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Son embraces Fadhel's ideas of modernity, development 3

Sorrowful France marks first 'versary of Paris massacre 7

Egypt mourns 'The Magician' star Mahmoud Abdel Aziz 40

Kuwait Times infographic: NBA Power Rankings 18

Court bars royal candidate, reinstates ex-MP Hashem

Damkhi slams Iran • Ashour blasts sectarianism • Hackers target Ghanem

Max 31°
Min 14°
High Tide 11:52 & 23:16
Low Tide 05:33 & 17:42

New Saudi rules, fees for helpers, vehicles, cattle

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The interior ministry's relations and security media department announced that Saudi Arabia has started implementing new measures concerning the entry of domestic helpers accompanying Kuwaiti families into the kingdom. The department highlighted that the new visa fees for helpers would be 2,000 riyals per visit instead of the earlier fee of 200 riyals. In addition, vehicles with Kuwaiti license plates can only remain in Saudi Arabia for a maximum period of three months.

The department noted that the Hamteyyat land border exit has been closed and cattle owners who want to take their herds to graze in Saudi Arabia can only go through the Khafji and Reqee land border exits. Accordingly, the department urged all citizens to respect the new rules in order to avoid delays at these exits.

Separately, the department said the manager of the domestic helpers department Mohammed Al-Ajmi announced the cancellation of 42 domestic help offices that failed to legalize their statuses as

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT: People attend an electoral campaign meeting of Islamist former MP candidate Adel Al-Damkhi on Saturday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The appeals court yesterday upheld a decision by the election authorities to bar ruling family member Sheikh Malek Al-Humoud Al-Sabah from running in the Nov 26 polls. The court overturned a ruling by the lower administrative court which last week said in a landmark verdict that members of the ruling family can contest parliamentary polls. The Kuwaiti constitution does not explicitly bar ruling family member from competing in parliamentary elections, but its explanatory note states that they cannot run in order to keep the ruling family away from politics.

The lower court said last week the explanatory note does not amount to a ban and allowed Sheikh Malek to remain in the race. But the appeals court rejected the ruling and insisted that ruling family members cannot run in polls. The issue will be settled by the country's top court, the cassation court, whose rulings are final. If that court decides he can run, the interior ministry will register him.

The appeals court also rejected the candidacy of Khaled Dehrab, supporting the decision of the election authority. It however reinstated former MP Safa Al-Hashem who was barred by the election authority, but reinstated by the lower administrative court. The case will now go to the court of cassation, but it is unlikely the court will bar her. The appeals court also reinstated three other candidates including Khaled Al-Mutairi. It set tomorrow as the date to issue its verdict on the case of former opposition MP Bader Al-Dahoum.

Continued on Page 13

IDRIS KHUBBAZ, Iraq: In this handout image provided by Human Rights Watch, destroyed houses are seen in this Iraqi village. — AP

Iraqi Kurds destroy Arab villages: HRW

Forces recapture Nimrud

ERBIL, Iraq: Iraqi Kurdish fighters battling Islamic State in northern Iraq unlawfully destroyed Arab homes in scores of towns and villages in what may amount to a war crime, US-based rights group Human Rights Watch said yesterday. The Kurdish peshmerga and Iraqi armed forces have faced a common enemy in Islamic State since the militants took over large parts of Iraq in 2014. Iraqi troops and Kurdish fighters make up the 100,000-strong, US-backed alliance currently battling to retake Mosul.

But animosity persists, going back to decades of mistreatment of Kurds by ruling Arabs in Baghdad, especially under Saddam Hussein. Reuters found last month that Kurds are using the battle against Islamic State to settle old disputes and grab land in ethnically mixed territory separating the Kurdish region in the north from the majority Arab south.

Human Rights Watch said in its report that violations between Sept 2014 and May 2016 in 21 towns and villages within disputed areas of Kirkuk and Nineveh provinces had followed "a pattern of apparently unlawful demolitions".

Continued on Page 13

Myanmar Rohingya villages set on fire PAGE 11

Pak, China open new trade route PAGE 23

US Muslims reeling and scared

NEW YORK: On the morning after the election, Alia Ali had a sickening feeling as she headed to her job as a secretary at a New York City public school, her hijab in place as usual. Ali is a Muslim who lives and works in one of the most diverse places in the US, and yet the ascension of Donald Trump to the White House left her wondering how other Americans really viewed her. "Half of America voted one way and half of America voted the other, and you're like, 'Which half am I looking at?'" she said. "You become almost like strangers to the people you've worked with. Is this person racist? Do they like me? Do they not like me? Because that's what this election has done."

Continued on Page 13

NEW YORK: Enas Almadhwahi, an immigration outreach organizer for the Arab American Association of New York, stands along Fifth Avenue in the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn on Nov 11, 2016. — AP

Alabbar, Saudi SWF launch $1bn e-commerce site

DUBAI: Dubai business magnate Mohamed Alabbar announced yesterday the launch of a $1-billion regional e-commerce site in a joint venture with the Saudi sovereign wealth fund and other Gulf investors. Noon.com is to go online in January with a 50-percent investment from the kingdom's Public Investment Fund and the rest from around 60 investors led by Alabbar, who heads the emirate's real estate giant Emaar. He told a press conference that distribution centers are being set up in the Saudi cities of Riyadh and Jeddah, along with a giant warehouse the size of 60 football stadiums in Dubai.

"We expect to become a world player but will concentrate firstly on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates," said the president of Emaar, the company which built the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. With an initial inventory of 20 million products, the online retailer aims to expand to Egypt, the Arab world's most populous state, at the end of next year or early in 2018. It is also looking at Kuwait and Oman. Alabbar, quoted by Bloomberg, said Noon would be traded on stock markets after five to seven years. — AFP

KISH, Iran: Iranian men walk past a giant sculpture displayed on the beach in this southern resort island on Nov 1, 2016. Iranian investors are pouring money into Kish Island in the Gulf, hoping its white sand beaches, coral reefs and more relaxed rules could make it a major tourism destination. — AFP (See Page 38)

Britain 'sharia courts' under scrutiny

LONDON: For more than 30 years, sharia courts enforcing Islamic law have been operating quietly across Britain. But two official inquiries have put them in the spotlight amid accusations that they discriminate against women. Very little is known about them, even their number, which one study by the University of Reading puts at 30, while the British think tank Civitas estimates there are 85. Sharia courts or councils, as they prefer to be called, mainly pronounce on Islamic divorces, which today constitute 90 percent of the cases they handle.

They range from groups of Muslim scholars attached to a mosque, to informal organizations or even a single imam. But while they are aimed at helping resolve family and sometimes commercial conflicts within the Muslim community, some stand accused of undermining women's rights. Campaigners cite instances where courts have refused to grant religious divorces to women who are victims of domestic abuse, and accuse them of legitimizing violence.

The government and MPs on parliament's home affairs committee both opened inquiries this year into whether the councils are actually compatible with British law. They are looking into the function and possible discriminatory practices of the courts. The first sharia court appeared in London in 1982 under the government of Margaret Thatcher, who rolled back state intervention in many areas, including mediation in family conflicts, which was delegated to faith groups.

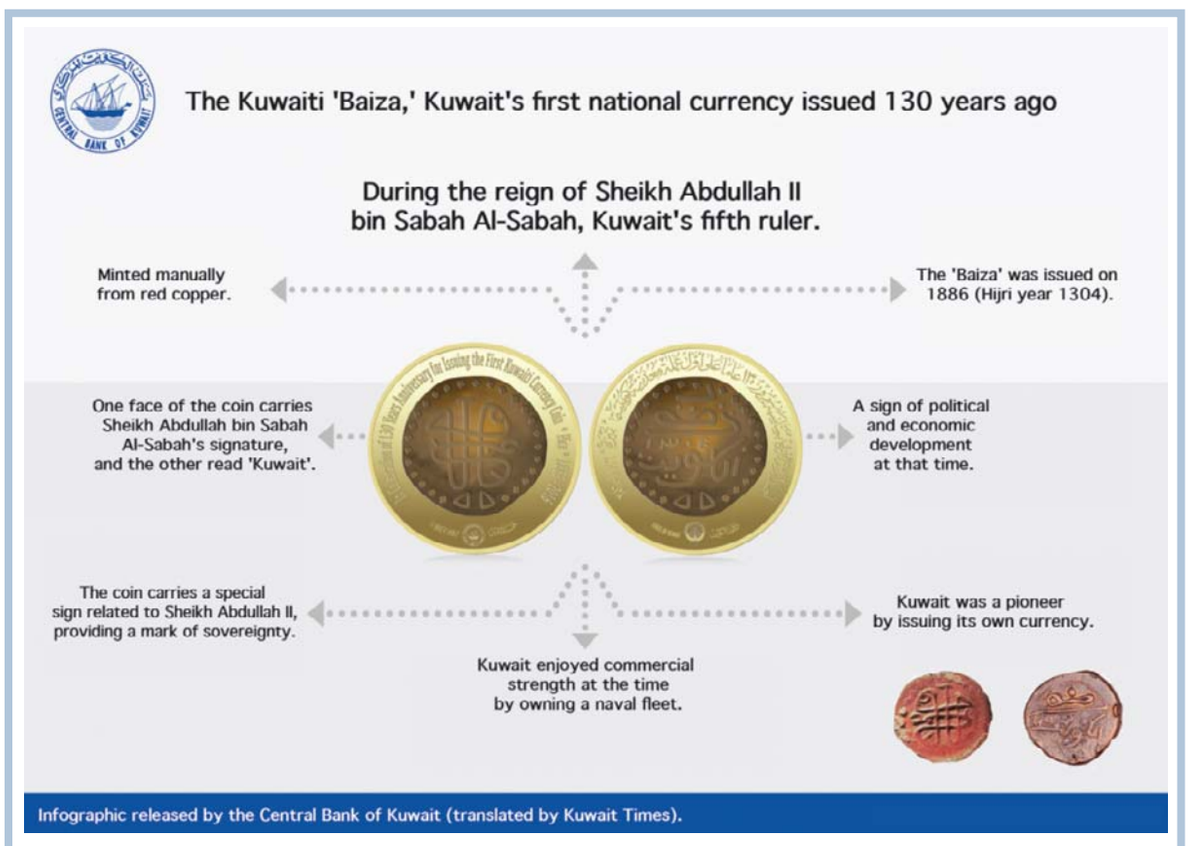
But religious courts have existed for hundreds of years in Britain, whether in the Catholic Church or in the Jewish community - the Beth Din - notes Amin Al-Astewani, lecturer in law at Lancaster University. As with sharia councils, the decisions of those bodies are not legally binding, but they represent a strong moral and social constraint for those who use them, he wrote in a submission to the parliamentary inquiry.

For Shaista Gohir, the chairwoman of Muslim Women's Network UK who gave evidence to the parliamentary inquiry, sharia councils are useful for Muslims but should be framed by a "strong code of conduct". She also urged the government to make civil marriage obligatory for couples marrying under Islamic law, to ensure women are legally protected, saying that 40 percent of women who contact her organization only had religious marriages.

But for other Muslim feminists, the courts constitute a "parallel legal system" and should be banned altogether. An open letter to this effect was signed by more than 200 national and international women's organizations, while legislation which would limit the scope of sharia councils has been put forward by a member of the House of Lords. "They are discriminatory, they are abusive, they endorse and legitimize violence," in particular marital rape, Maryam Namazie, spokeswoman for the One Law for All campaign, told AFP. She added: "These courts are linked to the rise of the Islamist movement." — AFP

Amir arrives in Morocco for UN Climate Change Conference

MARRAKESH: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation have arrived at Marrakesh International Airport in Morocco yesterday to lead Kuwait's delegation to 2016 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 22) and the African Summit, with GCC leaders attending. His Highness the Amir was welcomed by Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance Mohamed Boussaid, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Morocco Abdullatif Alyahia and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Austria and Kuwaiti Permanent Delegate at International Organizations in Vienna Sadeq Marafi and the Kuwaiti embassy's staff. — KUNA



CBK re-issues first Kuwaiti coin 'baiza'

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has re-issued the first Kuwaiti coin currency baiza, as a souvenir coin, 130 years after the first issue date. One surface of the coin includes the word "Kuwait" with the original issue date, while the other surface has the signature of former Kuwaiti leader Sheikh Abdullah II bin Sabah Al-Sabah. —KUNA

Australian Embassy hosts 'tolerance, diversity' activist

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Australian Embassy hosted a visit by Yassmin Abdel-Magied to Kuwait as part of her Middle East and North Africa regional speaking tour to speak from her experience about tolerance, diversity, faith and gender. Abdel-Magied wears many hats, including a hijab. She's a mechanical engineer, writer and activist who campaigns for tolerance and diversity. During her visit to Kuwait, Abdel-Magied met students and staff at Box Hill College, and hosted a discussion with the Centre for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering at the American University of Kuwait. Abdel-Magied was also hosted on The Breakfast with Tee and Aki Show on 99.7 Radio Kuwait FM. She is speaking across the themes of gender, leadership, diversity, the role of faith and culture, her work in social advocacy and her experiences as a female engineer.

Abdel-Magied spoke to Kuwait Times about her life and her mission to promote diversity throughout the society. She is an engineer, social advocate and media commentator. She received the 2015 Queensland Young Australian of the Year award for her advocacy work for the empowerment of youth, women and those from racially, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

KUWAIT: Yassmin Abdel-Magied is pictured at the Australian Embassy.
— Photo by Joseph Shagra

Born in Sudan, Yassmin and her family arrived in Australia just before she turned two. At age 16, she founded Youth Without Borders, an organization that empowers young people to realize their full potential through collaborative, community based programs. She is an advisor for federal governments and international bodies, and currently sits on the boards of ChildFund, Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR) and the domestic violence prevention organization Our Watch. She is the host of the motorsport podcast Motormouth, due for release later in 2016. Yassmin's TED talk 'What does my headscarf mean to you' has over 1.5 million views.

Yassmin's advocacy work has been recognized with many awards. She was named one of Australia's most influential engineers by Engineers Australia, and been recognized for her work in diversity by the United Kingdom's Institute of Mechanical Engineers. She was the youngest woman named in Australia's 100 Women of Influence by the Australian Financial Review in 2012, was the Young Muslim of the Year in 2007 and Muslim Youth of the Year in 2015.

She spends her time both working as an engineering specialist on oil and gas rigs and heading Youth Without Borders. Yassmin has also written extensively, with her articles appearing in The Guardian, The Sydney Morning Herald, AFR, The Griffith Review, Huffington Post and others. She has written a book about her life titled "Yassmin's Story".

Abdel-Magied will be visiting a number of other countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and Sudan.

KUWAIT: Representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, left the country yesterday for Saudi Arabia to offer condolences over the death of Prince Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. —KUNA

Kuwait University churns out 105,755 e-publications

Ministry espouses patriotic values

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's (KU) Academic Publication Council announced yesterday that it has published some 105,755 scientific researches and studies in the period from October 2015 to September 2016, an increase of 38,997 analyses from last year.

KUWAIT: Education Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curriculum Dr Saud Al-Harbi tours an exhibition organized by schools affiliated with Kuwait's National Commission for the UNESCO. — KUNA

The increase in the number of studies, published electronically, represents earnest efforts to boost awareness and knowledge of a range of scientific areas, the council said in a statement.

Moreover, in order to bring that goal to fruition, the council has partnered with Saudi company Dar Al-Mandumah, one of the largest databases in the Arab world, the statement noted, adding that this should serve as a launchpad for more scientific studies.

On a 58 percent increase in marketing, the council noted that this proves that it has garnered the trust of readers, which would pay ultimate dividends in solidifying KU's position as amongst the most preeminent academic institutions.

Patriotic values

Meanwhile, a senior Ministry of Education official underlined the ministry's commitment to instilling patriotic values within students. Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curriculum Dr Saud Al-Harbi made these remarks on the sidelines of the opening of an exhibition organized by schools affiliated with Kuwait's National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Moreover, he noted that the expo is designed to showcase Kuwaiti culture and its contributions to Islamic civilization.

On the exhibit, Harbi added that it contains professional works that illustrate Kuwait's lofty position in Islamic and Arab civilizations. He also noted that such events are significant because they help depict a favorable image of Islamic culture. In the meantime, Secretary General of Kuwait's UNESCO commission Nadia Al-Wazzan said that Kuwait being chosen as the "Capital of Islamic Culture 2016" is a testament to its cultural prominence. She also hailed Kuwait as a cultural beacon in the region, which pushes the country even harder to achieve further development and prosperity, adding that the commission firmly supports all cultural and artistic works that help portray an unsullied image of Islam.— KUNA

Sheikh Salman visits elections studio

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah Saturday visited ministry's communication center and Studio 800 that will cover the forthcoming parliamentary elections. During the tour, Sheikh Salman was acquainted with the latest preparations in the center that is equipped with 25 computers, and 25 telephone lines to cover the five constituencies. Studio 800 was provided with the necessary decorations and a huge TV screen to air information lively on the polling day.

The Ministry of Information is proceeding with the final stages of the preparations to cover the 2016 elections, slated for November 26, said Undersecretary Tareq Al-Mezrem, who accompanied Sheikh Salman during the tour. He added that prior to the tour, Sheikh Salman held a meeting with the ministry's senior officials on the arrangements to cover the elections. The communication hub the minister visited today is the ministry's 'command center' for the coverage of the election day, that will receive data from the reporters in each constituency, he added.

Mezrem noted that Studio 800, where arrangements are still underway, is provided with the latest technological devices for the historical day. According to the ministry's senior official, tremendous efforts have been lavished, and 20 vehicle transmission have been arranged to follow 650 reporters for the live broadcast of the event, since 7:00 in the morning and till results are announced.

Part of the arrangements of the day, the ministry has increased the capacity of live broadcast on social networking sites as well as the smartphone applications. Transmission via the internet will be conducted through the Kuwait TV. Meanwhile, Mezrem said that a host of prominent media figures from different world countries will visit Kuwait, to cover the event and to see for themselves the democratic experience in the country. —KUNA

18,000 disability files reviewed

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of the Disabled Affairs (PADA) has reviewed up to 18,000 files, out of total 50,000, of registered persons with disabilities, said Director General Shafiqa Al-Awadhi on Sunday.

Reviewing the files of the registered disabled is regularly conducted every three years, in line with the law, Awadhi told the press after a meeting for PADA with numerous officials from other public benefit societies, on several issues and complaints related of the disabled. She noted that the meeting had taken note of viewpoints, complaints, and observations, as well as the concerns by other organizations on the topics related to the disabled.

Participants in the meeting were offered a comprehensive account of the disabled-related issues, and full answers were provided on issues related to the reassessment of their portfolios. Such reevaluations will not cause any trouble to workers with disabilities, but on the contrary, the process will help them obtain their rights in any case. Meanwhile, Deputy PADA Director General for Educational and Rehabilitation Services, Majid Al-Saleh, described yesterday's discussions as 'fruitful' and 'very positive'. He added that new committees would soon be formed to review additional fees that might be added to Special Needs schools in the future. They will comprise members from other public organizations.

In 2010, Kuwait issued Law No. 8/2010 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to form a public organization for persons with disabilities. The law was based on standards adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in defining disability, and in conformity with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. —KUNA

Candidates Speak

Son carries on father's tradition of modernity and development

An interview with Ahmad Al-Fadhel

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: As part of our series, Candidate Speaks, Kuwait Times met candidate Ahmad Al-Fadhel, who is running from the third constituency. He is the son of MP Nabeel Al-Fadhel, who passed away last December while still in office. He espouses the same modern ideas as his late father, who hoped to make Kuwait the most developed country in the region.

"I have many issues that I would like to work on if I enter the parliament. I have various solutions and law proposals for various problems including education, health, economy, culture, sports and reforms in the parliament and government," Fadhel told Kuwait Times.

On education

"I would work on two issues - the system and the curriculum. We need to change the system of rote learning and instead teach chemistry, physics, mathematics and other subjects, including events such as World War II. Students should learn about materials, numbers and other activities that will help them internalize the knowledge, as they do in Sweden. We also need to train teachers," Fadhel noted.

On sports

"The government is taking care of sports completely, and this is a very old practice. Today sports, culture and arts should be an industry, each with its own mechanism. We should have private teams using public facilities. There should be investment in real estate to grab the attention of investors, even if they don't like sports. The government should give investors land on which they can build sports centers, where professional players can train and participate in professional leagues," Fadhel explained.

These leagues should be based on schools and districts. "We have 52 areas, and each of them has a school and co-op. The co-op will pay for the equipment of the players, while the Public Authority for Youth will arrange to bring the trainers. This is the perfect environment for talent scouts. In the US, they search for talent in schools, then they adopt them and make them join college or professional teams. We can have competitions in the six governorates and the winners of each governorate will play in the play-offs, which will be broadcast on TV," Fadhel added.

On schools

"Teenagers usually dream to be popular. Through school sports, we will offer them publicity through a weekly publication that will publish articles with their photos. The condition is to be an excelling student. Here, we connect education with fun and hobbies. And from the start, they learn that there is no gain without work."

On Culture

"We need to stop the censorship of culture and artistic work. If somebody is against something, he can reply with another piece of work that shows his opinion - not by banning it. At the same time, we should have certain criteria to ensure artistic works suit our culture and society. For instance, a movie can't have kissing scenes, but we should be allowed to see political theatre. I don't mean books detailing how to make a bomb for instance - these are dangerous and not allowed in any country," Fadhel stated.

On Censorship

"We should scrap the ban on musical concerts and parties. If somebody doesn't like ballet, he doesn't have to attend a performance. Also, gender segregation at the university is wrong. After graduation, men and women work in a mixed environment. We are in a civil country ruled by law and not only religion. If we don't have entertainment, the young generation will easily be attracted to bad behaviors or criminality. Whoever doesn't want to attend concerts can stay at home."

On Religious Freedoms

"The Kuwaiti constitution guarantees freedom of religion, so anybody living in this country should be free to believe in any religion. Also, they should be allowed to have their worship places if their numbers are large enough. The government should give them land to build their worship places on to practice their rituals. There were Jews living here in the past, but they migrated after the rise of religious extremism," he said.

On Health

"We need to bring expert doctors in all specializations from abroad for a period of three months to treat patients in Kuwait instead of patients travelling abroad for medical tourism, especially that we now have a large number of hospital beds after the completion of Jaber Hospital. Also, local doctors will gain experience from these visiting doctors. This will not cost more than KD 350,000 annually, while we are now spending more than KD 800,000 for medical treatment abroad."

On Reforms

"These will target two areas - the parliament and the government. It will also speed up procedures and paperwork. We aim to reactivate the disciplinary court under the Audit Bureau that is in charge of sanctioning employees in the public sector who are not doing their work properly. Today, employees are lazy and don't work properly, but they are not punished," stressed Fadhel.

On the Parliament

"A minister should submit a list of projects he is planning to execute in the next four years after being appointed. MPs should hold the minister accountable if he doesn't meet the target and grill him. This applies to service ministries and does not include the ministry of interior or foreign affairs, for instance."

On the Economy

"The government employment structure should be changed. More than 88 percent of the national labor force works for the government. Our aim is to issue legislation that will reduce this figure to 40-45 percent within 20 to 25 years. So the 40 or 45 percent will work in small or medium businesses. Our GDP has to consist of at least 40-45 percent of the labor force working for themselves, as most employees in the public sector are not productive and they just wait to get their salaries. We want to connect your earnings to your achievement, starting from the youth. We aim to have a healthier economy," Fadhel explained.

For more than 60 years, 90 percent of our national income is from oil. "The alternatives can't be realized in one day, and if it comes in one day, it won't make a big difference. It has to be long-term and well-studied with a basket of revenue sources. So if any sector falls or a depression or recession occurs, we can absorb it. We won't reach this target if our economy only depends on others' results and the international demand for oil," highlighted Fadhel. "I want to change this so we will be more than just an oil producer. We should have industries even if they are small. We have a strategic location in the region, and we can be a logistics hub as we are the gateway to Iraq, Iran, Syria and others."

KUWAIT: Third constituency candidate Ahmad Al-Fadhel speaks to Kuwait Times. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

On Projects

"Kuwait can be a medical hub with the huge capacity of the recently-launched Jaber Hospital. We can issue resort licenses with oases in the desert to support medical tourism. We can also be a sports hub with professional clubs. Furthermore, we can be an art hub - we have artists in all fields and we are pioneers in the region. We can even create an art city with streets adorned with images of our popular artists and celebrities. We should also develop our islands to attract tourists," concluded Fadhel.

Some 78,643 eligible voters in 1st constituency

KUWAIT: The total number of voters registered for the 15th term of the Kuwait National Assembly elections is 483,186 - including 252,756 females - with the first out of five constituencies occupying 16.27 percent.

The first constituency includes 78,643 voters (including 41,660 female). Since the July 2013 elections, the number of voters has increased by 1,398 representing a 1.77pct rise, according to Interior Ministry figures. It includes 19 areas, with the dominant being Rumaithiya and with the least voters found in Al-Matabba.

It includes, in order of voter numbers, Rumaithiya 17,652 voters (including 8,625 female), Bayan 14,536 voters (including 7,993 female), Salwa 12, 414 voters (including 7,289 female), Mishref 10,582 voters (including 6, 074 female), Dasma 5,827 voters (including 2,721 female), Al-Daiya 4,955 voters (including 2,393 female), Salmiyah 4,324 voters (including 2,607 female). Shaab 3,627 voters (including 1,798 female), Mubarak Al-Abdallah 1,550 voters (including 838 female), Bneid Al-Gar 935 voters (including 302 female), Sharq 816 voters (including 417 female), Hawalli 676 voters (including 465 female), Failaka Island and the rest of the Kuwaiti islands 182 voters (0 females).

Al-Ras 184 voters (0 females), Dasman 156 voters (including 102 female), Al-Bidaa 116 voters (including 36 female), Nogra 76 voters (0 females), Maidan Hawalli 34 voters (0 females) and Al-Matabba one voter (0 females).

Educational level

Many first constituency candidates have high level of education. More than half of them are 50 years, or over. Out of the total 72 nominees of the First Constituency, as the registration ended for the race, there are 49 (68.05 percent) with university degrees; 16 (22.22 percent) who carry diplomas; six (8.33 percent) are high school graduates, and just one candidate completed intermediate school, 1.38 percent. Among the 49 nominees with academic degrees, 13 have PhDs in social politics, law, constitutional law, statistics, security management, pharmacology, medicine, eye surgery, physical education, educational management, computer, Information Systems and Science of Hadith.

Seven nominees have MAs in economy, industrial management, military sciences, law, public law, private law, engineering management and fundamentals of religion. Twenty-nine BA holding nominees studied medicine, surgery, law, economy, geography, history, engineering, mechanical engineering, civilian engineering, political sciences, and accounting. The 16 candidates with diplomas are specialized in sciences, mechanical engineering, oil industries, secretarial work. Candidates of the First Constituency in the 2013 parliamentary elections hit 51. Thirty-four of them (66.66 percent) had university degrees; nine (17.64 percent), had diplomas; five (0.8 percent) were high school graduates, and three (5.88 percent) candidates completed the intermediate school.

Among the 34 nominees with university degrees, eight had PhDs in education management, IT, education, statistics, law, physiology of sports science and nutrition, security management, physical education, philosophy and philosophy of international relations.

Four candidates with MAs studied computer science, libraries, business administration and management of human resources. BA nominees, 22, were qualified in media, international relations, business administration, arts, political sciences, fine arts, economy civilian engineering, geography, history, law, sciences, and accounting. The nine diploma candidates studied navigation communication, electricity, zoology, secretary work, applied sciences, physical education, banking, police science and commerce.

2012 elections

Candidates for the First Constituency in the 2012 parliamentary elections hit 59 as registration deadline ended. Among the 59 candidates, 34 (57.62 percent) had university degrees; nine (17 percent) had diplomas; six (0.16 percent) were high school graduates, and two candidates (3.38 percent) completed the intermediate school. Seven of the 34 had PhDs in literary criticism, statistics, philosophy, international relations, computer technology, organ transplant, law, oral surgery. Six had MAs in engineering, military sciences, political sciences, media and special education.

Twenty-one BA holding candidates were qualified in mechanical engineering, accounting, communication engineering, law, civilian aviation, economic, political sciences, information and technology science, fine arts, sciences, Sharia, communication and electronics engineering, architecture and sociology. Seventeen nominees with diplomas studied electricity, business administration, economy, aviation sciences, communication, marketing, education, computer civilian engineering and physical education.

Candidates' age

In terms of age, most candidates of the First Constituency standing for the 2016 elections are 50 years old or over. These are 38 (52.77 percent) of the total figure; Twenty nominees (27.77 percent) are 40-49 years old, and 14 ones (19.14 percent) are 30-39 years old.

In the 2013 elections, 20 candidates (50.98 percent) were 50 years old or over; thirteen nominees (25.49 percent) were 40-49 years old, and 12 ones (23. 52 percent) 30-39 years old. Candidates for the 2012 elections, included 26 nominees (44.06 percent) of 50 years old or over; twenty nominees (33.89 percent) were 40-49 years old, and 13 ones (22.03 percent) 30-39 years old. — KUNA

Large number of young candidates emerge in 2016 parliament elections

KUWAIT: After official closing of doors for registering for the parliamentary elections 2016 last October 28 and announcement of names of candidates by the elections Department, it has become obvious the large number of young candidates compared with previous election periods.

The number of young candidates for the next Parliamentary elections stood at 87 male and female candidates aged between 30 and 39 years out of 376, a matter that reflects the eagerness of young people in participating actively in the next electoral process and support the democratic process in the country.

Several of the candidates, according to their electoral programs, have reiterated keenness of the Kuwaiti people of all components to give priority to the national supreme interests and strive to maintain the social fabric through active participation in the electoral march so as to achieve more gains and achievements for Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

They stressed the need to give young Kuwaiti nationals the full opportunity to prove themselves to contribute in advancing the wheel of development and reform in light of the evolving regional and international challenges imposed by the region's crises.

Two Kuwaiti academics stressed the need to enhance the awareness of young candidates on the challenges surrounding the country for the sake of foreseeing the future and come up with serious and realistic programs as well as ambitious visions on major political, security and economic issues. In this regard, they stressed the need for certain qualities and characteristics of the young candidates that would enable them to exercise politics and represent the nation in Parliament.

Political Science Professor Dr Massouma Al-Mubarak

Political Sociology Professor Dr Mohammed Al-Rumaihi

New faces

Political Science Professor Dr Massouma Al-Mubarak said that it is natural that new faces emerge in every election cycle, adding that the chance of young people running in every election exist. She added that there are many young people who have found in themselves the ability to run but could not succeed in persuading the different segments of the voters.

She pointed to diminishing chances of youth who present themselves as independent in light of the one-vote-system as a bloc has become master of the situation, adding that independent's opportunity in the race is little compared to the capacity and access to political rallies. She believed that a few young independents can win Parliament seats, so many of them resort to get recommendation from their peers to ensure greater luck in winning elections.

Hope and future

Meanwhile, Political Sociology Professor Dr Mohammed Al-Rumaihi said that young people are the hope and future of Kuwait in a lot of areas, however, the political arena requires special qualities, notably wisdom, experience and foresight.

He added that some young people lack experience in politics, which is an important element that must be available at Member of Parliament as a representative of the people and not himself or for the sake of his community or social group.

The opportunities in the communities are taken and not given, he said, therefore the efficiency of the candidate is at stake, referring to the importance of young candidates being able to deal with community issues well. — KUNA

Unending spirit of giving crowns democratic practice

KUWAIT: The continuity of the 'spirit of giving', even amid the hard times of tension and crises in the region, has always been a major trait of democratic practice in Kuwait. In fact, this democratic practice is based on a dual principle, and cooperation between the two authorities, that have always been hard working, together, for the good of the nation.

Since Kuwait gained independence in 1961, both authorities rushed to lay down the bases of an institutional ruling system, turning the country from a simple tribal community into a "state", with an integrated political system of legislative, executive and judiciary authorities.

The Sief Palace, where the cabinet is seated, has come be to a symbol of the executive authority. According to Kuwait Constitution, the cabinet is entrusted with drawing up the government's general policy, and following up implementation of such policy.

The National Assembly (parliament) represents the legislative authority, and is tasked with legislation, and the political and financial affairs of the state. Amid the comprehensive renaissance Kuwaitis are embracing, voters are getting ready for the November 26 elections to choose 50 MPs who can carry on with the essential role of the legislature in the future, which requires joining all efforts and powers to lead the country ahead to a bright future. — KUNA

In Brief

World War I memorial day

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najib Al-Bader took part in the Remembrance Day National Ceremony, held in the capital Canberra to commemorate victims of World War I. In a statement yesterday, Bader said he has put a bouquet of flowers in the name of Kuwait at the Australian War Memorial, in memory of about 60,000 Australian soldiers who were killed during the war. Meanwhile, he hailed Australia's big role in liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi Invasion in 1991.—KUNA

Bahrain's role

ROME: The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy stressed the importance of the recent visit of Bahrain's Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa to Italy, as it is an opportunity for further cooperation between the Gulf countries and the EU on all levels. The remarks of Ambassador Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah were made on the sidelines of the inauguration of an event entitled 'This is Bahrain' and a cultural ceremony by Sheikh Nasser, who represented King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. —KUNA

Humanitarian aid

BAGHDAD: Kuwait Relief Society distributed around 10564 food baskets to internally displaced persons (IDPs) yesterday, in different parts of Al-Anbar province west of the country. The distribution of the baskets in in Al-Ramadi city capital of Al-Anbar took around five days, the United Iraqi Medical Society for Relief and Development said in statement. Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Ghassab Al-Zamanan launched a campaign on October 22 to distribute humanitarian aid in Baghdad, Al-Anbar in addition to other provinces to relief the displaced. —KUNA

Photo of the day

KUWAIT: An ATV driver participates in the Red Bull Bar Bahr race, which took place in Kuwait this past weekend. —Photo contributed by Gino Rapheal

Gulf Bank Celebrates Two Groups of Ajyal Graduates

Shaping the Future of Banking

Salma Al-Hajjaj

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank proudly held a graduation ceremony for the graduates of its Ajyal - Graduate Development Program on 9 November 2016 at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. The event was organized to celebrate the Ajyal 1 and Ajyal 2 graduates upon successful completion of the program in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

The Ajyal Graduate Development Program is an iconic program developed by Gulf Bank in cooperation with Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) Kuwait, to nurture young Kuwaiti talent early in their career to develop them into 'holistic bankers' and prepare them for future leadership positions at the Bank.

The ceremony was to celebrate the successful graduates and recognize the program's high achievers. It also showcased the Bank's commitment to providing opportunities for its young Kuwaiti employees, by building a large cadre of Kuwaiti bankers for the benefit of both the Bank and Kuwait.

Commenting on the occasion, Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "We are very proud to celebrate our first two classes of graduates of our Ajyal (Generations) program. The program is a testament to our commitment to development of young Kuwaitis as well-rounded, highly trained, and motivated banking professionals. I am confident that these graduates will be making excellent contributions to the Bank moving forward, and be making a mark on the banking and financial sectors of Kuwait."

The event kicked off with a welcome ceremony and entrance of the graduates. Following a short documentary video presentation about the program, the program's new logo was unveiled, followed by remarks from Gulf Bank's Senior Executives, and then testimonies from top graduates. Two top performers in each class are honored and they are: for the 2014-2015 program: Ali Al-Zankwai and Shahad Darweesh; and for the 205-2016 program: Yousef Al Jeeran and Rima Sulaiman.

Al-Hajjaj also noted the pride the Bank has for the Ajyal program and for its legacy saying: "We are extremely proud of this outstanding program that is designed to include 9-months' of intensive training covering every facet of banking from the basic principles of banking; financial economics; banking laws and regulations; corporate and retail finance, to risk management, anti-money-laundering, banking ethics and customer orientation. It also enhances participants' critical, analytical and reflective thinking ability, in addition to exposing them to creativity, presentation skills, customer service orientation, and understanding of corporate social responsibility."

The selection process for the Ajyal is as follows: Kuwaiti employees who have worked at the Bank for no less than one year, but no more than three years can apply online. After the initial screening, the candidates must successfully complete a series of assessment tests, starting with language proficiencies, followed by numerical and analytical ability, psychometrics, and group discussions. Each stage of selection is based on elimination and only those who successfully complete each stage advance onwards. The final step is an interview with a panel of Gulf Bank executives.

The program begins with modules of classroom learning and these form the main part of the training. These sessions take place over the course of seven-months and include insights from distinguished international and local faculty. Then, a 3-day boot camp course focuses on challenging mindsets, creating self-awareness, and building character. A 2-day navigation workshop is also conducted to help employees identify their strengths and values. Following this, exams take place. Local field training, and then an international assignment follow. During the program trainees are assigned a mentor who is a Senior Executive of the Bank, which helps them gain a better understanding of the workplace and the industry. The trainees then graduate are placed in different departments in the Bank, based on their personal preferences and the Bank's needs.

Legalese

Fraud

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

As I have mentioned in my columns and articles multiple times, there are many legal concerns by expats in Kuwait regarding their employment. Kuwait has gone a long way but there is still a lot that we need to work on for us to be a better and more welcoming country. We have regulations and laws, but we need to discuss the issues that we are having with the implementation of Kuwait Labor Law and other bylaws regarding expat employees.

There have been issues in the region as well, but today I would like to briefly mention a country that has made tremendous and wonderful changes in the past few years. Qatar is a small and fairly new country, yet they have been extremely successful in international law and politics. It is true that Qatar has been scrutinized in the past for violating human rights law regarding employee rights, but Qatar has changed many of their regulations. This week the head of the legal department at the Qatari Human Rights National Council discussed a new law proposed that regulates the entrance of working expats in the country. I hope that Kuwait can follow suit, not by just enforcing more bylaws but by creating awareness on the laws that already exist. We need to make the law more accessible to those living in the region. In last week's column I discussed crimes in Kuwait that could be of a common concern to expats. And although the word crime sounds serious, the crimes that I will be discussing today are extremely common (and I base that on my own humble experience). I use the word crime very loosely to define actions that have punishments by law. These crimes happen in the work field, they are relevant to expat employees in Kuwait, and I think they are both unfair towards expats. There are regulations for both issues, but I really think that Kuwait needs to look into both of these situation from a practical point of view.

Credit Cards/ Illegal Sponsorship

Question: I am a US contractor and my salary is $10,000 that is transferred to my American bank account. Yet my company keeps getting me to sign a yearly contract with my sponsor/kafeel and that document has a salary of KD 1,200. I later found out that they even opened a bank account under my name and they have been placing KD 1,200 in my account on a monthly basis and withdrawing it! Isn't this illegal?

Fajer:

1. Debit Cards- You would be surprised to know how many employees come to me without knowing that they have bank accounts in Kuwait. Violating employers have a common practice of getting the employees to sign documents or to give them the authority to open up bank accounts on their behalf. These documents are usually in Arabic, and the employees have no idea that they have an active bank account in Kuwait. Their salary as mentioned in their contract at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affair could be less or more than what they are receiving by their employers, their actual salary. Some companies keep the debit cards with them, this constitutes as a crime from the employer, may crimes depending on the action involved. Please check and be careful. To answer the question, yes it is illegal and you can file both criminal charges as well as civil cases against your employer asking for compensation.

2. The other illegal issue here is that you are working under two contracts, one registered just for sponsorship purposes, while the other one is your actual contract. This also a very common practice in Kuwait.

Absconding

Question: I filed a complaint against my sponsor in Shoon (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor) but he put a case against me, claiming that I absconded from work, when I didn't. I actually resigned. He wouldn't give me my passport back, which he was holding illegally, so I filed a case in the Shoon. To my surprise though he filed an absconding case against me. What can I do or what should I have done to avoid such a thing in the future? What is the punishment for absconding?

Fajer: Absconding cases are now becoming more and more strict in Kuwait towards the employee, and this unfortunately is being abused by violating employers who have other issues against their employees. They don't want to pay termination indemnity, they might accuse their employees of absconding. How can you avoid this? 1) Always have your termination/resignation in writing 2) If you don't want to go to work because your employer is violating your rights, and it is not safe for you to stay there, then file a complaint first. Your employer will not be able to accuse of absconding if you have filed a case first. The punishment for absconding in Kuwait is deportation, it is not looked into by a judge, you will be deported unfortunately.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

Crackdown on abuse of state lands off Seventh Ring Road

Development plan to move forward

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Starting today, Kuwait Municipality will launch its first mission to remove violations on public property along the seventh ring road where state lands are being used to store machinery, as garages and storage area for scrap metal and used tires, some of which have been there for more than 15 years.

Development plan

Around 15 percent of development projects are now ready to be implemented, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday, describing the progress as an "unprecedented achievement."

Subaih, who is also minister of state for development and planning, stressed that after an agreement with the concerned Municipal Council committee, many obstacles that had been delaying the development plan projects were solved.

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting with the reform and development committee yesterday morning, Subaih said that coordination meetings emphasize that all state bodies are represented in the development plan. Osama Al-Otaibi, head of the reform and development committee at the Municipal Council, meanwhile said that such meetings help achieve greater good and accelerate the pace of work in development plan projects by removing all kinds of obstacles. He also stressed that bodies benefiting from all projects have to attend the meetings to discuss the obstacles delaying them.

Also speaking on the occasion, Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi stressed that the pace of work in the national development plan projects was accelerating and that discussions in five major projects were already complete.

In other news, decree number 300/2016, on the issue of the executive chart of law number 2/2016 pertaining the public authority for fighting corruption and financial statement disclosure, was issued and published in the official gazette; Al-Kuwait Al-Youm yesterday.

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih attends the workshop. —KUNA

Duo held on visa forgery charges

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two people were arrested on charges of forging stamps placed on residency visa renewal applications. The suspects, both Egyptians, were arrested in an ambush in Hawally that was set up after detectives confirmed information regarding their illegal activity. One of the suspects has a criminal record and is wanted on three swindling charges. He is also wanted to pay a KD 9,224 debt. Two passports and a number of forged stamps were found in the suspects' residence when it was searched. They were referred to the concerned authorities to face charges.

Rigaie fire

Meanwhile, seven people were injured in a fire reported in Riggae yesterday. Four of the victims were treated onsite, while the remaining three were sent to Sabah Hospital for treatment. Firefighters were able to contain the fire, which started in a second-floor apartment, and prevented the flames from spreading to nearby apartments. A case was filed to investigate the causes of the fire.

Camps removed

In other news, Kuwait Municipality announced that emergency teams removed 32 camps that were set up illegally at the Mina Abdullah scrapyard. Four makeshift baqalas (grocery stores) were also removed during the campaign.

Local **Spotlight**

Care for orphans

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

From the early '60s, Kuwait has presented humanitarian support and care for orphans, including those of unknown parentage and children who have no relatives. Both were housed at the orphanage, where they lived and studied until they got married. Sometimes, in cases of divorce, they returned to the orphanage, because it is the only place they know and in which they grew up.

These people face difficulties and problems in their lives due to government decisions and the culture of the community that looks at them with suspicion and distrust, as if they are a burden on the society! This is not fair, but it is the truth. Recently, the ministry of social affairs and labor took a decision to evict all those who reach the age of 21 from the orphanage. This surprise decision left them wondering where to go and what to do. They are on the street, so what's the solution?

The citizens who were once housed at the orphanage are calling for a solution to their problem. They are demanding housing after their allowances were stopped and they were evicted due to this decision. It is unfortunate that this problem has not caught the attention of many, because advocates of this unjust law are arguing that those who have reached the age of 21 must be able to work and earn money.

These people don't want to see the reality in Kuwait or are only trying to justify a government error. My son is a 21-year-old Kuwaiti citizen, but is unable to work because he is still a student. All his attempts to work after school in the evening failed and he was rejected because it is not permissible for students to combine work and study. So even a 21-year-old is forced to live under his parents' roof. The decision to ban the combination of work and study was also issued by the ministry of social affairs.

The problem in Kuwait is of those who make blind decisions against the public or a group of people without a fair study. I feel sorry for these young people who have been evicted from the orphanage. What are they supposed to do in a small country with many unemployed citizens and a majority of Arab and Asian expatriates who are mostly doing menial jobs? This is not the West, where laws support students and unemployed or homeless people.

If we assume that these evictees are not currently studying, the problem still exists for them as a societal one because of the culture of the community. I see them again paying the price of others' sins and mistakes. Evicting them from the orphanage must be accompanied with an opportunity to work, and not leaving them on the street as easy prey for drug dealers and criminals, even though the state has granted them Kuwaiti citizenship. It is essential to reconsider this decision and give them jobs. The orphanage is the only home they know, and we should not prevent them from living there.

Ministry ignores recommendation to cancel medical company's license

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry ignored a recommendation made by its technical committee on cancelling the license of the Kuwait Medical City Company - which is fully owned by the Social Security Authority - for not operating for three consecutive years, and decided keeping the license valid.

Earlier, Social Security Director Hamad Al-Humaidhi met Minister of Commerce Yousef Al-Ali, explaining the company's inactivity for three years were due to reasons beyond its control. Accordingly, Ali ordered ignoring the recommendation. Notably, the Kuwait Medical City Company is responsible for building and running integrated medical cities.

Fake doctors

An Asian carpenter was arrested in Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh for impersonating as a doctor, said security sources, noting that the suspect was arrested with a briefcase including blood pressure and diabetes testing devices and a thermometer, in addition to unidentified medicines and syringes. The fake doctor confessed that he had been 'practicing' medicine for three years, charging one dinar per case.

Drug trafficking

Two male citizens and an Arab woman (the wife of one of the suspects) were arrested in Farwaniya for fighting and drug trafficking. Case papers indicate that the two men were arrested for fighting, and on asking the husband about the reason, he claimed that the other man had sexually harassed his wife. The other suspect, who was under the influence of drugs, denied the charge, saying he was only there to buy meth. The couple admitted to selling meth for KD 50 a bag.

Divers lift tons of disposed fishing nets north of Kuwait Bay

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Dive Team yesterday lifted tons of disposed fishing nets north of Kuwait Bay at four meters' depth, in addition to 20 tons of plastic and wood waste on Oshairij and Doha beaches. The waste poses dangers to navigation of ships and boats as many dead and decaying marine creatures have been entangled in the abandoned nets, thus, causing pollution to the marine environment, the team's leader Waleed Al-Fadhel said. He called for tightening relevant laws against fishermen with regards to such malpractices and to protect the marine environment of Kuwait. He urged citizens spotting such illegal acts at sea to report to the authorized bodies. — KUNA

Al-Anbaa

An outrageous act

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

If democracy is a tool to revive tribal fanaticism and divide people and fragment them, in addition to enhance sectarianism, then it is the worst type of system and we do not need it. We do not want anything that would divide and tear our social fabric. The scene we see nowadays on the sidelines of the ongoing parliamentary election campaign is disgraceful, saddening and shocking to the people of this country and dangerous to its present and future. It is a very gloomy and ugly scene that causes more harm than good.

What does it mean, then, to see a candidate begging voters with humiliation, asking them not to 'let him down'? What does it also mean to see egals thrown and flying in the air to land on that begging candidate? What is he afraid of and what is he seeking refuge from? He is not drowning, in distress, hungry or naked to ask for such type of support from his people addressing blood kinship with them!

Whoever does this is absolutely after his own gains alone and is not working for the good of his community or his country. Trying to reach the parliament through non-democratic means is a severe violation, shows a lack of understanding and doing the exact opposite of democracy. These literal beggars are, by no means, not any better than other fellow-tribesmen. They are not more competent than others who are not as good in tribal begging, people who are against such methods that totally contradict the true meaning of democracy and only follow the right democratic paths in addressing their voters. They would never beg and display their feelings and emotions, playing on tribal fanaticism, humiliation and shedding some tears.

Trying to reach the parliament through non-democratic means is a severe violation

It is very obvious that those using such methods are only seeking their own personal gains and interests. They are not interested in basic public concerns. They do not care about the people and the current political circumstances, clearly mentioned in the decree of dissolving the previous parliament.

We have never seen such mobilization for parliamentary elections, which is done in a manner that is very provocative and harmful to national feelings of every Kuwaiti who possesses the least amount of patriotism. People need to be more aware, serious and devoted to democracy than candidates who are clearly and only after winning a parliamentary seat regardless of how they do it.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

By-elections

By Saad Al-Motesh

Most of you reject by-elections, or 'consultancies' as they are called nowadays. In fact, most of you criticize and reject them not out of love for democracy, but because you know that you would almost have no chance in winning them and that they would not serve your interests if your tribe decides to hold them.

I will not talk about people who had previously taken part in such elections, won them and made their way to the parliament before they considered it a wooden ladder by which they ascended to the parliament and then burned it down. What I would like to highlight is that everybody practices such by-elections in basements and diwaniyas behind your backs and then comes out addressing you in the name of their so-called Islamic or economic forums and criticize by-elections.

In a tribal by-election, one depends on the total number of voters belonging to the same clan

In a tribal by-election, one depends on the total number of voters belonging to the same clan. Otherwise, a candidate would make up a dispute with the government after making a deal with some of its members to produce an 'action movie', and thus appear as a hero. Previous experiences of some lawmakers can prove this.

Consulting is a method used by the world's largest parties. Do you really think that someone from a small party can run for elections without support from the party's political office? The problem is that a candidate would have to convince some of the office members to support his candidacy. This can be easily done with consultations in basements, because if those running belong to your same sect (urban or bedouin), they will elect you in the basement. These are the most important ones, who somehow form the political office, and never pay attention to the vast majority of voters because they are but a tool paving the way and are moved by 'party' leaders.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime Report

Beggars to be deported

KUWAIT: Three Jordanian women were sent for deportation after being caught begging in Farwaniya. The three women confessed the charges after being found begging and in possession of KD 41.750. Their husbands and children will also be deported. Meanwhile five Egyptian nationals were sent for deportation as they were caught gambling in Kheitan.

Heroin dealers caught

Two Nepalese men ran away when they saw a police patrol, but were caught and arrested. The two had nine envelopes of heroin. They were sent to the Drug Control General Department (DGCD) to face charges.

Camp thieves caught

Two men, bedoon and Syrian, were arrested while robbing items from a desert camp. They were sent to the Criminal Investigations General Department for questioning. — Al-Rai

KFAS to co-sponsor WIF 2016

Dr Mohammed Salman

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announced intentions to take part in the World Informatics Forum (WIF) 2016, due to be held under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Al-Raya Hotel on November 21 through 23, 2016. In this regard, KFAS's companies and creativity department director Dr Mohammed Salman stressed that KFAS is keen on establishing partnerships with various local and international bodies in order to achieve its strategic goals in various lines of sciences and technologies. Salman also stressed that KFAS highly values the projects and initiatives organized by the Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award Foundation, namely WIF.

Kuwait Airways secures independent commercial license for Turkey operations

Branch Registration to reduce operational costs on Turkey routes

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways, the National Carrier, yesterday announced that it has concluded a year-long negotiation to obtain commercial licensing that will allow the airline to operate commercially independently of any Turkey representation company.

Based on operational and commercial requirements, Kuwait Airways Marketing and Sales department has decided to proceed with branch registration in Istanbul to enable Kuwait national flag carrier to operate as a commercial airline independently in Turkey without being represented by any local company .

Since 2006, ACM (Air charter Market) was the company representing Kuwait Airways' commercial activities and interests, in Turkey. This new commercial deal means that all aviation-related government transactions and communications with airport authorities can be done directly . As part of compliance of official formalities and detailed deliberations application to the Trade Registry & Istanbul Chamber of Commerce has been made in order to facilitate Kuwait Airways Istanbul Branch registration completion which successfully, followed by Registration with the Tax Office and application for obtaining Tax ID Number after physical visit from the Tax Office

The immediate impact of obtaining commercial license will mean that Kuwait Airways :

1- Claim for VAT refund for all operational expensed in Turkey .

2- The capability to run sales activity independently of General sales agent .

3- The capability to operate to major airports and cities in Turkey .

4- Termination of contract with local representative company saving the consequent cost.

5- The capability of termination of General sales agent contract and self-handling .

Kuwait Airways' new commercial license will also allow the national carrier to run and manage independent offices across.

Commenting on the new deal, Kuwait Airways' Assistant-Director Marketing & Sales, for Planning and passenger Sales, Shorouq Al Awwadi, said:

"Kuwait Airways is working continuously to enhance the travel experience of our passengers, enhance the effectiveness of our operations - through an integrated presence in the main markets - and to search for ways to reduce operating expenses and increase performance efficiency." "This approach is at the core of our five-year transformation strategy and we will continue to work on reducing the number of intermediaries, across all touch-points of our operations, so as to be able to communicate directly with local authorities and so directly enhance and manage the degree of quality control - at all stages of our operations."

Kuwait Airways is currently witnessing impressive expansion along its existing Turkish routes and this is reflected in the increased frequencies that will be effective 30th October 2016, for summer and winter schedule by 10 frequency per week with different aircraft type.

KFH and the NUKS representatives after inking the sponsorship.

KFH sponsors Annual Conference of NUKS-US Branch

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced its sponsorship of the 33rd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students NUKS- USA Branch as part of its social responsibility and efforts to support the Kuwaiti youth and students.

The conference is scheduled to be held on November 24th in San Francisco-California under the sponsorship of Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa. It is noteworthy that KFH-Group CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh will participate in the economic forum to be held on the sidelines of the conference. The forum will host a line-up of dignitaries, economy specialists and practitioners to discuss major issues and topics of high relevance to the Islamic banking and the economic development in the region and the globe. Also, Nahedh will honor the distinguished graduates.

The conference is viewed as the annual gathering of the 3 thousand Kuwaiti male and female students who study in the USA. It encompasses a plethora of cultural and entertaining activities while offers the opportunity for further students engagement in the different activities of the NUKS.

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry announced that it conducted a successful evacuation drill at the Central Jail yesterday, under supervision of Major General Majid Al-Majid, the Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities' Sector.

ABK celebrates World Diabetes Day with discounts at Royale Hayat Hospital

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is celebrating World Diabetes Day this month by teaming up with Royale Hayat Hospital to offer customers a range of discounts on diabetes related treatments and products between 14 November and 31 December 2016.

ABK customers will be able to get up to 40 percent off treatments at Royale Hayat Hospital when they pay with an ABK debit or credit card. They will also be able to buy the Royale Hayat Hospital's diabetes mini package, which includes fasting blood sugar, HbA1C and micro-albumin for only KD 20, or the diabetes full package which contains fasting blood sugar, HbA1C, micro-albumin, complete blood count, lipid profile and renal profile for only KD 50.

The World Health Organization's World Diabetes Day is marked on 14 November every year and ABK is keen to use the opportunity to raise the profile of diabetes and the range of effective treatments which are available for its treatment. Diabetes has become a major issue in Kuwait, with an estimated 20 percent of adults in Kuwait now suffering from its debilitating effects. If not treated the disease's complications can lead to heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and lower limb amputation.

ABK is very committed to the general health and wellbeing of the Kuwait community and its support for World Diabetes Day is part of its ongoing program. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

Kuwait Times 55

International

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Thousands attend pro-Beijing rally in Hong Kong

Page 12

EU foreign ministers gather to grapple with Trump impact

Page 10

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PARIS: French President Francois Hollande and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo stand at attention after unveiling a commemorative plaque near the Petit Cambodge and Carillon cafes yesterday, during a ceremony held for the victims of last year's Paris attacks which targeted the Bataclan concert hall as well as a series of bars and killed 130 people. —AP

France remembers 130 killed in Paris attacks

Silence marks 1st anniversary

PARIS: A somber silence marked France's anniversary commemorations of coordinated attacks on Paris yesterday, with the only voices reading names of the 130 victims of the Islamist extremists and the son of the first person to die.

Michael Dias lauded the lessons of integration his father Manuel, an immigrant from Portugal, taught him so youth can integrate instead of turning themselves into "cannon fodder." Under heavy security, President Francois Hollande unveiled a plaque outside the Stade de France "in memory of Manuel Dias," pulling away a French flag covering it on a wall at one of the entrances to the French national stadium, where Dias was killed on Nov. 13, 2015, by a suicide bomber.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo joined the president six other sites where crowds ate, drank or reveled in music at the Bataclan concert hall. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks. Three teams of extremists coming from neighboring Belgium targeted six bars and eateries, turning scenes of Friday night fun into bloodbaths.

Learning to live again

At the Stade de France, on the northern edge of Paris, Michael Dias said his father Manuel was "living proof that integration is possible, necessary" to end the madness of violence carried out by those who felt excluded.

Learning to live again after extremists killed his father was "a personal challenge, but it concerns us all," Dias said, crediting his father, who came to France at 18, with life lessons like the need for education. "It is by knowledge, by intelligence that the children of tomorrow can stop humiliating themselves as cannon fodder in the service of criminal, mafia-style interests ... as is the case today. (They are) incapable of reflection, thinking about the world and expressing the unease and social exclusion they feel."

The final stop, the Bataclan concert hall - which reopened Saturday night with a concert by British pop star Sting - was the site of the bloodiest and longest attack. There, 90 people were killed by three attackers who also took a group of people hostage. The youngest and oldest victims of the night of horror were a 17 -year-old and a 68 year-old - both killed at the Bataclan.

Families of victims, security and rescue forces and some still trying to heal were among those present at the ceremonies. In addition to those killed, nine people remain hospitalized from the attacks and others are paralyzed. The government says more than 600 people are still receiving psychological treatment after the attacks. "This anniversary is a further reminder of the volatile terrorist threat faced in Europe today," said a statement by Europol, the European police agency.

Sting's concert

The remembrances come after the Sting concert Saturday night that reopened the refurbished Bataclan concert hall. Sting, in a T-shirt with a guitar slung over his shoulder, asked concert goers in fluent French to observe a minute of silence as he opened the show.

"We've got two important things to do tonight," the 65-year-old singer said. "First, to remember and honor those who lost their lives in the attacks a year ago ... and to celebrate the life and the music of this historic venue. ... We shall not forget them."

He then strummed out a string of hits, including "Fragile" and "Message in a Bottle." Elodie Suigo, who lost six friends in the attack, said that it was a hard night, even though she loved the music. "It was difficult going through that door. I don't think I was the only one... We cannot say it was a magical moment because of everything that changed in our lives. But (Sting) is a really great man," she said.

With more than 400 rounds fired within 10 minutes at the restaurants, the coordinated attacks were a wake-up call for France and for Europe. They followed the January 2015 newsroom massacre at the satiric newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris and a Kosher grocery store that left 17 dead. But the complex planning behind the Nov. 13 attacks and the high number of deaths revealed a degree of French vulnerability not previously suspected by authorities.

Neighboring Belgium, the starting point of the attacks in Paris, was hit a few months later on March 22 with attacks on its airport and a metro station that killed 32 people.

France declared a state of emergency after the Nov. 13 attacks, which is still in force. Still, that failed to prevent the killing of a police couple in their home last June, the July 14 Bastille Day truck attack in Nice that killed 86 revelers and the slaying of a priest at the altar of his Normandy church in July.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls has warned this weekend that "Yes, terrorism will strike us again." But, he contended, "we have all the resources to resist and all the strength to win." —AP

UAE urges more US involvement in Mideast under Trump

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates urged US president-elect Donald Trump yesterday to increase his country's involvement in the Middle East and adopt an "overarching strategy" towards developments in the turmoil-hit region. "Washington's weight and influence remains more important than ever," said Anwar Gargash, minister of state for foreign affairs in the UAE, a longtime Washington ally.

"Following eight years of weakened American engagement in the region, which many feel has created a disconcerting vacuum, it looks like we will have to wait a little longer until the contours of president-elect Trump's approach" becomes clearer, Gargash told politicians at an event organised by the Emirates Policy Centre in Abu Dhabi.

"It is essential that there is an overarching strategy rather than isolated positions towards regional issues," he said in remarks published in English on the official WAM news agency. "In short, America's engagement is positive and its withdrawal and disengagement is counterproductive," he added.

President Barack Obama's administration's policy in withdrawing from the region has been "a recipe for unremitting chaos and violence", he said, pointing to crises in Iraq, Syria and Libya which have spiralled out of control and fuelled extremism.

Breaking "this cycle of discord and instability requires difficult decisions, collective action and a continuous search for constructive solutions", Gargash said.

Under Obama, relations between Washington and Gulf Arab states turned frosty with US overtures towards their regional rival Iran. Washington and other major powers reached an agreement, which took effect in January, to lift international sanctions on Iran in exchange for guarantees that it would not pursue a nuclear weapons capability.

Obama's reluctance to become involved in Syria's deadly war and other regional conflicts that have turned increasingly bloody and seen extremists such as the Islamic State group grow has also angered Washington's historic allies in the Gulf. — AFP

JARAF, IRAQ: An Iraqi youth shows a placard printed out by the Islamic State (IS) group, explaining why people shouldn't use satellite dishes, as he visits his school on Saturday. — AFP

In Iraq village, children reclaim their school after IS

'We forgot everything'

JARAF, IRAQ: "One bullet plus one bullet equals? Two bullets!" This is how the children of the small Iraqi village of Jaraf were taught mathematics during two years of jihadist rule.

On Saturday, a neighbor opened the gate of their school for the first time since the Islamic State (IS) group was forced out by Iraqi forces last week. The children took over the building and were soon playing football with soldiers in the main hall and jubilantly ripping up their IS textbooks. "They brought new books... all of them Islamic," said Sanaa Ahmed, recounting the time in 2014 when IS took over her village south of Mosul.

"There used to be pictures in our books. They changed that, they said it was forbidden," said Sanaa, a lively 10-year-old wearing a pink woolly dress and a stack of white bracelets on both wrists. "They brought us pictures of little girls completely covered, with the niqab (full veil) and even socks and gloves... I don't know how they wouldn't suffocate in there," she said.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 4.7 million children have been directly affected by the conflict in Iraq and 3.5 million are out of school. In Jaraf, many parents decided not to send their children to school when IS took over. "They were trying to control the children's minds, they would teach them things that encouraged them to kill," said Abu Salem, a 28-year-old father whose house faces the school.

Songs praising Baghdadi

"For example, in the mathematics class, they would learn what is a bullet plus a bullet, or a rocket plus a rocket," said Salem Abdel Mohsen, another father who did not send his children to school under IS. "When the kids grow up, what kind of education will they have had? When they graduate, will they become a doctor? An engineer?," he asked.

"It won't be possible, of course they will become Daesh (IS)," said the young man, now a member of the local paramilitary force known as Hashed al-Ashaeri. The cost of IS textbooks, a list for which is still pinned to a wall in Jaraf's Zeinab Bint Khadija school, also discouraged many parents.

A copy of the physical education book produced by IS-complete with the group's logo on every page-was lying on the floor in one of the classrooms. Most of it consisted of instructions for normal exercises but the IS touch was evident in some lessons.

The first one in the book was "how to sit cross-legged properly" and another was called "the seven stones game", which apparently aimed to prepare for the ritual "stoning of the devil", part of the hajj pilgrimage.

Another class described an exercise to be performed whilst singing a song praising the IS caliph and to which the refrain goes: "All of you join and give allegiance to (Abu Bakr al-) Baghdadi."

"There was a teacher, she used to tell us that the Islamic State is good, that they give you food and money. Good money. Better than the army. 'Tell your parents to join us,'" Sanaa recounted.

'We forgot everything'

Jaraf is one of several hundred tiny and remote villages dotting the windy roads of the Tigris Valley in Nineveh province. Before Iraqi forces started retaking swathes of land, the villages were in the heart of the "caliphate" IS proclaimed in June 2014, even more isolated from the rest of the world than they previously were.

The school in Jaraf would remain closed for days on end and even when IS sent a teacher down from Mosul for a few classes, many children stayed home. Islamic State group teachers remonstrated the children every time they visited, telling the girls to wear the niqab and the boys to dress "Afghani style". But the children said that was never enforced. In Jaraf, there were no jihadist training camps for children such as those show in IS propaganda videos. "The children didn't understand all this, they are just children, they want to play," said Abu Salem.

Most of the children there never ventured more than a few kilometers from their village and talk about jihadist rule like a benign inconvenience, a couple of school years with an unlucky crop of teachers. "They tried to teach us their things but we were fed up with Daesh and we already forgot everything," said Sanaa. — AFP

MOSUL, IRAQ: Foreign volunteers treat 12-year-old Mohammed at an outdoor field clinic in the Samah neighborhood in Mosul yesterday, after he was hit in a double barreled mortar attack seriously injuring Mohammed and killing his 15-year-old neighbor Shafiq as Iraqi Special Forces 2nd division continued to battle Islamic State (IS) forces pushing through the Arbagiah area and into the neighborhood of Karkukli. — AFP

Turkey-backed Syria rebels near IS bastion Al-Bab

BEIRUT: Syrian rebels backed by Turkish forces are two kilometers from the Islamic State group stronghold of Al-Bab as they press Ankara's Operation Euphrates Shield, a monitor said yesterday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Turkish forces were targeting the town with artillery fire and air strikes but it had no immediate word on casualties. Al-Bab, about 30 kilometers from the Turkish border, has been a key target for Ankara and its Syrian rebel allies since its campaign began on August 24. "Opposition factions backed by Turkish troops are two kilometers north and northwest of the town of Al-Bab," said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Britain-based Observatory.

"This progress is a continuation of the campaign that began with the capture of Jarablus and has seen the jihadists expelled from an area of 2,500 square kilometers along the border with Turkey," Abdel Rahman said.

Ankara launched its unprecedented cross-border operation saying it was targeting both IS but also the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia, which has been a key opponent of the jihadist group.

Turkey considers the YPG a "terrorist" organization, and wants to avoid the creation of a contiguous, semi-autonomous Kurdish zone along the Syrian border.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Ankara wants to capture Al-Bab from IS and then push Kurdish-led forces from the nearby town of Manbij. Abdel Rahman said IS forces in Al-Bab were almost surrounded. "The only route left open is the road to Raqa that runs southeast from Al-Bab through the (jihadist-held) town of Deir Hafer," he said. "The rebel forces are advancing because of the support from the Turkish forces and IS has withdrawn from several areas without putting up a fight," he added.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces are currently fighting an operation to capture Raqa, IS's Syrian stronghold, with support from the US-led coalition against the jihadist group. Washington's cooperation with Syrian Kurdish forces has angered Ankara, and Erdogan has said his troops and allied rebels intend to target Raqa themselves. — AFP

Minnesota men face sentencing in plot to join Islamic State

MINNEAPOLIS: Nine Minnesota men who have been convicted of plotting to join the Islamic State group in Syria are scheduled to be sentenced this week, capping a long court case that shined a light on terrorism recruitment. The men are expected to receive various sentences during separate hearings today, Tuesday and Wednesday. Here are some key issues:

What is this about?

Prosecutors say that starting in the spring of 2014, a group of friends in Minnesota's large Somali community began inspiring and recruiting each other to travel to Syria to join IS. Some succeeded in making the trip, but others didn't.

Nine men were prosecuted. Six of them pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, which has a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. The other three went to trial, where they were also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder outside the US, which carries a possible life sentence.

When the trial ended, US Attorney Andy Luger called it "one of the most important" trials in Minnesota in years because it put a spotlight on ongoing terrorism recruitment in the state.

The FBI has said about a dozen people have left Minnesota to join militant groups in Syria in recent years. Since 2007, more than 22 men have joined al-Shabab in Somalia. The overall investigation into terror recruitment is ongoing.

How long will the men go to prison?

That's up to the judge. Prosecutors are asking for lengthy sentences, citing the violence of the Islamic State group and some of the men's persistent attempts to join. But defense attorneys are seeking leniency, saying their clients were young men who felt alienated and caught between two worlds.

Prosecutors are recommending the stiffest sentence - 40 years in prison and supervision for life - for Guled Ali Omar, who was once considered a leader of the group. Omar's attorney, Glenn Bruder, is asking for 15 years or less, saying Omar and his co-defendants were the "Three-Stooges of international terrorism. Their efforts to abandon the United States were naive, ill-considered and bumbling."

Prosecutors are seeking 30 years in prison for Omar's co-defendants, and 15 years for four others who pleaded guilty. They are recommending four-and-a-half years and three-and-a-half years for two men who cooperated. Defense attorneys are seeking less time in each case.

Factors in sentencing

In addition to standard presentence investigation reports, US District Judge Michael Davis will consider evaluations done on some of the men to assess their risk for re-engaging in terroristic activities.

The evaluations were conducted as part of a program Davis created to give him more information at sentencing and to help devise plans to de-radicalize the men. Davis, who has been at the forefront of efforts to try to reintegrate terrorism defendants into society, will also consider the level of cooperation - or substantial assistance - each man provided to the government.

Community support

Defense attorneys submitted letters from community members that highlight the men's characters and ask for leniency. Among them was Ilhan Omar, who recently became the first Somali-American state legislator.

Omar wrote that incarcerating the young men for decades would essentially be a life sentence. She said such stiff punishment would cause further alienation and create an environment in which extremism can flourish. Omar asked Davis to consider a restorative approach that focuses on inclusion and rehabilitation.

The men speak out

In recent weeks, a couple of the men have come forward and said they've changed. Abdirizak Warsame recently told 60 Minutes that he believes two men whom he helped get to Syria are now dead.

"I believe I am responsible for their deaths and I think about that every day," Warsame said, later adding that the Islamic State group is total nonsense and, "It's not worth your life."— AP

Islamic NGOs to meet in Istanbul to aid Yemen

ISTANBUL: The International Relief and Development Organization (IRD) in cooperation with the Union of NGOs of The Islamic World held a conference in Istanbul themed "The International Yemen Humanitarian Aid Conference".

Arab, Turkish and international civil society organizations including Kuwaiti Al-Najat Charitable Society will be preparing a humanitarian fleet, carrying relief aid including food parcels, clothes and medical equipment to the war-torn Yemen in the near future.

The International Relief and Development Organization (IRD) Chairman Hameed Zeyad said "Our role as civil society organizations is dedicated in offering aid to poor people and people in need all over the world". He called on international relief agencies to spread justice, brotherhood, mercy, and offer aid to people in need. Chairman of NGOs of the Islamic World Ali Kurt said that the nations pay the price of crises through blood.

The one-day conference was attended by 200 people representing Arab, Turkish and international organizations. This conference is discussing means of establishing humanitarian projects to aid and develop Yemen. International Relief and Development, Inc. (IRD) or Blumont is a non-profit, non-governmental organization responsible for implementing relief, stabilization and development programs worldwide. — KUNA

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump talks with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis. on Capitol Hill on Thursday. — AP

Ryan says Trump agrees 'no place' for racism, hate crimes

WASHINGTON: House Speaker Paul Ryan says the people generating racist graffiti in the wake of Donald Trump's election are "not Republicans" and "we don't want them in our party."

The Wisconsin congressman told CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday that, "People should really just put their minds at ease. We are pluralistic, we are inclusive... that's the kind of country we are still going to have." He says he's "confident Donald Trump feels the same way." Ryan was asked about reports or racist graffiti and hate crimes after Tuesday's presidential election. — AP

Clinton blames FBI director Comey for loss

Criticism for reopening probe close to election

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton on Saturday blamed FBI director James Comey for her loss in the US presidential race, claiming that reopening the probe into her email use broke the momentum towards victory.

Clinton told fundraisers and donors in a conference call that Comey's two letters to Congress on the probe had tilted crucial states towards Republican Donald Trump, US media including Quartz and CNN reported. "There are lots of reasons why an election like this is not successful," Democrat Clinton told her national finance committee, a person on the call told online magazine Quartz. "But our analysis is that Jim Comey's letter raising doubts that were groundless (and) baseless-and proven to be-stopped our momentum."

On October 28 — less than two weeks before Election Day-Comey dropped a bombshell by informing Congress the FBI was looking once more into Clinton's controversial email practices as secretary of state after new messages were uncovered. His second letter, on November 6, just three days before the election, stated that the FBI's review of the new emails had uncovered no wrongdoing, and that the bureau had not changed its July recommendation not to charge Clinton.

While the first letter reopened old wounds and reminded voters of the controversy, the second letter, according to Clinton, had the perverse effect of energizing rival Donald Trump's base, Quartz reported.

The letters came just as Clinton was building momentum following strong performances at all three presidential debates, and after the release of a damaging recording of Trump boasting about groping women. "After the third debate we felt so good about where we were," Clinton said, according to Quartz's source, who chose to remain anonymous. The campaign analysis "showed that we were up in all but two of the battleground states, where we were tied or one point behind. In Arizona we were even. We felt real wind at our back."

But she said the FBI's last-minute role was too much to "overcome," a donor on the call told CNN.

In July Comey said that the FBI would not recommend criminal charges against Clinton for handling classified documents and sensitive information on a private email account.

Comey however slammed the practice as "extremely careless." The FBI chief came under fierce criticism for effectively reopening the Clinton probe so close to the November 8 vote, without knowing whether the new emails were relevant. — AFP

WASHINGTON: This file photo taken on September 27, 2016 shows FBI Director James Comey waiting to testify at a Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs hearing on Capitol Hill. — AFP

US must resist isolation, Obama says ahead of Europe trip

ATHENS: The United States must resist the "urge" of isolationism under new leader Donald Trump and work with allies, outgoing President Barack Obama said Saturday ahead of his last visit to Europe. "Our best chance for progress is to resist the urge to turn inward and instead reinvigorate our shared values and work together to ensure that our political and economic institutions deliver the security and prosperity our people deserve," Obama told Greece's Kathimerini newspaper.

Obama, who travels to Greece and Germany from Tuesday before heading to Peru, fired repeated messages towards his incoming successor Trump in the interview. "I believe that European integration is one of the greatest political and economic achievements of modern times, with benefits for EU members, the United States and the entire world," Obama said. "Europe is our largest economic partner and we have a profound economic interest in a Europe that is stable and growing."

Trump's election this week, already greeted by protests in some US cities, has thrown delicately balanced geopolitics into flux. During the campaign, the brash Republican called into question long-standing alliances including NATO, global agreements on climate and Iran's nuclear program, and appeared to side with Russia on key policy issues.

Across America and the world, questions are now being raised about Trump's respect for the rule of law and the separation of powers. "Prosperity and growth thrive in transparent, predictable, stable environments where the rule of law protects individual rights and provides local entrepreneurs the confidence they need to grow and international businesses the sense of security they need to invest," Obama said.

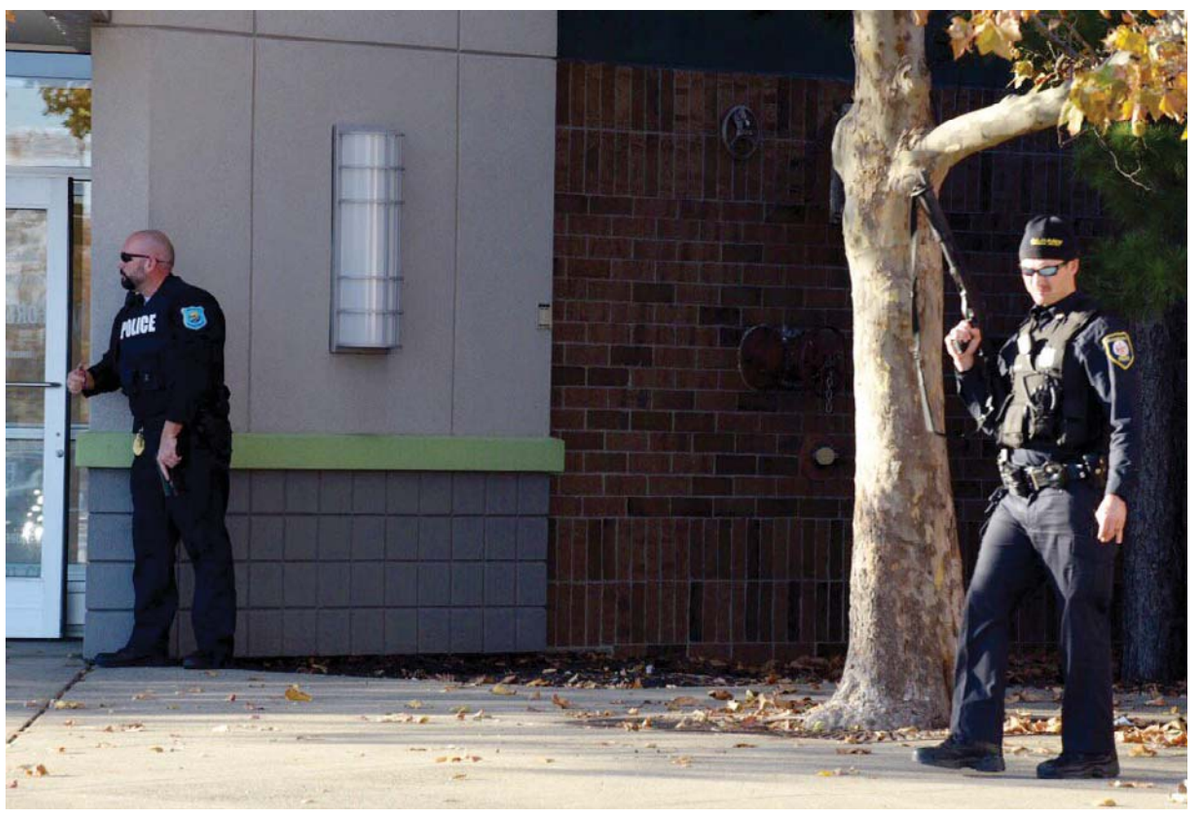
In fighting the war in Syria, he noted, "we have to stay true to the values and respect for human dignity that are at the core of our democratic, pluralistic societies."— AFP

Trump's presidential pen could remake Supreme Court's agenda

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump will get to choose more than a Supreme Court nominee. The new president can take steps to make several contentious court cases go away.

Legal challenges involving immigration, climate change, cost-free contraceptive care and transgender rights all could be affected, without any help from Congress.

The cases turn on Obama administration policies that rely on the president's pen, regulations or decisions made by federal agencies. And what one administration can do, the next can undo. Examples include federal regulations prohibiting discrimination in education based on gender identity and rules created to ensure women have access to cost-free birth control. — AP



GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK: Police officers take up positions at a doorway of the Crossgates Mall on Saturday. — AP

Reports of shots fired at New York mall

GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK: Hundreds of shoppers were rushed out of an upstate New York mall on Saturday when reports spread about possible gunshots being fired near retail stores.

There were no immediate reports of injuries and no suspects in custody.

Law enforcement officials ordered an evacuation of the Crossgates Mall in Guilderland, about a dozen miles northeast of Albany, after police were alerted to one, or possibly two, shots being fired. Police could not independently confirm those reports.

Officers with assault rifles positioned around the mall were searching the property and checking security footage. State Police Maj. Bill Keeler told the Albany Times-Union that reports that came in around 2:30 p.m. suggesting shots linked to a possible confrontation between two men who fled the scene.

"Right now we are in the process of evacuating the mall safely under our plan that we've drilled for before," Guilderland Police Chief Carol Lawlar told Time Warner Cable News Service. "We have not come across a victim yet," Lawlar said.

She said investigators were examining a video that showed a man in a white shirt and a black hoodie. Authorities did not have anyone in custody as of late afternoon. Mall management is working with authorities, Lawlar said, "and hopefully we'll bring this to a successful conclusion." — AP

Safety pins: A pointed show of solidarity after Trump election

WASHINGTON: People have long used ribbons, flowers, colors or badges to symbolize political causes, from the carnations of Portugal's 1974 revolution to the orange ribbons of Ukraine's 2004 revolution to the gel wristbands now worn to promote almost any charity. Enter the lowly safety pin. That humble but practical device is fast gaining a higher profile, as growing numbers of Americans wear the metal fasteners to show solidarity against intolerance after the election of Donald Trump.

The safety pin-invented in 1849 by an American mechanic who needed money to pay off a $15 debt-uses a cleverly designed clasp to protect users from its fiendishly sharp tip. And that is the point. In the days since Trump's election, people have begun placing a single pin on their shirts to convey a message of support-of safety, and protection-to minorities, women, immigrants and others who may feel threatened by the strident rhetoric that carried the Republican billionaire to the White House.

The safety pin social media movement gained prominence in Britain on Twitter as a sign of solidarity with immigrant and minority populations facing a reported surge in hate crimes after the Brexit vote in June, with its strong anti-immigrant undertones.

Phenomenon has started

Since the US election, the phenomenon has started catching on across the Atlantic, with celebrities including actress Debra Messing as well as ordinary people posting images of their safety pins on social media. — AFP

French PM says state of emergency likely to be extended

LONDON: French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said yesterday that the country's state of emergency, imposed after last year's Paris attacks, will likely be extended as France gears up for presidential elections. "It is difficult today to end the state of emergency," Valls told BBC television as France marked exactly one year since the November 13, 2015 jihadist attacks that left 130 people dead.

"Especially since we are going to begin a presidential campaign in a few weeks with meetings, with public gatherings. So we must also protect our democracy," Valls added in the interview with the BBC's HARDtalk program. "Besides, this state of emergency device allows us to make arrests, administrative checks which are effective... So yes, we are probably going to live a few months more with this state of emergency."

The state of emergency was introduced on the night of the Paris attacks and extended for six months in late July. While stressing he remained "very cautious", Valls said the risk of similar coordinated attacks appeared to have diminished."But we may face attacks of the kind that we saw in Nice," he said, referring to the July attack in the Riviera resort in which a 31-year-old Tunisian mowed down 86 people in a truck."That's to say some individuals who are driven directly by the internet, by social networks, by the Islamic Sate group, without having to go to Syria or Iraq."

Meanwhile, on the separate subject of a possible renegotiation of the 2003 Le Touquet accords which extend the British border to Calais' ferry ports, Valls made a plea for cooperation."We can always change a treaty, but if tomorrow we were saying that there was no agreement, that there was no longer a treaty, and that the border was open, there would be thousands and thousands of people who would converge on Britain, that would be a drama in the Channel and a major problem for Britain," he said. "That really shows that we need cooperation." The comments come after France last month demolished the notorious Jungle migrant camp in Calais, where thousands of people had been living in squalid conditions hoping to stow away on trucks headed to Britain.

Under the Le Touquet agreement, Britain pays millions of Euros each year for security in Calais but it is French police and border agents who are on the frontline. Many French politicians believe London has simply outsourced a problem to France and the agreement should be torn up. The leading candidates hoping to represent the right in next year's race for the French presidency have called for the Le Touquet deal to be renegotiated, with frontrunner Alain Juppe calling last month for the British border to be shifted back across the Channel. — AFP

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN: In this Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally. — AP

EU foreign ministers gather to grapple with Trump impact

Campaign points might translate into real policy?

BRUSSELS: European Union foreign ministers will gather to discuss the impact of Donald Trump's election on trans-Atlantic ties and whether it will complicate relations with an increasingly belligerent Russia.

At informal dinner talks in Brussels, well away from the media, the ministers will debate how many of Trump's campaign announcements - like isolationist positions on security, his rejection of international trade pacts and refusal to criticize Russian President Vladimir Putin - might translate into real policy. Before the talks, NATO's secretary-general appealed for trans-Atlantic unity and warned that "going it alone" wasn't an option for either Europe or the US

At a loss to explain

Before the dinner, EU diplomats were at a loss to explain Trump's stunning victory or understand yet what it might really mean. Giovanni Grevi, senior fellow at the European Policy Centre think tank, said that "cooperation between Europe and the US will not become impossible, but it will become much more difficult."

"Donald Trump has been putting America first ... in defining his foreign policy and it seems he is taking a very transactional approach to international affairs. This is very likely to apply also to trans-Atlantic relations. He will value Europeans in so far as they can match his priorities," Grevi said.

Given Trump's clear opposition to major trade pacts, EU officials are all but certain that the massive Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or TTIP, will have to be renegotiated, if any life remains in the project at all. "With the new president-elect we don't really know what will happen. There is strong reason to believe that there would be a pause in TTIP, that this might not be the biggest priority for the new administration," EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said Friday.

Perhaps the most pressing problem though is to understand how Trump wants to deal with Putin.

The EU has imposed sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Crimea and destabilizing role elsewhere in Ukraine. Some of those measures, including asset freezes on individuals and organizations, come up for renewal in January.

EU leaders are due to discuss them at a summit in Brussels on Dec. 15 16, but any signal from Trump about a softening of US relations with Russia is likely to embolden already-reluctant countries like Germany, Italy and others to push for an end the sanctions regime, diplomats said.

The EU foreign ministers will meet again formally today, to discuss strained ties with membership candidate country Turkey, the conflict in Syria and Libya, and defense cooperation with the NATO military alliance.

Writing in Britain's Observer newspaper, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg insisted that Europe and the US must work together in the face of security challenges.

Stoltenberg appeared to be responding to Trump's criticism of NATO during his campaign. The president-elect has suggested that Washington could abandon its NATO commitments, which include mutual defense in case of attack. "We face the greatest challenges to our security in a generation. This is no time to question the value of the partnership between Europe and the United States," Stoltenberg wrote.

Meanwhile, Britain distanced itself from the European meeting, suggesting it intends to take a different approach to Trump. Officials said Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson - who has told his EU counterparts to snap out of the "general doom and gloom" and "collective whinge-o-rama" following the US election result - would skip the talks.

"We do not see the need for an additional meeting on Sunday because the US election timetable is long established," the Foreign Office said in a statement. "We will work with the current and future administrations to ensure the best outcomes for Britain." — AP

France demands release of French journalist arrested in Turkey

PARIS: France has demanded that Turkey release a French journalist arrested there on Friday, as a crackdown on the media after an attempted coup this year continues to draw international criticism.

Olivier Bertrand, who works for French news website lesjours.fr, was arrested while reporting in the town of Gaziantep, just north of Turkey's border with Syria. "What is happening is shocking and completely unacceptable. France demands the release of this journalist," French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told Europe 1 radio yesterday. "We are in permanent contact with him (Bertrand) via our embassy. We are doing everything we can to get him released," he added.

Turkey has detained tens of thousands of people over alleged links with Fethullah Gulen, a cleric living in the United States who is accused of masterminding the abortive putsch - something he denies. The EU official in charge of relations with Turkey said earlier this month that Turkey's quest to join the bloc would probably fail unless it reversed its clamp-down on civil rights, press freedoms and the judiciary.

France expressed "serious concern" this month at Turkey's arrest of Kurdish lawmakers. Ayrault also voiced concern over signs that Turkey could bring back the death penalty, something Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said this month was a possibility.

Turkey abandoned the death penalty in 2002 as part of its EU accession process, although there had been no executions since 1984. — Reuters

Queen leads UK in honoring war dead on Remembrance

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II has led Britain in honoring the country's war dead during the annual Remembrance service yesterday. The monarch joined past and present political leaders, the royal family and hundreds of veterans at a solemn ceremony in central London.

Elizabeth laid the first wreath of red poppies at the foot of the Cenotaph war memorial, after those gathered observed a moment's silence to remember all those killed in past and present conflicts.

Remembrance events this year are especially poignant because 2016 marks the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Jutland. The British Army suffered almost 60,000 casualties on the first day of the Somme battle alone. — AP

LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip walk out to take part in the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph yesterday. — AFP

Sarkozy courts 'silent majority' in French presidential race

PARIS: Hours after Donald Trump's US election victory, a close political ally of French presidential hopeful Nicolas Sarkozy hailed the moment as "a beautiful day".

While the result aroused anxiety among much of Europe's political mainstream, French legislator Philippe Meunier drew cheers as he warmed up a crowd of conservative faithful before Sarkozy arrived for a rally near the city of Lyon. "I was woken up this morning to good news from the United States and salute the determination of Americans who were faced with those who lecture us about what to think, and for whom to vote," he said.

BORDEAUX, FRANCE: Former French president and candidate for the right-wing Les Republicains (LR) party primaries ahead of the 2017 presidential election, Nicolas Sarkozy gestures as he speaks during a campaign rally. — AFP

At the time, western leaders were offering to work with Trump but making clear their apprehension over his campaign threats on issues ranging from NATO solidarity to the Iran nuclear deal and climate change. But with France holding its own presidential election next spring, the Sarkozy camp appears to have no such fears.

Sarkozy, who did not support Trump's campaign, said the US election result was a rejection of "conformist thinking". The conservative is pursuing a search for votes that has taken him fishing in the waters of the far-right National Front party.

Meunier told Wednesday's rally that the US result exposed a frustration voters felt toward an establishment that was entrenched across the West, including in France. He set the stage for Sarkozy, who railed against an elite in France that he said had turned a deaf ear to citizens under socialist President Francois Hollande.

Sarkozy, who as president between 2007-2012 was himself part of that elite, said he was listening, less than two weeks before a primary contest for the centre-right presidential ticket. Against the backdrop of a wave of bloody Islamist militant attacks in France and Europe's immigration crisis, the 61-year-old promises to get tough on immigration, defend France's secular values and revive national pride. "There is an anger among the people. They are living in a reality which is no longer recognised by many politicians," Sarkozy said a day later in a television interview. — Reuters

French far-right leader hopes for Trump-like win in 2017 election

LONDON: Donald Trump's US election was a victory of the people against the elite, France's far-right leader Marine Le Pen said yesterday, adding she hoped the French would follow suit next year and make her president.

Opinion polls show National Front leader Le Pen likely to win the first round of voting next April but lose the runoff in May to whoever should be her opponent. Asked during an interview with the BBC's Andrew Marr show if Trump's victory made her own election win more likely, Le Pen said: "He made possible what had previously been presented as impossible so it is really the victory of the people against the elite."

"So if I can draw a parallel with France then yes I wish that in France also the people upend the table, the table around which the elites are dividing up what should go to the French people," she said, according to a translation into English provided by the BBC.

Le Pen said she hoped all EU citizens could get the chance to express their views on the European Union through a referendum like Britain's June 23 vote, adding that "the elites would be in for another surprise" if they did ask the question. She also said there was no reason for Europe to be scared of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We'd better, if we want a powerful Europe, negotiate with Russia, and have cooperation agreements with Russia, commercial agreements with Russia," she said, adding that it was the EU that was destabilizing Europe, not Russia. "The model that is defended by Vladimir Putin which is one of reason, protectionism, looking after the interests of his own country, defending its identity, is one that I like." Le Pen said her party had borrowed from a Russian bank but only because French banks had refused to lend to it. — Reuters

FREJUS, SOUTHERN FRANCE: In this Sept. 18, 2016 file photo, France's far-right National Front president Marine Le Pen waves to supporters during a summer meeting. — AP

Satellite images show Myanmar Rohingya villages torched

YANGON: Hundreds of buildings in Rohingya villages in western Myanmar have been torched, according to new satellite images released on yesterday as fresh fighting flared in the strife-torn region.

Northern Rakhine, which is home to the Muslim Rohingya minority and borders Bangladesh, has been under military lockdown ever since surprise raids on border posts left nine police dead last month. Soldiers have killed several dozen people and arrested scores in their hunt for the attackers, who the government says are radicalized Rohingya militants with links to overseas Islamists.

Fresh fighting flared on Saturday with two soldiers and six attackers killed, according to the military who said they brought in helicopter gunships to repel an ambush. The crisis and reports of grave rights abuses being carried out in tandem with the security crackdown have piled international pressure on Myanmar's new civilian government and raised questions about its ability to control its military.

Authorities have heavily restricted access to the area, making it difficult to independently verify government reports or accusations of army abuse. New satellite images released by Human Rights Watch show what the group said was evidence of mass arson attacks against Rohingya villages. Their analysis showed more than 400 buildings torched in three Rohingya villages where the fighting has been taking place.

Arson

The group said active fires and burn scars showed that most of the destruction was caused by arson. The latest images were taken on 10 November. Brad Adams, the group's Asia director, said the new photos showed "widespread destruction" that was "greater than we first thought".

"Burmese authorities should promptly establish a UN-assisted investigation as a first step toward ensuring justice and security for the victims," he said in a statement.

The resurgence of violence in western Rakhine has deepened and complicated a crisis that already posed a critical challenge to the new administration led by democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi. The state has sizzled with religious tension ever since waves of violence between the majority Buddhist population and the Muslim Rohingya left more than 200 dead in 2012.

More than 100,000 people, mostly Rohingya, were pushed into displacement camps by the bloodshed and have languished there ever since. Rights groups say they face apartheid-like restrictions on movement and have repeatedly called on Suu Kyi to carve out a solution. But Buddhist nationalists at home viciously oppose any move to grant them citizenship, claiming the Rohingya are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh despite their long roots in the country.

The military and government have rejected allegations that troops have burned Rohingya villages, accusing insurgents of lighting the fires. On Saturday evening, Rohingya activists uploaded a graphic video showing the corpses of eight people dressed in civilian clothes, including a small baby.

The video's shooter, speaking in Rohingya, said the victims died that day near Dar Gyi Zar village, with some showing bullet wounds. It was not possible to verify the authenticity of the footage. —AFP

Families ripped apart in Pakistan shrine attack

KHUZDAR DISTRICT, PAKISTAN: Survivors of a massive bomb attack on a shrine in southwest Pakistan that killed dozens spoke of their horror Sunday after families were ripped apart in a strike showing the expanding reach of the Islamic State group.

The blast, later confirmed to be the work of a teenage suicide bomber, hit male and female worshippers as they were dancing and chanting at the shrine of the Sufi saint Shah Noorani on Saturday, some 750 kilometers south of Quetta, the provincial capital of restive Balochistan province.

Mohammad Shehzad, a 25-year-old who had travelled in a group of 120 pilgrims, told AFP: "The pressure of the blast was so strong, people were blown away. Everyone was running, shouting and searching for families. "Children were looking for the mothers and fathers. People looking for brothers and sisters but no one was able to listen to their cries." The attack killed 52 and wounded more than 105 and was the fourth deadliest in Pakistan this year. Stricken survivors swathed themselves in blankets and braved the cold under open skies overnight as they made their way home.

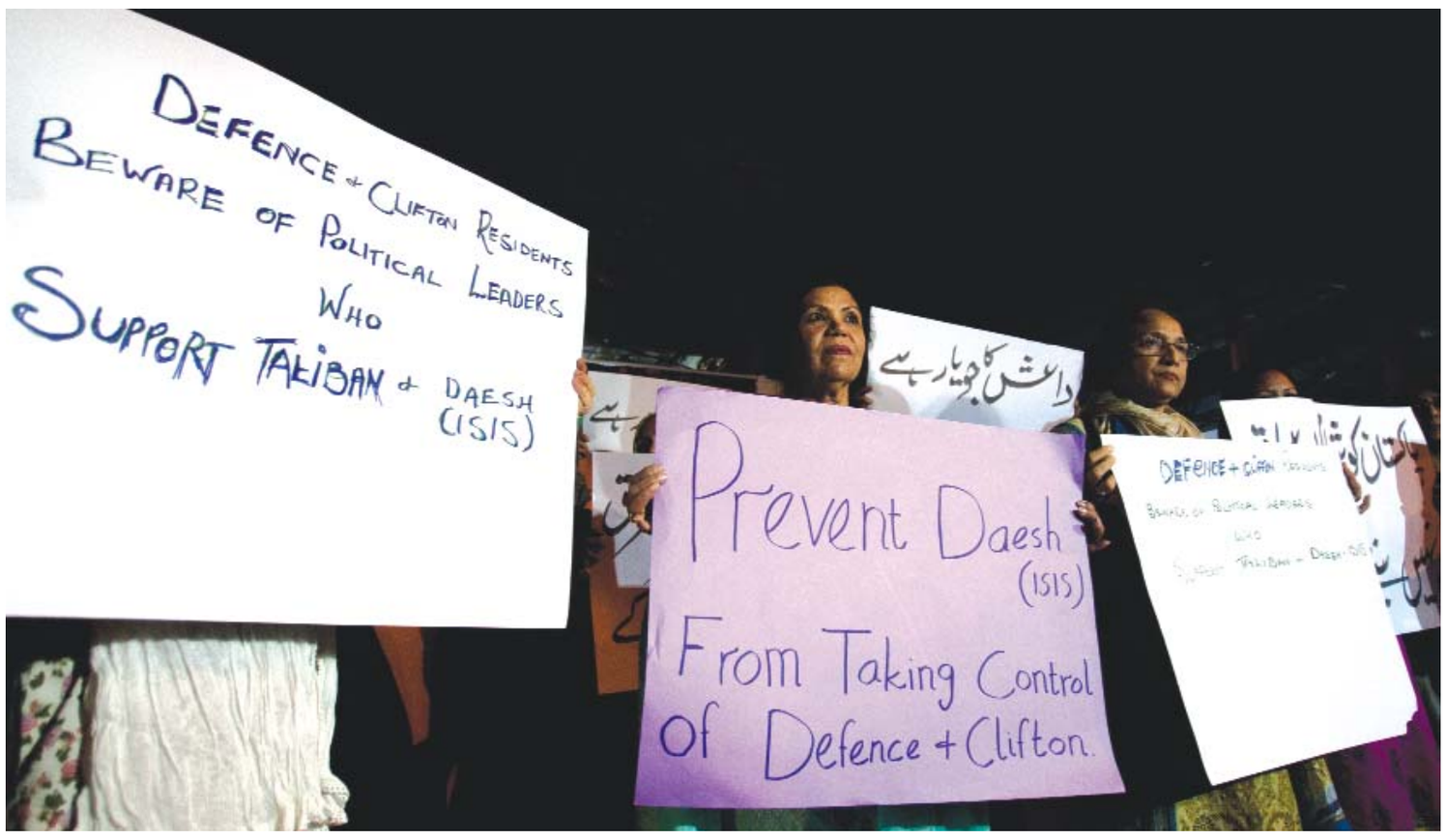
Many had travelled hundreds of kilometers to pay their respects to the saint and seek blessings, in line with their belief in Sufism, a mystic Islamic order that worships through music and is viewed as heretical by hardline militant groups. Unlike at mosques in Pakistan, which often limit access to women, both genders are permitted to take part in many rituals at Sufi shrines, though they are sometimes separated by partition walls. Witnesses said problems were compounded by the fact that it took several hours for rescue services to reach the remote shrine, located on a hilltop in the Khuzdar district of Balochistan several kilometers away from surrounding villages, with poor mobile network coverage. Hafeez Ali, a 28-year-old auto mechanic, said: "We had left the area only five minutes before the attack to go and cook our dinner. From our viewpoint on a hill, we could see three whirling dervishes dancing to a drummer, as hundreds formed a circle around them. Then came the explosion. "We realized that it was a bomb blast. Two of us rushed down and saw the bodies scattered all around-mostly children. We also saw the drum beater dead and his exploded drum was lying nearby."

Islamic State growth

Sarfraz Bugti, the province's home minister, told AFP the blast was carried out by a teenage suicide bomber. "We have found body parts of the bomber which place his age at around 16 to 18," he said. The announcement lent credence to a claim of responsibility by the Islamic State group, which released a photo overnight of the purported attacker-a dark-skinned youth dressed in white tunic with a green backpack-via its affiliated Amaq news agency.

It was the second major assault claimed by the Middle-East based outfit in as many months, following a raid on a police academy in the same province that killed 61 people. Militant sources in the province have told AFP that IS, which had earlier struggled to gain a foothold in Pakistan because of competition from already established groups, has now forged alliances with local affiliates including the anti-Shiite Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group.

Pakistan has been battling a home-grown Islamist insurgency since shortly after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 forced the remnants of the Taleban and Al-Qaeda to flee across the border. Overall levels of violence have dropped in recent years following major military operations in the tribal areas mainly targeting the Pakistani Taleban, but it now appears that new threats are emerging. Amir Rana, an expert on militancy, said: "It seems that IS has found an ally in Pakistan, which is probably the Al-Alami faction Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. "The group is organizing the scattered factions of sectarian outfits and Taleban factions, across the country, but it is much more organized in Balochistan and Sindh." Saturday's attack was also the deadliest on a Sufi shrine in the country's history. The previous worst attack came in April 2011 when 50 people were killed in a double suicide bomb attack outside the shrine of Ahmed Sultan in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Punjab. —AFP



KARACHI, PAKISTAN: In this file photo dated Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, Pakistani activists protest against the Islamic State group. —AP

HUB, PAKISTAN: Pakistani volunteers carry an injured blast victim at a hospital in the Hub district, some 40 kilometers from Karachi, on November 12, 2016. —AFP

Islamic State group flourishes and recruits in Pakistan

Militants initially blamed

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic State group is increasing its presence in Pakistan, recruiting Uzbek militants, attracting disgruntled Taleban fighters and partnering with one of Pakistan's most violent sectarian groups, according to police officers, Taleban officials and analysts.

Its latest atrocity was an attack Saturday on a Sufi shrine in southwestern Pakistan that killed at least 50 people and wounded 100 others. The group said in a statement that a suicide bomber attacked the shrine with the intent of killing Shiite Muslims and issued a picture of the attacker.

When IS circulated a photograph of one of the attackers in last month's deadly assault on a police academy in southwestern Baluchistan province, two Taleban officials told The Associated Press that the attacker was an Uzbek, most likely a member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. More than 60 people, most of them police recruits, were killed in that Oct. 26 attack when three assailants battled security forces for hours before being killed or detonating their suicide vests.

The Taleban officials, both of whom are familiar with the IMU, spoke on condition of anonymity because their leadership has banned them from talking to the media.

Initial reports

Authorities initially said the police academy attack was orchestrated by militants hiding out in Afghanistan and blamed Pakistan's virulently anti-Shiite group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. But IS later claimed responsibility and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi spokesman Ali Bin Sufyan said they partnered with IS to carry out the assault.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the extremist group has adopted the name the Islamic State in Khorasan - a reference to an ancient geographical region that encompassed a vast swath of territory stretching from Turkmenistan through Iran and Afghanistan.

IS in Khorasan has set up its base in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, and while it has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, it remains unclear whether there are direct operational or financial links between the two.

According to police, Afghan officials and IS media outlets, the majority of Islamic State fighters in Afghanistan are Pakistani nationals, mostly from the tribal regions. Disgruntled Taleban fighters from Pakistan and Afghanistan have joined along with foreign fighters, mainly from central Asia. The group's leader until his death in July in a drone strike was Hafiz Saeed Khan, a former Pakistani Taleban commander. IS has never acknowledged Khan's death, which was confirmed by both the Afghan and US militaries.

Counterterrorism officials in Pakistan say that IS has begun reaching out to local militants through its rich social media presence. "They are inspiring the like-minded youth in Pakistan through their strong social media propaganda," said Junaid Sheikh, a senior counterterrorism commander in the southern city of Karachi.

"There is evidence that militants of other organizations like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Al-Qaeda in the Subcontinent and other Sunni extremist organizations switched their ideology toward Daesh and acted like their activists," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The recruitment of Uzbek militants is particularly worrisome and a "significant threat to our national security," he added.

He said Uzbek fighters have carried out numerous major attacks in Pakistan, including a 2011 attack on a naval base and a 2014 attack on the Karachi Airport. Local militant groups provided the intelligence to carry out the attacks, he said. A resident of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province who did not want to be identified for fear of retribution said he spoke with two Iranian Islamic State members late last year. Unlike the Pakistani and Afghan insurgents, the resident, who fled to Pakistan after his home was overrun by IS fighters, said the foreign fighters were friendly and engaged with local residents. One Iranian fighter said he was recruited for his computer skills, the resident said.

Previously, Uzbek insurgents normally allied with the Pakistani and Afghan branches of the Taleban, having sworn allegiance to Taleban founder Mullah Mohammed Omar. However, many Uzbek fighters split from the Taleban and declared allegiance to IS last year after it was revealed that Taleban officials had hidden the fact that Mullah Omar had died two years earlier.

A senior police official in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, where several militant groups are headquartered, said the IS group is firmly entrenched in Pakistan and its roots are growing stronger as it aligns with Pakistan's Sunni Muslim extremist groups like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. The police official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. The official also said that Lashkar-e-Jhangvi had largely relocated from Punjab to Baluchistan province in the face of a major military campaign.

"Pakistani Taleban factions that have sparred with the parent Pakistani Taleban have tended to express public support for ISIS," said Michael Kugelman, senior associate for South Asia at the US-based Wilson Center. "I could certainly envision collusions materializing between disaffected Pakistani Taleban fighters now aligned with ISIS, and Uzbek militants with preexisting ties to the Pakistani Taleban. Either way, at the end of the day, all of these terrorists are cut from the same cloth ideologically and so we should never rule out operational partnerships."—AP

Israeli arrested in Thailand after body found in home

BANGKOK: An Israeli man has been arrested on suspicion of murder in Thailand after the dismembered body of a compatriot-a former policeman who had been missing-was discovered in his home, police said yesterday. Investigators said they acted on a request from the Israeli embassy and a relative to search for the missing man last week.

Police Major General Suthin Suppuang, acting commander of the Crime Suppression Division, said the trail led Saturday to an Israeli man's house in Nonthaburi, a northern satellite city of the capital Bangkok. "One reason we were able to find him was because there was an effort to use a credit card of the missing man," he told AFP. "We searched his house and found the body of a missing Israeli chopped into pieces and placed in three plastic bags," he added.

Suthin said the man had confessed to murder, describing the motive as a "love triangle"-a phrase Thais commonly use to describe a romantic quarrel between three people. The arrested man's son was also present in the flat, Suthin said, adding he was currently being treated as a witness rather than an accomplice.

Police Colonel Krissana Pattanacharoen, Thailand's deputy national police spokesman, identified the victim as 62-year-old Eliyahu Cohen and the arrested man as Simon Beton, 52. He told AFP a relative first reported Beton missing on Wednesday and that Thailand's police chief Chaktip Chaijinda has ordered his officers to "meticulously conduct an investigation into this case".

The grim case has similarities to another murder investigation involving foreigners that was launched in September after a mummified, dismembered body was found in a freezer in a Bangkok flat.

Three foreigners inside the building were arrested. They had fake or out of date American and British passports and officials have so far struggled to identify their nationalities. —AFP

Afghan parliament dismisses more ministers despite pleas

KABUL: Afghanistan's parliament dismissed two more cabinet ministers yesterday, ignoring pleas from the president and chief executive to halt votes that threaten an already fragile Western-backed government.

The power-sharing unity government was brokered by US Secretary of State John Kerry following the disputed 2014 presidential elections, but has since been weakened by infighting between rivals.

Parliament removed the transportation and education ministers on Sunday, citing poor performance and bringing the total number of ministers dismissed to five over two days.

Finance minister Eklil Hakimi was the only minister on Sunday to survive the vote, a relief for international donors and the government. The vote took place despite pleas from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah to halt further action against the cabinet. "President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah told MPs that their decision will deal a huge political blow to the government at this critical time and urged them to stop the process," Mirdad Najrabi, chairman of parliament's security commission, told Reuters.

A statement released by Ghani's office said the government did not want confrontation and respected the decision of the parliament, but asked the House of Representatives to suspend its decision.

Parliament, which has a constitutional right to sack ministers, may hold votes on as many as 11 more ministers. "This is our right and we will use it and will not let the government politicise this process," lawmaker Gul Padsha Majidi said before Sunday's vote.

Parliament on Saturday dismissed three ministers including, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

The deteriorating political situation in Afghanistan could become a major foreign policy challenge for US President-elect Donald Trump, who has said little about Afghanistan on the campaign trail.

Kabul 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. —Reuters

US Embassy in Afghanistan closes after attacks

KABUL: The US Embassy in Afghanistan has closed following deadly insurgent attacks on a German Consulate and an American military base. In a statement late Saturday, the embassy says it will be "closed for routine services" the following day "as a temporary precautionary measure."

The unusual decision comes after four Americans - two soldiers and two contractors - were killed in a suicide attack Saturday on the Bagram Airfield near the capital, Kabul. Two days earlier, insurgents attacked the German Consulate in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing six people and wounding more than 100. The US Embassy in Kabul regularly warns Americans against travel to Afghanistan, where a Taliban-led insurgency is in its 16th year. The insurgency has become more virulent since most international combat troops withdrew in 2014. —AP

China's Communist pilgrims pay homage in Xi Jinping village

LIANGJIAHE, CHINA: Three caves in a remote Chinese village where Xi Jinping was sent during the Cultural Revolution receive a constant stream of Communist pilgrims, come to pay homage four years after he came to power.

Xi, then 15, was ordered to Liangjiahe in 1969 as part of Mao Zedong's "Up to the Mountain and Down to the Countryside Movement", which saw educated city youth deployed to rural areas. The urbane son of a Communist Party grandee, Xi spent seven years hauling grain and sleeping in cave homes on fleabitten brick beds.

But he has said he "left his heart" in Liangjiahe, and credits the experience with his political formation long before he became the most powerful man in the world's second-largest economy. Now the dusty village in Shaanxi province, 1,000 kilometers from Beijing, has been transformed into a living shrine to Xi's years of toil, with vintage Mao posters, thermoses, and kerosene lamps giving the cave homes he occupied an authentic feel.

Between 1,000 and 7,000 tourists visit every day, state media reported, riding in on a highway opened this year, and Xi himself blessed the location with a return journey last year.

In the newly paved main street, Guo Moxi, who worked the fields with Xi, said that since he was appointed as general secretary of the ruling party four years ago on Tuesday, everyone's lives in Liangjiahe had seen "a big change".

Four years Xi's junior, Guo recalls a gentle person of "broad understanding" who was "very compassionate" towards ordinary people. "He was prepared to spend his life in Liangjiahe. He suffered a lot of hardship and wanted to change the face of this place."

In a sleek museum affiliated with an elite Communist party college in nearby Yan'an, young guides in elegant jackets narrated to elderly visitors the "Four Hardships" Xi suffered-flea bites, bad food, hard labour and assimilating into the peasantry. Yang Xianglin, a former teacher whose cave home is decked floor to ceiling with enlarged photos of Xi and his wife, painted a picture of the politician as an almost legendary figure, reading books between breaks in hard labour, with a fierce spirit "so one could see he was no common man".

LIANGJIAHE, CHINA: This picture taken on October 22, 2016 shows people looking at photos of Chinese President Xi Jinping at a cave home where Xi lived as a youth. —AFP

'Fairy tale'

Last month Xi, already widely seen as China's most powerful leader for decades, was named the "core" of the Communist Party leadership, giving him a personal authority his immediate predecessors never achieved.

His descent from privileged childhood to the countryside, and later return to triumph after trials and suffering, contains "fairy tale elements" akin to the Prince and the Pauper, deepening his common appeal, said Warren Sun of Australia's Monash University. "The current promotion of Liangjiahe as a new 'sacred site' is apparently part of an effort to bolster Xi's image as a prince of the people," he told AFP.

Such myth-making marks a striking difference between Xi and his predecessor Hu Jintao, said Victor Shih of the University of California San Diego. "Hu tried to downplay his personal history to avoid any appearance of a personality cult," he told AFP. "We have not seen such effort in the Xi administration."

Communist capitalism

Fields of cabbage still line the road through Liangjiahe, but most residents now spend their days catering to tourists. Some rent out caves or courtyard homes, others drive shuttle buses or have opened shops selling Liangjiahe-branded red-date wine and hot sauce. Average yearly incomes have nearly doubled from 7,900 yuan (now $1,200) in 2012 to more than 15,000 yuan last year, according to the town's museum.

A county development plan calls for new restaurants and cave inns to give up to 300 overnight guests a taste of Xi's life, with hard brick beds and earth stoves to "strictly protect the Liangjiahe brand image". Previously free, the village now charges 20 yuan per ticket to enter. "When he was young, he was incredible," said a retired teacher named Wang, describing his visit to Liangjiahe as "a form of spiritual self-education".

The explosive growth of Communist-related tourism in China over recent years has been fuelled in part by Xi's charisma, and by lingering nostalgia for the simpler era of Mao Zedong. "Red Tourism has a kind of need for leader worship, for hero worship, for worshipping miracles," said He Jianmin, head of tourism management at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. "If we went to France maybe we would want to see Napoleon. Napoleon was an ordinary Frenchman, but he was a leader. People have this kind of fondness for the past, a leader-worship complex." — AFP

Korean shamans enraged by 'female Rasputin' scandal

Furious that their reputation has been tainted

SEOUL: As if South Korea's scandal-hit president Park Geun-Hye didn't have enough to worry about with single-digit approval ratings and massive protests, she now has thousands of very disgruntled shamans on her case.

Practitioners of the centuries-old spiritual tradition are furious that their reputation has been tainted by association with the corruption scandal involving a close friend of the president, Choi Soon-Sil. The daughter of a shadowy religious figure, Choi has been dubbed "Korea's Rasputin" and the president's "shaman adviser," because of the influence she allegedly wielded over Park and reports linking her to shamanist rituals. "We are so angry. She made all of us look like corrupt charlatans," said Lee Won-Bok, head of the national association, Shaman Korea. "Whether Choi Soon-Sil is really a shaman or not, she soiled the reputation of genuine, hard-working shamans in this country. We are not like her," Lee told AFP. Choi is currently under arrest for fraud and abuse of power, having allegedly used her long-time friendship with Park to force donations out of major companies to foundations she set up and used for her personal gain.

She is also accused of meddling in affairs of state, despite holding no official position.

Shamanism is deeply ingrained in Korean culture, and despite living in one of the world's most technologically advanced countries, many Koreans still consult shamans-as intercessors with the spirit world-for medical reasons, divination, or just personal advice.

Pig's head for luck

The rituals can be grisly affairs for the uninitiated, with the shaman plunging a pointed trident into the head of a dead pig, or biting the heads of live chickens while dancing in a trance-like state. But the actual purpose of such ceremonies is benign and often very intimate wishing peace to the soul of a dead relative, or just courting good luck for an upcoming project. According to Lee, South Korea has around 300,000 registered shamans, or one for every 165 people in the country. Joining their number requires a rigorous initiation process overseen by an experienced shaman and Lee said his members were adamant about defending the integrity of their profession. Hundreds have signed a petition urging the media to cease describing Choi as a shaman, and some plan to join mass street protests calling for Choi to be jailed and Park to resign. Choi has never publicly described herself as a shaman, and the media speculation seems largely founded on the idea that she inherited the mantle from her late father.

YANGJU, SOUTH KOREA: In this photo taken on November 8, 2016, shaman Lee Won-Bok prepares for a ritual at a shamanic center. —AFP

Choi Tae-Min was a charismatic pastor who had reportedly worked as a shaman before setting up his own cult-like group in the 1970s, combining tenets of Buddhism, Christianity and shamanism. He became a mentor to Park after the assassination of her mother in 1974, and a US diplomatic cable published by Wikileaks noted widespread rumors that he had "complete control over Park's body and soul." After her father's death in 1994, Choi Soon-Sil remained close to Park and there were reports-firmly denied by the president-of shamanist rituals being performed in the presidential Blue House.

Mockery

The mocking tone of much of the media coverage-with Park being described as a puppet of a "shaman-ruled kingdom"-has bothered people like Yang Jong-Sung, head of the Seoul-based Museum of Shamanism.

Yang said he was reminded of the language used during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula, when shamans had been dismissed as frauds and swindlers. "Shamanism had played an important role in our communities for centuries and then they were labelled as mere superstition to be eradicated," he told AFP.

The practise survived the Japanese, the devastation of the Korean War and has thrived in the modern, high-tech, prosperous nation South Korea has become. "One of the biggest times for us is election season," Lee said. "Many candidates want to know if they have a chance to become a city council, governor, or a parliamentary member. "But our role ends there ... we don't meddle with state affairs or extort money from companies," he said. In recent years, there has been government support, with some well-known shamans and regional shamanistic rituals officially designated "intangible cultural assets." Min Hye-Gyeong, a prominent shaman, describes herself as a "grass-roots servant" for ordinary South Koreans seeking blessings for their harvests or better health for their communities.

'It's infuriating'

"A big part of our job is soothing the pain and sorrow of ordinary people at times of trouble, and helping them find emotional comfort," said Min, 50. "It's infuriating that the political scandal overshadowed all the positive aspects of our role and made us targets of mockery," she said, while preparing to perform a ceremony for a 70-year-old widow in memory of her late husband.

HONG KONG: Pro-Beijing demonstrators shout slogans and wave flags outside the Hong Kong Legislative Council yesterday, during a rally in support of an interpretation of the city's constitution — the Basic Law — by China's National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC), over the oath-taking attempts by newly elected lawmakers Baggio Leung and Yau Wai-ching at the Legislative Council last month. —AFP

Thousands attend pro-Beijing rally in Hong Kong

HONG KONG: Thousands of people attended a pro-Beijing rally in Hong Kong yesterday in support of China's decision to effectively bar two pro-independence legislators from taking office, as fears grow of the city's freedoms being under threat.

Beijing's ruling last week preempted a decision by the Hong Kong courts over whether lawmakers Baggio Leung and Yau Wai-ching should be disqualified from parliament after deliberately misreading their oaths of office, inserting expletives and draping themselves with "Hong Kong is not China" flags.

Beijing's interpretation of the city's constitution issued on last Monday said that any oath taker who does not follow the prescribed wording of the oath, "or takes the oath in a manner which is not sincere or not solemn", should be disqualified.

On Sunday rowdy crowds, waving Chinese flags, surrounded the government's headquarters in a show of support for Beijing's unprecedented decision, slammed by pro-democracy activists and legal experts as a massive blow to Hong Kong's judicial independence.

Supporters chanted slogans such as "fight against Hong Kong independence, support the interpretation" at the rally, which was attended by pro-Beijing legislators. "The cancer cells are those who are promoting Hong Kong independence... we will fight them to the end," lawmaker Michael Tien told the crowd who cheered loudly in response. "China will never, ever tolerate the splitting of the nation," Tien said. Priscilla Leung, another pro-China legislator who attended the rally, said the lawmakers' behavior at the swearing-in ceremony "humiliated all of the Chinese people". Police said that 28,500 people attended the rally. The Hong Kong High Court's decision into whether Leung and Yau should be disqualified is still pending. Hong Kong was handed back to China by Britain in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" deal which protects its freedoms for 50 years, but there are growing concerns those liberties are disappearing.—AFP

US to resettle Australia's refugees languishing on islands

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA: The United States has agreed to resettle an unspecified number of refugees languishing in Pacific island camps in a deal that is expected to inspire more asylum seekers to attempt to reach Australia by boat, officials said on Sunday. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull would not say whether he had discussed the deal with President-elect Donald Trump during their telephone conversation on Thursday. The Obama administration had agreed to resettle refugees among almost 1,300 asylum seekers held at Australia's expense on the island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Another 370 who came to Australia for medical treatment then refused to return to the islands would also be eligible.

"We deal with one administration at a time and there is only one president of the United States at a time," Turnbull told reporters.

Trump has called for a moratorium or tight restrictions on Muslim immigration. Most of the asylum seekers are Muslims from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. US Secretary of State John Kerry confirmed that the United States had "agreed to consider referrals" from the United Nations refugee agency on Australia's refugees. "We are going to work to protect vulnerable refugees around the world, and we'll share that responsibility with our friends in the regions that are most affected by this challenge," Kerry told reporters in New Zealand. Australia refuses to resettle any refugee who has arrived by boat since the date the tough policy was announced on July 19, 2013. Australia pays Nauru and Papua New Guinea to house boat arrivals and has been searching for countries that will resettle them.

Accepting offers

Few refugees have accepted offers to resettle in Papua New Guinea and Cambodia because most hope that Australia will eventually take them in. Any refugee who refuses to go to the US would be given a 20-year visa to stay on Nauru, a tiny impoverished atoll with a population of 10,000 people, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said. The Refugee Council of Australia, an advocacy group, welcomed the deal as a vital first step in ending the indefinite detention of asylum seekers on the islands. London-based rights group Amnesty International accused Australia of taking "an extreme step in shirking responsibility." US Department of Homeland Security officials are expected in Australia this week to begin assessing refugees. Turnbull would not say how many refugees the United States might take, but said the most vulnerable would be given priority. "Our priority is the resettlement of woman, children and families," Turnbull said. "This will be an orderly process. It will take time. It will not be rushed." Refugees who arrive in the future would not be sent to the United States, he said. "We anticipate that people smugglers will seek to use this agreement as a marketing opportunity to tempt vulnerable people onto these perilous sea journeys," Turnbull said. — AP

MANUS ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA: In this Aug. 2, 2013, photo, a group of asylum seekers hold up their identity after landing.—AP

SOEUL: In this Friday, Nov. 4, 2016 file photo, South Korean President Park Geun-hye bows before addressing the nation over a "heartbreaking" scandal at the presidential Blue House.—AP

S Korea prosecutors want to question president over scandal

SEOUL: South Korean prosecutors want to question President Park Geun-hye this week over suspicion that she let a shadowy longtime confidante manipulate power from behind the scenes, an official said yesterday. It would be the first time that a sitting South Korean president has been questioned by prosecutors. The explosive scandal is the most serious challenge for Park, whose public apologies have done little to calm public anger.

Prosecutors are seeking to question Park face-to-face on either tomorrow day or Wednesday at the latest, a prosecution official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was underway, said prosecutors conveyed their position to Park's office and were awaiting a response. The president's office said earlier yesterday that it can work out its position on a Park investigation as early as tomorrow. It said it needs time to review when and how Park should be investigated.

In addition to allegedly manipulating power, the president's confidante, Choi Soon-sil, the daughter of a late cult leader who emerged as Park's mentor in the 1970s, is also suspected of exploiting her presidential ties to bully companies into donating tens of millions of dollars to foundations she controlled. Choi was formally arrested on Nov. 3 on charges of fraud and abuse of power. Prosecutors have until Nov. 20 to formally charge her. On Saturday, hundreds of thousands of people flooded Seoul's streets to demand Park's resignation in what may be South Korea's largest protest since it shook off dictatorship three decades ago. — AP

Court bars royal candidate, reinstates...

Continued from Page 1

The cassation court is due to issue its verdict on the case of former MP Abdulhameed Dashti today.

Also, the public prosecution freed on a KD 2,000 bail a candidate from the fourth constituency, his relative, who is a lawyer, and an assistant. The men were arrested along with two female voters on the charge of vote-buying. The two women were released a few days ago.

Meanwhile, former opposition Islamist MP Adel Al-Damkhi called for national unity yesterday to face the external danger from Iran, which is also threatening holy sites in Saudi Arabia. He said that in the past "we used to only hear about the Iranian danger, but now it has become a reality and the threat is very explicit". He also warned that if Saudi Arabia is occupied, Kuwait will be next.

But former MP Saleh Ashour strongly lashed out at opposition groups, saying they signaled their return to the election battle by sectarian speeches that aim at dividing the society. Ashour also criticized the government for offering hundreds of millions of dinars in foreign aid and grants while Kuwaitis are facing an unemployment crisis. Former MP Mohammad Tana also said that Kuwait's foreign aid must be subjected to the monitoring of the National Assembly, adding that it is far better to spend it on needy people inside Kuwait.

Speaker of the outgoing National Assembly Marzouk Al-Ghanem yesterday said his account on Instagram has been hacked and that he is not responsible for any posts on the account. He said he will take legal measures against the hackers.

New Saudi rules, fees for helpers, vehicles...

Continued from Page 1

per article 50 of the domestic labor act no. 68/2015 and clause no. 7 of article 17 of the ministerial decision number 2194/2016, that went into effect yesterday.

Accordingly, no visas would be issued for these offices. He also noted that the department has received applications to establish 41 new offices and four companies.

Ajmi explained that article 50 of law 68/2015 states that licensed domestic help recruitment offices operating at the time the law was passed had to adjust and legalize their statuses within a maximum of three months of the issuance of the law's executive charter. Ajmi added that article 17 of ministerial decision no. 2194/2016 states that the license will be cancelled if the owner loses any of the license conditions, violates article 4 of the law, it is proved that the license was issued using fake documents, the license expires or is terminated, the owner relinquishes the license, the office is used as labor dormitory or for not adjusting the office's legal status according to law number 68/2015.

Iraqi Kurds destroy Arab villages: HRW

Continued from Page 1

The areas are nominally under the jurisdiction of Baghdad but are controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The Kurdish region has taken in more than 1 million people from elsewhere in Iraq, who have been displaced by the conflict, most of them Sunni Arabs.

The KRG has denied any systematic policy of destruction of Arab homes, but said peshmerga had carried out demolitions for security reasons such as clearing booby-trapped homes. The HRW report is based on more than a dozen field visits and interviews with over 120 witnesses and officials. Analysis of satellite images suggests property destruction targeted Arab residents long after any military necessity for such actions had ended.

"In village after village in Kirkuk and Nineveh, KRG security forces destroyed Arab homes - but not those belonging to Kurds - for no legitimate military purpose," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director at HRW. The satellite imagery provides evidence of destruction in 62 other villages following their capture by Kurdish security forces, but HRW said a lack of witness accounts made it difficult to determine cause and responsibility in those instances.

He said militiamen allied to the peshmerga had demolished some homes in apparent revenge, but denied peshmerga participation in those cases. HRW called on the United States and other members of an international coalition backing Iraqi forces in the fight against Islamic State to pressure the Kurdish authorities to end the demolitions.

Meanwhile, Iraqi forces yesterday said they had recaptured the site of an ancient Assyrian city blown up by the Islamic State group, as they battled the militants south of Mosul. The troops pushed towards Nimrud last week as they pressed an offensive begun on Oct 17 to recapture Iraq's second city, which the jihadists seized along with swathes of Iraq and Syria in mid-2014. — Agencies

US Muslims reeling and scared

Continued from Page 1

American Muslims are reeling following the election of Trump, whose campaign was rife with anti-Muslim rhetoric and proposals that included banning Muslims from entering the country and heightened surveillance of mosques across the nation. Now, among many of the 3.3 million Muslims living in the US, there is significant fear, along with some reports of harassment; one hijab-wearing student at San Diego State University said she was briefly choked by suspects who made remarks about Trump's victory.

"There are lots and lots of people who aren't going out of the house," said Eboo Patel, a Muslim who heads the Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based organization that works with colleges and government officials to build interreligious relationships. At New York University late last week, hundreds of people sat shoulder-to-shoulder on a grand staircase of a student center to express solidarity after the word "Trump!" was scrawled on the door of a Muslim prayer space at the school. Students spoke of friends who wore headscarves or other traditional clothing and were afraid to take public transportation home for fear of being harassed.

Sana Mayat, a 21-year-old senior who wears the hijab, said the election made her realize "there was a large part of this country that didn't want me here". "There is an intense state of anxiety about the future," said Rami Nashashibi, a parent of three and executive director of Chicago's Inner-City Muslim Action Network, which has been inundated with calls seeking support since Election Day. "I grappled with the conversation I had to have with my children."

The outcome was especially bitter following an unprecedented voter registration drive by American Muslims, including get-out-the-vote sermons at mosques and the creation of a political action committee, Emerge USA, to mobilize Arabs and Muslims. Enas Almadhwahi, a 28-year-old Yemeni immigrant who has been in the US since 2008, became a citizen this year and voted for the first time. To mark the occasion, she brought her 7-year-old daughter, along with some co-workers.

"At that moment, I was so happy," said Almadhwahi, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, and works at an Arab-American community organization. The next day, when she told her daughter Trump had won, the girl cried. A friend had told the little girl that if Trump won, it would mean they couldn't talk anymore. "Everything feels like it's upside down," Almadhwahi said. "I still like to hope Trump will change his words about Muslims."

Trump's policy plans remain a mystery, but his administration could radically reshape the Justice Department, which has been an ally under President Barack Obama in protecting Muslim civil rights. Trump could also repeal a key Obama program that prevents the deportation of some immigrants, including Muslims, living in the country illegally.

Muslims had far from a perfect relationship with the Obama administration. For years, the president kept the community largely at arms-length, sending surrogates to meet with them amid a stubborn misapprehension, fueled in part by his critics, that Obama, a Christian, was secretly Muslim. Many US Muslim leaders were uncomfortable with his foreign policy in Iraq and elsewhere, and objected to his program to fight extremism at home, saying the focus on Muslims ignored other threats from rightwing, anti-government extremists.

Still, Muslim leaders had built solid ties with many government officials. Now, they face not only the loss of those connections, but potentially a closed door to their concerns. "The friends we have are going to be fewer," said Farhana Khera, president of the California-based civil rights group Muslim Advocates, which has represented clients suing over the New York Police Department's surveillance of American Muslims. "I think we'll be very much in a defensive posture."

Since the election, mosques and Muslim groups have organized community meetings and conference calls focused on how to move forward. The Indiana-based Islamic Society of North America, the largest communal Muslim group in the US, issued a statement inviting Trump to engage with the community, saying "many American Muslims are traumatized by the result of the election and the fear of what is to come." The group said there was no immediate response from Trump's office.

Sheik Omar Suleiman, resident scholar at the Valley Ranch Islamic Center in Irving, Texas, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, an anti-defamation group, distributed suggested sermons for Friday prayers at mosques, stressing Quranic verses about remaining strong in the face of hardships. "Have hope in the people because Allah may turn their hearts toward you," was among the verses they cited.

Faisal R Khan, founder of a youth advocacy and peace organization near Chapel Hill, North Carolina, attended four Trump campaign rallies over the last year, in part to protest but also to speak with the Republican's supporters. Khan lived years ago in the Midwest, where he knew people who had grown resentful over losing Rust Belt jobs, and said he understands what drew so many working-class whites to the president-elect. Khan has created a Facebook page called "Talk To Me America," hoping to start a conversation that can combat anti-Muslim bias. "Peaceful protest is good, but at a certain point, we have to sit down and talk," he said. "At the end of the day, we're all human beings. We're all Americans." — AP

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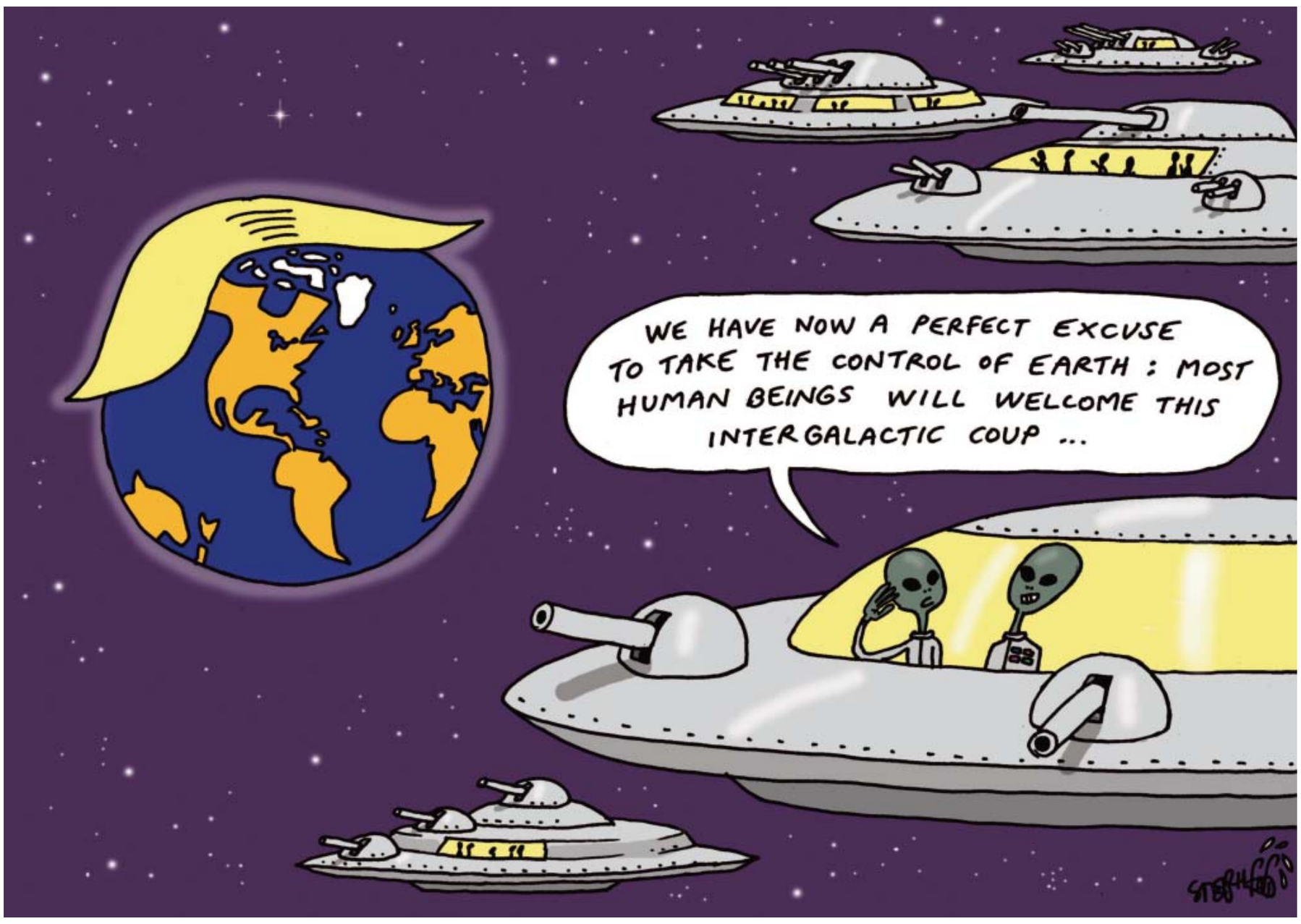

Focus

The effects of oil spills on society

By Kholoud Al-Ghunaim

Modern advancements in technology and demand for fuel have increased the need for oil across the world. From using dedicated pipelines to large tankers, there are numerous delivery methods that logistics companies use to deliver oil all over the globe. When any amount of oil is released into the water or land, the disastrous event is known as an oil spill. This can happen when a huge oil tanker sinks into the sea or when oil trucks have accidents and spill the oil on land. The purpose of this article is to analyze the environmental, economic and social effects of oil spills.

Oil spills have a very negative effect on the environment. Spilled oil is a big threat to freshwater and saltwater marine environments. Oil spills cause physical damages that directly impact wildlife and their habitats. At a microscopic level, toxins released from the oil diminish the number of plankton in an area. Because of the extra layer of oil on the surface of the water, birds are forced to dive through the oil to catch fish. As a result of this, oil residue builds on their feathers and when the birds try to clean themselves, they ingest toxins. Moreover, birds get covered with oil die from drowning, loss of body heat and starvation.

Parts of the oil layer sometimes also sink towards the bottom of the body of water. This damages sea life that lives underneath. In fish, turtles and shellfish, oil spills can cause blindness, damage to organs and behavioral changes. With the waves of the sea, oil can also reach beaches, shoreline, marshes and wetlands which negatively affect plant life and wildlife in these areas. As such, it is evident that the oil spills from any source have devastating environmental consequences.

Impact

From an economic perspective, oil spills are very costly to clean up. A major financial disaster like a spill would ruin various minor corporations, and this amount certainly sets its investors back for many years. Local government, individuals and businesses that rely on the waterways are also financially impacted by oil spills. Oil spills are not only costly to clean, but they also take a lot of time and resources. The spill also requires the efforts of thousands of workers, hundreds of boats and planes, and significant amounts of man hours.

Unreachable water channels are a related problem due to the amount of water covered by oil and the length of time it takes to clean spills. When boats and aircrews are cleaning, individual and commercial boats cannot navigate the waterways. In several cases, they still have a way through ocean channels or passes, but the spill may take the boaters thousands of miles off path. These detours can delay shipments of cargo, which affects the economy in a negative way.

On a social level, oil spills can harm recreational areas as well as residential areas. Parks and recreational areas that are covered with oil are not appealing to tourists and contribute to the decline of tourism in areas with oil spills. Nearby residents of areas that have been affected by oil spills may choose to move to other towns or other areas of the country because of concerns related to safety and quality of life. Falling property values, job loss and a decline in tourism due to an oil spill will also force locals to seek residence in other areas.

Destruction

Oil spills can lead to the destruction of cultural areas and plants found in sacred areas, shrines and forests that are symbols of spirituality. Spills can also cause conflicts between communities, individuals and oil companies. The act of oil companies paying individuals and communities for their losses is always controversial because companies want to pay out as little as possible. Destruction, forced displacement and migration forces individuals to live in poverty. Due to oil spills, entire communities must survive with scarcity of food and temporary shelters. Such rough social situations can also result in militancy and terrorism in extreme situations.

Thus, it is clear that oil spills have negative environmental, economic and social consequences. Companies must realize that factors such as such as fatigue, inadequate crewing requirements, inadequate company training, operating procedures and policies result in oil spills. In order to reduce the likeliness of oil spills, companies must work to eliminate these factors. Companies must emphasize these human factors as the key to oil spill prevention.

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Rip Iran deal? Easier said than done

As a candidate, Donald Trump promised to tear up the Iran nuclear deal, the signature diplomatic breakthrough of Barack Obama's second term. As president-elect, Trump has been more circumspect, and the United States would face serious international fallout if he made good on his threat. Signed in Vienna in July 2015 and in force since January, the agreement was made possible by 18 months of back-channel talks between Washington and arch-foe Tehran in 2012 and 2013.

But it was also, after the negotiations became public, a two-year joint effort for the so-called P5+1 — Britain, France, Germany, Russia, the United States and the European Union. And, once these powers and Iran signed it, the United Nations Security Council endorsed it as international law. It was not uncontroversial. US allies Saudi Arabia and Israel in particular feared it would only delay Iran's alleged quest for a bomb while emboldening it in other domains. But neither these naysayers nor the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, has caught Tehran's Islamist regime undermining it, and it has become a key plank of world counterproliferation efforts. In Washington, however, the deal is still a political football and Obama's Republican opponents - now led by President-elect Trump - have been scathing.

'Worst Deal Ever'

Trump has called the agreement under which the Iran deal was implemented, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA, the "worst deal ever negotiated". And he has vowed to review provisions to return to Tehran tens of billions of dollars in funds frozen in Western banks in return for restrictions on its nuclear program. The JCPOA is not a treaty ratified by Congress as US law and - as American officials confirmed this week after Trump's election - there is no legal reason he could not abrogate it.

But it would offend the other allies with whom the deal was concluded and who trusted the United States to uphold it, and it would almost certainly trigger a Middle East arms race. One of Trump's foreign policy advisers, Walid Phares, told the BBC that "ripping up is maybe a too strong of word" but that the deal would be renegotiated by the incoming administration. Whether this would amount to anything concrete remains to be seen. Supporters of the accord - those who hoped it would lead to a broader "rebalancing" of US ties in the region in Tehran's favor and Riyadh's cost - are adamant.

"The United States cannot unilaterally void or amend the agreement without violating international law," argued Trita Parsi, president of the National Iranian American Council. "Any effort to directly kill the deal - or even renegotiate it - will isolate the United States, and not Iran," he wrote in an op-ed for the Foreign Policy website. Even less partisan voices agree.

George Perkovich of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said Washington's closest allies would see a unilateral bid by Washington to renegotiate as a "rogue action". "They would consider the United States to be in violation of the deal and would not feel bound to reimpose or tighten sanctions on Iran, as the United States might wish," he wrote.

Where Blame would Fall

"Meanwhile, Iran could exploit such a US move and threaten to, or actually stop, observing nuclear restraints," he added. "The rest of the world would blame the resultant global crisis directly on the new US president. This would not be a good bargaining position for the United States." The European Union's head of international affairs, Federica Mogherini, has already sought to remind Trump that the Iran deal is a "multilateral accord," not a US bargaining chip. But the US electorate has chosen a leader with no foreign policy experience. What he decides to do will only become clear after his inauguration, in January. —AFP

Does Trump's victory spell end of West?

Donald Trump's election has thrown key US alliances into doubt, but could it yet destroy the liberal world order and the West as we know it? If you thought President Barack Obama's White House sit-down with Donald Trump was awkward, wait for Obama's menu of meetings with foreign leaders next week. During a three-nation foreign trip, Obama will meet the leaders of Britain, China, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Peru among others. Most of them will have similar questions: "How on Earth did this happen? What do we do now?"

Obama has spent a year telling interlocutors that the Republican billionaire would never be elected and that he was a threat to American democracy and the global system. Now Obama will try to reassure allies that Trump's America will not bring the global order crashing to the ground.

Just Another Republican?

Trump has vowed to rip up trade deals, questioned support for allies whose security depends on American military largess and warmly embraced Russia's Vladimir Putin. Seen from the Obama White House or European capitals, the best case scenario is that Trump's is just another Republican White House. Insiders point to Trump's disinterest in policy as evidence that he plans to be a titular or ceremonial president. Vice President Mike Pence, they argue, will be the real president or at least behave like a prime minister.

He and the constellation of Washington-based advisors already gathered around Trump - possible secretary of state Newt Gingrich, possible secretary of defense Jeff Sessions - will crank out orthodox Republican policies. But for European capitals that kind of Trump administration would still mean a return to the deep differences seen during Bush administration. Trump would be political kryptonite in Europe, avoided like the plague by leaders like Francois Hollande or Angela Merkel who are seeking reelection. But at least the sky wouldn't fall. Yet some see that outlook as hopelessly optimistic.

The Imperial Presidency

Once he gets his feet under the Resolute Desk, is Trump - an alpha male chief executive all his life - really likely to shrink into the background? And if not, the world's preeminent economic and military power would be run by a capricious leader with questionable respect for the rule of law. In his first week as president-elect, Trump changed course on his opposition to Obamacare and decried "professional protesters, incited by the media" in a Tweet before reversing himself.

Those asking what Trump thinks about North Korea or Syria might get a different answer depending on what day he is tweeting. Insiders say he knows little to nothing of world affairs, even on fundamental issues such as the Iran nuclear deal that he vowed to scrap during the campaign. Japan, South Korea and other Asian allies America has vowed to defend have long doubted whether a US president would actually risk a nuclear war with China or North Korea to fulfil that vow.

Under a president Trump it would be close to strategic negligence to assume America's security umbrella was ironclad. Shinzo Abe's Japan has already been moving gingerly toward military self-sufficiency. If that trend speeds up considerably, or Tokyo develops a nuclear weapon - as Trump has suggested it should - the impact vis-a-vis China would be profound.

Passing the Torch

In Europe there is a similar sense we may be seeing the end of Pax Americana. Merkel - arguably the world's second most powerful democratic leader - responded to Trump's election by making it clear she believes this is not business as usual. "Germany and America are connected by values of democracy, freedom and respect for the law and the dignity of man, independent of origin, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political views," she said, reminding Trump of common values that normally go without saying. She also made clear the relationship is conditional: "I offer the next President of the United States close cooperation on the basis of these values."

Obama likes to describe American democracy as a relay race. If he handed the baton to Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday, then his meeting with Merkel in Berlin may be the passing of the liberal democratic torch. But for the first time since the Cold War or World War II, there are serious doubts the flame will endure. Merkel may now be the de facto "leader of the free world", but Europe remains deeply divided.

Germany has economic and political power, but military and diplomatic power rests in London in Paris. Last March commentator Anne Applebaum warned "we are two or three bad elections away from the end of NATO, the end of the European Union and maybe the end of the liberal world order as we know it". That was before Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Trump's election. In the next year Merkel and Hollande face their own far-right challengers. So far on Applebaum's scorecard it's two down, two to go. —AFP

The start point for Quad bikers.—Photos by Joseph Shagra

Bushaiba, Al Baz team win Red Bull Bar Bahr's title

KUWAIT: A huge crowd gathered around the Marina Crescent cheering on the 16 Quad Bike and Jet Ski riders who competed during the second season of Red Bull Bar Bahr on Friday afternoon. Deservedly, Meshari Bushaiba and Mohammed Al Baz won the first place, scoring the fastest record and wrapping up the long-awaited Quad Bike and Jet Ski relay race.

Stunning shots taken from land, sea and sky captured the breathtaking moments in the event that was organized professionally in line with high safety measures. After two hours of roaring motors on sand and sea, the event was concluded with crowning the top three winning teams on the podium, awarding the winning team two trophies in addition to a Kawasaki 300 LX Jet Ski.

The event has yielded a large success under the organization of Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motorsport Club and the sponsorship of Nissan Al-Babtain, Public Authority for Youth and Sports, Kawasaki, Pirelli, GoPro, Acqua Eva, Marina Mall, Al Anbaa Newspaper, Kuwait Times Newspaper, and Studentalk Magazine.

PRIZES AND MEDALS

Bader Al Qanna'i and Mohammad Al-Ali took the second place while Bader Al Khalfan and Fahad Al Mousallam won the third. As for prizes, gold, silver and bronze medals awarded to the first 3 winning teams; the first team were handed trophies by Ahmad Al Qallaf, Treasurer of Basel Salem Al-Sabah Club, the second team were awarded by Mohammad Burbayea, world Jet Ski champion and Red Bull athlete who won the championship's first season in 2014. Mohammad Jaffar, Red Bull athlete and motocross champion, was honored to award the third team with medals.

First Round

As the scheduled time for the start of the race inched closer, crowds of spectators spread across Marina Beach to witness - with extreme eagerness - the flow of the race in which the 16 teams participated.

Quad bikers and Jet Ski riders kicked off the first round, each Quad biker was required to finish four laps then hand the key to his teammate so he would finish, in turn, four laps on his Jet Ski and come back fast. The winners were shortlisted based on the time they spent in finishing the laps.

Quad Bike laps in this round were both thrilling and difficult. The greatest challenge lied in the second to last curve that constituted an obstacle to all participants; it was almost certainly the hardest part of the race given the difficulty of crossing it with high speed.

SECOND ROUND

Some competitors failed to qualify to the second and so, the racers built momentum and geared up for the second round to the sound of the rousing music and applause. The competition kicked off and the whistle signaled the start of the race. Having acquired the know-how during the first round, the participating teams raced more wildly this time knowing how the land bumps and water curves should be crossed best. As the time set for this round was over, 6 teams out of 12 qualified and made it worthily to the final decisive round in which the fastest team, on both land and water tracks, shall be granted the "Red Bull Bar Bahr" title.

THE FINAL ROUND

During this round, the 6 remaining teams were vying for the last battle on the shores of Marina Beach at the end of a beautiful sunny day. In a tough competition between the 6 teams, the supervising committee, the cameras monitoring the race and the crowd estimating the potential winner, the battle raged between Boushaiba- Al Baz team versus Al Qanna'i - Al Ali team. The Quad Bike race kicked off with a high drive to score the fastest timing. Boushaiba and his teammate won the first place, leaving the third place medal for Al Khalfan and Al Mousallam.

When asked about his victory in Red Bull Bar Bahr, Meshari Boushaiba said: "I am happy to have won this title. I managed to meet the required timings in the middle of an exciting competition against Fahad Al Mousallam and Mohammad Al-Ali. I succeeded, along with my teammate Mohammad Albaz, in clinching the title and thus taking the first place after a tough competition in the third and fourth curves in land and water tracks alike".

"I would like to thank Red Bull for this unique race as its distinctive concept combines Jet Ski and Quad Bike disciplines together. This highlights the role played by Red Bull, Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motorsport Club and all the sponsors who organized the event. Also, for spreading the motocross sport culture in Kuwait amongst the youth, and urging them to stay away from unsafe races and thus participate in this thrilling and professionally organized race," Bushaiba added. In turn, Mohammad Al Baz who won the first place for the Jet Ski discipline extended his thanks to everyone who contributed in organizing and executing the event.

"We had to focus in the fourth round and we advanced with a wide margin of time, which allowed us to win the first place in a raging competition amongst the participating racers who are highly competent and had previously acquired titles at their clubs, they also have won the championships they have participated in thus far," Al Baz added.

Turning to champion Mohammad Burbayea, member of the supervising committee, he said: "We would like to congratulate both winners of the first place for demonstrating good leadership skills which turned the race's final moments to their favor."

Mohammad Jaffar, Red Bull athlete and member of the supervising committee also praised the competitors' good discipline, saying that he was astonished by the level of thrill and challenge throughout the race's three stages, until the moment when the name of the winning team of Red Bull Bar Bahr's second season was announced.

ELECTRIFYING SHOWS

As part of "Red Bull Bar Bahr" event, professional Red Bull athlete Brian Capper on his Trial Bike and Abdul Aziz Matar on his Jet Ski performed two electrifying shows, adding more flashes of excitement to the spectators and to the event as a whole.

THE RACE VILLAGE

Beside the relay race, visitors and onlookers following up on the race were attracted by tents in the racing village mostly displayed by sponsors like Kawasaki, GoPro, Acqua Eva, Chilli Beans, Artspace and Nissan Al-Babtain. The latter organized a test drive competition offering a chance to enter the draws for cash prizes.

The top three winners in Red Bull Bar Bahr.

Quad Bike race.

Water track.

Kenyan Lobuwan wins Athens classic marathon

ATHENS: Kenya's Luka Rotich Lobuwan won the 34th Athens classic marathon yesterday in two hours, 12 minutes and 49 seconds for the grueling 42-kilometre (26 mile) course. The 28-year-old Lobuwan was followed across the line by eight of his countrymen with second place going to Benson Kipruto, who clocked 2:13.24 and Bernard Kitur in third at 2:13.32.

The woman's race was won by 30-year-old Kenyan Nancy Jebichi Arusei in a time of 2:38.13 and was 18th overall. Some 50,000 runners took part in sunny weather and cool temperatures in the classic marathon which began near the tumulus erected for the Greek dead of the battle of Marathon, and the shorter five and 10-km races in downtown Athens.

The finish line for each was the all-marble Panathenaic Stadium, site of the first modern Olympics in 1896. According to legend, the 42-kilometre distance from Marathon to Athens was first run by Pheidippides, an Athenian messenger who in 490 BC dashed to the democratic city-states of Athens and Platea to announce victory of the citizen soldiers of Athens over soldiers of the Persian Empire, before dying of exhaustion. Meanwhile, Jamaican sprint superstar Usain Bolt, who has often said he dreams of becoming a professional footballer, will spend a few days training with Borussia Dortmund, the German club confirmed yesterday.

Britain's The Guardian had quoted the nine-time Olympic champion as saying he had been in touch with the club's coach to join training for a couple of days and to then "see what happens".

"It's not a joke, it's not a marketing stunt," the club's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke told Germany's Kicker online yesterday. "It has been decided for some time," he said, adding that the idea had been mentioned by sportswear maker Puma, a corporate partner of both the team and Bolt.

"Puma boss Bjoern Gulden, who is also a member of our supervisory board, told me weeks ago that Usain had asked if he could train with us," Watzke said.

"I said sure, no problem at all ... We're happy, it's an honour for us." No date had been set yet for when Bolt would join the training, Watzke said. He dismissed the idea of Bolt actually joining the team as a professional footballer, telling Kicker that "this is something we don't need to talk about". Bolt has often stated his dream of playing football, preferably for Manchester United, and he told The Guardian again that joining the Premier League powerhouse indeed "would be epic". —AFP

Danny Garcia stops Samuel Vargas in seventh round

PHILADELPHIA: Danny Garcia passed the test. The WBC welterweight champion vowed not to overlook Samuel Vargas with a major matchup against WBA champion Keith Thurman looming in March, and he didn't in front of his hometown crowd.

In a non-title fight scheduled for 10 rounds, Garcia, stopped Vargas in the seventh round Saturday night at Temple University's Liacouras Center. Afterward, Garcia climbed through the ropes and stood at the edge of the ring, yelling and pointing at Thurman, who was below him ringside at the television broadcast table. The two then stood toe-to-toe in the ring.

"I just had to tell Keith he's next," Garcia said. "I'm gonna whoop him. There's not much more to say. He got what he asked for and now he's going to face a real big dog." After dominating nearly every round, Garcia (33-0, 19 KOs), who was barely hit throughout the night, pinned Vargas (25-3-1) against the ropes late in the seventh round and landed a few power shots, which led referee Gary Rosato to stop the fight. Garcia, wearing tiger-striped trunks, dropped Vargas to the canvas in the second round with a big right hook after ducking under a punch attempt. Vargas barely made it to his feet before Rosato counted to 10 just before the bell sounded to end the round.

"It was just a well-timed shot," Garcia said. Garcia landed power punches in every round. A powerful combination nearly ended the fight late in the fourth round, but Vargas was again saved by the bell.

"I felt a little rusty," said Garcia, who last fought in January when he defeated Robert Guerrero to win the WBC title. "But I started putting my punches together and came out victorious.

Next up is the biggest fight of his career. Garcia and Thurman (27-0, 22 KOs) will unify their belts March 4, 2017, at a location still to be determined. "They said that he wanted a tune-up," Thurman said. "Now he's ready to come see me." —AP

Medvedeva, Fernandez clinch GP final berths

PARIS: World champions Evgenia Medvedeva and Javier Fernandez overcame tumbles to claim their second golds of the season in Paris on Saturday to advance to next month's elite ISU Grand Prix figure skating final.

Spaniard Fernandez followed his Cup of Russia success last weekend in the Grand Prix de France, the fourth in the six-leg Grand Prix series, in Paris-Bercy.

The double world men's champion will now bid for a first GP final title in the French city of Marseille after taking silver in Barcelona in 2014 and 2015.

The 25-year-old survived a fall on a triple axel as he got carried away in his crowd-pleasing Elvis Presley medley which included three quadruple jumps.

"Sometimes I'm having so much fun I'm not really careful about what I'm doing," said the Toronto-based skater. He scored 188.81 points for his free skate-over 12 points lower than in Moscow-and 285.38 overall.

But it was enough to take gold by a 16.12 margin on Kazakh Denis Ten, with American Adam Rippon moving up from fourth to take bronze. "It was tough, it's the first time I've done back-to-back competitions," said Fernandez.

"It's hard to be 100 percent, but I'm glad to reach the Grand Prix final. It's the only gold medal I'm missing, along with the Olympics of course." Ten, the Olympic bronze medallist, took his second Grand Prix medal in Paris as he returns from an injury-plagued 2015.

"I feel like I'm on track. I was injured and distracted last year. I can feel the competitive spirit again," said the former two-time world medallist.

A huge weight was lifted off Rippon's shoulders as he finally landed a quad in competition the day after turning 27.

"Nobody can say I can't land a quad now," said Rippon, who is also in with a chance of reaching the Grand Prix final after taking third in Skate America.

PIGEON PROBLEMS

World and European champion Medvedeva continued her streak of winning performances by earning the women's title despite a tumble and will defend her Grand Prix final title from December 8-10.

After a personal-best short programme score, the 16-year-old Russian finished first in the free skate with 143.02 for a total 221.54 — better than her overall score in taking gold in Skate Canada.

"That wasn't what I was supposed to show today," said Medvedeva.

She nevertheless finished over 21 points ahead of her closed rival Maria Sotskova, also 16, of Russia, who took her first Grand Prix medal as did 15-year-old Japanese skater Wakaba Higuchi who won bronze.

Japan's three-time world champion Mao Asada slumped to ninth as former world silver medallist Alena Leonova fell five times to finish last as she became distracted by a low-flying pigeon in the rink.

Earlier French ice dancers Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron got their season off to a golden start with a second Paris title.

The two-time world and European champions reclaimed the title they won in 2014 but could not defend last year after Papadakis suffered concussion in a training accident. The Montreal-based skaters lead all the way winning by a comfortable 18.92 margin on Americans Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue.

The performance earned Papadakis and Cizeron-who celebrated his 22nd birthday on Saturday — 115.24 and the top this season with 193.50.

The contemporary music was a move away from the more classical style of ice dancing with a tempo varying from slow to chaotic.

"We wanted to show the chaos of life, to tell the story of a couple battling with doubts, getting submerged by things that are not really important," explained Papadakis, who next compete in the NHK Trophy in Sapporo, Japan.

Hubbell and Donohue are already set for GP final after a second silver after Skate America, along with pairs skaters Aliona Savchenko and Bruno Massot of Germany, who took a second gold after Moscow.

The fifth leg in the Grand Prix series will be the Cup of China in Beijing from November 18-20. — AFP

PARIS: Russia's Evgenia Medvedeva (C) poses on the podium with second place Russia's Maria Sotskova (L) and third place Japan's Wakaba Higuchi after she won the Ladies event at the Trophee Eric Bompard ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Paris on Saturday. — AFP

NRE YORK: Conor McGregor leaves the octagon with his title belts after knocking out Eddie Alvarez during a lightweight mixed martial arts bout at UFC 205, early yesterday, at Madison Square Garden in New York. — AP

McGregor KOs Alvarez for second UFC title

NEW YORK: Conor McGregor raised his arms in triumph before he stepped inside the cage, the cocky Irishman playing to a crowd going wild for UFC's greatest champion.

McGregor ran a circle around the mat, a victory lap of sorts before he even threw a punch. McGregor packed fans to the Madison Square Garden rafters and drove them into a frenzy as he packed a vicious punch against Eddie Alvarez. McGregor used a brash and brilliant performance to knock out the overwhelmed Alvarez in the second round to win the UFC lightweight title Saturday in the main event of UFC 205 on a record night.

He dubbed himself this week the King of New York. Now, he's been crowned a two-class champ. "What's next for me," McGregor bellowed inside the cage. The easy answer: whatever the "Notorious" one wants.

McGregor dominated from the opening bell of the biggest card in UFC history - on pace to set an MMA pay-per-view record - and the sold-out crowd of 20,427 loaded with A-listers from Madonna to Hugh Jackman went wild with each punishing blow. McGregor, also UFC's featherweight champ following a 13-second knockout of Jose Aldo, had redicted a fourth-round KO. Unlike UFC's laborious legal fight to reach New York, McGregor wouldn't make anyone wait. UFC has not decided if McGregor (21-3) will be allowed to defend both championships. UFC

President Dana White said McGregor could be about the only fighter in the promotion to handle that kind of grueling fight load.

"Who knows," White said. "I'm going to let him enjoy his night." McGregor crouched inside the cage waiting for the bell to ring and attack Alvarez (28-5). McGregor was the clear aggressor from the start, dropping Alvarez three times in the first round.

Alvarez, of Philadelphia, bounced up the first two times and took a severe beating on the third. McGregor forced Alvarez to fight with his back to the cage and never absorbed a serious strike. The 28-year-old McGregor put his hands behind his back in the second, taunting and toying Alvarez to hit him. McGregor, UFC's biggest box-office star, unloaded a left and ended the fight at 1:52 of the second. McGregor lay waste to a battered Alvarez and brazenly demanded his second UFC championship belt in a speech peppered with profanities. "I was literally losing my head in there," he said.

HISTORIC NIGHT

McGregor snatched his new lightweight championship belt, paired it with his featherweight title, and UFC's first two-class champion in the promotion's history plopped himself on top of the cage and absorbed the scene of his historic night. "I've spent a lot of time slaying everybody in the company," McGregor said. Alvarez is the latest victim on the list. "Eddie is a warrior, but he shouldn't be in there with me," he said. "I'm at a different level.

Now, I celebrate as champion of two divisions." UFC was live and legal in New York for the first time since an MMA ban was lifted earlier this year. To celebrate, UFC stacked the card with three title fights that set a promotion and MSG gate record with $17.7 million. The 1999 boxing match between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield drew a record $13.5 million.

"Jesus is going to have to fight the devil to break that record," White said. Tyron Woodley defeated Stephen Thompson via majority draw to retain his welterweight title in a fantastic fight and Joanna Jedrzejczyk successfully defended her UFC women's strawweight championship with a unanimous decision win over Karolina Kowalkiewicz.

But the stage belonged to McGregor. McGregor, as he had been all week in New York, was the undisputed star of the card. McGregor's fans swathed themselves in Irish flag capes and his countrymen sang "Ole, Ole, Ole" in the concourse and stands throughout the show.

"It was obvious the crowd was here to see Conor McGregor," Woodley said. The crowd could not wait one more night to see him. The two-decade ban imposed by New York left only unsanctioned MMA fights in the state.

MAJOR SHOW

State lawmakers and Gov. Andrew Cuomo agreed in April to end the ban following years of failed efforts by supporters. The law authorizing the sport took effect in September, and UFC optimistically already had MSG booked.

UFC last ran a major show in the state at UFC 7: The Brawl in Buffalo on April 7, 1995. UFC, under Lorenzo and Frank Fertitta, exploded into a global phenomenon, become a staple on network television and ran PPV cards that hit 1 million buys during the ban. UFC 205 was expected to reach around 1.5 million PPV buys. UFC sold for approximately $4 billion to a group led by Hollywood entertainment conglomerate WME-IMG in July.

McGregor told reporters after the fight he wanted an equity stake in UFC. "Whoever runs this place now has to come to me and give me my slice," he said. "Bring me on board for real. I need to be set for life on this."

Tickets at face value and on StubHub only seemed to be selling for as much as UFC's selling price. The fans saw UFC fighters deliver more kicks than the Radio City Rockettes in the 11-fight card. McGregor might need an extra ticket for his next fight: The two-division champ is set to become a first-time father in May. "I feel like I'm just reaching my prime," he said. — AP

Hirscher leads Matt for Austrian 1-2 finish at World Cup slalom

LEVI: It took Austria's Marcel Hirscher just two races to get back to where he finished each of the past five seasons - on top of the men's World Cup overall standings.

Hirscher overcame an illness on the eve of the slalom opener yesterday to lead teammate Michael Matt for an Austrian 1-2 finish. The five-time overall champion finished a huge 1.30 seconds ahead of Matt to clinch his 40th career win. It was the first Austrian 1-2 finish in a World Cup slalom since Hirscher beat Michael Matt's older brother, Mario, at the same venue three years ago. Manfred Moelgg of Italy was 1.31 seconds back in third for his first podium finish in nearly three years, while Germany's Felix Neureuther came another 0.10 further behind in fourth. "Physically it went very well. I have no pains. Yesterday it was really bad but this morning I knew it would work out," said Hirscher, who suffered from an inflammation of the middle ear.

He skipped Saturday's training and decided only in the morning hours before the race to start. He headed back to his hotel for treatment immediately after completing his first run. Hirscher overtook Alexis Pinturault on top of the overall standings. The Frenchman, who beat the Austrian to win the season-opening GS last month, finished 1.87 behind in 11th. Hirscher has 180 points, 56 clear of Pinturault.

Hirscher's victory also put the Austrian level with Pirmin Zurbriggen on the all-time winners list. Only four skiers have won more races in the 50-year history of the World Cup - Ingemar Stenmark (86), Hermann Maier (54), Alberto Tomba (50), and Marc Girardelli (46).

"I felt no pressure at all," Hirscher told The Associated Press. "For me personally, I have won already a lot of races and I am done with 'I have to win races.'"

Matt, who improved from sixth to second for his first career podium result, said he "was more nervous for my first run than for my second as I knew by then that everything was OK." Marco Schwarz, who trailed Hirscher by just 0.21 after the first run, slid off the course and didn't finish his final run, but another Austrian, Manuel Feller, took fifth.

Austria's slalom team lost several big names as Benjamin Raich, Mario Matt and Reinfried Herbst all retired in the past two seasons. But Hirscher said the many young and upcoming talents on the team help him to further improve. "It's perfect in training," said Hirscher, who has won 19 slaloms in his career. "It wasn't easy for me in the beginning but the young guys really give me motivation. That's truly super." Hirscher didn't want to give his huge winning margin too much meaning as his main rival from last season, Henrik Kristoffersen, skipped the race. "One guy was missing, the fastest from last year. But it was a great race," Hirscher said. Kristoffersen, who won six slaloms last year to claim the discipline title, sat out the race amid a dispute with the Norwegian ski federation over sponsorship rights.—AP

LEVI: First placed Austria's Marcel Hirscher poses for a photo with a reindeer at the end of an alpine skiing men's World Cup slalom, in Levi, Finland, yesterday.— AP

I'M NOT A MATCH-FIXER, INSISTS ALVIRO PETERSEN

JOHANNESBURG: Former Test batsman Alviro Petersen rejected yesterday a Cricket South Africa (CSA) charge that he fixed matches in the national Twenty20 franchise championship last season. The 35-year-old captain of the Johannesburg-based Highveld Lions was charged Saturday with multiple breaches of the CSA anti-corruption code and provisionally barred from any involvement with the sport. "Alviro has never fixed a match, agreed to fix a match or contrived to fix a match," his lawyer said in a statement.

"He has never sought, accepted, agreed to accept or received any bribe or other reward to fix or contrive to fix a match. "To ensure for betting or other corrupt purposes the occurrence of a particular incident in a match or, for that matter, for any other unethical purpose."

The lawyer said Petersen "played along" with those involved in the scandal and was in constant contact with the investigators, leading to five other cricketers being barred, including "ringleader" Gulam Bodi. "Alviro acknowledges and admits that he played along with other persons involved in the scandal so as not to alert them that an investigation was underway," the lawyer said.

"Alviro was in constant contact with the investigative team from the time he reported his knowledge of the scandal.

"He gave information that he had received of actual plans to influence matches to the investigative unit.

"When Alviro first learnt at the end of July 2016 that charges were contemplated against him, he was surprised because he felt he had co-operated with the investigative team." Petersen had been scheduled to play for the Lions in the opening round of the latest national Twenty 20 championship this weekend. He had a highly respectable 36-Test career, scoring 2,093 runs at an average of 34.88. He made a century on his Test debut against India in Kolkata during the 2009-10 season and formed a successful opening partnership with former captain Graeme Smith. Petersen hit five Test centuries, with a highest score of 182 against England in Leeds in 2012.

He has skippered the Lions for two seasons. After retiring from international cricket last year, he continued to play with success for the Lions and for English county Lancashire, while working as a television and radio commentator and newspaper columnist. As a columnist, the mixed-race cricketer was a persuasive advocate for racial transformation in cricket, stating that black players needed to be given opportunities and to be nurtured. He set up the Alviro Petersen Foundation in 2013 with the aim of improving the lives of disadvantaged communities. The foundation includes a cricket school. — AFP

RAIN WASHES OUT PLAY OF AUSTRALIA, S AFRICA TEST

HOBART: Rain prevented any play on the second day of the second cricket test between Australia and South Africa yesterday after an extraordinary opening day in which 15 wickets fell.

South Africa won the toss on Saturday, bowled Australia out for 85 and then reached 171-5 before stumps to take an 86-run lead on day one.

Organizers cancelled play at Bellerive yesterday when heavy rain started in the afternoon. Temba Bavuma remains unbeaten on 38 and Quinton de Kock is 28.

The South Africans won the opening test in Perth by 177 runs and can secure the three-test series with another victory in Hobart. With three days of scheduled play remaining, there's still the chance of a result in the second test.

After the opening day, when Australia captain Steve Smith scored more than half the total with an unbeaten 48, coach Darren Lehmann said he was confident his team could take the remaining five South African first-innings wickets and set up a proper contest.

"I'm really confident they will play better than they did in the first innings," he said.

South Africa has only beaten Australia twice in test series since being re-admitted to international cricket in the 1990s. Both victories have been in Australia.

The last was in 2012-13, when South Africa clinched the series 1-0 with a victory in the third test in Perth after Australia had the better of the first two tests but was unable to force a victory.

Australia was ranked No. 1 in test cricket until being swept 3-0 in Sri Lanka in July and August. The loss in Perth was its fourth straight, and critics are describing the recent batting slump as a crisis.

To make matters worse, Australia hadn't lost a series-opening test on home soil since 1988 until last week, and its form deteriorated badly in Hobart when it was dismissed for its lowest total in a home test since 1984.

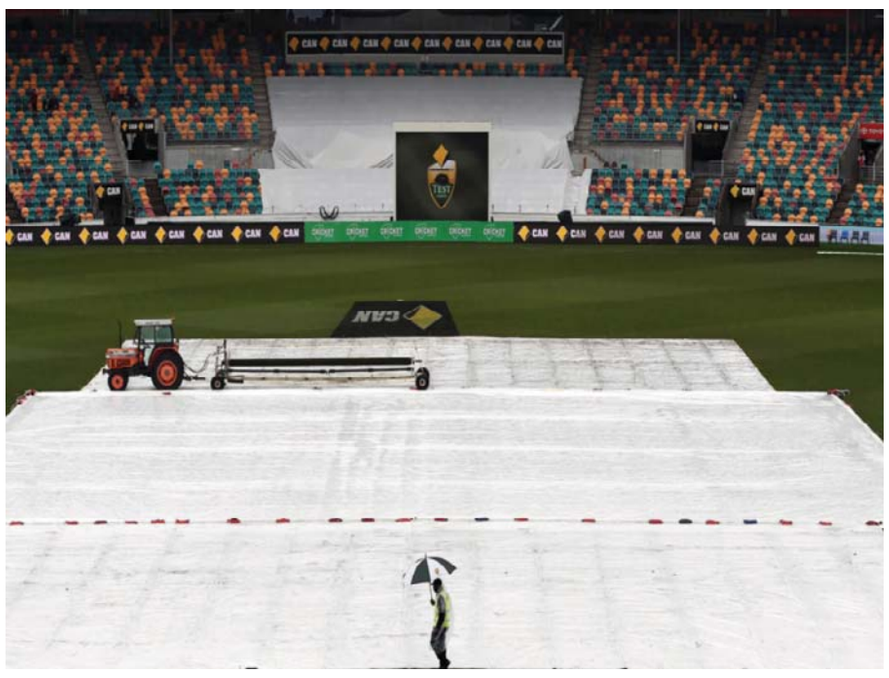
Kim Hughes, who quit as Australia captain during that series against the West Indies in 1984, was among the former players criticizing the national hierarchy for only scheduling one round of domestic first-class cricket before this test series against South Africa.

Cricket Australia's high-performance manager, Pat Howard, conceded on Sunday that he, Lehmann, the national selectors and the players were all under pressure unless there was a fast turnaround in form - particularly from the batting group.

"Australians expect that fight and that's a fair expectation," Howard said. "I'll give you an insight into the Sri Lankan review. There are two key themes: resilience and adaptability. I want to see some resilience now and see the guys who can step up."

Also Sunday, Cricket Australia confirmed it had banned a 25-year-old man for three years from matches across the country after he allegedly wrote racist graffiti directed at South African batsman Hashim Amla during play on Saturday.

Tasmania state police inspector Doug Rossiter said the man would face court over the incident. — AP



HOBART: A security official walks in the Bellerive Oval as the second day's play of the second Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa was called off due to continuous rain in Hobart. Play was abandoned on the second day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa without a ball being bowled following incessant rain in Hobart. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HOBART, Australia: Scoreboard yesterday after the second day of the second cricket test between Australia and South Africa was canceled because of heavy rain at Bellerive Oval:

Australia 1st Innings: 85

South Africa, 1st Innings (Overnight: 171-5)

Stephen Cook c Nevill b Starc	23
Dean Elgar lbw b Starc	17
Hashim Amla c Nevill b Hazlewood	47
J.P. Duminy c Smith b Starc	1
Faf du Plessis lbw b Hazlewood	7
Temba Bavuma not out	38
Quinton de Kock not out	28
Extras: (3b, 6lb, 1nb)	10
TOTAL: (for 5 wickets)	171

Overs: 55. Batting time: 229 minutes.
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-44, 3-46, 4-76, 5-132
Still to bat: Vernon Philander, Kyle Avbbott, Kagiso Rabada, Keshav Maharaj.
Bowling: Mitch Starc 15-0-49-3 (1nb), Josh Hazlewood 16-7-36-2, Joe Mennie 14-1-47-0, Nathan Lyon 10-1-30-0.
Toss: won by South Africa.
Series: South Africa leads 1-0.

CAPTAIN COOK HEAPS PRAISE ON HAMEED

RAJKOT: Batting sensation Haseeb Hameed earned special praise yesterday from his captain after scoring the highest runs by a teenager in England history during the first Test against India.

The 19-year-old Hameed smashed 82 off 177 balls to record the highest Test score by a teenager for England, beating Jack Crawford's 74 in Cape Town in 1906.

The youngster hit seven fours and a six during his 235-minute stay at the wicket and also shared 180 runs for the opening stand with skipper Alastair Cook who made 130. Their stand saw England take control of the game and also helped them put the number one Test side under pressure in the series-opener which ended in a draw. "He's an unbelievable player. Pushing me closer to retirement! He is only 19 years old and he outscored me," Cook, 31, said.

"He's a find for the game. We said before the game we had no doubt he could play. He's certainly a good player."

Rival captain Virat Kohli also could not help but applaud Hameed on a confident debut. "He looks like a guy who has a strong character. He has a lot of belief in his game, as we saw (when he was) taking on the spinners with the field up. "It's pretty exciting to see such a young guy come in to India and show character."

Hameed, watched by his Indian-born father and family from the stands, had made a stylish 31 in the first innings.

He has been nicknamed "Baby Boycott" for his unflappable batting style after a prolific run in domestic matches back home.

Hameed's remarkable debut against India also meant England may have found a long-term partner for Cook at the top of the batting order. Cook has had nine different partners since the retirement of Andrew Strauss four years ago.— AFP

RAJKOT: England's batsman Haseeb Hameed bats on the fifth day of the first cricket test match between India and England in Rajkot, India, yesterday. — AP

KOHLI PLAYS ANCHOR AS INDIA DRAW FIRST ENGLAND TEST

RAJKOT: Skipper Virat Kohli hit an unbeaten 49 under pressure before India pulled off a tense draw on the final day of the first Test against England in Rajkot yesterday.

The tourists had declared their second innings at 260-3 shortly after lunch, leaving the home side to chase 310 runs off a minimum 49 overs on the fifth and last day.

But the Indians were soon fighting for survival after losing wickets in a clutch on a wearing track at the Saurashtra Cricket Association ground, hosting its first Test ever. The Indians finished on 172-6 with local hero Ravindra Jadeja also remaining not out on 32.

England had India in early trouble at 71-4 but Kohli steadied the ship with a 47-run partnership that he shared with Ravichandran Ashwin (32). Adil Rashid was the pick of the bowlers with 3-64 while his spin partners Moeen Ali and Zafar Ansari took one wicket apiece.

Ali, who scored a century in the first innings, was named man of the match. England skipper Alastair Cook praised his bowlers for putting India's batsmen under constant pressure.

"It was really tough five days," said Cook. "It was a good cricket wicket. We were relentless with the ball, we didn't let India score too quickly. Adil (Rashid) stepped up to another level."

India's second innings began on a shaky note, with opener Gautam Gambhir falling to paceman Chris Woakes for a duck.

Leg-spinner Rashid then got going, getting rid of Cheteshwar Pujara (18) who was trapped leg before wicket and Murali Vijay for 31.

Both Pujara and Vijay had hit centuries in India's first innings total of 488 in reply to England's 537.

Ali shattered the stumps of Ajinkya Rahane (one) and Ansari sent back Ashwin, who had proved to be a thorn in England's side the last time they toured India.

Kohli held his ground amid the mayhem, hitting six fours in his crucial 98-ball knock.

RECORD OPENING STAND

"It is important to convince yourself you can negotiate what's thrown at you," Kohli said. "It was a challenging situation. England's bowlers put us under a lot of pressure. We need to accept what happened."

England were bolstered by a 180-run partnership between skipper Alastair Cook (130) and debutant Haseeb Hameed-a record opening stand for England in India.

It was the 30th Test century for the left-handed Cook and record fifth in India, more than any overseas batsman. Hameed, 19, belied his tender years in making 82 off 177 balls that contained one six and seven boundaries.

His knock was the highest Test score by a teenager for England, beating Jack Crawford's 74 in Cape Town in 1906.

India finally tasted success when leg-spinner Amit Mishra took a sharp return catch as Hameed tried to go for a slog sweep.

Hameed, nicknamed "Baby Boycott" for his unflappable batting technique, had scored a stylish 31 during England's first innings.

The right-hander is Cook's 10th different opening partner since the retirement of Andrew Strauss in 2012 and on this form he could be the long-term solution at the top of the order.

England, who had elected to bat first, owed their huge first innings total to Joe Root, Ali and Ben Stokes-all of whom hit centuries.

England would take a lot of heart from their performance since they came into the series on the back of a first-ever Test defeat to minnows Bangladesh.

Before this game, India had won 12 and drawn one of their last 13 Tests at home since England's historic 2-1 triumph in 2012.

The two teams now head to Visakhapatnam for the second Test of the marathon five-match series starting on Thursday.

The other Tests will be played in Mohali, Mumbai and Chennai. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

RAJKOT, India: Final scoreboard on the last day of the first Test between India and England at the Saurashtra Cricket Association ground in Rajkot on yesterday.

England 1st innings: 537 (B. Stokes 128, J. Root 124, M. Ali 117; R. Jadeja 3-86)
India 1st innings: 488 (M. Vijay 126, C. Pujara 124, R. Ashwin 70; A. Rashid 4-114)

England 2nd innings (overnight 114-0; H. Hameed 62, A. Cook 46)

A. Cook c Jadeja b Ashwin	130
H. Hameed c and b Mishra	82
J. Root c Saha b Mishra	4
B. Stokes not out	29
Extras (b11, lb3, nb1)	15
Total (3 wkts dec, 75.3 overs)	260

Fall of wickets: 1-180 (Hameed), 2-192 (Root), 3-260 (Cook)
Bowling: Shami 11-1-29-0, Jadeja 15-1-47-0, Ashwin 23.3-4-63-1, Yadav 13-2-47-0, Mishra 13-0-60-2 (nb1)

India 2nd innings:

M. Vijay c Hameed b Rashid	31
G. Gambhir c Root b Woakes	0
C. Pujara lbw b Rashid	18
V. Kohli not out	49
A. Rahane b Ali	1
R. Ashwin c Root b Ansari	32
W. Saha c and b Rashid	9
R. Jadeja not out	32
Extras (0)	0
Total (6 wkts; 52.3 overs)	172

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Gambhir), 2-47 (Pujara), 3-68 (Vijay), 4-71 (Rahane), 5-118 (Ashwin), 6-132 (Saha)
Bowling: Broad 3-2-8-0, Woakes 4-1-6-1, Ansari 8-1-41-1, Ali 19-5-47-1, Rashid 14.3-1-64-3, Stokes 2-1-1-0, Root 2-0-5-0.
Result: Draw

WEST INDIES UNDER CLOUD IN ZIMBABWE

HARARE: The West Indies must cope with the loss of their best batsman when they take on Sri Lanka and hosts Zimbabwe in a triangular one-day series after Darren Bravo was sent home for remarks made on Twitter.

Bravo was axed from the West Indian squad on Saturday due to "inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour, which is contrary to his contractual obligations," the West Indies Cricket Board said.

The batsman had responded to comments by WICB president Dave Cameron, who told a radio station that Bravo had been offered only a Grade C central contract due to his poor form in recent times.

"You hav been failing 4 d last 4yrs. Y don't u resign and FYI I've neva been given an A contract. Big idiot @davec51," Bravo tweeted in reply on Friday. The WICB release stated that a clause in players' contracts stipulated no public comments could be made that brought the organisation into disrepute. As a result Bravo, who was played 94 ODIs, has been replaced in the squad by fellow batsman Jason Mohammed, who has played just two ODIs. There was a further blow with spinner Sunil Narine returning home due to personal reasons. He was replaced by legspinner Devendra Bishoo. The West Indians were already without star players such as batsman Chris Gayle and allrounders Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard, who remain at odds with the WICB.

"It's obviously a big impact when you lose senior guys with experience who bring pedigree, but we're in a situation where we have to cope with what we have," West Indies captain Jason Holder said yesterday. "We need to gel together as quickly as possible and get everyone coming into the tournament peaking at the right time."

The first game of the tournament takes place today, when Zimbabwe will take on Sri Lanka at Harare Sports Club. West Indies will play Sri Lanka at the same venue on Wednesday, before the series shifts to Bulawayo. Sri Lanka will also be missing key players after Angelo Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal failed to overcome injuries that kept them out of the recently concluded Test series against Zimbabwe, giving the hosts confidence that they can cause some upsets.

"I think we're a better one-day unit than Test side-it's the format that we're more comfortable in," said Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer. "We play a lot more white-ball cricket than red-ball, so our bowlers are accustomed to bowling in those conditions and we also have Tinashe Panyangara back fit, which brings a lot of experience back into our seam attack." Sri Lanka won both Tests by over 200 runs, and have retained seven of their 11 Test starters in their one-day squad, with batsman Upul Tharanga named captain for the first time in Mathews' absence.

"We learnt a lot with regards to what the conditions are like here and how the wickets play. It's fairly different to Sri Lanka," Tharanga said yesterday.

"Most of the guys from the Test team are in the one-day side as well so that gives us a very good chance." —AFP

KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of NBA news, Kuwait Times is introducing a new feature this year: The NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. The actual record for each team (put between brackets) does play a role in the assessment process but is not the main factor for deciding each team's ranking, thus making it different from league standings. This week's rankings feature a new team claiming the number one spot after an impressive showing that saw them win every game they played last week.

1- Los Angeles Clippers (9 - 1) Last week: 2 - The Clippers cruised easily past the Timberwolves Saturday night for their sixth straight win and the best record in the NBA. They also lead the league in defensive rating, net rating (different in offensive and defensive rating), and rank among the top ten in offensive rating as of yesterday.

2- Cleveland Cavaliers (7 - 1) Last week: 1 - Since entering the NBA in 2003-04, LeBron James has posted a stat line of at least 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists 130 times. That's 73 more games than the next closest player, Kevin Garnett (57), according to ESPN Stats and Info. And that's how important LeBron, who became the youngest player to reach 27,000 career points on Friday, can be to any team's success.

3- Toronto Raptors (7 - 2) Last week: 4 - To put DeMar DeRozan's outstanding play so far this season into perspective; he became on Saturday the first player to score 30+ points in eight of his team's first nine games since Michael Jordan did it 30 years ago. He also has the most season point-per-game average through his team's first eight games of a season (34.1) since Jordan (35.1) in 1989-89, according to ESPN Stats and Info.

4- Golden State Warriors (7 - 2) Last week: 6 - In addition to Steph Curry setting a new NBA record with 13 3-pointers made against the Pelicans last Monday, the Warriors set another record two nights later when Curry, Draymond Green, Kevin Durant, and Klay Thompson each had four 3-pointers against the Mavs. After last night's match against the Suns, the 'Super Villains' embark on a 4-game road trip with tough games against the Raptors and Celtics.

5- San Antonio Spurs (7 - 3) Last week: 5 - While voicing his disappointment for Donald Trump's election as US President, Gregg Popovich can't feel the same about his team's performance last week, which included snapping a three-game home losing streak with a victory over the Pistons on Friday, and overcoming James Harden's triple-double to beat the Rockets one night later. Meanwhile, the Spurs continue to rank in the top ten in offensive, defensive and net rating.

6- Atlanta Hawks (7 - 2) Last week: 8 - The Hawks rank as the second best team in the NBA in defensive and net ratings, and tenth in offensive rating as of yesterday. Teamwork is meanwhile becoming an important factor in the team's early season success, with different contributors keying the team's victories last week against the Cavs, Bulls and 76ers.

7- Charlotte Hornets (6 - 2) Last week: 7 - The Hornets played hosts to the Cavs last night in the final test to their defense last week, which included wins against the Pacers and Jazz, and a heartbreaking loss against the Raptors. Kemba Walker became the first Hornet ever to have at least 40 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in a game with his outing during that match (per ESPN Stats and Info).

8- Oklahoma City Thunder (6 - 3) Last week: 3 - Despite being the only team so far to beat the Clippers, it is perhaps safe to say that the Thunder has failed their early season tests against the Warriors, Raptors and in their second game against the Clippers. Meanwhile, four of their other five wins came against teams with losing records, with the exception being the 6-4 Lakers.

9- Utah Jazz (7 - 4) Last week: 14 - Granted, Utah's victories last week came against struggling teams, but they are beginning to take a rhythm behind the steady play of George Hill, Rudy Gobert, Rodney Hood, and Gordon Hayward; who became the first Jazz player since Karl Malone in 2000-01 to score 20 or more in his first four games of a season with his fourth straight 20-point game Friday night (per ESPN Stats and Info).

10- Portland Trail Blazers (6 - 4) Last week: 12 - Amid Greg Oden's recent proclamation that he might probably be remembered as the "biggest bust in NBA history," Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum combined to score 67 points to lead their team to win against the Kings on Friday. It was the fifth time in which each have scored at least 30 points as teammates in Portland, leading their team to victory in every one of those games.

11- Chicago Bulls (6 - 4) Last week: 13 - All eyes last week were on Dwyane Wade's return to Miami and stories about his distressed relationship with Heat's President Pat Riley. Meanwhile, Jimmy Butler erupted for 37 points to lead his team to victory against the Wizards Saturday, and two nights after he helped Chicago trump Wade's former team. A tough six-game road trip looms ahead with games in Portland, Utah and Los Angeles against the Clippers.

12- Boston Celtics (5 - 4) Last week: 10 - Despite ranking the third in the league in offensive rating, the Celtics continue to have glaring defensive issues as they rank in the bottom ten in defensive rating. This was shown evident by allowing an average of 123 points in losses to the Cavs, Nuggets and Wizards, before rebounding a little in wins against the Knicks and Pacers.

13- Houston Rockets (5 - 4) Last week: 16 - One day after James Harden proclaimed to be the best basketball player in the world, he recorded a triple-double to lead his team to victory against the Spurs on Thursday, but a second triple-double wasn't enough to beat the Spurs two nights later. Meanwhile, Harden became one of two players in NBA history to have four straight games of 30 points and 10 assists; the other being Michael Jordan who did the same during the 1988-89 season.

14- Detroit Pistons (5 - 5) Last week: 9 - The Pistons rank in the top ten in the NBA in offensive rating, but fall among the bottom ten in defensive rating. This disparity has been their main problem since the beginning of the season, and Stan Van Gundy needs to find a quick solution with a tough stretch ahead featuring games against the Thunder, Cavs, Celtics and Rockets.

15- Los Angeles Lakers (6 - 4) Last week: 15 - The Lakers keeps to find winning ways behind strong play from its guards, including Jordan Clarkson and Lou Williams who scored 23 and 21 points respectively off the bench in LA's win against the Pelicans Saturday night. This was the Lakers' fifth win in six games. Not a bad start for rookie coach Luke Walton.

16- Milwaukee Bucks (5 - 4) Last week: 11 - Giannis Antetokounmpo continues to lead the team in all but one category, with the exception being in assists where he ranks second behind Matt Dellavedova as of Sunday. Big wins against the Grizzlies and Kings this past week were marred with losses to the shorthanded Mavericks and Pelicans; who recorded their first and only win this season against the Bucks.

17- Brooklyn Nets (4 - 5) Last week: 23 - The Nets scored wins last week against the Suns and Timberwolves while Jeremy Lin remains sidelined with an injury. Solid contributions from Rondae Hollis-Jefferson, Sean Kilpatrick and Trevor Booker helped Brooklyn record their first road win this season with their victory over Phoenix Saturday night, but they need more as they close their road-trip with games against the Clippers, Lakers and Thunder.

18- Sacramento Kings (4 - 7) Last week: 21 - DeMarcus Cousins and Rudy Gay came up big to gain their team a road victory against a shorthanded Raptors' squad in the final game of their early-season road trip last Monday. They followed that performance with a win against the Pelicans, before losing to the Lakers and by two points to the Blazers.

19- Memphis Grizzlies (4 - 5) Last week: 20 - the Grizzlies needed a heroic effort from Marc Gasol who scored a buzzer-beater from an inbound pass to beat the Nuggets last Wednesday, in a game sandwiched between losses to the Trail Blazers and Bucks. And in that game as well, Vince Carter became oldest NBA player (39 years and 287 days) in history to score 20 points as a reserve.

20- Indiana Pacers (4 - 6) Last week: 17 - The Pacers suffered the unfortunate fate of being the first team to lose to the 76ers this season - and even their OT victory against Philadelphia two days earlier cannot offset that miserable fate. Their abysmal 108.3 defensive rating, good for second to last in the entire league, is a far cry from their strong defense in past seasons.

21- Denver Nuggets (3 - 6) Last week: 19 - After a heartbreaking one-point loss to Memphis and a tough loss to Golden State, the Nuggets fell at home to the visiting Detroit Pistons Saturday night. They look to avoid extending their losing streak further with tough games against Portland and Toronto this week.

22- Dallas Mavericks (2 - 6) Last week: 28 - Rick Carlisle found a winning formula as Dirk Nowitzki and Deron Williams continue to be sidelined with injuries. Harrison Barns scored a career-high 34 in his team's win against the Bucks Tuesday, followed by 31 points to lead the Mavs over the Lakers a night later, while JJ Barea and Seth Curry provided much-needed support in those two victories.

23- Phoenix Suns (3 - 7) Last week: 25 - Losing at home to the Brooklyn Nets sans Jeremy Lin definitely hurts, although the team was able to muster a win against the Pistons to avoid a winless week. Meanwhile, the Suns started the youngest lineup in team history on Wednesday, when rookie Marquese Chriss was moved to the starting lineup and Alex Len replaced Tyson Chandler who was out for personal reasons.

24- New York Knicks (3 - 6) Last week: 24 - Carmelo Anthony's ejection from New York's loss against Boston on Friday is hardly what the Knicks need to be worried about. What they should though is their defense, or lack of for that matter. They rank dead last in the league in defensive rating as of Sunday. In their loss to the Raptors Saturday night, the Knicks allowed Toronto to shoot 47 percent and attempt 38 free throws.

25- Minnesota Timberwolves (2 - 6) Last week: 26 - It's still too early and unfair to assess how successful Ricky Rubio's return from injury has been since it only came against the Clippers. Meanwhile, Andrew Wiggins, Karl-Anthony Towns and Zach LaVine were each averaging at least 20 points per game as of Saturday.

26- Miami Heat (2 - 6) Last week: 18 - There aren't many players in the NBA who can claim that they have grabbed an opponent's shot out of midair for a block, as Hassan Whiteside can following his denial of Dante Exum's jumper Saturday night. Sadly for the Heat, that could probably be the team's only bright spot last week.

27- Orlando Magic (3-6) Last week: 22 - It's back to panic mode in Orlando after the Magic dropped three straight games following three wins in a row that came after a 0-3 start of the season. They rank 29th in offensive and net rating, and 26th in defensive rating. Unless Frank Vogel figures out something soon, this is going to be a very long season for Magic fans.

28- Washington Wizards (2 - 7) Last week: 27 - The Wizards played shorthanded in losses to the Cavs and Bulls, while John Wall was ejected in each of the team's previous two games against the Celtics and Rockets. The Wizards hope to pick up some wins with a relatively easier schedule ahead featuring games against the 76ers, Knicks, Heat, Suns and Magic.

29- New Orleans Pelicans (1 - 9) Last week: 30 - Folks in New Orleans are keeping their fingers crossed that Anthony Davis' back injury suffered in the Pelicans' loss to the Lakers Saturday is not serious. And with his performance during that game, Davis became the first player ever to record 300 points, 100 rebounds and 30 blocks in his team's first 10 games of the season.

30- Philadelphia 76ers (1 - 8) Last week: 29 - How many people would answer correctly when asked who is leading the league in three-point percentage today? Philadelphia's 'rookie' center is leading the way with nearly 58 percent as of Sunday. And with their 109-105 OT victory over the Pacers Friday night, the 76ers snapped their 44-game losing streak in the months of October and November.

MINNEAPOLIS: Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin defends Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, in Minneapolis. The Clippers won 119-105. — AP

Clippers drop Timberwolves, spoil Ricky Rubio return

MINNEAPOLIS: Blake Griffin had 20 points and 11 rebounds and DeAndre Jordan had 18 points and 16 boards to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to their sixth straight victory, 119-105 over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday night. Chris Paul had 19 points and eight assists and J.J. Redick scored 18 points for the Clippers (9-1), who have the best record in the NBA. Los Angeles shot 52.6 percent and outscored the Timberwolves 21-10 in transition. Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Ricky Rubio had seven points, six assists and six rebounds in his return from a five-game absence for Minnesota. Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points, but shot just 8 of 24. The Clippers are off to their best start in franchise history.

SPURS 106, ROCKETS 100

Kawhi Leonard scored 20 points to lead San Antonio over Houston. The Spurs avenged a 101-99 loss to the Rockets in San Antonio on Wednesday night and improved to 5-0 on the road, where they have outscored opponents by an average of 12.8 points. James Harden had a triple-double for a second straight game against the Spurs, finishing with 25 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds, but also added seven costly turnovers. A deep 3-pointer by Eric Gordon cut the lead to four with 2 minutes remaining, but Houston struggled to make stops down the stretch. Gordon scored 27 points off the bench, going 7 of 12 on 3-pointers. Houston attempted 47 3s in the game, making 15 (31.9 percent).

RAPTORS 118, KNICKS 107

DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points, Norman Powell added 19 and Toronto beat New York for the fourth straight time. DeRozan, the NBA's leading scorer, had his eighth 30-plus-point game in nine starts this season, putting him in an exclusive club. In the last 50 years, Michael Jordan, World B. Free and Tiny Archibald have started a season registering 30-plus points in eight of the first nine games. Carmelo Anthony had 31 points, while Kristaps Porzingis and Derrick Rose had 21 apiece for New York. Kyle Lowry, who finished with 16 points, put the Raptors up by four with 1:41 to play on a driving layup, and Lucas Nogueira had two straight blocks on Anthony and then Rose to put Toronto in control.

JAZZ 102, HEAT 91

Gordon Hayward scored 25 points, Rodney Hood added 17 and Utah handed Miami a fourth consecutive loss. Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Utah, which used a 15-0 run midway through the game to pull away. Shelvin Mack scored 12 for Utah, while former Heat forward Joe Johnson and Dante Exum each added 10. Hassan Whiteside had 15 points and 14 rebounds for Miami. James Johnson scored 15 points, Rodney McGruder added 14 and Josh Richardson finished with 12. Utah was without George Hill (right thumb) and Boris Diaw (right knee) again, then lost Derrick Favors to left knee soreness in the first quarter. But a night after holding Orlando to 74 points, the Jazz limited Miami to 59 through three quarters. At 2-6, Miami is off to its worst start since 2007-08.

CELTICS 105, PACERS 99

Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points, including Boston's final eight, and the Celtics beat Indiana. Thomas had just four points through 34 minutes, the scored 19 over the final 14 minutes. He hit several clutch shots to keep Indiana at bay and iced the game at the foul line in the final 30 seconds. Kelly Olynyk scored 16 for the Celtics, playing the first of two straight road games. Amir Johnson had 14 points and nine rebounds, while Avery Bradley had 13 points and five assists. Jeff Teague led Indiana with 20 points. Myles Turner scored 17 and Monta Ellis had 15 in the Pacers' first home loss of the season. Indiana played without leading scorer Paul George, who sprained his left ankle in overtime of its 109-105 loss at Philadelphia on Friday.

HAWKS 117, 76ERS 96

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 points, Kent Bazemore added 17 and Atlanta won its fourth straight game. Dwight Howard, the NBA's active leader in double-doubles, had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Hawks. Jahlil Okafor finished with 18 points for the Sixers, who dropped to 1-8 a night after earning their first win. Despite playing with a depleted roster, Philadelphia kept it close until late, pulling within two with 3:50 left in the third. But Howard's follow dunk gave the Hawks an 84-74 lead and Kyle Korver's 3-pointer on the ensuing possession matched the 10-point advantage in the closing minutes of the period.

LAKERS 126, PELICANS 99

Jordan Clarkson scored 23 points, Lou Williams added 21, and Los Angeles won for the fifth time in six games, beating New Orleans. D'Angelo Russell scored 22 and Nick Young added 15 points for the Lakers, who shot 55.3 percent (52 of 94) overall and made 16 of 30 3-pointers. Anthony Davis scored 34 for New Orleans, but left the game for a pivotal stretch with apparent lower back pain after his layup had cut Los Angeles' lead to 63-62 in the third quarter. Davis went to the locker room and was out of the game for four-plus minutes while the Lakers went on a 14-0 run. New Orleans never recovered. Rookie Buddy Hield scored 18 points for the Pelicans.

BULLS 106, WIZARDS 95

Jimmy Butler scored 37 points, and Chicago beat short-handed Washington. Butler did all he could to carry the Bulls on a night when the Wizards were missing star guards John Wall and Bradley Beal. Butler finished two points shy of his season high. He hit all 14 free throws, grabbed eight rebounds and dished out a season-high nine assists. Nikola Mirotic added 17 points. Dwyane Wade scored 14. Taj Gibson chipped in with 13 points. The Bulls won back-to-back games for the first time since a 3-0 start, but forward Doug McDermott exited with a concussion early in the fourth quarter. Markieff Morris had a season-high 24 points after scoring 20 the previous night. Marcin Gortat added 18 points and 14 rebounds.

BUCKS 106, GRIZZLIES 96

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 27 points and Michael Beasley added a season-high 19 to help Milwaukee beat Memphis. Beasley scored five points during an 11-2 run that gave the Bucks an 86-72 lead with 9:59 to play. Milwaukee closed the game on a 7-0 run, as Memphis did not score in the last 2:56 of the game. Marc Gasol finished with 18 points for Memphis before fouling out in the final seconds. Vince Carter added 17 points.

PISTONS 106, NUGGETS 95

Tobias Harris scored 19 points, Marcus Morris had 17 and Detroit beat Denver for its first road win of the season. Andre Drummond and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 14 points apiece for the Pistons, who also snapped a seven-game losing streak in Denver a week after beating the Nuggets in their first meeting in Detroit. Emmanuel Mudiay scored 19 points for Denver, which was done in by another slow start after being outscored 36-21 in the first quarter. The Pistons never trailed in the contest. Danilo Gallinari added 18 points for the Nuggets, who remained winless in three games at home this season.

NETS 122, SUNS 104

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored a career-high 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, leading Brooklyn to its first road victory of the season. The Nets held a 102-100 lead with 4:16 to play but scored the next 17 points, including Brook Lopez's 3-pointer with 1:47 to go to make it 113-100. Trevor Booker added 19 points and eight rebounds, and Sean Kilpatrick had 19 points and nine boards for the Nets. Joe Harris also scored 19 points. T.J. Warren scored 18 points for the Suns. Jared Dudley added 17 off the bench and Alex Len scored 11 points to go with 10 rebounds. — AP

Ireland puts away Canada 52-21 in Dublin

DUBLIN: Ireland's second-stringers upheld their unbeaten rugby record against Canada in a 52-21 win at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

Ireland swapped out the entire starting XV which upset New Zealand last weekend, to rest them for the rematch in Dublin next weekend.

Eight Irishmen in the matchday 23 made their debuts against Canada, and there were recalls for stand-in captain Peter O'Mahony and fellow flanker Sean O'Brien after long-term injuries. It added up to a disjointed performance that took an hour to subdue Canada.

Canada had just scored its third converted try to close to 28-21 when, from the kickoff, winger

DTH van der Merwe spilled the catch in the tackle of opposite Keith Earls, Ireland regathered the ball, drove to the line, and big lock Ultan Dillane went over off a ruck.

Soon after, the Irish pack earned a pushover try for scrumhalf Kieran Marmion, and Paddy Jackson's sixth conversion made it 42-21.

Ireland closed with a second try for fullback Tiernan O'Halloran from a break by Garry Ringrose, and the eighth and last try to replacement hooker James Tracy on debut.

Coach Joe Schmidt was going to take a long hard look at video of the match before changing the first Ireland side to topple the All Blacks in 111 years. Video of New Zealand's 68-10 win over Italy in Rome on Saturday was also on his must-do list. "We anticipate they'll be very, very tough coming here, and they may have (lock) Brodie Retallick, and maybe even (lock) Sam Whitelock back," Schmidt said.

"Those early balls we got off their lineout (in Chicago) potentially won't be available to us, therefore we might not be able to dominate possession and express ourselves, therefore we might be trying to contain them. We've just got to make sure we be as good on both sides of the ball as we can be."

The longer the Irish went against Canada, the better they were.

But despite all the changes, Ireland was out of the gate fast. Marmion set up Earls for the opening try, and Ireland bombed a couple of chances before a nice backline move ended with Jackson putting winger Luke Marshall in a gap to the right corner.

Canada tied the score at 14, hitting back with a Van der Merwe intercept try, and driving the other winger, Taylor Paris, over in a rolling maul. Momentum swung back to the home side from an accidental turnover by Canada. Earls burst away then prop Finlay Bealham offloaded to O'Halloran, who was cutting back and streaked in from 45 meters out.

Ireland began the new half with a penalty try, when Canada collapsed a pushover scrum attempt. Then Canada came back again, catching Ireland's backs holding off. Fullback Matt Evans managed to touch the ball down in O'Halloran's tackle. But seconds later, the Irish scored from the restart, and the stoic Canadians couldn't recover. —AP

Man Utd are football's top payers, says survey

LONDON: Manchester United pay the highest wages in world football, according to the latest edition of the Global Sports Salaries Survey.

Average basic first-team pay at the Premier League club has been calculated at 5.77 million pounds ($7.27 million) per year or 110,962 pounds per week. United are ranked fourth in the overall sporting pay league behind the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, which pays an average annual salary of $8.7 million, baseball's New York Yankees ($7.68 million) and another NBA team, the LA Clippers ($7.65 million).

The survey is based on the reported pay of almost 10,000 sportsmen at 333 teams in seven sports and is published on the sportingintelligence.com website.

Barcelona are the second highest football payers with an average annual salary of 5.65 million pounds, followed by Manchester City (5.4 million pounds).

Last year United were ranked below City, but United's 145 million pound close-season transfer splurge, which saw the arrival of the world's most expensive footballer Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, has inflated their wage bill.

The two Manchester clubs are the only Premier League teams in the overall sporting top 30, with Chelsea (34), Arsenal (47) and Liverpool (60) lagging well behind American sports teams, reflecting the pound's fall against the dollar, following Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

The Premier League remains the most lucrative global football league, with an average first-team pay of 48,766 pounds per week. That represents a 32-fold increase on the annual figure of 77,000 pounds for 1992-93 when the league began.

Further increases are expected after the Premier League agreed domestic and global television deals worth around 8 billion pounds for 2016-19.

Elsewhere in Europe, Bayern Munich are German football's best payers, with Juventus topping the league in Italy. But China has emerged as a financial force with the survey saying that five of the 14 best paid players in the world are contracted there. Ronaldo remains the world's best paid footballer on the equivalent of 365,000 pounds per week, the survey said.

Television is also having a huge impact on the salaries for NBA stars, with the league negotiating a nine-year $24 billion deal in 2014.

The NBA contains six of the world's top 10 richest teams and 14 of the top 20. The survey covers 17 leagues in football, baseball, basketball, NFL, cricket, ice hockey and Australian Rules football. — Reuters

GRANADA: Macedonia's defender Kire Ristevski (C) kicks the ball during the FIFA qualifying Group G football match Spain vs Macedonia at Los Carmenes stadium in Granada, on Saturday. — AFP

Nigeria top World Cup qualification group

POLOKWANE: Victor Moses scored twice and John Obi Mikel added the other as Nigeria went four points clear in World Cup qualification with a 3-1 home win over Algeria in Uyo on Saturday.

Burkina Faso and Uganda are also top of their respective groups after success on Saturday but Senegal, among the favourites to qualify for Russia 2018, suffered a setback under controversial circumstances in South Africa.

Nigeria won a second match in Group B, after an away victory in Zambia last month, with Moses opening the scoring after 25 minutes when a fortuitous one-two was played off Algeria defender Hicham Belkaroui and allowed him to tuck away the ball. Obi Mikel added a second in unusual circumstances. Both the Nigeria captain and the Algerian backline presumed Obi Mikel was offside after a ball was scooped over a static defensive line.

For a split second all stood still in anticipation of a flag from the linesmen or whistle from the referee but neither came, leaving Obi Mikel to react quickest and calmly slot home in the 42nd minute.

A long range rocket from Nabil Bentaleb reduced the deficit in the 67th minute but Moses grabbed his second in stoppage time at the end after a counter attack move found him unmarked at the back post for an easy conversion.

Defeat leaves Algeria, who went to the second round of last World Cup in Brazil, in deep danger of missing out on Russia as they were left bottom on one point, along with Zambia, who grabbed an unexpected 1-1 draw away at Cameroon in Limbe.

Striker Collins Mbesuma slid home a square pass for a 34th minute opener but Cameroon equalised on the stroke of half-time when Vincent Aboubakar converted a penalty. Cameroon have two points. Hosts South Africa were handed a soft penalty two minutes before halftime in their Group D clash with Senegal in Polokwane which captain Thulani Hlatshwayo converted.

Television replays showed it was a mistake by the referee but while incensed Senegalese player were still berating the officials two minutes later, they got caught by a quickly taken free kick that saw Thulani Serero finish for a 2-0 home lead at the break.

Senegal, with Sadio Mane leading their attack, laid siege to the home side's goal after Cheikh Ndoye pulled one back but ran out of time in their bid for an equaliser.

South Africa have four points in the group, behind Burkina Faso on goal difference after they beat Cape Verde 2-0.

Farouk Miya's 18th minute strike allowed Uganda to beat Congo 1-0 in Kampala to top Group E but Ghana and Egypt meet on Sunday. Saturday's two matches in Group C both ended goalless as the Ivory Coast drew in Morocco and Gabon held Mali. — Reuters

UYO: Nigeria's striker Ahmed Musa (L) challenges Algeria's defender Hicham Belkaroui during the 2018 FIFA World Cup African zone group B qualifying football match between Nigeria and Algeria at the Akwa Ibom State Stadium in Uyo on Saturday. — AFP

Spain, Italy cruise as Wales held again

PARIS: Wales conceded an agonising late equaliser as Serbia battled to a 1-1 draw in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday as former champions Italy and Spain both won 4-0.

Earlier Saturday, the Republic of Ireland has stunned Austria 1-0 in Vienna and are top of Group D on 10 points, with Serbia second on eight and Wales third on six. Gareth Bale rocketed Wales into a 30th-minute lead in Cardiff after Hal Robson-Kanu dispossessed Matija Nastasic and fed the ball to the Real Madrid forward, who cracked home a powerful snap shot to make it 1-0. But Aleksander Mitrovic was fastest to react with four red shirts around him when Antonio Rukavina whipped in an inviting cross to level for the visitors late in the game.

"It was a disappointing result, we feel like we threw away two points. We're at home, 1-0 up after 85 minutes, it's two points lost," Bale admitted after the game. Just moments before Serbia had levelled, Bale had seen a snapshot come agonisingly back off the post.

Wales coach Chris Coleman was less disappointed and was looking down the road. "We are four points behind Ireland but we play them twice," he said. "We have a massive chance. Tonight the boys deserved all three points."

It was the third game in a row the Welsh have gone ahead only to draw. "We can be proud of ourselves. We are on the right track. Today we can be happy with one point," said Serbia captain Branislav Ivanovic.

The Irish top Group D thanks to a James McClean strike three minutes after half-time in Vienna. "This is going to be a very tight finish. But this has been a splendid start for us and we are delighted with the 10 points," said Ireland boss Martin O'Neill.

Spain and Italy continue to set the pace at the helm in Group G and both have 10 points. Spain played at Granada where Macedonia's Darko Velkovski scored a 34th minute own goal before Votolo on 63 minutes, Nacho Monreal (83) and veteran striker Aritz Aduriz (85) gave them a comfortable win.

Taking on minnows Liechtenstein, Italy's Anfrea Belotti scored either side of strikes from Ciro Imobile and Antonio Candreva.

Eran Zahavi converted an 18th-minute penalty to set Israel on their way with Dan Einbinder and Eliran Atar making sure they beat Albania 3-0 in Tirana.

Iceland failed to replicate their Euro 2016 heroics in a 2-0 defeat in Croatia in Group I.

Croatia grabbed the lead after 15 minutes through Inter Milan midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, but it was Iceland who took control after that in Zagreb, where the game was played out in front of empty stands after a FIFA stadium ban.

Despite having plenty of the ball in both halves, Iceland failed to make the crucial breakthrough. And the home side punished them in injury time, Brozovic again doing the damage against the run of play.

Croatia, now top of the group with 10 points from four games, finished the match with 10 men after Ivan Perisic was sent off at the death.

Also in Group I, Turkey revived their slim hopes of making it to Russia in 2018 with a 2-0 home victory over Kosovo in Antalya.

CARDIFF: TOPSHOT - Wales' forward Gareth Bale (L) vies with Serbia's midfielder Nemanja Matic during the World Cup 2018 qualification match between Wales and Serbia at Cardiff City stadium in Cardiff on Saturday. — AFP

Burak Yilmaz and Volkan Sen scored within four minutes of one another in the second half to leave Kosovo bottom on just a solitary point.

Georgia and Moldova played out a 1-1 draw in Tbilisi to remain rooted in the bottom two spots in Group D. —AFP

I don't fear England job, says Southgate

LONDON: Gareth Southgate has declared he would not be afraid to take on the England manager's job on a permanent basis when his four-game stint as interim head coach ends.

Southgate was installed following Sam Allardyce's abrupt departure in September and Friday's 3-0 win over Scotland in World Cup qualifying left him with two wins and one draw from his first three games. The England job is one of the most high-profile roles in world football, obliging incumbents to deal with sky-high expectations, a huge degree of personal scrutiny and an impatient press pack.

But when asked if there was any part of him that feared the job, Southgate replied: "No, is the answer. "I said earlier in the week that it would be easy to look at the negatives, but to work with top players and to work in big matches is what I want to do. From that side, no." Renowned for his mild-mannered nature, Southgate produced a rare display of emotion after Adam Lallana's second goal against Scotland, dropping to one knee on the touchline and punching the air. "I enjoy winning," the 46-year-old told reporters after the game at Wembley. "Obviously the person that I am when I'm in this sort of situation (talking to the media) or outside and meeting people is different to the animal that wants to win football matches. "I think the players get that now and that's important because I think sometimes there's perhaps a misconception about how much it means for me to win. So it's a special night to be involved in."

England's win over their old rivals preserved their two-point advantage at the top of UEFA qualifying Group F. While the margin of victory-thanks to headers from Daniel Sturridge, Lallana and Gary Cahill-was comfortable, their performance was far from polished. England's determination to play the ball out from the back gave their supporters several hair-raising moments, with John Stones guilty of playing his team into trouble on more than one occasion.

But although Southgate emphasised the need for "bravery, but not stupidity", he defended Stones and said the Manchester City centre-back will need patience if he is to fulfil his vast potential. "For years we've talked about not being able to play out from the back," said Southgate, whose side entertain Spain in a friendly on Tuesday. "If we're to be different, if we're to progress, then we have to encourage players. But he also knows what I think of some of the things he did! "What we've got to remember is he's 22. In central defensive terms, it's nothing. —AFP

Kuwait Times
55 Years
Sports

15 Bushaiba, Al Baz team win Red Bull Bar Bahr's title

17 Kohli plays anchor as India draw first England Test

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

MAN UTD ARE FOOTBALL'S TOP PAYERS, SAYS SURVEY Page 19

OHIO: Columbus Blue Jackets' Dalton Prout, bottom, knocks the puck away from St Louis Blues' Kyle Brodziak during the first period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, in Columbus, Ohio. — AP

Gagner scores twice as Jackets hammer Blues

COLUMBUS: Sam Gagner scored twice, Nick Foligno got a goal and two assists and 13 Blue Jackets had at least a point, helping Columbus beat the St. Louis Blues 8-4 on Saturday night. Eight days after whipping NHL-leading Montreal 10-1, Columbus had its fans chanting "We want 10!" with its team ahead 7-1 late in the second period. Alexander Wennberg, Brandon Dubinsky, Markus Nutivaara, William Karlsson and Zach Werenski also scored for Columbus. The Blue Jackets rebounded from a tough loss Thursday night in Boston and have points in six of their last seven games (5-1-1), winning four straight at home. Cam Atkinson added a career-high four assists, and Brandon Saad, Scott Hartnell, Lukas Sedlak and Boone Jenner each had two. Sergei Bobrovksy, pulled in the first period against the Bruins, stopped 33 shots for the Jackets.

Robby Fabbri scored twice and Vladimir Tarasenko and Kevin Shattenkirk also score for St Louis. Jake Allen stopped eight of 12 shots and was pulled early in the second period. Carter Hutton finished with 14 stops.

PENGUINS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Sidney Crosby and Bryan Rust scored in the third period to help Pittsburgh pull away from Toronto. Evgeni Malkin and Chris Kunitz also scored and Matt Murray stopped 34 shots as Pittsburgh won for the seventh time in nine games. Zach Hyman scored for the Maple Leafs and Frederik Anderson had 45 saves in his second start in two nights. Toronto has won just once in its last eight on the road. Rust made it 3-1 at 6:58 of the third period when he took a feed from Crosby at the faceoff dot and put a shot on Andersen. He got his own rebound and darted to the net, sweeping a shot past Andersen's outstretched pad.

RANGERS 4, FLAMES 1

Michael Grabner and Derek Stepan scored in the first period, Henrik Lundqvist stopped 35 shots and New York beat Calgary. Jimmy Vesey and Pavel Buchnevich also scored for New York, which has won six of seven.

Micheal Ferland spoiled Lundqvist's shutout bid with 8:48 remaining and Brian Elliott finished with 24 saves for Calgary, which has lost four straight and six of seven. Grabner, who signed with the Rangers in the off-season, has a team-high eight goals in 15 games - just one fewer than his total in 80 games with Toronto last year. Buchnevich scored for the fourth straight game.

CANADIENS 5, RED WINGS 0

Carey Price made 24 saves for his second shutout of the season and Montreal beat Detroit to extend its winning streak to four games. Phillip Danault, Paul Byron, Shea Weber, Andrew Shaw and Max Pacioretty scored to help NHL-leading Montreal improve to 13-1-1. Shaw added two assists for his first multipoint game with the Canadiens. Jimmy Howard gave up five goals on 25 shots for Detroit before being replaced by Petr Mrazek at the start of the third period. Mrazek made 12 saves in relief. The Red Wings dropped to 8-7-1. Montreal has opened with 10 straight victories at Bell Centre, a franchise record for consecutive home victories to start a season. The previous record was established in 1953.

PANTHERS 3, ISLANDERS 2, OT

Jonathan Marchessault tied the game with 13.6 seconds left in regulation and Denis Malgin scored late in overtime, helping Florida beat New York.

Florida trailed 2-0 in the third period before getting goals from Kyle Rau and Marchessault. Marchessault tied it when Jaroslav Halak blocked a shot but let the puck trickle through his pads and in. Malgin poked in a rebound with 45.8 seconds left in overtime. Brock Nelson and Nick Leddy scored for New York and Halak had 40 saves. Roberto Luongo made 17 saves to win his second straight start after losing the previous four. James Reimer entered with 50.4 seconds left in regulation and made one save, but Luongo re-entered after it was tied and played in overtime.

SHARKS 3, LIGHTNING 1

Patrick Marleau had a goal that required two video reviews, Martin Jones made 25 saves and San Jose beat Tampa Bay. Tommy Wingels and Marc-Edouard Vlasic also scored for the Sharks, who are 3-0 midway through a six-game road trip. San Jose is 11-3-1, including 6-1-1 on the road, against Tampa Bay since 2006. Tampa Bay got a goal from Anton Stralman. Ben Bishop had 17 saves.

PREDATORS 5, DUCKS 0

James Neal scored twice and Pekka Rinne stopped 27 shots for his 41st career shutout in Nashville's win over Anaheim. Ryan Ellis, Colton Sissons and Filip Forsberg also scored for the Predators, who won their third straight and improved to 4-0-2 in their last six. Rinne's shutout was his third this season. Ducks goalie John Gibson gave up four goals on 18 shots before he was replaced late in the third period by Jonathan Bernier, who stopped eight of the nine shots he faced. The first two games in the teams' season series have both been decided by five-goal margins, including Anaheim's 6-1 win on Oct. 26 at home.

FLYERS 3, WILD 2

Brayden Schenn scored the tiebreaking goal at 8:43 of the third period, lifting Philadelphia over Minnesota. Brandon Manning and Michael Del Zotto also scored to help the Flyers end a three-game skid. Michael Neuvirth started and stopped six of seven shots before leaving after the first period due to an apparent injury. Steve Mason replaced him and finished with 19 saves, including a left pad save on Eric Staal in the closing seconds. Nino Niederreiter and Mikael Granlund scored for the Wild, who lost for the third time in four games. Devan Dubnyk had 33 saves. On the go-ahead score, Wayne Simmonds put a between-the-legs pass from behind the net onto Schenn's stick and Schenn waited for Dubnyk to go down before firing the puck over him for his third of the season - all on the power play.

BRUINS 2, COYOTES 1

David Pastrnak got his team-leading 10th goal, Tuukka Rask stopped 31 shots and Boston held on to beat Arizona. Ryan Spooner also scored for the Bruins, who have won three of their last four overall and nine straight against Arizona. Boston has not lost to the Coyotes since Oct. 9, 2010, during a season-opening series in Prague. Radim Vrbata scored a power-play goal and Louis Domingue made 27 saves for the Coyotes, who have lost two straight and three of their past four.

HURRICANES 5, CAPITALS 1

Rookie Sebastian Aho scored his first two NHL goals, Jordan Staal had a goal and three assists and Carolina beat Washington. Aho added an assist, Teuvo Teravainen had a goal and three assists and Victor Rask also scored for Carolina. Cam Ward made 20 saves. Washington was coming off an overtime win in Chicago on Friday night. Evgeny Kuznetsov scored with 7:58 left in the first period to put Washington ahead 1-0, but backup Philipp Grubauer stopped only 33 of 37 shots.

DEVILS 4, SABRES 2

Nick Lappin and Kyle Palmieri scored in the second period to lead New Jersey over Buffalo. Kyle Quincey and John Moore also scored for the Devils, and Cory Schneider stopped 21 shots. Taylor Hall, Adam Henrique and Damon Severson had two assists each as New Jersey completed a sweep of the two-night, home-and-home set and won its season-high fourth straight. Marcus Foligno and Matt Moulson scored for the Sabres, who have lost four straight. Robin Lehner finished with 23 saves. — AP

NHL results/standings

Montreal 5, Detroit 0; San Jose 3, Tampa Bay 1; Florida 3, NY Islanders 2 (OT); New Jersey 4, Buffalo 2; Philadelphia 3, Minnesota 2; Pittsburgh 4, Toronto 1; Carolina 5, Washington 1; Columbus 8, St. Louis 4; Boston 2, Arizona 1; Nashville 5, Anaheim 0; NY Rangers 4, Calgary 1.

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	10	3	2	51	37	22
St. Louis	7	6	3	37	47	17
Winnipeg	7	7	2	47	48	16
Minnesota	7	5	1	39	27	15
Nashville	6	5	3	39	37	15
Dallas	6	6	3	40	50	15
Colorado	6	7	0	27	39	12

Pacific Division

Edmonton	9	5	1	45	38	19
San Jose	9	6	0	37	35	18
Anaheim	7	6	3	41	40	17
Los Angeles	7	8	0	37	38	14
Vancouver	5	9	1	28	44	11
Calgary	5	10	1	39	59	11
Arizona	5	9	0	38	49	10

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Montreal	13	1	1	51	31	27
Ottawa	9	5	0	34	33	18
Boston	9	6	0	39	38	18
Tampa Bay	8	6	1	46	42	17
Detroit	8	7	1	41	43	17
Florida	7	7	1	40	39	15
Toronto	6	6	3	44	55	15
Buffalo	5	6	4	29	37	14

Metropolitan Division

NY Rangers	11	4	0	62	35	22
Pittsburgh	10	3	2	47	39	22
Washington	9	4	1	37	34	19
New Jersey	8	3	3	35	30	19
Columbus	7	4	2	45	32	16
Philadelphia	7	7	2	55	59	16
NY Islanders	5	7	3	40	47	13
Carolina	4	6	4	38	46	12

Kuwait Times 55 Anniversary

BUSINESS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

After Trump and Brexit, UK FM weighs fallout
Page 23

Challenging months ahead for US
Page 25

ZAIN REGIONAL B2B FORUM FOCUSES ON ENTERPRISE NEEDS
Page 26

KAMCO wins 'Asset Manager of the Year - Kuwait' award
Page 22

AHMADABAD: Indians stand in a queue to deposit and exchange discontinued currency notes, outside the Reserve Bank of India in Ahmadabad yesterday. —AP

CHAOS AT INDIA BANKS AS CASH CRISIS DEEPENS

PM URGES PEOPLE TO ENDURE 'HARDSHIP FOR ONLY 50 DAYS'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday made an emotional appeal to people to make India graft-free, as chaotic scenes erupted outside banks nationwide after high denomination notes were pulled from circulation.

Modi surprised the country on Tuesday night when he announced that 500 ($7.50) and 1,000 rupee notes would no longer be legal tender, in a design to tackle widespread corruption and tax evasion. Customers can exchange their old bills for new ones or deposit them in their accounts until December 30.

But even after five days of the announcement, desperate people continued to line up yesterday for hours outside banks and ATMs, with many running out of cash by the afternoon and prompting anger against the government's latest anti-corruption measure. "People are going through great pains. I feel that pain. This scheme is not born from arrogance. I have seen such adversities up close. I understand the trouble everyone is facing," Modi said at an event in western Goa state.

"But this hardship is only for 50 days," he added. "Please, 50 days, just give me 50 days. After December 30, I promise to show you the India that you have always wished for."

Modi also vowed to pursue his fight against corruption and tax evaders even if it meant scanning records dating back to India's independence in 1947. Since coming to power in 2014, Modi has pledged to crack down on so-called black money-vast piles of wealth kept hidden from the tax authorities-with new measures including 10-year jail terms for evaders.

Analysts have broadly welcomed the latest initiative, saying consumer spending would likely dip in the short term as the new notes made their way into circulation but that the move would boost GDP in the long term. The government has said only tax dodgers will lose out from the bill-switch, but the move has left millions scrambling to withdraw cash for daily expenses at local grocers, vegetable markets or even for rickshaw fares which are largely cash-driven.

To add to their woes, India's finance minister said Saturday that cash machines could only dispense the newly-designed 500 rupee and 2,000 notes after several weeks because of a technical issue. Many low-income people including maids, drivers and local traders, without access to bank accounts and who store cash at home, complain that their savings have been completely wiped out. —AFP

ALLAHABAD: Garlands made of Indian 10 Rupees denomination are displayed for sale, in Allahabad yesterday. Garlands made of currency are in demand during the wedding season. —AP

TRUMP STOCKS RALLY COULD PERSIST, SAY ANALYSTS

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's shock win of the US presidency sparked a surprising rally on Wall Street this week that some believe could be a prelude to further gains. The response, which sent the Dow Jones Industrial record to all-time highs on Thursday and Friday, reflected expectations that pro-business policies and ramped-up public works spending would spur greater economic growth.

Traders also shrugged off the worries many talked about prior to the election, including questions about the Republican mogul's temperament and his protectionist trade policies. Analysts said the market's optimistic response was reasonable, but that there are also risks ahead. "There's a lot of expectations built into this rally," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank. But he said that for stocks to go higher, companies will have to show much stronger profit and revenue growth.

The Dow had its best week in five years, ending Friday at 18,847.66, to take its gain since January above 8 percent. The broader S&P 500, pulled down by energy stocks, was still about 1 percent below its all-time high. That was a far cry from the cataclysmic reaction to a Trump upset that some analysts predicted.

"I expected a Brexit-like pullback on an unlikely Trump victory because I felt that selling would be fuelled by emotion," Ablin said. "It seems that just opposite type of emotion may be behind some of the buying." Analysts attributed the surprise rally to signals from President-elect Trump and his camp that highlighted public works spending and de-emphasized protectionist measures.

Especially benefitting in the rally were banks and pharmaceutical companies, in anticipation that Trump and a Republican Congress will lighten regulatory pressures on both.

Overnight shift

Tuesday's results marked an overnight shift in the economic policy universe that has dominated since 2008, said Nick Colas, chief market strategist at Convergex. "Since the financial crisis, capital markets have only had to focus on one question, What are central banks doing?" he said.

"In one day, that playbook is over. Now the playbook is what is a new US government going to do under a Donald Trump presidency." The shift likely hearkens more volatility in the months ahead, as news and rumors dribble out about Cabinet posts and policy decisions, Colas said.

He said stocks could still rise two to four percent, although he cautioned that higher interest rates could weigh on the housing market and consumer spending. Another risk is a return to Trump's punitive trade stance, which is generally loathed by investors. Trump has said he would raise tariffs on goods coming from China, block the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact and renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

On Friday one of Wall Street's most powerful voices, billionaire investor Warren Buffett, said that he had backed Democrat Hillary Clinton over Trump because he thought she had better "temperament and judgment." But he also said that he was "100 percent" confident in the US, believing the country would ultimately move beyond the vitriolic campaign.

The market appears to be ignoring any questions about Trump's temperament, as well as any fears of rising social tensions. The election has spurred numerous protests over Trump's controversial statements on immigrants and minorities. In Portland, a march by some 4,000 protesters turned violent, with cars vandalized and projectiles thrown at police, who used rubber bullets and pepper spray to disperse the crowd. At least 26 people were arrested.

Analysts said the disdain felt by many for the president-elect does not register on markets. "Don't expect stocks to be volatile because we happen to have a president who has a volatile mix of points of view on social issues," Colas said. "Plenty of people did not like Ronald Reagan in the 1980s and stocks did very well." —AFP

SAUDI OIL MINISTER SAYS OPEC PRODUCTION CUT 'IMPERATIVE'

ALGIERS: Saudi Arabia's oil minister said it was "imperative" that OPEC nations finalise an agreement over a cut in oil production aimed at boosting crude prices, Algerian media said yesterday.

Khalid Al-Falih met his Algerian counterpart Noureddine Boutarfa yesterday and called on cartel members to stick to the surprise cut deal, reached in Algiers in September. "In this period marked by unstable oil prices it is imperative to reach a consensus between OPEC nations and to agree on an effective mechanism and precise figures to activate the historic Algiers accord," Falih was quoted as saying by Algeria's APS news agency. The September meeting of OPEC members produced an agreement to cut the cartel's output by 750,000 barrels per day (bpd), according to Bloomberg News.

Oil rose on news of the deal, but crude prices are still more than 50 percent lower than their mid-2014 levels. Falih said he was "optimistic" that the agreement would come into effect.

The Saudi minister was quoted as saying that a "fair and balanced" output deal would allow unrest-hit Libya and Nigeria, with a return of security, to raise production, while reaching agreement with Iran on a freeze. Falih and his Algerian counterpart Boutarfa called for the date an OPEC preparatory meeting of experts ahead of the Vienna conference to be brought forward to November 21 from its scheduled date of November 25, APS reported.

OPEC officials said in September that the group would aim for a combined output of 32.5-33 million bpd. On Friday, however, prices fell on news from OPEC that it had pumped oil in October at record levels of 33.64 million bpd, 236,000 barrels per day more than the previous month.

Iran opened three oilfields with a total production of more than 220,000 barrels per day (bpd) yesterday, as the country ramps up its production after the lifting of sanctions. President Hassan Rouhani officially launched the first phases of the Yadavaran and North Azadegan fields as well as the the North Yaran field, which are shared with neighboring Iraq, the Iranian oil ministry's news agency SHANA reported.

Yadavaran will have a production of up to 115,000 bpd in its first phase and North Azadegan's output is 75,000 bpd, SHANA said. North Yaran will initially produce 30,000 bpd, the news agency reported last week. —Reuters

KAMCO wins 'Asset Manager of the Year - Kuwait' award

Global Investor recognizes KAMCO's high technical standards

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, has been awarded "Asset Manager of the Year" from Global Investor, a renowned publication catering to the asset management sector. The award was presented to those who displayed high technical standards in the sector performance analysis, evaluation of investment services and business leadership, in addition to whether the latter were aligned to the company's overall strategy and vision. KAMCO was selected for this award amongst the other nominees in the asset management category; one of the many other categories inaugurated by the Global Investor magazine that aim to recognize the best local, regional and international investment companies. KAMCO won the title of "Asset Manager of the Year-Kuwait" after an extensive technical evaluation of the company's performance, and acquiring the highest number of votes amongst other investment firms nominated for the award.

On this occasion, Chief Assets Officer of KAMCO, Salah Al-Wuheib expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation towards awarding KAMCO this admired title, asserting that his team is dedicated towards enhancing and implementing a progressive strategy in selective and innovative products within the key GCC and MENA market sectors.

Al-Wuheib said, "Our Asset Management team worked diligently to grow and maintain KAMCO's assets under management (AUM) over the years, further enhancing the company's position as one of the largest asset management firms in the region, despite the current market situation. We will continue to actively seek future successes that will further enhance our distinctive investment performance levels, and benefit our investors and shareholders.

Al-Wuheib received the award on behalf of KAMCO, during a prestigious ceremony held amid an investment forum organized by Global Investor. The event was attended by a plethora of senior representatives from the local and international investment scene.

Global Investor is a renowned print and online magazine that covers the financial and investment industry on a global scale. The magazine has focused on evaluating and rating publically held companies in these sectors. Some of the world's most well respected economists and theorists have contributed to the content within the online and printed magazines, in addition to their business partners who have participated in the voting system which award nominees undergo for the various awards.

KAMCO Investment Company is a premier investment company, based in Kuwait with an office in the UAE and presence throughout the GCC region, regulated by the Capital Markets Authority with one of the largest private sector AUMs in the region.

Established in 1998 and listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in 2003, KAMCO is a subsidiary of United Gulf Bank (UGB). It has become a leading regional company within its sector offering innovative products and services to its clients, holding over $11.2 billion of client AUM and has successfully completed 85 investment banking transactions worth over $12 billion as of 31 December 2015.

With almost two decades of experience in conducting business in Kuwait's dynamic investment industry, KAMCO has successfully established a robust reputation for solidity, characterized by its prudent, conservative investment philosophy and spirit of transparency, which has consistently commanded the goodwill of a wide patronbase. The company will further aggressively build upon its core competencies to offer MENA-wide investment management consultancy and services, backed by its proven track record in stringent risk mitigation, investment product innovation, and a cautious investment approach towards local, regional and international capital markets.

News in brief

Saudi's PetroRabigh to shut ethane cracker

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co (PetroRabigh) will shut its ethane cracker for 21 days effective from Nov. 14 for maintenance, the company said in a bourse filing yesterday. The suspension, which aims to improve the plant's safety and efficiency, will impact the firm's fourth-quarter earnings by around 375 million riyals ($100 million), the statement added. It is the second time in recent months that the firm, a joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Japan's Sumitomo Chemical, has shut the unit. PetroRabigh shut the cracker down as a precaution on June 23 to work on damage to one of the unit's turbines, restarting it on July 14.

US dollar exchange rate against KD at 0.303

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar stabilized at 0.303 while the rate of the euro went down to KD 0.329, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The CBK said that the rate of pound sterling was up to KD 0.382 and the Swiss franc going down to KD 0.306. The Japanese yen stood still at KD 0.002.

BofA recommends buying Egyptian T-bills

DUBAI: In a sign of foreign investors' improving sentiment towards Egypt after it floated its currency, analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch said they recommended buying Egyptian Treasury bills. Investors should buy six-month T-bills without hedging them to benefit from high yields and the likelihood that the Egyptian pound has bottomed against the US dollar, after tumbling in the initial days after its Nov 3 float, Bank of America analysts said in a note dated Nov 11. Bank of America said Egyptian T-bills were a typical carry trade to be held to maturity; it said it would enter the trade at an exchange rate of 16.5 pounds to the dollar, aiming for the pound to rebound eventually to 15. Egyptian T-bills were popular among foreign investors until 2011, when political instability ushered in years of uncertainty about the exchange rate and economy.

Al Baraka Group's Q3 net profit drops 3.75%

DUBAI: Al-Baraka Banking Group, the Bahraini Islamic lender with operations in more than a dozen countries, reported a 3.75 percent fall in third-quarter net profit yesterday as it set aside more cash to cover bad loans. The bank made a net attributable profit of $35.04 million in the three months ending Sept 30, it said in a statement. This compares with a profit of $36.40 million in the corresponding period of 2015, according to the statement. Higher net provisioning, which jumped to $39.16 million from $11.04 million in the same period a year earlier, put pressure on the bank's earnings. For the first nine months of the year, the bank said it had raised its general provisioning as a precautionary measure due to the economic and financial conditions in some countries it operated as well as global uncertainty.

Alabbar, Saudi SWF launch $1bn e-commerce platform

DUBAI: Businessman Mohamed Alabbar and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) are teaming up to launch a Middle Eastern e-commerce platform, the Dubai-based billionaire announced yesterday. Investors are initially contributing $1 billion to the project, which will be 50 percent owned by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, Alabbar told a news conference. The other 50 percent will be owned by Alabbar and other regional investors. Noon.com will launch operations in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in January, with 20 million products on the platform, Alabbar added.

Egypt's IMF loan to be repaid in 10 years

CAIRO: Egypt's $12 billion three-year IMF loan program will be repaid in 10 years with a 4.5 year grace period and the reforms agreed with the international lender aim to boost growth and curb inflation, the finance ministry said yesterday. It said the reforms target GDP growth of 5.5 percent and inflation of less than 10 percent by the 2018-19 fiscal year. The International Monetary Fund approved on Friday a program aimed at helping Egypt close its budget gap and rebalance its currency markets. Egypt's headline inflation was near 14 percent in October and the economy grew 4.3 percent in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, Egypt's stock market rose sharply early yesterday in heavy volume, heading for a 12th straight session of gains following the International Monetary Fund's approval of a three-year, $12 billion loan for the country. The IMF has already disbursed an initial installment of $2.75 billion to Egypt's central bank. The IMF loan approval had been widely expected, but this plus Egypt's decision to float its currency on Nov. 3 has made investors optimistic that the market can look forward to major inflows of foreign money.

Analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch recommended buying Egyptian Treasury bills unhedged, reviving a trade that had been popular among foreign investors before political upheaval in 2011 ushered in years of economic instability. Egypt's bluechip stock index climbed 2.6 percent in trading volume that looked set to be the biggest daily amount on record. Financials and exporting firms were some of the top gainers, with Egypt Kuwait Holding jumping 6.3 percent and Arabian Food Industries rising as much as its 10 percent daily limit. A few blue chips declined on profit-taking following strong gains over the past week. Telecom Egypt was down 1.7 percent. The broader stock market index was up 2.0 percent.

Yields on Egypt's three- and nine-month Treasury bills fell yesterday in the second auction since the central bank floated the pound currency, with bids submitted for nine-month bills roughly four times more than the amount accepted. Yields on the 91-day bill dropped to an average of 18.028 percent from 19.055 percent the last time similar bills were sold. Yields on the 273-day bill declined to an average of 18.715 percent from 20.367 percent at the last similar auction. —Reuters

ENBD expects retail lending growth to fall

DUBAI: Emirates NBD (ENBD), Dubai's largest bank, expects loan growth within its retail business to halve next year to around 5 percent as the market slows, its retail and wealth management head said yesterday. The bank's consumer lending book has grown by 10 percent since the end of 2015. ENBD is aiming for full-year loan growth of mid to high single digits next year across the bank. "Single digit for next year is what most in the industry expects and I expect us to lead the industry and I hope we will continue to gain market share," Suvo Sarkar, senior executive vice president and group head of retail banking and wealth management at Emirates NBD, said in an interview.

"That's pleasing for us in a situation of a relatively slow market." Banks in the United Arab Emirates have been hit by tougher operating conditions following the collapse in oil prices that has fed through into higher levels of bad loans and also a squeeze on net interest margins.

Speaking during the bank's third-quarter results call, ENBD group chief executive Shayne Nelson said the bank was seeing a higher incidence of impairment charges in its micro- small- and medium-sized business and retail divisions. Sarkar said he did not expect a further rise in impairments within the SME sector. "There will be another 12 months of a difficult situation for the SME sector. There's some pain to go but the worst is over."

He said data from the UAE's federal credit bureau, set up last year, had helped the bank to navigate the uncertain economy. Since launching in November 2014, Al Etihad Credit Bureau has allowed banks to access data on consumers at other financial institutions when making lending decisions, giving banks a clearer picture of the level of indebtedness and financial history of borrowers.

"For the new business we've booked in the past four quarters, we've seen far better delinquency behaviour," he said. Sarkar also said that making use of the information was also a reason for the lower new lending growth rates. Within the retail segment, the bank's approval rates on new business had dropped off by 10 to 15 percent, he said. —Reuters

Aluminium Bahrain Q3 net income rises 65.1%

DUBAI: Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), owner of one of the world's largest aluminium smelters, reported a 65.1 percent rise in third-quarter net profit yesterday. Net income for the three months to the end of September was 14.3 million dinars ($38.0 million), it said in a statement, up from 8.7 million dinars in the third quarter of 2015.

"Alba was able to raise net income on the back of a solid operational performance despite a relatively weak physical premium environment," said chief executive Tim Murray. SICO Bahrain had forecast Alba would make a net profit of 16.9 million dinars

The company also said it expected to finalize the export credit agency financing for its Line 6 expansion by the first quarter of 2017.

Alba will become the world's largest single aluminium smelter complex, boosting its annual output by 540,000 tons to 1.5 million tons per year by adding a sixth "potline", used in producing the metal from raw materials such as bauxite.

Last month it said it had closed a $1.5 billion loan with regional and international banks that will fund the Line 6 expansion. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.853
Indian Rupees	4.580
Pakistani Rupees	2.906
Srilankan Rupees	2.064
Nepali Rupees	2.835
Singapore Dollar	217.980
Hongkong Dollar	39.231
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippine Peso	6.235
Thai Baht	8.663
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.201
Qatari Riyal	83.633
ani Riyal	780.800
Bahraini Dinar	808.560
UAE Dirham	82.893
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	22.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	19.091
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.222
Tunisian Dinar	135.240
Jordanian Dinar	428.860
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.029
Syrian Lira	2.170
Morocco Dirham	31.210
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.300
Euro	333.060
Sterling Pound	385.550
Canadian dollar	226.250
Turkish lira	94.170
Swiss Franc	310.670
Australian Dollar	232.790
US Dollar Buying	303.100
GOLD	
20 Gram	249.81
10 Gram	127.83
5 Gram	64.76

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 Pesso	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	0.377750	0.387750
Czech Korune	0.004283	0.016283
Danish Krone	0.040566	0.045566
Euro	0.0325924	0.334924
Norwegian Krone	0.032388	0.037588
Romanian Leu	0.084333	0.084333
Slovakia	0.009095	0.019095
Swedish Krona	0.029661	0.034661
Swiss Franc	0.301911	0.312911
Turkish Lira	0.090276	0.100576
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.221977	0.233977
New Zealand Dollar	0.209556	0.219056
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.219556	0.228556
Georgina Lari	0.137438	0.137438
US Dollars	0.300200	0.304900
US Dollars Mint	0.300700	0.304900
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003386	0.003970
Chinese Yuan	0.043411	0.046911
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037149	0.039899
Indian Rupee	0.000301	0.004188
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002784	0.002964
Kenyan Shilling	0.003130	0.003130
Korean Won	0.000252	0.000267
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068286	0.074286
Nepalese Rupee	0.002824	0.002994
Pakistan Rupee	0.002700	0.002990
Philippine Peso	0.006130	0.006430
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.210840	0.220840
South African Rand	0.015750	0.024250
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001653	0.002233
Taiwan	0.009550	0.009730
Thai Baht	0.008298	0.008848
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.800591	0.809091
Egyptian Pound	0.015511	0.024764
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000187	0.000247
Jordanian Dinar	0.425049	0.434049
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000147	0.000247
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019958	0.043958
Nigerian Naira	0.001258	0.001893
Omani Riyal	0.783969	0.789649
Qatar Riyal	0.082772	0.084222
Saudi Riyal	0.080080	0.081360
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.132065	0.140065
Turkish Lira	0.090276	0.100576
UAE Dirhams	0.081425	0.083125
Yemeni Riyal	0.001375	0.001466

NREC reports net profit of KD11.1 million in Q3

Operating revenue reaches KD20.5 million

KUWAIT: National Real Estate Company (NREC), a leading regional asset manager and developer with $2 billion in projects under development in the UAE, Egypt, and other markets, yesterday released its financial results for the third quarter of 2016.

The company recorded a growth of 11.1 percent in its top-line earnings for the quarter, bringing its year-to-date revenue to KD20.5 million, a growth of 38.4 percent from the same period last year. The company's net profit was KD3.5 million for the quarter, bringing its year-to-date net profit to KD11.1 million, a 4.7 percent decrease from the same period last year.

Revenue growth was driven by income generating assets in Kuwait, Jordan and Egypt, where NREC is developing a 3.8 million square meter residential community. The company is also developing Reem Mall, a two million square foot major shopping destination in Abu Dhabi. Reem Mall will house more than 450 stores including 85 restaurants, a large hypermarket, and family entertainment zones that include the world's largest indoor snow-play park.

9 Months (YTD) 2016 financial highlights:
Operating Revenue: KD20.5 million, up 38.4 percent
EBITDA: KD13.6 million, down 7.5 percent
Net Profit to shareholders: KD11.1 million, down 4.7 percent
Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 11.8 fils

Q3 2016 financial highlights:
Operating revenue: KD5.6 million, up 11.1 percent
EBITDA: KD4.1 million, down 15.1 percent
Net Profit to shareholders: KD3.5 million, down 11 percent
Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 3.73 fils

NREC CEO Samuel Sidiqi said, "We are pleased with our growth in operating revenues and continued profitability quarter to quarter and year to year. Though there are several external macroeconomic factors impacting our drop in profitability for the quarter, such as the currency issues in Egypt, both our project development business and our asset management business are healthy and standing on solid fundamentals.

Our income generating properties in Kuwait, Jordan and Egypt are performing well. In Kuwait, YTD rental revenue reached KD8 million, up 3.1 percent for the year. NREC Misr continues to perform well, we sold 805 residential units since the inception of our main residential development in the country, representing a cumulative sales value of EGP2.61 billion.

In Abu Dhabi, Reem Mall has acquired all necessary government approvals and is in the process of tendering the remaining works. Our leasing program is on track and continues to exceed expectations."

NREC CEO Samuel Sidiqi

NEW YORK: Shoppers visit a JC Penney store in New York. Reports from retailers, including department stores like Kohl's, Macy's and J C Penney, showed that shoppers had been starting to step up their spending in the months leading up to the election won by Republican Donald Trump. — AP

After election, are US shoppers ready to think about holidays?

NEW YORK: The uncertainty surrounding who will be the next US president is over. But with people still bitterly divided, are they ready to think about a holiday shopping season that thrives on feelings of joy and peace?

Reports from retailers, including department stores like Kohl's, Macy's and J C Penney, showed that shoppers had been starting to step up their spending in the weeks leading up to the election won by Republican Donald Trump. And the companies are generally optimistic about a good holiday season, pointing to higher wages for workers and leaner inventories.

"A relatively happy employed consumer base is a willing group of consumers," said Greg Portell, a partner in A T Kearney's consumer products and retail and communications, media and technology group. Pointing to the political environment is an easy excuse for retailers, analysts said. Even after the rancor of the campaign, they believe, Trump supporters will be in the mood to spend and those who supported Democrat Hillary Clinton or another candidate may shop as a balm on their emotions.

"It's retail therapy either way," says Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at NPD Group, a market research firm. What the department stores were seeing before the election was a bit of a mixed bag. Macy's and Kohl's raised their sales outlooks this week as they saw improvement, even as they posted another quarter of smaller declines. Nordstrom reported an increase in the key sales measure, and raised its earnings outlook.

But Penney cut its annual outlook for a key sales measure after reporting a surprise sales drop as it wrestled with weak clothing sales. Macy's had specifically cited strength in apparel, across the men's, women's and children's departments. Like some other retailers, Penney's business has been volatile, bouncing back in the summer after a tough start to the year.

In general, a dip in buying is normal before a presidential election as people are distracted and advertising space is taken up by political ads, but spending usually bounces back afterward. In 2012 and 2004, year-over-year sales growth slowed an average of 22 percent in September and October, from the January through August period, but rebounded an average of 16 percent in November and December, according to consulting group AlixPartners.

Penney's CEO Marvin Ellison said it was hard to quantify how much the upcoming election affected business in the third quarter but that business accelerated in October, the last month of the period. But he noted from an economic standpoint, shoppers "are in really good shape," he added. — AP

After Trump and Brexit, UK FM weighs fallout

Hammond likely to look at tax, benefits options

LONDON: Five months to the day after Britain voted for Brexit, its finance minister will outline how the government plans to cope with the economic fallout and voters' frustrations which had echoes in Donald Trump's US election triumph. Philip Hammond, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is due on Nov 23 to announce spending and tax plans until the end of the decade in his first budget update since taking office after the June vote to leave the European Union.

His speech to parliament is likely to build on Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May's pledge to serve families that are "just managing"-a response to discontent with the political establishment and income disparity that was exposed by the referendum.

Her promise leaves Hammond with a difficult challenge: how to ease the squeeze on living standards and reduce inequality when the public finances are deep in the red and the economy is likely to slow sharply next year, reducing tax revenues. Hammond has hinted at more spending on infrastructure, building more homes and giving companies incentives to overcome their Brexit nerves and invest.

But after a decade of stagnant incomes the issues of living standards and inequality are at the top of the agenda-as in the United States and other European countries.

"You ignore the distribution of income at your peril," said John Llewellyn, a former global chief economist at Lehman Brothers who now runs a consultancy, Llewellyn Consulting and is on the advisory panel of Britain's independent budget office.

"It doesn't affect political outcomes one year to the next. But, as we have seen, it can produce very big outcomes. It creates a sense of injustice and we know that always ultimately bites hard," he said.

Trump's victory in the US presidential election on Nov 8 was an illustration of what can happen when voters lose faith in their politicians and feel left out. A political novice who has not held elected office, Trump rode a wave of anger towards Washington insiders, promising to create jobs, revive the economy and "make America great again". Hammond, who was foreign minister under the previous prime minister, David Cameron, will have taken note.

A TEST FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Hammond has no shortage of priorities after the vote to quit the EU, which has increased economic uncertainty in Britain though May has yet to launch the formal process for leaving the 28-nation bloc. She says she will do so by the end of March. The immediate impact of the Brexit vote has not been as severe as many economists warned. But inflation is likely to rise to around 3 percent or more next year, outpacing growth in pay, because the pound has slumped since the June 23 referendum. The Bank of England expects economic growth in 2017 and 2018 of 1.4 and 1.5 percent respectively, half the average pace of the 10 years before the global financial crisis.

But May has made helping the "just managing" families a top priority, and Hammond's speech will be used by opponents, voters and interest groups to gauge her commitment to her promises.

"While the choices are hard, what appears clear is that the Chancellor does have options: the extent to which he utilises them will go a long way to determining just how serious the government's focus on the 'just managing' is," the Resolution Foundation, a think tank which works on issues facing lower-earning households, said in a report this month. The main way that Hammond's predecessor as finance minister, George Osborne, tried to help households cope with slow earnings growth was to increase the threshold at which workers start to pay income tax, and to raise the minimum wage.

James Dowling, a former British Treasury official who worked on budgets, said Hammond might be tempted to accelerate the pace of raising the threshold for paying income tax.

"I can see how that would fit into the narrative," Dowling, who is now head of public policy at consultancy Lansons, said. A less expensive alternative would be to cut fuel duty or "sin taxes" on beer, wine, spirits and tobacco, something the government could do immediately without having to wait for the new financial year to start in April, he said.

The Resolution Foundation urged Hammond to take a more targeted approach by reversing planned cuts to social security benefits for people who are in work but on low wages.

POLITICAL RISKS

Osborne last year restricted access to Britain's expensive tax credits system, which tops up the earnings of workers on low incomes, and froze working-age benefits for four years in 2015. Along with the effects of a weaker economy and the higher inflation that is likely after the pound's slump, the changes mean the incomes of the poorest two-fifths of households could shrink between now and 2020, the Resolution Foundation said.

To help pay for easing problems of those in low-paid jobs, Hammond could freeze the 2017 rise in the income tax allowance threshold-the benefits of which will go mostly to higher earners-and drop a plan to cut corporation tax, it said. Looking further ahead, Britain's new government could rethink the way it raises state pensions each year-something recommended this month by lawmakers-and take bolder action to try to address one of the biggest squeezes on families, the high cost of buying or renting a home.

Britain launched a 5 billion pound ($6.30 billion)homebuilding stimulus package last month, its latest attempt to address a chronic housing shortage. But Vince Cable, who served as business minister in the coalition government of 2010-2015 when he was a Liberal Democrat lawmaker, said the scale of the problem required an overhaul of Britain's taxation system which, he said, favours home-owners.

But radical change would be so unpopular with many voters, it could end the political career of any finance minister who tried it, Cable told a panel discussion on Hammond's tax options organised by the Resolution Foundation. "You'd need to be protected by a military government," he said. — Reuters

Egypt continues rally on IMF; Saudi strong

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Egypt's stock market gained for a 12th straight session yesterday after the International Monetary Fund approved a $12 billion loan for the country, while Saudi Arabia rose, bucking a downtrend in the rest of the Gulf. The IMF loan approval had been widely expected, but it added fresh fuel to a rally caused by Egypt's decision to float its currency on Nov. 3, which has created hopes for major inflows of foreign money.

Egypt's blue-chip index climbed 2.1 percent in massive volume, although the index came well off the day's high and volume fell from the record set on Thursday. The index has surged 28.1 percent since the pound was floated. Financials and exporters were among Sunday's top gainers, with Egypt Kuwait Holding jumping 4.3 percent and Arabian Food Industries rising 10.7 percent.

A few blue chips declined on profit-taking, however; at current exchange rates, domestic stock prices in Egyptian pounds have risen close to global depositary receipts expressed in dollars.

Telecom Egypt, for example, fell 2.2 percent to 9.85 pounds. Its GDRs, each of which represents five shares, last closed at $2.505, equivalent to 7.89 pounds. Exchange data once again showed net foreign buying of stocks, to the tune of about $18 million - a large amount by the standards of recent years, though down from last week's levels and not big by the standards of many emerging markets.

"People are buying the economic growth expected in the next few years ... Most of the money is transfers from abroad," said Hany Genena, analyst at Beltone Financial in Cairo.

Yields on Egypt's three- and nine-month Treasury bills fell yesterday at a weekly auction, another sign of fund inflows. Bank of America Merrill Lynch recommended in a report that investors buy six-month T-bills without hedging them, reviving a trade that was popular among foreign investors before political upheaval in 2011 ushered in years of instability.

GULF

Saudi Arabia's index added 2.1 percent at 6,663 points in heavy trade, confirming a break above technical resistance at its August peak of 6,396 points and pointing towards the July peak of 6,703 points. Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) surged 6.2 percent after saying it had been awarded 219.46 million riyals ($58.5 million) from rival Zain Saudi, following an arbitration ruling in a contract dispute between the two firms.

Zain rose 0.6 percent, however, as investors welcomed the fact that the award was much less than the 2.2 billion riyals which Mobily had originally been seeking. Saudi banking shares continued their ascent, with lender Saudi Hollandi surging 6.7 percent to 11.90 riyals - still a 24 percent discount to the mean fair value of analysts polled by Reuters.

Petrochemical shares firmed, with the sector's index gaining 1.1 percent, even though Brent crude oil tumbled 2.4 percent to below $45 barrel on Friday. In recent months the market has become less closely correlated to oil - first because of fears of systemic problems in the economy as liquidity tightened, and then because Riyadh's huge international bond issue last month eased those fears. — Reuters

GWADAR: A Pakistan Navy ship berth at Gwadar port, about 700 kilometers (435 miles) west of Karachi, Pakistan. Pakistan's top civilian and military leaders traveled to the country's southwest yesterday to open a new international trade route by seeing off a Chinese ship that's exporting goods to the Middle East and Africa from the newly built Gwadar port. — AP

Pakistan and China launch new trade route

GWADAR, Pakistan: Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday inaugurated a trade route linking southwestern Gwadar port to the Chinese city of Kashgar as part of a joint multi-billion-dollar project to jumpstart economic growth in the South Asian country.

The Cosco Wellington, a ship berthed at the deep-sea port in Balochistan province, was loaded with over 150 containers-the first consignment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor announced in 2014, which aims to link the Asian superpower's Xinjiang region with the Arabian Sea. The $46 billion project is an extension of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative and encompasses a series of infrastructure, power and transport upgrades that Islamabad hopes will kickstart its long-underperforming economy. "The participants of the pilot convoy who have made it to Gwadar are the harbingers of development and progress, that this region is to see soon," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told audience members at a ceremony that was also attended by powerful army chief Raheel Sharif and senior Chinese officials.

"Their faces gleam with the beam of prosperity that CPEC will bring about in the years to come," he said, calling the first shipment a "watershed event".

Pakistan recorded a 4.7 percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year that ended in June 2016, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has set an ambitious target of 5.7 percent for the current year. With its dusty moonscape and shining new port, officials have repeatedly suggested the city of Gwadar is another Dubai in the making.

But the mineral-rich province in which it is located is beset by violence from Islamist groups as well as insurgents seeking a greater share of the region's natural resources and secession from Pakistan.

Security problems have mired CPEC in the past with numerous attacks by separatists, but China has said it is confident the Pakistani military is in control. On Saturday, at least 52 people were killed and dozens of others wounded in a massive suicide attack at a shrine of the Sufi saint Shah Noorani, some 750 kilometres (460 miles) south of Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan province. The assault was the second claimed by the Islamic State group in the province in as many months, in what some analysts see as a a sign of its growing regional influence. — AFP

Obama officials striving to wrap banking rules

WASHINGTON: US officials are striving to put finishing touches on a slew of banking rules before President Barack Obama leaves office and hands regulatory power to Donald Trump who has vowed to rewrite the existing financial rule book. President-elect Trump will take over on Jan. 20 and his fellow Republicans will have control of Congress and government agencies, allowing the new administration to block or roll back many of the last-minute changes.

But by completing far-advanced work on some banking standards in the next 10 weeks, Obama officials would raising the chances that some elements of the regulatory framework will survive. Some rules are meant to flesh out the Dodd Frank Act of 2010 designed to prevent the next global financial crisis. Trump campaigned on a pledge to scrap the law but now he says only some provisions must go to lighten the regulatory burden. The Federal Reserve is working on rules to govern matters such as executive pay, market stability and what investments Wall Street may hold.

Last month, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Mary Jo White said her agency would "in the near term" finish a rule on one thorny issue: how mutual funds manage derivatives.

The SEC and bank regulators have also for years struggled to finalize a rule that would tie more banker pay to the long-term health of their firms rather than short-term performance of Wall Street firms. With only about 40 working days until the handover, it is not clear which, if any, of those standards will get across the finishing line.

"Just look at the calendar," said Tom Quaadman of the Chamber of Commerce. "These are intricate rules and there's not much time."

The executive pay rule exemplifies the challenge. Six federal agencies have a say on the compensation standard meant as part of Dodd Frank and a final draft has not yet been offered, industry officials told Reuters.

It would be nearly impossible to circulate a final rule and get the agencies to endorse it while still satisfying standards for clearing such paperwork, several lobbyists who have opposed the rule said. Banking regulators declined to comment on when the compensation rule might be completed.

NO TIME TO CHAT

Simple logistics also pose a challenge. New federal rules come into force once they have been published in the Federal Register and employees there typically need several days to typeset a rule.

That means Obama officials need to lodge paperwork with the Federal Register at the beginning of the inauguration week at the latest. Some sixteen copy editors are due to forego leave and be on hand in the coming weeks to process final rules expected from dozens of agencies, said an official familiar with the operation, but not authorized to speak to the media.

"These days, people do not spend a lot of time hanging around the coffee maker," he said.

Some freshly-minted rules also face the prospect of getting erased under a 1996 law known as the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to block a regulation within 60 working days of being drafted. One such rule allows students who were defrauded by for-profit colleges to seek loan forgiveness. The Department of Education finalized it days before the Nov. 8 election, meaning Republicans who have raised objections to it will have a chance to block it.

President George W Bush was the first to trigger the Review Act when he block labor regulations that his predecessor Bill Clinton had enacted at the end of his term. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global جلوبل

Sunday 13 November 2016

Index		Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲	0.70	5,481.12	5,480.42	5,494.58	5,466.06
Weighted Index	▲	1.05	364.18	363.13	364.96	362.59
KSX 15	▲	4.09	858.91	854.82	862.97	854.29

Volume	176,320,992
Value (KWD)	17,618,042
Number of Trades	4,217

Security	High	Low	Trades Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last		Change
MARIN	80	80	90000	7,200	1	80	—	0.0
IKARUS	36.5	35.5	657,113	23,605	32	36.0	▲	1.0
IPG	350	350	257	90	1	350	—	0.0
NAPESCO	790	790	4,102	3,241	1	790	—	0.0
ENERGYH	44.5	42.5	55,000	2,339	8	42.5	▼	-2.5
GPI	39.5	37.0	9,456,848	362,875	150	39.0	▲	1.5
ABAR	86	86	21,183	1,822	1	86	▲	1.0
Oil & Gas			**10,284,503**	**401,171**	**194**	**746.35**	▼	**-2.88**
KFOUC	182	178	185,320	33,398	15	182	▲	4.0
BPCC	470	470	200,000	94,000	7	470	▼	-5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	570	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	214	210	380,553	80,731	21	210	▼	-4.0
Basic Materials			**765,873**	**208,129**	**43**	**925.29**	▼	**-4.30**
KCEM	395	395	3,000	1,185	1	395	▲	20.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	—	0.0
CABLE	380	375	290,000	110,050	17	375	▼	-5.0
SHIP	158	152	79,331	12,179	10	156	—	0.0
PCEM	950	940	18,900	17,786	2	940	▼	-20.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	—	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	—	0.0
ACICO	275	270	192,015	51,954	18	270	▼	-10.0
GGMC	300	300	218	65	1	300	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	—	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
EQUIPMENT	46.5	43.5	907,509	39,683	35	44.5	▼	-1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
SALBOOKH	55	55	84,853	4,667	18	55	▼	-1.0
AGLTY	540	520	809,699	426,386	61	520	▼	-20.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—	0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	—	0.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.5	—	0.0
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,800	1,780	13,610	24,298	9	1,800	▲	20.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	—	0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	—	0.0
GFC	31.0	28.5	9,501	278	5	31.0	—	0.0
MAYADEEN	28.5	27.5	1,857,500	51,538	31	28.0	—	0.0
CGC	640	640	10,000	6,400	1	640	▼	-10.0
MTCC	58	57	235,900	13,448	15	57	▲	1.0
UPAC	700	670	4,504	3,063	6	690	▼	-10.0
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	214	—	0.0
MUBARRAD	54	53	167,000	8,852	10	54	▲	1.0
LOGISTICS	77	74	21,000	1,557	4	77	▲	2.0
SCEM	79	79	300,000	23,700	10	79	▼	-1.0
GCEM	75	75	1,000	75	1	75	▲	1.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—	0.0
FCEM	83	80	8,648,067	708,053	67	83	▲	3.0
RKWC	93	93	1,000	93	1	93	▲	3.0
SPEC	78	75	85,800	6,502	13	78	▼	-2.0
Industrials			**13,740,407**	**1,511,812**	**336**	**1213.78**	▲	**0.80**
KSH	136	136	2,000	272	1	136	▼	-2.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	224	—	0.0
DANAH	93	90	45,010	4,051	2	93	▲	2.0
POULT	176	176	23	4	1	176	—	0.0
FOOD	2,620	2,620	9,019	23,630	1	2,620	—	0.0
Consumer Goods			**56,052**	**27,957**	**5**	**1122.49**	▲	**0.18**
MHC	230	230	100	23	1	230	▲	10
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—	0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	236	—	0
Health Care			**100**	**23**	**1**	**1128.71**	▲	**15.40**
KCIN	940	930	98,338	92,438	3	930	▼	-30
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0
SULTAN	57	55	223,317	12,394	10	55	▼	-2
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	—	0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0
IFAHR	150	140	1,530	215	3	150	—	0
OULAFUEL	114	110	289,990	32,656	28	112	▼	-2
MUNTAZAHAT	72	72	134,563	9,689	5	72	▼	-1
JAZEERA	830	810	45,800	37,810	4	830	—	0
SOOR	112	112	11,859	1,328	11	112	▼	-4
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	—	0
ALRAI	138	134	53,000	7,260	5	138	▲	2
ZIMAH	45.5	43.0	11,065,825	482,484	279	43.0	▼	-3
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	—	0
Mezzan	980	970	254,050	247,610	12	970	▼	-10
Consumer Services			**12,178,272**	**923,884**	**360**	**911.81**	▼	**-7.20**
ZAIN	410	405	2,392,911	970,532	94	410	▲	5
OOREDOO	1,080	1,060	20,394	22,003	13	1,060	▼	-40
HITSTELEC	40.0	39.0	2,144,250	84,245	41	39.0	▼	-1
VIVA	860	860	34,320	29,515	35	860	—	0
Telecommunications			**4,591,875**	**1,106,295**	**183**	**594.21**	▼	**-4.57**
NBK	620	610	4,113,518	2,509,491	49	620	▲	10
GBK	236	232	785,000	183,109	19	232	▼	-4
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	—	0
ABK	305	305	140,000	42,700	6	305	▼	-5
ALMUTAHED	415	395	92,485	37,787	14	410	▲	15
KIB	200	200	984,320	196,864	27	200	—	0
BURG	320	315	25,145	7,996	4	320	—	0
KFIN	520	510	7,219,491	3,685,492	151	510	—	0
BOUBYAN	400	395	126,894	50,133	23	400	▲	5
AUB	192	190	893,779	169,829	23	192	▲	2
ITHMR	38.5	37.0	22,254,946	840,377	328	37.5	—	0
WARBABANK	228	220	4,882,876	1,090,322	211	222	▼	-4
Banks			**41,518,454**	**8,814,099**	**855**	**825.70**	▲	**1.83**
KINS	230	230	1,000	230	1	230	▲	4
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620	—	0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	440	—	0.0
WINS	112	110	7,291	807	3	110	—	0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	—	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
WETHAQ	28.5	27.5	752,810	20,923	38	28.5	▲	1.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			**761,101**	**21,960**	**42**	**952.50**	▲	**6.05**
SOKOUK	33.0	32.0	1097000	35,237	24	32.0	▼	-1.0
KRE	54	53	1,622,152	86,505	26	53	▼	-1.0
URC	97	97	40,000	3,880	1	97	▼	-1.0
NRE	85	83	1,123,200	94,267	33	84	▼	-1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	—	0.0
TAM	490	475	15,100	7,224	4	490	▼	-10.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156	—	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0	—	0.0
ARABREC	28.0	28.0	373,060	10,446	10	28.0	▼	-1.0
ERESCO	40.5	39.0	1,349,682	53,471	30	40.5	▲	0.5
MABANEE	830	820	91,238	74,822	6	820	—	0.0
INJAZZAT	70	68	234,300	16,172	7	70	▲	2.0
INVESTORS	21.0	20.5	3,588,146	75,031	39	21.0	—	0.0
IRC	28.0	27.0	732,174	20,138	34	27.5	▲	0.5
ALTIJARIA	82	81	96,154	7,792	5	82	—	0.0
SANAM	28.5	27.0	217,558	5,878	7	28.5	—	0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	—	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—	0.0
ALAQARIA	24.5	23.0	180,500	4,288	9	23.0	▼	-1.5
MAZAYA	112	110	15,560	1,723	3	110	—	0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	—	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	—	0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	—	0.0
TAAMEER	20.5	20.5	375,764	7,703	4	20.5	—	0.0
ARKAN	80	80	65,179	5,214	2	80	—	0.0
ARGAN	160	158	20,000	3,190	3	160	▼	-2.0
ABYAAR	19.5	19.0	1,619,500	31,538	17	19.5	—	0.0
MUNSHAAT	44.5	43.5	111,013	4,891	5	43.5	▼	-1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	57	55	317,275	17,679	17	55	▼	-2.0
KBT	42.0	40.0	2,964,598	121,226	94	40.0	▼	-1.0
REAM	186	186	10,000	1,860	2	186	▲	10.0
MENA	20.0	19.0	1,222,833	23,686	38	19.0	—	0.0
ALMUDON	32.5	30.5	7,202,119	224,058	147	30.5	▼	-2.5
MARAKEZ	31.5	31.5	1	0	1	31.5	▲	2.5
REMAL	57	52	5,345,200	284,344	121	52	▼	-4.0
AWJ	46.0	45.5	293,000	13,382	6	45.5	▼	-0.5
Real Estate			**30,322,306**	**1,235,644**	**695**	**813.84**	▼	**-3.77**
KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	—	0.0
FACIL	162	156	684,610	108,940	56	156	▼	-6.0
IFA	31.0	29.5	2,022,443	61,505	46	30.5	▲	0.5
NINV	104	102	873,200	90,417	21	104	—	0.0
KPROJ	500	500	309,749	154,875	10	500	—	0.0
COAST	39.5	39.0	939,000	36,711	23	39.0	▼	-0.5
SECH	43.0	41.5	17,025,119	723,944	250	43.0	▲	2.0
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	—	0.0
ARZAN	32.5	31.0	516,053	16,272	18	32.5	▲	1.5
MARKAZ	83	83	1,700	141	2	83	▲	4.0
KMEFIC	23.0	22.5	67,500	1,520	4	22.5	▼	-0.5
ALAMAN	52	49.0	4,427,367	225,179	147	52	▲	3.0
ALOLA	45.5	44.5	356,070	15,936	25	44.5	▲	0.5
ALMAL	18.5	18.0	4,205,055	77,225	63	18.0	▼	-0.5
GIH	26.5	25.0	4,887,158	127,465	88	25.5	▲	0.5
AAYAN	27.5	27.0	2,150,107	58,273	27	27.0	▼	-0.5
BAYANINV	33.5	33.0	453,626	14,980	24	33.5	▲	0.5
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.5	—	0.0
KFIC	34.5	34.5	75,000	2,588	1	34.5	—	0.0
KAMCO	114	114	1,000	114	1	114	▲	2.0
NIH	67	65	516,713	34,121	20	65	—	0.0
ISKAN	47.5	45.0	895,099	41,028	42	45.5	▼	-1.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	—	0.0
ALDEERA	36.5	36.0	524,611	19,125	24	36.5	▲	2.5
ALSALAM	44.5	43.5	386,805	16,944	16	44.5	▼	-0.5
EKTTITAB	37.5	37.5	40,000	1,500	1	37.5	▼	-1.0
ALMADINA	43.0	41.0	336,149	13,949	9	41.0	▼	-2.0
NOOR	51	46.0	1,724,700	84,059	55	46.0	▼	-2.5
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	—	0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	—	0.0
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
KSHC	27.5	27.0	125,509	3,389	7	27.0	▼	-0.5
ASIYA	32.0	30.5	20,828	651	4	32.0	▼	-0.5
GNAHC	33.5	32.0	479,910	15,630	14	33.5	▲	1.5
AMWAL	19.5	19.0	32,000	609	3	19.5	—	0.0
ALIMTIAZ	75	75	100	8	1	75	▼	-1.0
MANAZEL	28.0	27.0	2,623,522	71,996	55	27.5	—	0.0
NIND	114	112	417,437	47,588	12	114	—	0.0
BIIHC	21.0	21.0	371,565	7,803	13	21.0	—	0.0
SENERGY	30.5	28.5	240,799	7,113	7	28.5	▼	-2.0
AGHC	52	50	161,182	8,062	11	51	▲	1.0
KPPC	44.5	43.0	1,903,512	83,137	70	44.0	—	0.0
TAHSSILAT	32.5	30.0	2,510	75	2	32.5	▲	2.5
JEERANH	56	53	28,800	1,527	5	53	▼	-5.0
EKHOLDING	138	132	560,200	74,487	4	138	▲	6.0
GFH	138	132	6,077,280	826,302	146	138	▲	10.0
INOVEST	76	75	40,002	3,000	5	76	—	0.0
Financial Services			**56,503,990**	**3,078,184**	**1,332**	**565.03**	▲	**2.88**
Investment Instruments			**0**	**0**	**0**	**1081.97**	—	**0.00**
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	246	—	0.0
OSOS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	—	0.0
FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0
HAYATCOMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
Technology			**0**	**0**	**0**	**992.32**	—	**0.00**
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	—	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	—	0.0
EFFECT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	—	0.0
AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	—	0.0
MASAKEN	53	49.5	5,598,059	288,884	171	49.5	▲	0.5
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	—	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0	—	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	—	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	—	0.0
Parallel Market			**5,598,059**	**288,884**	**171**	**1035.77**	▲	**1.26**

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

الوطني NBK

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	18,807.88	18,847.66	39.78	▲	0.21	8.16
NASDAQ	5,208.80	5,237.11	28.31	▲	0.54	4.59
S&P 500	2,167.48	2,164.45	-3.03	▼	-0.14	5.90
Financial Times	6,827.98	6,730.43	-97.55	▼	-1.43	7.82
DAX	10,630.12	10,667.95	37.83	▲	0.36	-0.70
CAC 40	4,530.95	4,489.27	-41.68	▼	-0.92	-3.19
Swiss	7,928.77	7,880.29	-48.48	▼	-0.61	-10.63
Nikkei 225	17,344.42	17,374.79	30.37	▲	0.18	-8.72
Topix	1,376.35	1,378.28	1.93	▲	0.14	-10.92
Hang Seng	22,839.11	22,531.09	-308.02	▼	-1.35	2.81
Straits Times	2,834.09	2,814.60	-19.49	▼	-0.69	-2.36

MENA Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,480.42	5,481.12	0.70	▲	0.01	-2.46
Saudi Arabia	6,528.05	6,664.04	135.99	▲	2.08	-5.55
Dubai	3,274.06	3,232.94	-41.12	▼	-1.26	3.91
Abu Dhabi	4,282.46	4,235.68	-46.78	▼	-1.09	-0.58
Bahrain	1,160.94	1,162.26	1.32	▲	0.11	-4.52
Qatar	9,960.95	9,871.73	-89.22	▼	-0.90	-4.49
Oman	5,417.67	5,416.96	-0.71	▼	-0.01	0.21
Lebanon	1,211.99	1,207.90	-4.09	▼	-0.34	3.63
Jordan	2,138.49	2,144.24	5.75	▲	0.27	0.10
Egypt	10,688.16	10,925.32	237.16	▲	2.22	52.56
Morocco	10,564.62	10,551.43	-13.19	▼	-0.12	18.36
Tunisia	5,519.46	5,510.41	-9.05	▼	-0.16	9.47

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2449	3.2787	3.0185	2.6003	3.2393	349.74	4.3398
Saudi Riyal	0.08167		0.2678	0.2465	0.2124	0.2645	28.56	0.3544
US Dollar	0.30500	3.7347		0.9206	0.7931	0.9880	106.67	1.3236
Euro	0.33129	4.0566	1.0862		0.8627	1.0721	115.88	1.4410
Sterling Pound	0.38457	4.7091	1.2609	1.1592		1.2450	134.49	1.6702
Swiss Franc	0.30870	3.7801	1.0121	0.9327	0.8032		108.03	1.3397
Japanese Yen	0.00286	0.0350	0.0094	0.0086	0.0074	0.0093		0.0124
Australian Dollar	0.23043	2.8216	0.7555	0.6940	0.5987	0.7464	80.59	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30500	3.7347	0.3741	3.6262	0.3831	3.6571	15.8900
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2787		12.2449	1.2264	11.8892	1.2561	11.9905	52.0984
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08167		0.1002	0.9709	0.1026	0.9792	4.2547
Bahraini Dinar	2.6734	0.81540	9.9845		9.6944	1.0242	9.7770	42.4810
Qatari Riyal	0.2758	0.08411	1.0299	0.1032		0.1057	1.0085	4.3820
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79610	9.7481	0.9763	9.4649		9.5456	41.4753
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08340	1.0212	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048		4.3450
Egyptian Pound	0.0629	0.01919	0.2350	0.0235	0.2282	0.0241	0.2302	

Global Interest Rates

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.45	0.53	0.90	1.26	1.58
Euro	-0.39	-0.38	-0.33	-0.21	-0.07
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.26	0.40	0.56	0.81
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.78	-0.73	-0.66	-0.48
Australian Dollar	1.56	1.63	1.62	1.60	1.58
Japanese Yen	-0.05	-0.07	-0.07	0.00	0.11

Global Bond Yields

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.92	1.55	2.14	2.94
Europe	-0.62	-0.32	0.32	0.96
United Kingdom	0.22	0.65	1.36	2.02

Commodities

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change		Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	40.45	40.29	-0.16	▼	-0.40	28.92
Brent	40.87	40.85	-0.02	▼	-0.05	8.03
West Texas	43.44	43.34	-0.10	▼	-0.23	14.53
Gold	1225.72	1225.72	0.00	-	0.00	13.41
Silver	17.34	17.34	0.00	-	0.00	20.11

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

Global economy under Trump

By Hayder Tawfik

For most Americans and people around the world, Donald Trump winning the US presidential election and becoming the next US president was indeed a big surprise. This surprise win has already had a substantial impact on global financial markets. Financial markets are very good in the game of guessing or let's say anticipating the next event. What happens next will depend on how campaign-trail rhetoric translates into policy proposals. Donald Trump has already calmed the global financial markets in his first speech after the winning result was announced.

I think one urgent path that he will follow is moderation. This for sure will happen as his advisers weigh in, cabinet picks are revealed, losers from extreme policies make their preferences felt, and, perhaps later on. During his campaign he talked about some critical issues that might affect the global economy. The impact of his aggressive talk will lead to slower trade flows, weaker investment and consumption spending and tighter financial conditions. However, once he is in the Oval office he will moderate his speech and lessen his attacks on the US trading partners.

He has already repeated his promise of stronger growth for the US, the main engine of the global economy, as deregulation and lower taxes boost economic dynamism. However, if he turns toward protectionism, this will lead to a sharp increase in uncertainty that might have the reverse effect. As I said earlier his stance will be more moderate and as he said he promised the best for the USA.

A shift away from open market and easy trade policy and toward protectionism on a global scale would squeeze trade flows. Free trade is good for global economic growth because it exposes firms to those overseas, lifting competition and sharpening the incentive to be efficient. Free and easy trade also helps the exchange of new technologies and international best standards of trade to be practiced throughout the free world. Expanding free global trade is the engine for lifting domestic and global productivity, which should lead to a sustainable source of improving living standards. If during his presidency the world experiences barriers to trade, it would make doing business with those abroad more difficult and more expensive. This would be a big drag on potential growth for the world economy. The impact of new trade policies would be felt over a prolonged time-frame but there are likely to be cyclical impacts associated with the election outcome as well.

Impact on investment and spending

At present Donald Trump's policies are ill defined and not clear. It is still early for these policies to be implemented and if he can get away with them. The world is still in the dark about what his policies mean and what trade measures will be introduced, how the fiscal stance might be altered and what foreign policy will be put in place. His announcement of capital spending on infrastructure is difficult to assess and monetize. For sure they will be quite costly to the US economy and hence tax payers. The uncertainty about his economic and trade policies create an incentive to delay investment decisions. Although investment spending often makes up only around a tenth of total spending in advanced economies, it is pro-cyclical and accounts for much of the volatility of GDP growth. The bigger the uncertainty shock, the bigger the drag from investment spending and it is likely to be material. To the extent that investment remains weak for an extended spell, it can also affect potential output growth, the capital stock would be smaller than it otherwise might have been, manifesting itself as weaker labor productivity.

Financial conditions may tighten

After a negative reaction, global financial markets bounced back sharply. I know it is still early days to see the true impact of Donald Trump becoming the next US president. If he implements his plan of doubling US economic growth throughout his presidency then the impact will be very positive for global stock markets, the dollar and commodities. However, if he carries out his threat about introducing trade barriers and increase in tariffs on Japan and China then the whole picture will change dramatically. This will affect investment and spending. If stock market falls and consumers are faced with uncertainties to the extent that consumers feel less wealthy as stocks fall, they may adjust their spending plans to reflect that. The impact of wealth effects may vary significantly by country. The US households are likely to monitor their portfolios more closely than people in Europe. Falling share prices will increase the cost of capital for companies, including banks. That can have a second round impact on investment and spending decisions.

The dollar

It seems that Donald Trump would like to see a more competitive dollar against the US's trading partners. The dollar has fallen against major currencies and if it lasts, that will represent a modest stimulus to the US economy. However, currencies could be more volatile as the dust settles. The additional volatility could offset the benefit of the weaker dollar for the US and currency movements overall would be indirectly bad for other economies in particular the emerging economies. My biggest worry is to do with the sell-off trend in global bonds that have started few months ago. The selloff has accelerated with the news of Donald Trump winning the US presidency. As I said in my previous articles this selloff could continue for the foreseeable future. How the Federal Reserve will act in the coming months is very important that is worth monitoring for any hint of policy change. — Rasameel

Nissan e-NV200 WORKSPACe - the world's first all-electric mobile office

KUWAIT: Nissan has collaborated with UK-based design workshop Studio Hardie to transform its zero emission e-NV200 van into the world's first all-electric mobile office - the e-NV200 WORKSPACe.

This professional office environment on wheels features an integrated fold-out desk, touchscreen computer, wireless internet, smartphone-controlled LED lights, wireless phone charging, Bluetooth(r) audio system, mini fridge and barista-quality coffee machine.

The e-NV200 WORKSPACe concept not only highlights the customisable potential of its electric van, it paints a picture of what desk-based employment could look like in the future as hot-desking and flexible working grows in popularity across the globe. Moreover, the one-off vehicle also provides an example of Nissan's Intelligent Mobility vision, and the company's view of how the relationship between vehicles and people are changing. During 2015, the number of co-working and hot-desking spaces worldwide increased by 36 percent as small businesses and working professionals looked for increased mobility and a more cost-effective alternative to traditional city-centre office space.

With electric vehicles costing as little as €0.03 per kilometre4 to run, the e-NV200 WORKSPACe offers a cost-effective desk space solution allowing users to work for free in some city-centres that offer free EV charging bays, or escape the city altogether for the countryside or coastal fresh air.

Gareth Dunsmore, Director of Electric Vehicles, Nissan Europe said: "The Nissan e-NV200 is already a smart, sustainable transport solution for forward-thinking businesses, making it the ideal vehicle to be used as the basis for a mobile work place. The e-NV200 WORKSPACe takes the ingenuity of our 100 percent electric van a step further and by enlisting the design expertise of Studio Hardie - renowned for its creative eco approach - the e-NV200 has been reimagined as an innovative, zero-emission working environment.

"With property prices in our capital cities at such a premium and the modern professional needing to be ever more mobile, businesses will need to think smart and consider what the workplace of the future looks like," he added. "With hot-desking and remote working on the rise, it is not too big a leap to see a future where our vehicles will become connected, energy efficient, mobile workspaces and the e-NV200 WORKSPACe project could become more than just a concept."

Rapid charging

The e-NV200 WORKSPACe can be rapid charged from empty to 80 percent power in just 30 minutes, and for those times when you want to leave the office parked and charging up, there's an internal mount for a folding Brompton Bike, allowing users to make short trips around the city or complete the 'last mile' of any journey.

William Hardie, celebrated UK-based designer and founder of Studio Hardie, said: "We specialise in creating amazing spaces in unexpected places, but we've never done anything in an electric vehicle before.

"Given the van's green credentials we wanted to maximise the space with smart and considered features such as sustainably sourced materials and efficiently-powered technology. We believe the future of technology is a return to quality craftsmanship, so we've also looked to hone an environment that professionals will really enjoy working in. All the comfort and connectivity of a modern office, with a few surprising touches thrown in!"

The Nissan e-NV200 is part of Nissan's popular zero-emission range, combining the best elements of two multi-award winning vehicles - the Nissan Leaf and Nissan NV200. It provides a zero-emission light commercial vehicle solution, offering low vehicle running costs of €3.00 per 100 kilometers and a range of up to 170 km on a single charge. This makes it the perfect transportation option for businesses both big and small, as not only does it contribute to reducing a company's carbon footprint, it is also practical, reliable and cost-effective.

As a pioneer of zero-emission technology, Nissan is dedicated to providing Intelligent Mobility solutions for all and to date, the company has sold more than 250,000 electric vehicles worldwide.

Challenging months ahead for US

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

It was a historical week for the US and the global community where Donald Trump was elected to office after a long and gruesome campaign. With Trump president, it is very likely that the country's policy uncertainty is expected to rise in response to the election results. Following the initial shock that took place after the announcement, global markets went into a panic mode. Markets quickly recovered after deciding to give Trump the benefit of the doubt and euphoria took place after the acceptance speech.

Indeed, signs of large-scale fiscal stimulus and indications that Trump could replace Fed Chair Yellen with a more hawkish successor in early 2018 encouraged investors to jump into markets and buy the US dollar. As mentioned above, markets witnessed extreme moves post-election results. After an initial move of USDJPY all the way up to 101.19 and EURUSD reaching a high of 1.1300 and an initial sell off of global equity markets, risk on mode took over and markets and stocks rebounded strongly with the USDJPY trying almost the 107.00 level. With these moves and the new President Trump, the probability of a Fed hike now stands at 86 percent for December. Moreover, St. Louis Fed President James Bullard stated that election related volatility shouldn't affect the timing of a Federal Reserve interest rate increase.

On the treasury front, prices fell on 10-year treasury notes and 30-year bonds, pushing yields to their highest levels in 10 months. Moreover, Trump stated during the campaign he would spend more on developing US infrastructure, which could increase the US budget deficit and treasury supply. For now, the political sector seems more optimistic with Republicans maintaining control of the Senate, though with a smaller margin than before as Democrats gained two seats. The chamber will have 52 Republicans to 48 for Democrats, which includes two independents. That will give Trump the upper hand in making nominations for the USD. Supreme Court in the coming years. In the House, all 435 seats were on the ballot across the country, and Republicans held on to control even after losing a handful of seats.

There has been considerable attention on Trump's domestic economic policy proposals, including criticism of the Federal Reserve, broad based cuts to income tax and promises to increase defense and infrastructure spending. The deadline for submission of the Federal Budget is February 1st 2017. With the Republicans controlling the Senate and the House of Representatives, it is widely expected the deal will pass without any opposition. Moreover, markets expect president elect Trump to deliver swiftly on his campaign promise to repatriate foreign earnings of US corporate, which could have bullish dollar consequences with estimates of US cash stored abroad ranging from $1 to 3 trillion.

Market attention will also be focused on the future of the Federal Reserve. As Yellen's term expires in February 2018, there have been speculations whether Yellen will resign as a result of Trump's criticism. In the meantime, Trump will be able to change the composition of the FOMC as there are two vacancies on the Federal Reserve Board which could be appointed ahead of the FOMC's first meeting in January, both of which will enjoy voting rights. Now that the market started to process the new president plans, it is clear that fiscal stimulus remains unlikely in the absence of a major negative shock or a potential recession.

On the currency front, the US dollar extended its rally north backed by the solid momentum in US treasury yields and rising expectations of a Fed's hike by year-end. The dollar index opened the week at 97.358 and closed on Friday at 98.785. The pound sterling opened the week at 1.2511 against the US dollar and managed to reach high of 1.2673. The gains in the sterling's value are good news for UK businesses which depend on imports. The biggest question remains whether the currency will eventually stabilize. The pound closed the week at 1.2599.

In the commodities sector, OPEC countries continue to face increasing urgency to take measures to support oil prices as Trump's surprise victory threatens to deepen a market sell-off, especially after oil prices had already retreated about 15 percent since October on growing doubts that OPEC could finalize a deal.

Companies still eager to hire

The number of job openings in the United States rose slightly in September and remained near record levels, offering more proof companies are still willing to hire despite a somewhat slower economy. Companies were seeking to hire 5.49 million people in September, up from 5.45 million in August.

The rate of the people quitting returned to normal levels earlier in 2016 for the first time in eight years, another sign of a healthy labor market. Workers are more likely to quit when they get a better offer or think they can find a better job. In summary, the number of people hired in September totaled 5.1 million, but the hiring rate fell slightly by 0.1 percent.

	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1134	1.0827	1.1299	1.0850	1.0705	1.0995	1.0908
GBP	1.2511	1.2349	1.2673	1.2599	1.2380	1.2780	1.2635
JPY	103.12	101.15	106.94	106.67	104.95	108.50	106.32
CHF	0.9682	0.9542	0.9896	0.9875	0.9755	0.9880	0.9837

US Mortgage delinquencies

The Federal Reserve's easy money policies and the ultra-low interest rates have supported borrowers, since the financial crisis, although it's squeezing banks' lending profit margins.

In detail, the proportion of mortgages in which the borrower is 60 days or more behind on repayments dropped 8 percent from a year ago to 2.29 percent as of the end of September. That is the lowest since the records began in 2009. The declining rate of soured loans also partly reflects banks' increased focus on higher quality borrowers. On the other hand, Americans are borrowing more to get better vehicles and taking longer to pay off the debt. Lower quality loans have been the fastest-growing part of the market.

Unemployment claims

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell more than expected and declined from almost a three-month high. Jobless claims fell by 11,000 to 254,000 last week but the four-week average of claims rose by 1,1750, which is a better indicator. In conclusion, unemployment benefits have been below 300,000 for 88 straight weeks, the longest streak since 1970, suggesting a healthy labor market.

Modest growth in challenging times

Economic growth in Europe is expected to continue at a moderate pace, due to recent labour market gains and rising private consumption. However, political uncertainty, slow growth outside the EU and weak global trade weigh on growth prospects. Moreover, in the coming years, the European economy will no longer be able to rely on the exceptional support it has been receiving from external factors, such as falling oil prices and currency depreciation. The European Commission expects GDP growth in the euro area at 1.7 percent in 2016, 1.5 percent in 2017 and 1.7 percent in 2018

German factory orders

German factory orders contracted unexpectedly in September following two months of gains, largely reflecting weak domestic demand and diminishing orders from euro area. New orders in manufacturing fell tremendously to negative 0.6 percent in September from 0.9 percent in August. Domestic orders decreased by 1.1 percent, foreign orders decreased by 0.3 percent and orders from the euro area were down by 4.5 percent.

UK production index

British industrial output fell unexpectedly in September, lowered by maintenance at North Sea oil and gas fields, although manufacturing growth picked up. As a remainder the below figures are the first quarterly estimate for index of production data post-EU referendum.

The quarterly industrial output decreased by 0.5 percent in the third quarter. However, manufacturing production picked up 0.6 percent, the biggest rise since April and marking a strong finish for manufacturing to an otherwise flat quarter. The pound's weakness has boosted manufacturing export orders, but prices paid by factories for imported materials and energy are also on the rise, which will squeeze profit margins and boost inflation.

In Summary, Britain's economy has coped well so far with the shock of the Brexit vote but most of its resilience has come from the dominant services sector.

The annual house price growth has softened this year compared with a year ago as increasing affordability pressures have constrained prices. On the other hand, very low mortgage rates and a shortage of properties available for sale should help support price levels. In detail, the price growth of houses eased to 5.2 percent in October from a year ago. However, house prices increased by 1.4 percent between September and October, although quarter on quarter change is a more reliable indicator of the underlying trend, which rose by 0.1 percent.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30345

The USDKWD opened at 0.30345 yesterday morning.

British Airways takes a liberty

KUWAIT: Top British brand Liberty London has created an exclusive range of washbags for customers flying in First with British Airways. The sleek, slim and stylish washbags feature a contemporary look using a range of carefully chosen prints from Liberty London's vast textiles archive, updated for today's modern traveller.

The new Liberty London First washbags appear on board from January 7, 2017. Throughout the year further print designs will be added to the collection, giving British Airways customers the opportunity to enjoy even more of Liberty London's iconic style.

Troy Warfield, British Airways' director of customer experience said, "Liberty London is an iconic British brand so it's fantastic to work in partnership with them to offer our customers flying in First the very best and most eye-catching washbags in the sky.

"We're sure that the washbag's contemporary design, featuring some of Liberty London's most beautiful prints, will make them highly sought after and a collector's item in their own right.

"They perfectly compliment British Airway's stylishly understated First cabin to enhance the travelling experience for our First customers." James Millar, Liberty London's design director said, "We are thrilled to partner with British Airways on this exciting project! We wanted to create a product with longevity that customers can enjoy time and time again, and that showcases Liberty London's expertise with print and colour."

The women's washbag features 'Christelle', an eye-catching oriental inspired floral print, and comes complete with a convenient wristlet. The men's washbag features a black embossed textured exterior, with 'Felix Raison' paisley motif printed lining.

Prints for both the men and women's Liberty London washbags were chosen to reflect British Airways' own colour scheme and contain a range of carefully chosen skincare and well-being products provided by Aromatherapy Associates, respectively.

Initially the new Liberty London wash bags will be introduced on British Airways' A380 Heathrow to Los Angeles red carpet route and then they will be offered to customers flying in First on the rest of the airline's worldwide network.

First customers can enjoy dedicated check-in desks and Fast Track access to British Airways' network of exclusive and luxurious lounges around the world, in addition to the Concorde Room in London Heathrow's Terminal 5. Those flying from Dubai can sample the latest addition to the network with the prestigious Concorde Room at the new British Airways lounge that opened in Dubai International Airport's newly built concourse D earlier this year.

Once on board customers can enjoy their own private, spacious suite, with a fully flat bed, complete with mattress and a crisp white cotton duvet to sleep during their flight. Or unwind watching thousands of hours of the latest movies and TV shows thanks to British Airways High Life Entertainment on widescreen TVs, and enjoy delicious five star in-flight dinning served by attentive cabin crew at 35,000 feet.

MANAMA: Participants pose for a group picture at Zain B2B Forum

Zain's regional B2B Forum focuses on enterprise needs

Regional telecom leader leading charge in innovation

MANAMA: The second annual Zain Group Business-to-Business (B2B) Forum was hosted by Zain Bahrain last week and focused on solutions geared at meeting the needs of enterprises across the region. The two-day event drew senior executives from Zain Group operating companies to evaluate their B2B performance, assess the opportunities presented by this important market segment, and define strategies and policies to consolidate the Group's leadership position in this area.

Enterprise users typically require solutions that offer greater flexibility, connectivity, scalability, security, and processing power, as well as an ability to be accessed from locations around the world. Zain's B2B solutions help organizations of all sizes, ranging from small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) through to the largest corporates, with specialized products and services aimed at meeting their unique needs.

B2B represents tremendous growth opportunities for operators in the MENA region, lagging behind international markets where B2B business accounts for more than 20 percent of overall revenue.

A participant of the two-day forum Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "When it comes to innovation, Zain Group is leading the charge in all its operating markets by providing a world class customer experience and investing in integrated value propositions covering mobile, fixed line, data center-based and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions. We have continued to grow our market share in the regional enterprise segment, which includes government, corporate, SMEs, and small office and home office (SoHo) customers."

Gegenheimer added, "Zain is evolving to become an integrated digital services provider, and the Enterprise sector is a significant part of achieving this vision."

To bolster its enterprise offerings, Zain has recently made strategic investments in smart city consulting firm, neXgen and mobility solutions developer and consultancy firm FOO, as well as entering into agreements with world leading technology solutions providers. Additionally, Zain has implemented numerous data monetization initiatives across all its markets, delivering an affordable and compelling digital lifestyle experience to individual and enterprise customers.

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa, providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.8 million active customers as of 30 September, 2016. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5 percent stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture.

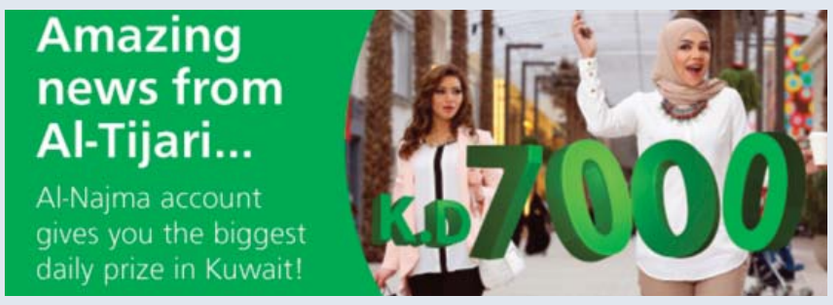
KIB sponsors Kuwait Int'l Property Show

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of and participation in the 9th Kuwait International Property Show (KIPS), organized by Top Expo Group and held under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Dr Yousef Al-Ali. Considered to be the biggest property show of its kinds in Kuwait, the exhibition took place between November 7th and 12th at the International Fairgounds in Mishref, and featured the participation of a large number of real estate companies from both Kuwait and abroad.

Eugene Galligan, Acting General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "KIB is always keen on taking part in these kinds of specialized real estate exhibitions and trade shows, which attract a broad audience of investors, real estate developers, marketers and people looking for attractive real estate opportunities. On the one hand, these events provide us with the opportunity to share our extensive knowledge of the real estate sector with the market, amassed over 38 years of experience as a specialized real estate bank. On the other hand, this kind of event enables us to directly engage with customers, allowing us to showcase our different product and service offerings, which offer customers the best real estate financing solutions whether they are looking to invest in Kuwait or abroad."

He further added: "This conference presented a great platform to share experiences with the specialized local and international real estate companies who are present. It also serves to promote economic development, especially in terms of helping reinvigorate the real estate market, which comes in line with the Government's ongoing program of mega development plans."

Galligan pointed out that KIB's booth at the exhibition attracted an impressive turnout of customers and visitors, who were interested in learning more about the Bank's innovative banking solutions and its special promotional offers. He also lauded the efforts of the KIB team, who were on hand to walk customers through all the Bank's specialized services, helping them find the best solutions to cater to their needs.



Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma Account draw

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented byAbdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Mohammed Khair Nayef Shahadat — KD 7000,
Anfal Sayer Atiyah Hussain — KD 7000,
Maryam Muhsen Tyah Ajeel — KD 7000,
Ali Jafar Yaqoub Abo Al-Hasan — KD 7000,
Naser Mahmoud Abdullah Abul — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever.

With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account.

Daily draw to win KD 7000.

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000.

1ST quarter — KD 100 000,
2nd quarter — KD 150 000,
3RD quarter — KD 200 000,
4TH quarter — KD 250 000.

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes:

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
- Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

Markaz sponsors Nuqat's 'The 7th Sense' conference

KUWAIT: As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) program, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced its sponsorship to Nuqat's 7th annual conference themed 'The Seventh Sense - Powering the Creative Economy, that is being held on November 10-17 at the Amricani Cultural Center.

Alrazi Y Al-Budaiwi, VP and Head of Media and Communications at "Markaz" said: "Nuqat's annual conference is currently one of the best cultural events in Kuwait and the region aiming at exchanging expertise and developing individual capabilities and skills in different fields. The conference aims at building a creative environment to support the national economy by looking into means to develop innovation in the industries of the Arab world and beyond. Markaz participation in this conference comes from our belief in the vital role that creativity and innovation play in creating new income resources for a diversified economy."

He added that the conference discusses many topics including: What is creative economy? How can we cultivate it? How can we create more jobs for people and empower the creative potential of all industries? How do bankers, laborers, lawyers, parents, athletes, engineers, doctors, and mechanics practice creativity?

Al-Budaiwi stated: "This sponsorship comes as part of "Markaz" corporate citizenship program which aims to fulfill the corporate social and economic responsibilities through three main pillars, which are a) building human capabilities, b) aligning our business environment with the principles of sustainable development, c) and promoting good governance in the business environment. Our activities within this strategy include a number of topics designed to contribute to social and economic sustainability, including the development of the capacities of young people and enabling them to utilize their abilities towards achieving a sustainable future." The conference includes a variety of workshops, roundtables, discussion panels, cultural tours, galleries and live performances. A very select group of speakers, academics, artists, writers, designers and innovative thinkers have been invited from all practices and from all across the Middle East providing a unique platform for its attendees to exchange ideas, share skills and spark collaborations on how man's inventive skillsets and intuitive capacity for creation can be an exceptionally valuable resource in sustaining national and global economies.

VANDENBERG: An Atlas 5 rocket carrying the WorldView-4 satellite is launched at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California on Friday. The satellite is designed to produce high-resolution images of Earth from space. —AP

High-res commercial satellite launches from California coast

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif: A commercial satellite capable of taking high-resolution images from space was launched on Friday from a military base along the California coast. The satellite known as WorldView-4 was lifted into orbit atop an Atlas 5 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

WorldView-4 is the latest in a series of imaging satellites built by Lockheed Martin. It is operated by Colorado-based DigitalGlobe, which provides high-resolution images for government and private customers including first responders.

The camera aboard the satellite is so sharp that it can spot the make of a car from nearly 400 miles above Earth, according to Lockheed Martin. It joins sister satellite, WorldView-3, which launched from the Vandenberg base in 2014. Both satellites can capture images of objects as small as 1-foot across.

Friday was the ninth launch for United Launch Alliance this year. ULA, a joint venture by Lockheed Martin and Boeing Co., has launched 112 times since it was founded in 2006. Its next launch is a NASA weather satellite scheduled for next week from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

WorldView-4 was supposed to launch in September, but was postponed by a minor tank leak and two wildfires at the sprawling base, which encompasses nearly 156 square miles (405 square kilometers) along the Pacific Ocean.

The fires forced the evacuation of administrative buildings, but did not affect the launch complex. Firefighters who were assigned to the launch were diverted to corralling the flames.

A firefighter died and another was hurt when the water truck they were in overturned on a highway outside the city of Lompoc, miles from the fire lines. —AP

Executive of firm bought by HP indicted

SAN FRANCISCO: A federal grand jury in San Francisco has indicted the former chief financial officer of a British software maker on charges he engaged in fraud to artificially increase the company's share price and make it attractive to Hewlett-Packard.

HP bought the company, Autonomy, in 2011, for about $10 billion, but later wrote off most of the purchase price after alleging that the company had misrepresented its true value during sale negotiations. Autonomy's founder has denied the allegations.

The grand jury indicted former Autonomy CFO Sushovan Hussain on Thursday on wire fraud and conspiracy charges. Hussain's attorney, John Keker, said his client defrauded no one and acted at all times with the highest standards of honesty and competence. Shareholder outrage over the Autonomy deal and other soured acquisitions triggered a shake-up of HP's board in 2013. —AP

At $800K a pop, new Navy destroyer's ammo in question

PORTLAND, Maine: The new guns on the Navy's biggest and most advanced destroyer are going to be firing blanks if the Navy can't find cost-effective projectiles.

The GPS-guided, rocket-powered projectiles developed for the new 155mm Advanced Gun System currently cost about $800,000 apiece, nearly as much as a cruise missile, making them too expensive for the Navy to buy in large quantities for the stealthy USS Zumwalt, according to officials.

The projectiles were supposed to be less expensive than missiles, providing a cost-effective way to pummel targets from 70 miles away and clearing the way for amphibious landings.

But the current price compares with $1 million for a cruise missile, which has a range of 1,000 miles. And the price grow, officials said. For now, there are no plans to buy projectiles beyond the initial purchase of 90, according to the Navy's draft 2018 budget. The Zumwalt is supposed to be stocked with 600.

It's stunning news for a program plagued by growing costs. "Congress is going to want to know how the Navy could get so far down the road without realizing that the price tag on these projectiles is so high," said Loren Thompson, defense analyst at the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Virginia. The Navy is evaluating alternatives for ammunition for the Zumwalt and two other ships in the class that are under construction at Bath Iron Works in Maine. Those options include both conventional and hyper-velocity projectiles, said Navy Capt. Thurraya Kent.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin, which developed the 155mm projectiles, blamed the low production rate of ships - only three are being built, compared with the 32 originally envisioned - for driving up costs of the guided munitions. The defense contractor is working with the Navy with options, a spokeswoman said. The Navy has been struggling to reduce costs because of budget limits, but those constraints could be eased when Republican President-elect Donald Trump takes office. He has vowed to boost defense spending and to increase the size of the US fleet.

The 610-foot Zumwalt, the first ship in the class, was commissioned into service last month and is currently en route to its home port in San Diego.

The destroyer features electric propulsion, an angular shape to minimize radar signature, an unconventional wave-piercing hull, and a deckhouse that hides radar and other sensors. The 155mm Advanced Gun System was designed by BAE Armament Systems.

The ships weigh in at nearly 15,000 tons, about 50 percent heavier than current destroyers. But the crew size is half of the 300 personnel of other destroyers, thanks to automation. —AP

PHIPPSBURG: The USS Zumwalt travels down the Kennebec River in Phippsburg, Maine. The GPS-guided, rocket-powered ammunition developed for the new 155mm Advanced Gun System currently costs nearly as much as a cruise missile, making them too expensive for the Navy to buy in large quantities for the stealthy destroyer, according to officials. —AP

Daimler boss says he shares vision of zero-emission cars

Zetsche braves boos and frosty reception

BERLIN: The chairman of Germany's largest luxury carmaker, Daimler-Benz, braved boos and a frosty reception as guest speaker at a Greens party congress yesterday to tell delegates he too wants CO2-free cars on the roads.

Dieter Zetsche, whose company is demonised by many Greens, said the firm had not missed the boat developing electric cars and said it backs climate protection goals. But he dismissed their call to ban the sale of new cars powered by petrol or diesel by 2030.

"Many of you probably thought 'Letting the Daimler boss talk about transportation here is like letting (Donald) Trump talk about women's policies'," Zetsche joked to 800 delegates at the environmentalist party's annual congress in Muenster. Yet Zetsche disarmed the Greens by saying he backed one of their central policies for the 2017 election, namely that the car industry's future depends on developing emission-free cars.

"It might surprise some of you but I agree entirely," said Zetsche, who appeared tie-less and in the same sort of running shoes many Greens wear even on formal occasions.

"The decarbonisation of industrial nations is necessary and carmakers will have to play a role," he added. Even though demand for cars keeps rising globally, "we'll have to cut the CO2 emissions of all the cars we manufacture. We'll live up to our climate policy responsibilities."

Zetsche told journalists at the Paris Motor Show in September that Daimler's Mercedes-Benz and Smart brands will launch more than 10 electric cars by 2025, and zero-emission vehicles will make up between 15 percent and 25 percent of overall Mercedes sales by then.

The Greens were in power at the federal government from 1998 to 2005 but have been in opposition ever since, even though they share power in coalitions in 10 of Germany's 16 federal states.

The Greens are emerging as a preferred coalition partner after the 2017 election for both the conservative Christian Democrats and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD). Opinion polls show them winning 11-13 percent of the vote, mostly in third place. They agreed at their congress in Muenster to push for a new tax on the wealthiest individuals if they get into power.

Zetsche, one of the most recognized faces of industry in Germany, insisted the Greens and carmakers have much in common. "Those who see carmakers as the root of all evil might not have noticed every second electric car in Europe is made in Germany.

"The old way of thinking pitting those obsessed with high-powered cars ... against joyless anti-car ecologists has been overtaken by reality," he said. "That's good too because the transformation the car industry is facing will have an impact on the whole country." — AP

MUENSTER: Delegates of the Greens protest with posters during the speech of the chief executive officer of German car maker Daimler AG (not in picture) who was guest speaker at the party's congress in Muenster, yesterday. —AFP

MUENSTER: Co-leader of the German Green Party Cem Ozdemir (R) introduces Dieter Zetsche, chief executive officer of German car maker Daimler AG, during the party's congress in Muenster, yesterday. —AFP

NEW PORT: USS Gerald R Ford is stationed at Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va. The $12.9 billion warship, the first of the Navy's next generation of aircraft carriers, is in the final stages of construction after cost overruns and a delay of more than one year. — AP

$12.9 billion, 4.5 acres: Navy's next-generation aircraft carrier

NEWPORT NEWS, Va: The Navy refers to its newest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R Ford, as "4.5 acres of sovereign US territory." The $12.9 billion warship - the first of the Navy's next generation of aircraft carriers - is in the final stages of construction after cost overruns and a delay of more than one year.

This carrier and those that will follow, including the USS John F Kennedy and the USS Enterprise, will replace the Nimitz-class carriers, which were first commissioned in 1975. Construction on the Ford started in 2009 and on the Kennedy in 2015. Construction is scheduled to start on the Enterprise in 2018, but that could be pushed back.

The Ford - sitting now at Newport News Shipbuilding, the giant Navy contractor in Virginia - will house about 2,600 sailors, 600 fewer than the Nimitz-class carriers. The Navy says that will save more than $4 billion over the ship's 50-year lifespan. The air wing to support the Ford could add more personnel to the ship, which is designed to house more than 4,600 crew members.

The Navy had hoped to begin testing the Ford's systems and equipment during sea trials this fall. But those tests and a delivery date have been delayed as work continues on some of the vessel's new technology, such as its power generation system, aircraft landing equipment and advanced weapons elevators.

Construction was supposed to be completed by September 2015, with a cost cap of $10.5 billion. The Navy has attributed delays and cost overruns to the ship's state-of-the-art systems and technology.

Capt. Richard McCormick took command of the Ford last spring and will be at the helm for sea trials when they are scheduled. The ship's destination once it's delivered to the Navy? "Bottom line is that when the ship is ready for deployment, we will go where the boss tells us to go," McCormick says.

TECHNOLOGY

The vessel includes electromagnetic launch systems for jets and drones, replacing steam catapults; a smaller island that sits farther back on the ship, making it easier and quicker to refuel, re-arm and relaunch planes; and a nuclear power plant designed to allow cruising speeds of more than 30 knots and operation for 20 years without refueling.

CAPTAIN'S CABIN

The in-port cabin reflects the life and career of the ship's namesake, President Gerald R. Ford. Besides living quarters, the cabin serves as a ceremonial receiving location for distinguished guests and as an area for the captain to welcome new sailors aboard. Morning meetings are held in the suite's boardroom.

ANCHOR ROOM AND HANGAR BAY

The Ford weighs close to 100,000 tons and getting it to rest dead in the water requires some serious stopping power. Hours of planning go into dropping anchor, but when the brake is released and the anchor starts to drop, it happens fast: 90 feet of chain can pay out in 5 seconds.

DAILY LIFE

Below deck on the ship is a maze of steel hatches and heavily plated hallways that descend 11 levels, revealing the workings of a small city - a medical ward, barber shops, fitness centers, living quarters, fire stations and more.

Routine tasks are punctuated aboard the Ford with "general quarter" drills: Sirens blare and sailors scramble to defensive positions, sealing hatches and assembling near repair lockers. — AP

Agriculture victim of and solution to climate change

PARIS: Diplomatic wrangling this week will make the headlines in the fight against climate change, but experts say a bigger but largely unseen battle is set to unfold on the world's farms. Agriculture holds the double distinction of being highly vulnerable to climate change but also offering a solution to the problem, they say. In a report ahead of the November 7-18 UN climate talks in Marrakesh, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had a blunt warning about the risks to the food supply from drought, flood, soil depletion, desertification and rising demand.

"There is no doubt climate change affects food security," the agency's chief, Jose Graziano da Silva, said. "What climate change does is to bring back uncertainties from the time we were all hunter gatherers. We cannot assure any more that we will have the harvest we have planted." Crop volatility has been felt acutely this year, partly through El Nino-a weather phenomenon whose impact is seen by many scientists as a reflection of what future climate change may look like. Harvests fell sharply in the bread baskets of Latin America, North Africa and Europe, hit by exceptional drought or floods.

Over the coming dozen years or so, according to last month's FAO report, farmers in developing countries will be the ones who bear the brunt of rising temperatures. Beyond 2030, though, "negative pressures on food production will be increasingly felt everywhere". At the same time, agriculture is a massive contributor of greenhouse gases, helping to stoke the planetary warming that in turn affects the climate system. Farming accounts for at least a quarter of world greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). By itself, it contributes 17 percent of the warming effect, especially through emissions of methane-a stronger heat-trapper than carbon dioxide-which comes from animal farming and rice paddies. Deforestation and conversion of virgin land to the plough are also powerful factors in the emissions total.

Farming vision

Ideas abound for fixing the problem, although mustering the finance to do it remains a tricky question. The compelling vision is of a world where agriculture makes smarter use of less resources, providing more food with less carbon pollution. Much of the thinking focuses on helping smallholder farmers, especially in Africa, with sustainable techniques. Crop rotation, drought-resistant seeds and restricted use of water are among the options and low tilling of soil, especially in winter, is favored. Agricultural scientists are also big champions of the humble legume-a plant that includes peas, lentils and captures nitrogen from the air and fixes it in the soil, providing a natural fertilizer. Sebastien Abis, a researcher at the Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS), a Paris thinktank, points to a world population that is expected to reach 9.7 billion in 2050, compared to 3.7 million in 1970. Demand for meat, a big contributor to carbon emissions, is also expected to surge.

That makes it "dangerous" for people to think there can be a letup in food production, said Abis. Hans Herren, an award-winning Swiss development expert who is president of the Millennium Institute, a Washington-based NGO, is a little more sanguine. He believes the quest should be on providing better calories rather than more of them. Slashing waste and encouraging efficiency are the key. "Today the planet provides twice as much food than it needs — 4,600 calories per person per day, whereas we only need 2,300 calories," Herren said in an interview with AFP. —AFP

PARIS: Agriculture holds the double distinction of being highly vulnerable to climate change but also offering a solution to the problem, experts say. —AP

KARNAL, India: An Indian farmer Ishwar Singh looks on as stubble burns in his fields at Karnal, some 140kms north of New Delhi. While there are multiple factors behind New Delhi's status as the world's most polluted capital, much of the latest bout of smog has been blamed on the illegal but widespread practice among farmers of burning crop stubble.—AFP photos

KARNAL, India: Smoke drifts from a burning stubble field at Karnal.

As Delhi chokes, farmers defend scorched earth policy

KARNAL, India: As he surveys his acres of charred farmland outside New Delhi, Ishwar Singh has little sympathy for people choking in India's capital or any reason to stop the fires that are fuelling pollution. "Everyone does it and we've got no option as we can't afford to waste time or money clearing our land in other ways," says Singh. "All those complaining about what we're doing to our fields don't know a thing about farming and what people like me have to do to grow potatoes or onions and other vegetables. "If we didn't do it, then what would they eat? What prices would they have to pay? Everything would become massively expensive."

While there are multiple factors behind New Delhi's status as the world's most polluted capital, much of the latest bout of smog has been blamed on the illegal but widespread practice among farmers of burning crop stubble. Attempts to tackle the problem have amounted to little more than hot air as India's federal system of government makes enforcement a challenge. Regional-rival Beijing, on the other hand, which competes with Delhi on poor air quality, has managed to stem the tide of pollution by ordering factory shutdowns and cars off the road with ad hoc edicts issued by the ruling Communist Party.

Back in the Indian capital, the city's government admitted it was struggling to halt the crisis as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed last week that between 15 million to 20 million tons of stubble had been burnt in neighboring states. Kejriwal appealed to the central government, headed by his arch rival Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to intervene with the state governments to find a resolution to the practice of crop burning.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers who mainly cultivate rice and wheat set fire to their fields after harvest to clear the residue of their primary crops so they can grow vegetables over the autumn on the same land.

The practice is particularly intense in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, which serve as Delhi's breadbaskets. While Singh's farm in Haryana is around two hours drive from downtown Delhi, the smoke blown from fields such as his is a primary cause for the toxic smog which has shrouded the city. Levels of PM2.5 — the fine particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease-have breached the "hazardous" upper limit of 500 several times in Delhi this month.

Token fines

Stubble burning is technically illegal, but it's rare for farmers to face more than a token fine. Singh was recently fined 2,500 rupees (around $35) but he said the local officials who sanctioned him were apologetic and it was a small price to pay for rotating his crops. Another small farmer, speaking on condition of anonymity as some of his land was still smoldering, said the alternatives were not viable. "I can't afford machines and if I hired people to clear all the residue, I would have to pay them and lose a week of growing time.

"Besides, no one does a thing about these big businessmen," he added, pointing to a nearby processing plant belching out fumes. The impact of factory pollution and crop burning goes far beyond state boundaries, but authorities are reluctant to take action which might alienate vote banks such as farmers and business leaders. Both Punjab and Uttar Pradesh hold state elections next year. The ban on crop burning is rarely enforced and successive court judgments ordering ageing vehicles off Delhi's roads are also routinely flouted, leading to more unwelcome comparisons with China's track record.

"We have repeatedly failed to implement the laws in India," said Mahesh Palawat, chief meteorologist at private weather forecaster Skymet. "There is hardly any control on emissions. The number of vehicles is going up and construction still continues across the region." "China is using technology and strict implementation because the authorities recognise air pollution as a health emergency and are doing everything to control it. "But here in India, there is no political will and laws are never implemented on ground, mostly because no one takes pollution seriously."

Avin Sharma, who works in Delhi for a multinational corporation, questioned whether authorities really had the stomach to take on the range of vested interests that contribute to the pollution. "There are plenty of laws to deal with violators but they are wasting time by blaming each other," said Sharma.—AFP

Global govts: Make tobacco firms liable for smoking harm

NEW DELHI, India: A global conference on tobacco control has pledged to hold the tobacco industry legally liable for health consequences of smoking and protect public health policies from the influence of tobacco companies. Representatives from around 180 countries participating in the World Health Organization's global tobacco control treaty negotiations on Saturday adopted a declaration in which they also vowed to prohibit or regulate the sale of e-cigarettes. The six-day conference on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, or FCTC, concluded with participating countries agreeing to promote alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers that would ensure a better future for them.

Public health activists say smoking-related deaths are still rising worldwide, with 80 percent of them expected to occur in developing countries by 2030. The WHO says that without strong control measures, tobacco will kill about 1 billion people in the 21st century. The more than 1,500 delegates expressed their concern about persistent attempts by the tobacco industry to infiltrate the meetings in order to influence the working and the outcomes of the conference. The declaration cautioned governments against efforts by big tobacco companies to dilute health policies, subvert measures to restrict tobacco sales and undermine the implementation of the FCTC. "The long hours of debate and planning has produced a strong road map for global tobacco control for the future," Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, head of the convention secretariat, told reporters.

She said the tobacco industry was "determined to undermine and distract us from our goal - to fight against the tobacco epidemic that not only damages health and kills people, but also impoverishes those living in low- to middle-income countries." The conference declaration included measures to hold big tobacco companies liable for the health consequences of its products, recover health care costs and facilitate access to justice for victims of tobacco-related diseases.

NEW DELHI: In this file photo, an Indian man takes a cigarette from a pack in New Delhi, India.—AP

Since they set down stiff regulations and guidelines in the landmark 2003 FCTC treaty - the first and only global treaty dealing with public health - most of the 180 signatories have ratified it and passed laws restricting tobacco advertising or sales. Still, many governments remain entangled with powerful tobacco companies, while industry lobbyists continue attempts to stymie efforts to implement anti-smoking laws through bribery, misinformation and even suing national governments for lost profits, campaigners say.

Health activists hailed the decision on legal liability, saying it could set a precedent for holding other industries accountable for environmental damage or public health harms they could cause. "The tobacco industry is the single largest barrier to tobacco control policies globally - and these negotiations were no exception," said John Stewart, deputy campaigns director at the Boston-based lobbying group Corporate Accountability International. Stewart said the firm stand taken by delegates, who stood up to the tobacco industry, had enabled governments to adopt "some of the strongest measures yet to protect millions of people's lives."—AP

Oil taking on green sheen

'The priority for oil companies is creating value'

PARIS: The companies that drill black gold are going a little bit green: taking stakes in renewable energies that are growing rapidly, enabling oil firms to diversify revenue and show commitment to fighting climate change. In the past, such swings have been written off by environmental campaigners as greenwash, and just as likely to be reversed once low oil prices go up again. But analysts say that, even though only a tiny percent of oil majors' investment goes into renewables, the interest this time seems to be sustained, and underpinned by solid profit.

"It is not a purely economic trend" driven by low crude prices, said Francis Perrin, president of SPE, which publishes a number of energy-related publications. "It's more profound: it's the adaption of certain oil industry majors to a certain number of energy and economic upheavals." Perrin suggested oil companies were more cognisant of the threat posed by climate change and the potential that renewable energy will become big business. Already present in the manufacturing of solar panels via its unit Sunpower, France's Total earlier this year invested in a US company that installs mini wind turbines for homes and businesses.

Italy's ENI plans to invest 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion) over the next three years in solar projects, while Shell, BP and Statoil are concentrating on wind power. In the US, Chevron is switching its bets from geothermal to biofuels, although ExxonMobil remains lagging in the green energy field.

Profitable = sustainable

With the price of crude in the doldrums, "the priority for oil companies is creating value" said Jerome Sabathier, head of the economics department at IFPEN, a French government body that supports research into the renewable energies, the environment and transportation. Most oil companies are trying to cut costs and reduce their debts, selling off non-strategic assets. Interestingly, though, they have been loath to sell off renewables, which have been a source of growth. Perrin said the interest isn't only due to low crude prices, however. "The trend started before oil prices began to tumble in the summer of 2014 and will continue if they rebound," he said.

While oil companies have been slashing investment as they seek to cut costs, the chief executive of Total, Patrick Pouyanne, noted the company has continued to allocated $500 million per year on renewable energies. And often their efforts are supported by public funds. "There are a certain number of financing mechanisms and subsidies for renewable energy that create a real financial interest for companies," said IFPEN's Sabathier. But Total's CEO said that the key to sustainability is profit. "You will not build sustainable business just because its green, you will build it because it will be profitable and because ecology meets economy," said Pouyanne at a recent conference. Even if they are not initially profitable, renewable investments also provide an enormous public relations benefit to oil companies. "It's the cherry on the cake," said Perrin.

Still marginal

Shareholders, including big investment funds, have also been keeping a close eye that oil companies correctly evaluate the financial risks posed by measures that may be adopted by countries as the global community aims to keep global warming limited to 2 degrees Celsius. The OPEC oil cartel, even with limited implementation of climate change mitigation efforts, sees oil demand growing at a much slower rate than natural gas over the next 25 years. But an expected near doubling of passenger cars on the roads as consumers in developing countries purchase vehicles should drive demand for oil higher. However, if countries fully honor their pledges to cut down on the use of fossil fuels which cause global warming, OPEC believes oil demand could begin declining by 2030.

In any case, oil companies are not turning their backs on their main business for the moment. Investments in renewable energies remain marginal-less than 3 percent of the billions pumped into oil and gas projects every year, according to a recent report by the Sia Partners consulting firm. The interest by oil firms in natural gas is understandable as it is seen by the International Energy Agency as the only fossil fuel whose share in the energy mix is to increase in the coming decades as electricity producers switch from coal, which causes far more pollution.

Ten oil majors, members of the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, also want to continue research into the development of carbon capture technologies. "If you advance in that area, you can develop in the long term fossil fuels without these energy sources contributing to climate change as in the past," said Perrin. —AFP

Millennia-old mummy found in Egypt tomb

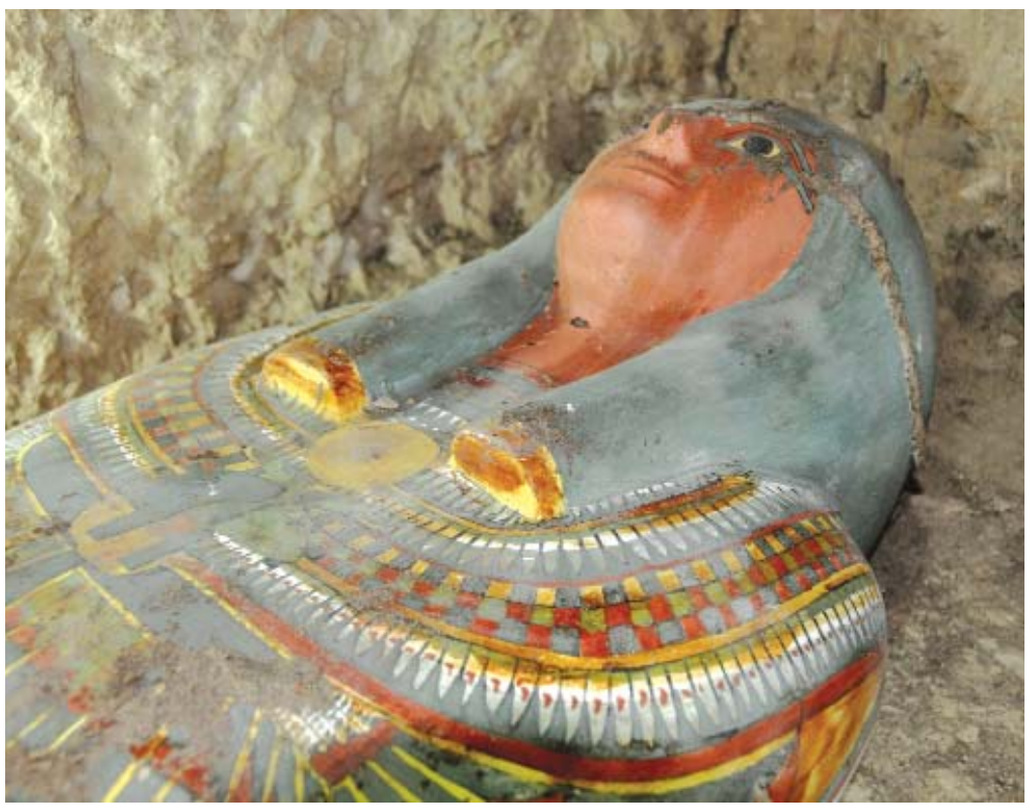
It is in 'very good condition'

LUXOR, UQSUR, Egypt: A sarcophagus containing a millennia-old mummy which was found by Spanish archaeologists near the southern Egyptian town of Luxor.

CAIRO: Spanish archaeologists have discovered a millennia-old mummy in "very good condition" near the southern Egyptian town of Luxor, the antiquities ministry said yesterday. The find was in a tomb probably dating from between 1075-664 BC, on the west bank of the Nile river 700 kilometers (435 miles) south of Cairo, a statement said. The mummy had been bound with linen stuck together with plaster. It was in a brightly coloured wooden sarcophagus and had been buried near a temple from the era of fourth-millennium warrior king Thutmose III.

The tomb was likely to have belonged to a nobleman, Amenrenef, who was "a servant of the royal household", the ministry said. The archaeological team's head, Myriam Seco Alvarez, said the mummy was decorated with "many colorful decorations recalling religious symbols from ancient Egypt, such as the goddesses Isis and Nephtys displaying their wings, and the four sons of Horus". The earliest evidence of mummification in Egypt suggests that the practice of wrapping bodies to preserve them after death dates back as far as 4500 BC.

Luxor, a city of half a million people on the banks of the Nile, abounds with temples and tombs built by Egypt's pharaohs. It is a key site for Egypt's tourist industry which has been battered by political instability and jihadist violence since the 2011 revolution that toppled longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak. —AFP



LUXOR, UQSUR, Egypt: A handout picture released by Egypt's Antiquities Ministry yesterday, shows a sarcophagus containing a millennia-old mummy which was found by Spanish archaeologists near the southern Egyptian town of Luxor. —AFP photos

New trouble in hardscrabble town: Blood tests for chemical

NEWBURGH, New York: In this chronically struggling city along the Hudson River, residents beset by poverty, high crime and boarded-up homes now have an entirely new worry - that their tap water may have exposed them to a chemical linked to cancer. State officials recently launched an ambitious effort to offer blood tests to Newburgh's 28,000 residents after the chemical PFOS - used for years in firefighting foam at the nearby military air base - was found in the city's drinking water reservoir at levels exceeding federal guidelines.

"The fact that I've been drinking that water for years, and my daughter's been drinking and bathing in it, that's shocking to me," says Stuart Sachs, an artist who moved here from Brooklyn 14 years ago. "My daughter is 11. What diseases is she going to have to look forward to? It's scary."

Smaller communities

PFOS, or perfluorooctane sulfonate, has been linked to cancer, thyroid problems and other serious health issues. Results of the blood testing, expected to be released early next year, won't tell people whether they're actually at increased risk for any specific health problem, but will show how their exposure compares to others. Similar testing has been done in several smaller communities with water contaminated with PFOS or its close chemical cousin, PFOA, which is used in nonstick and stain-repellent coatings. About 1,500 people were tested near an air base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and found to have slightly elevated levels of the chemicals. In the rural villages of Hoosick Falls and Petersburgh, New York, where plastics plants are being held liable for PFOA in public and private wells, tests of about 3,000 residents that began in February have found PFOA blood levels as high as 500 times the national average. For Newburgh, about an hour's drive north of New York City, a potential health crisis was the last thing it needed. The city, which served as George Washington's Revolutionary War headquarters, was humming with machine shops, clothing factories, shipyards and brickyards in the early 20th century.

NEWBURGH, New York: A sign points the way to blood testing for PFOS in Newburgh, NY.

But in the 1960s, a slow decline began after a new bridge over the Hudson River diverted traffic away from the city's commercial center. Factories started shutting down or moving to the new highway corridor outside the city. Now the city is notorious for derelict abandoned buildings, drug gangs and violent crime. In 2014, PFOS was detected in 175-acre Lake Washington, the city's drinking water supply, at a level 170 parts per trillion, well below the 400 ppt limit then recommended by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

When the EPA set a new level of 70 ppt for short-term exposure in May 2016, the city declared an emergency and shifted to a new water source.

Medical case manager

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation has identified nearby Stewart Air National Guard Base as the source of the PFOS, suspecting the chemical, used for years in firefighting emergencies and drills, got into a stream leading to the city reservoir. Free blood tests are being offered through Nov 19 to any resident who makes an appointment at one of seven clinics. But getting people tested in Newburgh presents special challenges. More than a third of residents live in poverty and more than 46 percent of households speak a language other than English at home. "Newburgh is a very poor city, and special recognition has to be given to the fact that people who are really struggling, really at the edge, are going to need extra help getting out, learning about it," says Sachs, whose sculpture studio is in one of Newburgh's most run-down and crime-ridden neighborhoods. "On my street, people have vaguely heard there was an issue with the water."

Newburgh resident Dorice Barnwell, who works as a medical case manager, says she knocked on doors in her own four-story apartment building and found nobody had heard about the blood-testing program, despite several public meetings and media reports. She says information should be sent home with schoolchildren and posted at street corners, on buses and in shopping centers. "We need to get this information out at all levels to everyone," she says. "I personally sent out a mass phone text to everyone in my address book encouraging them to call the number to schedule an appointment."

Dr Nathan Graber, director of the state health agency's Center for Environmental Health, says his department is translating materials into Spanish and Creole and engaging with the city's religious leaders, school superintendent and community groups to improve outreach. Even though officials have stressed blood tests won't diagnose specific illnesses, some residents hope they will shed some light on nagging health worries.

Tamie Hollins says her 18-year-old son's sudden death in 2010 was attributed to natural causes, but now she wonders if PFOS had anything to do with it. "I'm always thinking about this, trying to find answers about what happened to my baby," she says. "We were always very health-conscious and drank lots and lots of water, because water is life, right? Now I wonder about that." —AP

NEWBURGH, New York: Pedestrians walk along Broadway in Newburgh, NY.

NEWBURGH, New York: In this file photo, medical assistant Jennifer Martinez draws blood from Joshua Smith that will be tested for PFOS levels in Newburgh, NY. —AP photos

KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governorate hosted its '1st Awareness and Entertainment Forum' at Magic Mall this past Friday, featuring several activities.

Agility supports K2O Expedition to raise environmental awareness

Logistics support provided to 2,200 kilometer journey

Agility, a leading global logistics provider, is supporting a 2,200 kilometer kayak journey from Kuwait to Oman (K2O), to raise awareness for environmental protection in the Gulf. Avid kayakers Bashar Al-Huneidi, and Mansoor Al-Safran, who represent Kayak4Kuwait, are leading the journey from Kuwait to Oman to raise environmental awareness around marine conservation and protection in the region. Kayak4Kuwait is a local 4 man team with an aim of creating awareness on the importance of preserving the Arabian Gulf, and triggering action to that effect.

Also supported by the Kuwait Environment Public Authority and other local organizations, the duo kicked off their journey in Kuwait on November 10 and will kayak down the coasts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates before arriving in Oman. The trip will also include stops at a number of Arabian Gulf islands, coral reefs, and other marine environments.

Agility is supporting the expedition with logistics consultancy and support, transporting the kayaks from the United Kingdom to Kuwait, organizing drivers to pilot the land support team as well as offering logistics expertise in general.

Henadi Al-Saleh, Chair of the Board in Agility, said "At Agility, we work with customers, employees, industry partners and non-governmental organizations to do our part in ensuring a more sustainable future. Raising awareness about the environment is important for our company. By supporting the K2O Expedition, we are doing our part in the protection and conservation of the marine environment in our region."

Bashar Al-Huneidi, Founder of Kayak4Kuwait, said "Our seas need us now more than ever. We have a responsibility to help our governments to protect and manage our natural world and resources."

The expedition aims to raise awareness on the environmental threats to the Arabian Gulf, by speaking to government officials and community members in each country on enforcing existing environmental legislations, incorporating sustainable practices and measures, and providing environmental education in schools.

Agility works closely with its customers to measure and improve the environmental performance of their supply chain activities. It also is committed to reducing its own environmental impact. Details of those efforts are available in Agility's 2016 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, "Deepening Impact."

Coptic Patriarch extols Kuwait's religious coexistence

Patriarch of the Egyptian Coptic Catholic Church Ibrahim Isaac said Saturday Kuwait is a state of religious and cultural coexistence. Speaking to reporters upon arrival in Kuwait, the patriarch said Kuwait hosts different communities, including the Egyptian one which enjoys good treatment, commending the humanitarian role of His Highness the Amir who was honored by the UN as "Humanitarian Leader".

"This honoring reflects Kuwait's role in different humanitarian fields by helping disaster-hit and homeless people in various continents in line with all heavenly religions in the context of world human fraternity," he added.

Meanwhile, Patron of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church in Kuwait Anba Angelos Masoud stressed the significance of the patriarch's visit to Kuwait where the Egyptian community, including Catholic Copts, enjoys an atmosphere of cultural coexistence and religious freedom. He said it is the first-ever visit by the Patriarch of the Coptic Catholic Church Ibrahim Isaac to the State of Kuwait. During his stay in Kuwait, the patriarch is expected to meet with officials and religious leaders, in addition to Catholic Copts living in this Gulf country. —KUNA

GUST to host Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Kuwait Conference

- *TESOL Kuwait is a non-profit organization of teachers teaching to speakers of other languages*
- *Third annual conference aiming to improve the teaching and learning of English to non-native speakers.*
- *Over 500 local and regional educators attended the event.*

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) will host the fourth Annual Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference at its campus in Mishref, carrying the theme Innovation, Creativity, Communication: Facing Novel Challenges in TESOL." 500 local and regional educators who teach English are expected to attend the event.

Invited to the event are prominent professors and educators, including Professor David Crystal whose keynote will focus on " The Centrality of Pragmatics"; Professor Farzad Sharifian, whose keynote is titled " Cultural Conceptualizations in Language Teaching"; Professor Mihaela Irimia, whose keynote is titled "Literature, the Storehouse of Memory and Topoi of Remembrance"; and Professor Karen Price, whose keynote was titled " Digital Learning and Interaction: Innovation, Creativity, Communication." The conference will also include over 20 workshops, 30 presentations and 5 panel discussions for the attendees to choose from based on their specialties and interests.

Dr Hussain Al-Sharoufi, the organizer of the TESOL Kuwait Conference, said, "We are proud that this conference is taking place at GUST once again. It is our aim that we create a veritable knowledge hub for students and educators alike. The aim of this conference will be to explore the notions of innovation, creativity, and communication with regards to teaching English to speakers of other languages. My hope is that this event will act as the focal point where various perspectives meet, and that educators can walk away with new ideas to implement in their classrooms."

Conference attendees will be exposed to new methods on how to teach English to native Arabic speakers, in addition to gaining insight about the latest innovations and research in the field of English language teaching. The event will also offer an opportunity for attendees to network with educators throughout Kuwait and the region benefiting from this conference as English is their medium of instruction.

Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, said, "I would like to thank everyone involved in organizing this event for their dedication to this unique conference through which TESOL Kuwait has been able to engage hundreds of professionals to collaborate locally and create valuable opportunity for people of all ages who want to learn English."

TESOL Kuwait is a non-profit organization of teachers English to speakers of other languages affiliated with the U.S. based TESOL International, housing 46,000 members worldwide. TESOL seeks to improve the teaching and learning of English and content subjects to non-native speakers of English. It is a professional community committed to advancing excellence in English language teaching. The community fosters the exchange of ideas, research and peer-to-peer knowledge, and provides expertise, resources, and a voice on issues affecting the profession.

GUST takes a special interest in finding advances ways to teach the English language, which is reflected in the international standards implemented in its Foundation Program, which was accredited by the CEA in 2013. The university continuously implements the best methods to develop its curricula and ensure a premier educational experience for its students.

Dine with a difference at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa in Nov

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa is taking guests on a culinary journey around the world this November, offering a number of promotions and new menus across its restaurants. From America's Deep South, Italy's countryside, Mexico's bold cuisine, diners will enjoy varied and unique evening dining experiences this month.

The steakhouse restaurant, Pepper, launched a new exciting menu delivering guests the best in taste and quality. The resort's culinary team serves new contemporary additions to the restaurant's popular flame-grilled masterpieces with menu items such as crispy chicken breast with sauteed wild mushroom and green pea puree for starters, smoked duck Carpaccio salad, Pepper's mixed grill platter, glazed lamb with rosemary, honey and orange. Marinated until tender and grilled until juicy, the selection of braised short ribs and Black Angus meat cuts will satisfy every palette. For desserts, guests can savor coffee and cardamom Creme Brulee, caramel and pecan tart, and more.

At Olio Italian Restaurant, the Italian chef created a tailored menu of "All You Can Grab" offerings for dinner, combining the best antipasti starters, a live pasta station allowing guests to customize their dish with classic Italian condiments, and a choice of freshly-prepared pizzas handpicked by the chef. Every Tuesday, guests will sample Italian specialties showcasing the breadth of the country's culinary diversity and personality. A new menu also comes with Tuscany style seafood soup, traditional baked lasagna, homemade gnocchi with four cheeses, cannelloni with roasted chicken and ricotta cheese, Sicilian style grilled fish, and warm chocolate pudding and the velvety Italian Panna cotta for dessert.

More can be enjoyed on Tuesday evenings with Garden Cafe's international monthly offerings. This November, Mexican Nights present an open buffet embracing the culinary vibrancy of Mexico with typical Mexican dishes to indulge the senses. From enchiladas, tacos, to quesadillas with delicious side dishes to pair any meal, guests will be introduced to authentic Mexican cuisine.

As the cooler weather descends upon us, the luxurious resort continues to welcome guests to the beach and poolside area every Wednesday, where Kuwait's first traditional Southern-American themed Barbeque celebrates the distinct and classic method of American Barbequing characterized by wood-smoked meats. Guests will enjoy a wide-ranging assortment of BBQ baby ribs, succulent brisket, steaks, and variously flavored pies for dessert together with live musical performances.

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa strives to offer guests a range of dining experiences to remember for family and friends, delivering a true taste of culinary offerings with the charm of idyllic surroundings. The resort recommends guests to book in advance by calling the Restaurant Team on 22269666.

UP NRI Forum, Kuwait conducted Free Medical Camp for underprivileged

UP NRI Forum, a social and welfare group organized a free medical camp organization in conjunction with the Indian Doctors Forum November 4, 2016 at the Salmiya Indian Model School to cater to the health needs of the Indian diaspora in Kuwait.

The camp included health educational sessions focused on presentations about prostate cancer symptoms and treatment and a health check-up session. A team of specialist doctors and staff nurses from the Ministry of Health and local private hospitals provided medical check-ups and advice to attendees on a one-to-one basis including checking blood pressure, blood sugar tests and ultrasounds. Eye tests were also conducted.

Burgan Bank Youth Account holders watch 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' For free at Grand Cinemas

Burgan Bank, in collaboration with Grand Cinemas, announced today that all its Youth Account Holders will be offered the exclusivity to watch the first screening of the all-new action drama movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" for free at the luxurious movie theatre of Grand Cinemas located in Al Hamra Tower. The movie screening will be held on Thursday November, 17th 2016, wherein each Youth account holder is entitled to 2 free tickets on one of the two shows, at 5:30 pm or 8:00 pm.

To book the free seats, Youth Account Holders are required to visit grand cinemas box office in Al Hamra Tower and show their Youth card or by calling Grand Cinemas on 22270333. The Youth Account was specifically designed for the young individuals of ages 15 to 25, who seek to attain a successful future.

Animal Planet HD

00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Mountain Monsters
02:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
09:15 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Gorilla Doctors
18:25 River Monsters
19:20 Wild Animal Repo
20:15 Tanked
21:10 My Wild Affair: The Elephant Who Loved Too Much
22:05 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
23:00 Wild Animal Repo
23:55 Gator Boys

crime & investigation network

00:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
04:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 My Haunted House
07:00 Homicide Hunter
08:00 Beyond Scared Straight
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 The First 48
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 Private Crimes
12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
13:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
14:00 Beyond Scared Straight
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 It Takes A Killer
16:30 Private Crimes
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
20:00 Beyond Scared Straight
21:00 It Takes A Killer
21:30 Private Crimes
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Gangs Of Britain...

Discovery Family

00:30 Redesign My Brain
01:20 Redesign My Brain
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
05:30 Ultimate Survival
06:20 How It's Made

20:30 I'd Kill For You
21:20 Love The Way You Lie
22:10 Your Number's Up
23:00 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
23:50 Behind Closed Doors: Shocking Secrets

Disney Channel HD

00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Mouk
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Austin & Ally
09:35 Shake It Up
10:00 A.N.T. Farm
10:25 A.N.T. Farm
10:50 That's So Raven
11:15 That's So Raven
11:40 Good Luck Charlie
12:05 Good Luck Charlie
12:30 Jessie
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 The 7D
13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Austin & Ally
15:00 Dog With A Blog
15:25 Jessie
15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
16:15 Hank Zipzer
16:40 Bunk'd
17:05 Star Darlings
17:10 Elena Of Avalor
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:00 Backstage
18:25 Liv And Maddie
18:50 Bizaardvark
19:15 Bunk'd
19:40 Disney Cookabout
20:05 Best Friends Whenever
20:30 Jessie
20:55 Liv And Maddie
21:20 Austin & Ally
21:45 Backstage
22:10 Girl Meets World
22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
23:00 Binny And The Ghost
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A

14:15 Henry Hugglemonster
14:30 Doc McStuffins
15:00 Sofia The First
15:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 PJ Masks
18:00 Sofia The First
18:30 Goldie & Bear
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 The Lion Guard
22:00 PJ Masks
22:30 PJ Masks
23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Car vs Wild
02:00 Jaws Of The Deep
02:50 Rebel Gold
03:40 Fast N' Loud
04:30 Extreme Collectors
05:00 Deals, Wheels And Steals
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:50 Street Outlaws
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Gold Divers
09:20 Extreme Collectors
09:45 Deals, Wheels And Steals
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
11:25 Our Guy In Latvia
12:15 How It's Made: Dream Cars
12:40 How It's Made: Dream Cars
13:05 Deals, Wheels And Steals
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 Gold Rush
21:50 Deadliest Catch
22:40 Railroad Australia
23:30 Fast N' Loud

Disney XD

06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
06:25 K.C. Undercover
06:50 The 7D
07:00 Phineas And Ferb
07:15 Atomic Puppet
07:40 Danger Mouse
07:50 Counterfeit Cat
08:05 Future Worm
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Danger Mouse
10:20 Annedroids

DADDY'S HOME ON OSN MOVIES HD

09:15 Celebrity Style Story
10:10 E! News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Celebrity Style Story
16:30 Celebrity Style Story
17:00 WAGs Miami
18:00 WAGs Miami
19:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 Catching Kelce
23:00 E! News
23:15 WAGs Miami

12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
14:15 Keep It In The Family
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Broadchurch
16:55 Brief Encounters
17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Broadchurch
21:55 Brief Encounters
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street

History HD

00:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
01:10 American Restoration
02:00 Storage Wars
02:25 Storage Wars Miami
02:50 Ice Road Truckers
03:40 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 American Pickers
07:40 Pawn Stars
08:05 Pawn Stars
08:30 Storage Wars Texas
08:55 American Restoration
09:45 Leepu And Pitbull
10:35 Shipping Wars
11:00 Shipping Wars
11:25 Hoard Hunters
12:15 Swamp People
13:05 Ax Men
13:55 Pawn Stars
14:20 Pawn Stars
14:45 How To Lose The Presidency
15:35 Pawn Stars
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Storage Wars
17:15 Storage Wars Miami
17:40 Mountain Men
18:30 Hoard Hunters
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
21:50 Aussie Pickers
22:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
23:30 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour

OSN Movies HD Action

00:15 The Canal
02:00 Area 407
04:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
06:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
08:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
10:00 Armored
12:00 Heatstroke
14:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
16:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
17:45 Armored
19:30 Independence Day
22:00 Death Race

OSN Movies Drama

01:00 Experimenter
03:00 Love Under The Stars
05:00 A Kind Of Magic
07:00 Before I Go To Sleep
09:00 Assassin's Bullet
11:00 Experimenter
13:00 Love Under The Stars
15:00 Boychoir
17:00 Assassin's Bullet
19:00 The Zero Theorem
21:00 The Selfish Giant
23:00 The Snitch Cartel

OSN Movies HD Family

01:00 Big Fat Liar
03:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
05:00 It Takes Two

07:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
09:00 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
11:00 Coraline
13:00 Santa's Little Helper
15:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
17:00 Peter Pan
19:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
21:00 Jem And The Holograms
23:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box

OSN Movies HD

01:00 A Good Marriage
03:00 Ride
05:00 Believe
07:00 Risen
09:00 Ride
11:00 Daddy's Home
13:00 4 Minute Mile
15:00 Some Girls
17:00 Ricki And The Flash
19:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken
21:00 The Transporter: Refueled
23:00 The Brothers Grimsby

OSN Movies HD Comedy

00:15 Revenge For Jolly!
02:00 The Out Of Towners
04:00 Hot Rod
06:00 Caveman
08:00 A Lot Like Love
10:00 Hot Rod
12:00 The Out Of Towners
14:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
16:00 A Lot Like Love
18:00 Honeymooners
20:00 She's Funny That Way
22:00 The Ladies Man

OSN Movies Festival

01:00 Gone With The Bullets
03:15 Rio, I Love You
05:00 Beyond The Edge
07:00 A Perfect Day
09:00 Short Term 12
10:45 Gone With The Bullets
12:45 Roger Waters The Wall
15:00 The Railway Man
17:00 Short Term 12
19:00 Foxcatcher
21:15 Decoding Annie Parker
23:00 Twice Born

OSN Movies HD Kids

01:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
02:45 Columbus In The Last Journey
04:30 Miffy The Movie
06:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
07:45 Goat Story 2
09:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
11:15 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
13:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
14:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
16:00 Blackie And Kanuto
18:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
20:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
22:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
23:30 Blackie And Kanuto

OSN First HD Comedy

00:00 Uncle Buck
00:30 Scrubs
01:00 Scrubs
01:30 Quincy Jones: Burning The Light
02:30 You're The Worst
03:00 2 Broke Girls
03:30 The Simpsons
04:00 Fresh Off The Boat
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 George Lopez
06:00 Galavant
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Fresh Off The Boat

08:30 George Lopez
09:00 2 Broke Girls
09:30 Mad Love
10:00 Modern Family
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Galavant
12:30 Fresh Off The Boat
13:00 George Lopez
13:30 Community
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 Mad Love
15:00 Modern Family
15:30 Scrubs
16:00 Scrubs
16:30 Galavant
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 2 Broke Girls
18:30 The Simpsons
19:00 Crowded
19:30 Modern Family
20:00 Telenovela
20:30 Uncle Buck
21:00 Scrubs
21:30 Scrubs
22:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

Discovery Science

00:40 Nextworld
01:30 Nextworld
02:20 How Do They Do It?
02:45 How Do They Do It?
03:10 Food Factory
03:35 Food Factory
04:00 Food Factory
04:24 Food Factory
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 Mythbusters
06:24 Mythbusters
07:12 Mythbusters
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Nextworld
09:14 Mythbusters
10:02 Mega Engineering
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
12:26 Nextworld
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Mega Engineering
15:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
16:26 Nextworld
17:14 Mythbusters
18:02 Science Of The Movies
18:50 Nextworld
19:40 Junkyard Wars
20:30 Invent It Rich
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 Science Of The Movies
23:00 Invent It Rich
23:50 Curiosity: Brainwashed

TLC HD

00:20 Love, Lust Or Run
00:45 Love, Lust Or Run
01:10 Nine Months Later
02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
02:25 Say Yes To The Dress
02:50 Love At First Swipe
03:15 Cake Boss
03:35 Cake Boss
04:00 Cake Boss
04:20 Little People, Big World
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:50 Separated At Birth
07:40 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
08:30 Little People, Big World
08:55 Little People, Big World
09:20 Jon & Kate Plus 8
10:10 Love At First Swipe
10:35 Cake Boss
11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
12:40 Cake Boss
13:05 Cake Boss
13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
13:55 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
14:20 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
17:15 Jon & Kate Plus 8

EXPERIMENTER ON OSN MOVIES DRAMA

06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 Redesign My Brain
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Dirty Jobs
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
13:40 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
17:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:50 Pick A Puppy
18:15 Pick A Puppy
18:40 Redesign My Brain
19:30 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
22:00 Pick A Puppy
22:25 Pick A Puppy
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

ID X

00:40 American Monster
01:30 Ghosts Of Shepherdstown
02:20 Alaska Haunting
03:10 Six Degrees Of Murder
04:00 Betrayed
04:48 Dr G: Medical Examiner
08:00 Evil Online
08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:30 I'd Kill For You
11:20 Nowhere To Hide
12:10 Killer Confessions
13:00 Evil Online
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
15:30 I'd Kill For You
16:20 Nowhere To Hide
17:10 Evil Online
18:00 Evil Online
18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

Disney Junior

00:00 Doc McStuffins
00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopdidoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopdidoo
02:30 Art Attack
03:00 Calimero
03:15 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopdidoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:00 The Lion Guard
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
09:40 Goldie & Bear
10:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
10:10 Doc McStuffins
10:30 PJ Masks
10:40 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Doc McStuffins
12:00 Goldie & Bear
12:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:00 The Hive
13:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

10:45 Annedroids
11:10 Counterfeit Cat
11:35 K.C. Undercover
12:00 K.C. Undercover
12:30 Gravity Falls
12:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:45 Phineas And Ferb
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Supa Strikas
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Danger Mouse
15:55 Kirby Buckets
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Annedroids
17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
17:40 K.C. Undercover
18:05 Future Worm
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Counterfeit Cat
19:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
19:25 Supa Strikas
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Pickle And Peanut
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister
22:35 Boyster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

E HD

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 WAGs Miami
01:50 E! News
02:50 Botched
03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 E! News
07:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

Food Network

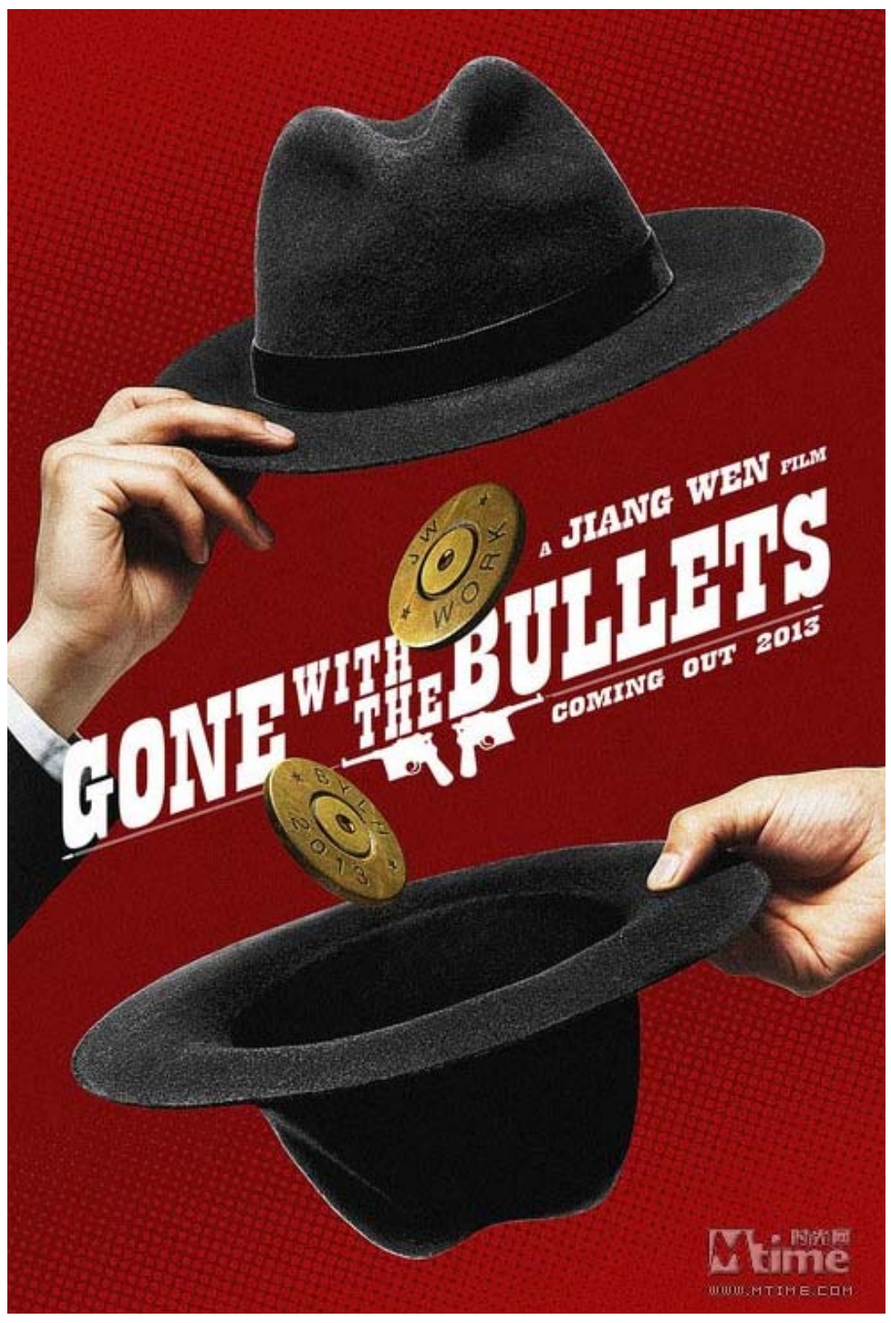
00:00 Private Chef
01:00 Restaurant Takeover
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Man Fire Food
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Barefoot Contessa
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
10:00 Chopped
11:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Man Fire Food
13:30 Man Fire Food
14:00 Chopped
15:00 The Kitchen
16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
16:30 Anna Olson: Bake
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Iron Chef America
19:00 Restaurant Stakeout
20:00 Mystery Diners
20:30 Mystery Diners
21:00 Restaurant Takeover
22:00 Iron Chef America
23:00 Restaurant Stakeout

ITV HD Choice

00:10 Keep It In The Family
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
03:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
04:20 5 Star Family Reunion
05:15 Mr Selfridge
06:10 Keep It In The Family
07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
08:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:00 Surprise Surprise
10:00 Mr Selfridge
10:55 Keep It In The Family
11:50 The Chase: Celebrity Specials

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 School Of Rock
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



GONE WITH THE BULLETS ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Kuwait CINEMA

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/11/2016 TO 16/11/2016)

SHARQIA-1	
SABER GOOGLE	11:30 AM
SABER GOOGLE	2:00 PM
NO FRI+SAT	
TROLLS	2:30 PM
FRI+SAT	
TROLLS	4:30 PM
SABER GOOGLE	6:30 PM
SABER GOOGLE	9:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	11:30 PM
SHARQIA-2	
OPERATION CHROMITE	1:00 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	3:30 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	5:45 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	8:00 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	10:15 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-3	
SHUT IN	12:45 PM
SHUT IN	2:45 PM
SHUT IN	4:45 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	6:45 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE	9:45 PM
SHUT IN	12:15 AM
MUHALAB-1	
SABER GOOGLE	12:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	2:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	5:00 PM
SAHASAM SWASAGA SAGIPO -Telugu	5:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	8:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	10:30 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	1:00 AM
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	1:00 AM
THU	
MUHALAB-2	
KILL KANE	12:45 PM
KILL KANE	2:45 PM
TROLLS	1:30 PM
SAHASAM SWASAGA SAGIPO - Telugu	3:30 PM
TROLLS	4:45 PM
TROLLS	6:45 PM
THU+FRI+SAT	
KILL KANE	6:45 PM
NO THU+FRI+SAT	
DOCTOR STRANGE	9:00 PM
KILL KANE	11:30 PM
MUHALAB-3	
OPERATION CHROMITE	11:30 AM
OPERATION CHROMITE	2:00 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	4:30 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	7:00 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	9:30 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	12:05 AM
FANAR-1	
ROCK ON 2- Hindi	1:15 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE	1:45 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE	4:15 PM
ROCK ON 2- Hindi	6:45 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE	10:00 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE	12:30 AM
FANAR-2	
SABER GOOGLE	11:30 AM
SABER GOOGLE	2:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	4:30 PM
SABER GOOGLE	7:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	9:30 PM
SABER GOOGLE	12:05 AM
FANAR-3	
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	11:30 AM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	2:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	5:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	8:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	11:30 PM
MARINA-1	
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	1:00 PM
KILL KANE	3:30 PM
TROLLS	3:15 PM
TROLLS	5:15 PM
KILL KANE	7:15 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE	9:15 PM
KILL KANE	11:45 PM
MARINA-2	
SABER GOOGLE	11:30 AM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	2:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	5:00 PM
SABER GOOGLE	7:30 PM
SABER GOOGLE	10:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	12:30 AM
MARINA-3	
TROLLS	11:30 AM
OPERATION CHROMITE	1:30 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	3:45 PM
TROLLS	6:00 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	8:00 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	10:15 PM
OPERATION CHROMITE	12:45 AM
AVENUES-1	
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	12:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	3:00 PM
ROCK ON 2- Hindi	6:15 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	9:15 PM
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	12:30 AM
AVENUES-2	
DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	12:30 PM
TROLLS - 3D 4DX	3:00 PM
TROLLS - 3D 4DX	5:15 PM
TROLLS - 3D 4DX	7:30 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	9:45 PM
DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	12:15 AM
AVENUES-3	
SHUT IN	11:30 AM
SHUT IN	1:30 PM
SHUT IN	3:30 PM
SHUT IN	5:30 PM

VACANCY

The Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana has a vacancy for a temporary Ambassador's Chauffeur / Driver for the period November 20th 2016 – January 2nd 2017 (44 days).

Candidate must possess the following:

- **Valid Civil ID**
- **Valid Driver's License**
- **Fluent in Arabic and English**
- **Able bodied**
- **Willing to work extended hours**

All applications should be sent to the:
The Ambassador Designate
Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
Block 3, Street 321, Villa 3, Mubarak Abdullah l Jaber,
West Mishref, Kuwait

Telephone: (+965) 25394771 and (+965)25394336
Fax: (+965)25393448
E-mail: guyanaembassy.kuwait@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

SATCO ENGINEERING AUTOMOBILES WORKSHOP

OPEN RECRUITMENT DAY

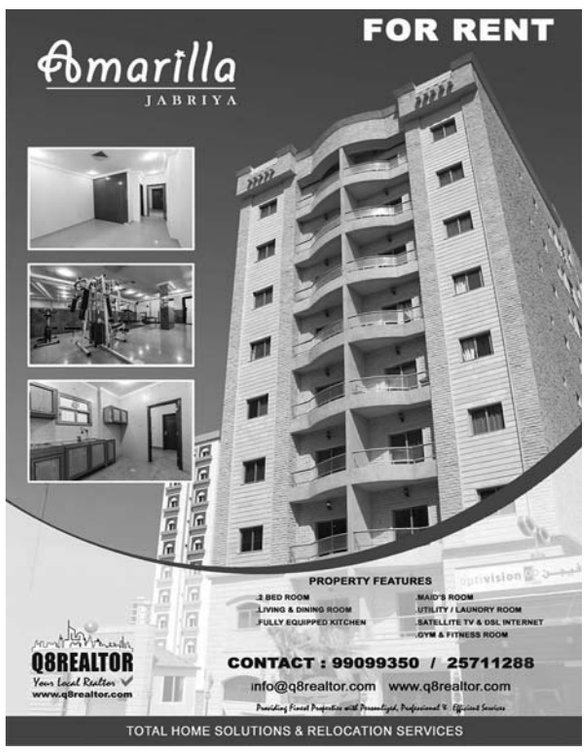
SATURDAY,19 Nov. 2016
FROM 10 A.M TO 1 P.M

- **AUTO-ELECTRICIANS**
- **AUTO-MECHANICS**
- **AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALISTS**
- **PAINTERS & STORE KEEPERS**

ALL POSITIONS MUST HAVE:

- **5 years experience in automobile workshops**
- **Proficiency in English is required – Arabic would be an advantage**
- **Transferable Residency**

Al-Ardhiyah Industrial Area, Block 2, Plot No 216
Tel: 2431 0664 / 5
Email: info@satco-eng.com



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

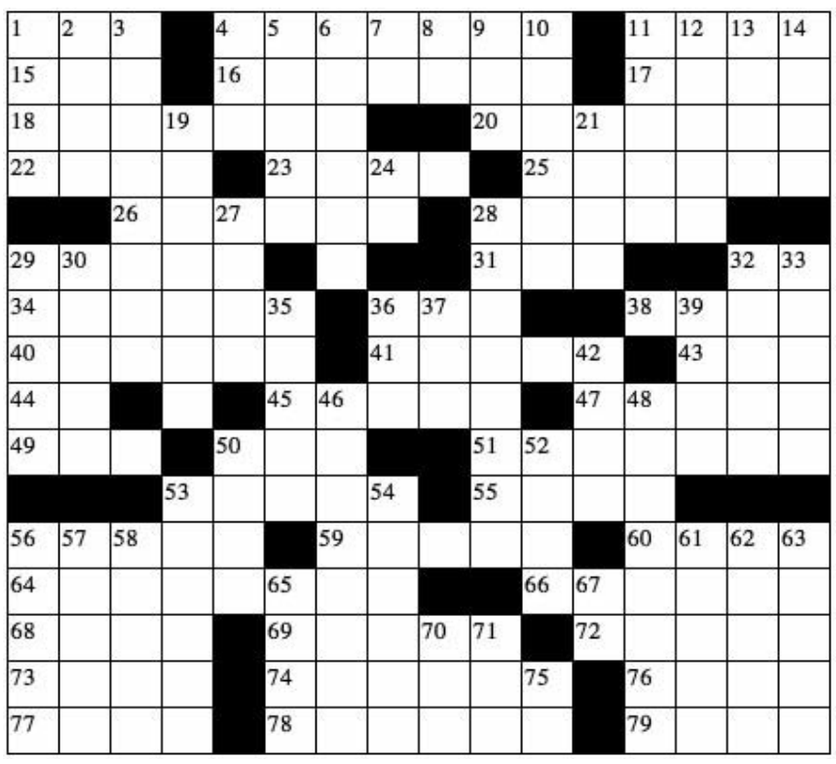
Arrival Flights on Monday 14/11/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40
KAC	102	London	00:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50
DLH	635	Doha	01:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	03:55
KAC	418	Manila	04:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:55
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00
JZR	503	Luxor	05:10
KAC	354	BLR	05:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20
BAW	157	London	06:40
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30
KAC	564	Amman	13:40
FEG	931	Alexandria	13:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
KAC	542	Cairo	14:45
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
JZR	1331	Al Najaf	15:45
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50
KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55
SAW	705	Damascus	16:00
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
FDB	051	Dubai	16:25
KAC	788	Jeddah	16:30
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35
RJA	640	Amman	16:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45
UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
FDB	063	Dubai	18:10
JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	502	Beirut	18:45
QTR	1080	Doha	18:50
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	620	Doha	19:50
KAC	166	Rome	19:55
KNE	381	Taif	19:55
KAC	694	Muscat	20:00
OMA	647	Muscat	20:10
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45
KAC	174	Munich	20:45
JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
FDB	5053	Dubai	21:00
QTR	8511	Doha	21:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
JZR	241	Amman	22:45
KAC	164	Paris	22:55
JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50
KAC	162	Geneva	23:55
BBC	143	Dhaka	23:55

Departure Flights on Monday 14/11/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50
BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
FDK	804	Damascus	01:55
KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	773	Istanbul	02:25
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55
THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30
KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	563	Amman	08:00
BAW	156	London	08:40
FDB	054	Dubai	08:55
KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	743	Dammam	09:00
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	101	London	09:35
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	501	Beirut	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
KAC	161	Geneva	10:10
KAC	613	Bahrain	10:10
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
KAC	787	Jeddah	10:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	12:05
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10
JZR	1330	Al Najaf	12:20
FDK	802	Damascus	12:45
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
FEG	934	Sohag	13:35
JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
KNE	382	Taif	14:50
FEG	932	Alexandria	14:55
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	15:20
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KAC	283	Dhaka	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
JZR	240	Amman	17:15
FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
KAC	343	Chennai	17:40
UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	353	BLR	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	775	Riyadh	20:45
KNE	232	Riyadh	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
KAC	205	Islamabad	21:25
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
DLH	634	Doha	21:35
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
JZR	528	Asyut	22:25
FDB	5054	Dubai	22:30
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
QTR	8512	Doha	22:30
KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1430



ACROSS

1. An advanced law degree.
4. Free of or using methods to keep free of pathological microorganisms.
11. Marked by extreme lack of restraint or control.
15. The basic unit of money in Romania.
16. Genus of tall smooth herbs of forested mountains of Europe and Asia minor.
17. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
18. Release from a spell.
20. Of or relating to the Iberian peninsula or its inhabitants.
22. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
23. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
25. A large fleet.
26. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
29. Out of bed.
31. An associate degree in applied science.
34. Of or like a cecum.
38. A sharp blow.
40. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
41. The state prevailing during the absence of war.
43. Used of a single unit or thing.
44. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 100 liters.
45. French revolutionary leader (born in Switzerland) who was a leader in overthrowing the Girondists and was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday (1743-1793).
47. A genus of Ploceidae.
49. An unabridged dictionary constructed on historical principles.
51. Instructed and encouraged in moral, intellectual, and spiritual improvement.
55. Any competition.
56. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
59. (Mesopotamia) God of agriculture and earth.
60. Derive or receive pleasure from.
64. An inhabitant of the earth.
66. The basic unit of money in Slovakia.
68. Ice crystals forming a white deposit (especially on objects outside).
69. A genus of Indriidae.
72. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
73. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
74. A lake in northwestern Russia north of St. Petersburg.
76. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
77. Of a quality, as in.
78. Deliberately arranged for effect.
79. Tropical starchy tuberous root.

DOWN

1. (Welsh) A warrior god.
2. A Russian river.
3. Wine from muscat grapes.
4. (informal) Of the highest quality.
5. Small evergreen shrub of Pacific coast of North America having edible dark purple grape-size berries.
6. Oblong cream puff.
7. An informal term for a father.
8. A soft gray malleable metallic element that resembles tin but discolors on exposure to air.
9. Being one more than two.
10. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
11. Eaten (or as if eaten) by worms.
12. A Greek epic poem (attributed to Homer) describing the siege of Troy.
13. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
14. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
19. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
21. (Greek mythology) God of love.
24. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
27. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
28. Widespread genus or herbs or soft-wooded arborescent shrubs cultivated for their showy flowers.
30. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
32. A group of African languages in the Niger-Congo group spoken from Senegal east as far as the Ivory Coast.
33. The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
35. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
36. An emergency procedure consisting of external cardiac massage and artificial respiration.
37. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
39. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
42. Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
46. Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
48. Having no fever.
50. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
52. Unpleasantly cool and humid.
53. Have in mind as a purpose.
54. A nation in northern North America.
57. The amount a salary is increased.
58. German hero.
61. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
62. An ornamental net in the shape of a bag that confines a woman's hair.
63. A member of the Siouan people of the Kansas river valley in Kansas.
65. A master's degree in library science.
67. A mouth or mouthlike opening.
70. A person regarded as greedy and pig-like.
71. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
75. A public promotion of some product or service.

Yesterday's Solution

A	R	P		D	I	A	Z	E	P	A	M		D	L	E
G	A	L		E	N	D	A	M	E	B	A		A	I	D
I	D	E	A	L		D	M		D	A	P	P	L	E	D
S	I	A	L	I	S		A	C	I	D		L	E	N	A
M	O	D	I	C	U	M		A	C	A	C	I	A		
			G	A	G	A			A	N	N	A		K	A
E	D	E	N	T	A	T	A		B		U	N	L	E	D
T	A	R		E	R	O	S			E	T	C	H	E	D
U	R	I	C		Y	A	M	A	N	I		Y	A	L	U
I	D	E	A			K	A	N	A	F			S	E	C
			C	A	N	A	R	A		F	A	C	A	D	E
N	A	P	A	E	A		A	S	M	E	R	A			
S	C	R	O	O	G	E			A	L	A	B	A	M	A
A	C	E		L	A	M	E	N	T		B	A	R	I	C
I	R	S		I	M	I	T	A	T	E		L	A	K	H
D	A	S		C	I	T	A	D	E	L		A	K	E	E

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is a natural drive to probe and penetrate-to solve problems. The young people that come to you with questions today will find easy answers when they seek your input. In a relaxed mood this afternoon, one might find you under a tree at the park with a notebook and pen in your hand-writing or sketching. Personal assertiveness, sensitive observations and social commentary are all present in your ability to write well. Today you may even decide to write an outline for a new story or idea for a musical or a play. So what if you do not think you can writetry it anyway and then keep in a file with a creative sort of heading. You can be a positive influence on others today. You are cheerful and helpful this evening as everyone tends to home and personal chores.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Lovely words and a flair for description-the artistic in all its many forms is where you excel above any other today. This talent is good for working on an easel as well as helping a friend solve problems. You have an inner sense of warmth and goodness with the ability to express this. You are kind and easy to be with, which people enjoy. This is a time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas and thinking and solving problems. It is often difficult to understand why people do or say certain things but you display a lot of patience with much goodwill and this heals any resentment. You know how to put things into perspective and stay within the main idea. Suggestions for travel are met with a positive response this evening.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Strong beliefs are keynotes to your power. Religious, cultural or philosophical controversies and crusades have a way of stirring your blood. You enjoy new ideas and see yourself as being able to enjoy an open mind. You could find you are interested in research, article writing or perhaps creating some poetry. You may enjoy talking about your experiences and asking the advice of an older and more experienced person. Your innate intensity and seriousness are visible to all. You look for new and different ways of self-discovery and transformation. In a bazaar or art-festival type of atmosphere this afternoon, you enjoy the live music and outdoor fun, especially with someone you love. This may be a good time for a photo session.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Meandering through the art show or the community fair with young people, you find ways to spend as little as possible of your energy or your money. Today presents good opportunities to teach young people about allowances, paychecks and budgeting. You get many new ideas for upcoming holiday gifts. Later today, among friends and relatives, you enjoy expressing your ideas as well as listening to new ideas regarding subjects you like particularly well. Political, lecturing or teaching concerns could be involved with this need to communicate. You may find yourself running an errand for a family member this evening. You can demonstrate great understanding of the needs of others. The beauty of a sunset is enjoyed this evening.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

This morning you become absorbed in reviewing the job search part of the newspaper. Your career should be mentally stimulating and should allow you to express your originality. You may not be ready to change jobs just now but you certainly check out the listings each week. Who knows, there may be some stimulating profession out in the world, just waiting for your expertise. Your energies are up and there are many projects in which you will want to involve yourself. You enjoy cooking, you dive into an art project and you visit and keep in touch with friends. This afternoon you have lots of fun with animals. This may mean a new animal has come into your life or you are tending to a neighbor's animals for a few days.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are open-minded, democratic and enthusiastic; you have a definite sense of mission. You are at home with different cultures, peoples and lands. You love to work with, and in, groups and will find your day full of interaction with all different types of people. This could be a day that was set aside for a special guest with regard to your family, church or temple. Your general outlook on life is attractive-people seek you out to help them with their problems. You are a natural counselor and may find yourself involved in deep discussions concerning the lifestyles of others. After the weekend chores are done, you enjoy time alone with a special friend, perhaps a loved one. Romance is possible this evening.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Funny, upbeat and positive are the words that fit you now. You particularly enjoy this frame of mind. You are able to see ahead-at least you see some difficult project coming to completion. An intense training period is also about to end and there is a new door of beginnings about to open. You will soon be expressing more of your talents to others. You could be a surgeon, scientist, police detective, firefighter or professional athlete. You know the last few hours of training are ahead of you and you move into this, almost trance-like. Today, you allow someone to help you look at new living quarters. As this new cycle takes hold in your life, romance and social interaction take on a greater importance.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If you enjoy reading about creative inventions, you certainly have not been bored recently. You hear about new techniques and new inventions and you may have some ideas of your own to present; you can certainly encourage others. Science is the topic of discussion most of today-perhaps some healing technique. There are in-depth conversations surrounding issues like cloning, birth control, cancer drugs, discoveries from living in space, space travel, etc. You could be in a religious or community group meeting today. A fun thing to do would be to order a horoscope reading for your new birth year. This evening, you enjoy a family gathering-you enjoy the attention this special day brings.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Communication is at a high just now, although it may not go the way you wish it would. On the home front there is an urge to try new things that could be challenged. In this case, you may rebel and act at cross-purposes to those who care for you-do not push. Do not depend on others for your happiness. Create an attitude of gratitude and believe it or not, frustrations will be short lived. Two wonderful riches are money and love and you have them both. You may desire to choose something flashy that you can give to your loved one. Be wise however, and give yourself time before purchasing an expensive trinket too quickly. You certainly have time for young people this afternoon and may enjoy an out-of-door game. Enjoy dinner out this evening.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A newspaper article that you may be privy to today puts a challenge in your mind to know more. A new idea or experiment may be published just to present a challenge or to interest the reader into researching the subject further and perhaps prove the writer wrong-or right. The conclusion of some experiment or project has been an eye opener to new and important breakthrough information that will help many people. You may decide to test the findings or at the least, you will discuss the findings of the writer with an associate of yours. Any time we make strong statements we really need the proof to back up our words. You are ready to do some research. Since you are able to see these stories as a part of a larger story, you enjoy new ideas and studies.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are usually full of energy and today is one of those days that you are asked to volunteer to help a friend; you jump right in with lots of enthusiasm. You have a great deal of confidence and perseverance and are a good friend. This afternoon you show your competitive side while playing some sort of trivia or a board game-perhaps you are even pushy. Your determination to win proves successful. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. You will receive support and affection from your family or partner whether you are married or not. You create opportunities for people to like themselves. This behavior endears you to others and others to you in many ways.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something unusual for a change this sunday. Someone near you, a neighbor, friend or relative, may have added responsibilities this weekend. Volunteer some of your time; he or she will be appreciative. When it comes to finances, you always seem to have an angel watching over you. Of course, this does not mean you can throw caution to the wind and take risks. If you wanted to shop for a new winter coat or begin to purchase gifts for the upcoming holiday celebrations, this afternoon would be a good time to shop. Your dreams and ideals are the number-one component for action in your chart. Dare to dream!

Wordsearch Puzzle

Adverbs

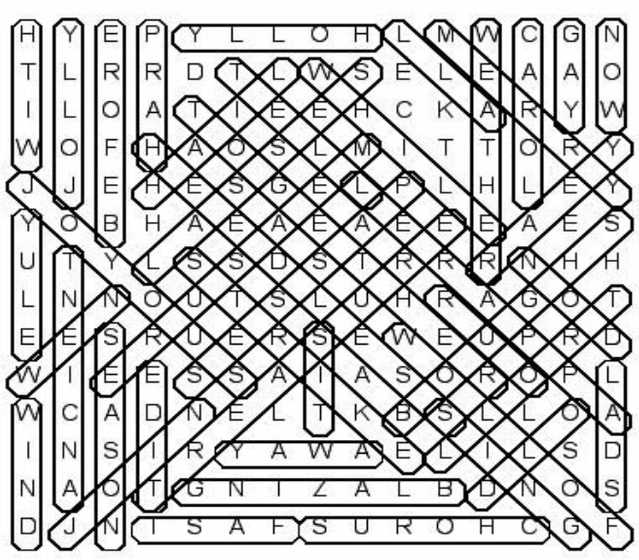
Find and circle all of the adverbs that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

S	O	O	N	O	W	H	E	R	E	A	D	V	D	H	G	I	H	A	E
R	B	W	I	S	E	L	Y	S	Y	L	T	N	E	G	N	O	L	L	D
T	H	E	R	E	M	N	I	A	G	A	I	E	A	S	I	L	Y	M	R
O	E	Y	Y	L	K	C	I	U	Q	H	Y	L	W	O	L	S	D	O	A
I	R	L	F	Y	Y	O	N	C	E	D	F	Y	V	G	F	E	R	S	W
F	O	L	D	O	A	B	N	B	A	H	E	A	D	R	A	R	B	T	E
O	F	A	R	E	R	D	R	E	S	Y	L	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	M
R	E	E	A	A	A	E	R	A	T	N	D	S	R	A	T	V	A	D	O
W	B	R	W	R	J	L	V	E	E	F	S	R	E	T	O	E	E	S	H
A	C	A	P	L	A	T	I	E	T	N	O	I	V	L	D	N	L	S	V
R	Y	M	U	Y	K	C	A	B	R	S	M	F	E	Y	A	A	O	E	R
D	Y	T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	B	E	E	W	S	Y	M	R	L	A
W	A	L	T	N	A	T	Y	O	R	N	W	Y	O	D	E	E	I	N	T
H	E	H	T	R	T	L	R	I	S	T	H	B	H	T	H	T	W	O	H
E	E	E	E	E	T	H	S	O	R	S	E	T	I	W	T	O	H	E	E
N	R	L	K	F	I	K	L	A	H	L	R	M	Y	L	D	U	O	L	R
C	Y	A	O	L	L	U	P	Y	O	S	E	N	E	Q	U	I	T	E	D
E	V	S	E	Y	Y	A	Q	W	R	S	A	S	Y	A	W	L	A	B	S

ACROSS	BEHIND	HENCE	ONCE	SOMETIMES
AGAIN	BELOW	HIGH	PRESENTLY	SOMEWHERE
AHEAD	BRISKLY	HOMEWARD	QUICKLY	SOON
ALMOST	DOWN	HOWEVER	QUIETLY	THEN
ALREADY	EARLY	LITTLE	QUITE	THERE
ALSO	EASILY	LONG	RARELY	TODAY
ALWAYS	FAST	LOUDLY	RATHER	TOMORROW
ANYWHERE	FIRST	MONTHLY	REALLY	UPWARD
APART	FOREVER	NEARBY	SHORT	WEEKLY
AWAY	FORWARD	NEVER	SLOWLY	WISELY
BACK	GENTLY	NOWHERE	SOFTLY	YESTERDAY
BEFORE	GREATLY	OFTEN		

Yesterday's Solution

Mystery Christmas Carol



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

The Mystery Christmas Carol is: DECK THE HALLS

Daily SuDoku

	7				1			
1	9		6		5			
8	4			7			9	
9					8	5		
5		7				8		1
		1	5					2
	5			2			1	9
			9		4		8	6
			1				5	

Yesterday's Solution

1	7	9	2	5	4	6	8	3
4	8	2	6	3	1	9	5	7
6	3	5	9	7	8	4	2	1
9	4	7	8	6	2	3	1	5
2	1	3	7	9	5	8	4	6
8	5	6	4	1	3	7	9	2
7	9	4	1	2	6	5	3	8
3	2	8	5	4	7	1	6	9
5	6	1	3	8	9	2	7	4

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

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

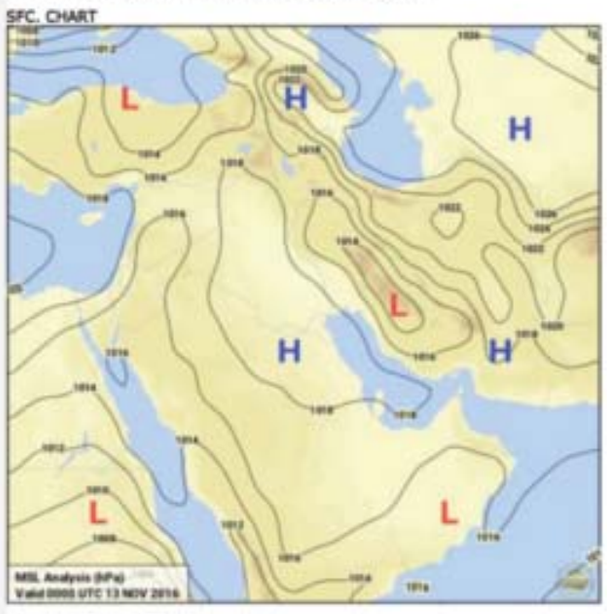
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 13/11/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 31 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear
By Night : Cool with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h and some high clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	sunny + scattered clouds	sunny + scattered clouds	sunny	clouds to increase
Min Temp °C	12	13	13	14
Max Temp °C	32	32	30	30
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate southerly	southerly changing to south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	06 - 26	12 - 32	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches
no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	20	31
KUWAIT AIRPORT	12	31
ABDALY	14	32
BUBYAN	12	31
JAHRA	15	31
FAILAKA ISLAND	16	30
SALMIYAH	21	30
AHMADI	21	28
JAL ALIYAH	15	31
QAROH ISLAND	24	27
UMM AL-MARADEM	24	27
NUWAISIB	17	29
WAFRA	14	31
MANAGISH	13	31
SALMY	12	29
MUTRIBA	13	32

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport	
Max Temp (°C)	31
Min Temp (°C)	11
Max Rel Hum (%)	35
Min Rel Hum (%)	15
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:11
Sunset	16:54

Prayer Times	
Fajr	04:49
Sunrise	06:11
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:33
Sunset	16:54
Isha	18:14

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists

Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223

Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)

Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426

General Practitioners

Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501

Urologists

Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons

Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60

Family Doctor

Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581

Psychiatrists

Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0

Gynaecologists & Obstetricians

DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787

General Surgeons

Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148

Internists, Chest & Heart

Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians

Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282

Dermatology

Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955

Dentists

Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111

Neurologists

Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875

Gastrologists

Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist

Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924

Physiotherapists & VD

Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288

Rheumatologists:

Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290

Internist, Chest & Heart

DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210

Dr. Mohammad Zubaid
MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667

Consultant Cardiologist

Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC
Inaya German Medical Center
Te: 2575077
Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists

Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688
info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center 25716707

Noor Clinic 23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

Actor Jackie Chan accepts his award on stage during the 8th Annual Governors Awards hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood. — AP/AFP photos

Honoree Jackie Chan (left) poses with actor Sylvester Stallone after Chan accepted his Honorary Oscar Award.

Hollywood worries about Trump as stars honor Jackie Chan

Action movie star Jackie Chan accepted an honorary Oscar on Saturday as Hollywood A-listers sounded a cautionary note over President-elect Donald Trump's victory in the polls. Left-leaning Tinseltown overwhelmingly backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in the race for the White House, and stars at the Academy's glitzy Governors Awards told AFP of their dismay at her defeat. Asked to compare the night's honoree with Trump, double Oscar-winner Tom Hanks told AFP: "Jackie Chan has the wisdom of the East and the discipline of a master martial artist."

After a lengthy pause, he added: "Our president-elect has a big responsibility and much to prove." For "Big Bang Theory" star Simon Helberg, who plays engineer Howard Wollowitz on the hit comedy series, Trump's victory in Tuesday's election was "a terrible moment for the world". The 35-year-old, who starred alongside Hugh Grant and Meryl Streep in "Florence Foster Jenkins", said change was needed but hoped a Trump presidency wouldn't "damage our future".

"The truth is not enough people showed up and that's what we have to listen to. I hope that we can squash the violence and the bigotry, and whatever else this has unleashed before it gets out of hand," he told AFP.

Andre Royo, best known for starring as a heroin addict in HBO crime drama series "The Wire", said he was feeling "stressed out" by the prospect of a Trump White House. "But I think we took for granted our perception of our country," Royo told AFP. "I think we were a little delusional and a little naive... and now we got reminded that we've got work to do and growing to do, as a culture." Chan, known for his comic timing and acrobatic fighting style, has appeared in around 200 movies since becoming a child actor in his native Hong Kong in the 1960s.

Global star

His Hollywood breakthrough came with "Rumble in the Bronx" in 1996, and he has gone on to be become a global star through the "Rush Hour" movies, "Shanghai Noon", "The Karate Kid" and the "Kung Fu Panda" series of animated films.

The 62-year-old-who shared a table with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone-left politics out of an unscripted acceptance speech. But he roused Hollywood's Ray Dolby Ballroom with an anecdote about realizing how badly he wanted an Academy Award after going to Stallone's house 23 years earlier and touching, kissing and smelling the American actor's Oscar statuette.

"After 56 years in the film industry, making more than 200 films-I broke so many bones-finally this is mine!" Chan, who performed many of his own daring stunts, said of his Oscar.

Film editor Anne Coates, casting director Lynn Stalmaster and documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman were also awarded statuettes at the Academy's 8th Annual Governors Awards. Coates, who is 90 and lives in England, was honored for a 60-year career that has seen her collaborating with some of the industry's most acclaimed directors, including with David Lean on "Lawrence of Arabia".

Stalmaster, 88, a one-time stage and screen actor from Omaha, Nebraska, began working in casting in the mid-1950s and has signed up talent for more than 200 films, including "The Graduate", "Deliverance" and "Tootsie".

Wiseman, 86, has made a film almost every year since 1967, starting with the "Titicut Follies", which went behind the scenes at Bridgewater State Hospital for the criminally insane.

The Governors Awards were created as a separate event in 2009 to allow more space for the honorees to accept their statuettes and to unclutter the main show's packed schedule. Previous winners of honorary Oscars include Lauren Bacall, Francis Ford Coppola, Oprah Winfrey, Angelina Jolie and Spike Lee. — AFP

Actor Sylvester Stallone (left) and model Jennifer Flavin attend the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 8th annual Governors Awards.

Actor Jeff Bridges and wife Susan Geston Bridges.

(From left) Honorees actor Jackie Chan, documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman, film editor Anne V Coates and casting director Lynn Stalmaster pose with their awards during the 8th Annual Governors Awards.

Actors Ben Kingsley and Daniela Lavender.

Kate Beckinsale

Actors Laura Dern (left) and Bruce Dern appear on stage.

Actors Laura Dern (left) and Bruce Dern appear on stage.

Actress Nicole Kidman appears on stage.

Honoree Anne V Coates waves to the audience as presenter Richard Gere, left, looks on.

Actor Dev Patel (left), his family and actress Nicole Kidman.

Dame Helen Mirren.

Felicity Jones

Actress Hailee Steinfield

Actor Tom Hanks speaks during the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 8th annual Governors Awards.

Actor Jeff Bridges presents an award onstage.

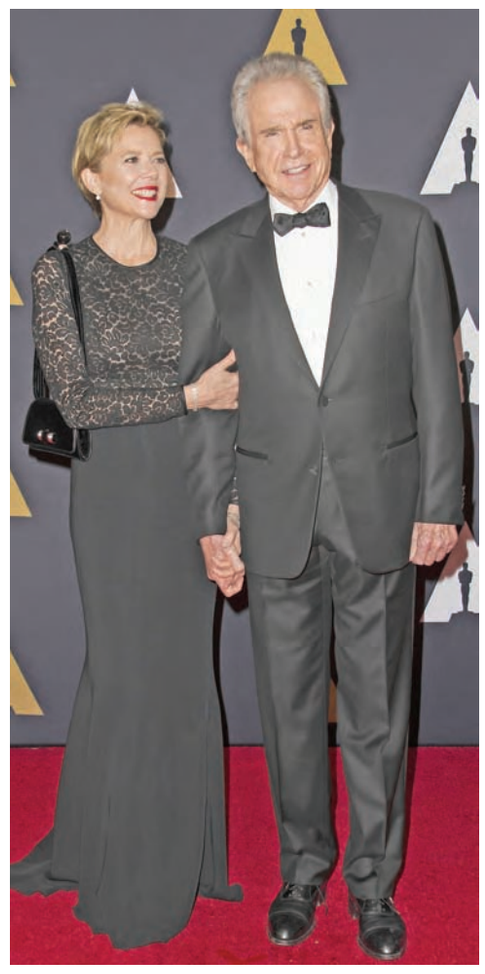
Janelle Monae

Director Mira Nair and actors David Oyelowo and Lupita Nyong'o

Pharrell Willams and Helen Lasichanh

Actress Marion Cotillard

Actress Leslie Mann


Actors Annette Being and Warren Beatty

This hand out picture taken and released by David Wolff Patrick on November 12, 2016 at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris shows British musician Sting playing during the reopening concert to mark the first anniversary of the November 13 Paris attacks. —AFP

Sting reopens Paris Bataclan amid tears, cheers and controversy

Rock star Sting on Saturday reopened the Bataclan, the Paris concert hall where jihadists massacred 90 people, with a hugely symbolic and emotional show to mark the first anniversary of France's bloodiest terror attack. But in a sensational turn of events, the concert hall's co-director said he had prevented two members of the US group Eagles of Death Metal, who were on stage when the bloodshed started on November 13, 2015, from entering. "They came, I threw them out-there are things you can't forgive," Bataclan co-director Jules Frutos told AFP, furious at Eagles frontman Jesse Hughes for his claims that some of the venue's Muslim security men were complicit in the attack.

"He makes these incredibly false declarations every two months. It is madness, accusing our security of being complicit with the terrorists... Enough. Zero. This has to stop," Frutos added. Hughes, a rare right-wing rocker and supporter of US president-elect Donald Trump, has also said without evidence that Muslims were celebrating outside during the venue during the siege. However the band's manager Marc Pollack denied members of the group had tried to enter the Bataclan, telling Billboard magazine: "Jesse did not even try to enter the room for the concert of Sting."

In a brief email Pollack told AFP that the information was "false", "no comment". Sting began what had been billed as "the toughest gig in rock" with a minute's silence for the 130 people who lost their lives in a night of Islamic State gun and bomb attacks across the French capital. The British singer-who spoke French throughout the gig-told the crowd that "We will not forget them" before launching into a set that walked a perfect line between celebration and reflection. "Tonight we have two tasks to achieve," he said. "First to remember those who lost their lives in the attack, and then to celebrate life and music in this historic place."

Many in the crowd wept during the first song, "Fragile" as Sting sang "Nothing comes from violence and nothing ever could", but the singer then got the place on its feet clapping and stamping with "Message In a Bottle". "I'll send an SOS to the world," he sang. "Only hope can keep us alive."

'Taking my life back'

Scores of survivors of the Bataclan assault attended the packed concert, the dominant event in a weekend of otherwise low-key commemorations. Among them was Aurelien, in his thirties, determined to have a good night despite the pain of returning to the scene of so much horror. "It's the first time I've been in a public space for a year. I haven't been to the cinema, to a concert. I get my shopping delivered," he said. "Tonight I'm taking my life back like it was before. It's a duty, there's an obligation to be here-because there are 90 people who can't come anymore," he added, visibly moved, his hands trembling. "It was very hard to be here at first, but now it's going a bit better- I'm drinking my beer and I'm hoping to have a good time."

Having paid tribute to the late singers David Bowie and Leonard Cohen, Sting introduced a new song "Inshallah" ("God willing" in Arabic) about the migrant crisis, to whoops from the crowd. "This song is about a family on a boat" trying to get to Europe, Sting said. "I don't have a solution for the migrant crisis but I think we can find one through empathy."

Return of music and fun

The biggest applause of the night, however, was for "Desert Rose", a song Sting originally recorded with the Algerian singer Cheb Mami. Performed with the Lebanese trumpet star Ibrahim Maalouf, its driving arabesque beat felt like a defiant retort to puritanical Islamist dogma from which the gunmen sprang. As he left the stage, the star said, "Vive le Bataclan" (Long live the Bataclan), before returning to perform alone the "Empty Chair", a song he wrote in tribute to US journalist James Foley, who worked for AFP, who was beheaded by IS in Syria in 2014.

"I dedicate this to all the families here tonight who have lost someone," Sting said. Georges Salines, who lost his 28-year-old daughter Lola at the Bataclan, said the concert was "almost a taking back of the space for music and fun from the forces of death". More than 250 survivors and victims' families attended the concert. On Sunday, the actual anniversary of the attacks, President Francois Hollande and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo will unveil plaques outside the Bataclan as well as the other locations that were targeted-the national stadium, restaurants and bars. Jesse Hughes is expected at the Bataclan ceremony. One year on, nine people out of the around 400 injured in the rampage are still in hospital. — AFP

Rowling talks about 'Fantastic Beasts' at New York screening

JK Rowling came to town for a movie and a cause. The British author was onstage at Carnegie Hall on Saturday night to introduce an advance screening of "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," a Nov 18 release that she adapted from her "Harry Potter" spinoff book of the same name. The screening was a fundraiser for Lumos, a nonprofit foundation Rowling started a decade ago to help institutionalized children worldwide be reunited with their families. Her voice hoarse from days of promoting "Fantastic Beasts," Rowling joked that she was "full of honey" as she joined the film's star, Eddie Redmayne, for a conversation about her charitable work and her "Fantastic Beasts" script.

She has related often her inspiration for Lumos: She was reading the Sunday Times and spotted, to her horror, a picture of a child in a cage. Unsure if she could bear to keep reading, Rowling told herself that if the story was as awful as the picture suggested, she had no choice but to do something about it. "They are so voiceless," she said of the children in orphanages, which she has criticized often as damaging to children and their development. Wearing dark-rimmed glasses, her blonde hair pulled back in a ponytail, Rowling came prepared with notes and statistics about the plight of institutionalized children but also about the real possibility of helping them all.

"This is an extremely solvable issue," she said. "It doesn't mean it's easy, but we know how to do it." Lumos CEO Georgette Mulheir, who spoke to The Associated Press shortly before Rowling took the stage, said that the author's passion and financial support for Lumos had made it an unusually effective and stable organization. She noted that most foundations struggle year to year to raise money. But Rowling locked in revenues for Lumos by donating proceeds from another Potter spinoff, "The Tales of Beetle the Bard."

"It means our programming can be long-term," she said. "If you want to make major changes happen in a country, you have to make immediate long-term investments." Rowling also spoke of "Fantastic Beasts" and the writing process. The film was directed by David Yates and also features Alison Sudol, Dan Fogler, Katherine Waterston and Ezra Miller, all of whom briefly came onstage after Rowling and Redmayne. — AP

JK Rowling attends the 'Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them' World Premiere at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center in New York City. — AFP

Pink's pregnant with no. 2

Grammy-winning pop star Pink is expecting her second child with husband and motocross champ Carey Hart. The baby news was confirmed Saturday by publicist Meghan Kehoe after Pink posted a baby-bump shot with 5-year-old daughter Willow on Instagram. The caption read simply, "Surprise!" There were no further details.

Complementing her motherhood, the 37-year-old singer is a children's advocate through UNICEF. Last year, she was named an ambassador to help promote physical activity in young children in the United States. Pink also raises money through UNICEF for nutritional relief for malnourished children worldwide, and she's the national spokeswoman for the UNICEF Kid Power fitness band. — AP

Iran resort hopes relaxed rules will attract tourists

Colorful umbrellas hang above a street in Iran's southern resort island of Kish. — AFP photos

Iranian women shop at a mall in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranian investors are pouring money into Kish island in the Gulf, hoping its white sand beaches, coral reefs and more relaxed Islamic rules, could make it a major tourism destination. From the pristine beaches of Kish, it is only 200 kilometers (120 miles) across the water to Dubai-and it is the booming city state's tens of thousands of wealthy expats that the investors are hoping to lure. The wide, palm tree-lined boulevards that circle the island of 100 square kilometers (nearly 40 square miles) are full of top-end cars, including luxury American models.

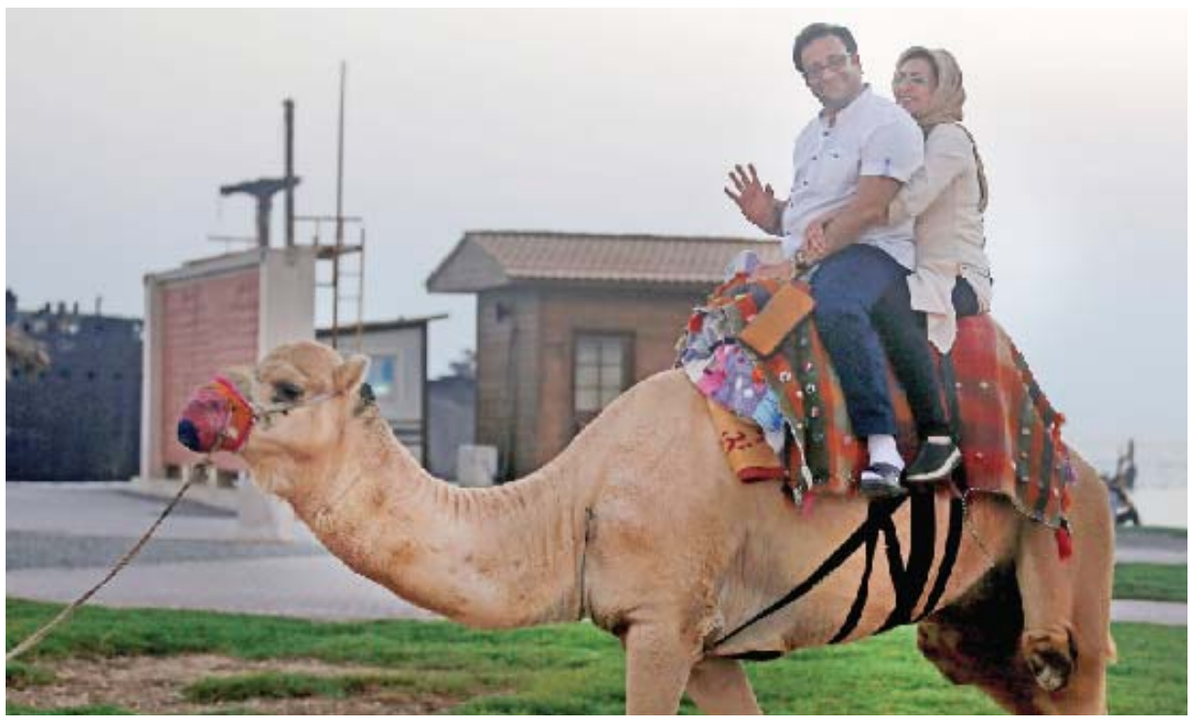
The buildings are modern, the hotels comfortable and new shopping centers are sprouting everywhere. Diners pack late-night, roof-top restaurants. Women sit with cigarette in hand, wearing colorful headscarves pushed right back to reveal plenty of make-up and expensive hair-dos. During the day, the men walk the long jetties in bermuda shorts-forbidden in most parts of Iran. Under the warm autumn sun, one man is even shirtless. A motorboat zooms past, techno music blaring, with men and women sitting together.

In many ways, it looks as if little has changed since the days when the shah and his family holidayed here before the Islamic revolution of 1979.

The green and white cars of the morality police are rarely seen. Still, even though Islamic rules are less strict on Kish, they are still in force-creating a major obstacle for investors hoping to attract Western expats for short breaks from Dubai. There are no bars or clubs-or any alcohol at all-while men and women must use separate beaches, splitting up families.

An Iranian couple sits next to a statue displayed on the sea front in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

People sit at a cafe inside a mall in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.



Iranian tourists ride a camel in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Laborers work at the construction site of a hotel in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

An Iranian man shops at a mall in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranians stroll along the sea in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranian women take a selfie on the sea front in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

'Halal tourism'

Massoud Gilani, an investment consultant who divides his time between Dubai and Kish, tries to put an optimistic spin on the issue. Expats "can drink and enjoy themselves in Dubai and relax here," he said, rather hopefully.

Iran is in the midst of a tourism boom, thanks to the efforts of the current moderate government under President Hassan Rouhani to rebuild ties with the West. Visitor numbers have leapt from 2.2 million a year in 2009 to 5.2 million in 2015, the government says, and an even bigger increase is expected this year. But most Westerners are drawn by Iran's ancient cities and historical treasures, rather than a beach break. Ali Jirofti, one of the managers of Kish's free trade zone, recognizes that the island's best hope is to focus on Muslim holidaymakers. The priority is "high-end halal tourism," he said. Kish already attracts some 1.8 million visitors per year, mostly Tehranis hoping to escape not just social strictures but also the horrendous traffic and pollution of the capital. Shopping is another big draw-Kish was the first and most significant of seven free-trade zones set up during the 1990s to attract investment and help with the import of consumer goods.

There are now some 40 hotels, and US-style malls are everywhere. The company also wants to double the number of international flights by Kish Air and create a car-free "ecological paradise" on the nearby island of Hendorabi, where an airport, port and hotel have already been built. Investors are also pushing health tourism, with two top-end hospitals already running on the island, boasting leading doctors, particularly plastic surgeons. "Forty more luxury hotels of four to five stars are under construction," said Jirofti. "Our aim is to reach 2.6 million tourists within 10 years." — AFP

Iranian tourists board a boat in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranians gather on the sea front during sun set in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranian tourists sail off the coast in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranian tourists sit on the beach in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Iranians look at the sun setting over a shipwreck in Iran's southern resort island of Kish.

Little people, dungeons and dragons top Toy Hall of Fame class

At long last, a big honor for the Little People. After seven times as finalists for the National Toy Hall of Fame, the tiny tenants of Fisher-Price's house, barn and school bus were enshrined on Thursday. They were joined by the swing and Dungeons & Dragons in the hall's class of 2016. "People have called us the Susan Lucci of the toy world," Fisher-Price spokeswoman Brenda Andolina said. The East Aurora-based toy maker sent a busload of employees to the ceremony, albeit a lower key one than when the much-nominated soap actress got her Emmy.

"One of their challenges has been, frankly, that they've been kind of little and they've been easier to overlook or postpone for our national selection advisory committee," said Chris Bensch, The Strong's vice president for collections. He said their relatively limited audience of 1- to 5-year-olds has been another hurdle. Since being introduced in 1959, more than 2 billion Little People have been sold. The earliest tubular wooden versions evolved over the years to the plastic figures with arms, legs and dimensional faces of today.

For yoga and a smoothie

"Moms have always loved Little People because it's really wholesome. ... It's all about sharing, caring, nurturing," Andolina said. The company works to preserve that affection, she said, even changing the audio chip in the Little People SUV recently after a working mother complained that one of the toy mom's phrases - "Time for yoga and a smoothie" - missed the mark. "Somebody called us out that that wasn't the best portrayal, it didn't resonate, so we reconsidered it and it was an easy change for us to make," Andolina said.

Fellow inductee Dungeons & Dragons is, in some ways, the adult version of Fisher-Price Little People, Bensch said. "It essentially is a vehicle for empowering them to make up stories," he said of the 1974 role-playing game created by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson. It has a well-known celebrity fan in actor Vin Diesel, who has called it the "training ground for imagination" and said it helped him embrace the mythology of the "Riddick" movies. Curator Nic Ricketts said the game's mechanics have lent themselves to computer applications, and that has had an impact on electronic games such as "World of Warcraft."

Fisher-Price Little People are displayed at the National Toy Hall of Fame after being inducted.

Dungeons & Dragons is on display.

The swing was recognized for its longevity over centuries. Versions of the staple of modern playgrounds and backyards are depicted in ancient cave drawings in Europe, carved figures from Crete and ceramic vases from early Greece, the hall of fame said. "Though the equipment has evolved with the centuries, the pleasure children and adults find in swinging has hardly changed at all," curator Patricia Hogan said.

The swing is displayed at the National Toy Hall of Fame after being inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame at The Strong museum in Rochester, NY. — AP photos

Historians and curators

Anyone can nominate a toy but to become a finalist, it must have lasted across generations, influenced the way toys are designed or played with and fostered learning or creativity through play. The finalists are chosen by historians and curators at The Strong and sent to a panel of expert judges who decide the winners. This year's honorees were chosen over nine other finalists: Care Bears, Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots, Transformers, Nerf foam balls, Clue, Uno, pinball, coloring books and bubble wrap. After Thursday's induction, Fisher-Price employees who work on the Little People line snapped photos of the new display of the figures under glass and lights.

"It's awesome. It's very rewarding," said engineer Rebecca Barclay, who helps bring the designers' vision to reality. "I grew up with Little People. My mom played with it," marketing manager Sarah Leone said. "Now I have a 1-year-old daughter, and she's playing with it right now." — AP

Kuwait Times 55

Lifestyle

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Iran resort hopes relaxed rules will attract tourists 38

So-called 'Raeuchermann' (wooden Christmas incense smoker), stand on a table in the Erzgebirge workshop Richard Glaesser GmbH, manufacturer of traditionally hand-made wooden Christmas nutcrackers, smoker, pyramids, arched candle holders and much more, in Seiffen, eastern Germany, Saturday. The traditional wooden Christmas figures manufactured in the Erzgebirge mountain region are sold all over the world. — AP

Egyptian actor Mahmoud Abdel Aziz dies aged 70

Iconic Egyptian actor Mahmoud Abdel Aziz, who starred in more than 90 feature films and worked under some of Egypt's most celebrated directors, has died aged 70. Aziz died on Saturday evening "in hospital in Cairo, at the end of his fight against illness," Sameh Al-Sirity, from the Egyptian Actors' Syndicate, told AFP. His funeral will be held on Sunday in a mosque in a suburb of the capital. Born in 1946 in the coastal city of Alexandria, Aziz cut his teeth in a string of television series before making the leap to the big screen. He was most known for his role in the 1991 film "Al Kit-Kat", where he played an eccentric blind man who dreams of riding a motorcycle.

Although a comedy, the film, directed by Egyptian realist filmmaker Daoud Abdel Sayed, was critically acclaimed for its searing social commentary. In 2001's "The Magician", Aziz plays a single father who falls in love with his next-door neighbor, whose husband has recently left her to raise her son alone.

Aziz, who was admired for his ability to reinvent himself throughout his career, took a controversial role in "Raafat El-Hagan", a 1980s television drama depicting the life of an Egyptian spy in Israel. He was married to Egyptian actress Poussy Chalabi and is survived by two sons, Mohamed and Karim. — AFP

This file photo shows famous Egyptian actor Mahmud Abdel Aziz posing for pictures upon his arrival to the screening of Khiyana Shariah 'justified cheating' movie during the second day of Dubai Film Festival in the Gulf emirate. — AFP photos

Poussy Chalabi (center), wife of Egyptian actor Mahmoud Abdel Aziz, mourns during his funeral in a suburb of Cairo.

Mourners carry the coffin of Egyptian actor Mahmoud Abdel Aziz during his funeral in a suburb of Cairo.

Mourners carry the coffin of Egyptian actor Mahmoud Abdel Aziz during his funeral in a suburb of Cairo yesterday.

Italian, US artists to create works for Louvre Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi's Louvre museum said yesterday it was commissioning renowned artists Giuseppe Penone and Jenny Holzer to create artworks to be displayed at its grand opening next year. Designed by French architect Jean Nouvel and built at a cost of half a billion euros, the Louvre Abu Dhabi will feature 9,200 square meters (100,000 square feet) of gallery space. "Giuseppe Penone and Jenny Holzer have worked closely with the Louvre Abu Dhabi team to develop sculptures and installations reflecting the universal stories of the museum and in harmony with the iconic building," said a yesterday statement.

Penone, a member of Italy's contemporary Arte Povera movement, has created "Germination", a four-part installation that reveals his fascination with the use of organic materials, such as trees, to highlight the connection between man, nature and art. Among these installations is "Leaves of Light"-a bronze tree soaring towards the museum's giant 180-metre dome with mirrors placed on its branches to reflect the "Rain of Light," the museum statement said.

US conceptual artist Holzer has designed three engraved stone walls of texts from important historical sources from across the world. The ambitious Louvre Abu Dhabi project, announced with much fanfare nearly a decade ago, has faced repeated delays. The museum was expected to open in December this year but has been postponed until 2017. Built on the sea, promoters say Louvre Abu Dhabi will be a "museum city" which includes streets, waterways, and plaza with artworks displayed outside as well as inside the galleries.

Many of France's grand museums, including the Louvre, the Musee d'Orsay and the Palace of Versailles, will loan art to Abu Dhabi as part of a 30-year collaboration with the emirate worth one billion euros ($1.1 billion).

Louvre Abu Dhabi will be the first museum to open at the Saadiyat Cultural District and will be followed by the Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. — AFP

This file photo taken on January 18, 2016 shows French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (second right) visiting the construction site of the future Louvre museum on Saadiyat island, outside the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on January 18, 2016. — AFP