

India scrapped notes without homework: Congress leader



Trump hires establishment figure, firebrand



2016 'very likely' hottest year on record: UN



Seahawks make valiant stand to stop New England



DASHTI OUT OF ELECTION RACE AFTER FINAL COURT RULING

OPPOSITION CANDIDATES BLAST DISSOLVED ASSEMBLY



Max 33°
Min 12°
High Tide 12:46 & 23:52
Low Tide 06:22 & 18:27



150 FILS
NO: 17051
40 PAGES

SKYGAZERS GAWK AT EXTRA BRIGHT 'SUPERMOON'

JAKARTA: Skygazers took to high-rise buildings, observatories and beaches yesterday to get a glimpse of the closest "supermoon" to Earth in almost seven decades, and snap dramatic pictures. The unusually big and bright moon appeared at its most impressive as night fell over Asia, but astronomy enthusiasts were able to see Earth's satellite loom large anywhere in the world shortly after sunset. The phenomenon happens when the moon is full at the same time as, or very near, perigee - its closest point to Earth on an elliptical, monthly orbit.

It was the closest to Earth since 1948 at a distance of 356,509 km, creating what NASA described as "an extra-supermoon". Skygazers and photographers headed to the best viewing spots in Asia, where the phenomenon was visible first, hoping that cloudy skies and the perennial pollution that blights many of the region's cities would not spoil the fun. The eastern Sydney suburb of Bronte became an unexpected viewing spot as thousands of people armed with picnic mats and cameras packed its small beach near Bondi to catch a glimpse of the supermoon after a Facebook invite went viral.

Loud cheers went up among the crowd as the moon made brief appearances between heavy, grey clouds before disappearing. "It's really nice," Aidan Millar-Powell told AFP of the festive, community atmosphere at the beach. "People don't usually come together like this in Sydney for a natural phenomenon."

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KUWAIT: People observe the "supermoon" spectacle yesterday from Balajat beach in Salmiya. The moon is at its closest position to earth since 1948, making it the brightest in nearly 69 years. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of cassation yesterday ruled former MP Abdulhameed Dashti cannot run in the parliamentary elections on Nov 26 for filing his registration papers while he was outside the country. Dashti has been living in Britain since March, and asked his elder son to file his nomination papers. The election authorities rejected them, but the lower court ordered them to accept his registration after he produced a medical certificate saying he is undergoing treatment and cannot travel.

Last week, the appeals court overturned that ruling and said candidates must submit their registration papers in person. The cassation court yesterday upheld the ruling. Dashti acknowledged the ruling and said this was not the end of the road. Kuwaiti courts have sentenced Dashti to 31 years and six months in jail for insulting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in statements he made and in comments he wrote on Twitter.

The government meanwhile challenged appeals court rulings that allowed a number of candidates, including former MP Safa Al-Hashem, to run in the polls. Hashem was among 47 candidates barred by the election authorities for not fulfilling registration conditions or for being previously convicted in court. The courts have already reinstated several candidates, and are still looking into the cases of others.

Separately, former opposition MPs who are running in the election strongly lashed out at members of the dissolved Assembly, blaming them for failing to defend the rights of the Kuwaiti people. Speaking at an election gathering, former Islamist MP Bader Al-Dahoum urged voters not to vote for any of those members, saying that they had approved a large number of very dangerous and antisocial laws.

Continued on Page 13

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Geneva Mayor Guillaume Barazzone. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Head of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Security Apparatus Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

CROWN PRINCE MEETS GENEVA MAYOR AND TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah and visit-

ing Geneva Mayor Guillaume Barazzone and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by head of the protocol of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-

Humoud Al-Sabah and ambassadors of both countries. Mayor Barazzone arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a three-day official visit, in response to an invitation by Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud. Meanwhile, His Highness the

Crown Prince received Deputy Head of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as National Security Apparatus Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

CABINET CONGRATULATES US PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

PALESTINE THANKS KUWAIT FOR RECOGNIZING PASSPORT

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday congratulated US President-Elect Donald Trump on the win of the recent presidential race, hoping that Kuwaiti-US relations would be further promoted and developed during his term of office.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet voiced much appreciation to the Ministry of Information for its good efforts in covering the upcoming parliamentary elections due on November 26th. The cabinet made the appreciation during its customary weekly meeting held at Seif Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The cabinet hoped that the electoral process would be held in an atmosphere of fair competition among all hopefuls contesting the coming race, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of

Justice and Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting. It, further, voiced confidence that the next parliamentary elections would come up with results that would serve national and public interests, he pointed out.

Reports

The cabinet, then, reviewed a recommendation by the economic committee on the State Audit Bureau's biannual report that includes remarks on state bodies' employment system. Also reviewed was another recommendation by the quarterly report on the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development during the period from May 1 to September 9, 2016, together with the

fund's goals and challenges. Furthermore, the cabinet was apprised of recommendations pertinent to educational, youth and entrepreneurship reports.

In this regard, the cabinet asked the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the National Fund to set out a permanent and effective mechanism for cooperation between them with a view to promoting entrepreneurship in Kuwait, especially regarding the youth sector.

Palestinian passport

At the onset of the weekly meeting, the ministers were briefed on a letter addressed to His Highness the Amir from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, thanking Kuwait for officially recognizing the Palestinian passport.

They also reviewed two letters sent to His Highness the Amir from Turkish

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, inviting His Highness the Amir to attend the 32nd session of the COMCEC due in Istanbul on November 21-24, and hailing bilateral relations between both friendly nations.

Afterwards, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah briefed the meeting on the recent visit to Kuwait by Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi, who appreciated Kuwait's historic role in achieving peace and stability and stopping bloodshed in Yemen.

At the Gulf level, the Kuwaiti cabinet expressed sincere congratulation to Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of his country's National Day, and appreciated distinguished accomplishments made under his leadership in all fields and domains. —KUNA

KUWAIT-POLISH TIES TO DEEPEN AFTER SIGNING OF VISA AGREEMENT: EXPERT

BRUSSELS: A visa waiver agreement between Kuwait and Poland, signed in Warsaw last Thursday, will deepen ties further as both countries expecting business ties to grow, an expert in Arab-Polish ties said. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah signed with Polish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Joanna Wroniecka, a reciprocal visa exemption agreement for diplomatic passports' holders.

Kuwait was the first Arab state in the Arabian Gulf region which had allowed Poland to open its mission when Warsaw was still under communist rule, Surrender Bhutani said in a statement by phone from the Polish capital Sunday.

"The relations between the two countries remained very cordial. Kuwait also gave scholarships to Polish students in the 1970s. Professor Jerzy Zdanowski of the Polish Academy of Sciences was one of the first students who studied Arabic in Kuwait. Today, Zdanowski is one of the finest Arabists of Poland," said Bhutani, who hails from India and is a visiting professor to Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw for the last 22 years.

"Since the beginning of the 21st century, Kuwait has also opened its diplomatic mission in Warsaw. Now Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE are the other Gulf states who have opened their diplomatic missions in Warsaw," said Bhutani who is a renowned scholar, poet and writer.

He was a Research Associate and in charge of the Middle East Division, at Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, from 1973 to 1978. He was Executive Director with a rank of an Ambassador at the Arab Cultural Centre, New Delhi, from 1979 to 1982. Bhutani has authored and edited many books including "Contemporary Gulf" published in New Delhi 1980, and The UN and the Arab-Israeli Conflict published in 1977. —KUNA



ABU DHABI: Kuwait's former Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (center) participates in the first session of the Third Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate. —KUNA

GCC LEADS ARAB ACTION, SECURES ARAB INTERESTS: KUWAITI EX-FM

ABU DHABI: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bears the responsibility of heading the Arab joint action to secure the basic Arabs' interests, and leading them to safety, said Kuwait's former First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The GCC has to coordinate with the other Arab countries that are still united to avoid further disintegration and collapse in the region, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah said after taking part in the first session of the Third Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate. The session was themed 'the Gulf in a changing international and regional system.' He noted that the new year would see several "uncertain" changes and conditions whose repercussions, on the

international politics of the strategic arena.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah referred to the potential approach to be adopted by the new US president Donald Trump, and its impact on the European politics, as well as the effect of the Brexit on the political and economic situation of the continent, beside selections in France and Germany.

The Arab World is facing numerous challenges on the national level, besides the regional hazards in the Middle East, namely the foreign interference in the internal affairs of the GCC states, terrorism, and Israel, he said. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah pointed to the negative impact on the Palestinians who have been suffering non-stop injustice and persecu-

tion amid the critical conditions of the Arab World. According to the former senior official, the GCC is the only regional entity that with has stood the 'Tsunami' of events in the region. He said that the Arab system is in need to be revamped after the changes that hit it.

Developments

Meanwhile, Chairperson of the UAE Policies Center Dr Ibtisam Al-Ketbi, told the session that the Third Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate provides a review of the regional and international developments, on the political-security, and the economic-development levels.

The GCC states have turned into a fulcrum and a regional and international active player, that some Arab countries of strategic weight,

rely on for dissolving their crises and restoring their stability. The conference that wraps up discussions on Monday, cover extensively the complex political and security issues in the region and the world in light of the new administration's potential shifts in foreign policy.

The ADSD has gained a reputation as a prestigious platform at the international level to discuss policy and strategy, geopolitical shifts, regional and global political ends, national security issues in the Arab world, as well as threats posed by an unprecedented pattern of terrorist and extremist groups. The objective of the conference is to provide a clear vision of future trends of the international system, and to address these challenges in their various forms. —KUNA

KUWAIT, US ENJOY SOLID TIES: INFO MINISTER

KUWAIT: Kuwait's ties with the United States have always been cordial and close, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Salman made these remarks when he met with the US's new Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman, as the talks centered on strategies to boost bilateral cooperation, particularly, efforts to fight extremism. Moreover, a statement by the Ministry of

Information noted that the ministry and the US embassy are collaborating on a number of programs in the works.

"Kuwait possesses all the attributes of a modern and democratic nation," the US Ambassador said. He also commended recent headway made in the country's media sector, attributing it to the efforts of Sheikh Salman. Elsewhere, Sheikh Salman also met with South Sudan's new Ambassador to Kuwait Barmina Rayak, where the two discussed bilateral ties in the youth, media and culture sectors. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with the US new Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. —KUNA



Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa



PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari



'SMART DEVELOPMENT' CUTS TIME, COST: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said yesterday that the technological development reduces administrative costs because it sums up the time and cost. Al-Essa made his remarks in a press statement during the opening of 'Heading Global 2016 Exhibition' organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) with participation of 23 government bodies and private sector. The vision of the event is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, he added.

Human resources

Meanwhile, PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari welcomed all those present at the Heading Global conference hosted by PAAET. He said human experience

has proved that material wealth alone is not enough to build a nation, and does not allow it to advance and flourish economically and socially, except by how much it has invested in its human resources. "Human resources are the result of what educational establishments produce, as they are the key to knowledge and the source of gaining skills and abilities.

Here we realize the important role of PAAET in developing human resources and readying citizens who can bear the responsibilities of national action in various development fields," Athari said. He said the authority has always looked for the sources of knowledge and science to participate in development, enhancing education quality and preparing skilled national manpower that can navigate the future with all its obstacles and difficulties.

Knowledge economy

In the meantime, the general coordinator of the conference Dr Najlaa Al-Faraj expressed appreciation to sponsoring companies that are well known in the service of the country. She said the conference topics revolve around the role of knowledge economy in developing the scientific, engineering, technological, industrial and health sectors to become pioneers in the national economy sectors. She said the conference has eight topics - smart cities, smart energy, smart transport, smart health, smart negotiations, smart environmental technology, smart society and smart work environment. Heading Global 2016 Exhibition is a three-day exhibition that aims to identify emerging opportunities and help formulate and implement successful smart sustainable and inclusive growth strategies, policies and practices. — Agencies



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari, PAAET Public Relations Director Dr Fatemah Al-Enezi, and Kuwait University Rector Dr Hussein Al-Ansari are pictured with KU's construction program members.



Professor of social work at Kuwait University (KU) Dr Hayfa Al-Kandari



Political science professor at KU Dr Hanan Al-Hajeri

KUWAITI WOMEN: A TALE OF ADVERSITY, TRIUMPH

KUWAIT: Utterly dedicated and laborious, Kuwaiti women have long sought to be on equal footing with men in efforts to establish a leveled playing field to help build a developed and prosperous nation. In the pre-oil era, women mainly handled household chores at a time where men usually went on sabbaticals due to the lengthy pearl diving season. However, in the post-oil era, women were able to ascend to administrative positions, where they occupied such lofty posts as ministers, directors, ambassadors and so forth. Moreover, in the political front, women had long been deprived of suffrage and to run for office, reducing them to mere spectators in a country with a dynamic political scene.

Ever steadfast and persevering, women were adamant to win full-fledged political rights in their quest to achieve gender parity. After an arduous struggle, the time to rejoice finally arrived when on May 16, 2005, parliament unanimously voted to grant women full political rights, which enabled Masouma Al-Mubarak to become the first female minister in the history of the nation. Furthermore, in another political milestone, Jenan Boushehri announced her candidacy for the 2006 municipal council elections. Even though she failed to win a seat, Boushehri garnered 1,800 votes in a harbinger of brighter times to come. In 2009, in a major political breakthrough for women, four female candidates won seats in parliament.

Short time

Speaking in statements yesterday, professor of social work at Kuwait University (KU) Dr Hayfa Al-Kandari said that, "Women were able to attain their political rights in a short time as a result of a groundswell of support from the government and the nation as a whole."

Kandari explained that women have always had an "imposing presence" in election seminars, noting that "political action is not dependent upon gender, as Kuwait's parliament has always been a male-dominated arena."

On the social front, the KU professor said that women make up half of society, being caretakers and guardians. She also spoke of how instrumental social media is to familiarize the electorate with the candidates' campaigns and ideologies. Similarly, political science professor at KU Dr Hanan Al-Hajeri said that it is difficult to overlook female contributions in a country with a highly patriarchal society. "According to national statistics, Kuwaiti women are in the forefront of GCC nations in terms of employment opportunities," she said. Kuwait remains the only GCC nation with an active female workforce, Hajeri noted, citing that around 47 percent of government employees are women. — KUNA

55,376 ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN 2ND CONSTITUENCY

KUWAIT: Total electorate for upcoming elections due on November 26 stands at 483,186, including 29,026 females in the second constituency. The number of franchised citizens in the constituency has risen to 5,621, by 1.16 percent of the overall electorate as compared to the figure of the July 2013 polls-with 2,870 men and 2,751 women. Total figure of the voters in the second constituency constitutes 11.46 percent of the total number of eligible voters; 5.45 percent men and six percent women.

The voters of this constituency are residents of 13 areas: Dahiat Abdullah Al-Salem 6,435 (including 3,323 women), Al-Gibla 34 (including 19 women), Al-Shuwaikh 1,327 (including 682 women), Al-Shamiah 5,237 (including 2,698 women). Number of franchised citizens in Al-Qadsiah stands at 7,200 (including 3,744 women), Al-Mansouriah 3,022 (including 1,489 women), Al-Faihaa 5,973 (including 3,313 women).

In Al-Nuzha, the electorate amounts to 4,327 (including 2,326 women), Al-Sulaibikhat 8,124 (including 4,151 women), Al-Doha 8,212 (including 4,393 women). Franchised nationals in Gharbata amounts to 2,240 (including 1,347 women), Al-Qairawan 3,209 (including 1,541 women), and none has been registered in Al-Murgab.

Education

Many of the candidates of the Second Constituency, vying for seats in the National Assembly for the 15th legislative term, slated for November 26, have high levels of education. More than 42 percent of them are 50 years, or over.

Thirty-seven candidates (60.65 percent) of the total 61 nominees, hold academic degree; ten candidates (16.39 percent) carry a diploma; seven (11.47 percent) are high school graduates, and seven (11.47 percent) studied till medium term.

Among the 37 candidates, seven carry PhDs in philosophy, private law, Tafseer (Interpretation) of the Holy Quran, fundamentals of the religion, programming engineering and political science. Five nominees have MAs in business administration, education management, criminal law, and pharmacology. Twenty-five BA holding candidates studied business administration, electrical engineering, civilian engineering, mechanical engineering, financing, economy,

statistics, law and maritime navigation. The ten nominees with diplomas studied mechanical engineering, business administration, technological studies, and at the Industrial College.

In the 2013 elections, twenty-three candidates (57.5 percent) of the total 40 nominees then, had academic degrees; six candidates (15 percent) carried diplomas and five (12.5 percent) were high school graduates and five (12.5 percent) studied till medium term.

Among the 23 candidates, five had PhDs in education, business administration, psychology, Sharia, and political geography. Three nominees had MAs in political science, mechanical engineering, and management of comprehensive research.

Fifteen BA holding candidates studied computer science, statistics, mechanical engineering, psychology, history, aviation science electrical engineering, civilian engineering, social studies, statistics, Sharia, law, financing and marketing. The six nominees with diplomas were specialized in aviation engineering, or studied at the College of Education.

2012 elections

In the 2012 parliamentary elections, 41 candidates (61.19 percent) of the total 67 nominees at the time, held academic degrees; seven (10.44 percent) carried a diploma; fourteen (20.89 percent) were high school graduates and five (7.46 percent) studied till medium term.

Out of the 41 candidates, five had

PhDs in economy, faith, philosophy, construction engineering and physical philosophy law. Three had MAs in engineering, organ transplantation and business administration.

Thirty-three BA holding candidates studied economy, political science, industrial engineering, computer science, civilian engineering, law, mechanical engineering, business administration, police science, psychology, accounting, media, statistics information systems. The seven nominees with diplomas were qualified in banking, business administration, accounting, communications, commercial studies, mechanical engineering and electricity.

Age

In terms of age, most candidates of the Second Constituency standing for the 2016 elections are 50 years old, or over. These are 26 (42.62 percent) of the total figure. Twenty-one nominees (34.42 percent) are 40-49 years old, and 14 ones (22.95 percent) are 30-39 years. In the 2013 elections, 18 candidates were 50 years old or over, 45 percent of the total number. Fifteen nominees (37.5 percent) were 40-49 years old, and seven ones (17.5 percent) 30-39 years old.

Candidates for the 2012 elections included 32 candidates of 50 years old and above, about 47.76 percent of the total number. Twenty-four nominees were 40-49 years old, 35.82 percent, and 11 ones 30-39 years old, about 16.41 percent. — KUNA



Local Spotlight

LETTERS TO MUNA AL-FUZAI

Dear Muna,
I am writing you as you have highlighted an important subject matter for respecting people with disabilities. I agree that it is our prime duty to respect disabled people. I have lived in the UAE for a few years and it is far away from Kuwait in terms of many things.

Thanks Anis

Dear Muna,
Your words in the article "Disabled in Kuwait" touched me deeply, I could certainly relate to your words, not because I'm disabled but I'm afraid, for 4 years I've been part of a team who were devoted to socially and economically empowering this sector, whether they were physically impaired or they had hearing impairments.

I was a project manager at enactus for 4 years - I'm sure you will be impressed by the work done by the enactus teams worldwide if you look it up. However, the reason I'm sending you this email isn't just to convey my ultimate respect and support to your words, but rather a call if you're willing to help me to actually make a difference and change the "dark" situation this community is currently facing here in Kuwait.

I've read plenty of articles in both Arabic and English, and I realized the situation is no different than that in Egypt. The public and the government authorities specifically need to hear them out, to be aware of the fact that there's an entire community full of potential and brilliant skills that is being wasted and underutilized due to lack of awareness. These people need to personally send a shout-out to the whole world and make them listen to their needs! Therefore, I was hoping you can help me achieve that.

I know I tend to come on too strong when it comes to this subject, but I'm very delighted to finally find someone who wants to see an actual difference happening. Finally, I know that you don't know me and I really don't want to sound cliché by quoting Ghandi and tell you "Be the change you want to see in the world!", but I know that if a group of people gathered together with their mind set on one goal, believing that they can achieve it, trust me, there's no force on Earth could make them stop!

Warm Regards. Radwa

Dear Al-Fuzai,
"It is normal that children who grow up with the maid's habits and values will end up with psychological problems. I always wonder why many Kuwaiti families have a lot of domestic workers - even young, newly-married couples. They show the world how wealthy they are, but this is wrong."

Are these maids' habits and values due to their social status as maids or because they are non-Kuwaiti?

Maids are people with values, morals and ethics and to demonize a group of people based on their social status or ethnicity.

Can you substantiate your claim of psychological problems attributed to maids' values and habits?

Any child having to substitute a parent's love with that of another regardless of social status or ethnicity will be affected.

If a maid's value is to respect all people as equals, I am sure that would a hundredfold better than the values you would teach to your children.

**Yours sincerely
A reader
Muna@kuwaittimes.net**

KUNA ISSUES BOOK ON CANDIDATES' BIOS

KUWAIT: Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) issued yesterday through its research and information center a new book biography of candidates for the 2016 parliamentary elections, coinciding with the National Assembly elections, 15th legislative term, scheduled for November 26.

Introducing the new book, Chairman of the Board and Director General of KUNA, Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said that Kuwait awaits on this historic day an active participation on polling day

to choose representatives for the parliamentary term and to continue the wheels of development and prosperity.

Sheikh Mubarak said that as per Amiri decree No 276/16 and on polling day, some 483,186 voters will go to the polls to elect members of the National Assembly according to the single vote system, stating that the number of male voters stand at 230,430 voters, whereas the number of women stand at 252,756 voters. He explained that Kuwaiti women

will participate as candidates and voters in these elections, the seventh since they gained their political rights in May 2005 and have made remarkable achievements by winning four seats in the Parliament of 2009 and three seats in the December 2012 parliament, which was invalidated by the Constitutional Court, and one seat in the 2013 parliament.

Sheikh Mubarak wished that this book would help voters identify their candidates before polling day and a documentation of the march of

democracy under gains guaranteed by the Constitution. He also hoped this book would simplify for the voters their roles in positive participation.

Meanwhile, in addition to the documented information about biographies of candidates, the book contains the full text of the Constitution of the State of Kuwait and the electoral law along with amendments made, besides tables of polling places and committees of all constituencies.—KUNA

In Brief



LIVE AMMUNITION DRILL

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Defense announced yesterday that the Air Force will carry out a shooting drill on November 16-17, using live ammunition. The exercise will take place in the shooting range, where it will be 16.5 miles east of Ras Al-Jelaia, all the way to Garu island, six nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zor, all the way to Umm Al-Maradem island. Sea-goers are advised to refrain from approaching the identified locations during the drill. — KUNA



KUWAITIS SAFE

KUALA LUMPUR: The Embassy of Kuwait in New Zealand yesterday assured the safety of its diplomatic mission and their family members, as well as Kuwaiti students on the aftermath of a series of earthquakes that shook the country last night. The Embassy, in a press release, called on Kuwaiti nationals to be cautious and to follow instructions of local authorities. It also urged them to contact the embassy once necessary at the following numbers: 0064-04719980 - 0064-021468683. — KUNA



NEW FUEL STATIONS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) will offer 120 new gas stations for bidders in less than seven years to come, said Deputy CEO for Mina Abdullah Refinery, Ahmad Saleh Al-Jemaz. Nineteen stations have already been offered and 15 others will soon follow, Al-Jemaz told reporters on the sidelines of launching the smart control system for the new filling station in Riqqa area, operated by solar power. — KUNA

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Classic vehicles on display during a festival organized recently by the Kuwait Motor Sports Club. — KUNA

KCCI: TRADE EXCHANGE WITH SWITZERLAND HIT \$700 MILLION FARWANIYA GOVERNOR LAUDS TIES

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan yesterday said that bilateral trade with the Swiss Confederation has reached about \$700 million. Wazzan added that the Kuwaiti-Swiss ties date back to more than five decades.

Kuwait enjoys a sound democratic approach and a modern banking system, Wazzan said as he received the visiting Geneva Mayor Guillaume Barazzone at the chamber. Barazzone and an accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait on Sunday on a threeday official visit, invited by Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal AlHumoud AlMalek AlSabah.

During the meeting, Wazzan referred to the government's achievement of projects on a development plan based on privatization, free market and encouraging investments. The senior KCCI official lauded the strong historical economic and tourist ties between the two countries, hoping the visit would have positive direct effect on them. He called for making the utmost benefit from the Swiss expertise in financing and implementing infrastructure projects in Kuwait.

Partnerships

Wazzan stressed the need for establishing investment partnerships between the two sides, pointing to Switzerland a leading center for economy and services, especially in the financial and banking sectors. He said that Switzerland is a major tourist destination for many Kuwaitis.

Meanwhile, Assistant Director General for Business Development at the Kuwait Direct Investment Authority (KDIPA) Mohammad Yusuf Yaqoub, reviewed during the

meeting the investment climate in Kuwait, and KDIPA's major role to attract local and foreign capital.

He referred to some of the advantages offered by the 2013 investment law, namely a foreign investor can own up to 100 percent of an enterprise, and can even enjoy a 10-year tax exemption. There are also customs exemptions, partial or full, on supplies and equipment, he said. Yesterday's meeting was attended by representatives of many Kuwaiti companies interested in economic cooperation with Switzerland.

All fields

Earlier yesterday, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah praised Kuwait's ties with the Swiss Confederation in all fields, especially economy, trade and tourism. Sheikh Faisal received at the governorate's headquarters the visiting Geneva Mayor, who arrived in Kuwait on Sunday on a three-day official visit.

During the meeting, the Farwaniya Governor stressed keenness on enhancing ties between the two friendly countries, calling for exchange of expertise on the level of the local administrations, as well as on that of governorates.

According to Sheikh Faisal, Farwaniya is seeking to conclude a twin and sister city agreement with Geneva in the future. He referred to the deep-rooted bilateral ties on the official and the popular levels, saying that the Kuwait-Swiss relations date back to more than 50 years. Mayor Barazzone expressed gratitude to Sheikh Faisal AlMalek for his invitation to visit Kuwait saying that bilateral ties are developing thanks to mutual eagerness to better them for the good of both states. — KUNA



KUWAIT: V M Sudheeran, president of Kerala state's Congress committee meets with Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah.

INDIA BANNED CASH WITHOUT HOMEWORK: CONGRESS LEADER

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The India government's shock decision to demonetize 500- and 1,000-rupee banknotes without 'proper homework' has wrought havoc across the country, and ordinary people are struggling to pay for their basic goods and needs, said a visiting Congress leader from India on Sunday.

The worst-ever disruption to cash transactions in India comes in the wake of the announcement last Tuesday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi banning the two large denomination notes with a view to bring billions of dollars of unaccounted wealth into the mainstream economy and curb large-scale corruption in the country. However, the decision triggered an unprecedented cash crunch in the country, with ATMs running dry and banks failing to dispense money.

"The move was ill-conceived, ill-thought-out and politically motivated. The situation is becoming worse with every passing day," V M Sudheeran, president of Kerala state's Congress committee, said at a press conference. The abrupt measure was fraught with serious consequences for an essentially rural economy that is largely powered by cash, he said, urging the India government, the Reserve Bank of India, the ministry of finance and other concerned policymakers to find an immediate solution to the crisis before the situation deteriorates any further. "The authorities must act on a war footing to find a solution to the crisis," Sudheeran said.

He said there is also a concerted move to wreck the

cooperative movement in the state under the pretext of black money eradication, which will badly hurt farmers and the rural economy. Sudheeran, voicing dismay at the Indian government's decision to scrap the ministry of overseas Indian affairs when it came to power nearly two years ago, said the Indian expatriate community must get a fair deal from the Indian authorities.

High airfares

The visiting Indian leader admitted the fact that the governments in India over the years have failed to solve the persistent problem of exorbitant airfares levied by Indian carriers in the Gulf region. "We have to make continuous efforts and interventions to find a solution to the problem that is affecting the expatriate community in the region," he remarked. He said his party is keeping up pressure on both India and Kerala governments to develop a rehabilitation project for Indians who return to the state from the Gulf in large numbers.

Sudheeran arrived in Kuwait on a three-day visit to attend a conference of the Overseas Indian Cultural Congress (OICC). He called on Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah and discussed issues pertaining to the Indian community in Kuwait. "It is gratifying to note that the Kuwaiti authorities are by and large happy with the Indian community in Kuwait which is the largest expat community in the country," he said. KPCC treasurer Johnson Abraham, Secretary Mannar Abdullateef and OICC president Varghese Puthukulangara were also present during the press conference.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) members, including Deputy Chairman Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan meet with Geneva Mayor Guillaume Barazzone. — KUNA



COASTGUARDS FOIL BIRD SMUGGLING ATTEMPT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Coastguards foiled two attempts to smuggle 10 birds of prey and 101 houbara bustards via the sea. A boat was spotted south of Boubyan Island, so it was followed and stopped. Two citizens were found onboard, and two bags were found containing eight birds of prey and 80 houbaras. The second haul was discovered when boats arriving into the country were searched and 21 houbaras and two birds of prey were found. The suspects and birds were sent to concerned authorities.

Traffic campaign

Traffic detectives carried out surprise campaigns against ATVs including many vital roads, resulting in detaining a person at the traffic detention cell and sending another to the juvenile prosecution. Two ATVs and 26 motorcycles were impounded.

Accidents

A car accident in Boubyan Island left a man injured in the head and other parts of his body. He was transferred to hospital by medvac. Meanwhile, five people were injured in an acci-

dent reported on Wafra Road. They were transferred to Adan Hospital.

Encroachments

Farwaniya Municipality branch carried out a campaign to remove encroachments on state property near Seventh Ring Road, under direct supervision from Kuwait Municipality's Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi. A statement by the Public Relations Department said that municipality workers removed violations set up by a company on state property illegally, which covered an area of around 83,964 square meters.

RAILWAY PROJECT OFFERED FOR BIDDING NEXT YEAR

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Authority For Partnership Projects (KAPP) is scheduled to offer the railway project's tender for public bidding during the first half of 2017 because it is committed to executing the project jointly with other GCC states. The project comprises of a railway network linking Kuwait City to the airport and marine ports as well as link Kuwait with other GCC states over a 511-km long two-way railway line. KAPP is also preparing to offer a tender to build the Khairan power and water

desalination plant for public bidding before the end of the year.

Stateless students

Kuwait University's higher (postgraduate) studies college announced new masters programs and three new PhD programs will be accredited soon. The college also announced stateless students would be accepted once a ministerial decision is issued in this regard. They would be accepted within the 20 percent ratio allocated for non-Kuwaitis as per the global universities' classification system.

NEW PRIVATE HOSPITALS TO HAVE REDUCED AREAS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health will reduce the areas of private hospitals built in the future due to a lack of enough space to build hospitals the way they used to be, assistant undersecretary for private medical services Dr Mohammed Al-Khashti said. Speaking to reporters at the sidelines of Omooma Hospital's 6th anniversary celebrations, Khashti said some owners had already been granted licenses to build new hospitals. Meanwhile, Omooma Hospital's founder and supervisor Alia Faisal Al-Khaled said the hospital had faced various challenges since it opened in 2010, including hiring skilled medical and administrative staff. Also speaking on the occasion, the hospital's CEO Dr Saeed Rateb said new wings would be added to the hospital next year. He

added that since its establishment in 2010, the hospital has received over 330,000 patients.

Road projects

Minister of Electricity and Water and awqaf Ahmed Al-Jassar signed a contract to design, build and maintain rain drainage lines on the new roads extending from Saad Al-Abdullah Road to Buhaith Gate at a total cost of KD 97.96 million.

Final verdict

Kuwait Football Association's official Twitter account said that a final verdict was issued by the comprehensive court ordering freezing the association's financial assets to pay a KD 47,500 debt due to a sportswear company contracted in 2012 to provide national team jerseys.

HEALTH MINISTRY TO HOST OTOLARYNGOLOGY CONFERENCE



KUWAIT: Head of the ENT department at Zain Hospital Dr Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah and head of the conference Dr Mutlaq Al-Sayhan attend the press conference. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) is set to host on Thursday a surgical conference dealing with Otolaryngology, an event expected to feature Arab and international participation. In a press conference yesterday, honorary head of the conference and head of the ENT department at Zain Hospital Dr Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah said that a contingent of 10 doctors from the United States, Canada, Germany, Greece and other nations, will take part in the conference.

Moreover, he noted that the two-day conference will attract 11 foreign visitors, all of whom will conduct impromptu surgical operations and hold informative lectures. On the conference, Dr Sheikh Basel added that it also includes three workshops that tackle otolaryngological surgeries, adding that Zain Hospital is in the process of conducting 15 intricate surgical procedures, an effort to curb the increasing number of patients seeking treatment abroad.

Meanwhile, head of the conference Dr Mutlaq Al-Sayhan said that the conference will showcase Kuwaiti medical prowess, adding that it provides an opportunity for the exchange of know-how. He also underscored that Kuwait is in need of such events due to the pervasiveness of otolaryngological diseases. The MoH routinely organizes such events in efforts to bring local hospitals at par with international standards. — KUNA

GCC MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT TOPICS: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday the 3rd session of the GCC Labor Ministries Committee and Social Affairs Ministries Committee due in Riyadh today will discuss important topics related to joint GCC work. This came during Subaih's statement before leaving for Riyadh, heading Kuwait's delegation participating in the session.

Amongst the topics to be discussed by

the meeting are enhancing GCC joint action, the uniform code of protecting the disabled as well as discussing earlier social resolutions, the statement said. The agenda of the third meeting will also address the uniform law on voluntary work, GCC strategy in social development, Kingdom of Bahrain's proposal to form a coordinating body for the charitable work in the Gulf, in addition to sustainable development goals in 2030. —KUNA

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Crime

Report

Prostitutes arrested in Mahboulah

KUWAIT: A security source said residency affairs detectives were monitoring videos on social media showing two Romanian prostitutes making offers to meet anyone in any country. The two later arrived in Kuwait after a busy week in another Gulf country. An undercover source was asked after thorough investigations to make a deal with them, and they agreed to receive KD 200 each per hour. Detectives then raided a flat in Mahboulah and arrested them. The two admitted servicing clients for the same fee for three days, and were transferring the money immediately. The suspects were sent to the deportation center. Their clients' phone numbers were also noted in case the two have any infectious diseases.

Work mishap

A gas cylinder explosion killed a Pakistani air conditioning technician in a shop in Fahaheel industrial area. His body was recovered by the coroner. Investigations are underway.

Bag missing

An Egyptian mandoub (company representative) told Khaitan police a bag containing five passports and KD 800 was stolen from his car. Detectives are working on the case.

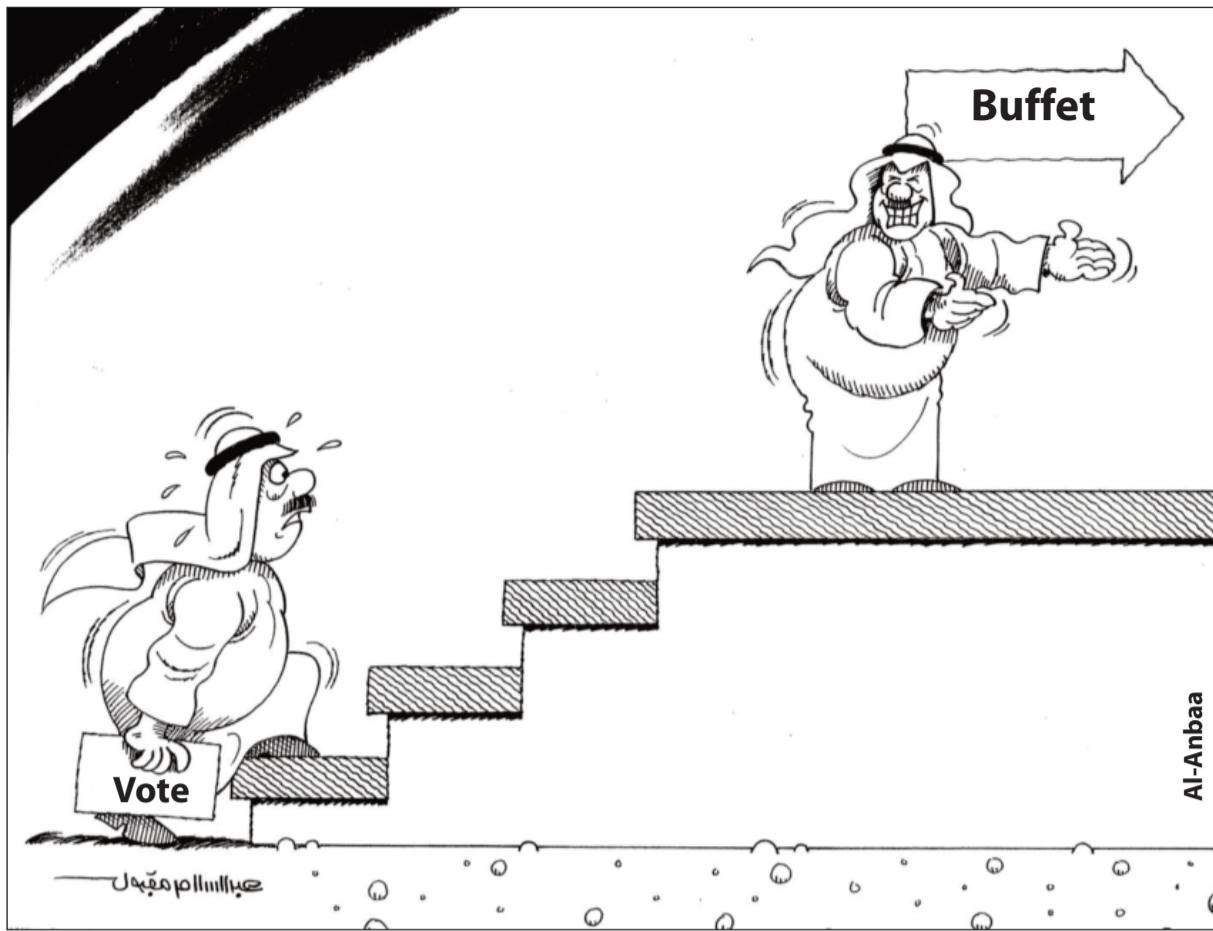
Fights

Four persons were involved in a fight and used knives, so police were called in and broke up the fight. One of those involved was stabbed in the shoulder. He was sent to Mubarak Hospital, while the other three were detained. Meanwhile, three Egyptian juveniles were injured during a fight with other Egyptians, as knives were used. Two of the suspects were sent to Adan Hospital for treatment of wounds they sustained. Investigations are underway. Separately, a fight broke out in Julaia over the rental charges of an ATV, leaving a citizen and an Iraqi injured. Police broke up the fight. The citizen sustained various bruises and the Iraqi had a broken nose. Both were taken to Adan Hospital.

Residency law

Authorities arrested 20 residency law violators in Kabd. Committee Chairman Mohammad Jaloud Al-Dhafri said employees of the arrested people were issued citations. The arrestees were sent to concerned authorities.

—Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

URBANITE CONTEMPLATION

By Salah Al-Sayer

In the recent past, the word 'bedouin' was not used the way it is nowadays in Kuwait. It was symbolically used and had no indication in real life of desert life because there were no more nomads travelling from one place to another. Just like sailors stopped sailing their dhows after the discovery of oil, bedouins stepped down from their camels and lived in urban residential areas in the early stages of Kuwait's boom, with the spread of education and the availability of job opportunities in various government bodies, and many more aspects that are very different from those known by nomads.

However, things are not the same nowadays. The word 'bedouin' reflects and refers to a different and special culture that ought to be confirmed and protected in the minds of some people. They believe it ought to be separated from urban culture, and thus seem like an illusionary trick played by some magicians who make audiences imagine things that do not really exist. In fact, it is impossible for them to have the same

formations nowadays after they politically, socially and economically changed and started living in the outskirts of modern cities in which citizenship and the rule of the law are more valued than tribal fanaticism.

The problem seems more complex with younger generations who keep fanaticizing about bedouin life in a platonic way with merely a rababa (a bowed musical instrument), a cup of coffee and a falcon, which is totally against the bitter truth! If we go back to bedouin life nowadays, many people will be looted, murdered or socially excluded.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the 'Please don't let me down' call, which is absolutely against true democratic practices. Some people tried to justify it as a bedouin value of requesting assistance and forgot that the Kuwaiti society nationally did so by consolidation, which is far stronger than sectarian bonds, when Kuwaitis of all sects, tribes and races worked hand in hand to build the third Kuwait wall.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

WILL VOTE FOR MONEY

By Mohammed Al-Owaisi

The slogan of 'Will Vote for my Country' used by the information ministry to boost people's awareness of the need to vote is a very beautiful one, but is unfortunately hard to put into practice because of the one-vote electoral system, where most voters vote for candidates from the same tribe, clan, sect or even those known for doing services for constituents. Nowadays, voters usually opt to vote for 'dinar' candidates.

Al-Qabas on Oct 25, 2016 published a story with a headline reading "Up to KD 1,300 per vote" in the fourth, third and other constituencies. This story reminded me of a vote-buying incident during the 2003 elections. A voter said that on the eve of the elections, he went to the campaign headquarters of a candidate known to buy votes and asked him how much he paid per vote.

The candidate told him that he will pay KD 1,000 and they agreed on the amount. The candidate asked him to come the following morning to the tent pitched next to the polling center along his citizenship certificate. Meeting him, the candidate asked him to swear by the Holy Quran to vote for him, which he did, and received the KD 1,000.

Next, the voter went to the polling center accompanied by the candidate's representative to vote for the bribe-paying candidate. On the way, the voter thought of a way to shake off the representative so that he could find another vote-buying candidate and make more money, which he did, and ran to his house to have an afternoon nap. In the evening, the voter went back to the same center looking for another ill-mannered and conscienceless candidate who would buy his vote. Finding one, he asked for KD 1,000 for his vote, but the candidate refused, bargained with him and only gave him KD 750.

The voter swore by the Holy Quran to vote for him, collected the money and started counting it before leaving. He found out that the sum included an extra KD 10 and insisted on returning it because he would "never accept haram money", which highly appealed to the candidate, who admired his honesty and insisted on giving him the extra amount, praying to Allah to have many more of his likes!

Well, voters swear by the Holy Quran to vote for those paying bribes, who in turn swear by Almighty Allah to be loyal to the nation and HH the Amir, to respect state laws and the constitution and defend the people's freedom and funds and do their work honestly. What an oath!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



VIVA ORGANIZES HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN COINCID WITH WORLD DIABETES DAY

KUWAIT: Coinciding with World Diabetes Day, VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, organized a health awareness campaign for its staff, VIVA Family's members, in collaboration with Safwan Medical Services Company.

VIVA held a medical clinic with Safwan health professionals at its headquarters located at Olympia Tower, whilst health campaign offered diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol tests and compared results against healthy levels. It also provided health tips to employees that highlighted the importance of following a healthy lifestyle and good eating habits.

This campaign is in line with VIVA's CSR program, in Health section, towards its employees, the underlying foundation for delivering the company's aspirations and objectives. VIVA is also dedicated to providing a

healthy and suitable environment for its employees. VIVA's employees turned out in large numbers to participate in the health awareness campaign. They acknowledged the importance of having regular medical checkups to prevent chronic diseases.

Led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), each World Diabetes Day focuses on a theme related to diabetes. Topics covered have included diabetes and human rights, diabetes and lifestyle, diabetes and obesity, diabetes in the disadvantaged and the vulnerable, and diabetes in children and adolescents. While the campaigns last the whole year, the day itself marks the birthday of Frederick Banting who, along with Charles Best and John James Rickard Macleod, first conceived the idea which led to the discovery of insulin in 1922.

BURGAN BANK SPONSORS NUQAT CREATIVE CONFERENCE FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is delighted to announce its sponsorship of the seventh edition of Nuqat Creative Conference, took place at the Amerianni Cultural Center from 13-16 November 2016. Supporting and encouraging creative thinking and thought-provoking platforms helps Arab youth unleash their creativity and potential, and the Nuqat Conference has proven highly effective in achieving this. Burgan Bank, being a long-term partner of the conference, sponsoring it for four consecutive years, remains committed and engaged with local communities. The Bank believes that education, in all its forms, plays a crucial role in fuelling growth, creating opportunities for everyone and providing creative solutions to 21st century challenges.

Nuqat is a not-for profit organization that aims to nurture creativity and curiosity in adults by boosting out of the box thinking in various walks of life. The Nuqat

Conference, an annual event, brings together thousands of participants to discuss the current state of creativity in the Arab world. This year's event, "The Seventh Sense: Powering the Creative Economy", looked at how innovation in business and technology has contributed to growing creative industries in the Middle East and around the world.

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



Senior Officer Public Relations at Burgan Bank Hessa Al-Najadah with Al-Shaikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah and Nuqat Founder Hessa Al-Humadhi.

FARM LAND, GOLDEN SPONSOR OF HORECA

KUWAIT: Farm Land Company, the exclusive distributor of the 'President' trademark, announced its golden sponsorship of Horeca Kuwait for the sixth consecutive year. In this regard, Farm Land's General Manager Antoine Obeid said that his company provides the best quality products including President Cheese, one of the world's premiere cheese makers. He also noted that President offers many dairy products that are produced of 100 percent pure milk, which can be used to prepare the most delicious dishes under prestigious brand names such as the fresh Italian Galbani Mozzarella, the famous French Valbreso Feta, SociÉTÉ Roquefort cheese and the English



Antoine Obeid

McLaren cheddar cheese.

Obeid strongly praised the Horeca Kuwait exhibition and its ability to attract companies specializing in hospi-

talities, food industries and hotel requirements in Kuwait, the region and the Middle East. He also noted that Horeca provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise in a way that would help develop the business in view of the revolutionary development towards changing Kuwait into a regional financial and commercial hub.

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



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with members of the Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) campaign, and congratulated them following the Health Ministry's decision to approve building a radiology cancer treatment center in the governorate.



Kerry in Oman for Yemen peace talks



BLUFF STATION, New Zealand: A woman and child are seen in front of a house damaged by an earthquake as it sits on the fault line near Kaikoura on the South Islands east coast. —AFP

‘UTTER DEVASTATION’ AFTER NZ QUAKE

AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE KILLED, TOURIST TOWN CUT OFF

WELLINGTON: A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake pummeled central New Zealand early yesterday, killing at least two people, damaging roads and buildings and setting off hundreds of strong aftershocks. Emergency response teams flew by helicopter to the region at the epicenter of the tremor, which struck just after midnight some 91 km northeast of Christchurch in the South Island, amid reports of injuries and collapsed buildings.

“It’s just utter devastation, I just don’t know ... that’s months of work,” New Zealand Prime Minister John Key told Civil Defense Minister Gerry Brownlee after flying over the coastal town of Kaikoura, according to Brownlee’s Twitter account. He described landslips in the area as “just horrendous.” In a statement seen by Reuters, Key said of the likely damage bill: “You’ve got to believe it’s in the billions of dollars to resolve.” Powerlines and telecommunications were down, with huge cracks in roads, land slips and other damage to infrastructure making it hard to reach the worst-affected areas.

A tsunami warning that led to mass evacuations after the original quake was downgraded after large swells hit New Zealand’s capital Wellington, in the North Island, and Christchurch. Wellington was a virtual ghost town with workers ordered to stay away while the city council assessed the risk to buildings, several of which were damaged by the tremor. There were concerns that loose glass and masonry could be dislodged by severe weather hitting the capital, with 140 km per hour winds forecast.

Hundreds of aftershocks, the strongest a 6.2 quake at about 1.45 p.m. local time (0045 GMT), rattled the South Pacific country, fraying nerves in an area where memories of a deadly 2011 quake are still fresh. Christchurch, the largest city on New Zealand’s ruggedly beautiful South Island, is still recovering from the 6.3 quake in 2011 that killed 185 people. New Zealand’s Civil Defense declared a state of emergency for the Kaikoura region, centered on a tourist town about 150 km northeast of Christchurch, soon after yesterday’s large aftershock. Kaikoura, a popular spot for whale watching, appeared to have borne the brunt of the quake. “Our immediate priority is ensuring delivery of clean water, food and other essentials to the residents of Kaikoura and the estimated 1,000 tourists in the town,” Brownlee said.

The Navy’s multi-role vessel HMNZS Canterbury was heading to the area, he said. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) said a 20-person rescue team and two sniffer dogs had arrived in the town. A second team was on standby in Christchurch, USAR said in a statement. Police in the area around Christchurch reported 19 burglaries of homes and commercial properties after the quake as residents headed for higher ground. “It is extremely disappointing that at a time when people are facing such a traumatic event and communities are coming together to support one another, there are others who are only interested in taking advantage,” Canterbury District Commander Superintendent John Price said in a statement.

Twin quakes

Hours after the quake, officials said a slip dam caused by the quakes that had blocked the Clarence River north of the town had breached, sending a wall of water downstream. A group of kayakers missing on the river was later reported safe. New Zealand’s Geonet measured yesterday’s first quake at magnitude 7.5, while the US Geological Survey put it at 7.8. The quakes and aftershocks rattled buildings and woke residents across the country, hundreds of kilometers from the epicenter.

Geonet said four faults had ruptured, with one at the coast appearing to have slipped as much as 10 meters. Government research unit GNS Science said the overnight tremor appeared to have been two simultaneous quakes which together lasted more than two minutes. New Zealand lies in the seismically active “Ring of Fire,” a 40,000 km arc of volcanoes and oceanic trenches that partly encircles the Pacific Ocean. Around 90 percent of the world’s earthquakes occur within this region.

Stock exchange operator NZX Ltd said markets traded

normally, although many offices in the capital were closed. The New Zealand dollar initially fell to a one-month low before mostly recovering. Fonterra, the world’s biggest dairy exporter, said some of its farms were without power and would likely have to dump milk. Prime Minister Key postponed a trip to Argentina, where he had planned to hold a series of trade meetings ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders’ summit in Peru this week, as he met disaster officials.

At least one of those killed was found in a house in Kaikoura that “collapsed like a stack of cards”, Kaikoura Hospital’s Dr Christopher Henry told Fairfax media. Two other people were pulled alive from the same building. New Zealand media reported one of the pilots taking rescuers to the area was Richie McCaw, the recently retired captain of New Zealand’s world champion All Blacks rugby team. “At one point, the railway was way out over the sea - it had been pushed out by (land) slips. It would not have been a nice place to be at midnight last night,” McCaw told the New Zealand Herald after helping fly the USAR team to Kaikoura.—Reuters

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HEAVY POLLUTION SHUTS SCHOOLS IN TEHRAN

TEHRAN: Tehran officials shut schools yesterday as the first of the winter's heavy pollution hit the Iranian capital. A blanket of choking brown-white smog descended on the city on Sunday, blocking out the view of the mountains that line its northern edge and leading many of its 14 million residents to retreat indoors or don face masks in the street. The level of the deadliest PM2.5 particles hit 156 yesterday—more than three times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization. "Kindergartens and primary schools are closed yesterday in Tehran and most of the cities of the province," the Ministry of Education announced, according to official agency Irna.

Officials extended traffic restrictions that alternate cars with odd and even licence plates in two central parts of the city, and deployed ambulances to wait in the busiest and dirtiest areas. Tehran mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf rode the metro to work on Sunday in a bid to

encourage people to use public transport. Despite having around 100 stations, Ghalibaf says the metro is not sufficiently funded by the central government, and Tehran has some of the world's worst traffic congestion.

Pollution has become a political football in recent years, with conservatives and reformists blaming each other for the problem. Hardliners regularly accuse the reformist vice-president Massoumeh Ebtekar, who heads the environmental protection organization, of not doing enough. The ultra-conservative daily Vatane Emrooz said yesterday that 70 percent of deaths in Tehran were linked to pollution. The pollution has been building for six consecutive days and is expected to continue until Wednesday when forecasters hope winds will move the stagnant air, an official told state television.

Residents were advised to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary, with warnings that pollution is particu-



TEHRAN: A general view taken from Western Tehran shows a blanket of brown-white smog covering the city as the first of the winter's heavy pollution hit the Iranian capital yesterday. — AFP

larly dangerous for the elderly, pregnant, children and those with existing respiratory and heart conditions. Sand and cement factories around Tehran were also shuttered. Every year, Tehran suffers some of the worst pollution in the world when cold weather traps the vast levels of exhaust from the city's 10 million ageing cars and motorbikes.

Two permanent zones of traffic restrictions introduced in 1979 and 2005 have failed to rectify the sprawling city's poor air quality. Local carmakers have shown little interest in introducing cleaner engines, while foreign firms have been kept out by international sanctions. In 2014, almost 400 people were hospitalized with heart and respiratory problems caused by heavy pollution in Tehran, with nearly 1,500 others requiring treatment. The health ministry estimated that pollution contributed to the premature deaths of 4,500 people in Tehran in 2012 and about 80,000 across the country. — AFP

JIHADISTS SAY TRUMP'S VICTORY A RALLYING CALL FOR NEW RECRUITS

IS COMMANDER CALLS TRUMP A 'MANIAC'

KABUL: From Afghanistan to Algeria, jihadists plan to use Donald Trump's shock US presidential victory as a propaganda tool to bring new fighters to their battlefields. Taliban commanders and Islamic State supporters say Trump's campaign trail rhetoric against Muslims — at one point calling for a total shutdown of Muslims entering the United States — will play perfectly in their recruitment efforts, especially for disaffected youth in the West. "This guy is a complete maniac. His utter hate towards Muslims will make our job much easier because we can recruit thousands," Abu Omar Khorasani, a top IS commander in Afghanistan said.

Trump has talked tough against militant groups on the campaign trail, promising to defeat "radical Islamic terrorism just as we won the Cold War." The president-elect later toned down his call for a total ban on Muslim entry to say he would temporarily suspend immigration from countries that have "a history of exporting terrorism." But he has offered few details on his plans to combat various radical groups, including IS, the Taliban and al Qaeda, which represent a wide spectrum of political views.

"He does not differentiate between extremist and moderate Islamist trends and, at the same time, he overlooks (the fact) that his extremism will generate extremism in return," Iraq's powerful Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr said in a statement. Sadr's political reform movement, which commands thousands of followers, is a staunch opponent of the radical Sunni movements IS and al-Qaeda, and unlike them has not waged or promoted

attacks in the West. The United States has seen a handful of attacks inspired by Islamist militant groups, including the June massacre of 49 people at an Orlando nightclub by a gunman who called a TV station swearing allegiance to IS and the killing of 14 people at a San Bernardino, California, social services agency last December. US officials have warned the country will likely face a higher risk of similar attacks as IS urges supporters to launch attacks at home instead of joining its fight in the Middle East.

"Our leaders were closely following the US election but it was unexpected that the Americans will dig their own graves and they did so," said IS's Khorasani, who described President Barack Obama as a moderate infidel with at least a little brain in comparison to Trump. Al-Qaeda, which has proven resilient more than 15 years after launching the Sept 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon, has yet to comment on Trump's victory.

The militant group will likely respond after Trump's first speeches as president, anticipating they will be able to exploit his comments to win support, said Hisham al Hashemi, who advises the Iraqi government on Sunni jihadist movements. "Al-Qaeda is known for its recruitment strategy that heavily quotes speeches of the White House and other Western officials," he told Reuters.

Propaganda machine

Trump's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the statements from the militants. Even if Trump tones down his anti-Muslim comments when he

takes office in January, analysts say his statements during the campaign trail were enough to fuel the militants' propaganda machine. "Militants will still use those quotes," said Matthew Henman, head of IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre. "The key thing militant groups, particularly Islamic State and al Qaeda, depend on for recruitment purposes is convincing Muslims in the Western world that the West hates them and won't ever accept them as part of their society."

A senior Taliban commander in Afghanistan said the group, whose resurgence is undermining efforts to end America's longest war, had kept track of all of Trump's speeches and anti-Muslim comments. "If he does what he warned in his election campaign, I am sure it will provoke Muslim Ummah (community) across the world and jihadist organizations can exploit it," said the militant leader, who declined to be identified because of strict Taliban policy that only its official spokesman can make statements.

Shortly after Trump's victory, several jihadist sympathizers took to social media to declare this as an opportunity for their cause. "The dog Trump's victory in the US elections is a gold mine for Muslims not a setback if they know how to use it," tweeted @alhl200, who regularly posts statements in support of Islamic State. And in Algeria, @salil_chohada, an Islamic State supporter whose name on the Twitter account is Mohamed Aljazairie, said: "Congratulations to the Muslim nation over the infidel Trump's victory. His stupid statements alone serve us." — Reuters



MOSUL: A front line drone operator from the Iraqi Special Forces 2nd division takes cover behind a rooftop wall as he eyes his aircraft while smoke billows from an Islamic State (IS) group position that was hit during fighting in Mosul's Karkukli neighborhood yesterday. — AFP

HAND GRENADE DRONE ADDS TO ISLAMIC STATE'S ARSENAL

ARBID: The Islamic State group drone hovered in the sky over the advancing Iraqi forces before dropping a grenade, the jihadists' latest move to weaponise small off-the-shelf aircraft. Down below, the grenade exploded on the roof of a building where Iraqi police forces were sheltering as they advanced some 10 kilometers south of Mosul, the last IS-held Iraqi city. No one was injured, according to an Iraqi officer, but the incident nonetheless represents another escalation in the war of commercially available drones that is playing out as Iraqi forces battle the jihadists.

Masters of invention, IS jihadists have booby trapped household appliances and turned cars into armored suicide bombs as they try to stymie the Iraqi forces. Now they seem to have found another way to try to slow the progress: weaponising the \$1,000 drones that they normally use to spy on their foes. "We have recorded three incidents," police Lieutenant Colonel Hussein Moayyad said. The jihadists appear to have used an add-on-similar to those intended to help fishermen drop their hooks farther out at sea to release the drone's payload, Moayyad said.

They rig the grenade so the pin is pulled free when the explosive device is dropped, arming it. While this attack was relatively primitive and-for now-pretty ineffective, IS drones have already proved more deadly in other ways. Last month a hobby plane rigged with explosives killed two Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters and injured two French soldiers. According to a US defense official, the incident unfolded on October 2 when a small plane with a styrofoam body was either shot down or crashed in Arbil in northern Iraq. Two Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters grabbed it and took it back to their camp to inspect and photograph it, when it blew up.

Dueling drones

IS is flying drones to spy on Iraqi forces-so Iraqi forces are sending up their own devices to spot the enemy as well. Moayyad watched a screen inside a specially converted armored bank van he has turned into a mobile drone control centre. "Now I am entering the dangerous zone, this is where Daesh is," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS as he maneuvered the drone's remote control to focus on jihadist positions some five kilometers away.

Like the IS operation, the Iraq police have also cobbled their drone program together with shop-bought equipment and ingenuity. Moayyad—who has a masters degree in computing-modified drones bought in Dubai and Turkey to give them greater range, longer battery life and the ability to film at night. When he spots enemy movement, he coordinates with the Iraqi artillery, air force or sometimes the US-led coalition bombarding IS from the sky. In eastern Mosul, Iraqi special forces soldiers are using drones for the same purpose.

"There were three car bombs coming out from Al-Bakr toward our positions that we spotted with our drone and hit with our tanks," Staff Lieutenant Colonel Muntadhar Salem recently said, referring to an area in the city. In total, Moayyad said, the Iraqi police force drones-superior to the ones IS use-end up costing somewhere around \$26,000. But despite having superiority over the jihadists, he said the Iraqi forces could do with equipment that can let you take control of unknown drones, especially now that IS is arming them.

"Maybe they could get bigger drones," Moayyad said. "And if they manage to use chemical weapons on them, then this is more scary, of course." — AFP

KERRY IN OMAN FOR YEMEN PEACE TALKS

MUSCAT: US Secretary of State John Kerry held talks yesterday with officials in Oman on efforts to end Yemen's 19-month conflict, state media in Muscat said. Kerry and Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi discussed the "peaceful and humanitarian role played by the sultanate in Yemen," ONA state news agency reported. Kerry is also expected to meet ruler Sultan Qaboos, in one of his last trips as secretary of state before President Barack Obama's administration ends on January 20.

The US chief diplomat has been pushing for a settlement of Yemen's deadly conflict, which escalated with the military intervention of a Saudi-led coalition to support the government against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in March 2015. Oman, one of the few Arab states to have good relations with Iran, has used its links to mediate peace talks between the insurgents and Yemen's UN-recognized government of president Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. It is also the only Arab nation in the Gulf not part of the Saudi-led coalition, although it maintains good relations with regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia.

More than 7,000 people have been killed and nearly 37,000 wounded in Yemen since March 2015, and the UN says millions are in need of food aid. Another 21 million people urgently need health services, according to the UN health agency. Yesterday, 12 civilians, including a child, were killed in an air raid that targeted a convoy of three lorries in the central Ibb province, while nine rebels were killed in an ambush in the same region, military and medical sources said. Five other rebels, three soldiers and one civilian were killed Sunday in renewed violence in the southwestern Taz province, military sources said. After Oman, Kerry will travel to Abu Dhabi for talks on regional conflicts, including Syria. — AFP



MUSCAT: US Secretary of State John Kerry (left) meets with Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah in Muscat, Oman yesterday. — AFP

News

in brief

BBC cancels a debate on Islam and politics

RABAT: The BBC has been forced to move a debate on Islam and politics from Morocco to another country because of problems over filming permissions, the broadcaster has said. "Global Questions, our highly respected and internationally renowned current affairs program, had planned to travel to Casablanca in Morocco for a debate about Islam's place in politics," the BBC said on Sunday. "Unfortunately, for unforeseen reasons related to permissions, we will no longer be filming this debate in Morocco but plan to take it to an alternative country," a spokesperson said. French-language Moroccan newspaper l'Economiste said the episode would instead be filmed in Tunisia. A flagship BBC debate program, Global Questions is presented by Sudanese-British journalist Zeinab Badawi and broadcast on both television and radio. The broadcaster said the episode was to be an "informed and balanced discussion" of the role of Islam in politics in Morocco and the region. It was to feature a "high-profile panel of political, civil society and religious figures," it said.

Bahraini opposition figure accused of inciting hatred

DUBAI: Bahraini authorities have accused a prominent opposition figure of "inciting hatred and contempt against the regime" in a statement to foreign media, a local newspaper reported Monday. The prosecution said on Sunday it had summoned Ibrahim Sharif after he made a statement that "harms the kingdom's constitutional system" to a foreign press outlet. Sharif denied parts of the statement attributed to him, it said, adding that he was released after being charged and pending further investigations. The Al-Wasat daily confirmed the release with Sharif's lawyer. Sharif, the former secretary general of the Waed secular association, spoke to foreign press last week during a visit by Britain's Prince Charles to the Gulf kingdom. Authorities in July freed Sharif after he served a one-year jail term for anti-regime incitement. He had already served four years of a five-year sentence over the 2011 protests before being released under a royal amnesty in June last year.



SEOUL: Police block a subway exit during an anti-government protest in central Seoul. — AFP

S KOREAN PROSECUTORS TO QUESTION PRESIDENT

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 Sunday. 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 Tuesday 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 Sunday that it can work out its position on a Park investigation as early as today. It said it needs time to review when and how Park should be investigated.

'War has just begun,' Boko Haram warns

KANO: The leader of the jihadist group Boko Haram has reacted to the election of Donald Trump to the White House with a warning that "the war has just begun" against the West. "Do not be overwhelmed by people like Donald Trump and the global coalition fighting our brethren in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and everywhere," Abubakar Shekau said in an audio message posted on YouTube late Sunday. "We remain steadfast on our faith and we will not stop," he said in the hour-long message. "To us, the war has just begun." Boko Haram is waging a seven-year-old uprising against the Nigerian state that has claimed more than 20,000 lives, with the insurgency spilling over the West African nation's borders into neighboring states. Boko Haram, which last year pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, has been in the grip of a power struggle since late last year. The IS high command said in August that Shekau had been replaced as leader by Abu Musab Al-Barnawi, the 22-year-old son of Boko Haram's founder Mohammed Yusuf.



BELGIUM KING'S DAY

15 NOVEMBER



Words by Ambassador Andy Detaille

Dear Readers,

I want to thank the Kuwait Times for giving us the opportunity, on the occasion of our King's Day, to present my country to you.

Most of you know Belgium as the land of chocolate and beer, which of course we are. In fact to earn the Belgian AMBAO quality label the chocolate cannot contain any vegetable fat as is often the case with non-Belgian products.

But my country is so much more. We are in fact the per capita biggest exporters in the world, a whopping 80% of our prosperity stems from selling products and services abroad.

This has led to innumerable success stories, some global, some in Kuwait and I invite you to discover some of them on this page.

Yours truly,

Andy Detaille
Ambassador of Belgium
to the State of Kuwait.

Belgium has the third best education system

According to the annual education report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Belgium has the

third best education system amongst the 35 OECD countries. Thanks to outstanding teachers and a flexible education system, our country has scored considerably better than the world average.

The OECD research "Education at a Glance" speaks very highly of the Belgian education system. Teachers and head teachers are relatively young in our country. In secondary education 16% of the teachers are younger than 30. That is twice the EU22 average (countries which are both members of the European Union and the OECD). The number of teachers older than 50 is considerably lower than the EU22 average.

The salaries of teachers in primary and secondary education are higher than the OECD and EU22 average. The salaries of teachers delivering post-16 education in Belgium are even higher than the average salary of others who have completed higher education. Whilst post-16 education teachers have a master's degree, the majority of higher educated people only have a bachelor's.

The youth of Belgium start higher education at a very young age. 95% of those younger than 25 following higher education enrol furthermore for the first time. The average age to start a bachelor's degree is 19. For a master's degree it is 23. In 2015 almost 37% of 25 to 64-year-olds obtained a higher education degree. 21% of them attained a bachelor's

degree and 15% graduated with a master's.

The Belgian expenditure for education is 5.8% of Gross Domestic Product. This amount is considerably higher than the OECD average of 5.2%. The majority of the education budget (95%) originates from the public sector whilst only 5% comes from the private sector.

There is, however, a downside to the Belgian education system. Only 26% of women successfully completed a science, mathematics or computer science orientated

degree. Belgium comes third from last of all OECD countries within this segment. In addition, female teachers are still underrepresented in Belgian education. Whilst 97% of the pre-school teachers are female, this proportion decreases strongly in primary, secondary (63%) and higher education (48%).

Belgium is leading the fight against rheumatism

Scientists from Ghent have received the

'Center of Excellence' quality label for their ground-breaking research into rheumatism, an illness characterised by joint pain. This shows they are among the very best in the world.

It is now the third time that EULAR, the European League Against Rheumatism, has awarded this highly-coveted label to a team of rheumatologists from Ghent, coordinated by Professor Dirk Elewaut and consisting of a further forty scientists from UGent, UZ Gent and VIB (the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology).

Although the EULAR quality label does not elicit any financial contributions in itself, this international acknowledgement may well open doors to necessary funding in the future. It may also facilitate future collaboration with other research centers and universities.

EULAR is a non-profit organisation based in Switzerland that represents an estimated 3 million sufferers of rheumatism across all European countries, along with professional experts, scientific researchers and other care providers.

The team of rheumatologists from Ghent carries out basic experimental research along with clinical testing with the aim of developing medication. This also involves various forms of collaboration with Belgian companies such as UCB, Galapagos and Ablynx for the manufacture of medicines specifically designed to target rheumatism.



Belgian involvement in the opening ceremony

You might have had the chance of attending the opening ceremony of Sheik Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre on the 31st of October and also have enjoyed the impressive outdoor spectacular combining video, light projections and fireworks on the 5th of November.

You might also have wondered who was behind these productions. The knowhow needed to set all these techniques in motion actually comes from Belgium.

Both these shows were produced by LSE, a world renowned company in the fields of technical and artistic productions. It is not the first time that LSE sets foot in Kuwait. You might remember the breath-taking national day fireworks or the opening ceremony of Al Shaheed Park and Al Jaber Al Ahmad stadium.

LSE's strength lies in the ability to combine all existing show techniques and to create new technologies at the service of emotion. More info you can find on www.lse.eu



Did you know SEEDiS?

Automatic Systems, a Belgian company with more than 45 years of experience is a world leader in the automation of secure entrance control, they design and manufacture pedestrian, vehicle and passenger access systems for airports, metro, buildings, industrial sites, etc...

Their equipment, turnstiles, barriers, bollards are present everywhere in the World and also in Kuwait at Sief Palace, the United Nations House, Bayan Palace, The Arab Fund for Economic Development, Kuwait Finance House, KNPC, American University of the Middle East (AUM), KNPC, etc...

With equipment boasting a life-cycle exceeding 20 years, it is a unique example of heavy duty engineering. Automatic Systems has gained a unique know-how and demonstrated their ability to adapt its equipment to the local markets. From Brussels to Kuwait City, day in, day out, Automatic systems equipment is performing its duty every day.

In Kuwait SEEDiS General Trading and Contracting has been Automatic Systems agent for more than 10 years and have installed all the references above. More info can be found through info@seedis.net or www.seedis.net.

AFTER MASSACRE, CENTRAL AFRICAN TOWN YEARNS FOR PEACE

KAGA BANDORO: A month after rebels killed dozens of civilians in Kaga Bandoro, residents of the Central African Republic town still live in fear despite the presence of UN peacekeepers in the country and the prospect of nationwide disarmament. Returning to the scene of the massacre for the first time, Sylvie pointed to the ruins of the small home she built in what was a settlement for 8,000 civilians displaced during years of unrest.

"That's where I lived for three years," she said, recovering a comb from the scorched ground between the low walls of now roofless huts. On October 12 the predominantly Christian settlement was attacked by remnants of the mostly Muslim rebel "Seleka" coalition, which overthrew the national government in March 2013, only to be dislodged the following January.

In apparent reprisal for the death of one of their

own, the attackers killed at least 37 people and set fire to the camp. "People were burned on the spot, like two children and a grandmother over there," said site watchman Michel Kenze, near a pump where children were drawing water. After the attack, victims' corpses were left in the open to be eaten by wild pigs and other animals. Thousands of survivors, including Sylvie, fled to set up another camp between a base of the UN's MINUSCA peacekeeping force and the runway of the town's airport.

No longer in school

Sylvie now makes ends meet selling peanuts and fritters in a marketplace opposite the MINUSCA base. On the edge of the runway, young girls sing songs and play games. They are not in school. "We had just started the school year on September 19. On October 12, an education inspector was

killed. After that, inspections shut down," said an aid worker with MINUSCA. "Civil servants had returned (to Kaga Bandoro), but they went back to Bangui after what happened," said local government official Paul Fradjala, who never ventures far from the UN base. The large country's army, police and government have a very limited presence outside the capital, Bangui.

In 2013, Seleka's coup led to the formation of "anti-Balaka" vigilante units, drawn from the Christian majority, which began to target Muslims. Both sides committed widespread atrocities in different parts of the country, even after Seleka was chased from power. "We want peace, we want the armed groups to be disarmed," Sylvie said in her new home, a hut made from plastic sheeting where she stores her few possessions: a notebook, a jerrycan and an old mosquito net. A National

program to disarm fighters in CAR was officially launched a year ago, but in practice little has been done since to actually collect weapons or demobilize combatants.

Sylvie no longer dares to visit Muslim traders on the far side of town over a bridge guarded by a few Pakistani UN troops—members of the MINUSCA contingent accused of standing by as last month's massacre unfolded. The Muslim quarter is busy with shops selling food and clothes, a motel and a garage fixing motorbike taxis. In this part of town, Seleka fighters, along with gunmen from neighboring Sudan and Chad, rub shoulders with civilians, residents say. "In the displaced persons' camps, there are also armed men among the civilians and MINUSCA sees and knows about them," counters Idriss Al Bachar, a young Seleka leader. —AFP

TRUMP FIRM ON AGENDA BUT SAYS AMERICANS HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR

TRUMP 'SADDENED' BY HARASSMENT REPORTS

NEW YORK: President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to move aggressively on a conservative agenda in filling Supreme Court vacancies, cracking down on immigration and cutting taxes, but also sought to reassure worried Americans they have nothing to fear from his presidency. Setting aside the strident tone of his campaign, the 70-year-old assumed a gentler manner in his first television interview since his shock election, saying he was "saddened" by reports of harassment of Muslims and Hispanics, and telling the perpetrators: "Stop it."

The interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," which was taped Friday and aired in full Sunday, offered Trump an opportunity to reintroduce himself after an ugly, name-calling campaign and surprise victory that sparked protests in cities across the United States. "I just don't think they know me," the billionaire real estate mogul said at one point, of the thousands of protesters who have massed in streets below his Trump Tower headquarters. Told that many Americans are scared of his presidency, Trump said: "Don't be afraid. We are going to bring our country back."

Conservative agenda

Millions were expected to tune in to Trump's interview for clues on how the billionaire will govern, and to what degree he intends to convert his slogans into policy. Trump earlier Sunday named anti-establishment firebrand Steve Bannon his top strategist and senior Republican Reince Priebus his White House chief of staff, blending pragmatism with a rattle-raising edge in the first appointments of his new administration. On the issues, however, Trump made it clear he intends to aggressively push a right-wing agenda, pledging to name justices to the Supreme Court who are against abortion and for gun rights.

"The judges will be pro-life," Trump told CBS. "In terms of the whole gun situation," he added, "they're going to be very pro-Second Amendment." He will have an



WASHINGTON: This combination of pictures shows Republican National Convention Chairman Reince Priebus (left) and Donald Trump's campaign Chief Executive Officer Stephen K. Bannon. President elect Donald Trump announced his White House transition team by appointing running mate Mike Pence as its chairman and naming Reince Priebus and Stephen Bannon as members of the executive committee. —AFP

immediate opportunity to fill a vacancy on the court left by the death of arch conservative justice Antonin Scalia. President Barack Obama's attempt to fill the seat was blocked by the Republican-controlled Senate. On immigration, Trump reaffirmed his signature campaign pledge to build a wall on the border with Mexico, although he conceded parts of it may be just a fence.

And he said as many as three million undocumented immigrants with criminal records would be deported or incarcerated. "What we are going to do is get the people that are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers," he said. "We

have a lot of these people, probably two million, it could be even three million, we are getting them out of our country or we are going to incarcerate," he said.

Conciliatory notes

He left the door open, however, on the fate of the millions of other immigrants in the country illegally. "After the border is secured and after everything gets normalized, we're going to make a determination on the people that you're talking about who are terrific people," he said. Immigration, he said, was one of three top legislative priorities he has discussed with

House Speaker Paul Ryan, the others being action to undo Obama's signature health care reform and a bill to cut taxes and simplify the tax code.

Trump had previously indicated he would keep some aspects of Obamacare, including a ban on insurance companies denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. He also signaled that he would not seek to overturn the legalization of same-sex marriage in the United States. "It's law. It was settled in the Supreme Court. I mean it's done," Trump said when asked if he supports marriage equality. "And I'm-I'm fine with that," he added. He also confirmed he would forgo the \$400,000 salary that comes with the office of US president.

"I'm not going to take the salary. I'm not taking it," he said. "I think I have to by law take \$1, so I'll take \$1 a year," he added. In a call to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump told the leader he believes they will have "one of the strongest relationships for both countries moving forward," according to a statement released by the president-elect's team yesterday. Trump—who frequently savaged China on the campaign trail and threatened to impose a 45-percent tariff on Chinese-made goods—agreed to meet "at an early date" to discuss the relationship, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said.

Conspiracy-mongering

While Trump has veered on some pledges, his choice of Bannon as top strategist suggests he intends to preserve his populist edge. Bannon, who was campaign chairman in the final months of the Trump campaign, is CEO of the right-wing, conspiracy-mongering Breitbart News website known for withering attacks on the Republican elite. It has railed against everything from Muslim immigrants to women, once telling females facing online harassment to go away and stop "screwing up the internet for men." Priebus, meanwhile, is a seasoned political operative and head of the Republican National Committee, with close ties to Ryan, the House speaker. —AFP

STILL REELING, US DEMOCRATS BEGIN BATTLING FOR FUTURE

WASHINGTON: Still reeling from a devastating defeat in last week's election, Democrats are beginning the process of charting the direction of their party in the Donald Trump era. With Hillary Clinton and her team staying out of the public eye, liberal politicians have begun jockeying for control of the party's future. While they all backed Clinton, they're now pushing for a serious shift in the party's policy positions, financial resources and grassroots organizing to focus more on motivating their base and winning back the white working class voters who went for Trump.

"We have to do a lot of rethinking," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who mounted a fierce challenge to Clinton in the primary. "Democrats are focused too much with a liberal elite, which is raising incredible sums of money from wealthy people," Sanders said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

The Democratic National Committee, the last bastion of party power in Washington, is quickly emerging as ground zero for the fight. After losing the White House and Congress—and likely the ideological tilt of the Supreme Court—the Democrats' new chief likely will be one of the party's most visible faces in politics, making the role a far more influential post than it was during the Obama administration. Already, around a dozen Democrats' names have been publicly floated to succeed interim chairwoman Donna Brazile, who replaced Florida Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz in July after she was caught up in a hacking scandal.

Minnesota Rep Keith Ellison, a prominent progressive and the first Muslim elected to Congress, has emerged as an early contender, backed by much of the party's liberal wing. He's also picked up support from several key Democratic leaders, including outgoing Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid and Reid's likely replacement, New York Sen Chuck Schumer. Ellison was expected to officially announce his bid today. His supporters argue that Ellison's faith would send an important signal about the party's commitment to inclusivity during the Trump administration.

"My friend Keith Ellison is a terrific leader and a strong progressive who knows how to get things done. Now is the time for new thinking and a fresh start at the DNC. Now is the time for Keith," Reid said in a statement on Sunday. In interviews on Sunday talk shows, Ellison pushed back on concerns that he'd be unable to balance party responsibilities with the politics of his day job in Congress—a problem some Democrats believe hampered Wasserman Schultz.

"There're a lot of places that I can serve," he said, in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I'm looking for a place to be of use and benefit. And every single Democrat in this country better be thinking the exact same way." Ellison is far from the only contender for the job. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean announced his intention Thursday to reclaim a post he held during the Bush administration. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, DNC National Finance Chairman Henry Muo'oz III, and South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison have also said they're considering bids. —AP

BULGARIA IN TURMOIL

RUSSOPHILE WINS PRESIDENCY; PM RESIGNS

SOFIA: EU member Bulgaria headed yesterday into fresh political turbulence after a former airforce commander seen as more sympathetic to Russia triumphed in presidential elections, prompting Prime Minister Boyko Borisov to quit. In his victory speech, Rumex Radev reiterated his opposition to EU sanctions on Russia and praised new US President-elect Donald Trump for "seeking more dialogue" with President Vladimir Putin. "This gives a lot of hope for reducing (the risk) of

between Ukraine and Romania, where the pro-Russian Igor Dodon beat his pro-European rival Maia Sandu to the presidency.

"The results clearly show that the ruling coalition no longer holds the majority," Borisov said on Sunday evening as he threw in the towel. "I apologise to those who supported us. I thought I was doing the right thing... If Bulgarians want a political crisis then they shall have one," the burly 57-year-old told reporters. Bulgaria is

backed by the opposition Socialists to run for president. Like other anti-establishment politicians—not least Trump but also populists around Europe—he struck a chord with voters by attacking the status quo and stressing issues like national security and immigration. Experts also saw his victory as a protest vote at Borisov's failure to improve the lot of ordinary Bulgarians—the average monthly is just 480 euros (\$535)—and to tackle rampant corruption. Radev's clear support for the lifting of sanctions on Russia and ambivalent statements about the EU, NATO and Crimea have prompted speculation that Bulgaria could lean more towards Moscow.

This could further undermine unity within the EU, already reeling from June's Brexit vote, in its stance towards Russia just as Trump's surprise election victory raises worries about the future of NATO. "General Radev's victory represents the unfolding of a pro-Russian scenario in Bulgaria so that the country supports Russian interests in the EU and NATO," political expert Antony Galabov said. But at the same time Radev, stressing that he is a "NATO general trained in the US," has said that Bulgaria's membership of the European Union and the NATO military alliance have "no alternative."

Bulgaria and Russia have deep historical, cultural and commercial ties and the country has long walked a tightrope in its relations with Moscow and the West. Bulgaria's outgoing president has been sharply critical of Moscow and Borisov's government angered Moscow by banning Russian supply flights to Syria from using its airspace last September. Antony Dodorov at New Bulgarian University pointed out that as president a largely ceremonial but highly respected position—Radev on his own can do little. "The president only has influence if the government is on the same wavelength... Radev is not going to pull Bulgaria out of NATO," Dodorov said. —AFP



SOFIA: Bulgarian president Rosen Plevneliev (right) shakes hands with president-elect Rumex Radev (left) prior to their meeting at the Bulgarian Presidency office in Sofia yesterday. —AFP

confrontation, particularly in Syria" where Russia and the US are backing opposite sides in a bloody civil war, the fighter pilot said.

He won 59.4 percent of the vote, well ahead of the more Western-leaning Tssetska Tsacheva, Borisov's uninspiring hand-picked candidate, who garnered just 36.2 percent, near-complete official results showed yesterday. The outcome was mirrored in Moldova, a small ex-communist nation wedged

now set for months of political inertia. Borisov yesterday formally handed his resignation to parliament. An interim government will govern until fresh elections, which are not expected until March at the earliest and could well be inconclusive.

Anti-establishment

Radev, 53, due to take office on January 22, has no political experience and was little known before being

News

in brief

Missing Mexican priest found alive, tortured

COATZACOALCOS: A priest whose disappearance sparked protests in an eastern Mexican town was found alive on Sunday but with injuries consistent with torture, the Catholic Church said. Father Jose Luis Sanchez Ruiz had last been seen on Thursday, and the next day the doors to his church in Catemaco, a town in the eastern state of Veracruz, had signs of forced entry. His disappearance sparked fears that he had suffered the same fate as two other priests who were found dead in Veracruz in September shortly after their disappearance. But the archdiocese of San Andres Tuxtla said in a statement that Sanchez Ruiz, 54, was found on Sunday morning "with notable signs of torture." After his disappearance, townspeople blocked roads in protest on Friday night. On Saturday, protesters burned part of Catemaco's municipal office and a police car. Sanchez Ruiz had received threats after complaining about crime in Catemaco.

Bangladesh buys two Chinese submarines

DHAKA: Bangladesh took delivery yesterday of its first submarines, bought from China, as it seeks to boost its naval power in the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh paid a reported \$203 million for the two submarines, a deal that reflects the country's growing economic and defense ties with Beijing. Armed forces spokeswoman Taposhi Rabeya said they would become part of the country's naval fleet at the beginning of next year. "This is the first ever addition of submarines in Bangladesh defense force," she said. Bangladesh has been expanding its defense capabilities in recent years, building a new airbase close to neighboring Myanmar, opening several new military cantonments across the country and adding new frigates to its naval fleet. In 2013 the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signed a billion-dollar deal with Russia to buy fighter training jets, helicopters and anti-tank missiles. Hasina announced the plan to purchase two submarines the same year as part of her government's move to build a modern navy to defend the resource-rich Bay of Bengal.



MANILA: Smoke continues to rise from the Addition Hills community in suburban Mandaluyong city east Manila, Philippines, following an overnight fire that destroyed hundreds of homes. —AP

Fire sweeps through Philippine city slum

MANILA: A fire that raged for seven hours through a crowded Manila slum community killed two people and left close to 1,500 families homeless, fire authorities said yesterday. More than 5,000 people were temporary housed in four public schools in Mandaluyong City, to the east of downtown Manila, as fire protection officials investigated the cause of the fire, which destroyed more than 500 houses on Sunday. Damage was estimated at 10 million pesos (\$203,800). A blaze destroyed 800 houses in the same community last year. "The fire spread rapidly because the houses were made of light materials and the roads were so narrow," a fire official said, adding the two casualties had been trapped in their homes.

Nepal finds wreckage of missing ultralight

KATHMANDU: The wreckage of an ultralight aircraft that disappeared in Nepal last year with two people on board has been found, an aviation official said yesterday. The aircraft went missing shortly after taking off from the popular mountain resort town of Pokhara on October 8 with a Russian pilot and a South African tourist on board. Search teams were dispatched to the area after debris was spotted from the air, Pokhara's airport chief Bhola Prasad Guragain said. "The team recovered wreckage of the ultralight craft and bones from the site," "The marks on the wreckage confirm it is the missing craft but we have handed the remains to authorities for tests." Ultralight flights are popular among tourists in Pokhara for panoramic views of the majestic snow-capped Annapurna mountains. In 2013, a Chinese tourist and a Nepali pilot were killed when their ultralight crashed in the same area. Nepal, which is still reeling from a devastating earthquake last April, has suffered a number of air disasters in recent years.

JAPAN, S KOREA INK CONTROVERSIAL INTELLIGENCE DEAL

TOKYO: South Korea and Japan reached a controversial deal yesterday to share defense intelligence, Japanese officials said, despite protests from opposition parties and activists in Seoul. Japan controlled the Korean peninsula as a colony from 1910-1945, with the legacy of the harsh rule marring relations with both North and South Korea today. South Korea and Japan were on the verge of signing a deal in June 2012, but Seoul suddenly backtracked, with Japanese

media blaming anti-Japanese sentiment among the South Korean public for the move.

Both sides reopened talks last month following North Korea's continued advances in its nuclear and missile programs, which are seen as a threat in both countries. Officials meeting in Japan's capital "reached a working agreement and conducted a provisional signing," Japan's foreign ministry said in a statement, without providing details. "We will

continue making final arrangements toward the official signing," the statement said.

The issue remains divisive in South Korea and the timing comes as the country has seen massive street demonstrations calling for the resignation of President Park Geun-Hye over a domestic political scandal. The deal has been fiercely opposed by South Korean opposition parties and civic activists, citing Seoul's failure to seek public support and

historical sensitivities. "Japan, which once occupied the Korean peninsula and enslaved Koreans with its military might, is still not admitting a lot of its past atrocities," the main opposition Democratic Party said in a statement yesterday before the agreement was announced.

"This deal is an unpatriotic, humiliating deal that is opposed by our own people and not accepted by history." The party also voiced concern over Japan's

growing military ambitions under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, describing the deal as "the first step towards allowing and recognizing Japan's military rise." However Tokyo lauded the agreement, saying the move was "important" for checking North Korea's power. "It is important that Japan and South Korea cooperate to deal with North Korea's nuclear and missile issues," top Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters. — AFP

PRO-RUSSIA CANDIDATE DODON WINS MOLDOVA PRESIDENCY

CHISINAU: Pro-Russian candidate Igor Dodon yesterday emerged as winner of Moldova's presidential runoff, viewed as an East-West choice in the impoverished ex-Soviet country. With 99.9 percent of ballots counted, Socialist Party chief Dodon had 52.3 percent of the votes, according to the electoral commission, with pro-European rival Maia Sandu on 47.7 percent. "We have won, everyone knows it," Dodon told a press conference overnight. The full results are expected to be announced later this week. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow respected the results of the Moldovan vote and congratulated its winner.

The vote marks the first time in 20 years that Moldova-wracked by corruption scandals in recent years—is electing its leader by national vote instead of having parliament select the head of state. Wedged between Ukraine and Romania, the tiny nation of 3.5 million people is caught in a political tug-of-war between Russia and the West. Dodon had come out top in the first round of voting on October 30 with 48 percent ahead of Sandu, a centre-right former education minister who worked for the World Bank, with 38 percent.

They have diametrically opposed visions for Moldova's future. Dodon—who served as economy minister under a communist government between 2006 and 2009—has called for deeper ties and boosting trade with Moscow. Sandu meanwhile had urged a path

towards Europe, calling for the withdrawal of thousands of Russian troops from the Russian-speaking separatist region of Transnistria, which broke away in the early 1990s after a brief civil war. Moldova signed an historic EU association agreement in 2014, and half of its exports now go to the bloc.

The move was bitterly opposed by Russia, which responded with an embargo targeting Moldova's crucial agriculture sector. "Close ties united us with Moldova before but then the scope of our relations slid," Peskov told journalists Monday. "But Russia has always been and remains committed to maintaining ties with Moldova." Both candidates criticized the vote as badly organized, highlighting the shortage of ballot papers for overseas voters. More than 4,000 Moldovan and international observers were on hand to monitor the vote. Turnout was 53.4 percent, the electoral commission said.

Corruption scandals

The vote comes as a Moscow-friendly general also claimed victory in ex-communist Bulgaria's presidential election Sunday, prompting Prime Minister Boyko Borisov to announce his resignation as his nominee was dealt a crushing defeat. Speaking at a polling station on Sunday, Dodon had described his campaign as "against the oligarchs, against those who have robbed our country and want to destroy it." — AFP



KARACHI: People offer funeral prayers for the victims of bomb blast at a shrine, in Karachi, Pakistan. — AP

ISLAMIC STATE FLOURISHES AND RECRUITS IN PAKISTAN

EXTREMISTS ADOPT NEW NAME 'ISLAMIC STATE IN KHORASAN'

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic State group is increasing its presence in Pakistan, recruiting Uzbek militants, attracting disgruntled Taliban fighters and partnering with one of Pakistan's most violent sectarian groups, according to police officers, Taliban 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 Taliban officials said that the attacker was an Uzbek, most likely a member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

Suicide attacks

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 Taliban 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. 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 Taliban 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 Taliban 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.

Significant threat

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 retribu-

tion 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 Taliban, having sworn allegiance to Taliban founder Mullah Mohammed Omar. However, many Uzbek fighters split from the Taliban and declared allegiance to IS last year after it was revealed that Taliban 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 Taliban factions that have sparred with the parent Pakistani Taliban have tended to express public support for ISIS," said Michael Kugelmann, senior associate for South Asia at the US based Wilson Center. "I could certainly envision collusions materializing between disaffected Pakistani Taliban fighters now aligned with ISIS, and Uzbek militants with preexisting ties to the Pakistani Taliban. 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

PAKISTAN ARRESTS 10 FOR FLOGGING TRANSGENDER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani police arrested 10 alleged members of a criminal gang yesterday accused of flogging a transgender woman and posting a video of the abuse on social media, officials said. The arrests were made in the eastern city of Sialkot after a video of the flogging was shared thousands of times on social media, said police official Iqbal Sindhu.

The video shows the gang leader pinning the woman face down on a bed with his foot and beating her with what appears to be a leather belt. At one point, while another gang member continues the flogging, the leader places his foot on the victim's neck and twists her arms. Police chief Abid Khan said five of those arrested have been charged with torture and extortion, while the other five are under investigation.

The alleged gang leader, who identified himself as Jajja, told Dunya News that he

was friends with the victim. "I was punishing him because he didn't refrain from his bad habits, which I pointed out to him several times," he said in an interview conducted while he was in police custody. Transgender people in Pakistan are social outcasts who are often forced into begging, dancing and prostitution to earn money. Fearing attacks, most either change their names or use only one name.

TransAction, a local transgender rights group, posted a video interview with another transgender woman who identified herself as Jolie and said she was present when the attack took place. She said the gang members barged into a house where several transgender women were living, beating and torturing one of them for several hours and shaving the heads of others. Sindhu, the police official, confirmed Jolie was present at the scene. — AP



SIALKOT: People allegedly involved in the flogging of a transgender person arrive at a court in Sialkot, Pakistan yesterday. — AP

PAKISTAN ACCUSES INDIA OF KILLING SEVEN TROOPS

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani military accused India yesterday of killing seven soldiers in cross-border fire in disputed Kashmir, in what appeared to be an unusually high toll after months of surging tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors. "Seven (Pakistani) soldiers embraced shahadat (martyrdom) at the Line of Control (LoC) in Bimber sector in a crossfire LOC violation by Indian troops late last night," the military said in a statement. "Pakistani troops while responding to Indian unprovoked firing targeted Indian posts effectively." There was no immediate response to the allegation from Indian officials.

Tensions across the long-disputed de facto Himalayan border reached dangerous levels in September, when India blamed Pakistani militants for a raid on an army base that killed 19 soldiers. India said it had responded by carrying out "surgical strikes" across the heavily militarized border, sparking a furious reaction from Islamabad, which denied the strikes took place. There have since been repeated outbreaks of cross-border firing, with both sides reporting deaths and injuries including of civilians, though the deaths of seven

soldiers in what appeared to be one such incident is relatively high.

The border skirmishes come against the backdrop of months of protests against Indian rule of Kashmir, sparked by the killing of a popular rebel leader in July. Nearly 90 people, most of them young protesters, have been killed in clashes with security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir since then. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accused India of carrying out the latest cross-border skirmishes in an effort to distract the world's attention from the violent protests. "We are fully capable of defending our soil against any aggression," he added in a statement.

Nearly 90 people, most of them young protesters, have been killed in clashes with security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir since the killing of a popular young rebel leader in July. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the Himalayan territory in full and have fought two wars over the mountainous region. The two sides have also expelled diplomats in a tit-for-tat row that has even spilled into the glamorous world of Bollywood. — AFP



JHELUM: Pakistani army chief Raheel Sharif (4th left) and military officials offer funeral prayers for soldiers who were killed in cross-border firing at the Line of Control (LoC) in Bimber sector, in Jhelum some 120 kms south of Islamabad. — AFP

Announcement: Chaillot Prize 2016

The European Union Delegation to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar announces the launch of the Eighth Edition of the Chaillot Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights in the GCC Region. The Prize honours local civil society organisations, public or private institutions, as well as individuals for their efforts in promoting general awareness of human rights and the rights of vulnerable groups in the GCC region.

In 2016, the Chaillot Prize will be awarded to applicants from the Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Qatar, Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates for actions, campaigns or projects launched (or in progress) after the 1st of January 2016.

The deadline for submitting applications for this year's edition is 28 November 2016. The Prize Winner will be determined by the European Union Delegation in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi in close cooperation with the Embassies of European Union Member States accredited to the GCC countries. An awarding ceremony will be organised in December 2016 to mark the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly, on the 10th of December 1948, at the Palais de Chaillot, in Paris.

Interested candidates are invited to refer to the Award Rules and Procedures and the Application Form published on

<https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/saudi-arabia/>
For questions and clarifications, applicants may call on + 966 11 482 05 7 or write to DELEGATION-SAUDI-ARABIA-HUMAN-RIGHTS@eeas.europa.eu

INDONESIAN TODDLER DIES AFTER CHURCH ATTACK

JAKARTA: An Indonesian toddler died yesterday from injuries sustained in a suspected extremist attack on a church, with a group of militants who support the Islamic State (IS) group detained over the assault. Two-year-old Intan Olivia Marbun was among four small children hurt when an attacker wearing a T-shirt with the word "jihad" on it threw Molotov cocktails at the place of worship on Borneo island from a motorbike on Sunday.

The youngsters, aged between two and four, had been playing in the car park of the church in the city of Samarinda at the time of the attack. Local police spokesman Fajar Setiawan said Marbun suffered extensive burn injuries and respiratory problems, adding: "Unfortunately the doctors could not save the victim... she died early this morning." The other children suf-

fered less serious injuries and were still being treated in hospital but would likely be discharged soon, the spokesman said. Police arrested the suspected attacker, an Islamist militant previously jailed over a parcel bomb plot in 2011, shortly after the assault.

Yesterday they detained five more people as part of their investigation, with national police chief Tito Karnavian describing them as "old players" who also had links to the 2011 plot. All those detained including the attacker were allegedly part of the Jamaah Ansharut Daulah group, a local militant outfit that supports IS.

"Their aim is to incite violence, I urge people to remain calm," said Karnavian. Sunday's attack was just the latest on a church in recent months. In August, an Indonesian teenager who was obsessed with IS stabbed a priest in a church in



SAMARINDA, Indonesia: An Indonesian policeman stands guard outside the Okume Church after a man allegedly threw Molotov cocktails towards it in Samarinda, East Kalimantan. — AFP

the city of Medan on Sumatra island and tried to detonate a homemade bomb.

Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population, has long struggled with Islamic militancy and suffered a string of extremist attacks in the 2000s, including the 2002 Bali bombings that left 202 people dead. A sustained crackdown had weakened the most dangerous networks but IS has proved a potent new rallying cry for the country's radicals.

A suicide bombing and gun attack in the Indonesian capital Jakarta in January, claimed by IS, killed four attackers and four civilians. Religious minorities have also increasingly come under attack in recent times as the influence of hardliners has grown, with Christians, Buddhists and Muslim minorities targeted. — AFP

WIKILEAKS FOUNDER ASSANGE QUESTIONED BY PROSECUTORS

LONDON: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was being questioned by prosecutors yesterday at the Ecuadorian embassy in London in the latest twist in the long-running legal battle over a rape allegation against him. Swedish prosecutor Ingrid Isgren, who will attend while Assange is questioned by an Ecuadorian prosecutor entered the embassy building shortly before 1000 GMT, an AFP photographer said. Assange's lawyer Per Samuelsson said the questioning, which has been delayed in the past because of diplomatic disagreements between Ecuador and Sweden, could last for several days.

A Swedish police inspector will also attend and investigators plan to take a DNA sample from Assange, subject to his agreement. The creator of the secret-spilling website has been holed up in the red-brick building behind Harrods luxury department store for more than four years. The 45-year-old Australian sought refuge in the embassy in June 2012 after Swedish prosecutors issued a European arrest warrant against him, over allegations of rape and sexual assault filed by two women who met Assange during a 2010 trip to Sweden. He denied the claims, saying they were politically motivated, and insisting his sexual encounters with the two women were consensual.

He has refused to travel to Sweden for questioning, fearing he would be extradited to the United States over WikiLeaks' release of 500,000 secret military files on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Swedish prosecutors dropped the sexual assault probe last year after the five-year statute of limitations expired. But they still want to question him about the 2010 rape allegation, which carries a 10-year statute of limitations. "It's planned to last a few days," Samuelsson said, adding that it was too early to say what might arise from the meeting or what would be made public. It will be the first time Assange has been interviewed over the matter since initial questioning by Swedish police at the time

of the allegation. Assange, speaking through his lawyer, has said he welcomes the "chance to clear his name" and hopes the investigation will subsequently close. In May, a Swedish court reaffirmed the arrest order, rejecting the finding of a UN working group that his confinement in the Ecuadorian embassy amounted to arbitrary detention.

Petition for Trump 'pardon'

In the days since the US election, supporters have launched a petition calling on President-elect Donald Trump to pardon Assange by "absolving him of any crimes alleged against him"—an apparent reference to the military leaks. The petition on the change.org website, which has gathered more than 17,700 signatures, hails Assange as a "hero" for exposing the "corruption of those who presume to rule us".

Assange's lawyer said he had made "repeated requests" for an interview with police to address the rape claim, though Ecuadorian prosecutors say a hearing scheduled for October was postponed at the Australian's request. "Julian Assange has always wanted to tell his version to the Swedish police. He wants a chance to clear his name," Samuelsson said. The legal grilling comes after WikiLeaks returned to the spotlight with the leak of tens of thousands of emails from the US Democratic Party and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign in the final weeks of the race for the White House.

Assange defended the publication, denying links with Russia and claims that his website was trying to influence the US vote which saw Trump, a republican, elected. Tensions with his Ecuadorian hosts have been growing, with the leaks prompting the embassy to cut Assange's internet access, citing respect for "non-intervention" in the affairs of other states and their electoral processes. WikiLeaks released medical records in September claiming Assange's mental health was at risk if he remained any longer in the embassy. — AFP



LONDON: Protesters hold banners that read 'Free Assange' outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London yesterday where WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was being questioned over a rape allegation against him. — AFP

LACK OF SCHOOL DRIVES GIRLS INTO ARMED GROUPS IN CONGO'S EAST

DAKAR: Girls in conflict-ravaged eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are joining armed groups because they cannot afford to go to school, while former girl soldiers struggle to return to class amid stigma from their communities, a charity said yesterday. Many girls in the region join militia groups to obtain food and money, to seek protection against violence, or because their families cannot afford to pay their school fees, according to a report by Britain-based Child Soldiers International (CSI).

Eastern Congo is plagued by dozens of armed groups that prey on locals and exploit mineral reserves. Millions died between 1996 and 2003 as a regional conflict caused hunger and disease. Around a third of all children in armed groups in the country are estimated to be girls, who are often married off to militants and are vulnerable to abuse and rape, activists say. "It is deeply shocking that, because their families cannot afford to pay school fees, some girls see joining an armed group as their only option, and decide to throw themselves in harm's way," said Isabelle Guitard, director of programs at CSI.

While primary education is free and

compulsory by law, most schools in Congo charge fees for books and uniforms, CSI said. "Despite the horrific abuse the girls go through while with armed groups, it is the rejection from their families and communities which distresses many of them the most," Guitard told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from London. While civil society groups have had some success in getting boys out of armed groups and into reintegration programs, this shame and fear of rejection back home has kept many girls in the bush, according to CSI's report.

"If we leave the group, we're going to be targeted ... so many girls accept and continue to live with their bush husband," said one of the 150 former girl soldiers interviewed by CSI. Most of these girls said going to school was the best way to regain acceptance from their communities, and that it helped them to deal with trauma suffered while with the armed groups. CSI said it was working with local partners to help former girl soldiers go back to school, provide catch-up sessions and literacy classes for those who have never been educated or who are too old to start. — Reuters



SHANGHAI: A copy of the local Chinese magazine Global People with a cover story that translates to 'Why did Trump win' is seen with a front cover portrait of US president-elect Donald Trump at a news stand in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

IN PHONE CALL, XI TELLS TRUMP COOPERATION IS 'ONLY CHOICE'

TRUMP WILL NOT TREAT BILATERAL TRADE 'CHILDISHLY'

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping told US President-elect Donald Trump that cooperation was the only choice for relations between the world's two largest economies, with Trump saying the two had established a "clear sense of mutual respect". There has been intense speculation over the impact of Trump's win on issues facing the two countries, from global trade and climate change to the security balance in the Asia-Pacific.

Trump lambasted China throughout the US election campaign, drumming up headlines with his pledges to slap 45 percent tariffs on imported Chinese goods and to label the country a currency manipulator on his first day in office. His election has injected uncertainty into relations at a time when Beijing hopes for stability as it faces daunting reform challenges at home, slowing growth and a leadership reshuffle of its own that will put a new party elite around Xi in late 2017.

In their first interaction since the US election, Chinese state media said Xi told Trump in a telephone call yesterday that as the world's largest developing and developed economies, there were many areas where China and the

United States could cooperate. "The facts prove that cooperation is the only correct choice for China and the United States," China Central Television (CCTV) cited Xi as saying. Xi's remarks were a reiteration of phrasing typically used by Beijing to describe bilateral relations.

The two sides must "promote the two countries' economic development and global economic growth" and "push for better development going forward in China-US relations", Xi said. "During the call, the leaders established a clear sense of mutual respect for one another, and President-elect Trump stated that he believes the two leaders will have one of the strongest relationships for both countries moving forward," a statement from Trump's presidential transition office said.

The two agreed to maintain close communications and meet soon, CCTV said. Xi had congratulated Trump in a message delivered shortly after his surprise election victory last week. The Global Times, a nationalist tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper, said if Trump slapped China with heavy tariffs it would "paralyze" bilateral trade. "When the time comes,

large orders for Boeing planes would switch to Europe, US auto sales in China would face setbacks, Apple phones would essentially be crowded out, and US soybeans and corn would be eradicated from China," the paper said in a commentary.

"Trump, coming from a business background, is very astute. We do not believe he will treat China-US trade so childishly," China has signaled it will promote plans for regional trade integration, vowing to seek support for a Beijing-backed Asia-Pacific free trade area at a summit in Peru later this month, after Trump's win dashed hopes for the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Trump's criticism of US allies, including Japan, for free-riding on US security guarantees, has deepened anxiety among Washington's allies about its commitment to post-war security arrangements in the face of a rising China and volatile North Korea. Trump appears to be seeking quick ways to withdraw the United States from a global accord to combat climate change, which has been billed by China and US President Barack Obama as a key area for cooperation. — Reuters

FIRST WOMAN TO FLY CHINA'S J-10 FIGHTER KILLED IN CRASH

BEIJING: The first woman to fly China's J-10 fighter plane was killed in a crash during an aerobatics training exercise, state-run media reported yesterday. Yu Xu, 30, a member of the Chinese air force's "August 1st" aerobatics display team, ejected from her aircraft during a training exercise in the northern province of Hebei at the weekend, the China Daily newspaper said. She hit the wing of another jet and was killed, it said, although her male co-pilot ejected safely and survived. "As one of only four female pilots in the country capable of flying domestically made fighter jets, her death comes as a tremendous loss to the Chinese air force," the Global Times newspaper said.

Yu, from Chongzhou in the southwestern province of Sichuan, joined the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force in 2005, reports said. She graduated from training four years later, one of the first 16 Chinese women pilots qualified to fly fighter jets, the China Daily said, and in July 2012 was the first woman to fly the J-10. Fans dubbed her the "golden peafowl", it added.

Yu was seen as a pioneering trailblazer in a country which enshrines women's rights but where traditional values are still widespread.

Users on the Twitter-like Weibo social media service posted pictures of candles in her memory, with thousands mourning her death. "We praise her not as an individual, but for the spirit she transmitted to us, becoming the ideal vehicle for everyone's hopes," wrote one user. Others raised questions about the crash. "Rather than stirring up emotion, the most important thing is to investigate why this accident occurred, was it a problem with the design problem in the fighter, or in the rules of operation, or in inadequate training," wrote one. "Only by ascertaining the causes can we ensure it doesn't happen again."

Jumpsuits and sunglasses

Yu rose to become a flight squadron leader and according to the Global Times dreamed of becoming an astronaut. She was one of two female members of the August 1st team—named for the date of the founding of the PLA—pictured at China's premier air

show in Zhuhai two years ago. The pair strode to their fighter planes in lock-step with male pilots, all wearing identical green jumpsuits and sunglasses. At the time the China Daily newspaper quoted Wang Yan'an, deputy editor of

Aerospace Knowledge magazine, as saying: "Female pilots have learned to fly cutting-edge fighter jets in the Chinese air force. It means the air force has diversified its pilot pool and can recruit more female pilots." — AFP



ZHUHAI: Photo shows Chinese female J-10 fighter pilot Yu Xu getting ready to perform at the Airshow China in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong province. The first woman to fly China's J-10 fighter plane was killed in a crash during an aerobatics training exercise, state-run media reported yesterday. — AFP

UAE JAILS EMIRATIS UP TO 10 YRS FOR ISLAMIST LINKS

ABU DHABI: A UAE court yesterday jailed two Emiratis up to 10 years for their links to a "terrorist" organization seen as a branch of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, media said. The first defendant was handed a 10-year jail term after he was convicted of playing a "leading role" in a "banned secret group", the official WAM news agency reported. The local Gulf News daily said in its online edition that he was found guilty of joining the outlawed Al-Islah group, which authorities accuse of activities aimed at overthrowing the government and seizing power. He will remain under surveillance for three years after serving his prison term, both sources said.

The same Abu Dhabi-based Federal Supreme Court sentenced another Emirati to seven years in prison after it convicted him of joining the same organization, running one of its offices in the Gulf country, and promoting its ideology, the sources said. The United Arab Emirates in 2013 sentenced 69 activists to up to 15 years each in

jail following a mass trial that saw them convicted for their links to Al-Islah. The trial was the largest in the history of the UAE, where authorities have cracked down on dissent and calls for democratic reform in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings that swept other countries.

Also yesterday, the same court sentenced a citizen from Comoros Islands to three years in jail after he was found guilty of promoting the Islamic State group, the Gulf News said. The man drew slogans and symbols on public law promoting the jihadist group as well as "slandering and degrading phrases about state officials", it added. The United Arab Emirates is a member of the US-led coalition that has been bombing IS jihadists in Iraq and Syria since Sept 2014. Authorities in the Gulf state have enacted anti-terror legislation, including the death penalty and harsher jail terms for crimes linked to religious hatred and extremist groups. — AFP



The "supermoon" is covered by clouds behind the skyline of Frankfurt yesterday. — AFP

RUSSIAN FIGHTER CRASHES IN MED

MOSCOW: Russia's defense ministry said Monday that a fighter jet crashed while attempting to land on the Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean off Syria, but the pilot survived. In a statement to Russian news agencies, the defense ministry said the MiG-29K fighter crashed due to a "technical fault" a few kilometres from the carrier. The pilot ejected and was recovered and taken aboard the ship. "The pilot's health is in no danger. The pilot is ready to carry out missions," the ministry said, quoted by Interfax news agency.

The defense ministry did not say when the incident occurred, but said the plane was taking part in training flights. It stressed that flights were still going ahead from

the aircraft carrier despite the accident. "The flights of aircraft from the carrier are continuing in accordance with the set tasks," it said. The ministry released a statement after US broadcaster Fox News reported the crash, citing US officials.

The MiG-29K is a multi-functional plane developed in the Soviet era and is used to strike targets both in the air and on the ground. Russia acquired 24 MiG fighters last year. It also deploys Sukhoi bomber planes in Syria. The Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier arrived in the eastern Mediterranean off the Syrian coast as part of a flotilla of ships sent to reinforce Russia's military in the area, its commander confirmed on state television. — AFP

SKYGAZERS GAWK AT EXTRA BRIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

Tourists, office workers and couples crowded the Hong Kong waterfront as the supersized moon rose over the skyscrapers of the financial hub, while further north in the Chinese capital Beijing the moon climbed spectacularly over the city's skyline. "I've never seen a moon this big," said Lee Pak-kan, 44, who was watching at the Hong Kong waterfront. "The moon is quite orange too... it's quite special!"

In the Taiwanese capital Taipei, more than 100 people queued up to get a look at the spectacle through telescopes outside a major public hall, while others flocked to the city's landmark Taipei 101 skyscraper - one of the world's tallest buildings - to witness the supermoon. "It's quite moving, to see it up close. It's so big, so round, so bright," said Julia Lee, who was peering through a telescope outside the hall.

The supermoon was visible across much of India although residents of New Delhi, the world's most polluted capital, struggled to see it clearly through the toxic smog that has been shrouding the city in recent weeks. Meanwhile, professional astronomers were at the ready at observatories across the region to explain

the phenomenon to curious members of the public. In Thailand, astrologers were variously predicting the supermoon would bring disaster or great fortune.

Soraja Nuan-yoo, renowned for predicting the 2004 tsunami that killed many in Thailand and other countries round the Indian Ocean, warned that when the moon gets close to the Earth, "natural disasters happen". The supermoon also means a stronger high tide, something that gets surfers giddy with excitement, not only at the prospect of riding bigger waves, but doing so at night.

Forecasters had predicted higher than usual tides on Indonesia's Bali, a favorite with surfers. But the holiday island was overcast and rainy when the moon rose, with surfers deciding not to take to the waters. Astronomers say it can be hard to notice that the moon appears brighter than usual. Once it is high in the sky, it can be hard to tell it is larger but on the horizon, it could appear quite spectacular. To get the best view, Pascal Descamps of the Paris Observatory recommended that people choose somewhere with a well-known landmark in the foreground. Supermoons are actually quite common - there is one every 14 months on average. "But some supermoons are more super than others," said Descamps. —AFP

DASHTI OUT OF ELECTION RACE AFTER FINAL...

Continued from Page 1

Dahoum, who was speaking at the election headquarters of former Islamist opposition MP Osama Al-Munawer, urged those who win in the elections not to vote for Marzouq Al-Ghanem as the next speaker, adding that he will not vote for him if elected.

Former Islamist MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei also urged voters to vote for good candidates who will serve the interests of the people. He said a law passed by the previous Assembly to bar those convicted over religious offences and insulting HH the Amir from public office was especially designed to prevent former opposition MP Musallam Al-Barrak, currently in jail, from

contesting the polls. Tabtabaei also strongly condemned some members of the previous house on their position on the trial of 25 Kuwaitis and an Iranian for spying for Iran and Hezbollah.

Candidate Saud Busaleeb charged that the government's economic reform plan is a cover to end subsidies on commodities and services and this will result in increasing the financial burden on citizens. Former MP Adnan Abdulsamad defended the dissolved Assembly, saying that it made some great achievements and people opposed to it are essentially against the single-vote election system. Abdulsamad said that people are becoming increasingly frustrated from the election process because of repeated polls, as this will be the seventh general elections in a decade.

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Focus

OBAMA ON FAREWELL
TOUR TO EU FEARFUL
OF 'TRUMP EFFECT'

Barack Obama travelled yesterday to Greece and Germany in a final official visit designed, in a strange bit of political contortion, at reassuring worried Europeans about a man he once warned was "unfit" for the presidency: Donald Trump. The irony is cruel: In the name of a peaceful transition, the American president, having thoroughly denounced the billionaire Republican during the recent campaign, must now do his best to reassure his European counterparts about the future of American democracy under a President Trump.

"I think the design of the trip was meant to just give everybody some reassurance that we made it through this campaign and we're going to come out of it all right," said Heather Conley of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, in Washington. "We just have a different scenario now." The bombastic populist, whose victory over Hillary Clinton surprised virtually everyone, has given Europeans ample cause for concern. He has questioned the relevance of some of America's paramount alliances, starting with NATO; put the Paris climate-change accord in doubt by calling global warming "a hoax," and sharply criticized the strenuously negotiated pact that Washington and five other countries signed with Iran to curb its nuclear program.

Trump's attitude toward Russian President Vladimir Putin - the New York mogul called him "a leader, far more than our president has been a leader" - is deeply concerning in Europe, particularly in small countries like the Baltic nations living in Russia's shadow. Beyond the many concerns over the future of American foreign policy, many European Union countries are bracing for a possible ripple effect of the outspoken Republican's victory.

"They are very worried, because the same populist, nationalist expressions" that Trump exposed in America on immigration and trade could amplify the already "very strong political currents within Europe," Conley said. She noted that several European countries have important elections coming up, not least of them the French presidential election next spring.

In Greece today for his first visit there, Obama is set to meet with President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Security will be tight in central Athens, with thousands of police officers on the streets and traffic cut off for several hours. Civil servants, communists, far-left groups and anarchists all plan to hold demonstrations as Obama swings through the Greek capital.

The Roots of Populism

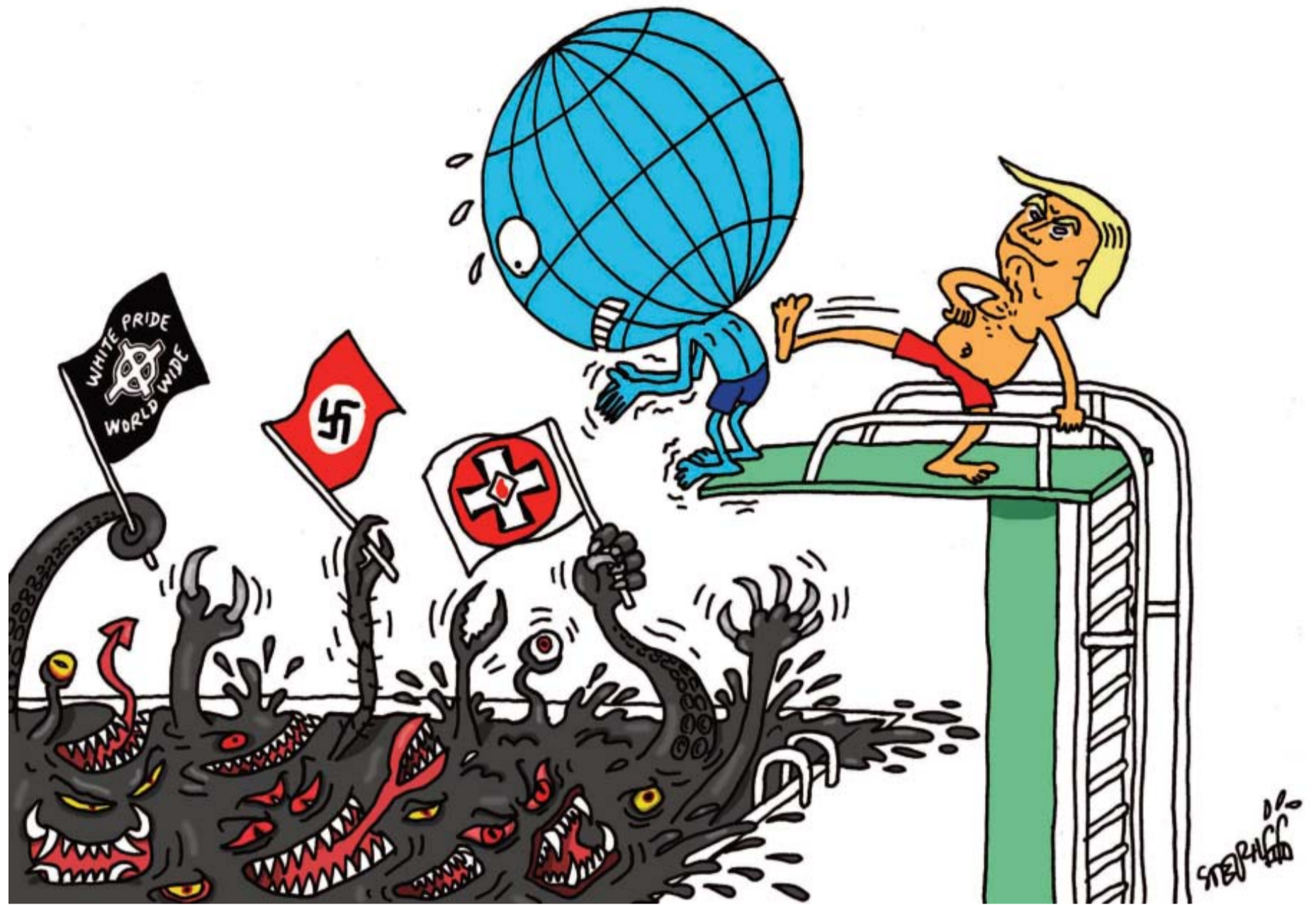
During a day heavy with symbolism, Obama tomorrow will visit the Parthenon in Athens, then deliver a speech - sure to have considerable resonance, given the recent US elections - on the challenges of globalization. His advisers, pointing to the results of that election but also to the equally stunning British vote to leave the European Union, said the US president would offer his thoughts on the reasons so many people in the world feel "like decisions are made beyond their control."

Speaking at the United Nations in September, at a time when the US presidential campaign was in full stride but a Trump victory seemed anything but certain, Obama had called on his fellow leaders to come to grips with the rising frustrations fueling populist movements. He warned them against succumbing to a "soulless capitalism that benefits only the few." "Twenty-five years after the Cold War, the world is less violent and more prosperous," he said, "and yet there is uncertainty and strife." "This is the paradox that defines our world today," he said, stressing that a world in which one percent of the people control as much wealth as the other 99 percent can never be stable.

For his sixth visit to Germany since coming to power in 2009, the Democratic president will again meet with Chancellor Angela Merkel, long one of his closest foreign partners, according to Ben Rhodes, the US national security adviser. The day after his election, the chancellor pointedly reminded Trump of the criteria that have long bound the two countries in close cooperation: "Democracy, freedom, as well as respect for the rule of law and the dignity of each and every person, regardless of their origin, skin color, creed, gender, sexual orientation or political views."

Obama will also meet in Germany with French President Francois Hollande - who once said Trump's "excesses" made people "want to retch" - British Prime Minister Theresa May, and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. The leaders plan to discuss the crises in Syria and Ukraine, as well as the fight against the Islamic State group. The American president will conclude his trip with a stop in Peru for a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC). Among the leaders he is expected to meet there is President Xi Jinping of China. —AFP

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MALAYSIA CHILD ABUSE GOES UNPUNISHED

Most complaints of child sexual abuse in Malaysia do not lead to successful prosecutions, largely due to weaknesses in the nation's criminal justice system, police, lawmakers and child welfare groups say. According to classified data Malaysian police compiled and shared with Reuters, 12,987 cases of child sexual abuse were reported to police between January 2012 and July of this year. Charges were filed in 2,189 cases, resulting in just 140 convictions.

The data doesn't show how many people were involved, or what happened in the cases where there were no convictions after charges were filed. No details were disclosed in the cases where there were convictions. Child rights advocates have long pushed the government to publicly disclose data on child sexual abuse to increase awareness so action can be taken to address what they call a growing problem.

A veil was lifted in June when a British court handed Richard Huckle 22 life sentences for abusing up to 200 babies and children, mostly in Malaysia, and sharing images of his crimes on the dark Web. The reason the Malaysian government doesn't publish child sexual abuse data is because it is protected under Malaysia's Official Secrets Act. The government provides data on child abuse only at the request of a member of parliament.

"We don't want people to misinterpret it," said Ong Chin Lan, the head of the Sexual, Women and Children Investigation Division of the Malaysian national police. The government doesn't want to unduly alarm the public about possibly high numbers of child abuse cases, she explained. It is unclear how Malaysia's number of reported cases compares with its neighbors, some of whom are also reluctant to disclose a high incidence of child sexual abuse.

Thailand's government declined to provide data to Reuters. A senior health ministry official, who did not want to be identified, said it could "make Thailand look bad". Cambodia, long known as a destination for travelling pedophiles, also does not disclose official data.

Criminal Justice Weakness

Weak policing and child protection laws make it difficult to punish child abusers in Malaysia, leading to inadequate investigations and low convictions on the reported cases, according to officials and child welfare groups Reuters interviewed. They also say a significant number of child sexual abuse cases are never reported because of taboos around child sex abuse and mistrust of authorities. In 17 years of operation, PS the Children, Malaysia's biggest NGO dealing with child abuse, has seen zero convictions on the cases it has handled, its founder Madeleine Yong told Reuters.

"There needs to be improvement in the criminal justice system if we want to encourage more people to report, otherwise we will re-victimize the child," she said. Ong at the sexual crimes unit said police take every case of child sexual abuse seriously and "all cases are investigated in detail". Police blame weak laws and rules governing court evidence that give little weight to children's testimony as the reason most cases never result in charges.

Malaysia does not have a law specifically prohibiting child pornography and defines rape narrowly as penile penetration. "Grooming" - touching and befriending children as a prelude to sexual abuse - draws no legal penalties. By contrast, Indonesia's parliament has passed legislation authorizing chemical castration, minimum sentences and even execution for convicted pedophiles. Thailand introduced stricter laws against child pornography last year.

A Child Sexual Crimes bill, expected to be introduced to parliament by the end of the year, would widen the definition of sexual crimes to include online abuse, and make such crimes easier to prosecute. It would also set up a special court to deal with child sex abuse cases more quickly.

The Dark Web

Foreign pedophiles could be targeting Malaysia as other countries around the region strengthen child protection laws and step up enforcement, some experts said. Snow White Smelser, program officer at the child

sex offences team in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) East Asia headquarters in Bangkok, said pedophiles compare notes and share information online about countries, where they can operate most freely.

Elena Martellozzo, a London-based criminologist who specializes in child sex abuse on the internet, said Huckle could have chosen Malaysia "because it was not on the radar, or perhaps it's where he found it easier to get work permits, visas and some work opportunities". Typically, children are sexually abused by someone they know - a neighbor, a relative, a caregiver, or someone like Huckle, who according to court testimony groomed children in an impoverished ethnic Indian neighborhood in Kuala Lumpur.

But increasingly, pedophile activity is moving into the online world, police say. Australian detectives who investigate pedophiles in the region believe Malaysia has become one of Southeast Asia's biggest centers for the transmission of child pornography on the Internet. Team Argos, the Australian detective unit that found Huckle in the dark web in late 2014, made a startling discovery from the team's scouring of online pedophile networks: The unusual number of Internet addresses in the Kuala Lumpur area transmitting child sexual abuse material from the dark Web.

The dark Web is a vast virtual space within the Internet, which requires special encryption tools to access. The Brisbane, Australia-based detectives found 1,000 transmissions of child pornographic materials from the Malaysian capital over a 24-hour period last year, according to Argos data provided by the UNODC. It was the second-largest transmission location in Southeast Asia after Bangkok's 1,800 - Bangkok's population of 8.2 million is more than four times that of Kuala Lumpur's.

The Malaysian capital is a "high concern" location for the distribution of child sexual abuse materials, said Smelser at the UNODC. Ong at the child sex crime unit said Malaysian police can't properly monitor the encrypted pedophile networks. "We do not have expertise in handling the dark Web. We get alerted from our counterparts overseas," she said. —Reuters

COALITION ADVISERS HELP FIGHT FOR RAQQA

On the roof of a house in northern Syria, a foreign soldier from the US-led coalition against the Islamic State group monitors progress towards the militant bastion of Raqqa. He is one of a few dozen advisers from the international coalition helping a Kurdish-Arab alliance known as the Syrian Democratic Forces advance towards IS' Syrian stronghold. The advisers are leery of journalists, demanding that an AFP photographer stop taking photographs and leave when they spot him.

SDF sources say that around 50 foreign troops are involved in the operation, which began on Nov 6, primarily to guide anti-IS coalition air strikes. AFP journalists on the ground have seen soldiers with US markings on their uniforms, along with others speaking French. The coalition's press office declined to detail the number of its forces on the ground, or their nationalities, but confirmed they were playing a wide-ranging role in the fight for Raqqa.

"As part of the coalition's commitment to advise, assist and accompany the SDF, we are asked to help with operational planning, the coordination of air strikes, arranging troop movements, training and supplying equipment to the SDF for the isolation of Raqqa," a spokesperson told AFP. In the village of Al-Huriya, one adviser peers through binoculars at the fighting in the nearby village of Al-Heisha, which SDF fighters eventually wrenched from IS control on Friday. On radios, SDF fighters can be heard relaying details to commanders about their progress and where they might need help from the coalition aircraft flying constantly overhead.

'Civilian Human Shields'

"The forces advancing on the ground give us coordinates close to the targets," says SDF commander Ahmed Osman, in the yard of another house that has been turned into a command center. "They calculate the distances between them and the mercenaries and work out where the fire is coming from, then they send us the coordinates and we transmit them to the coalition so the targets are hit." The strikes are sometimes used against one of IS' favored weapons: Suicide car bombs. "Sometimes we take them out with our

weapons, but other times coalition aircraft strike them after we tell them the coordinates," Osman says.

The US-led coalition began strikes in Syria in Sept 2014, and has worked closely with Syrian Kurdish-led forces to push IS from large swathes of territory. Such cooperation has angered Washington's NATO ally Turkey, which considers the main Syrian Kurdish YPG militia a "terrorist" group, and is currently waging its own offensive inside Syria, targeting both IS and the Kurds. On the ground, SDF vehicles speed through the desert towards the front line, despite the

mortar rounds IS fires as it struggles to hang on to Al-Heisha.

"Our comrades are preparing for an attack, and the mercenaries are firing mortars, but planes are over the region now," says Akid Kobane, another SDF commander. Kobane says the air strikes are a key part of the SDF assault, considered a precise way to target IS while minimizing civilian casualties. "IS is using civilians as human shields," he says. "We're not using heavy weapons in the battle for Raqqa, we're relying on personal weapons and the coalition's strikes."

Concealing Car Bombs

In a bid to protect themselves, some civilians have raised white flags on their roofs, but there have been allegations of civilian deaths in air strikes. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, reported at least 20 civilians killed in coalition strikes on Al-Heisha on Nov 9. An SDF spokeswoman at the time dismissed the report as IS propaganda, although the coalition said it was investigating the incident. Civilians who have fled the fighting confirm that IS is embedded among local residents.

"There are always strikes on areas where Daesh (IS) is present... and Daesh hides itself, even among children," says 38-year-old Amsha at a makeshift camp for displaced civilians outside the town of Ain Issa, around 50 km north of Raqqa. "Our children are terrified when the planes are overhead. We've a little girl who shrieks 'Plane, plane!' each time she hears one and runs to hide," she says. "Daesh would hide explosive-packed cars between houses to try to conceal them from the planes," adds Ghada, in her twenties. "The militants would tell us they had no problem dying, so why would they care if civilians are killed alongside them?" —AFP



Fighters from a Kurdish-Arab alliance known as the Syrian Democratic Forces are seen in the northern Syrian village of Al-Huriya on Nov 11, 2016 near the frontline of fighting against militants of the Islamic State group. —AFP

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RENAULT AL BABBAIN, MAIN PARTNER OF 2016 NBK WALKATHON

KUWAIT: Renault Al Babbain has announced its major partnership of the 22nd NBK walkathon scheduled to kick off on December 3rd, 2016. Titled, 'We Are Stronger With each Step' organized by the National Bank of Kuwait, this will be Renault Al Babbain's 2nd consecutive year to take a major part in this initiative in strong support of the organiza-

tion's passion for life and healthy living. Al Babbain has always proudly worked with key local partners, who like us, share the responsibility of spreading awareness on the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Al Babbain thrilled to support the Walkathon, which is by far the most popular and awaited walkathon in the country, that

continues to grow year after year. Participants will also be entering a draw for three exciting prizes Three 2016 Renault Captur vehicles. The Renault models will be displayed inside the registration tent for viewing. The participants expected to reach record numbers this year will be joined by several public figures, NBK senior

officials along with Al Babbain's senior representatives and will begin the race along the scenic coastline area of the Arabian Gulf Road, assisted by NBK volunteers and amidst cheering fans, relatives and friends. This partnership with NBK coincides with Renault Al Babbain's health awareness month making it an ideal fit within

Renault Al Babbain's on-going partnership portfolio. This partnership continues Al Babbain's long-standing tradition of contributing to a wide variety of local sporting activities. Registration for the NBK Annual Walkathon has already started at the scientific center and will end on December 1.



SAO PAULO: Williams Martini Racing's Brazilian driver Felipe Massa, holding his country's flag, greets fans after his final appearance at Interlagos circuit before retirement, at the end of the Brazilian Grand Prix in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday. —AFP

BRAZIL'S MASSA CRASHES BUT GETS WARM FAREWELL AT HOME

SAO PAULO: Williams' veteran driver Felipe Massa failed to finish his last race in front of his home crowd at Interlagos on Sunday, but he still earned a warm and emotional goodbye.

In a Brazilian Grand Prix deeply impacted by rain, Massa crashed out in the 48th of 71 laps when he was in 14th position. In tears, the 35-year-old driver walked through the pit lane wrapped in a Brazilian flag and was greeted by his wife Anna Raffaella, his son Felipeinho, a rowdy local crowd and members of all teams.

"I am leaving with my head up and my heart still aching," Massa told reporters by the pit lane.

"I apologize to this crowd, this is not the result that I expected here. I can only thank them for the love, for all the emotions that I felt." The Brazilian driver also said he expects to be part of a different racing series next year, without providing further details.

Massa has 11 Grand Prix career wins, including two in Brazil. Two weeks from now, he will make his final appearance in a

Formula 1 car at the season-fincher in Abu Dhabi, after reaching his 250th start.

Massa's F1 career began in 2002 as a member of Sauber. He shone at Ferrari, the team that gave him his best chance at the title race in 2008. At a Brazilian GP that he won, Massa lost the crown to Lewis Hamilton after the British driver made a key overtake on the very last lap.

One year later Massa's life was put at serious risk after he was struck on the head by a wheel at the Hungarian Grand Prix. He stayed in the hospital for days.

Massa joined Williams in 2014. In the current season he is 11th with 51 points. With his retirement and the difficulties for Felipe Nasr of Sauber to renew his contract, there is a chance that no Brazilian drivers will be on the grid in 2017. That would be the first time in 48 years. There are no other Brazilian drivers in Europe being considered for a place at the moment. Sunday's race was won by three-time series champion Hamilton, forcing a showdown for the season title with Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg in Abu Dhabi. —AP

PEREZ WINS BY TWO SHOTS IN MEXICO

PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Pat Perez won the OHL Classic at Mayakoba on Sunday in his third start since returning from shoulder surgery. Perez closed with a 4-under 67 for a two-stroke victory over third-round leader Gary Woodland on the Greg Norman-designed El Camaleon course. Perez finished at 21-under 263. Perez had surgery on his shoulder in February. He returned with a tie for 33rd in Malaysia, and tied for seventh last week in Las Vegas.

Perez shot a 62 on Saturday to pull within a stroke of Woodland. The 40-year-old former Arizona State player birdied five of the first eight holes and had a bogey on the par-4 12th.

He also won the 2009 Bob Hope Classic. Woodland birdied the final two holes for a 70. Russell Knox was third at 18 under after a 66.

CHARLES SCHWAB CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

Paul Goydos and Bernhard Langer got the big trophies and checks in the PGA Tour Champions' season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Goydos completed a wire-to-wire victory in the tournament, and Langer finished second to win his third straight season points title and fourth overall.

Goydos shot a 4-under 66 to finish at 15-under 195 on Desert Mountain's Cochise Course. He opened with a 62 in windy conditions and shot a 67 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead in the final round. Langer had a 64. Recovering from a left knee injury that forced him to withdraw from the playoff opener at Sherwood, the 59-year-old German star won the \$1 million annuity as the Charles Schwab Cup season champion and also topped the tour with four victories and \$3,016,959.

Colin Montgomerie had a 68 to finish third at 11 under. The 52-year-old Goydos earned \$440,000. He also won the Dick's Sporting Goods Open in July in New York and has four victories on the 50-and-over tour. He won twice on the PGA Tour.

CITIBANAMEX LORENA OCHOA INVITATIONAL

Carlota Ciganda rallied to win the Citibanamex Lorena Ochoa Invitational for her second LPGA Tour victory in four starts. The 26-year-old Spaniard shot a 4-under 68 at Club de Golf Mexico for a two-stroke victory over six players. She played the four par-5 holes in 5 under, making an eagle on No. 2 and birdies on 6, 11 and 17. Ciganda won the LPGA KEB-Hana Bank Championship a month ago in South Korea for her first tour title. The former Arizona State player has five straight top-10 finishes.

Ciganda won a year after finishing second



PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Pat Perez of the United States holds up his trophy after he won the OHL Classic at Mayakoba golf tournament in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, Sunday. — AP

Inbee Park on the tree-lined course. Third-round leader Austin Ernst had a 71 to drop into a tie for second with Angela Stanford (69), Jodi Ewart Shadoff (67), Karine Icher (69) and Sarah Jane Smith (70). Tournament host Ochoa won 27 LPGA Tour titles. The Mexican star retired in 2010. She will be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame next year.

NEDBANK GOLF CHALLENGE

Alex Noren rallied to win the Nedbank Golf

Challenge, rebounding for a third-round 75 with a 63 for a six-stroke victory.

The 34-year-old Swede has four European Tour victories this season. Noren was 9 under through the first 11 holes at Gary Player Country Club. He finished at 14-under 274 and earned \$1.16 million to move into third place in the Race to Dubai standings entering the season-ending World Tour Championship next week in Dubai. Third-round leader Jeunghun Wang of South Korea had a 75 to finish second. — AP

JAPAN AHEAD OF ENGLAND AS WCUP HOSTS: RUGBY CHIEF

LONDON: World Rugby's chief executive tried to allay fears about Japan's readiness to stage the 2019 World Cup, saying yesterday the country was three years ahead of where 2015 hosts England were at the same point.

There was consternation last year when the original plan for the redevelopment of Yokohama Stadium—the main venue for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and 2019 Rugby World Cup final—was abandoned because of spiralling construction costs.

This led to speculation that the first Rugby World Cup in Asia could be moved to one of rugby union's more established nations. But World Rugby CEO Brett Gosper said feedback from "everyone down" from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had convinced him that Yokohama, scene of the 2002 football World Cup final, would be ready to stage the climax of the 2019 rugby showpiece.

"We were out there a couple of months ago for a formal review," Gosper told reporters on the sidelines of the World Rugby conference in London. "From the prime minister down we got a good sense of momentum. We are happy with Yokohama."

Organisers of the 2015 World Cup in

England—where Japan caused one of the all-time great upsets by beating South Africa—were widely praised for delivering a successful tournament on and off the field.

But Gosper said Japan was primed to deliver in its own right. "There is a lot of excitement in Japan," the Australian said. "They're ahead of England at this stage of the preparations, three years out, on most of the criteria."

Gosper's comments were endorsed by World Rugby chairman Bill Beaumont, who said he had been pleased by what he saw on his visits to Japan. "I was both impressed by the passion and the expertise," Beaumont, captain of England's 1980 Grand Slam-winning side, said.

"Japan will be groundbreaking for the sport of rugby in terms of attracting new fans and players in Asia as they look to the 'Land of the Rising Scrum'."

'NO EASY SOLUTION'

While upbeat about Japan's progress, the 64-year-old said solving the thorny issue of a global rugby calendar, another major task in his in-tray when he succeeded France's Bernard Lapasset in July, was proving more difficult.

A global calendar aligning the northern and

southern hemisphere rugby union seasons has long been seen as a way of bringing more order to a congested fixture list and easing the demands on top players.

"It's challenging," said Beaumont. "I came in thinking it was something I could sort out pretty quickly, but I found otherwise. It is a case of one step back and one step forwards. I'm hopeful that by early next year we'll reach a solution, but there is no easy solution."

Former lock Beaumont, who played 41 Tests — 34 for England and seven for the British and Irish Lions—said the physical demands of rugby made it impossible for the sport to copy football's schedule. "Our number one priority is player welfare, we can't play more than once a week."

"We're not like soccer where a player in the Premier League can fly to Chile and play an international on Tuesday and come back and play for his club on the Saturday."

'OLYMPIC HALO'

But Beaumont was unequivocal about the success of the Olympic debut of rugby sevens at this year's Games in Rio, saying it had done wonders for the sport's profile. — AFP

BRAZIL'S F1 FUTURE REMAINS CLOUDY AFTER WET THRILLER

SAO PAULO: Lewis Hamilton emphasised how much the Brazilian Grand Prix meant to him after winning in the wet on Sunday, but the race's future on the Formula One calendar remains clouded by uncertainty. "I just assume this is going to be on the grand prix calendar because it is one of the best races," said the triple champion after succeeding at Interlagos, his boyhood idol Ayrton Senna's home track, for the first time. "It is part of the heritage of Formula One. We cannot lose this grand prix."

Despite the Mercedes driver's words, the chances of Brazil remaining on the calendar remain very much a 'maybe' due to the country's ongoing economic crisis. Brazil will also have only one driver next year, in an uncompetitive car, and even that is not certain with Felipe Nasr yet to be confirmed by struggling Sauber. The atmospheric amphitheatre has an asterisk against it, along with Canada and Germany, on the 2017 draft calendar and commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone is not sounding positive. "I think we may well be able to sort Canada out, possibly, but the other two..." the Briton told Reuters with a shrug.

The final calendar, currently 21 races, will be published in December. Interlagos, with fans exposed to the elements and the track close by slums on one side, has undergone an upgrade to the cramped pits and paddock area but there is always more to do. "They've done a good job, but it needed to be done," commented Ecclestone, who is married to a Brazilian and owns a ranch in the country.

The 86-year-old Briton said long-standing talks with Argentina, which last hosted a race in 1998, could lead to another South American option but "it would be good not to lose this race". Canadian promoters have sounded optimistic about keeping their grand prix but the prospects for Germany, a home race for champions Mercedes and Ferrari's four-times champion Sebastian Vettel, do not look good. "Trouble is it's all commercial. If they can't make it work commercially they will stop," Ecclestone said of Germany. Hockenheim held the race this year but has been reluctant to do so in successive seasons unless the hosting fees are frozen, while the Nuerburgring has balked at the cost. —Reuters

FIRST PAKISTAN TEST STILL ON AFTER NEW ZEALAND QUAKE

WELLINGTON: The first test between New Zealand and Pakistan is scheduled to go ahead this week after engineers checked the safety of the Christchurch cricket venue following a massive earthquake that rattled the centre of the country early yesterday.

The powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake pummeled central New Zealand's South Island, killing at least two people, damaging roads and buildings and set-

ting off hundreds of strong aftershocks.

It was felt strongly in Christchurch, South Island's largest city, which was hit by a 6.3 quake in 2011 that killed 185 people. New Zealand Cricket officials told reporters in Christchurch yesterday the match would go ahead. Both teams arrived in the city on Monday, with the Pakistan side arriving from Nelson, where they felt the tremors.

"It was pretty scary, it really was,"

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur told TVNZ. "We were on the seventh floor of the hotel and it was pretty scary."

"The boys all raced down stairs and most of the guys slept in the team room last night. They were a bit scared to go back up to their rooms."

New Zealand bowler Matt Henry, who lives in Christchurch, added he had been woken by the initial quake, which struck shortly after midnight yesterday.

"I was just laying in bed and woke up to quite a long rumble, so a bit scary," Henry told reporters.

"They are obviously a bit hard to get used to. You kind of sit there waiting to see if you need to react or if you can sit tight. It was quite a long rumble this one." With parts of north Canterbury and around the tourist town of Kaikoura devastated, Henry said he hoped the test would help bring people together.

"I think (cricket) always brings a community together," Henry said. "For a brief moment, you can get back to a bit of normality. It's probably good timing to have the test match this week and it will be a really good occasion."

Henry said his team mates would be conscious of safety concerns at their hotel in Christchurch. "I'm sure a lot of them will want to stay on the lower levels," he added. — Reuters

LUCK DESERTS WARNER AS PROTEAS MAINTAIN GRIP

HOBART: Luck deserted Australia in their desperate bid to salvage the second Test with South Africa snaring the vital wicket of David Warner in unfortunate circumstances in Hobart yesterday.

Warner, who was seeking redemption after his reckless dismissal in the opening over of the first innings, lost his wicket while at the forefront of Australia's fight-back. At stumps on the third day the home side were 121 for two, still 120 runs behind the Proteas, who have been in control of the Test since routing Australia for 85 on Saturday.

Usman Khawaja was unbeaten on 56, his ninth Test half-century, with skipper Steve Smith not out 18. Warner flung his head back in despair when a ball from Kyle Abbott hit his hip and ricocheted off an elbow onto his stumps when he was on 45. It gave the Proteas a huge fillip after Warner and Khawaja had recovered the innings with a 79-run stand after the loss of Joe Burns in the first over.

Burns lasted just four balls before he was caught behind, tickling at one wide down the leg-side from Abbott.

"We've done well with the bat, two unlucky dismissals, but that happens in cricket and the boys have shown some good fight, digging in even though the ball is nipping around a fair bit," Australian pacesman Josh Hazlewood said. "A really good partnership in the morning, a good first hour and that will go a long way to having a good day tomorrow."

Khawaja played some lovely shots in his vigil, providing great support for his captain Smith, who top scored with an unbeaten 48 in the first innings shambles. Australia face a mighty struggle to prevent South Africa, already 1-0 up,

from claiming their third successive series in Australia with only next week's day-night third Test in Adelaide still to play. South Africa earlier extended their first innings lead to 241 before they were all out for 326 with Quinton de Kock plundering a century and Hazlewood finishing with six for 89.

After Sunday's second day was washed out, the Australians chased early wickets but de Kock and Bavuma batted South Africa into a position of strength with a century stand.

The swashbuckling wicketkeeper, likened to Australian Test great Adam Gilchrist, was bowled by Hazlewood just before lunch for 104 off 143 balls with 17 boundaries.

His stand of 144 with Bavuma was the highest by a visiting team in Hobart for the sixth wicket.

"Obviously, I'm happy with what we've done and what we've achieved, but the game has only gone past halfway and we still have a lot to do," de Kock said.

"The Aussies looked very determined in their second innings so we have a lot to play for."

De Kock has scored 540 runs in 2016 in just nine Test innings and leads the year's international averages with 80 having been unbeaten twice.

He became only the fourth South African to register 50 or more in five consecutive Tests after he swept spinner Nathan Lyon for four over wide mid-on. Shortly after lunch, Tembo Bavuma was surprised by a rearing delivery to spoon an easy catch to Nathan Lyon at point and give Joe Mennie his first Test wicket for 74. Vernon Philander was the last man out for 32 off 28 balls, caught behind off Hazlewood. — AFP



HARARE: Zimbabwe bowler Tinashe Panyangara is in action during the opening match of an ODI series Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe in Harare, yesterday. —AFP

S LANKA THRASH ZIMBABWE BY EIGHT WICKETS IN ODI

HARARE: A change of format could not bring a change in fortunes for Zimbabwe, as Sri Lanka thrashed them by eight wickets in the first match of a one-day international triangular series at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Four days after Sri Lanka sealed a 2-0 Test series sweep, the tourists bowled Zimbabwe out for 154 before chasing their target inside 25 overs to claim a bonus-point victory.

As with the Test matches, Zimbabwe suffered from the fragility of their top order, falling to 14 for three in the first five overs. However, this time around they could at least point to some challenging conditions - Harare experienced heavy rain over the weekend, and cloudy skies on yesterday morning gave Sri Lanka's seamers plenty to work with. "In losing the toss we knew it was going to be tough, but there were too many soft wickets," said Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer. "This was not a 150 type of wicket."

The collapse began in just the fourth over, when Suranga Lakmal had both Brian Chari and Craig Ervine caught at second slip in the space of three deliveries, and in the next over Sikandar Raza Butt's careless leg-side flick off Nuwan Kulasekara found mid-wicket.

Sean Williams was then bamboozled by Sachith Pathirana's left-arm spin and was stumped by Niroshan Dickwella, before Nuwan Pradeep dismissed Chamu Chibhabha and Elton Chigumbura in successive overs to leave Zimbabwe 50 for six in the 18th over.

As in the Test series, it was left to Zimbabwe's lower order to repair the damage. Wicketkeeper-batsman Peter Moor struck a polished 47 and added 55 for the seventh wicket with Graeme Cremer, and once Moor was trapped lbw by Nuwan Kulasekara, Cremer marshalled the tail to good effect. The Zimbabwe captain put on 31 for the eighth wicket with Donald Tiripano, who made 19, and was left stranded on 31 not out when No. 11 Tinashe Panyangara attempted one big shot too many. Panyangara sliced a delivery off Asela Gunaratne to cover to give the allrounder figures of 3 for 21 in 6.3 overs, while Kulasekara, Lakmal and Pradeep finished with two wickets apiece as Zimbabwe were bowled out in 41.3 overs.

"Everyone did really well," said Sri Lanka captain Upul Tharanga. "The bowlers stuck to the plan and bowled in the right areas. They knew the wicket would do something."

With Dhananjaya de Silva and Kusal Perera putting on 56 for the first wicket, the result was never in doubt.

Although Perera was well caught at deep square leg by Sikandar Raza for 21 and Niroshan Dickwella fell for 41 with the target in sight, De Silva finished unbeaten on 78 as Sri Lanka romped home in 24.3 overs.

The triangular series also includes the West Indies, who will take on Sri Lanka at the same venue tomorrow. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard in the first one-day international between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka on yesterday.

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| Zimbabwe | | Bowling: Kulasekara 8-2-23-2, Lakmal 7-0-19-2, Pathirana 10-0-44-1, Pradeep 7-1-21-2, Jayasuriya 3-0-24-0, Gunaratne 6.3-1-21-3. | |
| B. Chari c Mendi b Lakmal | 7 | | |
| C. Chibhabha lbw b Pradeep | 18 | Sri Lanka | |
| C. Ervine c Mendis b Lakmal | 0 | D. de Silva not out | 78 |
| Sikandar Raza c Pathirana b Kulasekara | 1 | K. Perera c Sikandar Raza b Chibhabha | 21 |
| S. Williams st Dickwella b Pathirana | 9 | N. Dickwella c Mumba b Panyangara | 41 |
| P. Moor lbw b Kulasekara | 47 | K. Mendis not out | 12 |
| E. Chigumbura c Dickwella b Pradeep | 1 | Extras (2lb, 1nb) | 3 |
| G. Cremer not out | 31 | Total (2 wkts, 24.3 overs) | 155 |
| D. Tiripano c Kulasekara b Gunaratne | 19 | Fall of wickets: 1-56 (Perera), 2-140 (Dickwella). | |
| C. Mumba lbw b Gunaratne | 1 | Did not bat: U. Tharanga, S. Jayasuriya, A. Gunaratne, S. Pathirana, N. Kulasekara, S. Lakmal, N. Pradeep. | |
| T. Panyangara c Jayasuriya b Gunaratne | 12 | Bowling: Panyangara 7.3-0-37-1, Mumba 4-0-31-0, Tiripano 3-0-17-0, Chibhabha 2-0-18-1, Sikandar Raza 3-0-25-0, Cremer 5-0-25-0. | |
| Extras (2lb, 6w) | 8 | Result: Sri Lanka won by 8 wickets. | |
| Total (all out, 41.3 overs) | 154 | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Chari), 2-13 (Ervine), 3-14 (Sikandar Raza), 4-29 (Williams), 5-46 (Chibhabha), 6-50 (Chigumbura), 7-105 (Moor), 8-136 (Tiripano), 9-139 (Mumba), 10-154 (Panyangara). | | | |



HOBART: Australia's batsman Steven Smith plays a shot on the third day's play of the second Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Hobart yesterday. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

HOBART, Australia: Scoreboard at stumps yesterday after the third day of the second cricket test between Australia and South Africa at Bellerive Oval.

| | |
|--|---|
| Australia 1st Innings: 85 | Hazlewood 30.5-10-89-6, Joe Mennie 28-5-85-1, Nathan Lyon 17-2-57-0, Steve Smith 1-0-5-0. |
| 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 c Lyon b Mennie | 74 |
| Quinton de Kock b Hazlewood | 104 |
| Vernon Philander c Nevill b Hazlewood | 32 |
| Keshav Maharaj b Hazlewood | 1 |
| Kyle Abbott lbw b Hazlewood | 3 |
| Kagiso Rabada not out | 5 |
| Extras: (3b, 8lb, 1nb) | 12 |
| TOTAL: (all out) | 326 |
| Overs: 100.5. Batting time: 425 minutes. | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-44, 3-46, 4-76, 5-132, 6-276, 7-292, 8-293, 9-297, 10-326. | |
| Bowling: Mitch Starc 24-1-79-3 (1nb), Josh | |
| Joe Burns c de Kock b Abbott | 0 |
| David Warner b Abbott | 45 |
| Usman Khuwaja not out | 56 |
| Steve Smith not out | 18 |
| Extras: (1lb, 1nb) | 2 |
| TOTAL: (for 2 wickets) | 121. |
| Overs: 36. Batting time: 156 minutes. | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-79. | |
| Still to bat: Adam Voges, Callum Ferguson, Peter Nevill, Joe Mennie, Mitch starc, Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon. | |
| Bowling: Kyle Abbott 14-1-55-2, Vernon Philander 9-1-28-0 (1nb), J.P. Duminy 1-0-8-0, Kagiso Rabada 9-2-19-0, Keshav Maharaj 3-0-10-0. | |
| Series: South Africa leads 1-0. | |

NEW DAD COOK'S RUNS EASE PAIN OF BEING AWAY

NEW DELHI: England skipper Alastair Cook said scoring his ninth Test century in Asia during the drawn first Test against India made the struggle of being away from his newborn baby "worthwhile". Cook jetted back to England from Bangladesh to be there for the birth of his second daughter in October, but returned after spending just 18 hours with his family's new addition.

But the difficult separation was softened slightly by Cook's score of 130 as he put on 180 runs with teenage-opener Haseeb Hameed (82) in second innings in Rajkot - a record opening stand for England in India. England's strong showing in the drawn Test comes as welcome relief to Cook and company who were tested in the two-match Bangladesh series which ended 1-1. "I've seen my daughter for 18 hours. It's never easy

and you want to try to make it worthwhile by scoring a few runs," said Cook Sunday. It was left-handed batsman Cook's 30th Test century and fifth in India, the most for any foreign batsman surpassing Everton Weekes, Clive Lloyd and Hashim Amla who each managed four centuries in India. Cook also bettered Jacques Kallis' score of eight tons in Asia and Don Bradman's tally of 29 centuries.

But Cook dismissed the Bradman comparison. "Let's not talk about Bradman who probably did it in a third of the knocks. I've sacrificed a bit to come out here," he said. "Batting on top of the order it is our responsibility to do that and luckily my record here is OK." After giving India a scare in the first of the five Tests, the tourists now head to the south-eastern city of Visakhapatnam for the second Test starting Thursday. — AFP



Alastair Cook

KANE GOAL HELPS BLACKHAWKS HAND CANADIENS SECOND LOSS

CHICAGO: Patrick Kane scored a spectacular tiebreaking goal in the second period and the Chicago Blackhawks beat Montreal 3-2 on Sunday night...

finding a loose puck off a faceoff and snapping it past Lehtonen.

JETS 3, KINGS 2, SO

Mark Scheifele scored the deciding goal in a shootout to give Winnipeg a victory over Los Angeles. Patrik Laine also beat Peter Budaj in the shootout...

WILD 2, SENATORS 1, OT

Matt Dumba scored late in overtime and Darcy Kuemper stopped 35 shots, helping Minnesota beat Ottawa. Ryan Suter scored a short-handed goal for the Wild...

RANGERS 3, OILERS 1

Michael Grabner scored twice, Antti Raanta stopped 38 shots and New York beat Edmonton. Dan Girardi also scored to help the Rangers win for the seventh time in eight games...

CANUCKS 5, STARS 4, OT

Troy Stecher tied it with 1:40 left in the third period and Markus Granlund scored in overtime, helping Vancouver rally to beat Dallas. Dallas held leads of 3-1 and 4-3, but Vancouver got goals from Louis Eriksson, Brandon Sutter, Bo Horvat and Stecher to force overtime...

BRUINS 2, AVALANCHE 0

Tuukka Rask stopped 21 shots and David Krejci scored in the first period, lifting Boston over Colorado. Rask showed no signs of fatigue despite being in net for a second straight night.



CHICAGO: Patrick Kane #88 of the Chicago Blackhawks is shoved to the ice by Max Pacioretty #67 of the Montreal Canadiens as he shoots and scores a second period goal at the United Center on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP



OAKLAND: Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, drives to the basket next to Phoenix Suns' Eric Bledsoe, second from left, Suns' Alex Len (21) and Warriors' Zaza Pachulia during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP

THOMPSON BIG FOURTH QUARTER LEADS WARRIORS PAST SUNS

OAKLAND: Klay Thompson hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 4:31 left and another with 3:13 remaining to score a season-high 30 points, Stephen Curry also had 30 points with five 3s, and the balanced Golden State Warriors held off the Phoenix Suns 133-120 on Sunday night.

Irving scored 19 points and Kevin Love added 17, but neither played in the fourth quarter as Cleveland coach Tyrone Lue stuck with the group that helped Cleveland take control of the game.

Randle had 14 points and six rebounds and Jordan Clarkson scored 14.

TRAIL BLAZERS 112, NUGGETS 105

Damian Lillard scored 32 points and the Trail Blazers handed the struggling Nuggets their fourth straight loss. CJ McCollum added 21 points for the Blazers, who have won five of their last six games.

TIMBERWOLVES 125, LAKERS 99

Andrew Wiggins had a career-high 47 points, equaling the entire Lakers starting lineup to lead Minnesota. Wiggins made 14 of 21 shots and Nemanja Bjelica added a career-high 24 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves.

MAGIC 119, THUNDER 117

Serge Ibaka's baseline jumper with less than a second remaining lifted Orlando past Oklahoma City. Ibaka, who was traded from the Thunder to the Magic in the offseason, scored a career-high 31 points and added nine rebounds and four blocks.

CAVALIERS 100, HORNETS 93

LeBron James sparked a fourth-quarter comeback with 11 points, Channing Frye scored a season-high 20 and Cleveland beat Charlotte. James, who finished with 19 points, also had five assists in the final period.

NBA results/standings

Cleveland 100, Charlotte 93; Orlando 119, Oklahoma City 117; Minnesota 125, LA Lakers 99; Golden State 133, Phoenix 120; Portland 112, Denver 105.

Table with NBA results and standings for Eastern and Western Conferences, including columns for W, L, PCT, GB, and individual team scores.



'GULF BANK 642 MARATHON' PROMISES RECORD TURNOUT

KUWAIT: The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' held a pre-event press conference yesterday to announce the launch of Kuwait's biggest marathon, which takes place this Saturday 19 November, at 7:00 am from Souq Sharq.

Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Gulf Bank Corporate Communications Manager said: 'We are proud to launch the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' 2016 for the second consecutive year together with our strategic partner, Pro-Vision Sports Management. Last year was a great success, as we had almost 2,400 participant and more than 70 nationalities represented at the event.

Commissioner for Refugees and their 'Voices for Refugee' program to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and make their stories heard so people will keep remembering they are human.

Dr Hanan Hamdan, Head of Office - UNHCR Kuwait, emphasized the importance of its partnership with the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' by saying: 'On behalf of UNHCR, I would like to express my gratitude to Gulf Bank for choosing the plight of refugees as their cause for this year's marathon.'

Dr. Hamdan added: 'The goal of our 'Voices for Refugees' campaign goes beyond the values of solidarity and sympathy, we want your voices to raise attention and humanitarian actions, representing our unity and hopes for a better future to all those who have fled their country due to war atrocities.'

She also highlighted UNHCR's long standing cooperation with the government of Kuwait and said: 'In fact, the State of Kuwait has been one of the top 10 contributors that helped alleviating the burden of the Syrian refugees with its donations amounting to \$338 million. We have been working closely with the Kuwaiti government on various activities aimed at mobilizing resources and funding to help Syrian refugees who fled their country.'

Ahmad Al-Huzami, CEO of Pro-Vision Sport Management, expressed his gratitude to both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health for their efforts and cooperation in making the marathon a success, and explained that: 'The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' is a unique run/walk event and the only internationally accredited marathon in Kuwait. This year promises to be an even bigger event, we hope to see you there.'

From his side, Mr. Ahmad Al-Majed, Managing Partner of Pro Vision Sport Management, stated: 'It is our honor to have Gulf Bank as our partner. To date we have registered over 3,000 participants from various ages across all four-race categories, and we are ready to welcome them on Saturday. We have participants coming in from the US, Europe, and the GCC to take part in 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon'. This event is made for every individual who wants to experience a run, touring through the beautiful landmarks of Kuwait.'

From challenging athletes to beginners and even families, this Marathon caters to everyone and includes four different distances/categories:
* Family Fun Walk/Run (5KM)
* Souq Run for regular runners (10KM)
* Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM)
* Full Marathon (42KM)

The route for the race will start at Souq Sharq, at 7:00 am, and will take place on Gulf Road, passing by Kuwait Towers, the Grand Mosque, Al Seif Palace, the National Assembly, Souk Al Mubarakiya, the Gulf Bank head office, as well as other landmarks.

The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' remains only road race in Kuwait to have three of its longer distance race categories accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF Athletics), meaning that those races appeared in the international calendar of races.

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

MORE THAN A GAME AS CHINA AND QATAR MEET IN 'SYMBOLIC' CLASH

DOHA: An Asian zone World Cup qualifier between the bottom two sides in Group A, who have won just one game in eight between them, may not seem a particularly noteworthy match.

But when China face Qatar in Kunming today, it will also be a clash between arguably the most ambitious and certainly in their region biggest spending nations who, in the long-term, could both play a central role in shaping the sport's future.

In the short-term both could deal an almost fatal blow to each other's already very slim chances of reaching Russia 2018. "It would be easy simply to dismiss the China Qatar game as a dead rubber or as a match between weaker nations on the periphery of world football," said Professor Simon Chadwick, a British-based Asian football expert. "However, these are two aspiring football nations, with major football ambitions. Both nations still hold out hope of making Russia 2018 and failure to do so would be an embarrassment and a setback in their desire to be considered as being among the world's leading football nations.

"The game therefore has huge symbolic meaning." It is the World Cup where both countries wish to make a mark on the global game. Both have invested heavily to fuel their ambitions. China, which aims to be a footballing superpower by 2050, has spent an estimated \$1 billion developing its domestic game, says Chadwick.

It harbours hopes of hosting its own World Cup and, one day, winning football's greatest prize. Qatar is in the middle of transforming itself by splurging \$200 billion-plus to host the 2022 tournament. The stadiums alone for that World Cup will cost some \$10 billion.

Both countries' ambition also represents a challenge to the established world football order, says China-based Cameron Wilson, founder of the Wild East Football website. "I think it is clear the balance of power is shifting away from Europe, albeit slowly, and it's no coincidence that money is a big part of that—neither Chinese nor Qatari football lacks serious financial backing," Wilson told AFP.

But with ambition comes pressure, and neither nation is responding too well at the moment. China have one point from their

four qualifying games. Their last home match—a 1-0 defeat by Syria in Xi'an—saw angry fans protest in the streets.

World Cup 2022 hosts Qatar are only slightly better off. They have clawed three points from four matches, following a 1-0 victory in Doha last month against Syria.

But only the top two teams from the group qualify automatically for Russia. Iran head the group with 10 points and Uzbekistan are second with nine. The third-placed team will have a play-off chance to get to Russia, the position currently held by South Korea with seven points.

THE PRICE OF FAILURE

Emphasising how desperate China and Qatar are to qualify for the 2018 tournament, both have sacked their coaches during the current round of qualifying.

Notably, China have appointed World Cup winning-coach Marcello Lippi on a reputed \$20 million-a-year contract to revive hope in their almost moribund World Cup campaign.

Today's game will be his first big test in charge of "Team Dragon".

Qatar turned back to popular former coach Jorge Fossati after losing their first two matches in this round of qualifying, despite storming through the last stage. Lippi said he and the Chinese nation are hoping for a miracle. Fossati is insistent that whatever happens in Kunming will not be decisive. "We are very optimistic about the result of the game in China, but it is not a definitive game," he said before his team flew out.

Last week China played a behind closed doors friendly in preparation for today's match. In contrast, Qatar beat Russia 2-1 in Doha in a match broadcast live on television. "We wanted to help Marcello if he wanted to watch the game," joked Fossati. Defeat today and the costs could be high.

For Qatar, it could mean the end of any hope of qualifying for their first World Cup before they host in 2022, and showing a sceptical footballing world they deserve to host the tournament. China could pay a price off the pitch, says Chadwick, where continued football failure could unleash the "potential for political and socio-cultural fallout at home". — AFP



BRUSSELS: Belgium's Thomas Meunier scores against Estonia during the World Cup Group H qualifying soccer match between Belgium and Estonia, at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels on Sunday. — AP

BELGIUM RAMPANT, PORTUGAL SURVIVE SCARE IN QUALIFIERS

PARIS: Belgium hammered Estonia 8-1 to go clear in Group H, while Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Portugal survived a scare before overcoming Latvia 4-1 in World Cup qualifying on Sunday.

There were braces from Romelu Lukaku and Dries Mertens as Belgium ran rampant with further goals from Thomas Meunier, Eden Hazard, Yannick Carrasco and an own goal to make it four wins from four.

In the same group Greece scored a 95th-minute equaliser through Giorgos Tzavellas after a free-kick had given Bosnia the lead as the ball rebounded back off the post and in off goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis. The point for Greece means they have 10 from four games in Group H, two behind the Belgians.

Gibraltar made a piece of history and were level for a while in Cyprus before going down agonisingly 3-1. But they had cause to celebrate a significant consolation with Lee Casciaro's 51st-minute equaliser—their first ever World Cup qualifier away goal.

Ronaldo scored twice and even missed a spot-kick as European champions Portugal recovered from a second-half wobble in Lisbon to remain three points adrift of Group B leaders

Switzerland. Ronaldo converted a first-half spot kick to open the scores but then missed a second one which hit the post.

Within a minute Latvia were level as substitute Arturs Zjuzins pounced on the loose ball following a goalmouth scramble to fire home on 67 minutes.

But headers from Willian and Bruno Alves and a spectacular scissor-kick from Ronaldo assured Portugal of the three points.

Earlier in Group B, the Faroe Islands were similarly plucky in soggy Lucerne, where Switzerland scored seven minutes from the end through Stephan Lichtsteiner to grind out a 2-0 victory and maintain their 100 percent record.

In the same group Hungary hammered Andorra 4-0 at home.

DEPAY SPARES DUTCH BLUSHES

Out-of-favour Manchester United winger Memphis Depay came off the bench to score twice and save the Netherlands' blushes in Luxembourg.

Depay gave United manager Jose Mourinho a reminder of his worth just as the Dutch were sliding to an embarrassing draw.

The 3-1 victory over Luxembourg keeps the

misfiring Dutch in the hunt for a place at Russia 2018, but they will need to play better if they are to trump the twin threats of table-toppers France and Sweden in Group A.

Arjen Robben had a chance after a quarter of an hour for the Dutch, but should have done better than firing at Ralph Schon in the Luxembourg goal, as the Dutch tightened the screw. The home stopper was finally beaten on 36 minutes when Robben moved the ball onto his favourite left foot to slot home for a deserved Dutch lead.

But a minute before the break the minnows grabbed a leveller after Joshua Brenet felled Daniel da Mota in the box and Maxime Chanot punished the visitors from the penalty spot.

Robben, whose brilliant career has been blighted by injury, failed to make it out for the second half. Wesley Sneijder was also hooked at the break.

It was Depay, one of the replacements, who struck soon afterwards to break home hearts.

And the 22-year-old, strongly linked with a move away from Old Trafford to Everton, sealed the match with his second goal in the final minutes. Also in Group A Bulgaria edged Belarus 1-0 in Sofia. — AFP

Standings

| Group B | | | | | | | | Thailand | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Saudi Arabia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 7 | | | | | |
| Japan | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | | | | | |
| UAE | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | | | | | |
| Iraq | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 | | | | | |

Note: Top two in each group qualify for the finals in Russia. Two third-placed teams play-off with winner to face CONCACAF play-off winner over two legs for place in finals. — AFP

US WOMEN CLOSE YEAR WITH A 5-0 WIN OVER ROMANIA

CARSON: It was an eventful year for the US women's national team off the field, with Hope Solo's suspension after the Rio Olympics, lawsuits over the expiring collective bargaining agreement and Megan Rapinoe's protest during the national anthem dominating the headlines.

But in their final match of the year, the Americans offered a summary of how things played out on the field in equal parts fulfillment and disappointment, with Crystal Dunn, Christen Press, Morgan Brian and Samantha Mewis scoring to help the US beat Romania 5-0 on Sunday night. The US blistered Romania with 31 shots and did not allow a shot, but U.S. coach Jill Ellis was not happy with the team's wastefulness.

"I think we left a lot to be said," Ellis said. The same could be said of a year in which the Americans went 22-0-3 in regulation play, scoring 92 goals and conceding 10, but failed to defend their Olympic gold medal after losing to Sweden on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals. Still, the U.S. ended on a largely positive note.

"I think we all reacted well to it and 2017 is going to be an intense year," Dunn said. An own goal in the 20th minute opened the scoring for the US when Dunn's cross was chisted into the net by Teodora Meluta. Dunn scored her 14th goal this year in the first minute of first-half stoppage time, sprinting past two defenders to take a pass from Press and put a shot between Roxana Oprea's legs.

Press made it 3-0 in the 55th minute, connecting with Tobin Heath on a give-and-go and scoring for the fourth consecutive game. Press had a hat trick Thursday night in San Jose in the Americans' 8-1 victory over Romania.

Brian scored on a penalty kick in the 88th minute and Samantha Mewis added a goal in the first minute of additional time. Rapinoe wasn't included on the US roster



CARSON: Alex Morgan #13 of United States attacks against Maria Ficzy #6 of Romania during the second half of their international friendly soccer match at StubHub Center on Sunday in Carson, California. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

WORLD CUP 2018 - ASIA CUP 2019 QUALIFYING

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Japan v Saudi Arabia | 13:35 |
| South Korea v Uzbekistan | 14:00 |
| China v Qatar | 14:35 |
| Syria v Iran | 15:00 |
| Thailand v Australia | 15:00 |
| UAE v Iraq | 18:20 |

WC2010 S. AMERICAN QUALIFYING

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Bolivia v Paraguay | 23:00 |
| Ecuador v Venezuela | 0:00 |
| Chile v Uruguay | 2:30 |
| Argentina v Colombia | 2:30 |
| Peru v Brazil | 5:15 |

for the second consecutive match. Ellis is planning to hold camps for the national team and the Under-23s in January, operating on the assumption that they will be conducted under the current contractual structure. But Ellis did not know the status of negotiations between players and US Soccer.

"I don't get involved in that," Ellis said. "That's between them and lawyers and all that good stuff." — AP



Zain football team.

ZAIN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES EMPLOYEES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, successfully concluded its annual Employees Football Tournament at Mishref United football pitches. The tournament, which is conducted annually for the company's employees, took place throughout three days with active participation.

The tournament is considered a main pillar of Zain's internal strategy towards the health of its employees. The Company remains committed to the wellbeing of its employees, and this is highlighted by the organization of this annual sporting event, which attracts a great deal of

attention from employees given football's status as the most popular sport in Kuwait.

Zain's football tournament was held throughout three days at Mishref United pitches, and witnessed the attendance of former Kuwait National Team Star and member of the National Football Union Saad Al Houti and Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al Khashti, who awarded the first and second place winners.

The tournament was organized as part of Zain's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy, which looks to cater to the dif-

ferent talents and interests of its employees. The company continues to look for ways to positively impact the communities in which it operates, and to remain an inspiration to its staff.

Zain is keen to ensure employees take part in all of the company's social activities and programs, whether they be cultural, sporting, or entertainment events. The organization of this championship is part of Zain's belief in supporting the physical wellbeing and health-orientation of its employees, as well as the company's commitment to the development of the sports sector in Kuwait.

Sports

Perez wins by two
shots in Mexico

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S Lanka thrash
Zimbabwe by eight
wickets in ODI

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CHINA AND QATAR MEET IN 'SYMBOLIC' CLASH

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FOXBOROUGH: New England Patriots defensive backs Duron Harmon (30) and Devin McCourty (32) tackle Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Jermaine Kearse (15) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, in Foxborough, Mass. — AP

SEAHAWKS, BRONCOS, COWBOYS GET DEFINING WINS

NEW ORLEANS: Coaches and well-trained players will tell you that every win is worth the same. They're wrong. No better examples can be found than the way Seattle, Dallas and Denver won on Sunday. Those victories are the kind that can define a season, catapult you to special things. This time, Seattle won it at the goal line. It certainly won't make up for the Super Bowl loss two seasons back, but the Seahawks' goal line stand lifted them to a 31-24 victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday night. Tom Brady couldn't connect with Rob Gronkowski on a fade pattern on fourth down as New England (7-2) failed four times from inside the 2 in the dying moments. It was reminiscent of how the Seahawks (6-2-1) lost the 2015 Super Bowl when Malcolm Butler intercepted at the goal line to win the NFL title for the Patriots. Doug Baldwin caught three touchdown passes, including a 15-yarder for the final margin. Strangely, Seattle went for 2 points and failed on the conversion, leaving the Patriots a chance to tie with a touchdown and an extra point kick. But LeGarrette Blount, who earlier rushed for three touchdowns, couldn't get into the end zone from close range, nor could Brady on a pair of sneaks.

BRONCOS 25, SAINTS 23

Denver's Justin Simmons used a perfectly timed leap over the offensive line to block an extra-point kick that would have given New Orleans a late lead, Will Parks ran it back 84 yards for a defensive 2-point conversion, and the Broncos pulled out a wild victory. The decisive play came while the Superdome crowd was still celebrating Brandin Cooks' twisting, 32-yard touchdown catch between two defenders. That put New Orleans (4-5) in position to take the lead with 1:28 left. Simmons' block of Wil Lutz's kick was scooped up by Parks, who nearly stepped out of bounds as he raced down the left sideline. It was the first such play to provide the winning points in an NFL game. The rule was instituted last year. The Broncos then recovered an onside kick and ran out the clock. Safety Darian Stewart intercepted Drew Brees twice and recovered a fumble for the Broncos (7-3), while Trevor Siemian overcame two interceptions by passing for touchdowns to Jordan Taylor and Demaryius Thomas.

COWBOYS 35, STEELERS 30

Ezekiel Elliott ran for 114 yards and two touchdowns - both in the final two minutes - and had an 83-yard catch-and-run for a score as the Cowboys pulled off a thrilling victory for their eighth straight win. Dak Prescott overcame an early fumble to pass for 319 yards and two scores for Dallas (8-1), which matched the longest single-season win streak in club history behind the two rookies who hardly seem bothered by the

stage. Dez Bryant added six catches for 116 yards, including a 50-yard touchdown reception. Ben Roethlisberger threw for 408 yards and three touchdowns. Antonio Brown caught 14 passes for 154 yards, including a 15-yard score with 42 seconds left after Roethlisberger faked a spike to surprise the Dallas defense. The heady play - a throwback to Hall of Famer Dan Marino's move while leading Miami to a victory over the New York Jets in 1994 - gave the Steelers (4-5) a one-point lead. It also gave Prescott and Elliott too much time.

DOLPHINS 31, CHARGERS 24

Kiko Alonso intercepted Philip Rivers' pass and returned it 60 yards for a touchdown with 1:01 left to give Miami a fourth straight win. The Dolphins (5-4) intercepted Rivers four times, all in the fourth quarter. Alonso jumped in front of Tyrell Williams and outraced everybody into the end zone for the winning score. Two plays into the ensuing drive, Rivers was intercepted again, by Tony Lippett, his second of the game. Rivers threw three touchdown passes to move past John Elway for eighth place on the career list with 301. Rivers' 51-yard touchdown pass to Williams with 4:04 left gave the Chargers (4-6) a 24-21 lead. Miami came right back to get a 27-yard field goal from Andrew Franks to tie it. That was set up by Ryan Tannehill's 56-yard pass to DeVante Parker and a roughing-the-passer call that put the ball on the San Diego 10.

CARDINALS 23, 49ERS 20

Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 34-yard field goal as time expired. Catanzaro missed twice on winning field goal tries earlier in the season, most memorably a 24-yarder in overtime of a 6-6 tie against Seattle. But this attempt was right down the middle as Arizona (4-4-1) narrowly averted a devastating loss. The 49ers (1-8) lost their eighth in a row despite a strong game by Colin Kaepernick, who tied it 20-20 on a 4-yard run with 1:55 to play. That was enough time for Carson Palmer to gain redemption after three second-half turnovers, the last an interception by Gerald Hodges that led to the tying touchdown. Palmer completed 4 of 7 passes for 64 yards, including a leaping 26-yard grab by Michael Floyd, as the Cardinals drove from their 15 to the San Francisco 16 to set up the winning kick.

CHIEFS 20, PANTHERS 17

Marcus Peters stripped Kelvin Benjamin with 20 seconds left, Cairo Santos kicked a 37-yard field goal as time expired, and the Chiefs overcame a 17-point deficit. The game was tied when Benjamin caught a pass from Cam Newton, and Peters ripped the ball from his arms. Santos' fourth field goal of the day split the

uprights, lifting the Chiefs (7-2) to their fifth straight victory and 17th win in their last 19 games. Eric Berry also returned an interception 42 yards for a touchdown as Kansas City's defense came up with big plays when needed. The Chiefs failed to score an offensive touchdown. Newton threw for 261 yards and a touchdown and ran for 54 yards and a score for the Panthers (3-6).

EAGLES 24, FALCONS 15

Ryan Mathews ran for 108 yards and two touchdowns, while a tenacious defense held down the league's highest-scoring offense. Carson Wentz threw for 231 yards and led the Eagles (5-4) to a comeback victory for the first time this season. Caleb Sturgis made three field goals, including a clutch kick from 48 yards to seal the win. Matt Ryan threw a 76-yard touchdown pass to Taylor Gabriel in the fourth quarter to give Atlanta (6-4) a 15-13 lead, but Philadelphia answered. Mathews ran in from the 5 and also converted the 2-point conversion for a 21-15 lead. On Atlanta's ensuing possession, Julio Jones dropped a pass on third-and-12 and the Falcons punted. Jones couldn't make a difficult catch on fourth-and-5 on Atlanta's next drive.

REDSKINS 26, VIKINGS 20

Kirk Cousins threw for two touchdowns, Preston Smith had two sacks and a game-altering interception in Washington's first victory in almost a month. Washington (5-3-1) got all of its second-half points off the foot of Dustin Hopkins, who hit four field goals, including a 50-yarder. The Redskins shut out Minnesota (5-4) in the second half, and Smith sacked Sam Bradford in the final seconds to hand the Vikings their fourth consecutive loss. Cousins was 22 of 33 for 262 yards with touchdown passes to Vernon Davis and Jamison Crowder. Robert Kelley ran for 97 yards, helping Washington bounce back from a rough 6-minute stretch. Bradford was 31 of 39 for 307 yards, two touchdowns and the interception that Smith tipped and caught with 5:44 left. Stefon Diggs had 13 catches for 164 yards.

TITANS 47, PACKERS 25

Marcus Mariota threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns in the rout. Five Titans scored a touchdown in the first half as Tennessee put together its best scoring performance this season with 35 points. With the win, the Titans (5-5) also matched their five victories over the past two seasons combined. DeMarco Murray set the tone on the opening play from scrimmage, running 75 yards for a touchdown. He finished with 123 yards and also threw a TD pass, becoming the first non-quarterback to do that for this franchise in the same game since Earl Campbell on Sept. 7, 1980, for the then-

Houston Oilers. Brian Orakpo had two of Tennessee's five sacks, and the Titans also forced three turnovers. The Packers (4-5) started a three-game road swing by losing their third straight.

TEXANS 24, JAGUARS 13

Brock Osweiler threw two touchdown passes and Kareem Jackson returned an interception 42 yards for a score. The Texans (6-3) scored on offense and defense and set up another score with special teams, a complete team effort that led to their first road win of the season. It kept them perfect (3-0) against the AFC South. They won their fifth in a row against Jacksonville. The Jaguars (2-7) lost their fourth straight and fell to 0-4 at home. Coach Gus Bradley's team rallied late, with Blake Bortles hitting Allen Robinson for a touchdown and again for a 2-point conversion. The loss dropped Bradley's record to 14-43 in four seasons and prompted even the most loyal supporters to question why owner Shad Khan hasn't made a change.

BUCCANEERS 36, BEARS 10

Jameis Winston threw for 312 yards and two touchdowns against mistake prone Chicago. Winston threw for TDs of 10 yards to Cameron Brate and 43 yards to Freddie Martino, the latter set up by a bizarre highlight-reel play. The No. 1 pick in last year's draft scrambled 23 yards backward into his end zone before avoiding a safety and launching a 39-yard completion to Mike Evans at the Chicago 38. Martino, a former practice squad player with two career receptions, scored his first NFL touchdown after a delay-of-game penalty pushed the Bucs (4-5) back to the 43. Two weeks after returning from injury and helping the Bears (2-7) beat NFC North leader Minnesota, Jay Cutler threw two interceptions and fumbled twice, one resulting in a third-quarter safety that put the Bucs up 29-10. The Bucs forced four turnovers overall and sacked Cutler four times.

RAMS 9, JETS 6

Alec Ogletree intercepted Bryce Petty with just under two minutes left to clinch this snoozer. Petty made his first NFL start in place of an injured Ryan Fitzpatrick, but couldn't get much going against the Rams' defense. After getting the ball with 2:55 remaining and down by three, Petty tried to lead the Jets (3-7) downfield. But Petty's pass to Quincy Enunwa was picked off by Ogletree and Enunwa tried to wrestle it away from the linebacker to no avail. Greg Zuerlein kicked three field goals, including a go-ahead 34-yarder with 6:52 left, helping the Rams (4-5) snap a four-game losing streak and avoid their first five-game skid since Weeks 9-13 last season. The game featured 15 punts - eight by the Jets and seven by the Rams. — AP

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NEW YORK: The ABInBev logo appears above the post where it trades on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Global stock markets mostly climbed yesterday and the dollar surged to multi-month highs with traders shrugging off concerns over the Trump presidency.—AP

SAUDI IS WRESTLING DOWN MONEY RATES: CB

DELAYED PAYMENTS SHOULD PUSH DOWN RATES, NO LONGER TERM REPOS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's central bank is succeeding in wrestling down market interest rates and expects to see further declines as it fights a liquidity squeeze caused by low oil prices, top officials said yesterday. Shrunk flows of petrodollars through the banking system have sent interbank money rates soaring to seven-year highs this year, making it more expensive for companies to raise money and contributing to a sharp slowdown in the economy.

But central bank Governor Ahmed Al-Kholifey said a modest pull-back of rates in the past three weeks, with the three-month Saudi interbank offered rate falling to 2.189 percent from 2.386 percent, showed authorities had the situation under control. The rate was below 0.80 percent in August 2015. "Now we're more secure, and we're reassured that SAIBOR will continue to fall, although we do not expect it to hit 1 percent," Kholifey told his first news conference since he was appointed in May.

Authorities are using several tools to bring down rates. In September and October, the central bank launched seven-, 28- and 90-day repurchase agreements that it could use to supply banks with funds; previously it had typically only used

one-day repos. Ayman Al-Sayari, deputy governor for investment at the central bank, told the news conference that a number of banks had used the new instruments to obtain liquidity, though he declined to say how much. The central bank has no plan to introduce repos longer than 90 days, he added, noting that money rates were approaching the central bank's repo rate, which it uses to supply funds. The rate is 2.00 percent.

Pressure on liquidity has also been eased by the finance ministry's decision not to make a monthly issue of domestic bonds in October. Sayari said the ministry would decide on its plan for the rest of 2016 and communicate that to the market. Two other factors could bring rates down further. Last month, the government raised \$17.5 billion in its first international bond issue; Sayari said the proceeds had not yet been deposited in local banks. Bankers believe that if they are, that could provide a big boost to liquidity.

Also, the government has said it will aim by the end of 2016 to pay billions of dollars of unpaid debts that it owes construction companies and other private-sector creditors. An official document seen by Reuters

last week showed it had set aside 100 billion riyals (\$26.7 billion) for that purpose.

"The payment of delayed payments will have a positive impact on liquidity in the banking sector. It depends on the size, but we expect it to have a good impact on the banks, especially on SAIBOR," Kholifey said. Slowing deposit growth due to low oil prices has brought the loan-to-deposit ratio of Saudi banks near the regulatory ceiling of 90 percent, but Sayari said there was no plan to change the ceiling, especially since new funds were expected to enter banks. He reiterated the central bank's commitment to keeping the riyal pegged at 3.75 to the dollar. Some economists have speculated that to reduce outflows of currency from Saudi Arabia, authorities could impose fees on remittances abroad by the some 10 million foreign workers in the kingdom. Kholifey said no such a step was intended, however, because although the remittances were huge, the number of foreign workers was also large.

Asked whether the central bank might put some of its foreign assets into the Chinese yuan because of growing trade and investment ties with China, Sayari declined to say, merely noting



RIYADH: Governor of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Ahmed Al-Kholifey, holds a press conference in Riyadh yesterday.—AFP

that exchange rate stability would be its priority. Most of its \$546.7 billion of net foreign assets are believed to be in US dollars.—Reuters

GULF BANKS COULD LOSE ACCESS TO DOLLAR CLEARING: UAE CB CHIEF

ABU DHABI: Commercial banks in the Gulf could lose their ability to have dollar trades cleared through the US banking system, increasing risks for them, the United Arab Emirates' central bank governor warned yesterday. Mubarak Rashid Al-Mansouri told a financial conference that US and European banks were continuing to scale back their relationships with Gulf banks because foreign regulators were requiring them to do more due diligence on customers, raising costs for the foreign institutions.

"One large US bank had derisking issues in the region in order to comply with tighter risk controls. As the US dollar remains the dominant international currency, other US banks are following suit," Mansouri said. "This could leave banks in the region without any US correspondent banking relationships, forcing them to clear their US dollar trade through central banks."

Such an arrangement would increase risks because it would add one more party to the payment process, and it would put an "unreasonable burden" on the Gulf's central banks, Mansouri said.

Senior monetary officials in the Gulf have been publicly complaining for a year about the reluctance of international, particularly US, banks to deal with some of their Arab counterparts, and Mansouri's remarks suggested the situation remained serious.

A study by the Arab Monetary Fund, published in September, found foreign banks were shying away for various reasons including concern about violating economic sanctions, the risk of unwittingly being implicated in money laundering and financing of terrorism, and a broadly shrinking appetite for risk. Mansouri said the Gulf was already complying well with rules against money laundering and terrorist financing, and that UAE authorities were in touch with US authorities and banks to convince them of this. He said the central bank was also working with the UAE association of banks to assess the level of compliance further, particularly for smaller banks. Meanwhile, the central bank is scrutinizing money exchange houses and may take some houses' licenses away if they don't comply with rules, Mansouri added. The UAE central bank revoked the licenses of two money exchange companies in 2013 and another one this year.—Reuters

MODI PROMISES TO EASE CASH CRUNCH

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday urged Indians to give him more time to resolve a cash crunch that followed the withdrawal of high-value banknotes from circulation, as rival politicians lashed out at his handling of the crisis.

His comments came as the government said it was increasing a weekly cash withdrawal limit and taking steps to help people in remote areas access money as frustration mounted. There have been huge queues outside banks and ATMs ever since they reopened last Thursday, two days after Modi announced that 500 (\$7.50) and 1,000 rupee notes would no longer be legal tender in a bid to tackle corruption and tax evasion.

Indians rely heavily on cash for their daily transactions and those living in rural areas or who do not have bank accounts have been particularly hard hit. Modi said he had been "pained" by the hardships people were facing, but insisted the move would ultimately benefit poor Indians in the long run. "I am aware you are facing difficulties... I understand the inconvenience," he said at a political rally in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, which goes to the polls next year. "I am really pained by the inconvenience and that is why I am working tirelessly to help people overcome this situation. I will never let anyone

loot money that belongs to India's poor."

'Financial chaos'

But opposition parties lashed out at Modi's currency recall with several political parties teaming up to corner the government in the parliament's winter session, which begins on Wednesday. "Modi is saying give me 50 days to deal with the crises. But who created the crises?" Randeep Surjewala, main opposition Congress party spokesman said. Opposition leaders have accused the government of throwing millions of common people in financial distress as the government failed to put adequate measures in place. "(The) rich are sleeping in peace and only poor people are on roads to exchange their notes," Kumari Mayawati, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh state said. She termed the decision anti-poor and anti-farmer, saying it has hit the common man "very hard".

Two leading bank unions also criticized the note ban saying it has led to "financial chaos" and the decision was taken "without proper planning or preparation". Banks remained open over the weekend to try to ease the crunch, but were closed yesterday due to a public holiday with many ATMs across the country running out of cash. The government has said it will take time for the machines to be recalibrated to

accept the new notes, adding to the general frustration.

Yesterday, Shaktikanta Das, India's secretary for economic affairs, said the government would increase a weekly withdrawal limit of 20,000 to 24,000 rupees. It will also allow a network of so-called banking correspondents, who travel to rural areas to provide people with access to banking services, to carry more cash. The government has said the old notes can temporarily be used for essential services such

as medical assistance. They can be exchanged for new ones or deposited in a bank account until December 30, but long queues and a lack of cash has hampered that process. Modi pledged to crack down on so-called black money—vast piles of wealth kept hidden from the tax authorities—when he came to power in 2014. Analysts have broadly welcomed the latest initiative, but said consumer spending would likely dip in the short term as the new notes made their way into circulation.—AFP



SILIGURI: Indian customers queue outside a ATM to withdraw money in Siliguri yesterday.—AFP

IMF'S EGYPT LOAN SHOWS RISKS OF ITS MIDEAST ROLE

CAIRO: A \$12 billion loan by the International Monetary Fund to Egypt highlights the extent of the multilateral lender's re-engagement with the Middle East and the risks of a backlash against governments carrying out painful reforms return for the aid. From the late 1980s through the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011, the IMF was vilified in the region as an agent of Western big business pressuring countries into austerity policies that impoverished their populations while benefiting foreign bankers.

After IMF-inspired spending cuts triggered riots in Algeria, Jordan and Sudan, many governments shunned cooperation with the Fund. At least one Egyptian minister privately compared it to British imperialists who seized the Suez canal. The loan to Egypt, approved on Friday, shows how much has changed. The IMF, touting a new, softer image, is now a key part of efforts to shore up many Middle East economies; as well as Egypt, it is providing billions of dollars of support to Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, and advising Algeria on reforms.

For the first time, it is also giving

detailed advice on a large scale to rich oil exporters in the Gulf such as the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, on issues including the introduction of value-added tax to boost non-oil revenues. That is good news for investors, who are reluctant to put money into the region without the IMF's seal of approval. But it exposes the IMF and its partner governments to public anger if they fail to solve deep-rooted economic problems.

Mohsin Khan, who headed the IMF's Middle East department from 2004 to 2008, said its re-engagement with the region was tricky because while the Fund knew how to fix state finances and external deficits, it was - like economists in general - less expert at reducing inequality and creating millions of jobs.

"Governments are undertaking difficult economic reforms. If after a few years they haven't succeeded in improving living standards, people will point fingers," said Khan, now senior fellow at the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

EGYPT

The shift towards the IMF is partly due to huge economic pressure: the turmoil of the Arab Spring slashed investment in poorer countries while the plunge of oil prices from mid-2014 squeezed the Gulf's energy exporters. In the past, poorer countries preferred loans, aid and migrant workers' remittances from the Gulf, which attached political conditions to its aid, to money from the IMF, which demanded tough economic reforms. By hurting the Gulf's finances, cheap oil has made that model unsustainable.

But the IMF itself has also changed. It is less insistent on dogma such as freeing currency rates, and more focused on reducing poverty and inequality, said Bessma Momani, senior fellow at Canada's Centre for International Governance Innovation, who is writing a book about the Fund.

For example, last week Cairo floated its currency and hiked fuel prices - classic IMF policies. But to limit the pain for poorer citizens, it plans - with IMF acquiescence - to boost spending on a consumer subsidy scheme and keep the price of bread flat, which will

slow the drive to cut its budget deficit. "I think we've learned," Masood Ahmed, who ran the IMF's Middle East department from 2008 until last month, said of its role in the Middle East. In the past, the IMF sometimes focused solely on macroeconomic numbers such as deficits and growth rates; it now looks more at other issues which can affect the macro picture, such as poverty, he said.

After the Arab Spring, Ahmed mounted a public relations campaign to improve the IMF's image in the region, launching an Arabic-language blog to explain its policies and meeting frequently with politicians and journalists. Reham El Desoki, senior economist at regional investment bank Arqaam Capital, said that partly as a result of such efforts, the IMF's ties with Egypt had changed since the 1990s.

"The relationship has developed. It's more of a partnership than a carrot and stick relationship," she said. Khan said the IMF had changed because it was shocked by the fragility of economies during the Arab Spring, as rapid growth rates evaporated

and investment dried up overnight. "The Arab Spring had a humbling effect on the staff of the Fund."

So far, the IMF appears to have succeeded in avoiding the public outrage that marked many of its past forays into the region. Ordinary Egyptians are complaining about the fuel price hikes but few are blaming the Fund, and many say they understand the need for austerity. Coming years may test that success, however. The three-year Egyptian loan may just be the start of a long-term financial burden; many economists think it will have to be renewed. Syria and Yemen will need aid when conflicts there eventually end.

Meanwhile, the IMF will be caught in the middle as governments in both oil importers and exporters cut back welfare benefits. Fuel prices are expected to rise further and new taxes to be imposed in many countries. "This means the IMF can't avoid political engagement in countries, exposing it to a backlash if economic transitions prove painful," said Momani. —Reuters

DUBAI DUO ARABTEC AND DRAKE & SCULL CUT LOSSES

DUBAI: Two of Dubai's largest construction contractors, Arabtec Holding and Drake & Scull (DSI), reported narrowing third-quarter net losses yesterday after cutting costs amid a regional slowdown in infrastructure projects. Construction companies have been struggling with a difficult industry environment as Gulf economies slow and governments restrain spending because of low oil prices, leading to projects being halted and payments being delayed.

In a sign of continuing pressures, Drake & Scull said it appointed a financial adviser in the third quarter to assist in a number of business transformation and strategic initiatives. The unidentified adviser would help DSI to address "challenges the group is facing in its key markets", Chief Financial Officer Kailash Sadangi said in a bourse statement.

Recently appointed Chief Executive Wael Allan said the company has begun a financial review of the business and that it could "necessitate difficult executive decisions". These could include a withdrawal from non-core markets, retrenching on civil works in Saudi Arabia and a more conservative stance on recovering certain receivables. DSI has made significant provisions in recent quarters for non-payment of dues, including a large impairment on its Saudi business in the third quarter of last year.

This has weighed on its profitability, with the company reporting worsening earnings in nine of the preceding ten quarters. By not repeating the large Saudi impairment from a year earlier, as well as doubling its contract revenue to 868.5 million dirhams (\$236.5 million) and continuing its "relentless" cost-cutting program, the company managed to arrest some of the damage in the three months to Sept 30. DSI made a 46.3 million dirham net attributable loss in the quarter, compared with 877.8 million dirhams a year ago and an EFG Hermes forecast for a quarterly net loss of 56.41 million dirhams. —Reuters

GIB REQUESTS PROPOSALS FOR DOLLAR BOND ISSUE

DUBAI: Gulf International Bank (GIB) has asked banks to submit proposals to arrange a potential US dollar-denominated bond issue, banking sources familiar with the situation told Reuters yesterday. The request for proposals was sent a few days ago and no mandate has been awarded yet, the bankers added. GIB, a Bahrain-based lender, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The new bond is likely to be issued early next year, the bankers and Dubai-based investors said. Unless documentation for a new deal is ready by now, there is little time to launch a new bond transaction in the Middle Eastern debt market before year-end, they noted. GIB has a \$500 million Eurobond maturing in December 2017. That paper, issued in December 2012 at 165 basis points over mid-swaps and yielding 2.4 percent at issue date, was yielding 2.355 percent yesterday, according to Thomson Reuters Data. Barclays, GIB Capital, JP Morgan, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Societe Generale and Standard Chartered were joint lead managers for the sale of those notes. —Reuters



TOKYO: People stand in front of an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares were mostly lower yesterday but Japan's benchmark got a boost from a weaker yen. —AP

SAUDI FUND PIF CONSIDERS BUYING STAKE IN ACWA

FUND INVITES INVESTMENT BANKS FOR ADVICE

DUBAI/KHOBAR: Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund, Public Investment Fund (PIF), is considering buying a stake in Riyadh-based ACWA Power, which operates power and water plants around the world, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. PIF, which already owns a 13.7 percent stake in ACWA indirectly through a subsidiary, invited investment banks last month to pitch for the role of advising it on a potential ACWA deal, according to four sources, declining to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Talks are still at a preliminary stage, and neither party has appointed an advisor, said two of the sources, who are based in the Gulf. Privately held ACWA describes itself as an investor, developer, co-owner and operator of a portfolio of plants in Europe, Asia and Africa that generate

more than 23 gigawatts of power and produce 2.5 million cubic metres of desalinated water a day.

The fund declined to comment, when contacted by Reuters yesterday. ACWA also declined to comment. PIF's investment strategy aims to help the government diversify the Saudi economy away from oil into power and other sectors. PIF's subsidiary Sanabil Investments, which focuses on making direct equity investments in local companies and projects, acquired a 13.7 percent stake in ACWA in January 2013.

It is unclear how the new investment will be made at this stage: whether it would be structured as a stake increase by Sanabil or whether the PIF will take a direct stake, a third source said.

One of the Gulf-based sources said PIF

would like to increase its total holding to anywhere between 25 and 35 percent. The fund has also been behind a number of domestic investments in recent months - ownership of a stalled financial district project in Riyadh is to be transferred to the fund, and the fund is expected to make an investment into King Abdullah Economic City.

PIF is seen as a key driver of the kingdom's Vision 2030 plan to diversify the economy, with the authorities aiming to turn it into the world's largest sovereign wealth fund. Central to the reform plan is greater involvement by the private sector in the Saudi economy, including in the power sector: it has called on raising the percentage of power plant electricity generation through strategic partners to 100 percent from 27 percent currently. —Reuters

News

in brief

Yields mixed at Egypt's T-bond auction

CAIRO: Yields were mixed on Egypt's three- and seven-year treasury bonds at an auction yesterday, with yields on the shorter term bonds increasing while the yields on the longer term debt fell, data from the central bank showed. The average yield on the three-year bond increased to 18.573 percent from 18.258 percent at the last auction on Oct 31, while the average yield on the seven-year bond fell to 18.373 percent from 18.732 percent in the last auction.

Egypt's first gold mining tender set for early Dec

CAIRO: Egypt will hold its first international tender for gold mining concessions since 2009 in early December, Petroleum Minister Tarek El Molla said at an economic conference yesterday. Geologists say that Egypt has mineral-rich territory that could be ripe for mining, but investors have said that commercial terms offered in previous tenders were unattractive and have kept the sector underdeveloped. Last year the government said it wanted mining to increase its contribution to GDP to more than 5 percent from the less than 1 percent currently.

GGICO restructuring \$643 million of debt

DUBAI: Gulf General Investment Company (GGICO) is in talks with banks to restructure loan facilities worth a combined 2.36 billion dirhams (\$643 million), the Dubai-based company said in its financial statement yesterday. It is the second time in recent years that the company, which has investments spanning financial services, property, hospitality, manufacturing and retailing, has been forced to renegotiate its financial commitments. It completed a 2.8 billion dirham restructuring in 2012.

Qatar CB to offer 3 billion riyals bonds

DUBAI: Qatar's central bank will offer 3 billion riyals (\$825 million) of government bonds yesterday, with allocations due to take place today, an offer circular seen by Reuters showed. It will offer 1.5 billion riyals of three-year bonds at 2.25 percent, 1 billion riyals of five-year bonds at 2.75 percent, 250 million riyals of seven-year bonds at 3.25 percent, and 250 million riyals of 10-year bonds at 3.75 percent. Interest rates are the same as in the last domestic government bond sale in October, when the central bank sold 1.5 billion riyals of bonds.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen | 2.853 |
| Indian Rupee | 4.580 |
| Pakistani Rupee | 2.906 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 2.064 |
| Nepali Rupee | 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 |
| Emiri 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 | 304.200 |
| Canadian Dolla | 225.044 |
| Sterling Pound | 383.455 |
| Euro | 329.642 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 429.495 |
| Egyptian Pound | 19.620 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.065 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.498 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.902 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.875 |
| Philippines Pess | 6.189 |
| Cyprus pound | 160.643 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.826 |
| Syrian Pound | 2.427 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Nepalese Rupees | 3.860 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 72.482 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 45.243 |
| Thai Bhat | 9.664 |
| Turkish Lira | 94.850 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Europe | | |
| British Pound | 0.375484 | 0.385484 |
| Czech Korune | 0.004134 | 0.016134 |
| Danish Krone | 0.040061 | 0.045061 |
| Euro | 0.0322945 | 0.331945 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.031973 | 0.037173 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.072895 | 0.072895 |
| Slovakia | 0.009106 | 0.019106 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.029260 | 0.034260 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.300393 | 0.311393 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.090355 | 0.100655 |

| Australasia | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Australian Dollar | 1.000000 | 0.233285 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.209399 | 0.218899 |

| America | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Canadian Dollar | 0.219045 | 0.228045 |
| Georgina Lari | 0.137551 | 0.137551 |
| US Dollars | 0.300450 | 0.305150 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.300950 | 0.305150 |

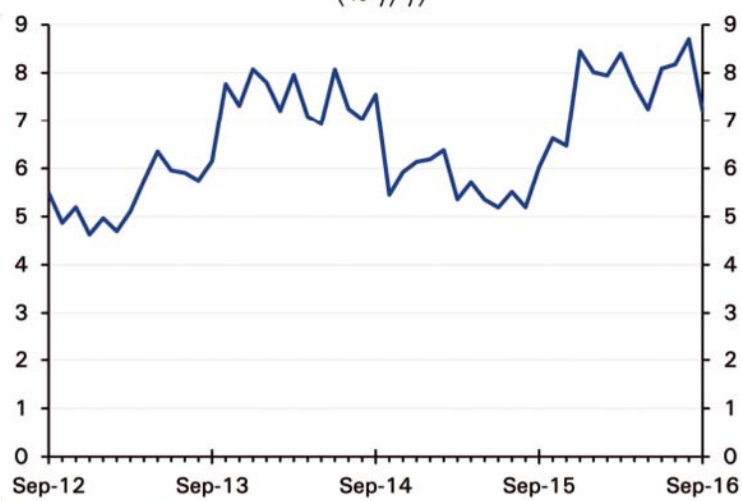
| Asia | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003389 | 0.003973 |
| Chinese Yuan | 0.043316 | 0.046816 |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.037164 | 0.039914 |
| Indian Rupee | 0.000298 | 0.004191 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000019 | 0.000025 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002745 | 0.002925 |
| Kenyan Shilling | 0.002989 | 0.002989 |
| Korean Won | 0.000249 | 0.000264 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.067832 | 0.073832 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.002827 | 0.002997 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002702 | 0.002992 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.006105 | 0.006405 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.000051 | 0.000057 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.209720 | 0.219720 |
| South African Rand | 0.015156 | 0.023656 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001655 | 0.002235 |
| Taiwan | 0.009408 | 0.009588 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008290 | 0.008840 |

Arab

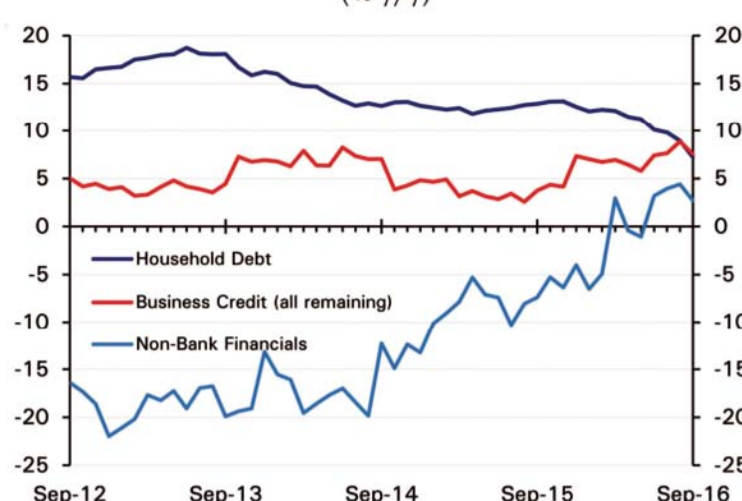
| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.801254 | 0.809754 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.015530 | 0.024783 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000086 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000187 | 0.000247 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.425404 | 0.434404 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000151 | 0.000251 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.019984 | 0.043984 |
| Nigerian Naira | 0.000364 | 0.000999 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.784618 | 0.790298 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.082841 | 0.084291 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.080127 | 0.081427 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001291 | 0.001511 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.131103 | 0.139103 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.090355 | 0.100655 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081493 | 0.083193 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.001377 | 0.001457 |

Chart 1: Credit growth (% y/y)



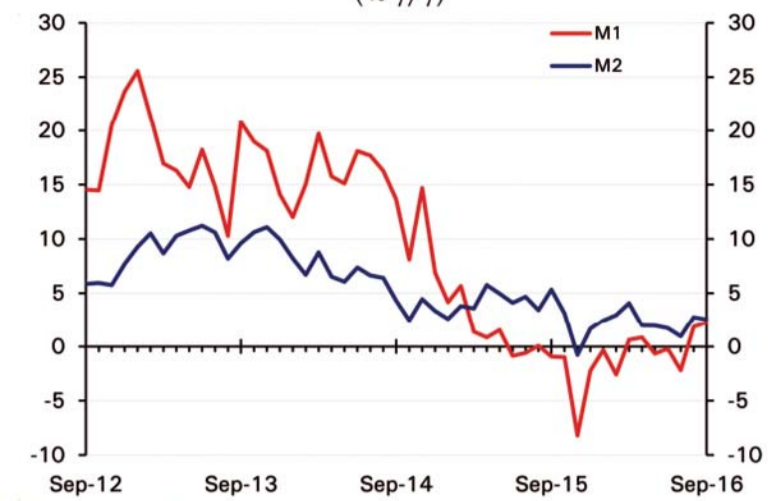
Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 2: Credit growth by component (% y/y)



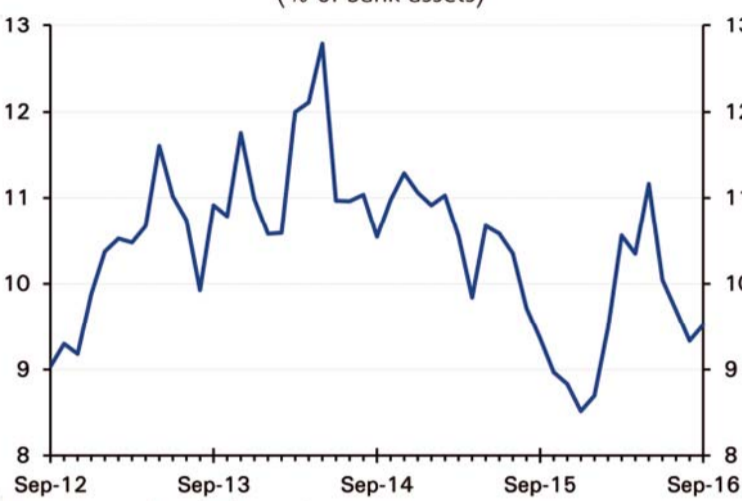
Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 3: Money supply growth (% y/y)



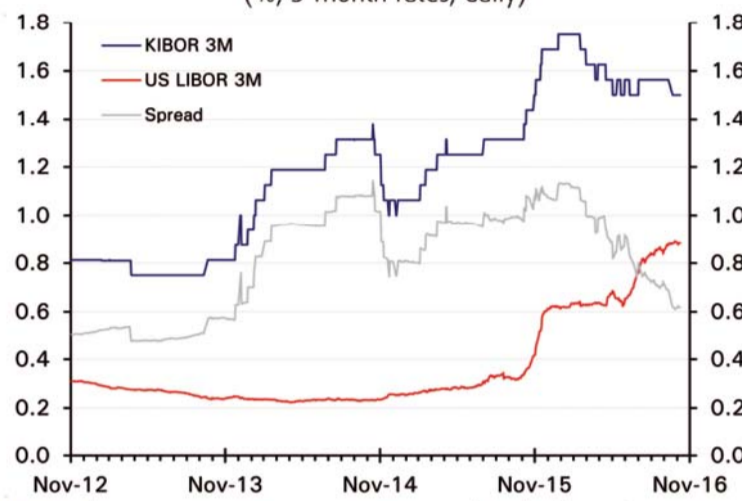
Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 4: Bank reserves (% of bank assets)



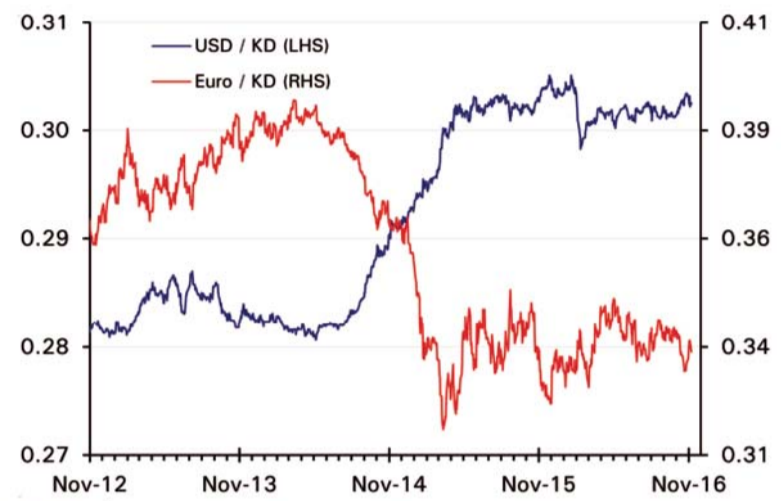
Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 5: Interbank rates (% 3-month rates, daily)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream, Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 6: Exchange rates



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

KUWAIT CREDIT GROWTH MODERATES TO 7.2% IN SEPT

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Outstanding bank credit recorded a healthy gain in September, but saw growth slow notably to 7.2 percent year-on-year (y/y) due to base effects. Loans rose by a good KD 272 million, driven largely by lending for the purchase of securities. Meanwhile, household loans were flat during the month and business credit was mixed. Private deposits saw a solid gain during the month combined with a smaller increase in government deposits. Domestic interest rates held steady throughout the month.

Household lending was flat in September, with growth slowing to 7.2 percent following months of softening. The absence of growth during the month was the worst result since early 2011, though it did come on the heels of a strong showing in August. As a result, growth was the

weakest it's been in five years.

Lending to nonbank financial companies saw a healthy net gain and maintained positive growth from a year ago. Sector debt added KD 42 million during the month, with growth coming in at 2.7 percent y/y. The sector appears to have largely completed deleveraging that began in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

All remaining credit rose by KD 231 million, though growth eased to 7.5 percent y/y on basis effects. A large part of the gain came from a KD 219 million increase in lending for the purchase of securities. Other business sectors were mixed. Some solid gains were visible in the construction, real estate and trade sectors. This was offset, however, by a notable weakness in crude oil & gas and "other".

Private deposits rose in September, following three months of decline during the summer. Deposits rose by KD 405 million. The gains were concentrated in KD sight and time deposits. Meanwhile, foreign currency deposits declined, partially offsetting the gains. The notable rise in KD sight deposits pushed growth in the narrower M1 money supply higher to 2.3 percent y/y; meanwhile, broad M2 money supply growth slowed slightly to 2.6 percent y/y on base effects.

Government deposits added KD 46 million on the month with growth steady at 27 percent. Government deposits have grown notably over the last twelve months at a time when private sector deposits have been under pressure; they added KD 1.4 billion over

the last twelve months compared to a gain of only KD 825 million in private deposits during the same period.

Banking system liquidity improved in September, further bolstering its healthy level. Bank reserves (i.e. cash, deposits with the CBK and CBK bonds) added KD 210 million to reach KD 5.8 billion or 9.5 percent of total bank assets. The increase was predominantly in time deposits with the CBK and coincided with a KD 413 million increase in CBK foreign reserves, which jumped to KD 8.1 billion. Meanwhile, net domestic debt issuance, which taps back liquidity, rose from the previous month; outstanding public debt instruments (PDIs) rose by KD 200 million during September to KD 2.77 billion.

EGYPT, SAUDI HIT BY PROFIT-TAKING

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Profit-taking hit stocks in Egypt and Saudi Arabia yesterday following strong rallies in both markets, while general weakness in emerging markets dragged down the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Cairo's blue chip index, which had soared 28.1 percent since the Egyptian pound was floated on Nov. 3, fell 2.0 percent ending 12 consecutive sessions of gains. The broader EGX100 index dropped 0.8 percent. Exchange data showed non-Arab foreign investors remained net buyers of stocks to the tune of about \$6.7 million, a smaller amount than in previous days.

Many Egyptian blue chips surged after the pound's float partly because the depreciation of currency meant companies' dollar-denominated global depositary receipts were suddenly worth much more in local currency. But that effect now appears to have largely run its course. The Cairo-listed shares of Commercial International Bank, for example, fell 3.9 percent to 66.60 Egyptian pounds. At \$4.26, its GDRs were worth 67.10 pounds at an exchange rate of 15.75 pounds to the dollar.

Saudi Arabia's index slipped 0.5 percent, ending seven consecutive sessions of gains in the heaviest trading volumes since April. Petrochemical shares lost their footing as Brent futures fell below \$44.50 a barrel, heading for their lowest settlement since August. Heavyweight producer Saudi Basic Industries fell 0.6 percent.

The banking sector was mixed as Saudi central bank officials told a news conference that they wanted money rates to fall further, easing a liquidity squeeze in the sector. They indicated that more fund inflows into the banking system were expected.

UAE, QATAR

Currencies from the Mexican peso to the Malaysian ringgit fell yesterday as the US dollar soared to an 11-month peak. But in the Gulf, foreign exchange pegs mean foreign investors do not have to worry about currency depreciation against the US dollar.

Nevertheless, Dubai's main index lost 0.9 as builder Arabtec dropped 2.3 percent. The company reported a narrower quarterly loss of 225.5 million dirhams (\$61.4 million) compared with a 944.8 million loss in the same period of last year. Index compiler MSCI is due to announce the results of its semi-annual index review at the end of the day. VTB Capital said in a note that it estimated an 80 percent probability that DXB Entertainment would replace Arabtec in MSCI's emerging market index. Shares in the amusement park builder closed down 0.7 percent.

VTB Capital also expects Dubai Financial Market, the only listed Gulf exchange, to be excluded from the index. Its shares dropped 1.8 percent. But Air Arabia climbed 2.4 percent after it reported a 26 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to 297 million dirhams, at the upper end of analysts' forecasts.

Similarly, Abu Dhabi's index fell for a fourth straight session, closing 1.2 percent down. MSCI emerging market index component Etisalat lost 2.3 percent.

In Qatar, the index slipped 1.3 percent in modest volume to a fresh five-month low. Twelve of the 13 shares that are members of the MSCI emerging market index fell, with Qatar Navigation losing 3.5 percent. —Reuters



CHEVROLET ALGHANIM PROMOTES KIND DRIVING

SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES IN 2016 YELLOW PARADE

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting safety and kindness on the road, Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet Alghanim, has participated in and sponsored for the second year in a row the Yellow Parade organized by Alnowair, a non-profit initiative founded by Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah that aspires to spread positivity in Kuwait through campaigns and activations. Coinciding with the World Kindness Day, the Yellow Parade and kindness carnival, which hosted over 100 vehicles and dozens of motorbikes along with representatives from many organizations, aim to promote kindness and empathy on the road and in our daily lives through a variety of public activities under the social umbrella, #DriveKind.

As one of Yellow Parade's sponsors, Chevrolet Alghanim had a captivating booth that garnered the attention of many visitors through a number of interactive activities led with positive messages. One of the activities that drew a large number of participants was the "Wheel of Kindness," where a participant would spin the wheel and perform one of the 12 acts of kindness on the spot, such as thanking five volunteers for their efforts, meeting someone new, taking a group selfie with friends, and more. Attendees also had the chance to write on the "Wall of Kindness," an interactive wall that invited them to write down behaviors that they appreciate on the road from other drivers; thus, in return, relaying their messages to other drivers who stopped by to read them.

Ultimately, the event underscores Chevrolet Alghanim's commitment to build an engaging relationship with the youth of Kuwait as part of



the company's varied social initiatives. The company promises to continue sponsoring and participating in events that promote noble and social causes in a creative manner, especially ones like Alnowair's Yellow Parade and its brand of positivity, whose core values of pursuing a life of fulfillment and happiness through empathy with others coincide with values that Chevrolet Alghanim endorses, both internally and publically, through its "I Care" pledge. Chevrolet Alghanim encourages all of its customers to #DriveKind and to stay tuned for the feedback that was shared on its interactive wall.

Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

IDB TO ANNOUNCE SUKUK ROADSHOW THIS WEEK

DUBAI: The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will announce this week plans for investor roadshows covering its planned sukuk sale, bankers familiar with the situation told Reuters. The issue, expected to be in excess of \$1 billion, is one of the few remaining debt sales likely to be completed in the Middle East before the end of this year, as the window to prepare new bonds shrinks and as market volatility puts investors in a defensive mode, bankers and investors said.

The IDB did not respond to an emailed request to comment. It mandated nine banks for the Islamic bond sale in late October, with the aim of issuing the sukuk after the US elections on Nov 8.

But the unexpected victory of Donald Trump in the US presidential election last week caused the IDB - as well as other potential debt issuers in the

Middle East - to wait a bit longer to assess the impact of Trump's victory on the regional bond market, bankers said.

"The deal would have gone out earlier if Clinton had won," said one. Some Middle Eastern bond transactions for which banks had already been mandated have been put on hold because of the market turmoil caused by Trump's win, and new mandates for issues that could have taken place after a Clinton victory have been frozen, bankers said. Potential borrowers have decided to wait until January to see how markets perform. An interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve Bank in December seems likely, and the market has already priced that in, "so what's the advantage in issuing now rather than in January?" said the banker. —Reuters

DOLLAR SOARS AS US YIELDS SPIKE; SHARES DIVIDED

LONDON: The US dollar hit an 11-month peak yesterday as the risk of faster inflation and wider budget deficits, if president-elect Donald Trump should go on a US spending spree, sent Treasury and other benchmark global bond yields shooting higher.

Currencies in many emerging markets - from the Mexican peso to the Malaysian ringgit - fell to new lows and for share markets it made for a mixed start to the week. The pan-European STOXX 600 index had lost much of its early buoyancy by the time US trading neared but was still up 0.2 percent as banks eyed a boost from higher interest rates and mining company shares rose on the back of Trump's promises of

major infrastructure spending. The deflation trade also saw futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones industrial add another 0.2 percent to 0.5 percent after the Dow chalked up its best week for five years last week.

The dollar meanwhile bounded towards 108 yen, having hit and then dropped back from the eye-catching 100 threshold on the index that measures it against the world's other major currencies. Trade was brisk with the greenback's rally taking the pace off a resurgent sterling and seeing the euro slide to its lowest since the start of the year at about \$1.0745.

"Clearly the market has settled on a 'buy dollar' theme on the basis there will be a debt-

fuelled US fiscal binge that will push up inflation," TD Securities European Head of Currency Strategy Ned Rumpeltin said. "People are repricing the Fed on the basis of that so it all seems to be a relatively straightforward." The dollar has been romping ahead since Trump won the US presidential election on Nov 8, triggering a massive sell-off in Treasuries.

Yields on the US 10-year Treasury notes climbed to their highest since January on Monday at 2.28 percent, while 30-year paper reached 3 percent. German 30-year yields topped 1 percent for the first time in more than six months. Just two days of selling last week wiped out more than \$1 trillion across global

bond markets, the worst rout in nearly a year and a half, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The jump in yields on safe-haven US debt threatened to suck funds out of emerging markets, while the risk of a trade war between the United States and China is also causing jitters.

"There are signs that higher bond yields and the knock of a stronger US dollar are having a domino impact, taking down the weakest risky assets first, before moving on to the next," Deutsche's global co-head of forex, Alan Ruskin, said.

"There is only so much financial conditions tightening that risky assets can take when fiscal stimulus is still a promise that lies some way in the future." The stampede from bonds has seen 30-year yields post their biggest weekly increase since January 2009 and the 50-basis-point move in 10-year bonds is the equivalent of two standard interest rate hikes. Three Federal Reserve officials are due to speak later.

SUBMERGING MARKETS

Africa's rand were all at the centre of the sell-off. Emerging market stocks also extended their post-US election slump to more than 7 percent. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan ended at its lowest since mid-July as Hong Kong and Indonesia led the region's losses with drops of 2.7 and 2.2 percent. By contrast, Japan's Nikkei jumped 1.7 percent on the weakening yen to hit its highest in nine months.

It got an added fillip from data showing Japan's economy grew at an annualized rate of 2.2 percent in the third quarter, handily beating forecasts. Elsewhere, the New Zealand dollar eased after an earthquake on Monday that killed at least two people and prompted a tsunami warning that sent thousands fleeing to higher ground. The currency dipped to \$0.7092, with losses limited by talk that rebuilding work would support an already strong economy and lessen the need for further interest rate cuts.

Egypt's pound strengthened, meanwhile, after the International Monetary Fund approved a \$12 billion, three-year loan program the government hopes will help restore investor confidence and stabilize the currency and economy. In commodities, the rampant US dollar put pressure on gold, which lost 0.8 percent to \$1,215 an ounce. It has lost 7 percent over the last week. Yet, industrial metals extended their bull run, with copper adding 1.2 percent.

In the oil market, Brent crude began backsliding, dipping 70 cents to \$44.17 a barrel, while U.S. crude eased 60 cents to \$42.75. One market rate, measuring expected US inflation over the five-year period that begins five years from today, shot up 30 basis points to 2.46 percent last week, the highest since late 2014. It had been as low as 1.84 percent in June.

Speaking in Frankfurt, European Central Bank Vice President Vitor Constancio warned about the uncertainty being caused by the sudden swing in markets. "We should be cautious in drawing hasty, positive conclusions from those market developments because they may not necessarily indicate that the world economy

will have an accelerating recovery with higher growth," he said.

Asian markets hit

Japanese stocks soared yesterday as the dollar reached a four-month high against the yen, but most other Asian markets were hit by worries about the impact of Donald Trump's presidency on global trade. Equities around the world have seen volatile trading since the tycoon's shock election win, with his pledge of big-spending measures and tax cuts leading to predictions of a surge in inflation and higher borrowing costs. The prospect of better and safer returns in the US has also led to an exodus from emerging markets and currencies, while the Mexican peso is also struggling owing to concerns about Trump's warning he will tear up a key trade deal. Tokyo's Nikkei ended up 1.7 percent, with exporters rallying on the back of the weakened yen. The dollar was at 107.61 yen, its highest mark since July. "The Federal Reserve now face the conundrum of rising inflation expectations," Chris Weston, chief market strategist in Melbourne at IG Ltd, said, according to Bloomberg News.

"What we saw last week was a genuine change in the thought process of many money managers, with some feeling we need to be prepared for inflation, while many others have been truly skeptical of the moves and note that while markets are firmly in the 'hope' phase there are great execution risks."

Japanese investors were also lifted by news the economy grew more than expected in the third quarter as exports offset slack consumer spending.

Dollar surges

Wellington gained 0.5 percent as a deadly earthquake in New Zealand's south island boosted construction firms on expectations of a rebuilding program. Shanghai put on 0.5 percent despite data showing below-forecast retail sales and industrial output for October. However, Hong Kong sank 1.4 percent, extending a heavy loss on Friday, while Seoul and Sydney each shed 0.5 percent and Singapore fell 0.9 percent. Manila dived 1.5 percent and Jakarta was 1.8 percent lower, with dealers concerned Trump's protectionist rhetoric could see him throwing up tariffs. The prospect of higher US interest rates battered higher-yielding currencies last week and on Monday South Korea's won was down 0.6 percent, the Philippine peso fell 0.5 percent and the Thai baht lost 0.1 percent. "Asian currencies continue (to come) under almost universal pressure in the aftermath of Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential elections as traders bet that an isolationist and protectionist presidency could harm the region," Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at CFD and FX provider AxiTrader, said. The dollar was also at record highs against the Mexican peso. The peso and Mexico's stock market have been hurt by fears Trump will follow through on campaign pledges to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, as well as pressure the country to pay billions of dollars for a giant border wall. — Reuters

OIL PINNED NEAR 3-MONTH LOWS AS GLOOM GROWS

LONDON: Oil fell to its lowest in three months yesterday, as the prospect of another year of oversupply and weak prices overshadowed chances that OPEC will reach a deal to cut output.

Donald Trump's surprise victory in last week's US presidential election has boosted stocks and the dollar, but undermined much of the commodities complex, including oil, which has sagged as expectations that the world's largest exporters will agree to reduce output this month have waned.

Brent crude futures fell 43 cents on the day to \$44.32 a barrel by 1205 GMT, while NYMEX crude futures shed 56 cents to trade at \$42.85 a barrel. "In the same way that a strong OPEC agreement was needed to continue the rally above \$55, a lack of agreement will be needed to break below \$40 and right now, we're at \$45," Petromatrix strategist Olivier Jakob said. "So I think on a risk basis, we're starting to be a bit more concerned about the upside price risk, than about the downside." OPEC plans to cut or freeze output, but analysts doubt the group's ability to reach an agreement at its meeting on Nov 30. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said on

Friday its output hit a record 33.64 million barrels per day in October, and forecast an even larger global surplus in 2017 than the International Energy Agency on Thursday. Yet, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih has said it was imperative for OPEC to reach a consensus on activating a deal made in September in Algiers to cut production. "OPEC know what needs to be done but too few members will agree to take the production pain for the price gain, knowing also that the price gain incentivizes non-OPEC to produce more, lengthening the rebalancing process," PVM Oil Associates analyst David Hufton said.

The dollar index hit an 11-month peak on Monday, driven by an aggressive sell-off in bonds that has pushed Treasury yields to their highest since January. Ordinarily, a strong dollar would push oil lower, but the correlation between the two is at its most positive in two months, suggesting they are more likely to move in lockstep with one another than in opposite directions. Data from the InterContinental Exchange on Monday showed investors delivered the largest weekly cut on record to their bets on a sustained rise in the price of oil. — Reuters

GOLD HITS 5-MONTH LOW ON STRONG DOLLAR

LONDON: Gold edged lower yesterday, hovering just above an earlier five-month low, as the dollar and Treasury yields strengthened on expectations that President-elect Donald Trump will boost US spending. "Gold is suffering from an irrational dollar rally on expectations Trump's fiscal policies will boost spending and therefore inflation, which could lead to higher US interest rates," said ActivTrades chief analyst Carlo Alberto de Casa.

"However, uncertainty about the US economic outlook and also about international risk events such as the Austrian presidential election and the Italian constitutional referendum next month could have an impact on wider markets and impact gold's trading in the medium term."

Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,223.51 an ounce by 1231 GMT. The met-

al fell 1 percent to \$1,212.26 an ounce earlier in the session, its lowest since June 3. US gold futures were down 0.1 percent at \$1,222.20 an ounce. The dollar rose to an 11-month high against a basket of major peers, while yields on the US 10-year Treasury notes climbed to their highest since January at 2.2 percent. A broad sell-off in global commodities and surging bond yields had seen the metal dipping nearly 3 percent in the previous session. "People seem to have unwound their Trump-risk and are now talking more about 'Trumpflation'," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA. "The rate hike in December is an absolute done deal now." The market is now betting on the Federal Reserve raising interest rates more quickly. Higher US interest rates could lift the opportunity cost of holding non-interest-bearing gold. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 14 November 2016

| Index | Change | Closing | Last Closing | High | Low |
|----------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Price Index | ▼ -11.77 | 5,469.35 | 5,481.12 | 5,486.98 | 5,455.60 |
| Weighted Index | ▲ 0.18 | 364.36 | 364.18 | 365.35 | 363.13 |
| KSX 15 | ▲ 1.08 | 859.99 | 858.91 | 865.97 | 856.31 |

| Security | Trades | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | High | Low | Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | Change |
| MARIN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 | — 0.0 |
| IKARUS | 36.0 | 33.5 | 323,783 | 11,234.34 | 34 | 34.5 | ▼ -1.5 |
| IPG | 350 | 350 | 100 | 35 | 1 | 350 | — 0.0 |
| NAFESCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 790 | — 0.0 |
| ENERGYH | 42.5 | 40.0 | 2,500 | 101 | 3 | 42.5 | — 0.0 |
| GPI | 39.5 | 38.0 | 2,796,050 | 107,957.54 | 54 | 38.5 | ▼ -0.5 |
| ABAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86 | — 0.0 |
| Oil & Gas | | | 3,122,433 | 119,327 | 92 | 746.71 | ▲ 0.36 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|----|--------|---------|
| KFOUC | 180 | 176 | 102,680 | 18,200 | 8 | 176 | ▼ -6.0 |
| BPCC | 475 | 465 | 501,100 | 233,546 | 8 | 475 | ▲ 5.0 |
| ALKOUT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 570 | — 0.0 |
| ALQURAIN | 212 | 210 | 45,672 | 9,611 | 8 | 210 | — 0.0 |
| Basic Materials | | | 649,452 | 261,357 | 24 | 922.43 | ▼ -2.86 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-----|---------|--------|
| KEFRI | 390 | 390 | 701 | 273 | 1 | 390 | ▼ -5.0 |
| RCMI | 310 | 310 | 10,000 | 3,100 | 2 | 310 | ▼ -5.0 |
| CABLE | 380 | 375 | 51,110 | 19,318 | 8 | 380 | ▲ 5.0 |
| SHIP | 158 | 154 | 403,493 | 62,875 | 33 | 156 | — 0.0 |
| PCEM | 950 | 940 | 1,152 | 1,090 | 2 | 950 | ▲ 10.0 |
| PAPER | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 255 | — 0.0 |
| MRC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | — 0.0 |
| ACICO | 270 | 270 | 20,000 | 5,400 | 2 | 270 | — 0.0 |
| GGMC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | — 0.0 |
| HCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 118 | — 0.0 |
| KBMM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | — 0.0 |
| NICBM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | — 0.0 |
| EQUIPMENT | 45.0 | 44.0 | 714,402 | 31,566 | 47 | 45.0 | ▲ 0.5 |
| NCCI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | — 0.0 |
| GYPSUM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | — 0.0 |
| SALBOOKH | 56 | 56 | 100 | 6 | 1 | 56 | ▲ 1.0 |
| AGLTY | 520 | 520 | 359,400 | 186,888 | 21 | 520 | — 0.0 |
| EDU | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 192 | — 0.0 |
| CLEANING | 39.0 | 39.0 | 700,000 | 27,300 | 16 | 39.0 | ▼ -0.5 |
| KGL | 48.0 | 47.5 | 335,400 | 16,032 | 8 | 48.0 | ▲ 0.5 |
| KPC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 170 | — 0.0 |
| HUMANSOFT | 1,820 | 1,800 | 41,000 | 73,820 | 7 | 1,800 | — 0.0 |
| NAFAS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 180 | — 0.0 |
| SAFWAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 390 | — 0.0 |
| GFC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31.0 | — 0.0 |
| MAYADEEN | 28.0 | 27.5 | 388,200 | 10,138 | 12 | 28.0 | — 0.0 |
| CGC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 640 | — 0.0 |
| MTCC | 58 | 57 | 85,500 | 3,734 | 3 | 57 | — 0.0 |
| UPAC | 700 | 690 | 1,100 | 780 | 3 | 700 | ▲ 10.0 |
| ALAFCO | 214 | 214 | 750,000 | 160,500 | 12 | 214 | — 0.0 |
| MUBARRAD | 54 | 54 | 2,200 | 119 | 2 | 54 | — 0.0 |
| LOGISTICS | 78 | 75 | 52,776 | 3,961 | 3 | 75 | ▼ -2.0 |
| SCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79 | — 0.0 |
| GCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | — 0.0 |
| QIC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 | — 0.0 |
| FCEM | 85 | 83 | 1,606,785 | 135,114 | 11 | 84 | ▲ 1.0 |
| RKWC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 93 | — 0.0 |
| SPEC | 78 | 78 | 896 | 70 | 1 | 78 | — 0.0 |
| Industrials | | | 5,484,215 | 742,062 | 195 | 1214.49 | ▲ 0.71 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|----|---------|---------|
| KSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 | — 0.0 |
| NSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64 | — 0.0 |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | — 0.0 |
| CATTL | 234 | 224 | 69,500 | 16,038 | 12 | 224 | — 0.0 |
| DANAH | 91 | 89 | 117,350 | 10,545 | 7 | 89 | ▼ -4.0 |
| POULT | 178 | 178 | 10,000 | 1,780 | 1 | 178 | — 0.0 |
| FOOD | 2,620 | 2,620 | 45,100 | 118,162 | 6 | 2,620 | — 0.0 |
| Consumer Goods | | | 241,950 | 146,505 | 26 | 1116.77 | ▼ -5.72 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|--------|-------|---|---------|--------|
| MHC | 230 | 230 | 10,000 | 2,300 | 1 | 230 | — 0 |
| ATC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 920 | — 0 |
| YIACO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 238 | — 0 |
| Health Care | | | 10,000 | 2,300 | 1 | 1128.71 | — 0.00 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|-----------|---------|-----|--------|---------|
| KCIN | 950 | 940 | 2,500 | 2,370 | 3 | 950 | ▲ 20 |
| KHOT | 265 | 265 | 1,000 | 265 | 1 | 265 | ▼ -35 |
| SULTAN | 55 | 54 | 113,733 | 6,165 | 4 | 54 | ▼ -1 |
| CABLETV | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61 | — 0 |
| EYAS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 385 | — 0 |
| IFAHR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | — 0 |
| OULAFUEL | 118 | 112 | 185,910 | 22,376 | 31 | 118 | ▲ 6 |
| MUNIAZAHAT | 73 | 72 | 80,450 | 5,797 | 7 | 73 | ▲ 1 |
| JAZERA | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 830 | — 0 |
| SOOR | 112 | 112 | 18,108 | 2,028 | 12 | 112 | — 0 |
| FUTUREKID | 114 | 114 | 3,938 | 448 | 1 | 114 | ▲ 8 |
| ALRAI | 138 | 136 | 6,000 | 818 | 2 | 138 | — 0 |
| ZIMAH | 42.5 | 40.5 | 3,398,750 | 140,734 | 114 | 41.5 | ▼ -2 |
| UFIG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 170 | — 0 |
| Mezzan | 970 | 970 | 180,000 | 155,200 | 4 | 970 | — 0 |
| Consumer Services | | | 3,980,389 | 338,203 | 179 | 911.48 | ▼ -0.35 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-----|--------|---------|
| ZAIN | 410 | 405 | 931,734 | 378,147 | 37 | 405 | ▼ -5 |
| OOREDOO | 1,100 | 1,080 | 9,584 | 10,334 | 8 | 1,080 | ▲ 20 |
| HITSTELEC | 41.0 | 39.5 | 7,704,622 | 310,043 | 104 | 40.0 | ▲ 1 |
| VIVA | 860 | 850 | 120,883 | 103,298 | 42 | 850 | ▼ -10 |
| Telecommunications | | | 8,766,823 | 801,823 | 191 | 593.63 | ▼ -0.58 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|----|-----|------|
| NBK | 640 | 620 | 4,702,765 | 2,933,958 | 75 | 630 | ▲ 10 |
| GBK | 234 | 232 | 486,474 | 113,833 | 9 | 234 | ▲ 2 |
| CBK | 400 | 400 | 5,000 | 2,000 | 1 | 400 | ▲ 10 |
| ARK | 310 | 300 | 601,000 | 182,507 | 23 | 310 | ▲ 5 |
| ALMUTAHED | 405 | 405 | 9,818 | 3,975 | 2 | 405 | ▼ -5 |
| KIB | 200 | 200 | 810,902 | 162,180 | 14 | 200 | — 0 |
| BURG | 320 | 315 | 200,928 | 64,142 | 10 | 320 | — 0 |
| KFIN | 520 | 510 | 1,295,738 | 664,304 | 65 | 510 | — 0 |



KUWAIT: Khalid Al-Shammiri, Abdulla Al-Najran Al-Tuwaijri, and Hossam Zahda.



BOUBYAN'S UTAP TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOMERS

SERVICE AT ALL BOUBYAN ATMS AND POS MACHINES: FOR FIRST TIME IN GCC

KUWAIT: Once again, Boubyan Bank emphasizes its leadership in the digital banking market by launching the UTap technology across all service levels, whether through ATMs or P.O.S. machines at stores and showrooms, for the first time across the GCC banks. The technology is known internationally as (Near Field Communication "NFC") where a customer waves his banking card near the P.O.S. machine or the ATM, which will identify all the information and process the payment/withdrawal transaction within seconds by tapping the card on the ATM/P.O.S. machine and entering the PIN.

Abdulla Al-Najran Al-Tuwaijri, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, stated: "Currently, all the bank's cards are equipped with this technology, making it easier to use them. It is sufficient to wave the card near the P.O.S. machine or the ATM in order to identify the card's data and information in a secure and encrypted manner after entering the PIN and then the debit or withdrawal transaction is completed. This way is easier compared with the current method where the card is inserted into the P.O.S./ATM in order to read the data through the smart chip."

Speaking of the most significant advantages of the service, Al-Tuwaijri added: "It is easier in terms of use and



you may access your information and complete your debit transactions swiftly. Furthermore, the service maintains the highest security standards, and one can imagine the speed and flexibility this payment method will add to our daily life in addition to the various ways where we can benefit from such a significant development."

Khalid Al-Shammiri, Boubyan Bank's Executive Manager - Direct Banking Channels, said that in addition to the ease of use those new cards enjoyed, the new cards enjoyed the highest approved security stan-

dards in addition to maintaining the confidentiality of information.

Al-Shammiri added: "This type of technology is now commonly used in a number of countries around the globe. However, in Boubyan Bank we take pride that our customer are not only the first to benefit from such a technology in Kuwait but also the first to do so across the GCC region. Our cards are the only GCC cards to use such a technology for both ATMs & P.O.S. machines." Boubyan Bank customers may now replace their existing cards, banking or credit cards, with



the new ones from any branch without any additional fees. Meanwhile, all new cards will be equipped with such a technology.

K-net, NCR & Boubyan Bank - Continuous Cooperation

Al-Tuwaijri extended his thanks to the Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (K-net) stating that such a step made by Boubyan Bank in cooperation with K-net represented a qualitative leap in the state of Kuwait in terms of using both the ATMs & P.O.S. machines due to the speed of

use provided by the service as well as saving time and effort in addition to enjoying the highest security standards. "K-net is saving no effort in cooperating with local banks to provide the local market with advanced services and products which put Kuwaiti banks in the leadership position on the GCC level," he added. Al-Tuwaijri also thanked NCR, the international company, for the services it provided to the Kuwait market. In this context, Hossam Zahda, General Manager of NCR's Kuwait Office, stated: "By cooperating with NCR,

Boubyan's involvement in digital banking services will have a positive effect on the bank's customers who will feel the difference with time, especially that such services save a lot of time and effort."

Zahda went on to praise the cooperation with Boubyan Bank during the past years, adding: "Such a cooperation resulted in a number of remarkable banking products and services distinguished by their high technology. The bank's customers always benefitted greatly from such services, especially the new one launched by Boubyan Bank in cooperation with NCR for the first time across the GCC region."

The World's Best Islamic Digital Bank

On the other hand, Al-Tuwaijri dwelt on Boubyan Bank's receipt of the World's Best Islamic Digital Bank Award for the second year in a row from the Global Finance Magazine in addition to being named the Best Islamic Digital Bank in Kuwait. The Global Finance Magazine named the international winning banks where CitiBank received the World's Best Corporate/Institutional Digital Bank Award and Standard Chartered received the World's Best Consumer Digital Bank Award while Boubyan Bank was crowned as the World's Best Islamic Digital Bank.



BEIJING: People walk past a fashion outlet billboard in a shopping mall in Beijing yesterday. China's retail sales growth slowed to 10.0 percent on-year in October, government data showed yesterday missing expectations in a worrying sign for domestic demand in the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

CHINA RETAIL SALES GROWTH SLOWED IN OCTOBER

BEIJING: China's retail sales growth slowed last month, government data showed yesterday, in a worrying sign for domestic demand in the world's second-largest economy. Retail sales in October grew 10 percent from a year earlier, missing expectations for sales to match the previous month's pace of 10.7 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said. Other data for last month showed industrial output growth of 6.1 percent, unchanged from September and slightly below forecasts in a Bloomberg News survey of economists. China is a key driver of the world economy but its expansion has slowed significantly from the double-digit years of the past. Now Beijing is seeking to make a difficult transition away from its dependence on exports and heavy industry towards consumption as the key driver of the economy, but the process is proving bumpy.

"It could be the consumer participation in growth is declining," independent Hong Kong-based analyst Andrew Collier told Bloomberg. "It's harder for the government to control retail sales than (fixed-asset investment) or industrial production, which is heavily state-driven." Beijing has ramped up fiscal stimulus and loose credit to keep the economy on target to meet its 6.5-7 percent growth target for the year. Fixed-asset investment, a gauge of infrastructure spending, rose 8.3 percent in the first 10 months of the year. The NBS figures showed an October jump in real-estate investment, which grew 6.6 percent in the first 10 months, compared with 2.0 percent in the same period last

year. "Growth momentum likely got help from steady property investment in October," said Zhao Yang of Nomura in a note. But concerns about surging housing prices caused authorities to roll out cooling measures in major cities last month, which will slowly take effect and lead to a moderate slowdown in growth next year, he added.

'Fizzle out'

The factory output figures which showed accelerating growth in output of steel, glass and cement last month reflected an increase in investment spending, said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. "Although state-sector investment remains strongest, much of the recent recovery has come from a marked rebound in private investment, which had stagnated earlier this year," he said. But recent policies to rein in credit growth and the hot property market will cause those drivers to "fizzle out" early next year, he added.

Chinese bank lending almost halved month-on-month in October, official data showed, after a credit surge in August and September sparked official alarm about debt risks.

Investors were unfazed by the data, buying infrastructure and coal shares as the benchmark Shanghai index climbed yesterday, closing above the symbolic 3,200-point level for the first time in almost 10 months. NBS spokesman Mao Shenyong said the slowdown in consumption growth was due mainly to a higher base of comparison last year when automobile sales surged thanks to government tax cuts. — AFP

TRUMP FISCAL PLAN COULD SPUR SPENDING IN EU TOO: C SUISSE

HONG KONG: Donald Trump's election will lead to an era of fiscal spending that could lift growth in the United States and spur European governments to follow suit, said John Woods, Asia Pacific Chief Investment Officer at Credit Suisse.

Trump, the Republican nominee who last week unexpectedly defeated Democrat rival Hillary Clinton in the US presidential race, has promised to boost growth at home through a combination of heavy infrastructure investment and deep corporate tax cuts. Although it is too early to say what measures the new administration will prioritize, or how they will fund them, Trump's control of both houses gives him great flexibility.

"The initial indications we have had from the incoming government coupled with comments made during the campaign trail have focused investor perceptions on the inflationary consequences of the expected policies," said Woods, speaking at the Reuters Global Investment Outlook Summit in Hong Kong. "By that, I mean there seems to be a much higher degree of fiscal activism being discussed than previous administrations," he said. "It's not beyond the realm of possibility that we start to see also fiscal activism in the EU."

Woods, who expects a rising trend for US interest rates, recommends investing mostly in equities, with a preference for segments such as infrastructure and defense, healthcare, financials and resources exploration companies. This is in anticipation of lighter regulation for the financial sector, a partial repeal of the Affordable Care Act championed by outgoing US President Barack Obama and more spending in the construction sector.

CHINA TRADE

Woods said he thought a full-blown trade war between the United States and China, its largest trading partner, was unlikely, despite the campaign rhetoric from Trump, who accused Beijing of artificially assisting its exporters and talked of introducing steep tariffs on Chinese goods.

"My own sense is that precipitating, or increasing trade friction for example between the United States and China is frankly self-defeating," he said. Trump would also have a hard job in making the case that China is a currency manipulator, given its economy has been slowing in the past two years, triggering massive capital outflows, Woods said.

China's fast-rising debt and slowing economic growth topped the list of investors' worries a year ago, but Woods said that was less of a concern now. "Why there's been a sea change in opinion in my view now is because we are seeing some indications of moderation in that deceleration, and indeed there are some people that even see some stability," Woods said.

Woods said he expected Beijing to focus on stabilising growth until the next five-year plenum of the Communist Party in October 2017. After that, President Xi Jinping, could take some tough measures to rein in debt.

"The government is entirely motivated to support growth and to cushion any downturn because I don't think there's a political will at the moment to countenance a sharper decline in growth," he said. "They are going to have to nationalize a large part of their debt, and they have the means to do it." — Reuters



PARIS: French Economy and Finance Minister Michel Sapin (R) and Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai (left) pose prior to a joint press conference following a Franco-Chinese Economic and Finance meeting at the Economy Ministry, in Paris yesterday. — AFP

GREEK ECONOMY GROWS FOR FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS

ATHENS: The Greek economy posted quarterly growth for the first time since 2014 in the three months to September, figures released yesterday showed. Greece's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 0.5 percent from the previous quarter, and by 1.5 percent from the third quarter of 2015, statistics bureau Elstat said.

The Greek government expects the Greek economy to contract by 0.3 percent in the full-year 2016, before returning to growth next year when it predicts GDP to surge by 2.7 percent.

On Thursday it said the growth dynamic was now in better shape than at any point since the financial crisis. "The Greek economy has not known a comparable growth rhythm since the first quarter of 2008," government spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos said.

He said Greece was counting on debt relief to support growth, as well as on

Athens gaining access to the European Central Bank's quantitative easing program which involves purchases of sovereign bonds.

Apart from a brief respite in 2014, the Greek economy has been steadily contracting since 2008 as the country's creditors as well as the European Union and the IMF imposed harsh austerity measures accompanying successive bailouts.

Falling salaries and pensions combined with tax hikes have had a devastating impact on demand, particularly consumer spending. In May, Greece's eurozone partners and the IMF agreed in principle to debt relief as well as series of short-term measures to be finalized in December.

They have not, however, been able to agree on the pace or the scope of long-term debt restructuring. European Union heavy-weight Germany has pushed back any such deal to end-2018. — AFP

AIR ARABIA POSTS STRONG Q3 NET PROFIT OF AED 297M

SHARJAH: Air Arabia, the first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC) in the Middle East and North Africa, today announced its financial results for the third quarter ending September 30, 2016, as the success of the company's expansion strategy continued to be reflected in strong performance figures.

Air Arabia's net profit for the third quarter of 2016 was AED 297 million, up 26 percent compared to AED 235 million reported in the corresponding period of 2015. For the three months ending September 30, 2016, the airline posted a turnover of AED 1.12 billion, in line with the revenue generated in the same period of 2015. Air Arabia served over 2.27 million passengers in the third quarter of 2016, a 14 percent increase compared to 2 million passengers in the same period of last year. The average seat load factor - or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats - for the same quarter stood at an impressive 81 percent.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al-Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "The strong third quarter and year to date performance is a reflection of Air Arabia's commercial and operational strengths supported by the company's commitment to deliv-



er high value air travel to its customers and return on investments to its shareholders".

He added: "Despite challenging trading conditions driven by excess capacity in the market, political instability in some markets and the effect of lower oil price in the regional economies, we remain confident about the long-term prospects for the low cost industry in region and our ability to continue with our growth plans while delivering our value-for-money promise to our customer's everyday".

Air Arabia's net profit for the first nine months of 2016 stood at AED 542 million, up 15 percent compared to AED 472 million reported in the corresponding period of 2015. For the nine months ending September 30, 2016, the airline posted a turnover of AED 2.96 billion, an increase of 3 percent compared to AED 2.86 billion in the same period of 2015. The low-cost aviation pioneer served over 6.3 million

passengers in the first nine month of 2016, a 14 percent year-on-year increase. The average seat load factor - or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats - for the same period stood at an impressive 80 percent.

Air Arabia completed 13 years last month, maintaining its continuous record of profitability since its first year of operations. The carrier added five new routes to its global network during the first nine months of 2016 from its operating hubs in the UAE, Morocco and Jordan.

Air Arabia also added to its impressive list of international accolades in the third quarter of 2016 when it was ranked third among the top 50 airlines in the world following a report compiled by Airfinance Journal surveying 137 carriers across the globe. The carrier was also named "Low Cost Airline of the Year" at the Aviation Business Awards and took home the 'Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year' award in recognition for its 'Charity Cloud' program. Air Arabia's Group Chief Executive Officer Adel Al Ali has also won 'Airline CEO of the Year' award at the 10th CEO Middle East Awards that took place in September 2016.



AUB NAMED 'BEST PRIVATE BANK IN BAHRAIN 2016'

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank has been named "Best Private Bank in Bahrain" at the prestigious Global Private Banking Awards 2016 ceremony held recently in London. The award is jointly announced by The Banker and PWM (Professional Wealth Management) magazines, the industry's leading publications of the Financial Times Group.

In recognition of its excellent services in the private banking and wealth management sector, AUB has received the award for the third consecutive year amidst the numerous local and international banks operating in the Kingdom. The winners were selected by an international panel of experts based on a set of criteria that included progress made in accordance with the business model and growth strategies, client relationship management, and adaptability of product offering to meet changing clients' needs.

Prakash Mohan, Acting Group Head -

Private Banking & Wealth Management, AUB said: "We are honoured to win this distinction as Bahrain's best private bank for three years in a row now. The award is a testimony to our clients' trust in us as well as to our track record in supporting their goals to protect, grow and diversify their wealth and investments, both at home and overseas. It is with AUB's strong cross-border reach and expertise, that we are able to meet our clients' high expectations and connect them to key markets and opportunities worldwide".

"Our on-the-ground teams in key markets in the region and the UK are better positioned to understand the unique needs of our clients from the region, and to cater to their requirements for trusted advice and effective investment, wealth management and trust planning solutions, all delivered with an attentive and personalized approach".

AL-TIJARIA ACHIEVES A NET PROFIT OF KD 8,383,474 AT END OF Q3, 2016

KUWAIT: Abdulfatah M R Marafie, Chairman of The Commercial Real Estate Company has stated that the business outcome of the company for the period which ended on 30.09.2016 resulted in achieving net profits of KD 8,383,474 (Eight million three hundred & eighty three thousand & four hundred & seventy four Kuwaiti dinar).



Abdulfatah M R Marafie

With 9 percent growth compared to the same period of 2015. The outcomes has also resulted in achieving a growth in shareholders' equity with a percent of 5.4 percent and growth in return on shareholders' equity with a percent of 3.4 percent and a growth in return on Capital with a percent of 9 percent compared to the same indicators of the same period in 2015.

Marafie also added that, "The Commercial Real Estate Company has been able to strengthen its position as a real estate pioneer and an integral part of the overall construction growth in the state of Kuwait. Al-Tijaria continues this march with success, maintaining its commitment, innovation and development for a better future with significant accomplishments and innovative real

estate solutions by delivering real estate projects (residential and commercial) with high quality that delivers luxury and development."

Marafie also announced that, "The Company has entered a new real estate investment in the kingdom of Netherland worth 5 million Euros equivalent to KD 1,699,600 (One million and six hundred and ninety nine thousand and six hundred Kuwaiti dinar) in alliance with a group of investors. This acquired property is the head quarter of Heerema Marine Contractors".

Nevertheless, he added that diversifying Al-Tijaria's international investment portfolio will follow the company's strategy in diversifying income generating real estate investments in terms of geographic and sectorial location for the purpose of maintaining our investment portfolio and guarantee continuous good results.

Marafie further stated, Al-Tijaria continues organizing and supporting social responsibility initiatives as part of its corporate governance principles including "Rafad" weekly meal distributions. It's worth mentioning that "Rafad" as a nonprofit project aims at raising awareness about the consumption of food. "Rafad" volunteers work on weekly basis to distribute dates and extra food from Symphony Style Hotel restaurants and special occasions or the freshly cooked food in the hotel's kitchen.

Marafie concluded by announcing that The Commercial Real Estate Company is devoting all its resources towards achieving its future vision based on strong capabilities and potentials. The Company works continuously on developing and investing these capabilities based on strategic plans made to achieve continuous growth and exceptional profits along with an added value to the shareholders.

KFH-TURKEY WINS TURKEY'S SUKUK ISSUER AWARD 2016

TSPB ORGANIZES 'CAPITAL MARKETS AWARDS' EVENT

KUWAIT: Turkish Capital Markets Association (TSPB) has this year nominated Kuwait Finance House-Turkey (KFH-Turkey) for its contribution to the market at its award ceremony where the companies adding value to capital markets each year.

KFH-Turkey issued Tier-II sukuk of \$350 million in February, domestic lease certificate of 300 million Turkish Liras in May and international sukuk of \$500 million in October this year holding its title of being the largest sukuk issuer in Turkey.

Expressing their pleasure that they have contributed to the Turkish economy with the highest amount "sukuk" issues performed by the private sector and that they have been deemed worthy of that award, Ufuk Uyan, CEO of KFH-Turkey stated that they were pleased with the demand for the sukuk issuance and regional diversity of the demand. Emphasizing that the sukuk issuance was the indication of international investors' confidence in KFH-Turkey, Uyan said, "this reveals their KFH-Turkey and their appetite for taking the medium-long term risk of KFH-Turkey and Turkey. In this respect, we are very pleased that we bring in new resources to our country. It is seen that our issuance will serve as a benchmark for other overseas issues to take place in Turkey. As a matter of fact, when all the issues of other banks in 2016 are compared, this is the most successful issue in terms of the demand level and the cost. Ongoing development and improvement of investment banking and confidence of sukuk investors in the sector and our country as well as the strong equity structure and quality asset structure of KFH-Turkey have become influential in successful closing of this issue".

KFH-Turkey had issued 20 sukuk issuance of around 1 million 400 thousand TL and lease certificate of 200 million TL with a tenor of 179 days in 2015 to the eligible investors in the country as well as in terms of initial public offering which is the highest amount lease certificate issuance made so far by the private sector in Turkey. So far, KFH-Turkey has issued lease certificates of a total of TL 9.8 billion in domestic and overseas markets in different currencies such as US dollar, Ringgit



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan handed the award to Ufuk Uyan.

Malaysia and Turkish Lira, and 5,6 billion TL is currently circulated in various markets.

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

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai. KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client serv-

ice, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

RATING AGENCY CI RAISES RATING OF ALARGAN BONDS TO 'BBB'

KUWAIT: Capital Intelligence (CI), the international credit rating agency, yesterday announced that it has raised its rating on the KD26.5 million bond issued by ALARGAN International Real Estate Company in April 2012 to "BBB" and revised the outlook to "stable" from a previous "BBB-" rating and "positive" outlook issued in December last year. The raise was supported by identified resources (cash plus unutilized committed funding lines) in place to repay the obligation. The rating upgrade also reflects the increase in equity and the fall in debt (and therefore leverage).

The rating agency also said in its report that ALARGAN enjoys a sound financial profile, a geographically diversified business model, and a good funding structure with close to no reliance on short-term bank borrowing (though the bond has now become a current liability as it matures in April 2017). CI also highlighted that the company's ongoing changes to the business model have already begun to lower the overall risk generated from the sector in which it operates through the proportion of revenues coming from recurring rental income steadily increasing over time.

CI said that the remaining borrowing amount of the company is not considered large enough to impact the rating, while more than three quarters is repayable after the maturity date of the bond. In addition, ALARGAN has a solid balance sheet with improved financial ratios, which are forecast to remain strong throughout the short remaining life span of the bond.



Khaled Al-Meshaan, ALARGAN International Real Estate

Commenting on the rating, Khaled Al-Meshaan, CEO and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of ALARGAN International Real Estate Company, said: "The Capital Intelligence rating confirms once again the company's stable position. ALARGAN is committed to delivering sustainability in every aspect of its business, including ensuring the business model is sustainable financially and operationally for the benefit of shareholders and stakeholders. As we move forward, ALARGAN will continue to focus on generating steady revenue through developments that add value to their surrounding communities."

EGYPTIAN POUND SOARS AS DOLLAR LIQUIDITY RISES

CAIRO: The Egyptian pound strengthened slightly yesterday and importers reported increased dollar liquidity at banks days after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$12 billion loan the government hopes will jump-start the economy. Banks were selling the pound at around 15.7 to the dollar and buying it at around 15.2 compared with a sell price of around 16 and a buy price of around 15 on Sunday.

Egypt floated the pound on Nov. 3 in a dramatic move welcomed by businesses as the key to unlocking investment. It devalued the currency by about a third from the former peg of 8.8 against the dollar and allowed it to drift lower.

The pound initially fell to a rate of roughly 18 to the dollar, in line with prices quoted on the country's currency black market just days before the float. The currency has been strengthening since last Wednesday, however, when IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said she would recommend the international lender approve Egypt's lending program.

Monday's stronger pound rate is in line with reports that importers of strategic goods are increasingly able to source their dollar needs from banks. One importer said he had been receiving his full currency requests on the same day, a dramatic improvement from the lengthy queues experienced before the float.

Moody's said in a report yesterday that increasing dollars sales to banks was credit positive "because it increases the availability of US dollars to them, which, in turn, will help service their customers' need for foreign currency, allow the banks to improve their dollar liquidity and reduce their net foreign liability position."—REUTERS

ETIHAD AIRWAYS AWARDED BEST FIRST CLASS, BEST LONG-HAUL AIRLINE IN MIDEAST AND AFRICA

KUWAIT: Etihad Airways has won awards for Best First Class and Best Long Haul Airline Middle-East and Africa in the AirlineRatings.com 2017 Airline Excellence Awards. The Abu Dhabi-based airline was also named in the global Top Ten.

AirlineRatings.com Editor-in-Chief and Publisher, Geoffrey Thomas, said: "Etihad Airways' attention to excellence at every level has resulted in a third consecutive win for Best First Class and Best Long Haul Airline Middle-East and Africa as well as a placing in AirlineRatings.com Top Ten.

"It's an outstanding achievement to win an

AirlineRatings.com award but Etihad Airways has taken that to another level by winning each category three years in a row.

"The airline is only one of a handful that has also achieved a seven-star ranking for both product and safety with AirlineRatings.com."

Etihad Airways' Chief Executive Officer, Peter Baumgartner, said: "To win Best First Class and Best Long Haul Airline Middle-East and Africa for the third consecutive year is a great honour and cements our position as a leader in innovative products, intuitive service and world-class hospitality.

"The awards also underscore our uncompromising commitment to engineering and operational excellence as well as safety which is, and will always be, our number one priority."

The 2017 AirlineRatings.com awards come just weeks after the UAE flag carrier received a Skytrax Certified 5-Star Airline Rating. This followed Skytrax awards for the World's Best First Class Airline, World's Best First Class Onboard Catering, and World's Best First Class Airline Seat for its Airbus A380 First Apartment in July 2016.

FACEBOOK LETS MESSENGER 'BOTS' TAP ANALYTIC SMARTS

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook yesterday began letting interactive "bots" inside its Messenger service tap into analytic capabilities once reserved for the social network, ramping up the potential to earn money from e-commerce. The move comes as Facebook is under pressure to profit from services such as Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram, having recently told investors it is hitting a limit on the number of ads it can pack into the online social network.

Facebook last week rolled out news feed ads that open into Messenger exchanges, and began letting businesses send "sponsored messages" to users who have interacted with them before. "Driving people to a Messenger conversation isn't enough," Facebook vice president of messaging products David Marcus said in an online post. "This is

where sponsored messages come in."

Facebook shares took a hit early this month after the huge social network delivered a blockbuster earnings report but warned that its stunning growth pace was set to slow. Although the California group reported a surge in profit and revenue, it also said it was unlikely to sustain that kind of growth in the near future. Facebook executives on an earnings call said the social network can no longer keep boosting the number of ads delivered without harming the user experience.

Bet on Bots

Since they were first announced at Facebook's annual developer conference in April, more than 30,000 chatbots have been built with artificial intelligence to act as virtual agents for businesses in text

exchanges with customers. The bots can answer questions, offer goods and services, send receipts or confirm reservations. Data gathered and provided by the social network would include how often people are transferred to humans at businesses or click through to websites to make purchases.

Analytics tools can also provide demographic insights on users based on what people share publicly at the leading social network. "These bots are providing new ways for businesses to interact with their customers," Facebook product manager Josh Twist told AFP. "Because we own the Messenger platform, we can help get analytics without any effort." Twist stressed that data being made available to businesses came only from interactions in their own bots, and that any broad insights such as behavior

breakdowns by demographics was aggregated and made anonymous.

Boosting Business

Last year, Facebook made analytics tools available for apps synced to the social network. Providing the insights to bots at Facebook-owned Messenger moves them outside the social network for the first time. The company could then make money from the messaging service by acting as an intermediary between businesses and customers. Analytics may reveal reasons people add items to virtual carts but don't complete purchases, or which marketing approaches work better with women or men. "This is about understanding user behavior and identity," Twist said.

User demographics derived from analytics potentially include information

openly shared at Facebook including gender, country, language, education levels and relationship status. That data is aggregated and made anonymous, according to Facebook. "You could never snoop on a particular individual," Twist said. Twist said the company's goal is to help businesses using bots discern what makes people buy rather than browse.

Bots do not receive analytic data in real time, so artificial intelligence cannot learn along the way or detect if it is chatting with a man or a woman, according to Twist. He said developers currently build artificial intelligence for bots, and Facebook handles the analytics. The company also announced it will begin accepting developers of bots for Messenger into a Facebook-sponsored program that provides free tools, services, and other resources to those who qualify. — AFP

HUAWEI LAUNCHES NOVA SMARTPHONE SERIES IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The Huawei Consumer Business Group in Kuwait launched the Huawei nova and Huawei nova plus, the first smartphones in the new series designed to meet the needs of today's most dynamic consumers. The nova smartphones are available at local retailers.

The new nova series features a stunning multi-curve design, camera advances for more vivid photography and performance updates for enhanced usability. Every fea-



to innovation and design. Trevor Liu, Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Technologies Kuwait, said: "Huawei recognizes that dynamic consumers demand a device that keeps up with their fast-paced lifestyle. This is why the nova smartphone brings new experiences to life with its incredible performance, stylish design and advanced camera features. The nova series is the perfect fit for a generation that lives their life on a smartphone." With its nova series, Huawei continues to defy expectations following its successful smartphones launches earlier this year, including the powerful Mate 8 and Huawei P9 which redefined the standard in smartphone photography.

Ergonomic Design

The Huawei nova smartphone's curved surfaces and 5-inch screen connect seamlessly to create an ergonomic, compact design that fits perfectly in the user's hands, enabling single-handed functionality. The nova plus smartphone has a 5.5-inch screen.

Outstanding Photography Experience

The nova smartphone sports a 12-megapixel rear camera which allows users to capture photos in low-light conditions, while the nova plus features an outstanding 16-megapixel rear camera, enabling it to capture more light for sharper, clear and richly refined photos in any environment. In addition, the Huawei nova series supports fast autofocus for amazing accuracy, helping consumers to capture wonderful moments in their life.

The smartphone is equipped with an 8-megapixel front-facing camera, enabling users to take and share better selfies in any lighting condition. Additional features include the proprietary Beauty Makeup 2.0 and Beautiful Skin 3.0 applications, which apply cosmetic effects and skin smoothing filters to create more flattering images.

Real-world Performance

The Huawei nova series is powered by the Snapdragon 625 processor, which uses advanced 14nm technology to increase performance and reduce power consumption. The Huawei nova's 3020 mAh battery with Smart Power 4.0 can power longer sessions for users to easily navigate between different apps. With a next-generation 3D fingerprint sensor, the Huawei nova supports faster and more accurate 360-degree unlocking for improved security, convenience and single hand selfies.

ture of the Huawei nova and Huawei nova plus is designed to support consumers' fast-paced lifestyles and express their unique personalities, whether that means capturing the perfect selfie or taking thousands of shots on a single charge. The Huawei nova series delivers brilliant usability features combined with stunning looks, powerful performance and fantastic camera which continues Huawei's commitment

GIGAMON TO SHOWCASE INNOVATIVE VISIBILITY FABRIC SOLUTIONS AT RSA

DUBAI: Gigamon, the leader in traffic visibility solutions, announced its participation as Silver Sponsor at the second edition of RSA Conference 2016 Abu Dhabi, being held from November 15-16, 2016 at the Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi. The company will showcase its innovative Visibility Fabric solutions and the industry's first security delivery platform - GigaSECURE at the niche IT security conference.

"Globally enterprises are getting increasingly stretched with the challenges of managing sophisticated and versatile security threats on a daily basis as well keeping the lights on for IT security operations. Cybercriminals are continuously attempting to breach every major corporation and government department around the world with varying degrees of success. As organisations grow, data is getting dispersed across the infrastructure, and IT organisations are struggling to manage, analyse, and secure their networks. Gigamon's Visibility Fabric can provide an overview as well as granular visibility into the network," said Trevor Dearing, EMEA Marketing Director at Gigamon.

Gigamon has been designing and building traffic visibility products since 2004. Its solutions are deployed globally across vertical markets including over half of the Fortune 100 companies and many government and federal agencies. The company will showcase its GigaVUE portfolio of high availability and high-density products that intelligently deliver network traffic using management, compliance and security tools.

Gigamon will also place the spotlight on GigaSECURE, the industry's first security delivery platform that provides visibility of network traffic, users, applications and suspicious activity, and delivers to multiple security devices without impacting network availability. The direct result is that third party security appliances are more effective at protection and remediation, and cost and complexity of security infra-



Trevor Dearing

structure is reduced. "Gigamon understands the importance of critical data and we have solutions available today, from standalone visibility-in-a-box to distributed offerings extending visibility to remote locations. At the RSA Conference 2016 Abu Dhabi, we are looking forward to highlighting the importance of visibility in the security strategy of regional enterprises. We are showcasing GigaSECURE as an innovation that makes the world's most effective security tools even stronger," Dearing explained. Globally, RSA Conferences are the world's largest IT security conferences, which play a crucial role in providing a learning platform for IT leaders, security vendors, policy makers to meet, network and share the latest security trends and technologies. The RSA Conference 2016 Abu Dhabi will bring together leading IT security experts from around the world to discuss the most critical challenges facing organizations. Gigamon has been participating in RSA Conferences globally and is continuing its presence at the Abu Dhabi edition of the event in November 2016.

NEW MACS, LENOVO LAPTOP MAKE KEYBOARDS TOUCHY

NEW YORK: Can the venerable laptop keyboard get more touchy-feely - and in a good way? We're about to find out. Higher-end models of Apple's MacBook Pro now come with a narrow touch screen above the regular keyboard for quick access to common settings and tasks, while Lenovo's Yoga Book laptop loses the physical keyboard entirely. The traditional keyboard has never struck me as needing much improvement, although people who've grown up on touch screens might well feel differently. These touch innovations, in fact, may mostly be aimed at luring such users to laptops. So how do the new touch features improve typing and computing?

Touch Screens, Not Keyboards

Many Windows laptops and tablets with physical keyboard accessories have long had touch screens. You still type primarily on a traditional keyboard, but you can poke screen icons and menus directly with your finger instead of navigating with a mouse or trackpad. This can be useful for basic tasks such as opening apps, moving the cursor to the search bar and rebooting the machine. But when fixing typos in documents, selecting email to delete and even editing photos, my trackpad is generally more precise than my fat fingers on the screen. A stylus helps, but I'm prone to misplacing it. It's also generally faster to just keep your fingers on the keys.

Touch Keys

Largely for these reasons, Apple has shunned touch screens on its notebooks. But its high-end MacBooks are getting a separate, narrow strip that replaces the top row of function keys you'll find on most keyboards. This Touch Bar offers the same functions, but instead of hitting F11 or F12 to change volume, for instance, you tap the speaker icon to bring up a volume slider. You can fix up to four icons in place; the initial defaults are brightness, volume, mute and the Siri voice assistant. The rest of the strip changes based on context.

When you're using the Safari browser, for instance, you typically get thumbnails of individual tabs for easy switching between websites. But that changes to play and pause if you're watching Netflix, while your name and address pop up as choices when filling out online forms. Apple's Maps app offers one-touch access to nearby businesses or directions. Mail and Messages offer auto-complete suggestions as you type, plus a button for emojis, similar to what you'd find on iPhones and iPads. You get touch access to system controls, such as "cancel" and "save," so you don't have to move your cursor. Third-party apps can add their own functionality, too, though the ones I use regularly have yet to do so.

Habits and Discoveries

The new volume and brightness sliders are much easier to use than tapping the appropriate function key multiple times to get the level I want. In Photos, I can scroll through my library more quickly than using arrow keys. And the Touch Bar does make it easy to include emojis in messages. Because I use it frequently, I made the screenshot function a default icon. No more opening Grab, navigating a menu and returning to the window I'm trying to preserve. I've also discovered functions I never knew existed, such as the ability to highlight text in Preview with different colors. This may matter less if, like me,



CUPERTINO, California: This Oct 27, 2016 photo shows MacBook computers in a demo room following the announcement of new products at Apple headquarters. — AP

you're a pretty good typist with a command of keyboard shortcuts. The Touch Bar will be more useful for those who look down at the keys when typing. One suggestion: The mute icon stays the same regardless of whether the Mac is already on mute. How about a distinct icon to unmute, now that the options are dynamic?

Fingerprints

The Mac now turns on automatically when you open the lid. In place of a power button is a fingerprint scanner, similar to what's found on mobile devices. You still have to type in my password occasionally as a security measure, but you can avoid doing so most of the time when resuming a session or installing new software. People sharing a computer can instantly switch profiles with their own fingerprints.

What Else

The MacBook Pro has a larger trackpad and is lighter and thinner than previous models, thanks in part to shorter keys that don't feel awkward. You no longer get regular USB ports or an SD memory card slot for photos. That means buying adapters to connect older printers, scanners and your iPhone to the new USB-C ports. On the plus side, you can now connect the power charger on either side, depending on where the outlet is.

And the MacBook retains a headphone jack, something the latest iPhones dropped. If you don't need the Touch Bar or the fingerprint scanner, you can save \$300 with an entry-level

MacBook Pro, but it is slower and has ports only on one side. The Touch Bar models start at about \$1,800 for a 13-inch screen and \$2,400 for 15 inches.

Disappearing Keyboard

Meanwhile, the 10-inch Yoga Book (about \$500 for Android, \$600 for Windows) retains the clamshell design of a laptop but has a second touch screen where the keyboard normally goes. Unlike pop-up touch keyboard in tablets, this one doesn't block the main display as you type. Without physical keys, the device is just 0.38 inch thick, or about two-thirds the thickness of the new MacBooks.

The Yoga provides both tactile and audio feedback when you hit the keys, although it's still easy to miss the ones you're aiming for. It takes longer to type because of all the typos, which gets annoying very quickly. You would think that with a touch keyboard, the Yoga could reconfigure the keys to toggle between upper and lower cases and switch languages, much the way a touch keyboard on a phone or tablet does on the screen. But the keys themselves always appear in standard English and in upper case, even when you're typing in Thai. Call it a missed opportunity. An Australian startup called Sonder is already planning to ship such a keyboard for \$199 this year, but who wants to carry around an extra accessory? If it makes it onto a future laptop, it could mark a true revolution that goes well beyond the minor changes the Touch Bar and the second touch screen offer. — AP

CISCO TRANSFORMS SECURITY WITH AMP FOR ENDPOINTS

DUBAI: At the annual Partner Summit in San Francisco, Cisco unveiled a new approach to endpoint security that is transforming the market. Cisco AMP for Endpoints combines prevention, detection and response to simplify endpoint security, allowing customers to ditch ineffective prevention-only strategies. By leveraging the scale and power of the cloud and Cisco's threat-centric security architecture, AMP for Endpoints allows customers to see and stop more threats, faster.

"Cisco continues the relentless evolution of our security architecture from the network to the endpoint to the cloud. The AMP for Endpoints launch is a critical milestone. Customers now have the opportunity to simplify their endpoint security strategy, securing mobile users, servers and desktops by leveraging Cisco's threat-centric security architecture," said Scott Manson, Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey at Cisco.

Shadi Salama, Channel Leader - Middle East Theatre, Cisco added, "Cisco's global partners are playing a strategic role in helping customers build and manage their

security architecture. With a new endpoint security solution, partners have the opportunity to tap into a market that is growing rapidly at 48 percent per year. Through Cisco's differentiated approach to endpoint security and new security software consumption models, Cisco partners can create additional service opportunities and unlock recurring revenue streams."

A New Approach to Endpoint Security

A secure foundation is essential for today's digital business models.



Scott Manson



Shadi Salama

Yet organizations are struggling to protect mobile users, desktops, laptops and servers against advanced malware attacks. Why? Most organizations focus on a prevention-only strategy based on legacy solutions that are not effective in defending against modern malware. Some organizations then layer additional products onto the endpoint to gain visibility and respond to threats that have evaded these legacy solutions. This creates significant operational complexity and inefficiency. With the fact that it takes enterprises, on average, over 100 days to detect a

threat in their own environment, it is clear that organizations need a new approach to endpoint security.

AMP for Endpoints offers a path to simpler, more effective endpoint security. By combining prevention, detection and response in one SaaS-deployed, cloud-managed solution, it reduces complexity and stops more threats. Through this cloud-based approach, AMP for Endpoints gets actionable intelligence into the hands of organizations faster, giving them an edge against today's attackers.

From the network to the endpoint to the cloud, Cisco's threat-centric security architecture ensures that customers get more from existing security investments, increasing capability while decreasing complexity. Like other Cisco security products, AMP for Endpoints shares and correlates threat information across the entire architecture, both the AMP ecosystem and other Cisco security platforms. This architectural approach to security means Cisco customers can see more threats, faster. In recent testing by NSS labs, Cisco achieved the fastest TTD with 91.8 percent of threats detected in under three minutes.

NEW CHINESE HOME FOR 'WORLD'S SADDEST POLAR BEAR'

SHANGHAI: A polar bear dubbed the "world's saddest" by animal rights activists has been removed from a Chinese shopping mall where campaigners said it was suffering in unsuitable conditions. The Grandview Mall in the southern city of Guangzhou held a farewell party for Pizza the bear at the weekend, it said on social media. A spokesman for the mall, which set up an "Ocean World" attraction with 500

species to try to draw in shoppers said: "Pizza left the aquarium with escorts after the farewell party" on Sunday. Chinese media reports said he was returning to the facility where he was born in captivity in the northern port of Tianjin.

The mall claimed the move was a temporary one due to the facility being renovated, and that Pizza would return after the works were completed. But

the US-based Humane Society International mounted a media-friendly campaign to highlight the bear's plight, coining the description the "world's saddest polar bear" and generating global headlines. It distributed video showing Pizza pacing around his 40-square-metre glass-fronted enclosure and shaking his head as onlookers took pictures on their cellphones. The footage showed the bear was in poor

physical and mental condition, it said. Peter Li, China policy expert at HSI said in a statement: "Pizza the polar bear has endured a life of deprivation and suffering in his small, artificial glass-fronted room at the shopping mall. At last he will feel the sun on his fur, sniff fresh air and see the sky above in the company of his mum and dad." The move was a result of public pressure, he said, and suggested that if the bear was in poor

health that could be another factor. "We implore the Mall to make this a permanent move for Pizza and to not condemn him to return," he added. Pictures of the bear's farewell party posted on China's Twitter-like Weibo by the mall showed children queuing up to say goodbye to the bear. "Tears and sadness are only temporary, we will make the cosiest home to await your return," it said. — AFP

CHINA TO BURN, NOT BURY, AS IT TACKLES TRASH CHALLENGE

'WASTE-TO-ENERGY' ENCOURAGED

WUJIANG: Thousands of tons of urban waste are hidden behind scrubbed white walls at a new power plant on the outskirts of the Chinese city of Wujiang, with even its chimney disguised as a clock tower. Desperate to fight mounting trash problems but wary of public opposition, China is building new incineration capacity designed to blend into its surroundings and limit environmental damage. Located in sparsely populated farmland around 60 miles west of Shanghai, with white geese dotting the lake around it on three sides, the Wujiang plant is designed to burn 1,500 tons of garbage every day.

It generates heat to run turbines that deliver 500,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity to the power grid at preferential tariffs, around double those of coal-fired plants and the source of two-thirds of its revenue. "Combustion reduces the volume, turns it into a resource and detoxifies it, so we believe it is going to be a mainstream product within 20 years," said Cai Shuguang, deputy general manager of China Everbright International, which built the plant. With land scarce and consumption surging, China has little choice but to burn as much trash as it can, said Cai.

The landfills encircling Beijing are known collectively as the capital's "seventh ring road", while throughout the country burial of untreated waste has contaminated land and built up potentially hazardous pockets of methane. About 200 trucks dump up to 10 tons of trash each day in a silo 26 meters deep at the Wujiang plant. Toxic emissions are captured and little is wasted, with furnace slag recycled into



HEIHE: Smoke billows from a heating factory in Heihe, in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province. Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels have been nearly flat for three years in a row - a 'great help' but not enough to stave off dangerous global warming, a report said yesterday. — AFP

bricks. Everbright's first waste-to-energy (WTE) plant was built in nearby Suzhou more than a decade ago. China as a whole had 223 WTE plants by the end of last year, and that number could double by 2020.

But household waste treatment and recycling rates are still way too low, China said in a plan published in September, adding that industry spending would need to reach 192.4 billion yuan (\$28 billion) from 2016 to 2020. The plan aims to incinerate more than 500,000 tons of waste a

day by then, or 2-1/2 times the 2014 figure. Better-off cities will have to burn most garbage, and curb landfill expansion. "Waste-to-energy is being encouraged from top to bottom: Subsidies are very high and profits far exceed those from recycling," said Zhao Youcai, a waste management expert at Shanghai's Tongji University.

Tackling Nimbyism

But China has struggled to reach previ-

ous targets, with daily incineration capacity of 235,224 tons by the end of 2015 missing a goal of more than 300,000 tons. "The main reason is the level of understanding among local governments, and we also need to work on eliminating the problem of Nimbyism," Cai said. Waste incinerators have provoked protest as communities worry about stench and the risk of toxic emissions. Last week, the housing ministry vowed to toughen pollution controls and combat "Nimbyism" by offering cheaper water, heat and electricity for those living near waste projects. Such moves would transform perceptions to "profit in my backyard" from "not in my backyard", the ministry said.

Incentives

China wants to remedy environmental damage caused by three decades of breakneck growth through incentives for private businesses to profit from environmental protection. It now has fewer low-income "scavengers" to sort garbage in big cities, as rising living standards and falling prices of raw materials have blunted recycling incentives, Zhao said. "Garbage mountains" and "garbage rivers" litter the countryside, where China aims to treat 90 percent of household waste by 2020. But officials say innovative funding mechanisms are needed. Subsidy is not a sustainable path, so China must boost market participation, Zhao said. "Garbage recycling relies on government, and waste-to-energy is subsidized," he added. "It is a bottomless pit: the amount is just too high and the profits too low." — Reuters



ILLINOIS: A nurse at Family Guidance Center, an addiction treatment center in Joliet, Ill., holds a syringe used for Vivitrol, a high-priced monthly injection used to prevent relapse in opioid abusers. — AP

PRISONS FIGHT OPIOIDS WITH \$1,000 INJECTION: DOES IT WORK?

SHERIDAN: US prisons are experimenting with a high-priced monthly injection that could help addicted inmates stay off opioids after they are released, but skeptics question its effectiveness and say the manufacturer has aggressively marketed an unproven drug to corrections officials. A single shot of Vivitrol, given in the buttocks, lasts for four weeks and eliminates the need for the daily doses common with alternatives such as methadone. But each shot costs as much as \$1,000, and because the drug has a limited track record, experts do not agree on how well it works. Proponents say Vivitrol could save money compared with the cost of locking up a drug offender - about \$25,000 a year for each inmate at the Sheridan Correctional Center, 70 miles southwest of Chicago.

Dr Joshua Lee, of New York University's medical school, said more evidence is needed to determine whether the medication can help substantial numbers of people and whether it's worth paying for, but the early results are encouraging. "It sounds good, and for some of us, it feels like the right thing to do," said Lee, a leading researcher on the treatment. Vivitrol is emerging as the nation searches for ways to ease an opioid epidemic that affects more than 2 million Americans and an estimated 15 percent of the US prison population. Many experts view prisons - where addiction's human toll can be seen most clearly - as a natural place to discover what works. Christopher Wolf had already served prison time for nonviolent crimes when he was ordered into treatment for a heroin addiction by a judge who suggested Vivitrol. Three months later, the 36-year old from Centerville, Ohio, is clean and working full time as a cook. He now suggests the medication to other addicts. "I don't have cravings," Wolf said. "I see how much better life is. It gets better really fast."

Vivitrol targets receptors in the brain's reward system, blocking the high and extinguishing urges. In some programs, prisoners get an injection before release, then follow-up shots from any clinic. For decades, researchers have recognized addiction as a relapsing brain disease with medication an important part of therapy. But most jails and prisons reject methadone and buprenorphine, the other government-approved medications for opioid addiction, because they are habit-forming and can be abused.

Just ask Joshua Meador, 28, an inmate at Sheridan who hopes to get into the Vivitrol program before his release in January. Before incarceration, he abused both older treatment drugs. When given take-home doses of methadone for the weekend, he would sell them for heroin. "When I'm on Vivitrol, I can't get high," he said. The drug has no street value or abuse potential. "You couldn't design something better for the criminal justice system," said David Farabee of the University of California at Los Angeles, who leads a Vivitrol study in a New Mexico jail.

"There's been pushback with other medications, people saying, 'We're just changing one drug for another.' That argument goes out the window when you're talking about a blocker" like Vivitrol. Prison systems in Illinois, Vermont, Wyoming and Wisconsin are trying the drug on a small scale. Michigan is offering Vivitrol to parolees who commit small crimes, if addiction is the reason for their new offense. The federal Bureau of Prisons ran a field trial in Texas and plans to expand the program to the Northeast next year. The drug's manufacturer hopes prisons will be the gateway to a larger market.

Also known as extended-release naltrexone, the medication won Food and Drug Administration approval for alcohol dependence in 2006 and in 2010 to prevent relapse in post-detox opioid users. The evidence for giving Vivitrol to inmates is thin but promising. In the biggest study, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, about 300 offenders - most of them heroin users on probation or parole - were randomly assigned to receive either Vivitrol or brief counseling and referral to a treatment program.

After six months, the Vivitrol group had a lower rate of relapse, 43 percent compared with 64 percent. A year after treatment stopped, there had been no overdoses in the Vivitrol group and seven overdoses, including three deaths, in the other group. The results, published in March in the New England Journal of Medicine, have been promoted by the drugmaker, Ireland-based Alkermes, as it markets Vivitrol to US correctional systems. — AP

WASHINGTON REJECTS CARBON TAX, BUT BACKERS UNDETERRED

SEATTLE: Washington's carbon tax initiative was billed as a bipartisan approach to curbing carbon emissions. But voters in this progressive state roundly rejected the measure that drew opposition from the fossil fuel industry and, more surprisingly, many major environmental groups. The proposed tax on carbon emissions from fossil fuels such as coal and gasoline would have been the first in the US, and sponsors hoped it would serve as a model for actions across the country.

The measure failed by a vote of 59 to 41 percent, but backers said their efforts spurred urgent conversations about climate change in an election year where the issue got little national attention. "Our campaign all along said, 'We're going to take a swing at the ball,' and we did that. But the game is not over," said Yoram Bauman, an economist who founded Carbon Washington, the grassroots group behind Initiative 732. "Our group and other folks will look for other opportunities to try to take action."

A state group representing businesses said voters rejected a flawed proposal that would have driven up energy prices for families, workers and employers. Initiative 732 would have started taxing carbon emissions at \$15 a metric ton in July, gone up to \$25 the next year and gradually increased until it hit a maximum of \$100 a ton. Money from the tax, which would be paid by power plants and fuel importers, would have been used to reduce the state sales tax, virtually eliminate business taxes for manufacturers and return a rebate to many working families.

It had the support of many economists, climate activists, state Democrats and scientists such as James Hansen, the former NASA climate scientist often considered the godfather of global warming research. "Among economists, one of the most frustrating parts of the election was the fact that environmentalists didn't seem to get behind this as much as we hoped that they would," said Christopher Knittel, professor of applied economics at MIT's Sloan School of Management.

Left-leaning groups that opposed the measure said they support climate action, but I-732 was a "false solution" that would hurt the poor. They said it wrongly focused on tax cuts rather than investing money in clean energy projects and communities hardest hit by climate change. "The burden would be on those who can least afford it," said Rebecca Saldana, executive director for Puget Sound Sage, part of a coalition that has been working on a parallel effort in the state.

"Washington will continue to lead. We led by having something on the ballot, and now we'll lead by getting something that works," Saldana's group and others in the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy are planning to bring a similar tax on carbon pollution to the Washington Legislature next year - though their version would redirect money to clean energy projects and low-income and minority communities. The initiative was billed as "revenue-neutral" but many, including Gov. Jay Inslee, worried about its fiscal impact on the state budget. A state analysis estimated the carbon tax could cost the state about \$800 million in lost revenues over the first six fiscal years, though sponsors disputed that. Washington state has been on the forefront of climate policy as Inslee pushed measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming. In September, the state passed regulations to limit those emissions from Washington's large carbon polluters. "The public wants to act on climate change, but it wants to have a policy that cuts pollution and invests in clean energy solutions," said Greg Small, executive director of Climate Solutions, which didn't support I-732. It's always an uphill battle to pass measures with the word "tax" in it, said Gail Gatton, executive director for Audubon Washington, the only major environmental group in the state to support I-732. — AP



WAJIR, Kenya: An employee of charity Save the Children gives explanations to a group of women during a session at the local maternity facility on what Islam allows and does not allow in terms of family planning, and on the benefits of family planning at a village in Wajir County. — AFP

SEEKING HALAL CONTRACEPTION IN KENYA'S MUSLIM NORTHEAST

WAJIR: Swaddled in colorful hijabs the women exchange puzzled looks and suppress embarrassed giggles. "You're sure it's halal?" asks one, peering at a collection of birth control pills, condoms and IUDs. Such everyday forms of contraception are little known and rarely seen in Kenya's arid and neglected northeast, an overwhelmingly poor, conservative and Muslim part of the country where most people are pastoralist ethnic Somalis.

A study of early marriage by the charity Save the Children found that just two percent of the population of Wajir county uses contraception-compared with a national Kenyan average of 58 percent-due to modern contraceptive methods being seen as a breach of Islamic principles. But Deka Ibrahim, a female Islamic teacher, explains that contraception is halal, permissible, as she talks to a group of 40 newly-weds and mothers sitting on the dusty concrete floor of a dark room that is the village's tiny maternity centre.

One woman feeds her child while others absentmindedly fidget with the long sleeves of their austere outfits, revealing intricately painted henna tattoos and fake diamond bracelets. "The Muslim religion allows the use of these methods in certain circumstances, especially if the health of the baby and mother are at the heart of the thought process," says Ibrahim. She adds however that according to this interpretation of Islam there are conditions for using contraceptives: they must be temporary, spousal approval is required, and, she reminds them, abortion is illegal in Islam as well as in Kenyan law. As a government nurse goes on to explain how to use the different devices, Halima, 16, the mother of a nine-month-old girl lis-

tens intently. "I want to have more children, but not now. I want to wait until my child has grown up a bit and I'm sure she is healthy," Halima says.

Tradition vs health

Here, maternity and tradition are issues that burn as hot as the sun beating down on the sandy soil and dry thorn bushes outside, issues that sideline women and can endanger their lives and those of their children. More than four in 10 women in northeast Kenya are married before their 18th birthday, their youth leading to increased problems in pregnancy, labour and birth. Making the situation worse is that most deliveries are home

births, unsanitary and without qualified midwives. On top of that, the average woman has eight children, a large brood-like a herd of livestock-seen as a symbol of wealth in Somali culture. "When an adolescent girl becomes pregnant or there is not enough space between pregnancies, the risk of complications is high," says Sulekha Mohamed of Save the Children, adding that 98 percent of women in northeast Kenya are circumcised, heaping further risk on giving birth. "If you are pregnant four months after giving birth, your body has not had time to recover," she says.

Religion to the rescue

A 2014 demographic study showed perinatal deaths in Kenya's northeast were more than 50 percent higher than the national average. Since then religious leaders have been co-opted into battling the statistics. "Historically, in our culture, men take many wives and women have many children, so family planning is seen as a foreign idea, a colonial Western idea to limit the population," says Mursal Abdihakim, the khatib of Wajir in charge of the Muslim family court, who ruled that contraception is halal. "Our role as religious leaders and learned people is to explain what Islam allows or not." The message seems to be getting through. In the first three months of this year, 3,177 women joined the family planning program, a major increase from the 1,382 participants in the same period the year before. Safiya, a 28-year-old mother of four, says she wants "more children, because that is what my religion dictates," but after learning that contraception is permitted in Islam she is now spacing out her pregnancies. — AFP



A nurse explains how various contraceptive methods work during a session at the local maternity facility in Wajir County. — AFP

MOROCCAN VAULT PROTECTS SEEDS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND WAR

RABAT: Should a doomsday agricultural crisis hit the world's driest environments, scientists and farmers will turn to an up-and-coming research center and seed bank in Morocco to restock their harvests. Tucked away in the university hub of Irfane in Rabat, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, or ICARDA, hosts the largest collection of seeds in North Africa. "If for any reason, a particular community lost all their resources, we are capable of providing them with the seeds for restoration and rehabilitation," says Ahmed Amri, head of ICARDA's Genetic Resources Unit.

The crucial role of seed banks in protecting biodiversity is receiving increasing attention because of climate change, which threatens to wipe out crops as dry areas of the world get even hotter and drier. The impact on African agriculture is among the topics being discussed at UN climate talks taking place through next week in Morocco. The site in Rabat has become ICARDA's primary center of storage and research after its previous hub in Aleppo, Syria, was seized by an Islamist rebel group in September 2015.

"We couldn't continue doing this work because of the situation in Syria, so we decided to make arrangements to move elsewhere to continue our work," says Amri, who used to work in Aleppo, but is now leading genetic research efforts in Rabat. While many of the research activities moved to Rabat, 98 percent of the Aleppo center's seeds were safely transferred to ICARDA's center in neighboring Lebanon. Duplicates were also sent to a "doomsday" seed vault in Svalbard in the Norwegian Arctic, which serves as a backup for other seed banks worldwide.

Rebels from the ultraconservative Ahrar Al-Sham group have occupied the Aleppo center since September 2015, cutting off access to its 75 employees. Amri has daily contact with the five staff members who remain in Aleppo, including associate scientist Ali Shehadeh. "With the cease-fire, it's stable and unstable at times," Shehadeh told The Associated Press from Aleppo in a Skype interview facilitated by Amri. The Rabat center holds tens of thousands of seeds spanning from

wheat and barley to lentils and chickpeas inside a vault in near-freezing temperatures. The seed bank not only preserves these essential staples but develops them to become more resistant to disease and a warming climate.

Last year, Morocco faced an unprecedented drought that scientists and the government and have linked to climate change, with drier and warmer winters in Morocco and neighboring countries. Domestic grain production dropped, forcing the government to drop tariffs on imports to avoid shortages and stem rising prices. Last month, the government decided to temporarily remove import duties for lentils to lower the price just in time for the winter season - a time when lentils are widely consumed in Morocco. Scientists at the Rabat center work closely with farmers in Marchouch, a nearby rural town. The scientists provide seed samples to farmers who allocate about 2 percent of their own farm land to test the seeds and provide feedback to scientists.

"We are looking for science-based solutions for farmers' problems," says Shiv Kumar Agrawal, a lentil breeder with ICARDA. These problems include contending with droughts, invasive insects and increasing production. Farmers report back to scientists on the results of the harvest yielded from the seed samples, after which further tests are conducted to improve the seeds' durability and production yield. Farmer Abdellah Slimani, 48, president of a farmers' cooperative in Marchouch, believes the feedback loop has helped him and fellow farmers to improve their own methods as climate change continues to impact harvests.

"We hope that this year's harvest will be better, God willing," Slimani says. Bruce Campbell of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers says the climate conference in Marrakech offers a unique opportunity to address the impact of climate change on African agriculture. "Considering all African countries have included agriculture in their climate adaptation strategies, (the conference) will be the ideal setting to discuss how the most promising solutions can be deployed and indeed, funded," he says. — AP



MARRAKECH: Hundreds protest against climate change and urge world leaders to take action, in a march coinciding with the Climate Conference, known as COP22, taking place in Marrakech, Morocco. — AP

SWELTERING 2016 TO SET HEAT RECORD

GLOBAL WARMING STOKES MORE FLOODS AND RISING SEA LEVELS

MARRAKESH: The world is set to notch up a new heat record in 2016 after a sizzling 2015 as global warming stokes more floods and rising sea levels, the UN weather agency said yesterday at climate change talks overshadowed by Donald Trump's election win. President-elect Trump has called climate change a hoax and a source in his transition team says he is seeking quick ways to pull the United States out of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to shift the world economy away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said this year would be the warmest since records began in the late 19th century, with average surface temperatures 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times. Sixteen of the 17 hottest years recorded have been in this century. "Another year. Another record," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement in Marrakesh, Morocco, where almost 200 nations are discussing ways to slow climate change.

The heat, with impacts such as melting Greenland ice and damage to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, was stoked by an El Nino weather event in the Pacific early in the year and by man-made greenhouse gases, mainly from burning fossil fuels. "The extra heat from the powerful El Nino event has disappeared. The heat from global warming will continue," he said. The WMO said it was "very likely" that 2016 would be the hottest, barring a freak chill in coming weeks.

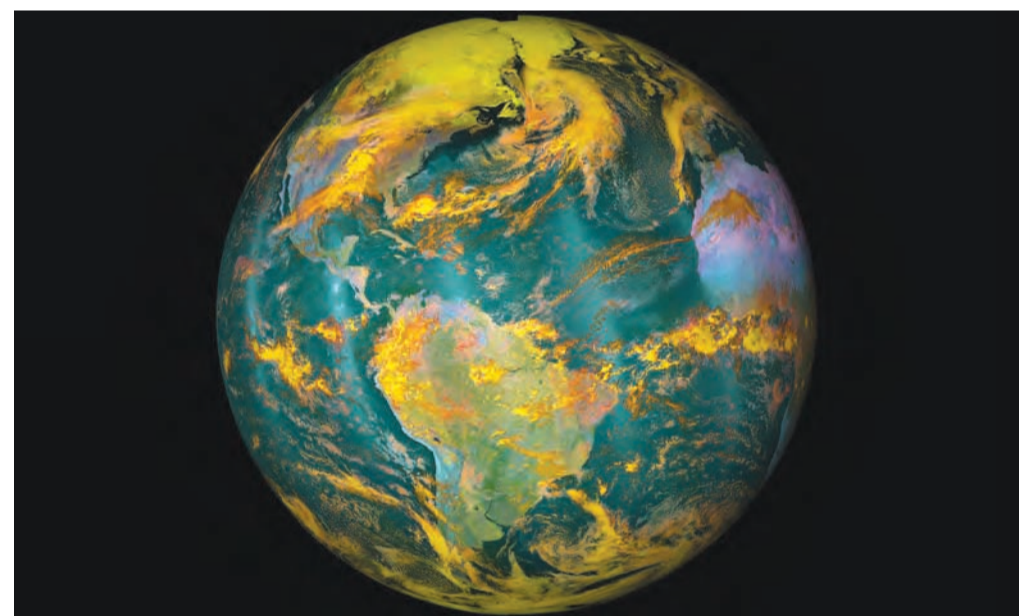
Paris deal

The Paris deal, backed by almost 200 nations including the United States but rejected by Trump, has an overriding goal of limiting the rise in temperatures to "well below" 2C (3.6F) above pre-industrial times, ideally 1.5C (2.7F). Earlier on Monday a scientific report projected that world

carbon dioxide emissions were expected to stay flat for the third year in a row in 2016 and that US emissions would fall by 1.7 percent in 2016, driven by declines in coal consumption.

US President Barack Obama has made fighting climate change a key policy and the United States was the driving force behind the design of the Paris Agreement. "Because of climate change, the occurrence and impact of extreme events has risen," Taalas said. "Once in a generation" heat waves and flooding are becoming more regular. Sea level rise has increased exposure to storm surges associated with tropical cyclones," he said.

The most damaging weather event in 2016 was Hurricane Matthew, which killed more than 500 people in Haiti, it said. The Yangtze basin in China had its worst summer floods since 1999, killing 310 people and causing an estimated \$14 billion in damage. Record daily temperatures were recorded from South Africa to Thailand. Canada had its worst recorded wildfire in May around Fort McMurray, Alberta. Data from the UN refugee agency said 19.2 million people were displaced by weather, water, climate and hazards such as earthquakes in 2015, more than twice as many as for conflict and violence, it said. — Reuters



IN SPACE: NOAA/NASA image shows planet Earth. Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels have been nearly flat for three years in a row a 'great help' but not enough to stave off dangerous global warming, a report said on November 14, 2016. — AFP



A man shops for vegetables at a Berber weekly market in Asni, a small town in the High Atlas region, near Marrakech, Morocco. — AP

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INNOVATION MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION LAUNCHED IN KUWAIT

November 6th to 8th marked an interesting partnership between ShiftIN and Vigor Events as they hosted the 1st edition of the Innovation Management Certification Program in Kuwait with support from the International Advertising Association (IAA) Kuwait Chapter. The program is designed as an interactive workshop aiming at developing the necessary capabilities in both, public and private sector organizations and is certified by the prestigious Global Innovation Management Institute, the Boston-based non-for-profit professional

organization driving standards for innovation management worldwide. Business innovation is a pervasive force in today's fast changing environment. In fact, CEOs around the world recognize that business innovation is not only a core driver for creating and capturing new business value, but it's also the key to long-term business survival and success. "Over the last decade, we have seen many impressive innovation breakthroughs in a range of industries. Despite such successes, innovation does not come easily. It is not

enough to merely declare, we want to be more innovative," said Roberto Wyszowski a Partner of ShiftIN Partner with large experience in Kuwait where he has been leading engagement with Zain and the National Technology Enterprises Company NTEC. The program that has been adopted by major MBA Programs and Corporations all over the world including many Fortune 500 companies, is still relatively in the region. However, these standards are becoming very popular among leading organisations such as Zain Telecom,

DEWA, the UAE Prime Minister's Office and Etisalat has started to adopt its frameworks and tools to boost innovation management capabilities. In its Kuwaiti edition, the course was attended by senior executives from the prestigious organisations such as Equate, Hadi Clinic, Kout Food Group and Habchi and Chalhoub. "This workshop is designed to build awareness, excitement and recognition for the importance of business innovation" said Carlos Guevara, Partner of ShiftIN Partners and Lead Trainer of this course.



The wife of the Peruvian Ambassador to Kuwait invited fellow International Women's Group members to a Peruvian cooking show hosted at Ruby Tuesday recently.



DIABETES PROGRAM ENDS UP WITH SMILING FACES

NSH'S EFFORTS LAUDED BY KNPC

The healthy unit of UNO, World Health Organization's World Diabetic Day celebrated by NSH at the KNPC - New Refinery Project (NRP) at Al Zour ends up with smiling faces from the labour community, and was well appreciated by the KNPC Officials for the efforts taken by NSH in raising awareness on how to better manage and prevent the disease.

The multinational business conglomerate and the single largest employer in the Middle East, NSH joined in celebrating the World Diabetes Day worldwide by all member states of UN and other organizations and associations that develop a range of activities for the global awareness cam-

paign aimed at increasing the understanding of diabetes risk factors, symptoms and prevention.

Dr Venkateshwaralu explained the ways and means on how to prevent diabetic. Project Manager Dileep Kumar Raroth, HSE Officials from TSHJ Hakan Ayata, Subhi Dadashov and Somasekhat Patil gave their inputs.

KNPC officials Mohammad and Parak honored the winners of the contest held in connection with the diabetic. NSH Corporate HR Manager Pani J Anthony moderated the session and conducted the competitions. The arrangements were done by NSH team comprising safety manager Maximo Perez, Admin Manager Anandan Pillai, Hari, Saju.



Association of Muslim Professionals, Kuwait (AMP) has conducted yet another Skill Development Lecture (SDL) at Salmiya Indian Model School (SIMS) on 29th Oct 2016. The topic was "Leadership Skills and Confidence Building" and the SDL was delivered by renowned motivational speaker Abdullah Hassan Thakur (CEO, Dhow Capital, Al Sagar Group). The event was attended by Professionals, Parents and School Children. AMP, Kuwait Chapter, has earlier conducted SDLs on "Resume writing and Mock Interviews" and "MS Excel - Pivot tables". AMP is founded by a group of citizens in India and registered as a welfare organization working for the overall development of the Indian Society at large.

Q8 OPEN QUIZ - 2016 BY IIT-IIM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As the winter slowly sets in Kuwait in November, the cold northerly winds get warmer by the hottest quiz show in Kuwait as the most ardent quiz lovers in their quest to keep their mind active away from the chores of their daily routines of work, grapple with others for the prestigious title of being the best quizzers in Kuwait. Razor sharp brains answering tough, out of the blues questions in femtoseconds before anyone could even get a feel of the question. The Quiz enthusiasts of all ages and diverse fields and talents living in Kuwait, will be contending for the top place in The-Quiz Competition of Kuwait, titled "Q8 Open Quiz - 2016". It is the toughest, best, entertaining and above all very fiercely fought annual signature quiz event of the prestigious IIT-IIM Alumni Association, Kuwait. The Quiz Contest is scheduled on Friday, the 18th November, 2016 at the majestic Indian Embassy Auditorium. It is being hosted by the highly acclaimed, very entertaining, and world renowned master quizzers, Giri Balasubramaniam, popularly known as "Pickbrain".

Giri is known for his distinctive techno savvy style of quizzing, sense of humor coupled with great flair and approachable easy nature, which has earned him several accolades. He holds seven Limca records for quizzing achievements and has hosted more than 1250 shows in 65 destinations across India. He has also hosted many quiz shows in USA, Sri Lanka, Singapore, London and in the Middle East Region. Tata Crucible Business Quiz for Colleges and Corporates, TCS IT WIZ quiz for Schools, Reserve Bank of India IQ quiz, Times of Oman Quiz are some of the most popular shows hosted by Giri.

This third annual quiz, a very popular and unique event, is open for all, irrespective of age, nationality, profession

and educational qualifications. This year, it has surpassed all the expectations of competition, as more than 200 teams from over 20 schools and many other individual groups of quizzers from all walks of life including corporates, organizations, associations and individual groups are contending for the coveted honor of being the best among the finest. Several schools have already gone through preliminary selections. Auditorium is expected to be jam-packed. Come early and take a comfy seat to view from a vantage point.

The event will be inaugurated by the Ambassador of India, His Excellency Sunil Jam, who is the Chief Guest. Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST), is associated with IIT-IIM Alumni as the Event Partner for the third

Year in a row. KCST, a private college, has a mission to Providing Science and Technology Education with a socially responsible and entrepreneurial mind while promoting educational talent related pursuits, of which QOQ-2014, 2015 and 2016 are the fine examples.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) are globally renowned premier Indian institutions of higher education in the fields of Engineering Technology and Management, respectively. The association can be reached at contact@iiti-imkuwait.com or the official website www.iitiimkuwait.com

Registration: Please visit www.iiti-imkuwait.com and for any further clarifications, contact by email at: qoq@iiti-imkuwait.com IIT-IIM Alumni Association, Kuwait invites all the passionate quizzers and non-competing quiz enthusiasts, as beside the prizes for top three placed teams, several other interesting categories of prizes are up for grabs, including plenty of audience rewards.

PINK DAY AT ESF

The English School Fahaheel has a long tradition of serving the community and working to help those in need. Recently ESF held its annual Pink Day. The eventful day saw all staff and students adorning pink t-shirts as they raised money for Kuwait Breast Cancer Society and Against Breast Cancer UK. The well-organized day included a special event in the Lloyd Webber Theatre which included a talk by breast cancer survivor Gail Benobaid. Pink Day also included a Bake sales, an Art and Craft sale and face painting. A big thank you to the active citizens club and heads of houses for helping with the organizing of the day and a special thank you to Gail Benobaid for her inspirational lecture.



Greetings

Our whole world can be sum up to just three letters - S O N. Happy Birthday, son! We love you to eternity and beyond! Baba, Amma, Alizey and Afroz

GUST SHEDS LIGHT ON BREXIT AND FUTURE OF EUROPEAN UNION

Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Global Studies Center (GSC) organized this week a lecture led by Dr Jan Claudius Voelkel, entitled "Brexit and the Future of the European Union". The lecture, which was open to the public, and took place on its campus in West Mishref.

Dr Jan Voelkel, a lecturer in Euro-Mediterranean studies at the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst, better known as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), in Cairo, provided a different perspective on the ramifications and effects of the recent Brexit vote made by the UK population. The lecture examined the short and long term effects of the Brexit on the UK, and gave an in-depth analysis of the current situation, and how it could affect its relationship with the European Union. Dr Voelkel also analyzed the upcoming negotiations and whether they will have an impact. The lecture was then followed by a Q&A session.

Head of the Global Studies Center at GUST, Dr Martin Rosenstock, said, "We live in a world which is not only dynamic, but also more interconnected than it has ever been in the past. Referendums that take place in the UK, will have a ripple effect not only on Europe, but

globally, and will even be felt here in Kuwait, a major ally of Great Britain. With this lecture, we aim to shed light on various topics, and try to understand them from different perspectives in order to form sound and meaningful opinions."

The GSC was founded in 2015 in partnership with the National University of Singapore, and aims to conduct cutting-edge research on cross-national political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues of critical importance, as well as share research output and information regionally and globally. It seeks to foster public understanding of global issues and support the policy-making processes of concerned states.

Previous events hosted by the GSC include a discussion to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, sponsored by the US Embassy in Kuwait, a lecture by Dr Peter Sluglett, an expert on Middle Eastern history and Director of the Middle East Institute at NUS, entitled: "An Improvement on Colonialism? The 'A' Mandates and their Legacy in the Middle East", and another by Dr Daniel Brumberg, the Kuwait Program Visiting Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs, on US-Arab Relations in a Time of Crisis.



The Japanese Embassy hosted a beach cleaning campaign yesterday in cooperation with the Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS).

OSN MOVIES

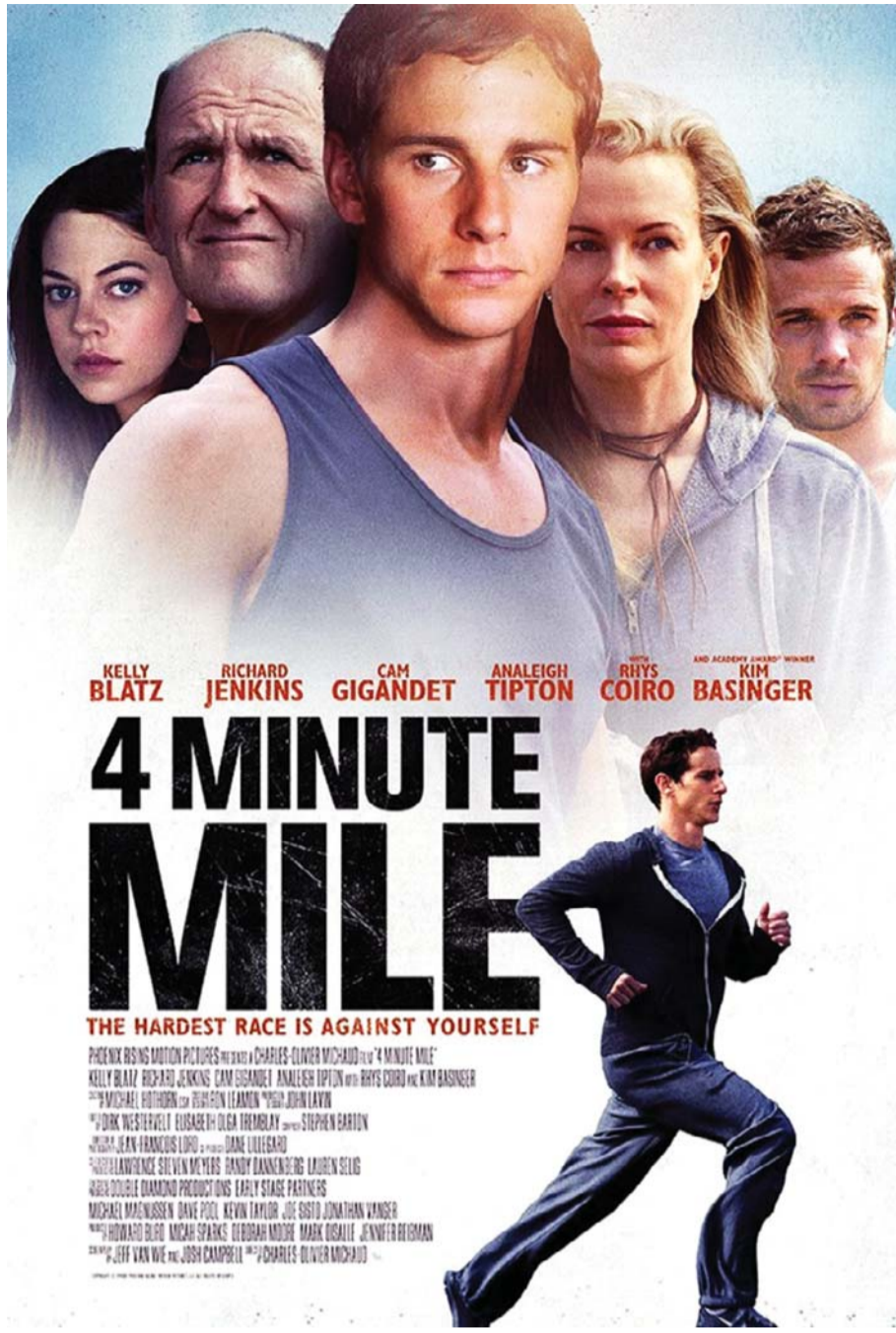
ACTION
00:00 Kiss The Girls
02:00 Age Of Ice
03:30 Heatstroke
05:15 Independence Day
07:45 Close Range
09:15 Con Air
11:15 Hidalgo
13:45 Independence Day
16:15 Close Range
17:45 Con Air
19:45 Blackhat
22:00 Double Team

02:05 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
03:00 Workaholics
03:25 Ridiculousness
03:50 Ridiculousness
04:15 Key And Peele
04:40 Impractical Jokers
05:05 Ridiculousness
05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
06:20 Tosh.0
06:50 Tosh.0
07:15 Catch A Contractor
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Ridiculousness
08:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol

18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
I'd Kill For You
Love The Way You Lie
Disappeared
Steven Avery: Innocent Or Guilty?
23:50 Killer Confessions



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



4 MINUTE MILE
THE HARDEST RACE IS AGAINST YOURSELF

4 MINUTE MILE ON OSN MOVIES HD

18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Ancient Aliens
20:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
21:00 Ancient Discoveries
22:00 World War II: Lost Films
23:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate



00:20 Aussie Pickers
01:10 Storage Wars
01:35 Storage Wars
02:00 Storage Wars
02:25 Storage Wars Miami
02:50 Leupu And Pitbull
03:40 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
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 Ultimate Wheels
10:35 Shipping Wars
11:00 Shipping Wars
11:25 Billion Dollar Wreck
12:15 Swamp People
13:05 Ax Men
13:35 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
14:45 Aussie Pickers
15:35 Pawn Stars
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Storage Wars
17:15 Storage Wars Miami
17:40 Mountain Men
18:30 Billion Dollar Wreck
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Mountain Men
21:50 Forged In Fire
22:40 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
23:30 Alone

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 Cop Car
03:00 Ricki And The Flash
05:00 4 Minute Mile
07:00 Some Girls
09:00 Ricki And The Flash
10:45 The Age Of Adaline
12:45 Before We Go
14:30 Zootropolis
16:30 The Longest Ride
19:00 Creed
21:15 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
23:30 Inherent Vice

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Cooties
02:00 Honeymooners
04:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
06:00 A Lot Like Love
08:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
10:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
12:00 Honeymooners
14:00 Shanghai Noon
16:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
18:00 Superfast
20:00 Absolutely Anything
22:00 Army Of Darkness

OSN FIRST HD

COMEDY

00:00 Uncle Buck
00:30 Scrubs
01:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
02:00 Modern Family
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 Crowded
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 Crowded
15:00 Modern Family
15:30 Scrubs
16:00 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 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Scrubs
21:30 Scrubs
22:00 Ballers
22:30 Ballers
23:00 You're The Worst
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

NAT GEO people HD

00:10 Bangkok Airport
01:00 Maximum Foodie
01:25 Top Tables, Top Cities
01:50 Top Tables, Top Cities
02:15 Eat Street
02:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
03:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
03:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

04:45 Places We Go
05:10 Places We Go
05:35 Carnival Eats
06:00 Carnival Eats
06:25 Maverick Chef
06:50 Maximum Foodie
07:15 Top Tables, Top Cities
07:40 Top Tables, Top Cities
08:05 Eat Street
08:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
09:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
09:45 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

10:35 Places We Go
11:00 Places We Go
11:25 Carnival Eats
11:50 Carnival Eats
12:15 Maverick Chef
12:40 What's For Sale?
13:05 Top Tables, Top Cities
13:35 Top Tables, Top Cities
14:00 Eat Street
14:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
15:50 Route Awakening
16:20 Route Awakening
16:45 Places We Go
17:15 Places We Go
17:40 Carnival Eats
18:10 Carnival Eats
18:35 Maverick Chef
19:05 Eat Street
19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
20:00 Route Awakening
20:25 Route Awakening
20:50 Places We Go
21:15 Places We Go
21:40 Carnival Eats
22:05 Carnival Eats
22:30 Maverick Chef
22:55 What's For Sale?
23:20 Top Tables, Top Cities
23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 To Catch A Smuggler
01:00 Big Fix Alaska
02:00 Big Fish, Texas
02:55 Explorer
03:50 To Catch A Smuggler

13:00 The Hive
13:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:15 Henry Hugglemonster
14:30 Doc McStuffins
15:00 Sofia The First
15:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 PJ Masks
18:00 Sofia The First
18:30 Goldie & Bear
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 The Lion Guard
22:00 Sofia The First

Much Everything
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Pickle And Peanut
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Gummy Gummies
22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister
22:35 Booster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Gold Rush
02:00 Deadliest Catch
02:50 Railroad Australia
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 Gold Rush
11:25 Deadliest Catch
12:15 Railroad Australia
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 Survive That!
21:50 Dive Wars Australia
22:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
23:30 Fast N' Loud

H2 HD

00:00 America's Book Of Secrets
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
03:00 Ancient Discoveries
03:50 World War II: Lost Films
04:40 True Monsters
05:30 America's Book Of Secrets
06:20 Cities Of The Underworld
07:10 Ancient Discoveries
08:00 Ancient Aliens
09:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
10:00 Ancient Discoveries
11:00 World War II: Lost Films
12:00 Shaun Ryder On UFOs
13:00 Ancient Aliens
14:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
15:00 Ancient Discoveries
16:00 World War II: Lost Films
17:00 Shaun Ryder On UFOs

food network

00:00 Mystery Diners
00:30 Mystery Diners
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man Fire Food
02:30 Man Fire Food
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Barefoot Contessa
07:30 Barefoot Contessa
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
09:30 Anna Olson: Bake
10:00 Chopped
11:00 Guy's Big Bite
11:30 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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
19:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:00 Man Finds Food
20:30 Man Finds Food
21:00 Man v Food
21:30 Man v Food
22:00 Iron Chef America
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

itv HD CHOICE

00:10 Keep It In The Family
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 5 Star Family Reunion
04:20 Surprise Surprise
05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
06:10 Keep It In The Family
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Broadchurch

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 River Monsters
01:45 Bondi Vet
02:40 Wild Animal Repo
03:35 Tanked
04:25 My Wild Affair: The Elephant Who Loved Too Much
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 River Monsters
06:49 Wild Animal Repo
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
09:15 Wild Animal Repo
10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Wild Animal Repo
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
16:35 Tanked
17:30 My Wild Affair: The Elephant Who Loved Too Much
18:25 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
19:20 Lone Star Law
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Saving Africa's Giants With Yao Ming
22:05 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
23:00 Lone Star Law
23:55 Gator Boys

Discovery Family

00:30 Redesign My Brain
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Pick A Puppy
02:35 Pick A Puppy
03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Redesign My Brain
09:30 Mythbusters
11:00 Dirty Jobs
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 How It's Made
14:30 Doctors
14:30 Doctors
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
17:00 Playhouse Masters
17:50 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand

BBC FIRST

00:30 The Collection
01:25 Class
02:25 Silent Witness
03:20 Mad Dogs
04:10 Death In Paradise
05:05 Call The Midwife
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Casualty
07:20 Death In Paradise
08:15 Father Brown
09:05 The Musketeers
10:00 Call The Midwife
10:50 Death In Paradise
11:45 Father Brown
12:35 The Musketeers
13:30 Call The Midwife
14:20 Death In Paradise
15:20 Father Brown
16:10 The Musketeers
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Doctors
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 One Of Us
21:00 Ripper Street
21:55 Silent Witness
22:50 Mad Dogs
23:40 Doctors



CON AIR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

ci crime & investigation network

00:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
01:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
02:00 Born To Kill
03:00 Gags Of Britain...
04:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
05:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
06:00 Born To Kill
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Beyond Scared Straight
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 The First 48
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 Frenemies
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 Frenemies
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 Frenemies
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In

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 Calimerò
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopdidoo
02:30 Art Attack
03:00 Calimerò
03:15 Zou
03:30 Loopdidoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimerò
04:45 Loopdidoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimerò
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopdidoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimerò
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 Doc McStuffins
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
15:30 I'd Kill For You
16:20 Love The Way You Lie
17:10 Your Number's Up
18:00 Evil Online

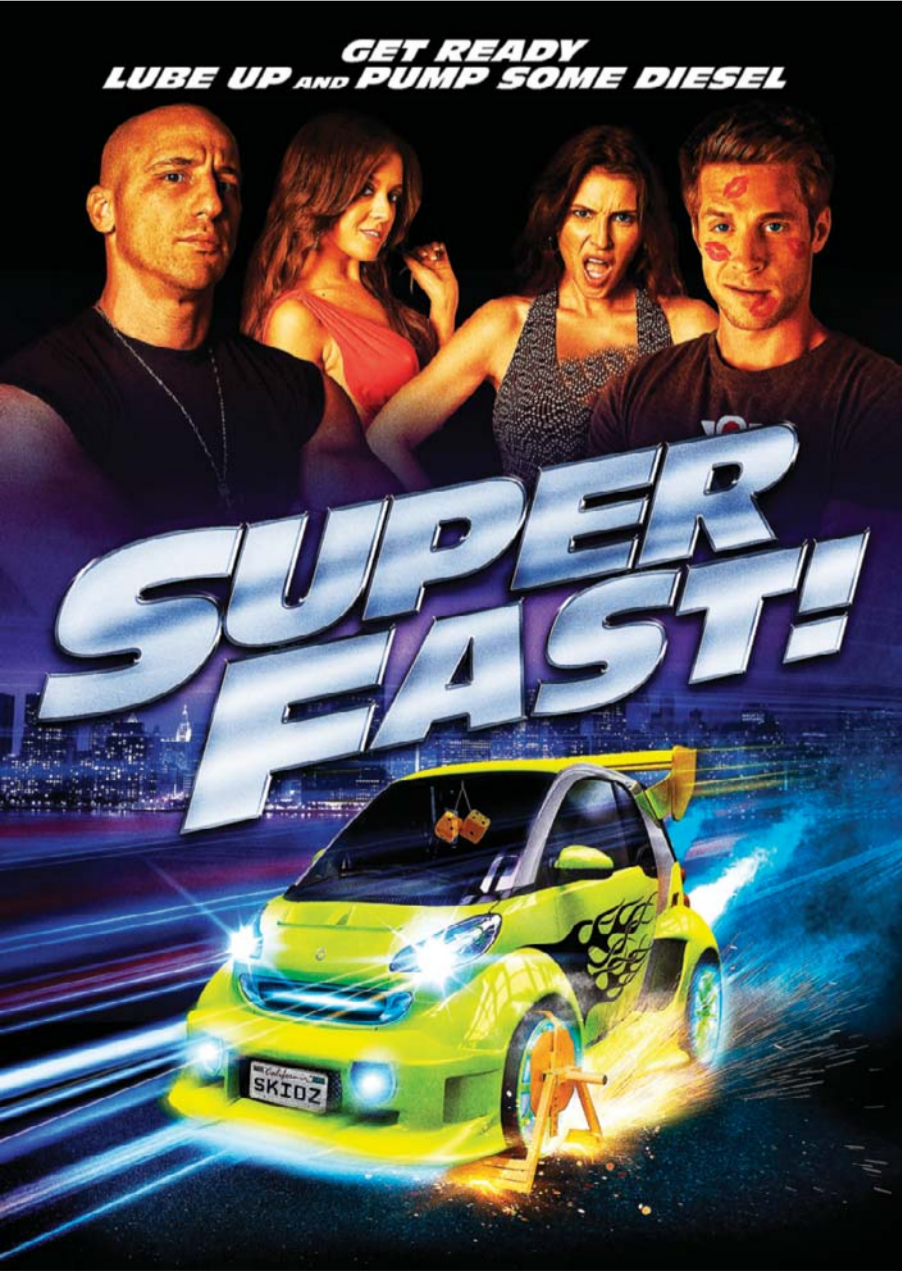
Disney XD

00:00 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
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

22:30 Sofia The First
23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:00 Another Period
00:25 IdiotSitter
00:50 Chappelle's Show
01:15 Tosh.0
01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition



SUPERFAST ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

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 Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd | 23915883 23715414 23726558 |
| Jahra | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92 | 24575518 24566622 |
| Capital | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop | 22436184 24833967 |
| Farwaniya | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11 | 24734000 24881201 24726638 |
| Hawally | Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | 25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241 |

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 |
| Antigua | 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 | Niger | 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 | | |

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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www.met.gov.kw

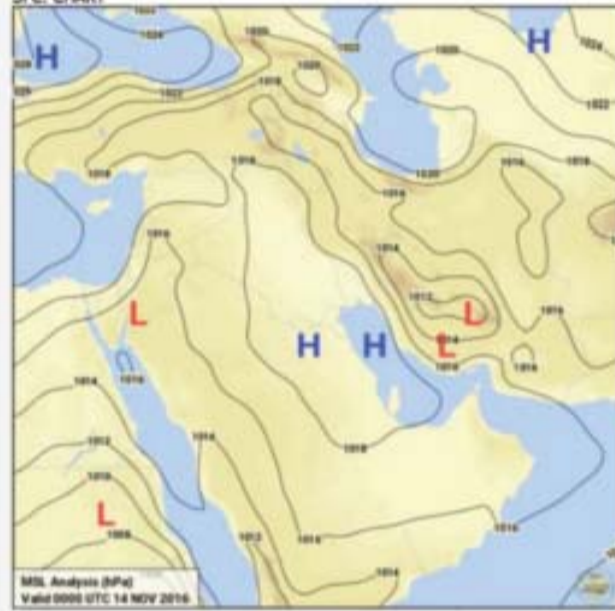
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 14/11/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 31 °C

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

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

| | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Expected Weather | sunny + high clouds | sunny + high clouds | sunny + high clouds | partly cloudy |
| Min Temp °C | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| Max Temp °C | 32 | 32 | 32 | 31 |
| Wind Direction | north westerly to light variable | south westerly changing to south easterly | southerly changing to south easterly | south easterly to light variable |
| Wind Speed km/h | 06 - 26 | 08 - 30 | 12 - 35 | 06 - 26 |

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 |
|----------------|--------|-----|--------|
| KUWAIT CITY | 21 | | 31 |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 12 | | 31 |
| ABDALY | 13 | | 30 |
| BUBYAN | 12 | | 28 |
| JAHRA | 15 | | 31 |
| FALAKA ISLAND | 15 | | 30 |
| SALMIYAH | 21 | | 29 |
| AHMADI | 21 | | 27 |
| JAL ALIYAH | 14 | | 30 |
| QAROH ISLAND | 24 | | 27 |
| UMH AL-MARAHEM | 23 | | 27 |
| NUWAISIB | 16 | | 31 |
| WAFRA | 12 | | 33 |
| MANAGISH | 13 | | 31 |
| SALMI | 13 | | 29 |
| MUTRIBA | 11 | | 32 |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 31 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 12 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 40 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 11 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 21 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 |
| Aer | 14:32 |
| Sunset | 16:54 |
| Isha | 18:13 |

PRIVATE CLINICS

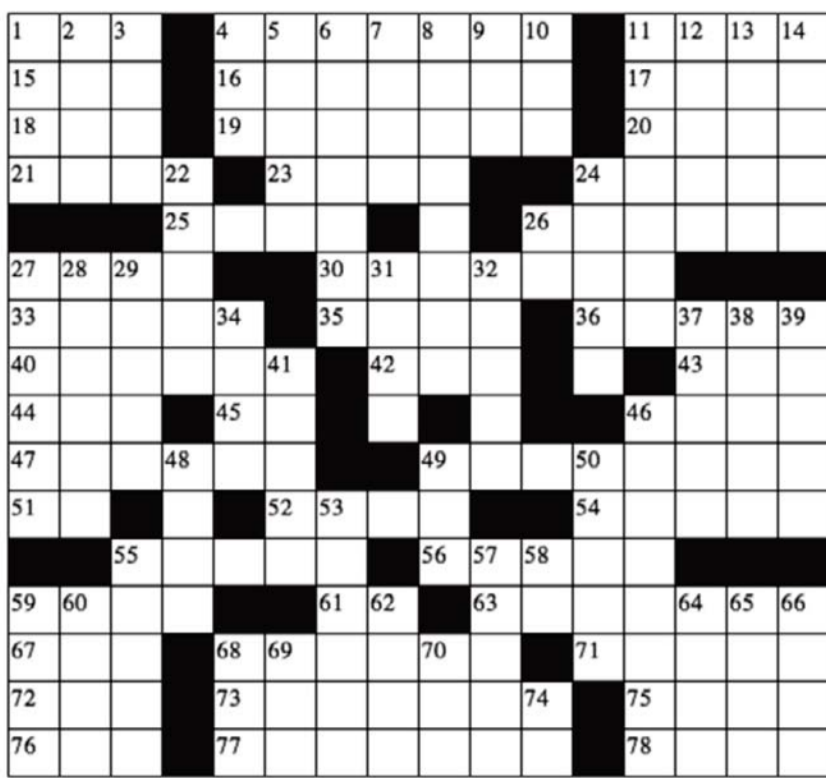
| Ophthalmologists | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor | 25622444 |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabea | 25752222 |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb | 25321171 |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy | 25739999 |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel | 25757700 |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl | 25732223 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly | 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-Daory | 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-Mikhaezem | 23926920 |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi | 25730465 |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad | 25655528 |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi | 24577781 |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea | 25333501 |
| Urologists | |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy | 22641534 |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul | 22639955 |
| Dr. Khaleel Abdallah 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 | |
| Dr Adrian 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 Maarooof | 25713514 |
| Dr. Pradip Gupare | 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. Abdallah Al-Amer | 22561444 |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan | 22619557 |
| Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash | 22525888 |
| Dr. Abdallah 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. Foaid Abdallah 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. Mused Faraj Khamees | 22666288 |
| Rheumatologists: | |
| Dr. Adel Al-Awadi | 25330060 |
| Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah | 25722290 |
| Internist, Chest & Heart | |
| DR.Mohammes Akkad | 24555050 Ext 210 |
| Consultant Cardiologist | |
| Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital | 25339667 |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC | 2611555-2622555 |
| Inaya German Medical Center | Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123 |

CROSSWORD 1431



ACROSS

- A guided missile fired from shipboard against an airborne target.
- Resembling or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy.
- Measuring instrument for indicating speed of rotation.
- Someone who is morally reprehensible.
- The great hall in ancient Persian palaces.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- A human limb.
- Of wines, fruit, cheeses.
- A female domestic.
- Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
- A city of central China.
- The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
- Fine powdery material such as dry earth or pollen that can be blown about in the air.
- Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
- Of or relating to or involving an area.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
- An ancient region of western Europe that included northern Italy and France and Belgium and part of Germany and the Netherlands.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A form of address for a man.
- Too numerous to be counted.
- Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- A man who is the lover of a girl or young woman.
- (Greek mythology) A maiden seduced by Zeus.
- A genus of Malayan tree.
- A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
- A genus of Indriidae.
- The sign language used in the United States.
- German educator who founded the kindergarten system (1782-1852).
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Towards the side away from the wind.
- A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
- United States poet and critic (1899-1979).

DOWN

- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
- A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
- Being or given to servile imitation.
- Granular preparation of cassava starch used to thicken especially puddings.
- The content of cognition.
- A person who eats human flesh.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- A boy or man.
- Small buffalo of Mindoro in the Philippines.
- An edible seaweed with a mild flavor.
- Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
- Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
- Of or relating to a fetus.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.
- The bivalent radical UO2 which forms salts with acids.
- Big-eyed scad.
- Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
- Excessively fat.
- Capital and largest city and economic center of Peru.
- Large black bird with a straight bill and long wedge-shaped tail.
- Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
- Type genus of the Ardeidae.
- A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
- Red Asian weaverbirds often kept as cage birds.
- An Eskimo hut.
- An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
- One of the evil spirits of traditional Jewish and Christian belief.
- The vertical triangular wall between the sloping ends of gable roof.
- (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- Other than what is under consideration or implied.
- Affording unobstructed entrance and exit.
- A quantity of no importance.
- Stairway in India leading down to a landing on the water.
- An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
- 35th President of the United States.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.

Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | L | M | A | S | E | P | T | I | C | W | I | L | D | | |
| L | E | U | C | A | C | A | L | I | A | O | L | E | A | | |
| U | N | S | P | E | L | L | I | B | E | R | I | A | N | | |
| D | A | C | E | A | A | R | E | A | R | M | A | D | A | | |
| | A | D | A | L | I | A | L | L | O | Y | D | | | | |
| A | S | T | I | R | | R | A | A | S | | M | S | | | |
| C | A | E | C | A | L | | C | L | V | | S | W | A | T | |
| C | A | L | A | B | A | | P | E | A | C | E | | A | N | E |
| H | L | | B | | M | A | R | A | T | | P | A | D | D | A |
| O | E | D | | A | I | M | | E | D | I | F | I | E | E | D |
| | | | I | S | A | A | C | | R | A | C | E | | | |
| F | R | A | N | C | | D | A | G | A | N | | B | A | S | K |
| E | A | R | T | H | M | A | N | | | K | O | R | U | N | A |
| R | I | M | E | | A | V | A | H | I | | S | I | D | O | N |
| A | S | I | N | | L | A | D | O | G | A | | L | A | O | S |
| L | E | N | D | | S | T | A | G | E | D | | E | D | D | A |

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your attitude about your work is commendable. If there is a job, you can do it. As a hard worker, you pour yourself into any task with absolute determination. You are responsible to the extreme and take on obligations as though you cannot get enough. Others could seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. This could be a time to make changes in your environment. Gathering and sharing information takes on a more emotional significance for you now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need this evening. Communicating feelings becomes more important. You have a natural ability to use emotions in productive ways. Entertaining others is one form this might take.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have an inner urge for order and organization and a great sense of responsibility. You are competent, ambitious and cool. This marks the coming of a good time as far as career and social life are concerned. If you have not discovered this already, it seems your time of paying dues is over. Real accomplishment and focus are possible now. You are a very hard worker and driven to accomplish the projects before you. You like to manipulate a situation for its own benefit and this would make you a natural supervisor. You can demonstrate a fine kindhearted nature, and a deep sensitivity to the needs of others may find you as a representative or possibly a politician when it comes to your community. It is easy for you to be a counselor for others.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are entrepreneurial energies available to you now and they continue to promote harmonious risk-taking. Make new starts in as many areas as possible and be willing to take chances that can further your dreams. The energy for achieving your goals is strong! Actively take charge of whatever needs to be done to make your dreams come true. Make a plan and follow it as closely as possible. Reassess it often and change it when necessary. The point is to get moving; this is your time to achieve and get ahead. Melodramatic complications can come from young people this afternoon, particularly if they are not used to you taking charge. This may all culminate in a happy outcome when a chart reveals time and date with names and checkmarks for chores. Hugs!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

high-tech or idealistic approach sets you apart. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of mental work. You develop a knack for being in the right place at the right time. You easily win the admiration of others. A drive to probe and penetrate may find you examining and working through many changes that relate to your profession. Big changes affecting your career, status and reputation are likely now. There is much to enjoy as many parties and gatherings are near. Take your time and prepare gifts and treats ahead of time for holiday events next month. If you are not cooking, start now to find little store-bought treats you know will please your friends.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your ambition is strong. Things seem to fall in place and progress is easy. You are in a time of expanding consciousness and heightened awareness. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Others may find you a little quiet today; little do they know that those late-night talk shows and trips to the library are helping to educate you about world affairs and planet health issues. You may even be plotting a path to help create awareness so that others will help toward healing our planet. Consider recording some shows to get better rest. Although financial rewards will come through your hard work, decorating projects, landscaping and real estate could be lucrative for you in the coming years.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a busy time and you will find your attention is needed in several different directions. There could be times in the workplace today that you would be presented with the choice of gossip or joke playing or some other non-work activity-don't. Your behavior is an example to others; make it positive. You may receive sudden news that will create much excitement today. Share this news with a loved one; it will bring you closer together. There are new social contacts that come to you through your co-workers, perhaps someone new. The power of organization on a social scale, such as business or political affairs, seems to take greater importance. Look through your clothes this evening and list the things you need for an upcoming event.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Give very little energy to the difficult person in your office or the short-tempered driver that may be in your way of making an appointment on time today. Any negatives can distract you from your goals and keep you out of focus just now. Effort is important with your work-staying away from emotional issues is a very wise plan. You may be feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood this evening. A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. You might enjoy getting out the old photograph albums. Be sure to write the names of people you remember under each picture so that future generations will know who the pictures are all about. Consider filling the room with soft music.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A morning business trip is inspiring. Positive results occur as a result of your hard work. You have an opportunity to fund a special project today-perhaps group oriented. Check this out and make a decision now. This could be a positive move on your part and will increase your standing in the workplace. Your earning power is in an upward motion. Doing good deeds elevates your self-esteem. This afternoon you may discover that someone bought a special gift for you. It is good that you do not forget to express your gratitude to this person. Conversations this evening focus on dreams and you may express the belief that dreams can be used to solve problems. You are not the only one that has expressed this belief. Happy birthday!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may feel your independence is blocked. Take the initiative-work cooperatively to reach mutual goals. You reason and analyze endlessly and are never happier than when fully engaged in some project. You may be tempted to place a bet later today. An opportunity to improve your financial situation will soon present itself-don't let it slip through your fingers by involving yourself with reckless gambles. The planets, at this time, help actualize or bring out your sensitive side. You are seductive and affectionate and if you are single, you may find that this is a good time to seek and find a special relationship. If you are not single, this is an excellent time to build upon your present relationship. You cook this evening and set the table with candles.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The energy for today is positive, especially as you relate to the workplace. It is easy to accomplish your goals for the day. Take chances and follow your dream. There are positive energies for successful entrepreneurial endeavors today and tomorrow. You could feel great support from those around you. Circumstances could dictate your taking action-you feel well and strong. Your mental energies may undergo some transformation or change-there is a natural sense of growth and development. Your thoughts count now-use your mind and communicate-write your novel. Tonight, while writing out personal checks in order to take care of some debts, you may discover the accounts are in better shape than you thought.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

If you are working, much progress is realized. At home, you work to decorate and prepare for the next upcoming holiday. One question keeps gnawing at your mind and that is who the person might be that you could invite to a social get-together. You could feel that anything is possible. Young people gather in your home this evening for some sort of meeting. This could mean you have volunteered to have a youth group or a church group of young people as a planning committee for the same upcoming holiday. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. You have all the drive and energy you could want and it should be easy to channel. Be careful that you do not overspend just now.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This may be a tough day to solve problems or to look for insights and solutions. You may feel that your independence is stifled or just not available. Someone older may tend to stifle your freedom. You may have to abandon your own ideas for those of another. It could be time to reassess your goals. Your appreciation for hard work and discipline is natural and lifelong but it may be time to change your professional standing. You actually love responsibility and tend to pile on the work. You will prosper by pursuing your dreams of how you want your life to be. Do not be afraid to project yourself. Speaking out is the only way to really know what works and what does not work. A positive change in financial status is possible very soon.

WORD SEARCH

Breakfast

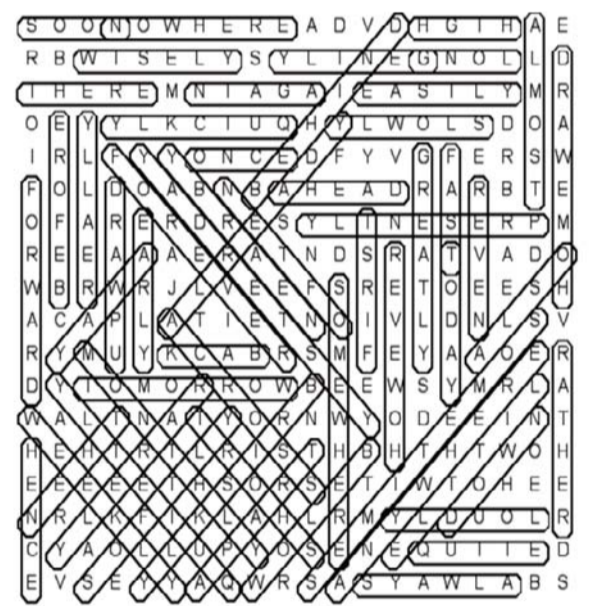
Find and circle all of the breakfast items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a popular breakfast drink.

Y O G U R T O M E L E T S E
O S E G A S U A S Y L L E J
F A L O N A R G A E T F E R
C R O I S S A N T S F T O D
S H U M M L O R T O A L W O
L A A I U A A I C L L M A U
E S L S T F U E O S A E F G
G K E M H C F C R R B G F H
A D E K S B O I M E A D L N
B A T I A H R A N H C I E U
L E B O C C L O O S O R S T
H R G T A A N N W J N R N S
A B O G D S E A A N G O E J
M H U E S Y T M P I S P C E

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| BACON | EGGS | JELLY | ROLLS |
| BAGELS | FRUIT | MARMALADE | SAUSAGES |
| BISCUITS | GRANOLA | MILK | TEA |
| BREAD | HAM | MUFFINS | TOAST |
| CEREAL | HASH BROWNS | OATMEAL | WAFFLES |
| COFFEE | HONEY | OMELETS | YOGURT |
| CRISPSANTS | HOT CHOCOLATE | PANCAKES | |
| DOUGHNUTS | JAM | PORRIDGE | |

Yesterday Solution

Adverbs



- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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 | | |

The hidden message is: ADVERBS MODIFY VERBS AND ADJECTIVES AND OTHER ADVERBS

Daily SuDoku

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | | 2 | 3 | |
| | | 4 | 3 | 8 | | |
| | 3 | 7 | | | 9 | |
| | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| 4 | 9 | | | | 6 | 5 |
| | | 6 | 9 | | | |
| 1 | | | | 5 | | 8 |
| | 9 | 6 | | 1 | | |
| 8 | 4 | | | | | 2 |

Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 |

MUSIC & MOVIES



This image released by Warner Bros Entertainment shows Eddie Redmayne in a scene from, 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.' — AP photos



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Eddie Redmayne, left, and Katherine Waterston in a scene from, 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.'

Film Review

'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'

Just when you thought the world of Harry Potter couldn't get any darker, along comes a bleak-as-soot spin-off that makes the earlier series look like kids' stuff. Borrowing its title from one of the textbooks Potter studied at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" marks the first screenplay written by JK Rowling herself. Though the world-renown novelist had always kept a tight rein on how those adapting her Potter stories went about their task, this assignment gives her the unprecedented ability to address her massive global fanbase directly, while current events have given her something more substantive to say.

It's 1926, and Scamander arrives at Ellis Island with a bottomless suitcase full of illegal "livestock," ranging from a mischievous Niffler (a naughty duck-billed marsupial with a nose for treasure) to a giant storm-causing Thunderbird, whose keeper intends to release back into the wild somewhere far from people in Arizona. But the United States is notoriously intolerant when it comes to magic. (Remember the Salem witch trials?) As a precaution, all beasts have been outlawed by MACUSA, the Yankee equivalent of the Ministry of Magic, with stiff penalties for any who disobey.

Absent-mindedness

Scamander means well, but he's a bit of a klutz and not nearly as careful as someone charged with keeping a menagerie of potentially dangerous creatures really ought to be. (If he were cleverer, he probably would have left behind those beasts capable of destroying New York City, such as the atom-bomb-like Obscurus, before traveling.) In his absent-mindedness, however, Scamander accidentally swaps suitcases with Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), a No-Maj factory worker, who swiftly unleashes half a dozen or so of the animals into the streets—animals that have a nasty habit of leaping directly into the lenses of Philippe Rousselot's 3D cameras.

What follows may as well be a high-end, period-themed upgrade to the popular Pokemon GO iPhone game, as Scamander plays a freckle-faced, tweed-jacketed version of Ash Ketchum, scrambling to track down and recapture the escaped creatures before things get really out of hand. Things first spin out of control in an unusually complicated scene at the bank, where Rowling and Yates spin so many layers of surveillance-ex-auror Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston) spies on Scamander, who is following Kowalski, who in turn is being watched by a suspicious bank manager—that it starts to feel like trying to follow a piece of fruit as it passes through a blender.

Challenging ideas

Maintaining Yates as director lends a consistency to the project, and yet, it would have been refreshing to get a completely new take on Rowling's world with this series, especially considering how murky and self-serious they got in the final chapters. Still, Yates knows this world as well as anyone, and he excels at finding visual solutions for challenging ideas (whether it's how a witch might cook without an oven or a creature who either grows or shrinks to the available space). With all its ties to Harry Potter arcana, "Fantastic Beasts" has clearly been designed for the

most devoted of Rowling's fans, and though it may prove confusing to newcomers, the faithful will appreciate the fact the film never talks down to its audience.

Oddly, Rowling's script gives us practically no information about Scamander's backstory at this point, whereas Goldstein gets multiple flashbacks over the course of the film. That's probably because Rowling, whose world-building skills are rivaled only by George Lucas, appears to be primarily concerned with plot at this point, and Goldstein's memories serve the story, while this two-plus-hour-plus pilot evidently doesn't leave much room for the sort of character detail we'd all like to get about Scamander (whom Redmayne plays with stooped shoulders and a slightly bow-legged walk, easily winning sympathy for someone whose every judgment seems to endanger the fate of his kind).

These are times of intense superstition for No-Majs and wizards alike, and though the latter are progressive in their choice of leader, electing a mixed-race female president named Seraphina Picquery (Carmen Ejogo), they're largely intolerant of No-Maj Americans—with good reason, as it turns out: There's a new sect of magic-fearing protesters on the rise, led by a zealot named Mary Lou Barebone (played with Puritanical self-righteousness by Samantha Morton). Outfitted like a character out of "The Crucible," Barebone steals/adopts children from the magic families she exposes, but doesn't keep nearly a close enough eye on her kids, leaving room for her deeply troubled "son" Credence (Ezra Miller) to hold private meetings with a powerful-and power-hungry-auror, Percival Graves (Colin Farrell).

Unsuspecting human population

Naturally, Graves is hiding one of those elaborate duplicitous agendas that Rowling loves to invent, raising the stakes for her protagonists—Scamander, Kowalski, Goldstein and Tina's sister, a mind-reading legilimens named Queenie (Alison Sudol, who looks the part of a period-appropriate showgirl) from merely recapturing all of those fantastic beasts on the loose to preventing Barebone and Graves from exposing America's magic underworld to the unsuspecting human population. Those are enormous stakes better suited to some of Scamander's powerful friends back home (like Albus Dumbledore, who may appear in future installments), and judging by the desperate look on Redmayne's face—reminiscent of a waiter attempting to balance a wobbly, six-foot stack of porcelain dishes—he's going to need considerable reinforcements before facing off against the series' new

ultra-villain, a powerful dark wizard named Gellert Grindelwald, who shows up just long enough to disappear.

Unsurprisingly, "Fantastic Beasts" amplifies both the strengths and weaknesses of Rowling's storytelling approach, which unfolds in the episodic style of vintage serials—a cliff-hanger-oriented tactic that works well in novels, where readers might otherwise be tempted to put the book down after each chapter, but feels less elegant on screen, since viewers invariably commit to taking in the entire story in one sitting. And yet, the writer has learned something from the Potter franchise, clearly going out of her way to establish a foundation that can be enriched and expanded upon in future films. One can hardly forget how powerful the revelation of Severus Snape's backstory was, enriched by having a master plan from the beginning, and here, we can sense the first glimmers of character details that will require several installments to take focus.

Races and religions

And yet, rather than simply promising a greater scope to come, "Fantastic Beasts" takes place in a world far larger than any of the Potter films, by virtue of both its heightened budget and setting, taking place in New York City right under the No-Maj's noses. It may be cute to obliviate witnesses one at a time, memory-wiping bystanders the way the Men in Black did after any alien sighting, to do so to a city at large smacks of cheating. Though Rowling takes the opportunity to introduce a few tolerance-oriented messages, one can't help but question the limits of the allegory: In the real world, bigots don't have a real reason to hate members of other races and religions, whereas wizards—however much we love them—pose a very real threat to normal people (grisly Obscurus attacks result in at least two deaths, and the destruction of large swaths of New York).

It's the same logical flaw that operates in both the Avengers and X-Men franchises, and Rowling doesn't have much to add ... yet. But considering that Queenie and Kowalski's romantic subplot is by far the film's most charming detail, there are clues that Rowling will have more to say on the subject of half-bloods—such as Harry Potter, born to mixed magic-and-Muggle parents—in the very near future. — Reuters



This image released by Warner Bros shows Colin Farrell, in a scene from, 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.'

The first in an ambitious new pentaptych, whose five installments are all being handled by David Yates (the director responsible for the four ultra-bleak blockbusters that wrapped the Potter franchise), "Fantastic Beasts" does double-duty as yet another imagination-tickling fantasy adventure and a deeply troubled commentary on tolerance, fear, and bigotry in the world today. Focusing on a scatterbrained magizoologist named Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), whose personal crusade for the protection of magical creatures will eventually lead him to publish the aforementioned guide, this often heavy-handed political allegory trades present-day England for Prohibition-era New York, at a time when conflicts between magic folk and No-Majs (American for "Muggle") are brewing—when the humans aren't fighting world wars among themselves, that is.

JAPAN ACTOR GIVES HIS ALL TO PLAY SHOGI MASTER IN 'SATOSHI'

The devotion Kenichi Matsuyama gave to portraying a shogi prodigy who lived a fearlessly single-minded life is clear in the months he spent practicing placing the pawns in the Japanese board game, immersing himself in the master's selfless view on death and gorging to gain weight. "He lived in a win-or-lose world, and for that, he had to give up so much, to be living on the edge, totally devoted to that one calling. That fascinated me. I wanted to give it my all," he told The Associated Press, ahead of the premiere of "Satoshi: A Move for Tomorrow." The film portraying the angst-filled story of Satoshi Murayama, who died of bladder cancer at 29 in 1998, opens at theaters around Japan on Nov 19. It closed the Tokyo International Film Festival and is being showcased at the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, which runs through Nov 24. It was eight years in the making. And Matsuyama wanted the role right away.

Murayama had a serious kidney ailment since he was 5. He fell in love with shogi while hospitalized. His pudginess was a side-effect of his sickness and the medication he had to take all his life. Shogi, besides his love for manga, was about all he knew in life. He never had a girlfriend, he confesses in one scene. His last words were about shogi moves. His story is that universal one of a legend in any field, those so pure they would dedicate their entire lives, even risking death, for the pursuit of perfection. "He confronted his life head-on, and it wasn't about living for anyone else" said Matsuyama, who has starred in "Norwegian Wood," the 2010 coming-of-age film based on the best-selling novel by Haruki Murakami. "Mr Murayama always felt death close to him. That was his predicament."

Similar to the way boxers have to keep winning to remain champions, shogi players have to keep winning. That's why Murayama kept delaying treatment and then goes back to the shogi board barely a



This image released by 'Satoshi no Seishun' Film Partners shows Kenichi Matsuyama, portraying shogi master Satoshi Murayama, in a scene from the film, 'Satoshi: A Move for Tomorrow.' — AP photos

month after major surgery. He is in constant pain, but he doesn't stop. He doesn't want to cut his nails because, he says, even nails are trying to live. Matsuyama gained 26 kilograms (57 pounds) in about three months, speeding the transformation since it ruled out other acting jobs. Gorging on ice cream and rice cakes, he gradually felt he was morphing into Murayama, that all-out physical role-building that often grabs attention - Robert De Niro in "Raging Bull" or Charlize Theron in "Monster."

"Usually, I'm told to lose weight for this job, and we have to restrict our eating and drinking. But for this, I got to let all that go," Matsuyama said, looking lean and nimble, back at his usual weight of 66 kilograms

(145 pounds). "I ate potato chips in bed with my daughter." Becoming Murayama was about more than getting fat, although that brought him closer to the part. Even the way he walked, the way he carried himself, and the aches and twitches that followed, as well as the way his mind worked, all changed, recalled Matsuyama, whose marital partner Koyuki played opposite Tom Cruise in "The Last Samurai."

Thick silence

Matsuyama spent a year practicing the way shogi masters place their pawns, flat hexagon-shaped tiles, with that decisive click against the board, their fingers placed just so. The tension of the shogi scenes - two people facing off, sitting Japanese-style on the floor, in thick silence, except for the click-clicks against the board - is gripping, even to audiences unfamiliar with the art. The intense rivalry that's also a respectful love story with Yoshiharu Habu, still a shogi star today, drives the film, as dramatic as that between top-level athletes - Ted Williams versus Joe DiMaggio, Martina Navratilova versus Chris Evert, Bill Russell versus Wilt Chamberlain.

While Habu gained a reputation as a cool thinker, Murayama dazzled with his unpredictable intuitive moves. The movie closes with an unforgettable haunting scene. Soft wind whirrs on a street. A young shogi player, who had known and looked up to Murayama, senses Murayama's presence in the air, long after the master's death. And then there he is, standing as he always did, big, smiling, gazing at what's ahead, an everyday street corner that serves as a profound reminder that such a legacy, such passion for the game, is eternal. — AP



This file photo taken on November 9, 2016 shows actor Brad Pitt as he attends The 'Allied' Fan Event Presented by Paramount Pictures, in Westwood, California. — AP

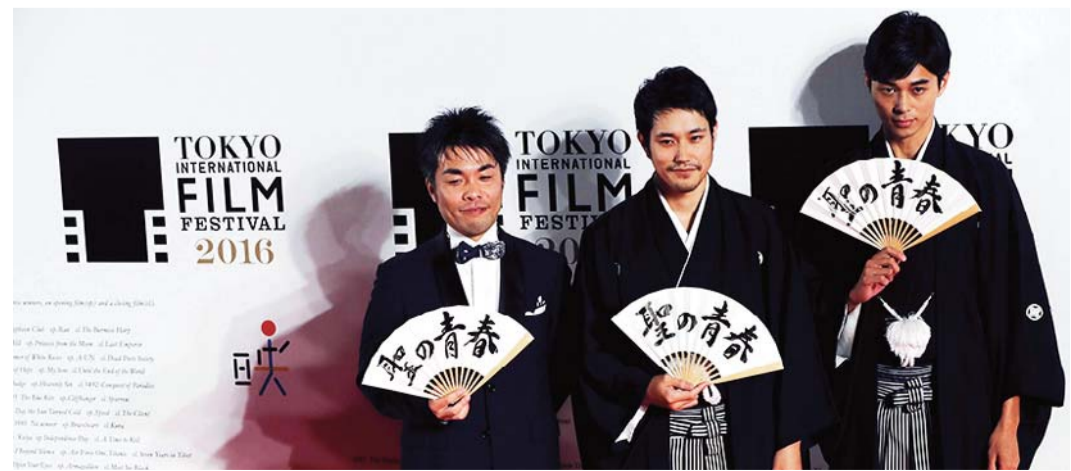
Brad Pitt back in China after reported ban over Tibet film

Brad Pitt made his first promotional appearance for a movie in China since reportedly being banned over a film about Tibet almost 20 years ago. He spent 40 minutes giving autographs to Chinese fans yesterday and 20 minutes at a tightly controlled media event promoting his latest movie. The Chinese government reportedly didn't like his 1997 film, "Seven Years in Tibet," about an Austrian explorer's relationship with a young Dalai Lama, because of its portrayal of harsh Chinese rule in the Himalayan region.

Reporters were not allowed to ask questions at the event in Shanghai held to publicize the World War II romantic thriller "Allied." Interest is high in his recent split from Angelina Jolie Pitt. Instead, a host asked a string of questions about "Allied." Pitt did visit China two years ago to accompany his then-partner, who was on a publicity tour, but kept a very low profile. "Allied" debuts on Nov 23 in China, the US and some European and Asian countries. — AP



In this Nov 2, 2016 photo, Japanese actor Kenichi Matsuyama, left, and film director Yoshitaka Mori, right, are interviewed in Tokyo.



In this Oct 25, 2016 photo, film director Yoshitaka Mori, left, Japanese actors Kenichi Matsuyama, center, and Masahiro Higashide pose for photographers on the red carpet during Tokyo International Film Festival opening ceremony in Tokyo.

GOSSIP



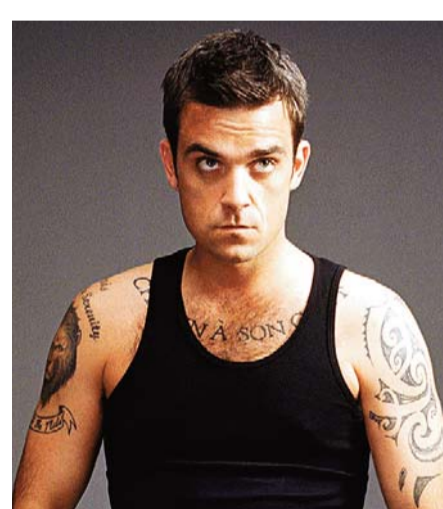
Heidi Klum has learnt to 'embrace' her body

The 43-year-old model - who has four children, Leni, 12, Henry, 11, Johan, nine, and Lou, seven, with former husband and musician Seal - has seen her figure fluctuate over the years because of her pregnancies but she isn't worried about the toll they took on her figure as she has just learnt to "roll with it". She said: "I'm now 43 ... My stomach has stretched in and out and in and out and in and out four times. I've breastfed four children ... You just have to embrace it, go with it, just roll with it. "I love my shape because it's mine. At the end of the day, it's not what anyone else thinks about my body but how I feel about myself. I'm working it and owning it!" The 'America's Got Talent' judge manages to stay in shape without a strict exercise regime, as she says being a mother "is a workout in itself". Instead, the star likes to get her family engaged in "outdoor activities" to stay healthy without feeling forced to exercise. She added: "I try to be active as much as possible. I don't have time for

workouts every day. Being the mother of four kids is a workout in itself! Balancing my work and their schedules makes it hard to find time for a traditional exercise routine, so we try to do as many outdoor activities as a family as possible. We love to go on bike rides, take our dogs hiking, or jump on the trampoline. That's the best way to stay fit and healthy - do things that don't feel like work." And Heidi - who is now in a relationship with art curator Vito Schnabel - says her biggest motivation is her family, as he wants to be "as healthy as possible" for them. Speaking in the December issue of Shape magazine, the former Victoria's Secret angel said: "Whenever I need motivation, I think of the big picture. I remind myself that I'm staying active and eating right to live a better and healthier life. I want to be as healthy as possible for myself and my family."

ROBBIE WILLIAMS: PAGE'S OBSESSION WITH MY HOUSE IS LIKE A 'MENTAL ILLNESS'

Robbie Williams has likened Jimmy Page's behavior over his renovation plans to a "mental illness". The 42-year-old musician has been feuding with the Led Zeppelin rocker since 2013 when Robbie purchased the mansion next to his in West London and applied for permission to renovate his home. Robbie was eventually granted the permission for building work, and has now claimed Jimmy, 72, sits in his car outside the home of the 'Party Like a Russian' hit maker with "recording equipment". He told The Sun newspaper: "So, Jimmy has been sitting in his car outside our house with the windows down, four hours at a time with recording equipment. "He's recording the workmen to see if they're making too much noise. And also two weeks ago, the builders came in and he was asleep in his garden waiting. Honestly it's like a mental illness. Like, concentrating. "It's really strange. At first it's like oh god, now it's taken so long - four years. But now it's like what are you hiding? Is there something you're hiding? So, so weird." Previously, the former Take That member said he was "really pleased" he could boast he came to loggerheads with the famous musician, as it makes a "great story". He said: "I win. Did he win? I don't know if there are any winners necessarily.

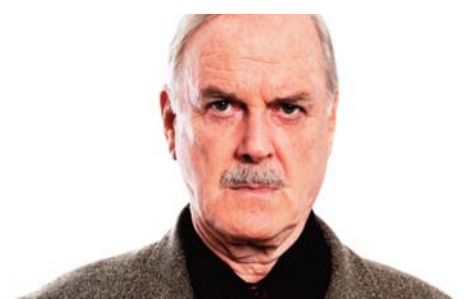


"I do know it makes a great story and I'm really pleased, just for me in general for the rest of my life. I'm really pleased it's Jimmy Page and not Jimmy the accountant. "It's actually Jimmy Page from Led Zeppelin and it's a wonderful story to have in your back pocket - about, you know, the neighbor that doesn't want to help you out." Despite his apparent amusement at the feud, Robbie admitted it is frustrating that his renovation plans were held up for so long.

John Cleese: I wish my ex-wives were dead

John Cleese has joked that he wishes his ex-wives were dead. The 77-year-old comedian has been married four times and paid out over \$30 million in divorce settlements, and has now admitted he wouldn't be too bereft if "one or two of them" were struck by a falling tree. Appearing on chat show 'Conan' alongside Eric Idle - with whom he is currently on tour in North America - the 'Fawlty Towers' actor referenced his second wife Barbara Trentham who died in 2013 after suffering from leukaemia. He said: "I have been married for 34 years. To four different wives. One of my ex-wives died, did you know that? It was very sad because it was the wrong one!" The show's host Conan O'Brien then asked the 'Monty Python' star if he had any real anger toward his former spouses - who alongside

Barbara are Connie Booth and Alyce Eichelberger. John said: "No, no [I have no anger toward them]. I'd be quite happy if one or two of them were dead, but I have nothing against them. I don't have anything against them as people." Eric, 73, then added: "You wish them



dead in the nicest possible way." To which John replied: "In the nicest possible way, yes. And not slow, agonizing death, sort of drawn out over many many years or anything like that. Something quick like a tree falling on them." The news comes after John - who is now married to Jennifer Wade who is 32 years his junior - famously headed out on his 'Alimony Tour' in 2011 in order to fund his bitter divorce from third wife and psychotherapist Alyce. He said previously: "She went after me really quite brutally by hiring the nastiest - and I don't mean the second nastiest or the third nastiest - but the nastiest lawyer in Santa Barbara. "My wife went and hired this really nasty woman and I had to give her \$20 million. It's not fair."

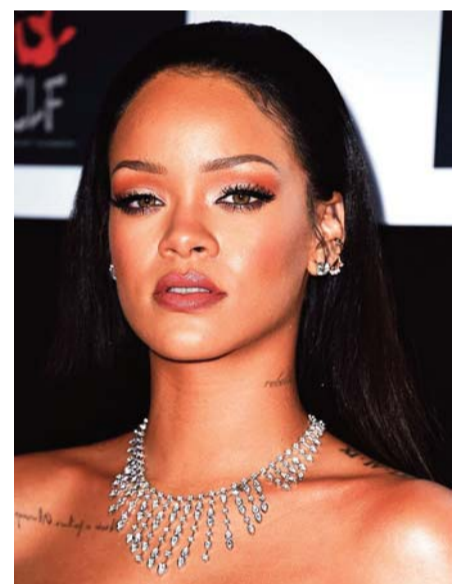
JK Rowling is 'still learning' how to write screenplays

The 51-year-old author has been capturing children's imaginations since 1997 when she released the first 'Harry Potter' book and has since become a world renowned writer, but says she still struggles when it comes to writing the screenplays for the movie versions of her hit novels. Speaking at the premiere of her 'Harry Potter' spin-off 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' in New York City, the author said: "It was intense. I was learning to write a screenplay while writing a screenplay. "It's a totally different thing to novels. It was a real challenge. To tell you the truth, I loved that. I am still learning." But screenplays are something the writer will have to get used to, as the spin-off movie - which was originally supposed to be a stand-alone feature - has been slated for a five-part series with the author working as a screenwriter on all the installments. Answering a fan question on Twitter, she wrote: "I'm the screenwriter. Currently putting the finishing touches to the second one." The Eddie Redmayne-fronted movie franchise then posted on its own Twitter account: "@jk_rowling has just confirmed the magic continues in a total of FIVE MOVIES! We can't wait #FantasticBeasts (sic)" Meanwhile Bonnie Wright - who played the flame-haired Ginny Weasley in the original film series - believes the series is a hit because it offers people a world they can "escape to". She said at the premiere: "['Harry Potter' is a hit because of] the themes of loyalty and friendship and love ???. Something we all strive to live by. When the world can sometimes be challenging, people love a world to escape to."



Rihanna is set to launch her second footwear collection with Manolo Blahnik this week

The 28-year-old singer songwriter unveiled her debut shoe line with the fashion designer in May this year, and the pair have joined forces once again on their latest winter footwear range called Savage, which will feature three boots. According to WWD.com the forthcoming designs have been inspired by the long-standing and durable Timberland shoes, as well as her love for suede and shearing materials. The capsule will see the Timberland style boot re-designed to include a stiletto heel and fur trim called the Fallon, a thigh-high boot with a sheepskin lining made from black pony skin and a floral laser-cut detail titled the Dominique, and the Alexis, which is a knee-high lace up boot with fur trim. The creations come in a muted and earthy color palette, as the Alexis will be available in ivory or cinnamon shade, whilst the fur detailing on the Fallon comes in either ivory or coffee. Rihanna x Manolo Blahnik's Savage collection will be available to buy in select Manolo Blahnik stores, and online from Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Barbadian beauty - who is the creative director at PUMA - has launched a number of lines under the sportswear giant's label including her debut footwear line the Fenty x PUMA Creepers. And Rihanna's signature platform trainer has led to her to be crowned the Shoe of the Year award at the Footwear News Achievement Award. The 'Work' hitmaker - who has also designed for Stance hosiery - previously took to social



media to share the news. Alongside a picture, which shows the imprint of the highly-coveted design in sand, on her Instagram account, she wrote: "God be the Glory!!! What a blessing to be honored with this prestigious award, and to be the first woman receiving 'SHOE OF THE YEAR' at #FNA !! Never could I have imagined the amount of support and love we got from around the world for #THECREPER !!! Thank you to everyone who represented and made the movement!!! One Love . #FENTYxPUMA (sic)"

Lily Aldridge: 'After I had my daughter, I completely changed my workouts'

Lily Aldridge "completely changed" her fitness regime since becoming a mother. The 30-year-old model - who has four-year-old daughter Dixie with her husband Caleb Followill - has revealed working out is "definitely" part of her "daily life", but after she gave birth she had to alter her exercise plans, which led her to

practice yoga, pilates and ballet. Speaking in a video, which was posted on Victoria's Secret Instagram account, she said: "Working out is definitely a part of my daily life. "After I had my daughter, I completely changed my workouts. I started doing yoga, pilates, ballet, things that are more lengthening and I was more passionate about it. "I love it and it makes me feel good to be healthy and strong." And the brunette beauty - who has graced the runway for the lingerie giant - has revealed prior to stepping foot on the highly coveted catwalk for the lingerie giant's showcase, all you think about is your preparation and working out as "hard" as possible. She explained: "Getting ready for the runway you are working out as hard as you can. There's not a moment when you're not thinking about getting ready for the show and wanting to give your all, because when you give your all you feel so much more confident on the runway." And the catwalk icon has revealed she "always" tells herself to be thankful prior to her catwalk shows. She said: "The final words I say to myself before I hit the runway is 'Always be thankful'. "We work so hard to be a part of the show and I always feel so blessed that I get to be a part of this phenomenal experience and see how far I have come in my job, it's really incredible."



GOSSIP

KIM KARDASHIAN WARNED SHE COULD 'BLEED TO DEATH' IF SHE EVER GETS PREGNANT AGAIN



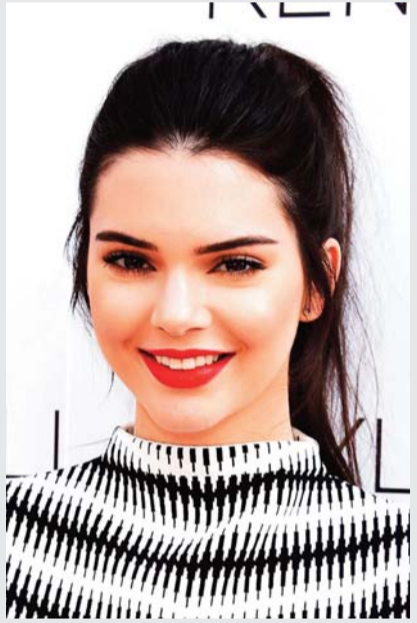
Kim Kardashian West has been warned she could "bleed to death" if she fell pregnant again. The 36-year-old 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star, who has three-year-old daughter North and 11-month-old son Saint with her husband Kanye West, has admitted she would love to expand her brood and have another child, but her doctor Paul Crane has revealed it wouldn't be "safe" for her after the complications during her first two pregnancies. Speaking on the popular E! show on Sunday, the brunette beauty - who married the 'Famous' rapper in 2014 - said: "Lately I've been thinking I would love to maybe have another baby. But like I had two really difficult pregnancies and really difficult deliveries so getting pregnant again it's something that does concern me." However, Doctor Crane has highlighted there is a "potential fear" for Kim, who suffered toxemia - which is toxins in the blood caused by an infection - and endured a "very traumatic" labor when she had North and Saint, which could cause further complications if she was to have more children in the future. He said: "Here's what I think, your pregnancies, you had toxemia, you had a retained placenta, very traumatic, we're always worried about the next serious complication. I think the potential fear of the whole situation is legitimate. You never know that you might not have the same type of problem that might be more serious this time. You're always taking a little bit of a chance. There are situations where retained placenta could be life and death." And Kim's 61-year-old mother, Kris Jenner, bluntly added: "You could bleed to death." Following Kim's consultations she visited fertility specialist Doctor Huang to discuss the possibility of a gestational surrogate. However the 'Selfish' author has revealed she is "scared" about having a surrogate because she doesn't know if she will love the baby as much as her two children, although she thinks she could keep it a secret. Kim said: "Nobody has to know. I think my biggest fear is that if I had a surrogate, I just don't know like, would I love them the same? That's the main thing that I keep on thinking about, that scares me."

earlier this year: "Our separation was the wrong decision. I now call Phil my husband again. We are so close that it does not actually make a difference if we are married or not, but we are determined to get married for a second time one day." The 'Invisible Touch' musician - who has famously paid over \$50 million in divorce settlements - also opened up about his failed marriages in his new autobiography 'Not Dead Yet', in which he reveals he's "disappointed" in himself for having been divorced three times. He wrote: "I am disappointed I've been married three times ... I'm even more disappointed that I've been divorced three times. While three divorces might seem to suggest a casual attitude towards the whole idea of marriage, this couldn't be further from the truth. I'm a romantic who believes, hopes, that the union of marriage is something to cherish and last. Yet certainly that trio of divorces demonstrates a failure to co-exist happily and to understand my partners. It suggests a failure to become and stay, a family. It shows failure, full stop."

Jenner has deleted her Instagram account

Kendall Jenner has reportedly deleted her Instagram account. The 21-year-old model is known for her presence on the photo sharing website, but on Sunday afternoon fans were left baffled as they tried to search for the model's account. When searching for the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star, fans were faced with a

number of results for fan accounts of the brunette beauty, but the official page for the star has vanished from the app. Those who were able to make it to where her page used to be were faced with a message that read "sorry, this page isn't available", whilst others received a message, which suggested there were "no posts yet". Thankfully for fans of the star, her Twitter and Facebook pages are still up and running, though she has yet to address her Instagram disappearance on either of the social media sites. However, fans shouldn't be too disheartened as Kendall has admitted she enjoys a social media cleanse every now and again. Speaking previously, she said: "I definitely have close friends, and even some family members, who are so connected to their phone and can't get off of it. That was the moment it kind of clicked for me. And I didn't like it. So sometimes I delete Instagram or Twitter or Snapchat off my phone for a couple days." Before her apparent disappearance from the site, Kendall held one of the most popular celebrity Instagram accounts, with one picture of her lying on the floor with her hair spread into hearts earned her over three million likes - the most of any photo in 2015.



Phil Collins regrets cheating on second wife

Phil Collins regrets cheating on his second wife Jill Tavelman. The 65-year-old rocker has admitted to being unfaithful to his ex-partner - with whom he has daughter Lily Collins - which ultimately led to the end of their marriage, although he has claimed he was just "following [his] heart." Speaking to Australian news program 'Sunday Night', the former Genesis drummer said: "I was following my heart. But it turned out I was being a bit of a b****d." The 'In The Air Tonight' hitmaker has been married three times - to Andrea Bertorelli from 1975 - 1980, Jill from 1984 - 1996, and Orianne Cevey from 1999-2008 - and recently rekindled his relationship with third wife Orianne last year. And the star has revealed despite other people's opinions of his love life, he believes it's "wonderful" the pair are back together. He added: "I'm back with my third wife now, which people find strange. But to me, it's wonderful. We got divorced ... I paid her a lot of money. But that's divorce, you know. We realized it was a mistake and now we're back together and everything's great." And Orianne - with whom the rocker shares the youngest two of his five children, Joely, 44, Simon, 40, Lily, 27, Nicholas, 15, and Matthew, 11 - is just as excited about their rekindled relationship. She said

earlier this year: "Our separation was the wrong decision. I now call Phil my husband again. We are so close that it does not actually make a difference if we are married or not, but we are determined to get married for a second time one day." The 'Invisible Touch' musician - who has famously paid over \$50 million in divorce settlements - also opened up about his failed marriages in his new autobiography 'Not Dead Yet', in which he reveals he's "disappointed" in himself for having been divorced three times. He wrote: "I am disappointed I've been married three times ... I'm even more disappointed that I've been divorced three times. While three divorces might seem to suggest a casual attitude towards the whole idea of marriage, this couldn't be further from the truth. I'm a romantic who believes, hopes, that the union of marriage is something to cherish and last. Yet certainly that trio of divorces demonstrates a failure to co-exist happily and to understand my partners. It suggests a failure to become and stay, a family. It shows failure, full stop."



Disick 'desperately wants to make things work again' with ex **Kardashian**

Scott Disick is desperate to "make things work again" with former partner Kourtney Kardashian. The 33-year-old television personality - who has sons Mason, six, and 23-month-old Reign, as well as four-year-old daughter Penelope with the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star - reportedly "whisked" his ex-girlfriend away to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, over the weekend in a bid to win her back. Speaking to PEOPLE about the couple - who were together for nine years before splitting in 2015 - a source said: "Scott set it all up and [it] was a way to try and make things work again with Kourtney. He surprised her and whisked her away on this trip." And it has been reported the pair were "very close and happy" during their getaway. A separate source said: "They seem very close and happy." And the businessman, who also stars in the popular E! program, has taken to social media to gush about the brunette beauty. Alongside a photograph of Kourtney sporting a skimpy swimsuit whilst leaning over the edge of the infinity pool, which was shared to Scott's Instagram account, he wrote: "Views (sic)." Although the duo appeared to be getting on well, the mother of three has revealed she is skeptical about rekindling her relationship with Scott. Speaking previously, the 37 year old said: "I mean I'm so happy that Scott and I are getting along so well and that we're co-parenting, but I think hanging out with Scott without the kids. Scott can just take any little thing and run with it and think that like we're getting back together tomorrow. Right now I can't even wrap my head around that idea. There's so much work that would be involved and I'm so not even there yet. The idea of having my family together is amazing, but it's not the way things ended up. They may end up there. I'm not sure. To me, it's in God's hands. If it's meant to be, then things will line up."

Kelly Clarkson treats her kids to a DisneyWorld trip

Kelly Clarkson treated her children to a "magical" trip to DisneyWorld Florida. The 34-year-old musician took her two-year-old daughter River Rose and six-month old Remington Alexander to the Walt Disney theme park in Florida on Saturday, and took to Twitter to thank the fantasy themed world for making their day "amazing". Posting on Twitter on Sunday, the 'Stronger' hitmaker wrote: "First of all @WaltDisneyWorld IS the most magical

place on [Earth] Secondly, couldn't have survived without caffeinated pixie dust "Thank you @WaltDisneyWorld for our amazing guides Justin and Kelly ...that's right, we went back and forth from Justin to Kelly hilarious (sic)" The 'Because of You' singer - who shares her children with her husband Brandon Blackstock whom she married in 2013 - then shared a series of pictures of River Rose enjoying her day dressed as Cinderella. She captioned the photos: "River Rose started Disney like this.... #DisneyWorld #Rella "Then she met Snow White and LOVED IT!! "Then Tinker Bell was amazing!! (sic)" And the 'Piece by Piece' musician also shared a photo of herself managing her two children. She wrote: "And in between every other awesome experience things looked like this #igotthis ...and also so did my family ha! (sic)" The news of Kelly's day out with her children comes after she insisted she would never have any more children as she finds pregnancy "horrible". She said previously: "Everyone's like, 'Oh, you're getting your tubes tied... No, they're gone. My husband, like, while I was pregnant we agreed that he was going to get snipped ... "We have magical babies together ... They're amazing, but I have the worst pregnancies. I would die if I had to do it again. It was horrible."



Marion Cotillard thinks **Brad Pitt** is 'a good man'

The 41-year-old actress stars alongside the Hollywood hunk in 'Allied', and has branded the actor, 52, as "such a good person". Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', Marion said: "[Brad is] such a good man. Of course he's an amazing actor. He's such a good person that it's really not difficult to get along with him." And the actress admits that working with the 'Fury' star was nerve-racking, as she worried about how she would sound in the original reading. She added: "I'm always super nervous, because I'm like, 'Oh, my God, if my reading is really bad, what are they going to think?'" Marion's defense of Brad's personality comes after the star was recently cleared of child abuse allegations after he was accused of striking his 15-year-old son Maddox on board a private jet in late September while under the influence of alcohol. Following weeks of extensive interviews with the child and evidence gathering, the Los Angeles County Department of Children And Family Services decided to close the case earlier this week. Law enforcement sources told TMZ that it has been decided the 'Allied' star had not physically or emotionally harmed Maddox when they allegedly got into a war of words on their private jet. Now that the investigation has been



closed and he has been cleared of the allegations, Brad should have a better chance in his bitter custody war with estranged wife Angelina Jolie, 41. The actress - who married the hunk two years ago - filed for divorce from Brad just days after the jet incident and asked for sole physical custody of their children Maddox, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and eight-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne. However, Brad is determined to get joint custody of all their children.

Anna Kendrick: I thought only 'a couple of nerds' would like Pitch Perfect

Aнна Kendrick thought only a "couple of nerds" would watch 'Pitch Perfect'. The 31-year-old actress became a Hollywood superstar when she took on the lead role in the musical movie, and says she had no idea that the movie would be as successful as it was. Asked if she expected the flick to be successful, the brunette beauty said: "No, not at all. When I read the script I was so expecting it to be something I'd seen before. I was just hoping a couple nerds would really like it." 'Pitch Perfect' went on to make Anna a cool sum of \$115 million, and has

since seen her reprise her role in 'Pitch Perfect 2', as well as an upcoming third installment. And it wasn't just the movie that spelled success for the star, as she also found herself sitting at number six in the Billboard music chart for the movie's hit song 'Cups (When I'm Gone)'. Speaking on American news program 'Sunday Today', Anna said: "It's so weird. I was just like, 'How is this just happening?' The other people on the charts were Miley Cyrus and Macklemore and they're out promoting and they must be like, 'What is this b*****t?' I think it was a real testament to the nerdy

that exists in the world." But it wasn't always plain sailing for the movie star, as she previously admitted she used her small role as Jessica Stanley in the 'Twilight' saga to help "pay the bills". She said: "Twilight mostly paid the bills because there were four of them that I got to do. They just kept hiring me. People don't realize that I get paid to make a movie and then a year goes by and then I promote it for six months. I've only got the one paycheck, and that was a year and a half ago. So 'Twilight' saved me in the sense that it was this thing that kept going."



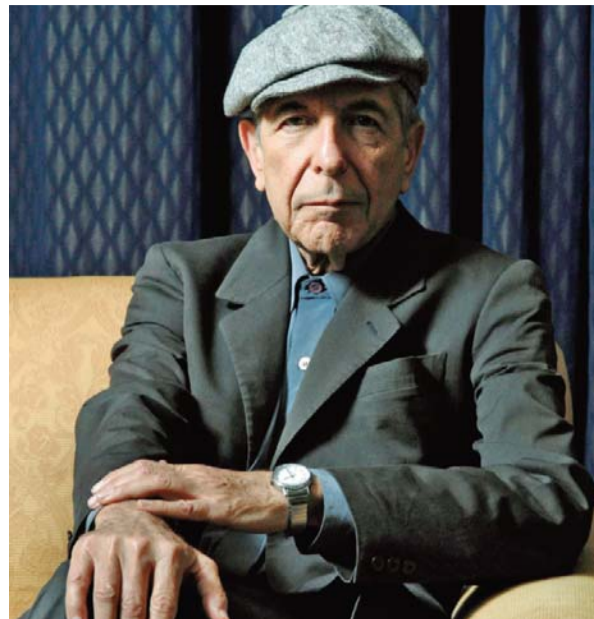
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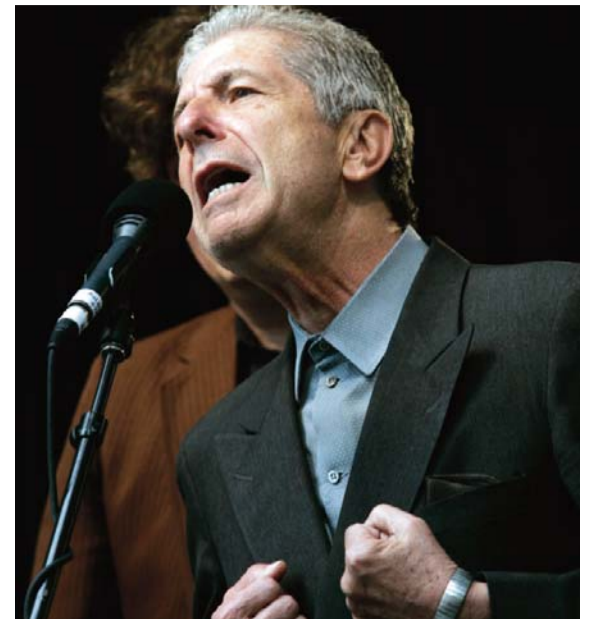
In this March 10, 2008, file photo, musician Leonard Cohen poses backstage at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony after he was inducted in New York. — AP photos



In this March 22, 2013 file photo, Leonard Cohen performs on the Old Ideas World Tour, at The Fabulous Fox Theatre in Atlanta.



In this Feb 4, 2006, file photo, Leonard Cohen poses in Toronto.



In this May 13, 2006, file photo, Leonard Cohen sings during a free concert Toronto, Ontario.



A woman places a candle in front of the home of singer and poet Leonard Cohen in Nov 10, 2016 in Montreal.



A woman places a candle in front of the home of legendary singer and poet Leonard Cohen Friday, Nov 11, 2016 in Montreal.



A makeshift shrine is seen in front of the home of legendary singer and poet Leonard Cohen in Montreal.



A makeshift shrine is seen in front of the home of legendary singer and poet Leonard Cohen.



A person holds a record of Leonard Cohen at a recordstore in The Hague.

Leonard Cohen was the natural born king of movie soundtracks

Leonard Cohen, who died last week at 82, was a poet, a pop star, a womanizer, a monk, a poor man, a rich man, a joker, a sage. But for those of us who are movie fanatics, he also occupied a role as extraordinary as it was utterly accidental: He was one of the most natural-born composers of movie soundtracks who ever lived. I say "accidental" because if you look at the films that made indelible use of Cohen's music, there isn't one among them in which the songs in question were written or recorded for the movie. In each case, the songs were composed several years beforehand and appeared on one of Cohen's 14 studio albums.

The mystique of a great Cohen soundtrack was tied to the fact that he was almost never a Top 40 artist. If, like me, you followed his career from a distance, when you encountered a song of his in a movie, that was usually the first time you'd ever heard it. The effect was startling: Leonard Cohen may not have known that he was writing soundtracks, but it's as if he knew. It's as if he'd written that song, and then sat back and waited for destiny to create the movie it would be perfect for.

I can remember, as if it was yesterday (though, in fact, it was 1977), the first time I ever saw Robert Altman's incandescent mist-and-dust Western "McCabe & Mrs. Miller." At the time, I'd never heard of Leonard Cohen (my tastes ran to ELO, the Sex Pistols, ABBA, and Steely Dan), so I didn't recognize his voice. I just knew, as the movie started, that I was seeing images—a woodland wilderness that somehow glowed, a shaggy silent man in a dark suit and bowler hat lumbering by on horseback that possessed an aura I couldn't account for. The acoustic guitar on the soundtrack spun out a series of slow-paced-yet-rapid notes that were sad and wistful but that truly seemed to be spinning, and the voice on top of them—craggy and oddly becalmed, mournful yet lordly—was already telling the story of the movie.

Secret vulnerability

There are moments when a pop song will declare what's inside the hidden heart of a movie's main character. Think of "Everybody's Talkin'" in "Midnight Cowboy," and how it catches the sunny alienated dreams of Joe Buck (the thing the world's about to crush out of him), or the falsetto aggression of the Bee Gees singing "Stayin' Alive" at the start of "Saturday Night Fever," and how it expresses John Travolta/Tony Manero's secret vulnerability. That's what Leonard Cohen singing "The Stranger Song" ("Like any dealer he was watching for the card that is so high and wild, He'll never need to deal another") does for Warren Beatty's McCabe. The character never has much to say—he's about as introspective as a pine cone—but the song is murmuring something about his nature. It's telling the audience that he's sweet, and idealistic, and doomed.

Altman had been a fan of Cohen's first album, "Songs of Leonard Cohen," when it came out in 1967, but three years later it was an associate of Altman's who suggested layering on a few songs from it as a temp soundtrack for "McCabe." The temp track stuck, and you can see (and hear) why: Without those songs, "McCabe & Mrs. Miller" would be a completely different film. Altman shot a rough-hewn, dark-toned revisionist Western filigreed with despair. The hero has little idea of the forces he's up against,

and Julie Christie's tough-cookie madam drowns her loneliness in smoky wisps of opium. Yet Cohen's songs, especially the great "Suzanne," transform the film into a frontier daydream. The music says: The world you're watching is harsh, but if you look close enough (which no one could do like Altman), you'll see that it's also the Garden of Eden.

Uniquely cinematic

In the years since "McCabe," Cohen's music has been used in more than 50 films (and countless TV shows), a handful of which stand out as drop-dead sublime. His greatest songs have a shimmer of majesty, and part of what makes them uniquely cinematic is Cohen's voice: that low, talky, mellifluous man-in-black rasp—the sound of a holy man who smokes four packs a day. One of his greatest songs is "Everybody Knows," and while fans of "Pump Up the Volume" will point to its celebrated use there, I confess that I've never been able to get past my dislike of Christian Slater's late-night-cornball-rebel cult fable.

To me, the greatest use of "Everybody Knows" is in Atom Egoyan's "Exotica," where it's the recurring theme to Mia Kirshner's ominous strip-club dance. It makes sense that at least one Canadian filmmaker would tap the magic of the folk-pop bard who was Canada's answer to Dylan, and in "Exotica," "Everybody Knows," with the back-and-forth insinuation that makes it sound like "Eleanor Rigby" on downers, is used as a warning. The film asks a question to any man who has ever sat in the darkness of an "exotic" club staring up at a stripper: What, in truth, are you staring at? In "Exotica," it's "Everybody Knows" that knows the answer.

Then there's the Cohen-soundtrack movie that's as memorable as "McCabe & Mrs. Miller"—though the world is still catching up to it. Fans of Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers" don't necessarily think of it as a "soulful" movie. The words that come to mind are more along the lines of: delirious, ultra-violent, over-the-top, meta-satirical, crazy. Yet it is soulful, and it's also a gonzo jukebox musical. The unruly collage of pop that Trent Reznor assembled for the movie adds up, in context, to one of the greatest soundtracks in history, and the beating raw heart of it is three songs from Cohen's 1992 album "The Future." It's those songs that lace the madness with a tragic humanity.

Miracle to come

The opening sets the stakes. The sound of Cohen singing "Waiting for the Miracle," a gorgeous dirge ("Baby, I've been waiting, I've been waiting night and day"), tells you that the film you're about to see will touch something that is-for lack of a better word—religious. So what could be religious about a gory post-modern "Bonnie and Clyde" that hitches itself to two wild-ass serial killers on a joyride to hell? The answer is: The kaleidoscope of images that they worship and live inside. Because it's the one that we live inside too. The message of "Natural Born Killers," embodied in the film's every channel-surfing frame, is that we're all now helpless addicts of the media dreamworld. Trapped in that hall of mirrors, we're waiting for the miracle to come, the one that—until we free ourselves—will never come.

Speaking of religion, Cohen's most famous song—and his most famous movie song—is a prayer, but it didn't start off as the song you think you know. Just go back and listen to his original version of "Hallelujah," which appears on the 1984 album "Various Positions." It's got the lyrics, and the basic melody, but they add up to the nuts and bolts without the glory. The late Jeff Buckley, who had the voice of an ethereal angel, did a celebrated cover of "Hallelujah," but the artist who was responsible for transforming Cohen's version of "Hallelujah" into the liting epiphany that launched a thousand tears is John Cale (it appears on his 1991 Cohen tribute album "I'm Your Fan"). Cale took the slight bombast of Cohen's version of and elevated it with his salvation-in-the-heather Welsh melancholy.

Rufus Wainwright duplicates the Cale version almost exactly—which is why Cale's could be used in "Shrek," and Wainwright's could appear on the film's soundtrack album. (Is there anything less religious than music-licensing issues?) Through all the musical chairs, there's something fitting about the notion that "Hallelujah" is a Leonard Cohen song that is no longer Leonard Cohen's; it belongs to everybody. In "Shrek," it expresses the joy that's swelling in Shrek's heart, making this ogre more receptive to the one thing—love—that will save him from ogredom. It's the most overt example of something that's been there almost every time a Leonard Cohen song shows up in a movie: He's not just making us feel good—he's letting you hear the rapture. — NReters



In this April 17, 2009, file photo, Leonard Cohen salutes the crowd during his performance on the first day of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.



Photo shows Leonard Cohen's family burial plot in a cemetery in Montreal.

FASHION



Bolivian Aymara designer Eliana Paco, offers an interview to AFP at her workshop in La Paz, weeks after presenting her traditional 'chola' (indigenous Aymara and Quechua women from the Bolivian altiplano) creations at New York's Fashion Week. — AFP photos

Bolivian designer exports high-end indigenous fashion

Centuries ago, Spanish colonizers forced their Bolivian servants to wear the puffy skirts that have come to symbolize the country's "cholitas," or indigenous women. Today, one local designer is turning the tables with plans to export high-end cholita fashion-blossoming skirts, bowler hats and intricately woven shawls-to Madrid, Paris and beyond. Fresh off her first show at New York Fashion Week, Eliana Paco, a 34-year-old indigenous Aymara designer, is ready to bring her take on a once-stigmatized style to the world.

"Cholitas"-a diminutive of "chola," a sometimes derogatory word for a woman from Bolivia's indigenous majority-were once seen here as a silent underclass of maids and manual laborers. But in a changing Bolivia currently governed by its first indigenous president, Evo Morales, Paco said she sees the traditional women's costume as a symbol of "identity and pride." She has already made her mark on the local fashion scene, where TV presenters and cabinet ministers now regularly sport the indigenous look, updated and embellished.

Her mission now is to "use that sophisticated touch to cross borders," she told AFP. She took a big step in September in

New York, where she made headlines with her latest collection, "Pachamama" (Mother Earth, in the Quechua language). "It's the first time a chola women's suit has arrived on the runway. There were 12 international models wearing our designs," she said.

Turning heads

Paco's exuberant dresses, vibrant shawls and gravity-defying bowlers captured industry insiders' attention. "I love cholita clothing. It reminds me a lot of Yves Saint Laurent and the best era of Armani, when he used bowler hats," said Spanish designer Agatha Ruiz de la Prada. "I would love to take (Paco's designs) to Madrid, to Paris," she told AFP in Lima, Peru, where she was presenting her own collection.

"Until now there had never been a cholita with the marketing sense she has," Paco said she sees an international market for her designs. "I think it's possible European women could use the shawls or hats for everyday wear," said the soft-spoken designer with her ever-present smile. She envisions her shawls accessorizing Western dresses or jeans, she said.

10-kilo skirts

Paco, the daughter of two artisans, takes pride in the quality of her designs. Her colorful "aguayo" shawls are hand-woven with naturally dyed alpaca or vicuna wool. The best ones take a team of three people two weeks to finish. The below-the-knee skirts have three or four layers, each using up to six meters (yards) of fabric. They can weigh up to 10 kilos (22 pounds). A full outfit can cost 1,500 to 30,000 bolivianos (\$200 to \$4,300).

For special occasions, members of Bolivia's newly wealthy "cholita elite" add gold or silver pins, brooches and jewels that can add thousands of dollars to the price tag. "To me (the outfit) symbolizes culture, identity, pride and work, because chola women work long and hard," said Paco, who has three children. "It's also about the empowerment of independent and professional women," she said, sporting an outfit of her own design. — AFP



A worker sews at the workshop of Bolivian Aymara designer Eliana Paco, in La Paz.



Picture taken at the workshop of Bolivian Aymara designer Eliana Paco, in La Paz.



Palms Beach Hotel and Spa announces the soft opening of Beauty Lounge

After a lot of planning and hard work, Palms Beach Hotel and Spa launches the soft opening of The Beauty Lounge on November 7, 2016.

The Beauty Lounge is designed to fulfill all women's needs in a relaxing and luxurious atmosphere, where world-class beauty specialists offer their services at the salon, spa, atelier, and retail boutique. Ladies can find the latest fashion trends of high-quality evening gowns and wedding dresses that are customized to fit all sizes and tastes at the luxurious atelier. At the salon and spa, women can stimulate and rejuvenate their skin and hair with state-of-the-art techniques that will guaran-

tee a fresh, healthy and young look under the hands of highly experienced Lebanese and European professionals.

They could also enjoy a variety of hair, nail and body treatments like pure water, oil treatments, and many customized services like the solarium for the perfect tan or treat cellulite and reduce fat using the latest technology, or the collagen machine that smoothes the skin, reduces pore size, improves skin moisture retention and diminishes wrinkles. In addition, traditional and alternative massage, body and skin treatment options, herbal treatments, and laser hair removal. To facilitate a healthy lifestyle, The Beauty Lounge made all its exclusive

products and treatments available at the retail boutique to guarantee best results. Bridal packages at The Beauty Lounge are tailored to create an unforgettable experience for a special bride-to-be.

The Beauty Lounge is dedicated to provide the highest quality standards in the beauty industry to inspire women and give them the look and feel they deserve.





A supermoon rises over the Statue of Freedom on the Capitol dome in Washington, DC November 13, 2016. The supermoon will venture to its closest point in 68 years, leaving only 221,524 miles (356,508 km) between Earth and the moon.— AFP

EXILED WRITER **NASREEN** FEARS FOR BANGLADESH'S FUTURE

Having herself been the subject of fatwas and forced into exile by fundamentalist critics of her writing, Taslima Nasreen despairs at the wave of assassinations of secular bloggers in her native Bangladesh. "You know Islamisation started in Bangladesh in the 1980s and in the 80s I was very worried," recalls the prize-winning poet and novelist in an interview with AFP in New Delhi. "I wrote about Islamic fundamentalists. I said that they should not go unopposed or they will destroy our society, that's exactly what's happened now."

It's 22 years since Nasreen last set foot in Bangladesh, having been forced to flee in fear of her life after tens of thousands of Islamists took to the streets to denounce her writing. Her novels and essays had brought her no shortage of enemies and she upset the government by railing against rights abuses and the treatment of women. She infuriated Islamists with her fiercely pro-secular views. She was feted abroad, winning the European parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1994, but the government back home filed a case against her for hurting religious sentiment.

After three separate fatwas calling for her execution were issued, Nasreen fled first to Europe before moving to Bangladesh's giant neighbor India. Her plight is all too familiar to a new generation of secular writers whose blogs criticizing fundamentalism have been met with fury by Islamist groups. Dozens have either been murdered with machetes, gone into hiding or fled with their families to Europe and the United States. No one has been convicted of any of the attacks although some suspects have been killed during raids by the security forces.

Bangladesh, which gained its independence in 1971 after winning a war of secession against Pakistan, is an officially secular nation. But Nasreen says Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government has made the same mistake as her predecessors by failing to stand firm against hardliners who want the country to be defined by religion. "I am very worried.



Bangladesh was born as a secular state but now it's a kind of fundamentalist state," she said. "Islamic fundamentalists are very powerful, they can kill anyone if they want. "And because those atheist bloggers criticize Islam—they criticize other religions too—but because they criticized Islam they were hacked to death and the government didn't take any action against those killers," she added.

Living with fear

As someone who lives round-the-clock with protection, Nasreen says it's important not to allow oneself to be overwhelmed by fear. "I think I've got used to it, you have to," she said inside her small apartment, armed guards stationed outside. "Of course every time a fatwa is issued I get shocked, I get sad, I get scared and then you know you have to live your everyday life. "You cannot think of death all the time, then it's not a living. If I think of death all the time then I would not have been able to write so many books." Since her first collection of poetry came out in 1982, Nasreen has had more than 40 books published.

Arguably her most famous work was the 1993 novel "Lajja" (Bengali for Shame) which was about the persecution of a Hindu family living in Bangladesh, where more than 90 percent of the population is Muslim. Nasreen's latest book "Exile" is a memoir about how she was hounded out of the Indian state of West Bengal a decade ago following protests by Muslim groups who tried to force her out of the country for good. She remains effectively persona non grata in West Bengal and her enmity for her critics is as sharp as ever.

"Who are they to decide who can stay in India and who cannot? ... Those people committed a crime but you are punishing me for no fault of mine," she says animatedly on her rocking chair. "They issued a fatwa, put a price on my head—which is illegal in India but nobody was punished for that. I was punished for that, the victim was punished." Nasreen's home is dotted with stickers and banners with slogans of the causes close to her heart, such as "Proud To Be A Feminist" and "Atheism Cures Religious Terrorism". A book of cartoons from the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo is displayed prominently on her coffee table.

Right to offend

Twelve people were shot dead in Charlie Hebdo's offices in January last year by Islamist gunmen who had taken offence to cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. Nasreen argues the right to offend is a fundamental part of freedom of expression. "Many of my books, people say they hurt their religious feelings," she said. "But I think that if we believe in freedom of expression then we should believe also that everybody should have the right to express their opinions and everybody has the right to offend others and nobody has the right to live their entire life without being offended. "Freedom of expression cannot exist without the right to offend." — AFP

Munch, Monet, de Kooning to star in New York fall auctions

New York's fall auction season kicks off next week with a sparkling array of masterpieces expected to draw bidders from around the world at Christie's and Sotheby's. From Edvard Munch's Expressionist "Girls on the Bridge" to Willem De Kooning's abstract "Untitled XXV," the two major auction houses have put together an impressive collection of paintings and sculptures from some of the 20th century's greatest names for the prestigious sales running till Thursday. There will be dozens of Picassos and Chagalls on display in the auction houses' galleries ahead of the sales-together with paintings by Kandinsky, Sisley, Dubuffet and Rothko-rivaling the exhibits at some of the neighboring major museums.

Starting prices are often set well below artworks' estimated values in order not to discourage anyone interested and attract as many buyers as possible, says Christie's America president Brook Hazleton. There's no shortage of bidders in the United States, Paris, London and increasingly Asia, with growing Chinese fortunes spent on internationally recognized works at both major auction houses.

The sales will serve as a barometer of the global art market, which did well during this year's spring auctions despite a slow 2015. Records could be broken this time. Munch's "Girls on the Bridge," a 1902 canvas depicting women in colorful dresses that contrast with a dark, anguished landscape, has broken records every time it has gone under the hammer. It went for \$30.8 million in 2008, compared to \$7.7 million in 1997. This time, Sotheby's estimates its worth above the \$50 million.

The Norwegian artist's most famous work, "The Scream," became the world's most expensive work of art to sell at auction in 2012, at \$120 million. Claude Monet's "Meul," another likely centerpiece of the autumn season—to be sold by Christie's—is part of a series of haystacks the artist painted during the winter of 1890-91. It's estimated at \$45 million. As with many great Impressionist works, prices are determined by scarcity: most are now in national museums and out of reach for private collectors. The record for a Monet came in 2008 with the bucolic "Le bassin aux Nymphéas," which brought in \$80.5 million in London.

Testament to Chinese collectors' growing clout, the painting was exhibited in Hong Kong at the end of October before it went on display in New York. The prolific Picasso is also omnipresent in next week's sales.

At Christie's, his painting "Bust of a woman," inspired by his mistress and muse Dora Maar, is estimated at between \$18 and \$25 million. At Sotheby's, the spotlight returns a long-running series of Picasso paintings titled "Painter and his model," this installment from 1963, owned by New York's Oestreich family until now. The artwork is estimated between \$12 million and \$18 million. There's no shortage of gems among contemporary art for sale.

De Kooning is set to figure prominently next week with the imposing "Untitled XXV" — 6.5 by 7 feet (2 by 2.2 meters) — featuring his typically vigorous, multicolored brush strokes. Christie's estimates it at \$40 million. Gerhard Richter's "Abstraktes Bild (809-2)" is another abstract jewel, a canvas dominated by yellow and blood red, valued between \$18 million and \$25 million.—AFP



Exiled Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen speaks during an interview with AFP at her residence in New Delhi. — AFP photos