams, professional Photographer & Cinematographer, Launch of Canon Academy, Pixma Creative Park for Canon Inkjet Printers and Canon Photo Community web portal. Canon also showcased its XEED range of projectors by holding an exclusive demo session where audience interacted with the projectors using their hand gestures.

"When it comes to technology, performance and range, Canon is an undoubted leader in the imaging and business

solutions category," said Hendrik Verbrugghe, Marketing Director, Canon Middle East and Canon Central and North Africa. "While this success is dependent on a variety of factors, one element that remains of paramount importance is our ongoing commitment service to both our end users, through the development of channel partners and dealers across the Middle East, as well as our service to those retail partners." In addition to featuring cameras such as the EOS 5DS and EOS 750D, Canon also used the event as an opportunity to showcase a range of imaging products including cameras: the Powershot G3X, the XC10, the EOS C300 MKII, and the Legria Mini X; printers such as the Pixma MG7540 and Pixma Pro-1; as well as the CS-100 connect station, and the WUX400ST projector. "Our channel partners are invaluable in fuelling our growth across the region and through events such as Imaging Inspired, Canon's robust channel support, incentives and marketing programmes, we are creating ever-more rewarding relationships which, in turn, result in great end user experiences at every stage," added Verbrugghe.

POLICE: WANNABE WEATHERMAN SET FIRE TO GAIN FACEBOOK VIEWS

ATLANTA: A wannabe weatherman was jailed for arson after admitting he started a wildfire to draw attention to his selfie videos on Facebook, his town's police chief said Friday. Meanwhile, a Georgia sheriff appealed for help identifying the driver of a dark blue SUV last seen where other wildfires began. And in North Carolina, authorities suspect arson in more than 20 wildfires burning in a national forest.

"It's really too bad because he's not a bad kid - he's just misguided," said James Stephens, the police chief in Jenkins,

Kentucky, where Johnny Mullins, 21, was arrested this week on a second-degree arson charge. "He likes to do Facebook videos and have people follow him on his 'weather forecast,' so that's pretty much why he did what he did," the chief said. "He enjoyed the attention he got from the Facebook stuff."

"He didn't realize how much danger he was putting other people in," Stephens added. A teenager in Harlan County, Kentucky also was arrested for arson this week, and in Tennessee, authorities said

Friday that Andrew Scott Lewis was charged with setting fires and vandalism causing more than \$250,000 in damage and threatening homes outside Chattanooga. No arrests were announced in most of the rest of the suspicious fires, which have been torching forests in and around the southern Appalachian mountains. The relentless drought across much of the South has removed the usual humidity and sucked wells and streams dry, making the woods ripe for fire.

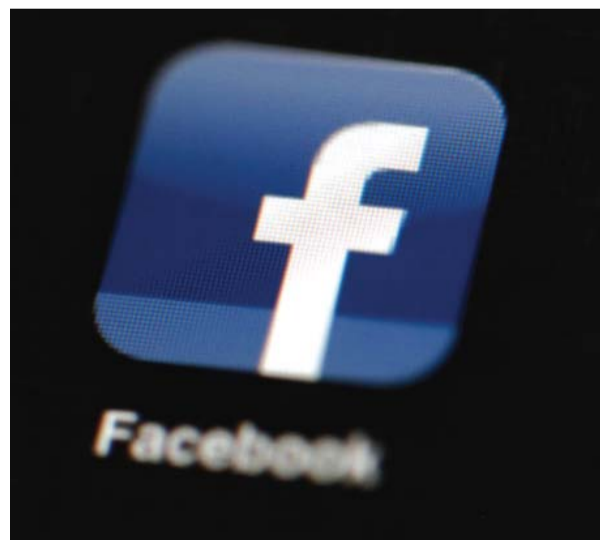
Tens of thousands of acres have burned,

about a dozen of the largest fires remain uncontained and many people to evacuate their homes ahead of fast-moving flames.

Law officers in Georgia's Rabun County suspect that someone started a series of small roadside fires Wednesday that eventually merged into the much larger blazes firefighters were working to contain on Friday, said Justin Upchurch, the county's assistant fire chief.

The Rabun County sheriff's office urged people to be on the look-out, saying the SUV was last seen in the area of the fires. The office was more emphatic in a separate Facebook post, asking residents to spread the word "and help us lock this criminal up!!!" The area is less than 50 miles from North Carolina's Nantahala National Forest, where more than 20 wildfires that have burned more than 17,000 acres are all "being investigated for suspected arson," forestry officials announced in a status update. There were 14 other wildfires burning on Cherokee Nation land in North Carolina, all under investigation by local law enforcement. A fire managers' update noted that the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs is seeking information about fires on Indian lands through an arson hotline.

The U.S. Forest Service announced Friday that the entire Cohutta Wilderness, which stretches across the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia and the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, has been closed to the public due to multiple fires there.



FACEBOOK TWEAKS RACE-BASED AD TARGETING POLICY

NEW YORK: Facebook says it will no longer allow advertisers to use ethnicity as a filter when it comes to targeting or hiding ads offering housing, employment or credit. The changes come after ProPublica reported that, besides hobbies and interests, advertisers could exclude specific races from seeing their ads. This could be illegal in some circumstances, such as with housing ads.

Although Facebook doesn't actually ask users their race, the service can make a pretty good guess based on other information users share. On Friday, Facebook said discriminatory ads have "no place" on the site. Rather, it says the filters are designed for reaching "multicultural audiences with more relevant advertising." Race and ethnicity filters will still be allowed for ads that aren't about housing, employment or credit. — AP



LAKE LURE: In this Wednesday, Nov 9, 2016 photo, a wildfire burns near Lake Lure, N.C. — AP

IMAGES MED CLINIC HOLDS SPECIALIZED SEMINAR

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS FOCUS ON CARDIAC CT AND MRI IMAGING



KUWAIT: Images Med Clinic conducted a two-day seminar and workshop focusing on the importance of Cardiac CT and MRI imaging under the management of Dr Yehia Sulaiman, Images Med Clinic owner and MRI and CT imaging consultant; partnering up with Dr Laurent Macron from the George Pomado Hospital in Paris, and Salah Elzaaneen Senior Imaging technologist at Images Med Clinic.

This conference and workshop focused on the importance of the most modern methods for patients with cardiovascular. The participants presented the Latest technology and researches in this area to give the best possible results to patients who are in need of these advanced techniques.

The workshop included intensive lectures on best use protocols for MRI and CT imaging which can be used while guaranteeing patient safety; In addition, open conversation sessions were conducted to debate the level of these tests in Kuwait and compare them to the international ones.

Dr Yahya Suleiman focused on the importance of such events to enhance the quality of services provided by Images Med Clinic and thus benefit the medical staff to improve patient service. He added that it is for the public interest to get exposed to the latest international standards for MRI and CT imaging equipment available at Images Med Clinic.



KERRY TALKS CLIMATE CHANGE BUT NOT TRUMP IN ANTARCTICA

McMURDO STATION, Antarctica: US Secretary of State John Kerry didn't comment on Donald Trump's election victory while visiting Antarctica, but did say that citizens who care about limiting emissions might have to march in the streets to push for more aggressive action.

Kerry became the highest-ranking American official to visit Antarctica when he landed for a two-day trip on Friday. He's been hearing from scientists about the impact of climate change on the frozen continent. Trump has called climate change a hoax and said he would "cancel" US involvement in the landmark Paris Agreement on global warming.

"We need to get more of a movement going," Kerry said when addressing several hundred scientists and staff at an evening event at McMurdo Station, the large base which is the hub for US operations. "We need to get more people to engage," Kerry said there was a risk that much of Antarctica's ice will eventually flow into the ocean, raising sea levels worldwide.

Despite the Paris agreement to cut the fossil-fuel emissions causing the planet to warm, "we haven't won the battle yet," Kerry said to the audience that included many young people involved in climate research.

Earlier, a planned visit to the South

Pole was scrapped because of bad weather. Instead, Kerry and members of his entourage were taken on a helicopter tour of the McMurdo Dry Valleys, one of the few parts of Antarctica that are largely free of ice year-round.

Kerry left from New Zealand early Friday aboard a C-17 Globemaster military cargo plane after being held up for about a day by bad weather. An experienced pilot, Kerry spent much of the flight

in the cockpit of the huge jet, chatting with the pilots.

After a smooth trip of about five hours, the group landed on the Pegasus Ice Runway, the strip of ice that serves McMurdo. Kerry's aides described the trip as a learning opportunity for the secretary of state. He has been receiving briefings from scientists working to understand the effects of climate change on Antarctica.

Kerry has made climate change an intensive focus of American diplomacy during his term, and had previously spent decades working on the issue as a US senator. He planned to return to New Zealand on Saturday for a meeting with Prime Minister John Key. Kerry plans to fly next week to the Middle East for talks, and then onward to a global climate conference in Morocco, where he will give a major speech. — AP



US Secretary of State John Kerry (right) listens to scientist John Snow about the increased movement of icebergs across Antarctica at the Cray Science and Engineering Center, McMurdo Station in Antarctica yesterday. —AP

SMOG LIFTS, BUT COMPANIES' VIEW OF POLLUTED DELHI SKIES IS DIM

NEW DELHI: As New Delhi grappled with its worst smog in 17 years, the head of India's largest mobile payment firm got on a plane and left, one of thousands of professionals escaping pollution that could cost the capital and the broader economy dear.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of PayTM payment start-up, left last Sunday for a temporary stay in Mumbai, worried about the impact of hazardous clouds of dust, smoke and fumes that hang over Delhi during the winter months. "It became very visibly clear that it is going to be tough in Delhi, especially with young kids," Sharma said in Mumbai.

"We were worried that it could create long-term (health) problems," His company, which has considered moving from its base outside Delhi, has installed air purifiers, brought in plants and masks and offered extra health assistance. Telecom operator Idea Cellular and others have allowed more employees to work at home, and hired buses so that car traffic is reduced - all at their own expense.

A few companies are thriving from the heavy smog hanging over the city earlier this month - providers of face masks and air purifiers have seen sales soar. But others, like the car manufacturers, are in the firing line of local and national politicians who want to reduce the deadly haze, while estate agents and tour operators have complained of a slowdown in business. Delhi, home to around

17 million people, is among the fastest growing states in India. Its \$84 billion economy has been expanding at more than 8 percent for the past two years, faster than a 7.4 percent national average. Its air quality, meanwhile, has deteriorated, even by the standards of a country with some of the world's most polluted cities. Conditions had improved by Friday, but the problem is perennial and has been particularly acute this winter. Companies have yet to tot up the cost of a week of coughing, spluttering and watering eyes, but local industry lobby group ASSOCHAM estimates "several billions of dollars" of new investments are under threat. A study by the World Bank shows Asia's third-largest economy lost 8.5 percent of its GDP in 2013 due to air pollution.

"WORST ON EARTH"

Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), a global real estate services firm serving large corporates, said some clients were reconsidering Delhi as a base, as costs of working there rise.

"This is increasing their operational costs as they are being made to spend more to provide a healthy workplace to their employees," said Santosh Kumar, a senior executive at the firm.

Delhi's image is deteriorating more widely, a headache for tour promoters and a government touting "Brand India". Some local tour operators say they are already receiving requests from overseas partners to redraw the itinerary of for-

eign tourists to avoid even an overnight stay in Delhi. Business travellers say they are cancelling trips. "The ongoing tourism season, which is yet to pick up, could see a maximum hit," ASSOCHAM said. Expatriates are also thinking twice about living in the Indian capital. JLL's Kumar said more smog could see foreigners packing their bags, a blow to real estate as well as employment.

Lisa Akerman, a Swedish national who lives in an affluent Delhi neighbourhood, said authorities needed to do much more than they were. Akerman moved to the city two years ago with her family and has taken measures to ensure clean air in her apartment for her two small daughters. Still, the choking smog left her worried about their health.

Earlier this week, she decided to take them out of the city for a while. "The pollution level is too much for the children," she said by phone from Goa, where she is camping with her kids. "While I love Delhi, its air quality will be a major consideration in deciding whether we want to extend our stay here."

NOT EVERYONE LOSES

The local government has taken steps to reduce traffic amid widespread public anger at pollution that has caused choking, wheezing and breathlessness. Licences are being withdrawn for diesel-powered vehicles older than 15 years, and authorities are considering resuming an "odd-even" scheme, under which cars can only travel in the city on alternate days depending on their registration number.

Those steps, and the risk that India's courts will impose stricter rules on emissions, are a potential blow to foreign and domestic carmakers, some of whom have asked for greater clarity.

But not everyone is complaining about the smog. Japan's Daikin has seen sales of air purifiers increase by up to three times since the Hindu Diwali festival, and its stock that had been expected to last until March is exhausted. To meet growing orders, the Osaka-based air-conditioner maker increased shipments from its Thai factory by 50 percent. Nirvana India, which distributes the Vogmask face mask in South Asia, reported soaring sales. It sold 300 to 400 pieces a week around this time last year, but since Diwali at the end of October, it has sold 5,000-8,000 a week and is seeking emergency stocks from Singapore, China and Korea. "Earlier, only expats, patients and government departments would buy these masks," said chief executive Jaidhar Gupta. "Now everyone is buying." — Reuters



NEW DELHI: A woman crosses a road in a street in New Delhi which is in the grip of heavy smog.

NEW BIRD FLU CASES IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND

VIENNA: Germany, Switzerland and Austria reported new outbreaks of a severe strain of bird flu yesterday in the latest in a series of cases across Europe. The H5N8 virus has also been found in Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands, Denmark and Croatia. In Germany, the state of Schleswig-Holstein reported one case of bird flu confirmed at a farm where 30,000 chickens would now be culled. The state's agriculture ministry said an area of 3 square km (1.2 square miles) had been sealed off.

In Berlin, the federal agriculture minister, Christian Schmidt, said the government had set up a crisis management desk.

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety confirmed a second outbreak at a chicken farm in its western Vorarlberg province close to the German and Swiss borders and said 4,000 would be culled.

An Austrian poultry farm close to the chicken farm had tested positive for H5N8 on Friday. A protection zone with a radius of at least 3

km and a surveillance zone with a radius of at least 10 km around the infected holdings will be created to keep migrating birds from transmitting the disease to farm poultry. Bird flu was also confirmed in dead birds along Lake Geneva in Switzerland yesterday.

Austria and Switzerland earlier this week took steps to prevent the spread of the virus to domestic poultry after discovering the disease in wild ducks around Lake Constance. — Reuters

VIETNAM DESTROYS MASS RHINO HORNS AND ELEPHANT IVORY

HANOI: Vietnam destroyed nearly 2.2 tons of seized elephant ivory and 70 kg of rhino horns on Saturday, in one of its strongest moves yet to stop illegal wildlife trafficking.

The specimens, estimated to be worth more than \$7 million on the black market, came from about 330 African elephants and 23 rhinos, said UK-based Humane Society International (HSI), which has been working with the Vietnamese government since 2013 to reduce demand for rhino horn in the country. Vietnam is a transit point for elephant ivory for consumers in mostly China and the United States to make jewellery and home decorations, while the Southeast Asian nation is a major consumer of rhino horn.

"The destruction today is a clear indication of our government's political determination to fulfil our international duty in conventions to protect wildlife," said Ha Cong Tuan, Vietnam's deputy agriculture minister.

The usage and trading of rhino horn is a criminal offence in Vietnam, but demand is strong due to a long-held belief in rhino horn's medical power as an elixir, especially among the country's growing middle and

upper classes. Yesterday's event added Vietnam to a list of 20 other countries that also have crushed or burned seized ivory and rhino horns.

"The illegal wildlife trade is very serious, organised crime," British Ambassador to Vietnam Giles Lever said.

"The more efforts which Vietnam and the Vietnamese government can have to working with other countries to stop the illegal wildlife trade, I think that will really help Vietnam's international image."

The African elephant faces an unprecedented poaching and trafficking threat. Between 2010 and 2012, an estimated 100,000 elephants were killed illegally to meet global demand for ivory, HSI said.

Over the past decade, poachers killed more than 6,000 rhinos across Africa, with more than 1,300 poached in 2015 alone. With only about 29,000 rhinos of five species remaining in the wild, rhinos are facing a crisis, according to HSI.

"If we could do something to reduce demand here, reduce demand in China, maybe wipe it out, that will help rhinos in Africa," said Teresa Telecky, director of the wildlife department at HSI. — Reuters



SRINAGAR: A Kashmiri boatman rows his boat on the waters of Wular Lake, northeast of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir. — AP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri villagers stand at a dried portion of Wular Lake, northeast of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir. — AP



SRINAGAR: Ducks swim on the waters of Wular Lake, northeast of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir. India has realized a vast, alpine lake in Kashmir would be worth more pristine than exploited for resources.—AP

CAN THE RUINED KASHMIR LAKE BE FIXED?

A STORY OF DEVELOPMENT AT NATURE'S EXPENSE, OF WETLANDS DISAPPEARING

WULAR LAKE, India: Tucked within Kashmir's Himalayan foothills sits a freshwater lake that was once among Asia's largest. Long an inspiration to poets, beloved by kings, Wular Lake has been reduced in places to a fetid and stinking swamp.

Just the sight of it makes Mohammed Subhan Dar feel sick. He admits he's partly responsible. Dar was among dozens of villagers employed in the 1950s by the regional government to plant millions of water-sucking willows in the crystalline lake. The goal had been to create vast plantations for growing firewood and timber for construction and cricket bats. The result was the accidental near-destruction of the lake, as the trees drank from its waters and their tangled roots captured soil and built up the land.

The lake, now less than half of its former capacity, no longer churns and heaves with high waves, but meanders across mossy swamps and trash-strewn backwaters. Children long ago stopped playing in the water. Families no longer use it to cook. "It used to be so beautiful, so clear you could see the bottom. That glory is gone," said Dar, whose family has lived lakeside for seven generations. He alone planted at least a hectare (2 acres) of what is now a full-blown willow forest.

"I feel ashamed every day. But it was work," he said. "We've felt so helpless as governments meddled with the lake." As Wular lost its appeal, its value declined. Poverty rates in the 31 surrounding villages shot up to around 50 percent - five times the state average.

The authorities "did not realize what they were trading. They were so focused on protecting and growing the forest they lost sight of the lake," said Rahul Kaul of the nonprofit Wildlife Trust of India, which last year worked on an economic assessment of Wular's repair.

Felling trees

Kashmir and New Delhi officials now want to fell millions of trees, remove acres (hectares) of soil and dredge enormous patches of lake bottom. Proposals have been drafted, experts consulted and money pledged, including nearly \$1 million already spent tearing up willow forest on the lake's eastern flank.

But restoring an enormous alpine lake is no simple thing, especially with climate change now threatening the Himalayan glaciers that feed Wular's waters, and deforestation still unleashing soil to clog it up once more.

Restoring such a lake in Indian-controlled Kashmir - where a decades-long violent conflict often supersedes all other government plans - may be near impossible.

"Wular Lake is still in floods, The North Wind howling strong; The shore is far away, and you Must steer your course with care." — Kashmiri poet Mahjoor (1885-1952)

The name Wular itself means "stormy" in the local Kashmiri language, and once described the lake's strong winds and choppy waters. Formed within a deep cavern created by ancient earthquakes, the lake was for centuries considered a paradise by writers, philosophers, nobles and travelers who camped on its banks and reveled in legends of an ancient city that vanished in the 5th century when a massive flood filled in the lake.

Mohammed Azim Tuman remembers a boyhood spent steering his houseboat by moonlight over towering waves.



SRINAGAR: A Kashmiri villager collects water to wash his boat at the Wular Lake, northeast of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir. India has realized a vast, alpine lake in Kashmir would be worth more pristine than exploited for resources. —AP

"My heart would be racing as I clung to the railing to keep from falling into the water," said Tuman, the elderly proprietor of a tourism business. "When a storm hit, the water would splash so high I thought, 'My god, the boat will be swallowed whole.'"

Back then, Kashmir was still a sleepy principality at the edge of the British Empire. In the seven decades since, India and Pakistan won independence and began fighting over Kashmir, a prolonged separatist conflict has erupted and tens of thousands have been killed.

Today hundreds of thousands of Indian troops hunt for rebels through the cities and countryside. Razor wire snakes across the landscape. Military vehicles trundle along mountain roads.

Wular's surface lies flat, lifeless and in some spots stagnant, teeming with mosquitoes. The water trickles in from the Jhelum River, and meanders some 16 kilometers (10 miles) before emptying through a dam on its way toward Pakistan. The surface and its surrounding marshlands have shrunk from 216 square kilometers (83 square miles) in 1911 to just 104 square kilometers (40 square miles) in 2008. Along the fringes, impoverished communities tend rice paddies and in autumn harvest wild water chestnuts from the lake shallows. The ornately carved wooden houseboats that once surfed Wular's waves are gone.

Wular's degraded state has not only ruined its prospects for tourism, but also has compromised the lake's function in absorbing heavy snow and ice melt from the mountains.

In 2014, Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, just 34 kilometers (21 miles) southeast of the lake, was inundated with floodwaters that wreaked billions of dollars in damage. It happened again a few months later in 2015, raising calls for renewed efforts to restore the region's natural water systems.

"The earth is experiencing tremor after tremor, The warnings of Nature are but too clear.

Khidr, standing by Wular, is thinking: When will the Himalayan springs burst?"

—Urdu poet Dr Mohammed Iqbal (1877-1938)

Wular's story is a familiar one - a story of development at nature's expense, of good intentions and profound regret, of wetlands disappearing. Since 1990, the planet has lost 75 percent of its wetlands as communities drained the water and built on the land. What's left today offers about \$3.4 billion in services including water filtration, flood control and wildlife support, according to a 2010 report for The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity, an ongoing project proposed by the Group of Eight industrialized nations to study monetary values for the environment. More than half of that annual value in wetlands - or \$1.8 billion - is delivered by wetlands in Asia.

"It's typical throughout India, not just in Kashmir. The critical balance between ecology and economy that is missed," said Anzar A. Khuroo, assistant professor of biodiversity at the University of Kashmir in Srinagar. Kashmir's other losses include Anchar Lake, now almost entirely gone, and the famed Dal Lake in Srinagar, which has lost 70 percent of its capacity.

In 2008, Wetlands International came out with an \$82 million plan to restore Wular's ecology. The costs would be recouped with 12 years from timber profits, improved fish stocks and an expected 40 percent boom in ecotourism. Within 20 years, the report estimated, every \$1 spent on restoration would lead to \$2.74 in value returned.

The Indian government was intrigued. Experts confirmed there were profits to be made from a cleaner, healthier lake. Some suggested it could be done for a third of the cost.

India's parliament in 2011 approved a budget of \$26 million. Officials began talking about five-star hotels, river-side parks and boulevards for frolicking middle-class tourists and auctioning rights for running water sports. If only it had been so easy.

"How long will they remain hidden from the world, The unique gems that Wular Lake holds in its depth." —Urdu poet Dr. Mohammed Iqbal (1877-1938)

Getting everyone on board was a major effort. The willow plantations alone are carved into blocks controlled by individuals, villages and a multitude of state government bodies, while the lake's overall management involves even more departments including forestry, farming, fisheries, pollution control and the army.

It took years just to agree on the lake's boundaries. The project was again re-evaluated. The approved budget dropped to just \$2 million.

By the time the first willows were chopped down, it was 2015. Only half the budget had been allocated, and those in charge of the work saw it wasn't enough.

Still, they chopped and dredged. They removed about a million cubic meters (1.3 million cubic yards) of silt - or 200,000 truckloads - before federal funding expired.

Project officials say the future felling of trees could bring in enough to reinvest \$44 million in lake restoration. In the meantime, they want funding to restore 5 square kilometers (2 square miles) while they keep lobbying for more.

"What we've spent so far will be fatuous. It will have no impact at all," said Rashid Naqash, a government forest officer in charge of the program. "And then people will say it was a waste, declare it a failure and forget about it. But we can't give up."

Whether the project can survive is debatable. Any further work will need a new proposal, more evaluation, another environmental assessment, further debate and higher costs. Naqash said they'd need about \$280 million more for the eventual goal of restoring 27 square kilometers (10 square miles).

That's many times more what has been spent so far, but just over a third of what India spends on security in Kashmir in a single month. Indian officials are singularly focused on their enormous military deployment in the region amid a public uprising and renewed popular rebellion against Indian rule.

Scientists warn that any efforts to repair Wular will be futile unless the plan also deals with areas far upstream, where lake-clogging soil and silts are still being loosed from newly deforested lands. The plan would also have to consider climate change, they say, which is upsetting Himalayan rainfall patterns and may affect how much water is available for the lake.

"I don't think the government has an understanding of how difficult this work would be," said Himalayan geologist and glaciologist Shakil Romshoo, a professor at the University of Kashmir who was part of a government-appointed team that assessed Wular's restoration in 2010. "We know a lot about the lake, the glaciers, the forests and ecosystems. But that knowledge is still not informing policy. And so any restoration project is going to be pointless." —AP

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Kuwait Times
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Public Relations and Marketing Director Amer El-Assaad receiving an honorary plaque on behalf of AUK.



The world-renowned speaker Mohammed Al-Qahtani.



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT SPONSORS 'CONQUERING THE IMPOSSIBLE'

PRESENTED BY 2015 PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD WINNER, MOHAMMED AL-QAHTANI

Under the Sponsorship of the American University of Kuwait (AUK), the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) hosted world-renowned speaker, Mohammed Al-Qahtani in the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry last week.

The lecture explored techniques of setting goals and achieving them while coping with unpredictable circumstances, new environments and conquering challenges. Qahtani

stressed the importance of assessing and recognizing one's personal skills for goal-setting; in addition to having the skill to avert obstacles and overcome challenges to achieve one's ambitions.

Qahtani also discussed the importance of conducting personality trait analyses for the purpose of placing individuals in teams based on their personal and professional strengths which would ultimately contribute to achieving

organizational goals effectively.

Among the topics of discourse were the ability to handle customers and clients, and what an organization can offer in terms of customer service that would distinguish it from others- such as presenting a professional image, listening attentively, controlling one's emotions, and effective problem-solving skills.

The lecture was attended by employees of private and public sectors, in addition to students

of all levels where fundamental concepts were explained for those who wish to succeed professionally. PR and Marketing Director, Amer El-Assaad attended the event where he received an honorary plaque on behalf of AUK.

Mohammed Al-Qahtani is a world-renowned public speaker and winner of the 2015 Toastmasters International World Champion of Public Speaking- he is the first

Arab to win this title. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Arizona State University; and became a certified Microsoft Programmer and ORACL Administrator. He won the Saudi Arabia Comedy Speech Competition in 2015, and has conducted speeches and presentations in numerous countries-UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Malaysia, Romania, Belgium, UK, Ireland and Germany.



MALABAR GOLD AND DIAMONDS ORGANIZES BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the leading jewelry group with 159 retail outlets globally intends to bring a significant difference to the society by spreading the importance of blood donation. As a part of this initiative their CSR team organized a blood donation drive in association with Kuwait Blood Bank on 6th November, 2016 at Lulu Hypermarket, Dajeej, Kuwait.

The main objective of this initiative is to raise awareness among the residents in Kuwait about the importance of blood donation and to encourage maximum people to donate blood, with the support of Kuwait Blood Bank.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds encouraged their staff to be a part of this humanitarian effort for the wellbeing of the community. The program drew very good response from the public and 50 donors, including 15 staff from Malabar Gold and Diamonds participated in the blood donation drive to support this cause.

Commenting on this latest initiative, Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds - Kuwait said, "We strive for the betterment of lives of the people in the areas of our operation. We are proud to be a part of this initiative and with the support of like-minded organizations like Kuwait Blood Bank, we would like to remind the residents of the country the role individuals can play in saving and improving human lives". Eid Abdul Nabi Al Indhal, Head of Health Department, Salmiya along with Dr Ahmed Abdul Gaffar from Kuwait Central Blood bank who was present for the blood donation drive congratulated Malabar Gold and Diamonds for this initiative to raise the awareness among the public.

The CSR team of Malabar Gold and Diamonds organizes blood donation drive periodically in different parts of Middle East and Far East with support of authorized blood

banks as a part of its ongoing CSR activities. They associate with like-minded organizations and undertake several welfare activities in different parts of the world for the poor and downtrodden section of the society.

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



SMART INDIAN SCHOOL HOLDS 'EUREKA - 2016'



The Smart Indian School opened its doors to yet another heuristic 'Eureka 2016' - the Annual Math and Science exhibition. True to its meaning of the Greek word eureka - 'we have found it', the ambience promoted scientific attitude among the budding research scholars and math wizards. While the focus was on ingrain a scientific and creative attitude in the students, to make them comprehend the inter-dependence of scientific technology and society by a hands-on experience, it engaged children and teachers to synergize experiences and motivate one another.

The event was kicked off with the hospitable welcome to the chief guest through a memento presentation by the dynamic Principal Mahesh Iyer and the assembling of a jigsaw puzzle by the guest of honor Sajeew K Peter, Business Editor, Kuwait Times. It was a befitting tribute to the greatest scientist of our age, an outstanding connoisseur of the fine arts and a teacher par excellence: Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. The parent community together with the aspiring students admired this pantheon of ex- Indian President while it was being unveiled.

The planet earth and its exploration of life giving atmosphere showcased beautifully by the tiny tots evoked the quest for wisdom. The two toddler stars of SIS: Eshan of LKG and Prabhath Aravind of Pre Kg stunned experts through their signs of genius. Prabhath Aravind would be a handy guide outside the UN headquarters in Geneva, since he could identify the

flags of every independent sovereign state on a map of the world and even match them with their national flags. Eshan the autodidact, drew throngs of spectators as he is exceptionally and profoundly gifted in reading capacity of a 12-year-old who has mastered a number of Indian languages, is now aspiring to learn Arabic as well, showed a definite talent of early acquisition of speech.

The eyes could savor the appreciable accomplishments of intrinsic relationship between Science and Mathematics through the unique series of exhibits put up by the primary and middle wing students : Sewage Treatment Plant and Weather Lab by Geo, Theft Alarm Bell and Sun Dial by Mevin, Non-Newtonian Fluid and 3-D shapes by Soham , Hologram and Origami by Asad, Vision Tests and Stress Relief Corner by Daniel, Solar System and Square Root Clock by Sambhav, Planetarium by students of grade 7, a dance performance on Save Earth etc. to name a few. The outstanding exhibits thus widened the practical and applicable skills on a larger perspective. Ali Judian Al-Rashidi, the owner and the sponsor of the school visited the exhibition along with the Administration Manager Shaimaa Zaki and was entranced by the creative skills on the technology innovations by the exhibitors. Hats off to the fortunate team headed by the committed and talented Principal Mahesh Iyer, Vice-Principal Marie Christiane and Rajni Menon, the KG supervisor.



ACICO INDUSTRIES CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE, HONORS STAFF WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

ACICO Industries held a huge ceremony on the occasion for passing 25 years since its inception (The silver Jubilee) in Palms Beach Hotel and Spa, in the presence of hundreds of company employees in addition to the Board of Directors and the Executive Management,

the ceremony covers honoring numerous of the company employees who exceeded 20 years of service. On this occasion, Ghassan Al Khaled, CEO, delivered a speech expressing his gratitude and appreciation to all employees who have been forming the genuine strength to ACI-

CO that enables it to achieve outstanding advancement during its 25 years journey. He also emphasized that the company is very keen to support its employees in all aspects and areas to encourage them and lift their morale in order to maintain their capabilities and professional creativity that

raise the company to the highest levels. The ceremony also covers the speech of Eng Ghosson Al Khaled, Deputy CEO, for expressing her happiness of this ceremony that emphasizes the solid cohesion between the company management and the employees that are considered the

backbone in all challenges taken by the company's various sectors. It also includes several parts of contests and activities with distributing valuable awards to the winners. ACICO Industries is a Kuwaiti company established in 1990 and listed in Kuwait financial markets.



OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 I Am Soldier
02:00 The Borderlands
04:00 Batman vs. Robin
06:00 Jupiter Ascending
08:15 Wrath
10:00 Deep Rising
12:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
13:45 Jupiter Ascending
16:00 Wrath
18:00 Deep Rising
20:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
22:00 Kingsman: The Secret Service

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

01:00 A Mother Betrayed
03:00 Before I Disappear
05:00 Cas & Dylan
07:00 First Response
09:00 A Stranger In Paradise
11:00 First Response
13:00 Before I Disappear
15:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine
17:15 A Stranger In Paradise
19:00 Red Wing
21:00 Landmine Goes Click
23:00 The Devil's Violinist

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

01:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
03:00 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
05:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
07:00 Home
09:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
11:00 It Takes Two
13:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
15:00 Bark Ranger
17:00 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
19:00 Big Fat Liar
21:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
23:00 Bark Ranger

OSN MOVIES HD

00:45 Ouija
02:15 Glass Chin
03:45 Chef
05:45 The Beat Beneath My Feet
07:15 Jackie & Ryan
09:00 Chef
11:00 Steve Jobs
13:15 Believe
15:00 Risen
17:00 Ride
19:00 Daddy's Home
21:00 Mortdecai
23:00 The Stanford Prison Experiment

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:00 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded
03:30 Begin Again
05:15 Parkland
07:00 Second Coming
09:00 Beyond The Edge
11:00 Parkland
13:00 A Perfect Day
15:00 Gone With The Bullets
17:15 Beyond The Edge
19:00 Rio, I Love You
21:00 Murder By Numbers
23:00 The Hi-Lo Country

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Tales Of Halloween
02:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
04:00 Sunshine On Leith
06:00 The Invention Of Lying
08:00 Caveman
10:00 Sunshine On Leith
12:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
14:00 Hot Rod
16:00 Caveman
18:00 The Out Of Towners
20:00 Two Night Stand
22:00 The Five Year Engagement

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
02:45 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
04:15 Blue Elephant 2
06:00 Gladiators Of Rome
07:45 Ghatotkach - Master Of Magic
09:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
11:15 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
13:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
14:30 Miffy The Movie

16:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
18:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
20:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
22:00 Miffy The Movie
23:30 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Final Girl
01:30 Fast & Furious 7
04:00 The Two Faces Of January
06:00 Stonehearst Asylum
08:00 The Good Lie
10:00 Murder, She Baked: A Chocolate Chip Cookie Mystery
12:00 Project Almanac
14:00 Hello Carter
16:00 The Good Lie
18:00 The Lady In The Van
20:00 Lila & Eve
22:00 Horrible Bosses 2

OSN MOVIES HD

01:30 What Just Happened
03:30 Adventureland
05:15 Terri
07:15 Boys And Girls
09:00 Mafiacent
10:45 Even Money
12:45 Million Dollar Arm
14:45 Hard Cash
16:30 Queen Of Earth
18:15 What Just Happened
20:00 A Walk To Remember
21:45 Autumn In New York
23:30 The Last Kiss

SUNDANCE CHANNEL

00:00 Hap And Leonard
00:45 Battle For Britain
01:00 Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
02:00 LOL
03:20 Radiator
04:55 Blood Thunder: The Sound Of Alberts
05:55 Blood Thunder: The Sound Of Alberts
07:00 The Matador
08:15 Gored
09:30 Elliott Smith: Heaven Adores You
11:15 Les Paul: Chasing Sound
12:45 Heaven
14:20 The Trip To Bountiful
16:05 Adela
17:30 The Listing Agent
17:45 The Matador
19:00 Gored
20:15 Elliott Smith: Heaven Adores You
22:00 Heaven
23:35 The Off Hours

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 Scrubs
01:30 Saturday Night Live
03:00 The Mindy Project
04:00 Fresh Off The Boat
05:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:30 George Lopez
08:00 The Bernie Mac Show
09:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Fresh Off The Boat
08:30 George Lopez
09:00 The Mindy Project
09:30 Baby Daddy
10:00 Modern Family
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Galavant
12:30 Fresh Off The Boat
13:00 George Lopez
13:30 Community
14:00 The Mindy Project
14:30 Baby Daddy
15:00 Modern Family
15:30 Scrubs
16:30 Galavant
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 2 Broke Girls
18:30 The Simpsons
19:00 Mad Love
19:30 Modern Family
20:00 Telenovela
20:30 Uncle Buck
21:00 Scrubs
22:00 Quincy Jones: Burning The Light
23:00 You're The Worst
23:30 Telenovela

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 Prison Break
01:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
02:00 Supernatural
03:00 Grimm
04:00 Recovery Road
05:00 Good Morning America - Weekend

06:00 Unforgettable
07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Bones
09:00 Recovery Road
10:00 Unforgettable
11:00 The Blacklist
12:00 Bones
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 Recovery Road
16:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Bones
19:00 The Blacklist
20:00 This Is Us
21:00 Notorious
22:00 How To Get Away With Murder
23:00 Mistresses

OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO

00:00 Preacher
01:05 Code Black
02:00 Silicon Valley
02:30 Silicon Valley
03:00 John From Cincinnati
04:00 Jonah From Tonga
04:30 Getting On
05:00 Hysterical Blindness
07:00 Real Women Have Curves
09:00 The Gathering Storm
11:00 American Splendor
13:00 The Life And Death Of Peter Sellers
15:15 Point Of Origin
17:00 American Splendor
19:00 The Offseason: Kevin Durant
20:00 Banshee
21:00 Veep
21:30 Togetherness
22:00 Whitney Cummings: I'm Your Girlfriend
23:00 Tsunami: The Aftermath (Part 1)

BBC FIRST

00:25 Eastenders
00:55 The Coroner
01:40 Class
02:35 The Durrells
03:25 The Durrells
04:10 Doctors
04:40 Eastenders
05:10 The Coroner
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Eastenders
07:00 Holby City
08:00 Father Brown
08:45 The Musketeers
09:40 Call The Midwife
10:35 Doctors
11:05 Eastenders
11:35 Father Brown
12:25 The Musketeers
13:20 Call The Midwife
14:15 Doctors
14:45 Eastenders
15:15 Father Brown
16:10 The Musketeers
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 DCI Banks
20:50 DCI Banks
21:40 Silent Witness
22:35 Mad Dogs
23:20 Doctors
23:50 Eastenders

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:00 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
00:25 Idiotsitter
00:50 South Park
01:15 Broad City
01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
02:05 Ugly Americans
02:30 Broad City
03:00 Workaholics
03:25 Ridiculousness
04:15 Key And Peele
04:40 Impractical Jokers
05:05 Ridiculousness
05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
06:20 Tosh.0
07:15 Catch A Contractor
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Ridiculousness
08:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:45 Nathan For You
10:35 Ridiculousness
11:25 Catch A Contractor
12:15 Workaholics
12:40 Workaholics
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Impractical Jokers
14:20 Ridiculousness
14:45 Catch A Contractor
15:35 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
16:30 Nathan For You
17:25 Workaholics
17:50 Catch A Contractor
18:39 Tosh.0
19:27 Lip Sync Battle
20:13 Impractical Jokers
20:37 Ridiculousness
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 Joe Rogan: Rocky Mountain High
22:18 Broad City
22:42 Tosh.0
23:05 Ugly Americans
23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition

FOOD NETWORK

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 The Big Eat
02:00 Man Fire Food
02:30 Man Fire Food
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Man Fire Food
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
11:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Chopped
14:00 Guy's Grocery Games
15:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
16:00 Siba's Table
17:00 Private Chef
18:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
19:00 BBQ Crawl
20:00 Private Chef
21:00 Restaurant Takeover
22:00 BBQ Crawl
23:00 Cutthroat Kitchen

ITV CHOICE

00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
04:20 5 Star Family Reunion
05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
09:00 5 Star Family Reunion
10:00 Murdoch Mysteries
10:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:50 The Chase



JUPITER ASCENDING ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Victoria
16:55 Royal Stories
17:20 Catchphrase
17:50 Murdoch Mysteries
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Victoria
21:55 Royal Stories
22:20 Catchphrase
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

Syfy HD

00:00 Pitch Black
01:50 Stargate SG-1
06:50 Sanctuary
07:40 Warehouse 13
08:30 Smallville
09:20 The Magicians
10:10 Sanctuary
11:00 Stargate SG-1
11:50 Warehouse 13
12:40 Smallville
13:30 Sanctuary
14:25 Earth's Final Hours
16:00 Killjoys
16:50 Smallville
17:40 Sanctuary
18:30 Stargate SG-1
19:20 Warehouse 13
20:10 Smallville
21:00 Face Off
21:50 Face Off
22:40 Behemoth

STAR WORLD HD

00:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Grey's Anatomy
04:00 Fashion Star
05:00 Gallery Girls
06:00 House Of DVF
07:00 Castle
08:00 Desperate Housewives
09:00 Desperate Housewives
10:00 Grey's Anatomy
11:00 Grey's Anatomy
12:00 Fashion Star
13:00 Gallery Girls
14:00 The Fashion Fund
15:00 House Of DVF
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 Grey's Anatomy
18:00 Da Vinci's Demons
19:00 Transporter: The Series
20:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
20:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
21:00 Fit For Fashion
22:00 American Idol
23:00 American Idol

TLC HD

01:10 90 Days To Wed
02:00 Suddenly Royal
02:50 Love, Lust Or Run
03:15 Love, Lust Or Run
03:35 7 Little Johnstons
04:20 Toddlers & Tiaras
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Super Soul Sunday
06:50 Suddenly Royal
07:40 7 Little Johnstons
08:30 Little People, Big World
08:55 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 Super Soul Sunday
12:40 Oprah's Master Class
13:30 Separated At Birth
14:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
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 Cake Boss
18:55 Cake Boss
19:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress
20:10 Super Soul Sunday
21:00 Cake Boss
21:25 Cake Boss
21:50 Love, Lust Or Run
22:40 Nine Months Later
23:30 Cake Boss
23:55 Cake Boss

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Untamed & Uncut
02:40 Rogue Nature With Dave Salmoni
03:35 Untamed & Uncut
04:25 My Wild Affair: The Rhino Who Joined My Family
05:15 Gorilla Doctors
06:02 Untamed & Uncut
06:49 Rogue Nature With Dave Salmoni
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 My Cat From Hell
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Wildest Europe
11:05 Lone Star Law
12:00 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
12:55 Bondi Vet

13:50 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
19:20 Treehouse Masters
20:15 The Vet Life
21:10 Wildest Europe
22:05 My Cat From Hell
23:00 Treehouse Masters
23:55 Gator Boys

ci

00:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
01:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
04:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
05:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
06:00 My Haunted House
07:00 Homicide Hunter
08:00 The First 48
09:00 The First 48
10:00 Monster In My Family
11:00 Homicide Hunter
12:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
13:00 It Takes A Killer
13:30 It Takes A Killer
14:00 The First 48
15:00 The First 48
16:00 Private Crimes
16:30 Private Crimes
17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
19:00 Frenemies
19:30 Frenemies
20:00 It Takes A Killer
20:30 It Takes A Killer
21:00 The First 48
22:00 The First 48
23:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence

Discovery Family

00:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:30 Redesign My Brain
01:20 Redesign My Brain
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:50 Doki
08:15 Doki
08:40 How It's Made
12:50 Ultimate Survival
14:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
17:00 Redesign My Brain
18:40 Troy
19:30 Prehistoric
20:20 How The Earth Works
21:10 Bermuda Triangle Exposed
22:00 Untamed & Uncut

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Caught In The Act
01:10 America's National Parks
02:00 Dangerous Encounters
02:50 City Of Ants
03:45 World's Deadliest
04:40 Viper Queens
05:35 Africa's Deadliest
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Man V. Monster
09:15 1000 Days For The Planet
10:10 Jobs That Bite!
11:05 Moody Beasts
12:00 Safari Brothers
12:55 Dangerous Encounters
13:50 Strangest Bird Alive
14:45 World's Deadliest
15:40 Killer Hornets
16:35 Viper Queens
17:30 The Incredible Dr. Pol
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 World's Deadliest
20:10 Killer Hornets
21:00 Viper Queens
21:50 The Incredible Dr. Pol
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 Safari Brothers

H2

00:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
06:20 Cities Of The Underworld
07:10 Ancient Discoveries
08:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
19:00 America's Book Of Secrets
20:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
21:00 Engineering Disasters
22:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
23:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents

HD

0:20 Wheels That Fall
00:45 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 Salvage Hunters
11:25 What On Earth?
12:15 British Treasure, American Gold
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 Deals, Wheels And Steals
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 Gold Divers
20:10 Storage Hunters
20:35 Extreme Collectors
21:00 Car vs Wild
21:50 Jaws Of The Deep
22:40 Rebel Gold
23:30 Fast N' Loud

NAT GEO people

00:10 Hook It, Cook It
00:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
01:00 The Game Chef
01:25 Route Awakening
01:50 Maverick Chef
02:15 Fearless Chef
03:05 Maverick Chef
03:30 Carnival Eats
03:55 Carnival Eats
04:20 One Man & His Campervan
04:45 American Food Battle
05:10 American Food Battle
05:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
06:00 Top Tables, Top Cities
06:25 Maximum Foodie
06:50 Croatia's Finest
07:40 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
08:05 The Game Chef
08:55 Carnival Eats
09:20 Places We Go
10:10 The Food Files
11:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
11:50 Hotel India
12:40 The Game Chef
13:05 Route Awakening
13:35 Maverick Chef
14:00 Hook It, Cook It
14:30 Fearless Chef
15:25 Carnival Eats
15:50 Carnival Eats
16:20 One Man & His Campervan
16:45 American Food Battle
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20:25 One Man & His Campervan
20:50 American Food Battle
21:15 American Food Battle
21:40 The Food Files
22:05 Top Tables, Top Cities
22:30 Maximum Foodie
22:55 The Game Chef
23:20 Route Awakening
23:45 Maverick Chef

nickelodeon HD

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 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Harvey Beaks
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 Henry Danger
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Rabbids Invasion
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger



X-MEN- THE LAST STAND ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

Kuwait
CINEMA

**KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY
(10/11/2016 TO 16/11/2016)**

[illegible]

An Online E-commerce Company in Kuwait *searching for*

Web Administrator

Conditions:

- 1- At least Five to Ten years Experience in the field of online E-commerce
- 2- Arabic and/or English language skills (written and Talking)
- 3- Educated with degree
- 4-Valid driver's license is a must with car
- 5- Transferable Residence

Please send your CVs to
onlinemarket272@gmail.com

EMERGENCY ☎ 112

**Automated enquiry about
the Civil ID card is
1889988**

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:48
Shorook	06:10
Duhr:	11:32
Asr:	14:33
Maghrib:	16:54
Isha:	18:14



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 13/11/2016				ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	MSC	412	Asyut	01:55	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
KAC	102	London	00:55	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
MSC	411	Asyut	01:00	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:25	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	543	Cairo	16:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	118	New York	17:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	16:15
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	MSC	406	Sohag	04:30	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:05	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	KAC	103	London	04:45	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:55	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	KAC	502	Beirut	18:20	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:55	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	CEB	0015	Manila	05:20	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
QTR	8511	Doha	05:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	JZR	483	Istanbul	19:35	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	104	London	19:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	QTR	8512	Doha	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	KAC	562	Amman	20:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	563	Amman	08:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	MSR	606	Luxor	20:45	KAC	617	Doha	08:00	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	362	Colombo	09:05	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	679	Dubai	08:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	BAW	156	London	08:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	101	London	09:45	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:05	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	KAC	775	Riyadh	20:45
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:25
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	KAC	676	Dubai	21:45	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
KAC	618	Doha	11:50	KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	10:10	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	KAC	741	Dammam	21:45
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:35	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	JZR	241	Amman	22:45	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	KAC	156	Istanbul	23:25	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	544	Cairo	23:30	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:50	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20					JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	Departure Flights on Sunday 13/11/2016				SAW	702	Damascus	13:30	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	13:50	JZR	502	Luxor	22:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:50	KAC	513	Tehran	00:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	15:05	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1429

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ACROSS

1. Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
4. A tranquilizer (trade name Valium) used to relieve anxiety and relax muscles.
12. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
15. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
16. Any ameba of the genus Endamoeba.
17. A resource.
18. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
20. Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
21. Having spots or patches of color.
23. Type genus of the Sialidae.
25. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
27. A Russian river.
28. A small or moderate or token amount.
30. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
32. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
33. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
36. Order of mammals having few or no teeth including.
40. Lacking leadership.
42. Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
43. (Greek mythology) God of love.
45. In or relating to or obtained from urine.
47. Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum who was a central figure in the creation of OPEC (born in 1930).
50. River in eastern Asia.
51. The content of cognition.
52. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
53. (of champagne) Moderately dry.
54. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
57. The face or front of a building.
60. 1 species.
63. The capital of Eritrea.
65. A selfish person who is unwilling to give or spend.
67. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
71. (informal) Of the highest quality.
72. A cry of sorrow and grief.
75. Of or relating to or containing barium.
76. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
77. Reproduce someone's behavior or looks.
79. The cardinal number that is the fifth power of ten.
80. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
81. A stronghold into which people could go for shelter during a battle.
82. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.

DOWN

1. Discrimination against middle-aged and elderly people.
2. (combining form) Indicating radiation or radioactivity.
3. Appeal or request earnestly.

4. Exquisitely fine and subtle and pleasing.
5. Not out.
6. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
7. The battle in 202 BC in which Scipio decisively defeated Hannibal at the end of the second Punic War.
8. The square of a body of any size of type.
9. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
10. A port city in southwestern Iran.
11. A diagrammatic representation of the earth's surface (or part of it).
12. Indigo bush.
13. The right to take another's property if an obligation is not discharged.
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
19. Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
22. The property of being pliant.
24. Containing sugar.
26. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
29. A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).
31. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
34. Having a ridge or shaped like a ridge or the keel of a ship.
35. Advance evidence for.
37. Any of a group of Indic languages spoken in Kashmir and eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan.
38. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
39. The capital of Eritrea.
41. The sacred city of Lamaism.
44. French engineer who constructed the Eiffel Tower (1832-1923).
46. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
48. Type genus of the Anatidae.
49. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
55. The dialect of Ancient Greek spoken in Thessaly and Boeotia and Aeolis.
56. Shrub bearing oval-fruited kumquats.
58. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
59. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
61. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
62. Newspaper writers and photographers.
64. Not reflecting light.
66. Expel, as of gases and odors.
68. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
69. Device for converting sound waves into electrical energy.
70. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
73. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
74. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
78. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).

Yesterday's Solution

T	A	O		A	L	D	O	M	E	T		M	A	L	T
A	S	P		D	Y	I	R	B	A	L		A	S	I	O
M	S	E	C		C	R		A	C	C	E	N	T	E	D
P	A	R	A	Z	O	A	N		H		S	A	I	G	A
A	M	A	H		S	C	A	B		Y		G	R	E	Y
			I	A	A				S	A	A	L	E		
S	E	A	T	S		B	A		U	H	F		D	O	C
T	A	K	A		H	A	R	E	D	I		B	A	S	H
A	R	A			P	Y	D	N	A			T	A	C	C
K	E	B	A	B				E	N	D	O		I	C	A
E	D	A	M		C	E	B	U			V	O	L	A	N
			A	R	A	K			I	S	E	R	E		
B	L	A	Z	I	N	G				A	R	G	Y	L	E
A	E	G	E	A	N			V	I	L	L	A		A	L
D	A	H			T	A	K	I	L	M	A	N		M	A
E	P	A			A	E	G	I	L	O	P	S		A	N

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is a desire to control a negative situation with kids this morning but you may decide to back off and see how their play unfolds. You will probably not need to step in to change things but you will certainly want to teach some problem-solving techniques. This is a priority today because you are good at putting things in balance and in helping others. Some game playing is good with children and will help to get your message across to these young ones. Later today, you tend to the chores and the odds and ends you had previously put aside for a rainy day. A meeting with someone older or in authority is at hand this afternoon-now it is your turn to solve problems for yourself. With a listening and patient attitude, a satisfactory agreement can be met.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Perhaps this is the best time to think and study-you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation with a friend, writing a letter, or making a special phone call. There may be sudden insights and jolts into some of the most sensitive and vulnerable areas of your inner self and psychology. Perhaps now is the time to write some poetry for your very own greeting card-your imagination is at full tilt. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general get attention and receive encouragement. A wish comes true this evening. Tonight will probably be spent at home in a relaxing mood. Entertainment is easy to find and conversations are pleasant. Romantic success is likely tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Love is in the air this morning. It is a fine day for all sorts of communications. You may decide to start the day with a bicycle ride. Later, some real one-on-one conversations with loved ones, particularly children or elderly, will keep difficulties down to a minimum. This open communication helps you to see where you can find help or give aid to others. Today, someone new may come into your living situation or surroundings. This could be a birth or the agreement to have someone in your home for a while. You could discover a young person that opens to you now. Your support system becomes more secure at this time. You are able to dispense with the unessential and develop what is most basic and true in your environment.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This day favors making new friends. A visitor from your past may drop by your place today. You may find yourself looking through the old albums and calling up friends. Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction for you now, whether it comes from the past or it has to do with the relationships you have now. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values, how you appreciate and love. This is a good time to examine and think about what is important and of lasting value. This is a very nice day, perhaps filled with some renewed appreciation for all that is beautiful and fine. You enjoy life and may want to celebrate with your friends this evening in a nice restaurant. Include your loved one in the fun.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A religious movie or some documentary presentation has your attention this morning. A religious or cultural group could be having a big garage sale, bazaar or car wash. If it is your group, make sure you support it and if it is not, you still might check it out-there is a good buy on the horizon. A meeting with someone older or in authority stirs a desire in you to achieve and gain through more education. Your timing should be perfect, for whatever you want to initiate or negotiate today. This afternoon you can relax and just sit back and enjoy what you have-to live life. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself this evening. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Look around-you will see your home is filled with joy.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are very outgoing when it comes to your feelings and emotions-you wear your heart on your sleeve at times. You could be successful in working with your self-expression through the arts and theater, in sports, or with the ultimate self-expression-children. Teaching, other than your professional work, may be where you find yourself today. This could be as a tutor or a teacher of some creative subjects-perhaps a tour guide for visiting relatives or friends. Creativity and time to create are important to you. You may find yourself leaving things undone around your living area so that you can complete a craft or art project later. Your attention may become focused on animals. Music, religion, drama, art or poetry and animals fill your day.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This Sunday, there is a chance to go shopping or stay at home and visit with friends. Since these friends are only in town for a short while, you will probably decide a visit is in order. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a fun time with friends and family. General good feeling and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. A young person may need lessons in managing money and you are ready with a plan. Careful, do not become carried away-he or she will learn about the state of the economy soon enough. Games and some sort of sports activity would not be unusual activities for the group that gathers near you today. You have a great social drive and love to work in a group or with close friends.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will not have to take charge of family matters this Saturday; a convention or a lecture may call for you to leave the house extra early and you want to make the appointed time. Everyone wants to help and is willing to do a few of your chores this day. This time is a most wonderful time of year, especially with it being your birthday. You are ready to help when a young person needs guidance later this afternoon. The activity this morning may have taken you through an area of town where you see a need. Weather has a great deal of effect on the homeless and there are only just so many places that people can go in bad weather. Your family may volunteer to help locate needed blankets and easy-open food cans for the homeless. Happy birthday!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may appear very relaxed this morning. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. Your analytical abilities are at a high point. This afternoon you could find yourself in hobby stores buying parts, games or an addition to your favorite pastime. Before you begin to play with those hobbies of yours, clean out some of the things that do not serve a purpose for you. Some other person may enjoy the items you no longer enjoy-a garage sale or a contribution to a thrift store is in order. Friends will probably visit this evening-you could find yourself involved in the old pick-things-up-before-others-see-the-mess routine, so clean early.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You possess, at your center, an intensity that burns through frivolity, searching for opportunities to face the truth and render the evident to view. This ceaseless analytical activity, while central to your nature, may be the source of discomfort to others. Herein is where you find your energies focused now. Deep conversations may be disturbing but encourage investigation. You enjoy the result of these long talks. You could meet with some opposition. Overall, this can be a great opportunity for all involved to open up to new ideas. Psychic insights, worldviews and impressions from others fill your day. You enjoy the chance to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a good time to consolidate and organize your affairs or rearrange your living situation. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind. General good feeling and a sense of support make this a happy time. You have a clear vision into your own goals and how you want to proceed. Take the time this afternoon to relax and examine what is important and of value in your life-an appreciative attitude is easy to find. Friends or relatives visit and call on the phone. This is a time of heightened communication. You could also be working on emotional security, a sense of belonging and nurturing. Have a camera ready for the new traditions that are beginning now.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find that you have been chosen or volunteered as a guide for someone or several people that do not come to your town very often. Smile-this may be an opportunity to grow professionally and financially. Someone may want to invest in real estate. This is generally a fruitful period for real-estate investments and you may want to invest as well. Your most respectable self is showing. You have the ability to communicate well with others. Family, home and the other roots in your life give you a sense of mission. There are growth and gain through family matters. Being appreciated and admired are powerful needs and the chances you take to help people you do not even know will bring big rewards when you least expect it.

WORD SEARCH

Mystery Christmas Carol

The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it? Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

H Y E P Y L L O H L M W C G N
T L R R D T L W S E L E A A O
I L O A T I E E H C K A R Y W
W O F H A O S L M I T T O R Y
J J E H E S G E L P L H L E Y
Y O B H A E A E A E E E A E S
U T Y L S S D S T R R R N H H
L N N O U T S L U H R A G O T
E E S R U E R S E W E U P R D
W I E E S S A I A S O R O P L
W C A D N E L T K B S L L O A
I N S I R Y A W A E L I L S D
N A O T G N I Z A L B D N S
D J N T S A F S U R O H C G F

- ALL FOLLOW MEASURE TIDE
ANCIENT GAY MERRY TIS
APPAREL HAIL NEW TOGETHER
AWAY HARP NOW TREASURE
BEFORE HEEDLESS OLD TROLL
BLAZING HOLLY OUR WEATHER
BOUGHS JOIN PASSES WHILE
CAROL JOLLY SEASON WIND
CHORUS JOYOUS SING WITH
DON LADS STRIKE YEAR
FAST LASSES TELL YULE

Yesterday Solution

Head & Neck

G	H	I	E	E	T	S	D	I	L	E	Y	E
U	E	Y	S	D	U	B	E	T	S	A	I	T
M	S	R	T	U	E	T	R	L	E	O	T	H
S	A	W	V	O	R	Y	I	A	E	L	E	R
E	L	U	C	A	N	F	E	S	I	X	M	O
E	L	I	C	R	I	G	O	S	D	N	P	A
A	A	H	S	S	B	P	U	S	A	Y	L	T
L	E	R	O	N	H	E	K	E	R	E	A	
A	L	N	D	A	C	E	T	N	H	A	S	R
P	I	U	G	R	E	L	E	E	H	O	I	A
L	P	U	K	H	U	C	P	S	R	P	N	A
A	S	H	C	S	K	M	A	M	O	U	T	H
C	E	S	L	A	R	Y	N	X	F	W	A	J
S	N	I	H	C	E	A	R	L	O	B	E	S

- BRAIN HAIR SCALP
CHEEKS JAW SKULL
CHIN LARYNX TASTE BUDS
EAR LOBES LIPS TEETH
EARDRUM MOUTH TEMPLS
EARS NAPE THROAT
EYEBROWS NECK TONGUE
EYELIDS NOSE TONSILS
EYES NOSTRILS TRACHEA
FOREHEAD OESOPHAGUS UVULA
GUMS PHARYNX

The hidden word is: EYELASHES

Daily SuDoku

							8	
4	8		6					7
		5		7	8	4		
		7		6		3	1	
	5	6		1		7		
		4	1	2		5		
3				7			6	9
6								

Yesterday's Solution

1	7	8	5	3	9	4	2	6
6	5	9	2	4	7	3	1	8
4	2	3	1	6	8	9	7	5
9	4	2	6	1	5	8	3	7
3	6	5	8	7	4	2	9	1
7	8	1	3	9	2	5	6	4
2	9	4	7	5	1	6	8	3
5	1	6	9	8	3	7	4	2
8	3	7	4	2	6	1	5	9

Rob Kardashian shares new pictures of Kim and North

The reality TV star's brother took over her website KimKardashianWest.com to share sweet snaps of Kim and her daughter North wearing matching Princess Jasmine costumes for Halloween. He wrote: "Now you know Kim loves Halloween. She couldn't disappoint North once she found a Princess Jasmine costume from back in the day. North is crazy into Princess Jasmine right now, so being the good mommy [Kim] is, she wore her old princess Jasmine costume to match North!" Rob also shared a picture of North and her younger brother Saint, dressed as Aladdin. And Kim's mother Kris Jenner took to Instagram to post a picture of Kim and North from the Halloween party and wrote: "Princess Jasmine and her mini me!!!! @robkardashian shared all the pics from our family Halloween on @kimkardashian's app and KimKardashianWest.com #family #love #mybeauties." Kim

has been keeping a low profile as she continues to recover from the terrifying ordeal in Paris last month when she was held at gunpoint by men who stormed her hotel room and stole millions worth of jewels. Kim has reportedly been having daily therapy sessions to help her get over the incident because she keeps experiencing flashbacks and nightmares. A source said: "She's been having nightmares and flashbacks. She's talking to a therapist every day, usually via Skype [online video], phone or in person." The 36-year-old beauty is refusing to leave her home in Los Angeles, which she shares with her husband Kanye West and their two children North, three, and Saint, 11 months, and has cancelled all of her public appearances since the robbery.



Katy Perry donates \$10,000 to Planned Parenthood

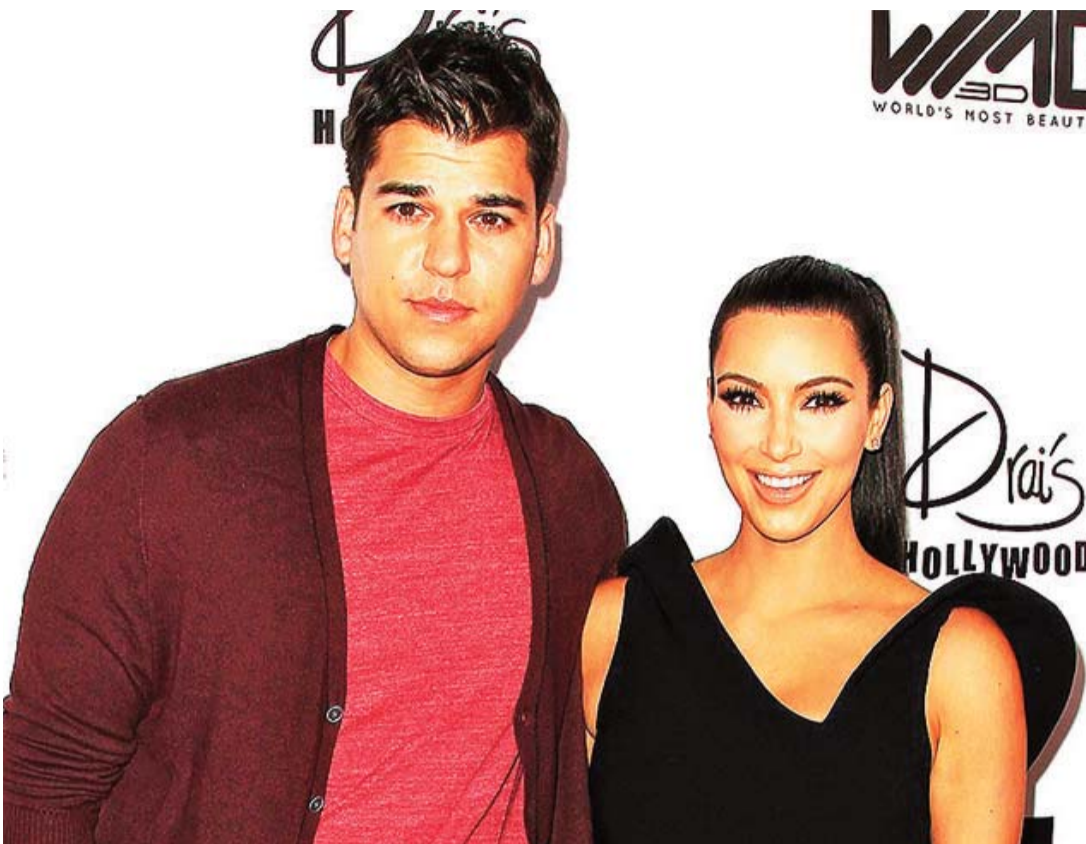
The 32-year-old singer took to Instagram to reveal that she has made a public donation to the non-profit organisation, which provides reproductive health services in the United States and globally, amid concerns that the new US government could cut its funding. She wrote: "I am making a public donation to Planned Parenthood for the teenage me who made several visits to first a clinic in Santa Barbara and then Los Angeles, CA to educate myself on my sexual health, a subject I had little to no information on because of my sheltered upbringing. I had no idea how things worked down there, and had no idea how to make a plan for them. "Planned Parenthood educated me on my body and my reproductive health, so that I could focus on my dreams and using my voice until I knew the timing was right for me to make a plan to have a family. Since then, I have been able to focus wholeheart-

edly on bringing messages of strength and becoming a voice for others. Without this education, I may have had a different life path. "That is just my experience, but I know Planned Parenthood's broader range of services can sometimes be the only medical support low-income families ever see. I know what it's like to need help. I came from a lower- to middle-class family and never grew up with the option of health insurance. I remember having 13 cavities as a teenager, and the best option my parents could come up with was to try and take me to Mexico because we couldn't afford anything in California. "Now, more than ever, we all need to protect and create safe places for each other. I hope I can help inspire you to make a gift as well, and become a member and an ally."



HILARIA BALDWIN URGES DAUGHTER TO 'NEVER LET ANYONE BELITTLE YOU FOR YOUR GENDER'

The 32-year-old star - who has Carmen, three, Rafael, 16 months, and Leonardo, one month, with her husband Alec Baldwin - wrote an emotional message on Instagram for her eldest child and appeared to hint at the election result, which saw Donald Trump take the White House over Hillary Clinton. She wrote: "My little woman, my little lady ... my princess, my smart, brilliant, bright future. Never listen to anyone belittle you for your gender. We are strong women and worth every bit as much as any man. We are not things to be owned or objectified. "There is nothing wrong with feeling beautiful - just understand that true beauty is transmitted from deep inside your soul and shines outward. I worry you might get confused ... I worry that you could fall for misogynistic thoughts and statements. Because there seems to be so many flying around these days - in such high places of power. You are too good for this. We all are. Every woman is. And Hilaria went on to tell her daughter to always "be kind and confident" and to "own her amazingness". She added: "Feeling sexy, attractive, special, and wanted is only meaningful if it comes from the right person. You don't need that attention from anyone who doesn't respect you wholeheartedly. They have their own lives to lead, their own problems to figure out. And we can only pray that they will find a path of goodness. Don't feel power in their meaningless thoughts and idiotic statements. Sometimes this is how some figure out their demons. "Those who treat others this way most likely had something terrible happen to them. We must show compassion for their pain, while, at the same time, protect ourselves. Anyone who doesn't treat you with the utmost respect is not worth your time. Always be kind, confident. Just nod and walk in the other direction - towards true power, happiness, and grace. Waste no energy. Own your amazingness ... stick together with those who see you and treat you brilliantly. So you can do the same for them #karma #love."



Evan Rachel Woods and Chris Evans in birthday suits

The 29-year-old actress - who was previously married to British actor Jamie Bell - came face-to-face with Captain America when they were both in their birthday suits on the set for the fragrance advertising campaign shoot. However, Evan insists being in the buff in front of the 35-year-old Hollywood hunk wasn't as embarrassing as she thought it would be. Speaking to People about the campaign, she shared: "We were both naked and we had just met. It was like, 'OK, so, you're going to be wearing Chris

Evans at this photo shoot.' And, um, that was my wardrobe. "He was so respectful and cool and it made it all so much easier. All we did was listen to Motown and laugh a lot. That was the vibe on set, we were both humbled by the experience." The 'Into The Forest' star also revealed that all credit for the shots needs to go to the creative team who were able to make the pair look as though they were in the throes of passion, even though the poses were very clinical.



Adrienne Bailon marries Israel Houghton

The 33-year-old star tied the knot with the gospel singer at a beautiful ceremony in Paris, France on Friday. She said: "I genuinely just feel so blessed and grateful. "I've honestly never been happier in my entire life. I've never felt what I feel right now. I can't even describe what it is, but it's such a peace mixed with total excitement." And the wedding was attended by Adrienne's 'The Real' co-hosts Loni Love, Jeannie Mai and Tamera Mowry and she was glad she kept it an intimate affair. She added to People magazine: "I'm so glad we chose such an intimate group of who have shared in our journey and know our hearts and that I honestly feel comfortable crying in front of. "I didn't want to invite people I felt I had to put on a performance for. I wanted every moment to be genuine and really special and that's what it is going to be."

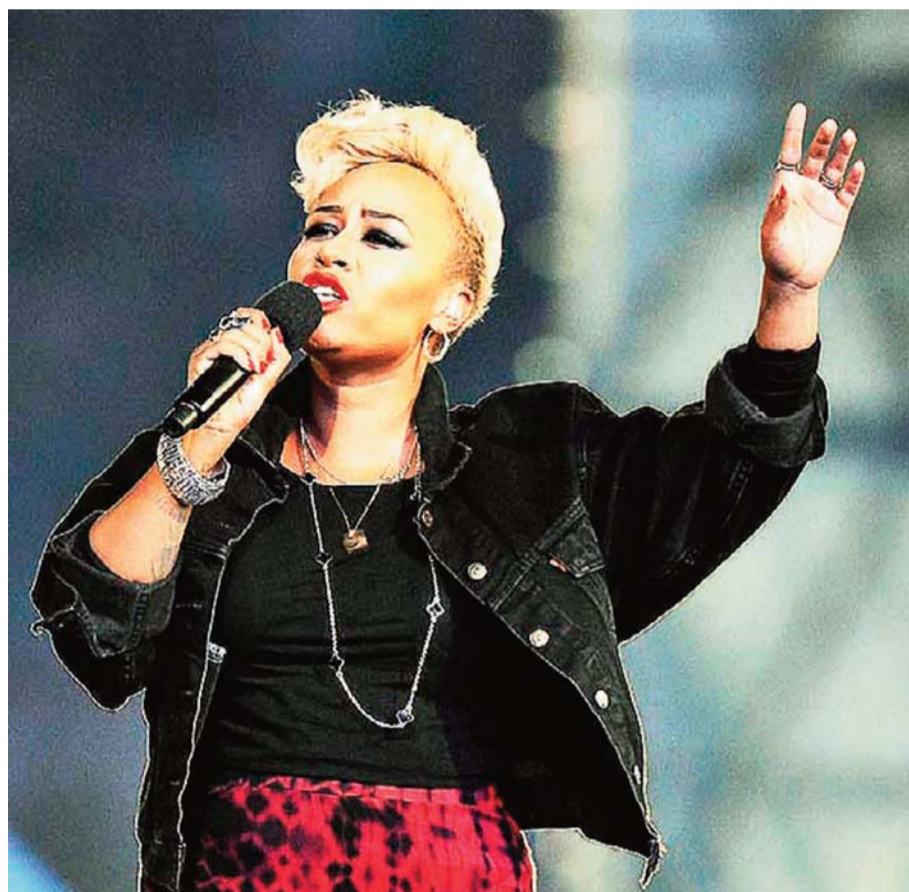
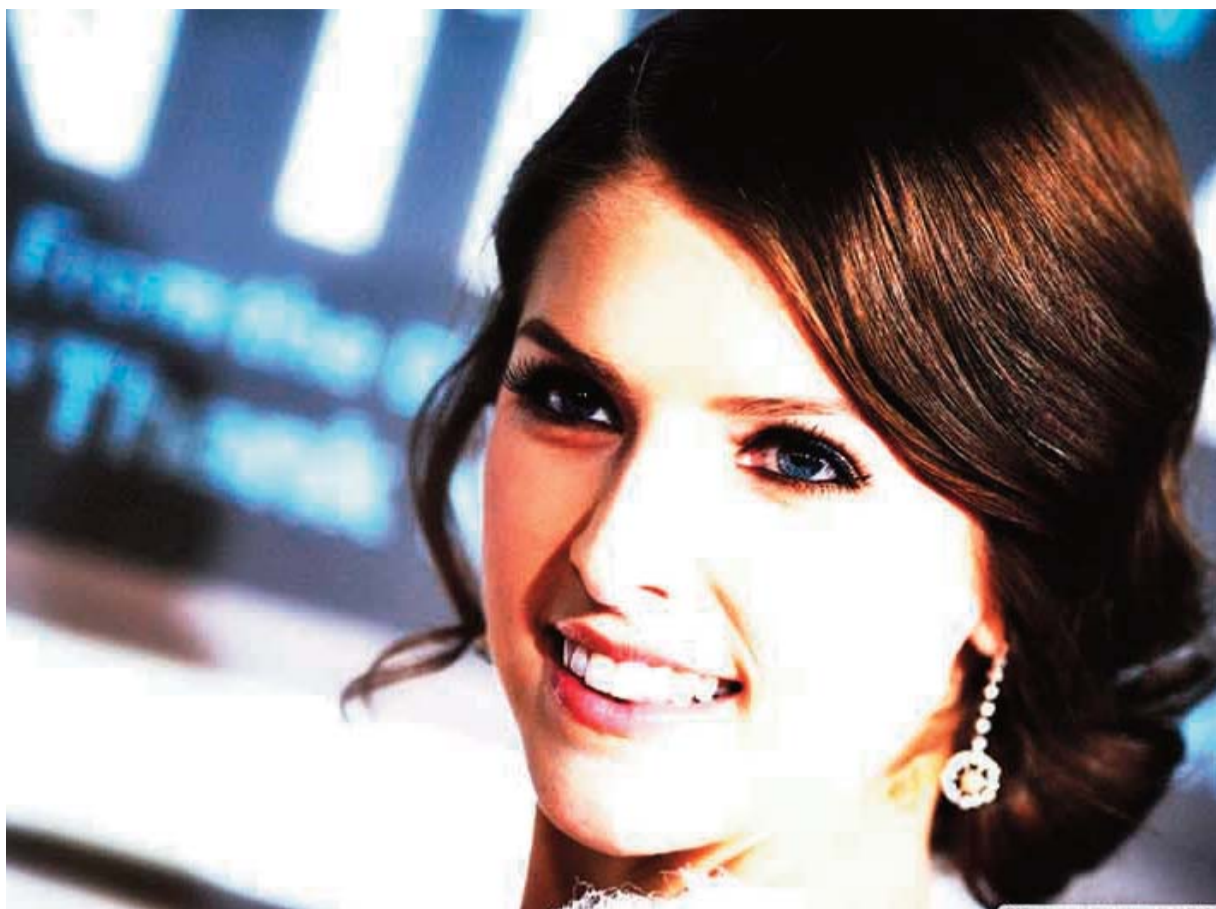
Meanwhile, Adrienne - who got engaged to Israel in August - previously revealed she had "pretty much planned" her entire wedding on the plane back from Paris, where he proposed to her in front of the Eiffel Tower. She said: "I got engaged in Paris and I had a flight home back to LA - it's a very long flight. I pretty much planned the whole wedding on the plane ride home, so I'm good. It's going to be elegant and intimate. "There's nothing worse than when you're trying to have a conversation with somebody and you can tell they're not interested ... that is not the case. We are both very much involved and I love that. "We agree on everything. That's weird. He actually has better taste than me, so if I picked something else, I always go with him because he always has better taste."



Anna Kendrick was saved by 'Twilight'

The 31-year-old actress played Jessica Stanley in the vampire romance saga for four films in total and admits that whilst her performance was not necessarily a critically acclaimed one, it really helped to "pay the bills" for that period of time. She said: "Twilight mostly paid the bills because there were four of them that I got to do. They just kept hiring me. People don't realise that I get paid to make a movie and then a year goes by and then I promote it for six months. I've only got the one paycheck, and that was a year and a half ago. So 'Twilight' saved me in the sense that it was this thing that kept going." The brunette beauty got her acting break at the age of 12 in 'High Society' on Broadway but sees a big difference between herself and some of Hollywood's other child stars. Asked what the difference between a child star who goes off the rails and herself is, she told the Boston Globe newspaper: "The truth is I don't know. There are plenty of crazy, screwed-up humans in the world, and I don't know what about

the child actor category makes some people crazy. "A lot of it could have to do with your family placing value on who you are and not on what you're accomplishing in your career before you're 18." Meanwhile, Anna Kendrick previously admitted she couldn't afford to buy shoes to wear to her first Academy Awards in 2009. She said: "My stylist told me I had to wear the perfect shoes for an outfit, and because the movie isn't out yet, nobody really knows who you are. 'The shoe places don't want to loan you the shoes so can you buy a pair?' "I was like, 'I'm still poor.' So it was this weird combination of like all these great things are happening but at the same time nothing has changed so, it was a weird dichotomy."



Emeli Sande knew she would be a singer

The 29-year-old singer/songwriter's parents "recognised" her musical talent at a young age and after they introduced her to the songs of the 'Fantasy' hitmaker she knew she was destined for a career in the music industry. Speaking in a live question and answer session on with her followers on Twitter on Friday, the 'Hurts' warbler was asked if she always wanted to be a musician, she said: "Yes since I was seven, when my parents recognised I had a talent and introduced me to Mariah Carey. #LLTA." The pop powerhouse has always been a "die-hard" fan of Mariah, and when she collaborated with the late Whitney Houston it was "a big moment" in Emeli's life. She explained: "It is a little bit impossible to choose my favourite Mariah song because I'm a die-hard fan. But when Mariah and Whitney came together to do

'There Can Be Miracles' that was a big moment in my life." Emeli has just released her new album 'Long Live the Angels' and she had an "amazing time" creating the LP, but producing the single 'Babe' was her "favourite moment". And Emeli has revealed the track features "actual sirens", which were picked up when she was writing the hit in her kitchen with Philip Leigh. Speaking about the song, Emeli - whose real name is Adele Emily Sande - said: "I had an amazing time creating all of the album, but one of my favourite moments was creating 'Babe' and I wrote that song with Philip Leigh and we're in my kitchen in Bethnal Green, and the sirens you hear in the track were actual sirens coming through the window. I just love the track. It just makes me feel so good."

Kristen Stewart felt 'uncomfortable' having her personal life made public

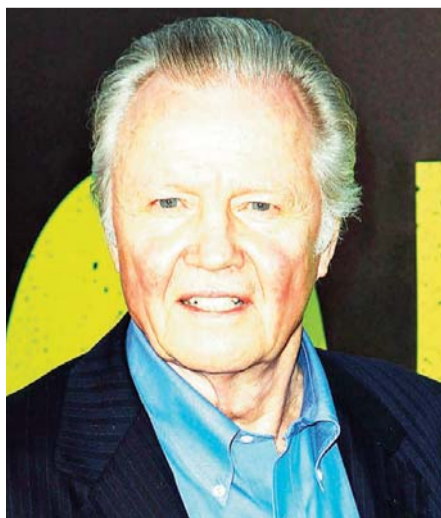
The 26-year-old actress has opened up about being catapulted to fame at the age of 17 when she starred in 'Twilight' as the vulnerable Bella Swan - alongside her on-screen and later real-life boyfriend Robert Pattinson [Edward Cullen] - and while it was a "weird" experience for her it also taught her how to deal with the pressures of being in the spotlight. Speaking during her first ever appearance on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', she explained: "It was something I really invested in. It mattered to so many people. Something personal became the most personal thing, which is awesome because to share this is great, but at the same time I was 17 or 18 when it all kind of went down and that's the most uncomfortable, terrible, weird ... You're 17-years-old and like ahh. But at the same time, it was good. It kind of forced me to stand at attention in this way." Kristen has been more open to talking about her personal life of late, which she says

has been "beneficial" as it means she is able to explain herself and not have people "misconstrue" her. She recently said: "I think it takes a minute to sort of acclimate to communicating with so many people at one time, with like, 'The masses', you know. "I think it's only beneficial, like ... for me to have so many pathways open, it ends up kind of not allowing people to misconstrue you." Kristen is currently dating musician St. Vincent - real name Annie Clark - and recently explained that she has become more willing to discuss her love life ever since she started dating women. She shared: "I was like, 'Actually, to hide this provides the implication that I'm not down with it or I'm ashamed of it,' so I had to alter how I approached being in public. It opened my life up and I'm so much happier."



JON VOIGHT HOPES 'THINGS WILL WORK OUT' FOR JOLIE AND BRAD

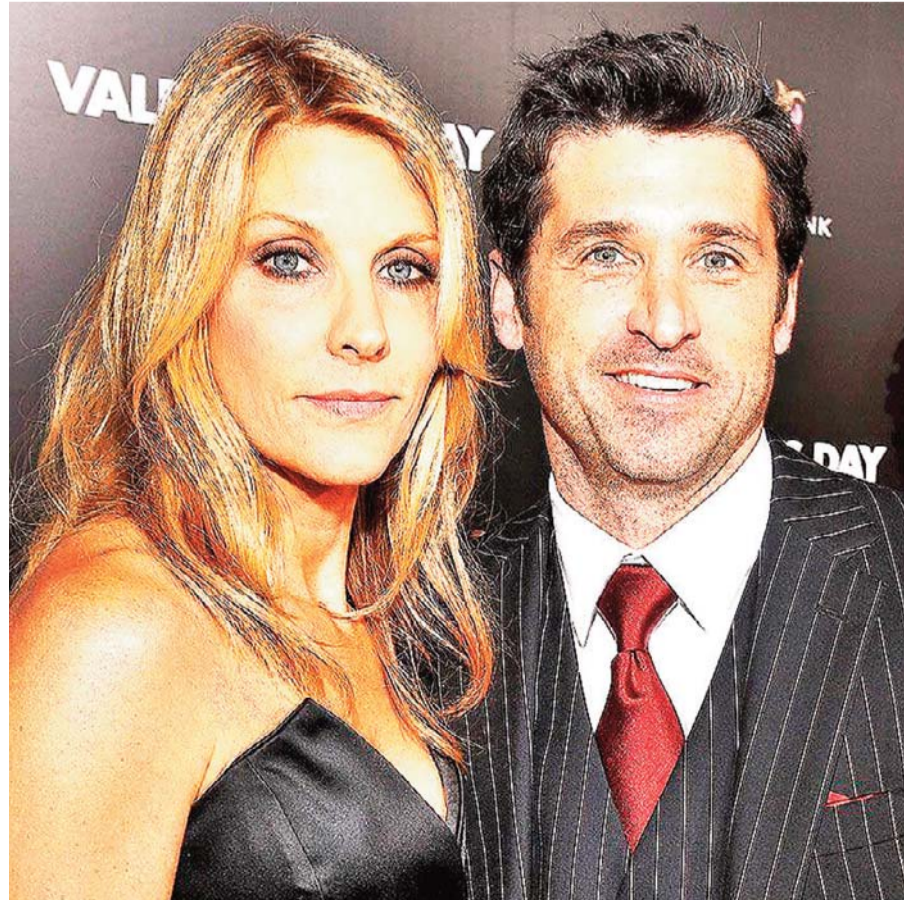
The 41-year-old actress filed for divorce from husband Brad Pitt - the father of her kids Maddox, 15, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and eight-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne - in September but her father Jon is hopeful that things will improve. He told E! News: "I appreciate everybody's concern and their prayers. Hopefully things will work out." Speaking previously, Jon admitted he was shocked by the couple's split, but felt something "serious" must have happened for his daughter to take steps to end her 12-year relationship. He said: "It's very sad. Something very serious must have happened for Angie to make a decision like this. "I don't know what it is. It's a sad thing. Say a little prayer. I am concerned for Angie and the children and hopefully I will be seeing them very soon." After Jon left Angelina's mother Marcheline Bertrand for a young drama student, the actress barred her former husband from seeing the kids, and to this day Angelina is said to have a strained relationship with the actor. And her former nanny has warned the actress not to inflict a "lonely and traumatic" childhood on her children. Krisann Morel, who cared for the actress and her brother James Haven when they were young, said: "I want to send a message to Angelina, who I care



about very much. I want to tell her, don't cut Brad out of the children's lives. Don't demonise your husband. Because that is exactly what your mother did when she was breaking up with your father. And the result was you had a lonely and traumatic childhood. Why would you inflict the same tragedy on your kids? "I am worried that Angie is repeating the past and the same mistakes her mother made during her divorce. I want to get this message across to her before it is too late."

Patrick Dempsey, Jillian Fink called off their divorce

The 'Bridget Jones's Baby' star's divorce from his wife of 17 years was officially dismissed by the Los Angeles County Court last week at Jillian's request. The pair announced they were to split in January 2015 but have since worked hard on their marriage and the 50-year-old actor recently quipped it was communication and "lots of s***" that got them back on track. He said: "You've got to keep at it. You've got to communicate, and stay open and not get lazy. And not give up. And lots of s**! Our marriage was not something I was prepared to let go of. I didn't feel like we had done all the work. And we both wanted to do that work. That's where it started. "You can only do one thing at a time and do it well. I [learned] to prioritise. Our union has to be the priority. I wasn't prepared to give up on her and she wasn't either. We both wanted to fight for it. Everybody has their own path. Jill and I decided it was time to work on our issues and improve. We wanted to be role models for our kids like, okay, if you have differences, you can work it out." And Patrick - who shares twins Darby and Sullivan, nine, and Tallula, 14, with Jillian - feels it was his heart that told him to fight for the marriage. He shared: "The support my wife has given me has allowed us to blossom as a couple and a family. Without her, my career would not be where it is today. My heart told me [not to give up]."



FASHION



Raza Beig - CEO Splash and ICONIC and Director Landmark Group, and Nisha Jagtiani- Director Landmark Group at the finale.

ICONIC launches its Autumn/Winter 2016 collection at youth fashion show



ICONIC, the fashion different haven for the trendiest fashion in the region launched its Autumn Winter 2016 collection at its first ever youth fashion show which saw talent from across schools and universities walking the ramp. ICONIC groomed 40 budding models shortlisted from across Dubai to showcase their new collection to a 600 strong audience at Waldorf Astoria, The Palm.

With street-style becoming a staple these days and just as sought after as the runway shows, the overall theme of the show highlighted that aspect. The models sashayed down the runway in the brand's latest collection which highlighted some of the major trends of the season. With undertones of sports luxe the show was all about the cool urban culture vibes that one could see in the distant future.

"The students really stepped up their game to put up a show that was nothing short of professional and top notch. It encouraging to see this much passion and dedication in young students to follow their dreams. The ICONIC Fashion Show Experience is a platform for young talent to get a boost and really showcase what today's youth look for in fashion," adds Raza Beig, CEO Splash & ICONIC and Director- Landmark Group.

The collections showcased key trends from the Winter'16 season and early trends from Spring'17. This included: **SARTORIAL CHIC** - Contemporary tailoring is the key attitude for the season with clean and simple cut details. **FLORA FLADGE** - 60s Mod Culture of High life and Glamour. A Semi structured collection fit for a modern day woman, adorn with laces and embellishments that add sophistication. **DARK ROMANCE** - An eclectic mix of Dark and Victorian Romance. The Printed Rosettes, embellishments, and dramatic mix fabrics make an urban glamorous look.

RADICAL RUSTIC - A global traveller collection fit for adventures and comfortable wardrobe. The collection is inspired by the constant movement of a bohemian woman who aims to discover and rediscover the world. It is consists of eclectic color palettes of rust, brick red and other elements that fill the boho look.

For men the collection included **HUNTING DINO** - this casual outdoor collection features slim fit chinos, textured sweatshirts, and rugged denims thus giving it a rustic look. The leather jacket completes the look added with ruck sack and camouflage sneakers. Dino prints add pre-historic references to this playful collection.

PLAYABLE - this winter 16 capsule reflects the increasing demand for more considered elevated approach to boy's active wear. A core palette of grey marl, ecru and back teams up with pops of red to make it a must have play solution. Sweats, tees and joggers all encourage mix match approach. Prints and patterns are bold and geometric influenced by dissected baseball pitch and arena.

GENTLEMEN OF NEVADA - delivers an unexpected yet classic look. Opposing elements are brought together to create combinations highlighted with neat bottom turn ups and preppy belts. Deep red has been brought into play to lift up this collection. Boxy Puffer is paired with dobby button down shirt and denims to reflect the unexpected pairings. This collection is quirky treat in itself.

Catch the latest updates on the brand and highlights from the show on Instagram @iconicstoreme and on Facebook at I Am ICONIC. Head over to ICONIC and shop the latest autumn winter collection available at The Avenues, The Mall, Level 1, Salam Mall in Salmiya and Sama Mall.

Women

Whimsically Brit is a contemporary approach to the glamorous 70's which is a mix of color and print. This is a take on modern maximalism with the urban eccentricity. Embellished vests, oversized floral jumpsuits stand out as key pieces in vibrant geo mix and floral prints.

Sportif mutiny is essentially sportif as the name suggests and builds around the idea of "ungendered" way of styling. The key pieces feature distressed jogger, over sized cropped tee in olive, black and berry with greys melange.

Wayfarers mix is an approach to chic casual look which is daywear collection highlighted by prints and embroidery. You can explore the trend in knit maxi dresses and mElange sweat dress.

The Dolly Pop trend is built around the girl who loves preppy styling but is quirky and fun as well. Key pieces include Pinafore dress, Twofer dress and long shirts.

Men

STREET CULT - the trend has grown to encompass elements of hip hop fashion. You will find traces of Japanese

street fashion and modern haute couture fashion combined with shapes and graphics.

THE NORM PLAYER is modern contemporary casual- comfortable look is influenced by the sports luxe trend. It is characterized by technical fabrics and playful prints, with a minimalist approach.

Weekend and Chill is luxury leisure wear has distinct lounge wear feel in soft brushed fleece and jersey knits. Comfort is the key to this trend with unstructured blazers and jackets as key pieces.

The Military trend transitions into a smart- contemporary style. It combines clean tailored finishes with casual.

Head over to ICONIC and shop our latest Autumn Winter collection available at The Avenues, The Mall, Level 1, Salam Mall in Salmiya and at Sama Mall in Fintas.



Hip-hop greats A Tribe Called Quest back after gap and loss

Pioneering hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest is back with its first album in nearly 20 years - full of star contributions and final words from late member Phife Dawg. "We Got It from Here... Thank You 4 Your Service," released on Friday, is billed as the last album by the band credited with bringing a new artistic sense to the genre born on the streets of New York. In a sign of the group's enduring influence, some of the top names in music contributed to the album including Elton John, Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West and Jack White.

The album revisits the classic style of A Tribe Called Quest, with smooth but sparse beats and dueling verses of its key members - Q-Tip, expressive and upfront, with the snide asides of Phife Dawg. A Tribe Called Quest (ATCQ) has not released an album since 1998 amid friction between the two rappers, who had met as schoolmates in the New York borough of Queens in the 1980s. The pair reconciled and returned to the studio in 2015 but Phife Dawg died in March after a lifelong struggle with diabetes.

Q-Tip, who early on became the face of the group and went on to a successful solo career, completed the production after Phife Dawg's death, eerily mixing the vocals posthumously. The album marks some of the first political music since the shock election victory of Donald Trump, although A Tribe Called Quest wrote the songs while the campaign was still underway. On "Conrad Tokyo," Phife Dawg - who would not live to see Trump's win - raps of watching the election campaign on television and his surprise at the lack of outrage over the tone.

"Troublesome times, kid / No times for comedy," he raps in the collaboration with Lamar, one of hip-hop's most critically acclaimed voices. "The Killing Season" - which features rappers West, Talib Kweli and Consequence - takes up the Black Lives Matter movement, with vows never to forget the rights of African Americans. Questlove, the producer and percussionist of The Roots who credits his discovery of A Tribe Called Quest with transforming his early musical sense, heaped praise on the album in his initial thoughts.

"This is an excellent high note to end on but this is only telling me that the gas in ATCQ's tank is nowhere near empty," he wrote on Instagram. A Tribe Called Quest is best known for "Can I Kick It?," a mellow track set to a sampled bass line from Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side." — AFP



A man walks in a street of the old medina of Marrakesh on Friday. — AFP

Brazil graft scandal to get film treatment

Brazil's gigantic corruption scandal will move from news TV to movie theaters and Netflix next year, when rival directors turn the real-life thriller into entertainment. For two years, Brazilians have watched in fascination and horror as prosecutors unleashed a probe codenamed Operation Car Wash, targeting everyone from an ex-president to super-rich executives with allegations of mass embezzlement at state oil flagship company Petrobras. Power, money, betrayal, fearless investigators - what more could a scriptwriter want? "Our objective is to make a blockbuster," says director Marcelo Antunez, whose movie, with the working title "Federal Police - the law applies to all," is scheduled to open in May.

The story of Car Wash, or Lava Jato as it's called in Portuguese, is embedded in Brazilians' consciousness. Latest arrests or damning leaked testimony from high level witnesses frequently lead the news. Antunez says he'll take that drama back to the beginning, when police first latched onto a ring of black market money dealers linked to a petrol station in Brasilia - with little idea of where their probe would lead. "It's a very complex story, not just because it changes every day, but because it began as a rather small investigation," Antunez said in an interview at his production offices in Rio de Janeiro. "We're taking a snapshot of time to allow us to understand."

Filming starts this month in Curitiba, the city where the Car Wash team is based. An as yet-unnamed series commissioned by Netflix is also due to hit the screens next year, directed by Jose Padilha, one of Brazil's most successful movie makers. He has the powerful "Elite Squad" and "Robocop" among his credits and produced and directed another Netflix series, "Narcos," about the life of infamous Colombian druglord Pablo Escobar.

Entertainment or Politics?

Car Wash might make for a ripping yarn, but it's also a political minefield. Some in Brazil believe that investigators led by crusading Judge Sergio Moro have gone disproportionately after leftist figures. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Brazil's hugely popular leftist president between 2003 and 2010, has fiercely attacked bribery and other corruption charges against him as politically motivated. There was a flutter of scandal in the



The image of actor chosen to play the role former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is still blank among the main characters' list for the movie of Brazilian film director Marcelo Antunez about Brazil's ongoing corruption scandal revealed through the Lava Jato ('car wash' in Portuguese) operation by the federal police, in Rio de Janeiro, on Oct 31, 2016.

Brazilian media last month when it was reported that Wagner Moura - probably Brazil's best known actor - had refused to play Judge Moro in the Netflix series.

Both Padilha and Moura, who plays Escobar in "Narcos" and also starred in "Elite Squad," later denied having discussed the role at all. The leftist O Cafezinho blog suggested that Antunez's movie version will be a pro-police propaganda tool. The blog notes the unusually large budget by Brazilian standards - 13.5 million reais (\$4.18 million, compared to a more typical \$1.5 million) - and the film's unprecedented access to the Curitiba operation. "Would someone wanting to make a film critical of Car Wash also be allowed to make a deal with

the police?" asked O Cafezinho.

Human Side

Antunez says the filmmakers were able to see inside the Curitiba offices, though they'll only film outside. They'll also get police cooperation for scenes involving armed officers, helicopters and the like. But multiple interviews with officers and prosecutors mean the script will be "very factual," Antunez said. Lionizing the officials is not the point. "They're people. They don't fantasize that what they're doing is bigger than it really is - they don't talk about saving the country or anything," he said.

The big challenge, Antunez said, was knowing where to



Antunez speaks about his movie. — AFP photos

stop the story. He eventually chose the tense moment in March when Lula was briefly detained for questioning. Car Wash has served up many shocks since and is likely to keep doing so - so the movie cameras will keep turning. "The intention of the producers is to have sequels," Antunez said. And at a time when Congressional deputies - many facing Car Wash probes themselves - are thought to want to close down the investigation, Antunez says he hopes his film will help maintain public pressure. "I'm not worried as a filmmaker but as a citizen I am," he said. The probe "has to go all the way." — AFP



Brazilian "Sertanejo" music style duo "Jorge & Mateus" performs in Goiania, Goias State, Brazil on Oct 27, 2016.



'Sertanejo' music style duo 'Chitaozinho e Xororó' performs. — AFP photos

Brazil's new-wave country music conquers land of samba

Brazil may be the land of samba and bossa nova, but lately its hips are swaying to a different rhythm. In cowboy hats and plaid shirts, with touches of bling, new-wave country singers are conquering the airwaves and the dance floors. A world away from the soft jazz and Latin rhythms that Brazil crafted from the 1960s, this is "sertanejo" - the catchy sound of the deep country.

Couples dance cheek to cheek as "Jorge and Mateus" croon their songs of love and loss. "Chitaozinho and Xororó" set toes tapping with a banjo and violin. The music pulls at the heartstrings, say fans - shaped as Cristiana de Souza, 38. In pink lipstick and a heart-shaped necklace, she waits in line for a Jorge and Mateus concert in the sertanejo capital Goiania - Brazil's answer to Nashville. "Sertanejo music is about the heart," she tells AFP. "It is about romance and suffering, so people identify with it. It is a rhythm that captivates everyone."

Love Songs

Of the 100 most-played songs on the radio in Brazil last year, 75 were sertanejo, according to a ranking by music industry group Crowley. "Nowadays it has a very strong influence on Brazilians' everyday lives, on how they entertain themselves and build their identities," said Edson Farias, a sociologist at Brasilia University. "It has a decisive influence on how they relate to each other emotionally. People cry about their love lives, or celebrate them, listening to sertanejo."

Town and Country

The style has existed for at least a century in this vast, farming nation. But it turned into a popular phenomenon from the 1980s, migrating to the cities. It adopted electric guitars, keyboards and full rock 'n' roll-style drum kits. Chitaozinho and Xororó's bestselling 1990 album "Asphalt

Cowboy" captured the essence of this sertanejo fusion. "We felt that the music couldn't just stay restricted to an acoustic country style," says Jose de Lima Sobrinho, one half of the duo.

Audiences are still flocking to see them. "It's about what people like to hear. It is about the lives of all Brazilians," Sobrinho tells AFP, at a concert in Goiania. "People from the interior, who know the countryside, farming, fishing - those people have the greatest love for this music because it is part of their background," he says. Now younger acts such as Jorge and Mateus are reinventing the style. "Sertanejo is modern music," says one half of the duo, Jorge Alves Barcelos. "You can use a wide range of musical instruments. You can incorporate Latin influences or more traditional influences, or something more electronic. Nowadays, sertanejo has it all."

Country Bling

Some modern country stars like Jorge have also departed from the country dress code of plaid shirt and cowboy hat. He performs with gelled hair, a neatly trimmed beard and black t-shirt. "Their dress is no longer strictly hillbilly style," says Farias, who is studying the country music craze. "They wear jeans like North American cowboys, along with various symbols that show they have money."

But even in its modern cosmopolitan form, sertanejo exalts basically conservative values, Farias says. It is perhaps more reminiscent of Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man" than life in the fleshpots of Brazil's big cities. Its songs talk of "virility and fidelity," Farias says, "and how heterosexual families are the normal thing." — AFP



A competitor climbs the hole-ridden facade of Beirut's Al-Kamal building, which was severely damaged during the Lebanese civil war (1975-1990), during an urban climbing contest yesterday. The contestants competed in three rounds to select the winner who achieves the fastest possible time to reach the top. — AFP

'Depressed' De Niro backs anti-Trump protests

Robert De Niro gave anti-Donald Trump protesters across the United States his backing Friday as he spoke about how "depressed" the tycoon's win in the presidential election had made him. The 73-year-old star was on the red carpet at the world premiere of his new film "The Comedian" in Los Angeles when he was asked how he was coping with Trump's victory over Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. "How am I doing? I'm very depressed," the famously laconic "Raging Bull" actor told reporters. "We have to just wait and see how things go and keep our eyes ever vigilant on the new government."

Asked if he thought the protests were an appropriate response to the outcome of Tuesday's election, he replied: "Yes, absolutely. Things aren't being done right." Demonstrators took to the streets in Miami, Los Angeles, New York and other US cities for a third straight night on Friday. In Manhattan, they held signs reading "Your Wall Can't Stand in Our Way" - a reference to the anti-immigration barrier the billionaire has promised to build on the US border with Mexico. De Niro hasn't minced his words in his criticism of Trump, describing him as "a punk", "a pig" and "an idiot". "I'd like to punch him in the face," he said before the election.

Earlier in the day a town in southern Italy where De Niro's grandparents came from offered the actor a means of escape. "If, after the disappointment of Trump, he wants to take refuge here, we are ready to welcome him," said Antonio Cerio, the mayor of Ferrazzano. "The Comedian," De Niro's passion project which took him eight years to bring to the big screen, was part of this year's program for the American Film Institute's annual AFI Fest in Los Angeles.

'Be a Man'

The New Yorker stars as an aging stand-up comic looking to revive his once successful career with one last shot at the big time. Guests at the screening included De Niro's co-stars Danny De Vito and Leslie Mann, as well as the movie's director Taylor Hackford and his wife, the British film star Helen Mirren. Mirren complained, tongue in cheek, that her husband of 19 years was "not particularly" funny despite directing a film full of jokes.

"He refuses to laugh at my jokes, which I find very annoying. But it's a look at the world of comedy and the world of comedy is actually not a very funny world," the 71-year-old said. "Although it's got a lot of jokes in it, it's quite

a serious world." Hackford, who directed "An Officer and a Gentleman" in 1982, echoed De Niro's thoughts on Trump, calling on the president-elect to "stand up and be a man."

He praised his star for demonstrating the same commitment in learning how to be a convincing stand-up as he had in transforming into a passable boxer for "Raging Bull". "I took him to comedy clubs two to three times a week - we'd see five, six, seven comics a night - looking for him to choose a style," Hackford, 71, said. "And once he did, he dove into this process. He had to submerge. The fact is he's got to get up on stage alone with a microphone like a comic does and play to a real audience." "The Comedian" gets its general release in the United States on Jan 13. AFI Fest, which runs until Thursday next week, shows many of the movies considered frontrunners for Oscars glory. — AFP

Leslie Mann and Robert De Niro attend the press room at the 2016 Hollywood Film Awards at the Beverly Hilton on Nov 6, 2016 in Beverly Hills, California. — AP



A local resident looks at flowers set up outside the summer house of late Canadian singer-songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen on the Greek island of Hydra yesterday.



Andreas Duskos holds a catalogue bearing a picture of Cohen and a poem he wrote dedicated to the tavern at a tavern Cohen used to go on Hydra. — AFP photos

Islanders pay homage to 'lovely Leonardos'

The islanders of Hydra in Greece yesterday paid their own respects to the man they knew as a good-natured neighbor, 'Leonardos' Cohen, the melancholy musician and poet who died this week at age 82. At the stone house that Cohen bought decades ago in the heart of Hydra's port capital, neighbors and friends came to reminisce and leave small offerings on the doorstep. "Mr Leonardos would hang out in my father's garden and my mother would bring him mountain herbs, olive oil and fish," said 53-year-old sailor Yiannis Armadouros, who lives just across the winding cobbled street from Cohen's house.

"He was a lovely man, the entire island adored him," he added, noting how at ease the musician-poet was in the company of simple fishermen and port workers. Cohen had bought a 19th century stone house on Hydra, a 90-minute hydrofoil ride from Athens, in the early 1960s, a time when the island was a haven for bohemian artists. It cost him \$1,500, a sum he later claimed was one of the best investments he had ever made.

During a seven-year spell there, he wrote "Flowers for Hitler", one of his most controversial poetry collections, his first novel "The Favorite Game", and "Beautiful Losers", a book about religion and sexuality that prompted comparisons to novelist James Joyce. And the song "Bird on a Wire" was inspired by an electricity cable right outside his window.

The island was also where he met his Norwegian muse and lover Marianne Ihlen, to whom he dedicated the ballad "So Long Marianne". "We took care of his house," said Armadouros, who carries a photo of Cohen in his wallet. "He would come regularly during summer, winter and even Easter occasionally... My mother would care for his children, I grew up with (his son) Adam," he told AFP.

Gift From a Lady

Neighbor Roger Green, a 76-year-old Englishman, came to Cohen's doorstep to leave a heart-shaped stone on behalf of "a lady who knew Leonard in the sixties". "He was so easy to talk to...he was courteous, humorous, intelligent, sympathetic, a great listener," Green told AFP. Other neighbours lit candles and

placed teabags and oranges, a reference to the lyrics of "Suzanne", another of Cohen's best-loved songs.

In a statement yesterday, Greek parliament speaker Nikos Voutsis said Greece had lost "a lover and ambassador". Cohen "was inspired by the beauty of the Aegean, the warmth of Greek character and culture, and promoted our country abroad," Voutsis said. In the past, Hydra authorities have worked closely with Cohen fans to host concerts and screenings honoring the artist on the island. A biennial meetup of fans had already been scheduled for June 2017.

The street in front of his house will be renamed in his honor, and a Leonard Cohen bench will also be installed at the harbor. Another neighbor, Sofia Voulgari, 68, said she would always miss the lullaby-like sound of his guitar that she first heard decades ago. "I would leave my mother and come here and sit and listen to him playing," she recalled, pointing to the doorstep of Cohen's house. "It was really nice, just like a lullaby." — AFP

A general view shows the Greek island of Hydra.

