

Minister vows used tire dump to disappear by next year



Sisi says don't 'jump to conclusions' on Trump



'Hamilton' cast asks Pence to work for 'all of us'



Giroud sucker punch earns Arsenal draw at Man Utd



US ENVOY: TIES WITH KUWAIT STRONG DESPITE TRUMP WIN

SILVERMAN WELCOMES KUWAITIS TO US, HAILS HUMANITARIAN WORK



Max 27°
Min 13°
High Tide 02:29 & 17:01
Low Tide 10:10 & 22:16



150 FILS
NO: 17056
40 PAGES

287 CANDIDATES REMAIN IN RACE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The ministry of interior yesterday said 287 candidates were left in the race for the Nov 26 parliamentary election after 128 candidates withdrew and 40 others were barred at the closure of withdrawals yesterday. The number however could increase slightly as some of the candidates barred by the election committee are still fighting in court and they may be reinstated.

The hopefuls left in the fray include as many as 41 members of the previous National Assembly, which was dissolved by HH the Amir last month, paving the road for early polls. They also include 38 former MPs from previous assemblies and a total of 14 women. There are roughly 30 opposition figures in the race - 25 of former lawmakers - while the rest are new faces.

In the first constituency, 52 candidates are running for the 10 seats. They include 10 members of the dissolved Assembly and nine former MPs. Prominent among the candidates are former MPs Saleh Ashour, Abdullah Al-Turajji, Essa Al-Kandari, Adnan Abdulsamad and Mubarak Al-Harees.

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KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman speaks to reporters at the US Embassy in Bayan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman assured relations between Kuwait and the United States will remain strong and strategic despite a change in administrations. Silverman told reporters President-Elect Donald Trump is still crafting policies for his new administration, and the attitude of US embassies worldwide is to "wait and watch". "Bilateral relations are extremely important, rather than only focusing on defense and security. The president-elect has met outgoing President Barack Obama, and they are briefed about local and international issues," he said.

Many governments in the Gulf have voiced concern over Trump's comments on immigrants and Muslims, but Silverman stressed relations between the US and Gulf countries are extremely important. "We have two US-GCC summits annually, along with meetings and dialogues," he said.

Silverman thanked the Kuwaiti people and HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for the warm welcome accorded to him as the new US ambassador to Kuwait. "It's been a great two months in Kuwait and a great honor. Our work is a reflection of what President Obama and HH the Amir want us to do, to make our ties even closer and address trade, political, education and cultural issues. We want the Kuwaiti people to see the mutual benefits of what Kuwait and the US do, not only in defense and security, but for the greater security of the region," he added.

Continued on Page 13



BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP, New Jersey: US President-Elect Donald Trump (left) and Vice President-Elect Mike Pence arrive at the clubhouse at Trump International Golf Club yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP SETTLES TRUMP UNIVERSITY LAWSUITS

MOGUL DEFENDS \$25M DECISION

NEW YORK: President-elect Donald Trump yesterday defended his decision to settle lawsuits over his Trump University real estate seminars for \$25 million, saying he does not have time to fight the fraud cases in court now that he is headed to the White House. The lawsuits cast a shadow over the Republican's presidential cam-

paign and led to one of the more controversial moments of his run for the White House when he claimed the judge overseeing two of the cases was biased because he was of Mexican ancestry.

While denying any wrongdoing, Trump agreed on Friday to pay \$25 million

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'OLDEST' FINGERPRINT FOUND IN KUWAIT

FIFA THREATENS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST KUWAIT

ZURICH: World football body FIFA has joined the International Olympic Committee in threatening legal action against Kuwait over the government takeover of sporting bodies, according to a letter obtained by AFP. The letter from FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura also reaffirmed that Kuwait would be kept in international isolation as long as the Kuwait Football Association is run by government-named officials following the passing of a new sports law this year.



Fatma Samoura

The IOC and FIFA suspended Kuwait in October last year over alleged government interference in sport. It is the second time in five years the state has been suspended. The letter to the state-backed KFA head Fawaz Mubarak Al-Hasawi, owner of English football club Nottingham Forest, said: "FIFA hereby reserves all its rights to take any action against all those who have been involved in any way, directly or indirectly, in the establishment as well as any other activities of the interim committee."

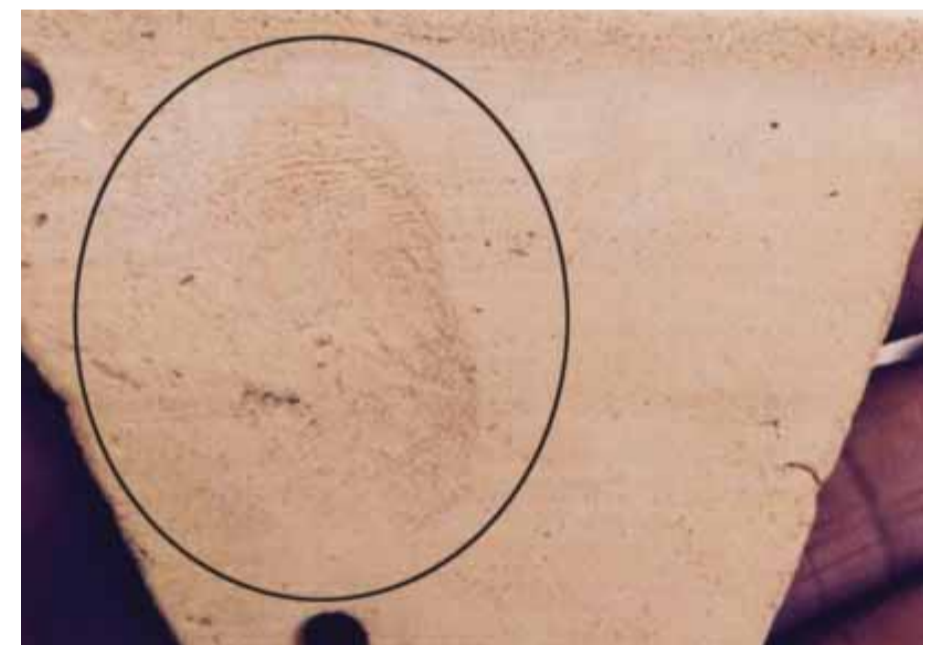
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KUWAIT: A joint team of archaeologists have discovered a 7,300-year-old human fingerprint - the earliest in the Near East region - in Subiyya in northern Kuwait. The fingerprint was found on a piece of a broken clay pot dating from the Stone Age (8,700 BC to 2,000 BC) in the Bahrah I Excavation Zone in Subiyya, an official from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) announced on Friday.

"The find adds to a list of important

discoveries recently excavated in the area - these include an ancient town, a temple, a cemetery, wells and pottery, which provide important clues on the life of primitive man," said Dr Sultan Al-Duweesh, director of NCCAL's archaeological and museums department. "The team of excavators is made up of 17 archaeologists, including 11 Poles, five Kuwaitis from NCCAL and a US scholar," Duweesh pointed out.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: The oldest human fingerprint discovered in Kuwait is seen. — KUNA



ALEPPO: A Syrian civil defense volunteer, known as the White Helmets, carries an injured man yesterday following an air strike on the rebel-held neighborhood of Bab Al-Nayrab. — AFP

REGIME JETS POUND REBEL ALEPPO

ALEPPO: Syria's government pounded rebel-held Aleppo with air strikes and artillery fire yesterday, killing 27 people and prompting Washington to condemn the "heinous actions" of Damascus and its ally Russia. UN officials said they were "appalled" by escalating violence and urged access to east Aleppo, where more than 250,000 people have been under siege for nearly four months. Since it began on Tuesday, the assault on the rebel-held east of Aleppo has damaged hospitals, forced schools to close, and killed nearly 100 civilians, according to a monitor.

An AFP correspondent described relentless bombardment with air strikes, mortar rounds and barrel bombs slamming into residential neighborhoods where residents covered at home. "It is a catastrophic day in besieged Aleppo with unprecedented bombardment with every type of weapon," a member of the White Helmets rescue group said in a video posted on the organization's Facebook page.

US National Security Advisor Susan Rice said Washington condemned "in the strongest terms these horrific attacks against medical

infrastructure and humanitarian aid workers." "There is no excuse for these heinous actions," she said in a statement. "The Syrian regime and its allies, Russia in particular, bears responsibility for the immediate and long-term consequences these actions have caused in Syria and beyond."

Moscow says it is not involved in the current assault on Aleppo, concentrating its firepower on opposition and jihadist forces in neighboring Idlib instead. But Damascus and its allies have made clear they want rebels expelled from eastern Aleppo, which fell from regime control in mid-2012.

Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by the war that has killed more than 300,000 people since it began with anti-government protests in March 2011. No aid has entered east Aleppo since government forces surrounded it in July, and residents report shortages of food and fuel, as well as lengthy power outages and water shortages. Two top UN officials said they were "extremely saddened and appalled by the recent escalation in fighting in several parts of Syria."

Humanitarian coordinator for Syria Ali Al-Za'atari and regional humanitarian coordinator Kevin Kennedy also said they had shared a plan to deliver aid, and evacuate the sick and wounded from east Aleppo. "It is imperative all parties agree to the plan and allow us to secure immediate, safe and unimpeded access to provide relief to those most in need," they said. The relentless bombardment forced schools in east Aleppo, many of which already operate from basements because of government attacks, to close Saturday and Sunday "for the safety of students and teachers, after the barbarous aerial strikes."

Hospitals and rescue facilities have been particularly affected, with shelling destroying one of the last medical facilities in the east on Friday. Staff were also forced to evacuate the east's only children's hospital because of repeated attacks, removing babies from incubators to transfer them. "This is a dark day for east Aleppo," said Teresa Sancristoval, emergency coordinator for the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) charity.

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Group photo of the participating CEOs.

INJAZ AL-ARAB CEOS ALIGN STRATEGIES TO IMPACT 1 MILLION YOUTH IN MENA BY 2022

KUWAIT: The Talent Development Company (TDC) at Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, attended the INJAZ Al Arab CEO Retreat held last month in Amman, Jordan. The event was attended by the CEO of INJAZ Al-Arab, Akef Agrabawi, and CEOs from 10 of the 14 member nations of INJAZ Al Arab. In this meeting, the CEOs discussed and aligned their strategies and next steps to achieve their goal of impacting 1 million youth in the MENA region by 2022.

Senior Manager - Talent Development Company, Evan Glassett, who volunteered to be the lead facilitator during the INJAZ Al Arab CEO retreat, said: "Our discussions focused on new initiatives to enrich the Arab youth such as, tapping into the elementary school age group, partnering with the Ministries of Education to make Junior Achievement Programs part of the curriculum, and other

key initiatives that will positively lead to the shared vision of raising the next generation of youth in Kuwait and the Arab world."

In addition to the new key initiatives, the discussion also emphasized maintaining previous initiatives for strengthening and growing the brand, expanding geographically, sublicensing, impact assessments and the institutionalization of funding through multilateral donors.

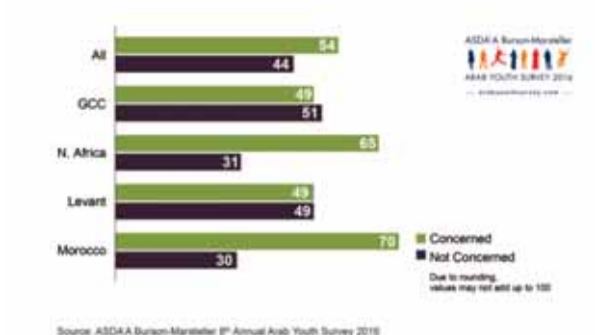
Looking ahead, Rana Al-Nibari, CEO of INJAZ-Kuwait, said: "INJAZ has continuously proven its ability to reach its short and long-term goals. Over the years, INJAZ-Kuwait has fostered and grown strong relationships with private sector partners. Their continuous support and belief in our vision for youth empowerment will be essential in impacting 1 million youth by 2022."

Alghanim Industries supports the effort of INJAZ-Kuwait to provide Kuwait's youth with the skills they need to build successful careers in the future. For the past five years, Alghanim Industries employees have contributed the most volunteers relative to other companies supporting INJAZ-Kuwait.

The commitment to support INJAZ is part of Alghanim Industries' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which focuses on giving back to the community, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship. It is worth noting that the company was a strategic sponsor to the Tmkeen Youth Symposium this year, and has been a platinum sponsor of startup weekend - Kuwait for four consecutive years, in addition to being a platinum sponsor of "ArabNet Conference" and providing free event tickets to 100 university students in Kuwait.

YOUTH IN NORTH AFRICA MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

How concerned are you about climate change and the environment?



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE LOW PRIORITY FOR YOUNG ARABS

DUBAI: Global climate change ranks almost bottom of a list of concerns for young Arabs across the Middle East and North Africa, according to findings in the eighth annual ASDAA Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey 2016.

Of the 27 key issues raised in the Survey, concerns over "climate change and the environment" placed at 26, above only "personal debt". "The rise of Daesh" resonated the most with young people and was listed as their top-most concern. Just 54 per cent of young Arabs cited "climate change and the environment" being of concern, compared with 77 per cent of respondents for "the rise of Daesh".

In the shadow of the 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 7-18, 2016, the Survey's findings suggest the UN still has much to do to encourage Arab Youth throughout the Middle East to become engaged with the environmental agenda.

The Survey shows a marked geographic variation over the level of concern: in the GCC, for example, 51 per cent of young Arabs said they were not concerned about the environment and climate change. In North Africa, however, youth appear to be more engaged on the issue, as 65 per cent of young people there expressed concern over the issue. In the COP22 host country, 70 per cent of young Moroccans said climate change was a concern.

Arab youth are also ambivalent about their leaderships' ability to tackle climate change. When asked how confident they were in their national government's ability to deal with climate change, the percentage of young people in the GCC who expressed belief in their country's leadership was very high, at 78 per cent, against 50 per cent for all Arabs, and just 36 per cent for young Arabs in North Africa and 29 per cent for youth in the Levant.

"It is clearly worrying that young Arabs put such a low priority on climate change - something that has the potential to have a major impact on the Arab world," said Sunil John, Founder and CEO of ASDAA Burson-Marsteller. "From the Sahara encroaching on farmland in North Africa; this year's heatwave in Iraq and the huge carbon footprints of GCC states, climate change and threats to the environment pose a very real danger to the region's future."

"While it is encouraging that youth in North Africa are taking the issue seriously, more needs to be done to get the message across to young people in the wealthier Gulf states that climate change is a serious issue that needs to be addressed." Now in its eighth year, the ASDAA Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey has established itself as a key referral source for businesses and policymakers across the world. For the 2016 survey, international polling firm Penn Schoen Berland (PSB) conducted 3,500 face-to-face interviews with exclusively Arab national men and women aged 18-24 in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain; as well as Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Yemen. The interviews were conducted from January 20 to February 12, 2016. In-depth results from the eighth Annual ASDAA Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey 2016, including survey highlights and a White Paper in Arabic and English, are available at www.arabyouthsurvey.com.

TAALEB E-SQUARE PROGRAM HONORS ZAIN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, was recognized by the TAALEB E-Square Program's managing committee for the company's long-term efforts and support to this unique educational initiative since its inception. The recognition came during the honoring ceremony held at the theater of the National Library of Kuwait.

The event witnessed the presence of the Undersecretary for Education Facilities and Planning at the Ministry of Education Dr Khalid Al-Rushaid, who presented the honoring token to Zain's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al Khashti. Zain prides itself for being one of the main supporters of this national and educational initiative that serves 577 schools across Kuwait.

The TAALEB E-Square Program - previously received Kuwait e-Award's first place prize - provides an ideal educational e-gate solution, where more than 500,000 students, parents, and teachers are connected with each other from 577



schools in the country. The website allows parents to communicate with their children's teachers and follow up on various student activities like homework, weekly plans, exam dates, student behavior, as well as class-related materials and aids.

Zain's support to the TAALEB E-Square

program springs from the company's core Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy. The company believes that supporting initiatives such as this one provides young people with skills and tools necessary to help them highlight and develop their skills, ultimately contributing to the further

progress of national economy.

As a leading national company, Zain firmly believes in the importance of contributing to the progress of the education sector, and looks to empower and prepare the nation's youth for the important roles they will play in the further progress of the country.

KFH FIRST ISLAMIC BANK IN REGION IMPLEMENTS FULL AUTOMATED (STP) IN TREASURY DEALING ACTIVITY IN COLLABORATION WITH PATH SOLUTIONS AND THOMSON REUTERS

KUWAIT: "Kuwait Finance House (KFH) constantly endeavors to enhance its systems by deploying innovative solutions, offering world class services and products in line with its strategy of benefiting from technology in all fields and businesses. This strengthens KFH's position in the global markets, while contributes in achieving the best profitability," said KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh.

He added on the sidelines of launching full automated Straight Through Process (STP) in

Treasury dealing activity in collaboration with Path Solutions that has earned a stellar reputation in providing state-of-the-art software solutions and services, and Thomson Reuters, that KFH is the first bank on the level of Islamic banks in the region to have implemented a full automated (STP) in treasury dealing activity. This reiterates KFH's keenness to maintain its pioneering position and prestigious status a global leading Islamic financial institution.

Nahedh continued: "Straight Through

Process (STP) contributes in creating a paradigm shift in the activities of treasury. The newly implemented solution will reduce all the manual work and will certainly boost the bank's operational efficiency."

Meanwhile, Chief Treasury Officer-KFH-Group Abdulwahab Alroshood stated that the successful implementation and Go Live of STP solution at KFH puts the bank at foremost Islamic financial institutions in the world and the pioneer in utilizing technological development in its banking operations. He indicated that the system is comprehensive and serves all functions in the treasury department. It improves performance, yet efficiently reduces cost and mitigates risk.

He further added that KFH is a role model for Islamic banks to follow suit, indicating KFH is a global leader in the Islamic financial services industry. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Path Solution and Thomson Reuters teams for their dedication and continuous support all through the deployment process. He extended his thanks to the Treasury and the IT staff at KFH in recognition of their efforts in implementing this system.

Mohammad Khateeb Chairman and CEO Path Solutions expressed his pride in collaborating with KFH, the world leading Islamic financial institution, indicating it was an honor to implement a new system at KFH. This system would encourage other Islamic banks to follow suit. When implementing the system we took into consideration achieving comprehensive operational efficiency in a secure and accurate manner, while providing KFH users with real-time visibility and auto update of data, Khateeb concluded.

Meanwhile, Nadim Najjar, Managing Director, MENA, Thomson Reuters said "we take pride in launching this new system. KFH is the first Islamic bank in the GCC to benefit from the several solutions provided by the system. It contributes in addressing the bank's ambitious plan of expanding its businesses in an innovative manner. Thomson Reuters is committed towards supporting the banks and financial institutions in the regions. It constantly participates in enhancing and offering new solutions in efforts to increase efficiency and ensure the best and optimal utilization of systems."



KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, KFH Officials and Officials from Path Solutions and Reuters



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Belgium to Kuwait Andy Detaille hosted a reception recently to celebrate his country's National Day. Top state officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

Candidates Speak

WE NEED STRONG ASSEMBLY THAT DEFENDS CITIZENS' RIGHTS: KHALIDY

CANDIDATE DISCUSSES TREATMENT ABROAD, EDUCATION, BEDOONS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Fifth constituency parliamentary candidate Faisal Al-Khalidy said the youth have many concerns and problems that were not tackled in the previous National Assembly. He said more than 30,000 Kuwaiti youth suffer from unemployment, while most of them have postgraduate degrees in various specialties.

Khalidy told Kuwait Times he is looking forward to an Assembly of achievements, as the coming years will be tough and "we are in need of a strong Assembly that can defend citizens' rights, especially over the government's shortcomings". He said despite the financial abundance the state enjoys, there is clear evidence of a lack of financial management to resolve citizens' problems. He said it is necessary to pay attention to education because it contributes to the development of the society and the human element, and without it countries cannot progress.

Youth concerns

Kuwait Times: As you belong to the youth category, have you placed youth concerns, sufferings and demands in your program?

Faisal Al-Khalidy: Youth have concerns, problems and issues that were not dealt with justice in the previous Assembly. More than 30,000 Kuwaiti youth are unemployed and most of them have postgraduate degrees in various specialties.

KT: How do you predict the formation of the next Assembly will be?



Fifth constituency candidate Faisal Al-Khalidy's poster, with a motto that reads 'Together for a better future... Youth will make their voice heard.'

Khalidy: We are looking forward to an Assembly of achievements, as the coming years will be tough and we are in need of a strong Assembly that can defend citizens' rights, as the government is ineffective.

KT: Is there a problem with financial resources that causes some of the problems in the country?

Khalidy: Despite the financial abundance the state enjoys, it is clear there is a lack of patriotic sense to resolve citizen's problems.

Treatment abroad

KT: What are your views on treatment abroad during the three years of parliament?

- More than 30,000 Kuwaiti youth are unemployed
- There is a lack of patriotic sense to resolve citizen's problems
- The budget for treatment abroad reached more than KD 600 million
- The current curricula do not provide any benefit to students
- There are many [bedoons] who have sacrificed their wealth and children for the service of the country

Khalidy: The budget for treatment abroad reached more than KD 600 million because of sending those who don't deserve it abroad. I demand a serious pause to tackle this issue.

KT: What is the solution in your view to reduce expenses of treatment abroad?

Khalidy: Among the most feasible solutions is to sign contracts with specialist doctors from abroad and bring them to hospitals here, so that money can be saved.

Education

KT: Does education have a place in your program?

Khalidy: It is necessary to take interest in education because it contributes to the true

development of the society.

KT: Is there a defect in the current school curricula that needs correction?

Khalidy: Yes, the current curricula do not provide any benefit to students and should be replaced. Teaching methods need to be developed too.

Bedoons

KT: The bedoon issue has been ignored by many candidates. What is your opinion?

FK: The bedoon issue should be resolved, as there are many who have sacrificed their wealth and children for the service of the country, and it is necessary that they receive their rights in full.

BEHIND EVERY CANDIDATE, A SINCERE, HARDWORKING WIFE PUSHING AHEAD AN INFLUENTIAL CHARACTER WHO LEADS A SPECIALIZED TEAM

KUWAIT: A political candidate's wife is the major supporter and advocate of her husband. Being the closest person to a nominee, a wife is most valuable in an election campaign. Wives of the candidates standing for the upcoming National Assembly (parliament) elections due in less than a week's time are no exception; many of them are throwing their weight behind their spouses, each hoping for a parliament seat for her husband.

Several wives have been taking care of husbands' election campaigns, a hard task, a challenge, that requires an influential character, to select and lead a specialized team. Most of them mainly depend on social relations, which have proved so effective to attract fellow women. Also, a wife is expected to make visits and hold meet with people to explain the ideas a candidate is adopting for his campaign to lure supporters.

Major supporter

It goes like this 'behind every successful man, there is a woman,' thus believes Mariam Al-Mullah, whose husband Salman Al-Attar is running for elections in the First Constituency. A wife is the major supporter of her husband, and has to back him morally, and psychologically, to achieve the aspired goal, she said in an interview.

According to Mullah, a candidate's wife has to be socially intelligent which helps her form a wide and a strong circle of relations with voters from different classes. She learns about their demands and aspirations, and conveys them to the potential MP.

Mullah communicates directly with female voters, no embarrassment or affectation. She has already visited women gatherings and listened to their 'legitimate' and demands from the 2016 parliament. These are topped with rights of wid-



ows and people with special needs, as well as those of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners.

Mullah has helped husband draw up the major points on his election manifesto, as she is closer to people's expectations and concerns. In addition, she encourages her five kids to join the father's campaign, under her supervision.

Hand in hand

Manaber Al-Gharib, wife of Fifth Constituency candidate Hussein Al-Hadba Al-Rasheedi, is working hand in hand with her husband, and together they take care of the minute details of his campaign, which focuses mainly on issues of education, health, women and youth, she told KUNA.

Rasheedi and Gharib are both academics at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). This has been vital for the harmony in vision and common planning for standing for the parliamentary elections and organizing the campaign, she said.

Part of Gharib's support to her husband is that she is keen on providing a calm cosy home, where he finds comfort after long days of hard work; election rallies, TV and radio interviews and replying journalists' questions.

'I never forget my role as a wife and a mother, namely morally backing the members of my family and creating emotional balance at home,' she said, noting that her eldest son is charge of the father's campaign, managing it through social networking. Kids have a significant role to play in the race to the parliament, the PAAET academic stressed.

Full support

Sheikha Al-Mutairi, wife of Omar Al-Tabtabei, a candidate for the second constituency, said that as soon as he decided to join the race, she offered him full support. Tabtabei's decision to stand for the 2016 National Assembly elections, slated for November 26, followed a long period of national work with various social categories and of different ages, focusing on activities and initiatives on reform and development, Mutairi said. 'As I am well aware of his keenness to address issues and problems related to the Kuwaiti society, I was the first to back him,' she added.

Mutairi lavishes unrelenting efforts to communicate with the constituency electorate, and listens to their views, demands and hopes, then transferring the to the candidate. She is very pleased with the role she plays, saying that the voter's aspirations vary, related to social, economic and trade issues.

Female electorate look beyond social rights, and ask for amending laws on free business and entrepreneurship to encourage the Kuwaiti women play a more effective role for the good of the society. —KUNA



Jaber Al-Kanderi, an official at the Asia-Pacific Deaf Sports Confederation (APDSC)

ABSENCE OF SIGN LANGUAGE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS BEFUDDLES THE DISABLED

KUWAIT: As parliamentary candidates across the nation scramble to woo voters just a week away from elections on November 26, there is a segment of society these hopefuls might have forgotten about, the deaf-mute.

Though highly overlooked, it would only bode well for a candidate to have this segment of the population on his or her side. With lofty promises and catchy slogans being an inextricable part of many of this year's election campaigns, the absence of sign language is easily palpable as candidates step up election rhetoric as we near Election Day.

Moreover, the deaf-mute are left to question whether the parliamentary candidates have failed to take them into consideration, which risks alienating a segment that could prove decisive in determining the outcome of this election, in the event of a close race in any of the electoral constituencies.

In an attempt to find out if the absence of sign language has caused this segment of the population to stand aloof as it relates to the upcoming elections, KUNA interviewed Jaber Al-Kanderi, a member of this community and an official at the Asia-Pacific Deaf Sports Confederation (APDSC). "Most, if not all of the candidates have failed to include sign language as part of their election campaigns," Kanderi said, jotting down his words on a piece of paper.

Meanwhile, when asked which one of the

candidates he can most relate to, Kanderi, who is mute, is visibly "indifferent." "This election to me is no different than any of the past ones," he quipped. "I haven't been to any of these election seminars because I would not have a clue what the candidate is trying to convey to the voters."

An avid gym-goer, Kanderi spoke of how helpful social media has been to familiarize the deaf-mute community with all of the latest election happenings and the different ideologies of the candidates contesting the elections. "The meteoric growth of social media has certainly paid ultimate dividends for us," he said.

Furthermore, the APDSC official described himself as a fervent social media user, noting that most candidates promulgate their thoughts and goals on their Twitter accounts. "I have come across many Twitter accounts belonging to some of the prominent names in this year's election," he said, adding that with the growth of social media, candidates can communicate with the electorate online.

"Turning out for these seminars is not necessary nowadays," Kanderi said, noting that the process of getting acquainted with all of the candidates and their campaigns is only a click away. With results expected in a week's time, Kanderi noted that social media is sure to be teeming with the announcement of the winners. "I will stay connected," he said. —KUNA

CONSTITUENCY SWITCH: TACTIC TO WIN SEAT IN PARLIAMENT

KUWAIT: Many candidates contesting parliamentary elections due on November 26 have employed numerous strategies and ploys to maximize their chances of winning a much coveted seat in Parliament.

One maneuver that has been in vogue in the run up to this year's election is something known as the, "constituency switch" where candidates would file their candidacies in a new constituency in a bid to increase the likelihood of success.

However, this ploy certainly requires shrewdness on the part of the candidate, where a thorough study of the lineups of each constituency is needed, in addition to a shift in ideologies to cater to the needs and wishes of the electorates in each constituency.

Moreover, another reason for the constituency switch is instability or forms of chicanery that have plagued some constituencies, most notably, reports of "unlawful consultations" in

some constituencies have become commonplace.

Furthermore, two Kuwaiti academics reasoned that there

Several reasons

Sociology professor at Kuwait University (KU) Ali Al-Zaabi noted that a candidate's move from one

to be. "A social obligation is thrust upon a candidate when he makes the move from one constituency to another," he added.

Meanwhile, professor of communications at KU Dr Abdurrazzaq Al-Shayji said that the constituency switch first emerged in the 1980s, where candidates typically favor contesting elections in a constituency that is void intellectual, tribal, economic and sectarian unrest.

"When candidates move to another constituency, it is because they don't like their chances of success," Al-Shayji said. However, he underscored that candidates need to make major tweaks to their election campaigns in order to connect with a new electorate.

"Some candidates make the switch on grounds of preventing rivals from winning a seat in parliament," he said. Candidates with the greatest chances of success are those who have the ability to sway voters with enticing suggestions and campaign promises, he pointed out. —KUNA



Dr Ali Al-Zaabi



Dr Abdurrazzaq Al-Shayji

is more to the constituency switch than mere aspirations of success. "Social and political factors reflective of strife amongst rivaling tribes, families and sects figure into things," they said.

constituency to another usually involves tribal, familial and intellectual reasons. Kuwaiti society, Zaabi noted, is governed by rigid social and familial values that determine how appealing or acceptable a candidate is found

AMIR TO HONOR SAIA WINNERS TOMORROW



Sheikha Ayeda Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize a special ceremony to honor the winners of the Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award (SAIA). The event takes place tomorrow starting from 10:00 am at Bayan Palace, said Sheikhha Ayeda Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, SAIA's head of board of trustees. SAIA is being held for the 16th year in a row this year, and during this time the award has contributed to enriching technological projects throughout the Arab world, Sheikhha Ayeda added. She further indicated that the informatics accolade will be granted during the ceremony to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

In Brief

DIABETES CONGRESS

DOHA: The 2nd Arab Diabetes Medical Congress kicked off Friday to discuss the latest technology related to prevention of disease, with the participation of a large number of researchers and doctors across the globe. Several researchers and doctors from GCC and Arab states are taking part in the congress to discuss new ideas on how to make progress in the prevention of the disease. —KUNA



SUCCESSFUL DRILLS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday congratulated Bahraini Interior Minister Sheikh Rashed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa on the success of "Arabian Gulf Security I Exercise" held in Manama on November 15-16. The Kuwaiti minister also appreciated efforts exerted by Bahrain to ensure ideal Gulf drills that stressed the significance of Arabian Gulf security and stability. — KUNA



NEWS AGENCIES

BAKU: The 16th General Assembly of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) announced yesterday that the Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC) will chair the organization while Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) will become a member of its technical committee. Chairman and Director General of KUNA and President of Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah took part in the OANA General Assembly. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis perform the 'Ardha' folklore dance during an event held recently at the Boulevard Park in Salmiya. In Arabian history, the dance was originally performed by tribesmen before going to war. It has transformed today to become a common feature in celebrations, weddings, cultural and national events held across the Arabian Peninsula. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

ZAIN VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN TRIP TO AID SYRIAN REFUGEES

KUWAIT INTEGRATES HUMANITARIAN ACTION WITH DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

MALABO: In its drive to deepen and expand relations with the African Continent, Kuwait juggles economic, development and humanitarian action with diplomatic one. Relations with African nations has been a top issue in Kuwait's foreign policy. In this regard, the Kuwaiti government has unveiled several initiatives to give impetus to development marches in African developing countries.

Kuwait hosting of the 3rd Afro-Arab summit in November 2013 and the initiative made by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to allocate \$1 billion to finance development projects in African countries in five years, to come through low-interest loans, have shown the Gulf country's great interest in fostering strong relations with the Continent.

Kuwait has kept promises it made in the previous summit of meeting the needs of African countries of improving their economy, infrastructure, food security, agriculture and development projects; hence bettering the lives of its people. The 3rd Summit adopted a new partnership strategy and a joint plan of action. The two regions reviewed progress made in the three years since, and deliberated on how to strengthen their cooperation in ways that would live up to the expectations of their citizens in terms of socio cultural and economic development based on the principles of equality, mutual interest and respect.

Kuwait also launched a \$1 million worth prize to scientific researches on topics focused on development in Africa. The winner of this year's edition of the prize would be honored in a ceremony to be held on Wednesday on the sidelines of the 4th Afro-Arab summit, which will be held in Equatorial Guinea on November 23, 2016.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the state's agency for the provision and administration of financial and technical assistance to developing countries, have entered in partnerships with 30 African countries. Moreover, the Kuwait Investment Authority has also pumped huge capitals into the infrastructure, energy, agriculture and industry sectors in Africa. Earlier this month, Kuwait handed over a special project to enhance the medical services delivery system at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters. Welcoming the project, the AUC Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said it was very important as it serves as a practical symbol of solidarity between the African Union and the government of Kuwait.

She then added that the AU has a memorandum of understanding with the government of Kuwait that includes the next phase after this one. "It will support the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), an institution critical towards building resilience and coordination in the continent to manage and prevent the spread of diseases." Kuwait has also rushed to help African countries hit by the recent outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah donated \$5 million to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to help qualify medical centers in the virus-hit countries to deal with the emergency. Kuwait's non-government organizations such as Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the International Islamic Charitable Organization, the Islamic Heritage Revival Society have been providing financial, technical and humanitarian aid to many African countries. In recognition of his great humanitarian action, the United Nations proclaimed His Highness the Amir a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait a 'Humanitarian Center' on September 9, 2014. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced that its volunteering team participated in a humanitarian visit to Syrian refugees and displaced families in Northern and Southern Lebanon as well as Beqaa Governorate. The trip came as part of Zain's ongoing humanitarian strategic partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

Zain participated in this humanitarian trip as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, under which comes its extended partnership with KRCS with the aim of enriching Zain's contributions in various humanitarian and charitable efforts and initiatives inside and outside of Kuwait.

Zain's team, consisting of employees who volunteered for this trip, traveled to Lebanon with an official KRCS delegation, through which they visited multiple KRCS-supported destinations to offer aid and support. The trip included a visit to the Lebanese Bakeries project where bread is baked and distributed to 1000 displaced families daily. The team also visited Dar Al Zahra Hospital, which specializes in prosthetic parts where aid is provided to injured individuals.

The trip also included a visit to Orange Nassau, a governmental hospital that specializes in Dialysis and offers treatment to refugees and displaced families on a daily basis. Additionally, the trip included a field visit to several camps where winter clothes and essentials were distributed to refugees and an entertainment event was held for children and families.

Zain's volunteers also visited a water plant and distributed water to the families, and visited the thermal insulation project where they helped installing thermal insulators on tents in the refugee camps. The team also distributed aid relief kits on five different camps.

As part of Zain's partnership with KRCS, the company recently donated KD 30,000 for a campaign that supports the education of underprivileged children in Kuwait. The educational support campaign aims to provide equal opportunities to educate children of low-income families who are unable to pay school tuition fees. Zain also recently launched awareness messages through SMS and social media to raise awareness about this campaign and inform the public of the available official donation channels.

KRCS launched a number of donation campaigns in Kuwait to support underprivileged families, children, people in need of healthcare, and others by providing expensive medical supplies and medicine, facilitating visits to hospitals, bearing the costs of school tuition fees, as well as securing essential food supplies.

KRCS also launched a range of initiatives and charity donation campaigns that aim at helping people in need outside of Kuwait by providing food and medical supplies to the most affected cases of violence in Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, as well as Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. Additionally, the society's supports covers areas in Africa including Somalia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Djibouti and other east African countries with the aim of providing access to water, food, security and healthcare. Zain also partnered with KRCS and the Avenues to launch a charity initiative that supported disadvantaged children through the use of smart screens. The campaign aimed at encouraging mall visitors to donate a small amount of money to support disadvantaged children who are in need of immediate help because of war or natural disasters. Several digital smart screens were placed throughout the Avenues mall and used a creative solution to attract and encour-



age mall visitors to donate.

It is worth mentioning that Zain has previously been awarded with the Gold Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility from the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility. The company spares no efforts in maintaining its social commitments and human spirit through multiple initiatives like supporting humanitarian aid campaigns during the past

turmoil period, in which the company offered free calls and SMS services to Palestine for a whole week, in addition to providing the opportunity for its customers to donate by sending a free text message that is donated to humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. In addition, the company donated an amount of half a million US dollars that was earmarked for food and medical supplies for the needy.



'USED TIRE CEMETERY' TO DISAPPEAR SHORTLY: COMMERCE MINISTER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Youisf Al-Ali announced the beginning of an operation to resolve the problem of accumulated used tires and burial of waste in Rehayya, and promised that the 'used tire cemetery' will start to vanish by 2017. Speaking while inspecting the area, Ali announced putting Cabinet decision 1403/2015 pertaining burial of waste and tires in Rehayya into practice almost after 10 years of its issuance. "The countdown has begun," he said, noting that a comprehensive plan had been set to resolve the problem of used tires in the area, in addition to future landfills.

Ali explained that used tires would be shredded and moved to Salmi to recycle them according to standard environmental specifications by qualified factories, where special machines will shred 25 tons per hour. "This means getting rid of these tires

in six months," he underlined, pointing out that the companies qualified to execute the process will not cost state funds anything.

US foreign policies

Under the auspices and with the presence of the Supreme Planning and Development Council Chairman Khaled Mahdi, Kuwait Center for General Policies (KCGP) organized a talk titled 'The Future of US Foreign Policies after the Presidential Election' to discuss its possible impact on Kuwait and GCC states. The lecture was delivered by Erik Peterson; Managing Director of Global Business Policy Council (GBPC) and was attended by foreign diplomats in Kuwait. Mahdi stressed that KCGP plans to organize more talks in collaboration with international advisors to set well-planned general policies to serve Kuwait's five year plans. Mahdi added that KCGP would act as a think-tank to help decision makers set general policies.



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Youisf Al-Ali and other officials inspect the site of used tires and waste disposal in Rehayya yesterday. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



EIGHT ARRESTED, 66 BIKES, ATVS IMPOUNDED IN CRACKDOWN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Traffic police launched a three-day inspection campaign that resulted in arresting eight people and impounding 66 bikes and ATVs, the Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department announced yesterday. The department explained that ministerial decision number 245/1983 banned riding ATVs on main roads, highways and in

residential and coastal areas. The decision also authorized traffic police to impound the ATVs without any responsibility for any damage caused to them. The decision also said owners can only reclaim the ATVs after paying all fees and fines as well as the cost of impounding them for a maximum period of two months. The decision reminded people that bikes and ATVs can only be used in desert areas, unpaved roads and special tracks.

IMPOUNDED VEHICLES' THIEF ARRESTED

KUWAIT: A 26-year-old citizen was arrested for multiple robberies of spare parts and contents of impounded vehicles at the municipality garage in Saad Al-Abdullah. Security sources noted that after managing to evade arrest several times, the suspect was ambushed and arrested red-handed. In another case, Jahra detectives located a vehicle that had been reported stolen abandoned in Sharq. Security sources said further investigations are in progress to identify the thief. Separately, a citizen was arrested for renting a luxury vehicle and not returning it to the rental office.

Drug possession

A bedoon was arrested in Jahra with four bags of meth and two hashish joints. Meanwhile, an Egyptian man wanted for a four-year prison sentence was arrested in Hawally with illicit pills. Separately, a citizen was arrested for drug abuse and possession of drugs, said security sources, noting that a police patrol stopped the suspect when he was spotted dancing in his seat while driving.

Harassers caught

A number of young men were arrested in Nuzha for loitering around the area's co-op and harassing passersby. —Al-Rai

BANO PROFESSIONAL MIX JOINS HORECA KUWAIT 2017

KUWAIT: Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition are steadily progressing, and the event is attracting more companies to take part, since it is an event which provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise to meet the local market's needs and future expansion plans. In this regard, Bano Professional Mix Company's General Manager Tawfiq Essam Al-Hashwi announced the company's intention to take part in the exhibition as a silver sponsor, especially after the remarkable success Horeca had achieved over the past few years.

Hashwi stressed that Bano Professional Mix

is a prestigious name in supplying raw materials, equipment and machinery for the industries of chocolate, bakery, pastry, and ice cream, with a vision of supplying only under high quality standards. "Bano has over 20 years of experience in the Middle East, namely in Kuwait and GCC markets," he added.

"Persistence, confidence and experience in this industry is our drive for the constant success for a pioneered future with our 'Passion for Excellence' motto, which places us on the map of attainment to be simply what we are," said Hashwi. He added that commitment to quality products and service leads experts and professionals to Bano, and keeps it in a constant search for suppliers of excellent products for granting continuous support to customers in the precise technique.

Horeca Kuwait 2017 has so far attracted over 70 companies which are set to display their products in the presence of a group of international experts, chefs and a large group of company and hotel owners. The exhibition is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 16-18, 2017.



Tawfiq Al-Hashwi

10,853 PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS AVAILABLE: CSC

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Statistics issued by the Civil Services Commission (CSC) revealed that there are 10,853 job vacancies available in government bodies. Statistics showed that the vacancies include 10 for PhD holders, 23 for holders of master's degrees, 6,199 for university degree holders, 2,614 for diploma holders and 1,679 for high school graduates with two years or more of training. Other CSC statistics showed that 15,686 citizens have already registered with it, waiting to be appointed in government bodies, including 2,642 university graduates and 1,505 with diplomas.

Retroactive allowance

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has again contacted the finance ministry requesting a further amount of KD 47,575,890 to pay the retroactive rent allowance to female expat teachers. A letter signed by MoE Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari on July 26, 2016 urged the finance ministry for the extra funds to pay the teachers the difference as per CSC decision number 4/2016.

Waiting times

Farwaniya Hospital's Director Dr Hani Al-Mutairi said the hospital launched a new plan to reduce waiting times at the hospital's radiology depart-

ment. Speaking to reports on the sidelines of a ceremony held at the hospital to celebrate World Radiology Day, Mutairi said the hospital had been recently equipped with advanced ultrasound scanners that would help reduce waiting times from three months to only three weeks. He also noted that waiting time for an MRI examination would be cut from six months to only four weeks.

Entry visas

The Charge d'Affaires at Iraq's Embassy to Kuwait Yaseen Ibrahim Ahmed announced granting over 12,000 entry visas to Kuwaitis to commemorate the fortieth day after Imam Hussein's martyrdom.



KUWAIT: Over the past two weeks, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) released 51,000 hamour fish it had farmed into Kuwait's national waters to boost national fish resources. The fish were released off Failaka and Kubbar islands, Juliaia, Messila, Fintas, Ras Al-Ajouz, Haishan, southern coasts, Fahaheel and natural reservations. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi



Sultan Qaboos Bin Said



The Council of Oman



Autumn in Salalah



Royal Opera House Muscat



Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque



Al-Duqm Port

OMAN MARKED 46TH NATIONAL DAY ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2016

The Sultanate is nowadays celebrating its 46th National Day, the 18th of November anniversary, which remains carved deeply in the memory of the Omani people, and whose benign reality projects itself everywhere on the landscape. This historic date represents a major turning point in the life of Omani citizens.

Since the outset of the Omani modern renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said 46 years ago, Oman has entered into a new stage of its glorious history. The country was on a tryst with the launch of a comprehensive strategy to establish a prosperous present and a promising future.

The renaissance strategy covered all aspects of life and its outreach prevailed at all levels-on the domestic front and on external relations, thus offering the Sultanate an admirable status among sisterly and friendly countries in this region and in the world at large.

Because Oman has a deep-rooted history and a prominent location, it has always played a vital role at different epochs. The prudent vision of Sultan Qaboos drew insights from Oman's history and its strategic location.

The Sultan has had a dream of establishing a modern state that enjoys peace, security and stability and achieves a better life for the Omani people. Not only that, this vision inspired the leader's aspiration that peace, security and stability might prevail in the Gulf region, the surrounding region and the world at large, so that all countries and their peoples would enjoy constant growth and prosperity.

The National Day represents an opportunity for the Omani people to express their deep thanks and gratitude to the builder of modern Oman. It is also an opportunity to ponder on the achievements and objectives of various types of national action.

The renaissance accomplishments are actually a source of pride for all and they are an incentive to exert more efforts to achieve further achievements. Attention to be accorded to citizens and provide them with all the basic services should always be placed on top of development plans, the Sultan confirmed.

The year 2016 forms a turning point in the Omani development track with a view to safeguarding achievements made over the past 46 years in accordance with Vision 2020 objectives. These objectives include providing jobs for Omani youths, focusing efforts on social solidarity through education, training, health and human resources development and improving economic diversification through the development of promising sectors: converting industries, logistics services, transport, tourism, fisheries and mining.

Foreign Policy

Over the years of the blessed renaissance, Sultan Qaboos has shaped the Omani foreign policy in accordance with solid principles founded on consistency, balance, clarity and rationality in establishing relations with countries of the world and in tackling various regional and international issues. This Omani foreign policy stems from the country's strategic location, its deep-rooted history and its spirit of belonging and solidarity with Arab and Islamic world.

In various local and international occasions, Sultan Qaboos has reaffirmed the fundamentals and principles of that policy when establishing friendly relations

with different countries of the world. The Sultan laid emphasis on joint cooperation, exchange of benefits and interests, establishment of good relations with neighboring countries, non-interference in the internal affairs of others and mutual respect for the rights and policies of countries.

Oman advocates commitment to principles of justice, fairness, peace and harmony, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and the safeguarding of security and stability in the region. This is in addition to respecting international charters and treaties, commitment to rules of the international law and supporting issues of legitimate cause in global arenas. Omani diplomacy implemented the enlightened thought of Sultan Qaboos in developing good foreign relations and utilizing that for the service of national development and the settlement of many regional and international issues and crises.

The Sultanate has been enhancing efforts for peace and continuously supporting peaceful initiatives in various regional disputes, working for rapprochement so that these issues could see a successful end that guarantees the intactness of countries and the interests of their peoples on the basis of participation, justice and equality.

Based on the stock of confidence accorded to it by conflicting parties, the Sultanate has thus exerted efforts to push forward the Yemeni negotiations and develop rapprochement between disputing parties, mainly to remove the cause of the ongoing war in Yemen.

Since the beginning, the Sultanate tackled the Yemeni crisis in a clear and frank manner. Its sincere initiatives in this regard began in Muscat in August 2015 and continued through negotiations in Kuwait on April 21, 2016. Oman's action derived insight from a prudent vision that perceives the deep impact of conflict in the sisterly state of Yemen.

Oman also acted from a conviction that a delay in establishing peace will cost the next Yemeni generations decades of suffering. Human suffering in Yemen has already become enormous and the country's infrastructure has been demolished. The impact of the conflict in Yemen is also crippling political, economic, security and social ties in Yemen and beyond. The turmoil in Yemen is one of the main conflicts in the Middle East that derails development by increasing the armament race is causing further tensions.

Search and rescue: Following the directives of Sultan Qaboos, the Sultanate also contributed to finding and releasing foreign hostages who went missing in war zones. This is in addition to Oman's initiatives to rescue the lives of many other people through its reception of those injured in the Yemen war and providing them with treatment. The injured were offered assistance mainly as Yemenis, irrespective of which camp they belong to. This gesture is based on the concepts of good neighborliness, fraternity and cooperation that distinguish the Omani diplomacy.

A similar gesture was made towards resolving the Libyan political issue. Oman hosted a meeting of the main consultative authority of the Libyan constitution in which 32 members of the authority took part. The talks were hosted by the city of Salalah with effect from the 18th of March 2016 and lasted three weeks in a quiet environment seeking to end the rift between the Libyan people. The Omani efforts met with success because the talks led to the production

of constitution draft to be presented to the Libyan people for a referendum.

State of Institutions

Coordination and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities constitute the salient features of Omani Shura, a methodology to achieve the interests of citizens and the homeland through the implementation of programs of development and review of performance-thanks to an ever-expanding participation of citizens in the decision-making process.

The opening of the Supreme Court's edifice on May 25, 2016 came in complementation of the judicial institutions' schema and serves as a symbol of Sultan Qaboos's attention towards providing a suitable environment for justice practice in the Sultanate and his concern for the setting up of amenities to facilitate citizens' access to their rights.

Municipal Councils

The Council of Oman (with its bicameral bodies of State Council and Majlis Ash'ura) has been helping in implementing development program and finding solutions to economic and social obstacles. The Municipal Councils emerge as another consultative arm that offers views and recommendations about means to develop municipal services.

Economic Development and Food Security

In the backdrop of dwindling oil prices and their impacts on the country's budget, the Sultanate has adopted a host of measures to guarantee the soundness of the state's financial position. It capitalized on enhancing economic growth by continuing developmental projects of economic and social priority and by providing proper support to furnish an encouraging environment for private sector investments.

In the meantime, the Sultanate continued to maintain basic public services. The state's budget this year focused on a set of procedures, namely: increasing the flexibility and sustainability of the fiscal system, rescheduling public resources by increasing oil revenues' contribution to the state's total revenues and, diminishing dependence on oil resources and raising the capacity of state-owned companies by founding holding companies whose job is to draft plans and strategies in accordance with new governance principles.

Estimated total revenues in the 2016 budget stood at RO 8.6 billion, of them RO 4.56 billion as net oil revenues, RO 1.6 billion as gas revenues and RO 2.4 billion as current revenues.

In the first half of 2016, the Sultanate's oil production increased to 1 million barrels per day as against 970,000 bpd in the corresponding period in 2015. Accordingly, Oman's crude and condensates rose by 182 million barrels per day by mid-2016, compared to 175.6 million barrels per day by mid-2015.

In the meantime, oil exports rose from 154.8 million barrels to 164.5 million barrels. However, the average price of Oman Crude dropped to \$35 in the first six months this year, from \$59.3 during the corresponding period in 2015.

A new economic development this year (2016) has been the addition of Ras Markaz area to the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD), raising the total size of the economic zone from 1,745 square kilometres to

2,000 square kilometres. The Ras Markaz area will be developed to receive crude storage activities. Oman Oil Company looks forward to making Ras Markaz a global crude storage terminal.

The plant will be set up in a number of stages and its storage capacity in the first phase will range from 6 million barrels to 10 million barrels. A 1,600-hectare area has been allocated for the storage plant. This area will allow for the setting up of storage facilities that will accommodate 200 million barrels of crude, which will expand the basis of development of refineries and petrochemicals in the SEZAD.

In addition, SEZAD signed, this year, a cooperation and land development agreement for the setting up of the Oman-China Industrial City at Duqm, with its investments standing at \$10.7 billion. The industrial city will accommodate 35 projects on an area of 1,172 hectares.

SEZAD offers a variety of incentives to investors. These include a 30-year income tax exemption (renewable), exemption from customs tax for goods imported to the SEZAD from abroad and for goods exported from SEZAD, a 50-year land development (usufruct) right, also renewable, and it is also allowed that the full capital of a project is owned by a non-Omani entity. Investors get all sorts of permits, clearance and approvals through the SEZAD's one-stop shop that offers various incentives to SEZAD investors.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Civil Service issued a decision allowing government sector employees to take leave for the setting up and management of their private projects. In addition, (pending) decisions pertaining to the allocation of 10 percent of government tenders and procurements to SMEs were activated.

Within the view that the 9th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) is the last phase of the Omani economic vision (Oman 2020), it is understood that what will be achieved within the framework of Tanfeedh will constitute a solid foundation for the future and will pave the way for the next Strategic Vision (Oman 2040), which is being drafted now.

A tremendous boost to the country's socio-economic drive was the issuance of Royal Decree No. 48/2016 on the promulgation of the National Training Fund. This development goes in line with the national development needs now and in the future and it symbolizes the Sultan's keenness to put to action the objective recommendations and studies aimed at optimizing the use of human resources.

Program such as Tanfeedh, which caps the 9th Five Year Plan, and Royal decrees and other Royal directives reflect the Sultan's deep understanding and concern for the welfare of citizens.

Transport

The Sultanate is taking steps to set up a network of tarmac roads to connect all governorates with a view to facilitating the movement of citizens and residents across the country and activating trade and the industrial and tourism sectors, besides connecting the Sultanate to neighboring GCC states.

Some of the major roads being carried out by the Ministry of Transport and Communications are: Bidbid-Sur dualization (phases 1 and 2) which extends 249 kilometres, the Batinah Expressway, from Batch 1 to 6, which stretches 273 kilometres, the dualization of Jibrin-Ibri road, second segment,

90 km, the Sinaw-Mahout-Duqm road, segments 1 and 2, 181 km, the Ibri-Yaqul carriageway dualization, second phase, 34 km, the Nizwa-Thamrait highway dualization, phase 1 and 2, 240 km, the dualization of Barka-Nakhl road, 39 km, the dualization of Mahda-Rowdha road, 58 km and other road projects.

In 2015, the first phase of a public transport framework study for Muscat Governorate was carried out. This study aims to develop and interactive schema that serves all segments of society in accordance with the topmost quality standards with a view to resolving traffic jams, diminishing environmental impacts and ensuring road safety.

The plan is being executed by operating some public transport routes through Oman National Transport Company (Mwasalat), which managed to transport more than 2.1 million passengers since the inauguration of its new logo in November 2015 till the end of July 2016 at a rate of 10,000 passengers a day. The company seeks to develop its services in the fields of cargo operations, electronic booking of tickets, opening of integrate communication centres, introduction of wireless internet and increasing the number of routes operated to Al-Dakhiliyah and other governorates of the Sultanate.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications is working to draft legislations to regulate land transport activities after the promulgation of Land Transport Law by Royal Decree No. 10/2016, which aims to provide the best services for transport of people and goods.

Tourism

This year the Sultanate started the implementation of Oman Tourism Strategy (2016-2020) which aims to provide 500,000 jobs, increase the volume of expected investments to around RO 19 billion-12 percent of them to be allocated to the public sector. The strategy also aims to raise the tourism sector's contribution to the GDP by 10 percent by the year 2040, besides developing the local economy and SMEs.

The tourism strategy focuses on making the Sultanate one of the most visited tourism designations by 2040 by targeting 11 million international tourists and local visitors per annum. It also targets the utilization of 14 tourist gathering spots like forts, castles, heritage attractions, nature reserves, Beduin settlements, coastal lands, deserts of graded colours, the Sindbad home, relics from the iron age and bronze age, wadis, springs, mountain villages, modern Omani villages built to fancy ancient houses, the Empty Quarter desert, the frankincense route and the wildlife prairies of Dhofar.

The growth of activity of the tourism sector can be gauged by the increase of hotel establishments from 297 in 2014 to 318 establishments in 2015. During 2015, the revenues of 3-5 star hotels stood at RO 192.1 million as against 191.5 million in 2014. The number of hotel occupants stood at 1.2 million, while hotel occupancy was 57.3 percent.

As a result of the attention accorded to the tourism sector, the Sultanate occupied the 16th position in the global ranking of fast growing tourism destinations. The Sultanate was the only country to figure in this rating among Arab states due to its rich tourism, historical and modern landmarks, coupled with services extended to tourists.



Al-Bustan Palace



The Supreme Court of Oman



Bahla Fort



French conservatives rally voters in tight primaries race

WITH ROCK MUSIC AND PINATAS, S KOREANS RALLY AGAINST PARK



KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: Protesters occupy a street during a rally in the downtown area yesterday. —AP

THOUSANDS RALLY FOR MALAYSIAN PM TO LEAVE OFFICE
 'SAVE DEMOCRACY' CHANTS HEARD

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: More than 10,000 yellow-shirt protesters rallied yesterday in Kuala Lumpur seeking Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's resignation over a financial scandal, undeterred by a police ban and the arrest of 20 people, mostly activists.

Protesters marched in downtown Kuala Lumpur and later moved to the Petronas Twin Towers after failing to enter Independent Square, the city's main protest venue, which was locked down by police with water-cannon trucks on standby.

Some chanted "Save Democracy" and "Bersih, Bersih" - the name of the electoral reform group that organized the rally. The name means "clean" in the Malay language. Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has been spearheading calls for Najib's resignation, joined the rally, adding momen-

turn to the demonstration. "Everybody feels concerned about the kind of government we have now," said Mahathir, wearing a yellow Bersih shirt. "We no longer live under democracy, but a kleptocracy - a nation ruled by thieves."

The rally ended peacefully after a downpour. Najib, who is attending an Asia-Pacific summit in Lima, Peru, has kept an iron grip since corruption allegations emerged two years ago involving the indebted 1MDB state fund that he founded. 1MDB is at the center of investigations in the US and several other countries.

The prime minister, who has denied any wrongdoing, has called Bersih "deceitful" and said the group has become a tool for opposition parties to unseat a democratically elected government. "We want to see Malaysia more developed and not robbed of billions

of ringgit," singer Wan Aishah Wan Ariffin, an opposition supporter, said at the rally.

Fifth protest

The protest was the fifth organized by Bersih, which also held similar demonstrations Saturday in two Malaysian cities on Borneo island. Police estimated the Bersih crowd at 15,500. The turnout was less than the 50,000 who attended the last Bersih rally, in August 2015, which also demanded that Najib quit. Online news portal Malaysiakini put the crowd Saturday at more than 40,000.

Police on Friday raided the Bersih office and detained the group's chairwoman, Maria Chin, for investigation into "activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy." Another 19 people, mostly politicians and activists, were also detained on Friday and Saturday to prevent rioting, police said.

Those detained included ruling party politician Jamal Mohamad Yunus, whose supporters, numbering about 2,500, trooped to downtown to counter the Bersih rally. Police banned the rallies by Bersih's yellow-shirt supporters and Jamal's red-shirt group.

Lawyer Eric Paulsen tweeted that Chin was formally detained Saturday under a security law meant to be used against terrorists and can be held for a further 28 days. The other activists were remanded for several days in police custody.

Amnesty International slammed the crackdown and called for the immediate release of the Bersih activists, describing them as prisoners of conscience. "These arrests are the latest in a series of crude and heavy-handed attempts to intimidate Malaysian civil society activists and other human rights defenders," Amnesty said in a statement.

The investigations into 1MDB fund are centered on allegations of a global embezzlement and money-laundering scheme. Najib started the fund shortly after taking office in 2009 to promote economic development projects, but the fund accumulated billions in debt over the years.

The US Justice Department said that at least \$3.5 billion had been stolen from 1MDB by people close to Najib and initiated action in July to seize \$1.3 billion it said was taken from the fund to buy assets in the US.

The US government complaints also said that more than \$700 million had landed in the accounts of "Malaysian Official 1." They did not name the official, but appear to be referring to Najib. Support for Najib's National Front has eroded in the last two general elections. It won in 2013, but lost the popular vote for the first time to an opposition alliance. —AP

OBAMA FACES TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT TRUMP ON LAST FOREIGN TRIP

LIMA: Barack Obama faced tough questions yesterday about Donald Trump's victory on the last foreign visit of his presidency, to a summit of Pacific leaders that has been upended by the US election and concerns about China's rise.

The US president and other top world leaders, including China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin, are in Lima, Peru for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit whose staid agenda has been hijacked by the Republican billionaire's shock election win last week.

On Saturday, Obama will meet leaders of the 12 countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, a vast US-led trade accord that Trump opposes and now faces an uncertain future. Although the White House admits the chances of passing the deal are slim, Obama will urge leaders to give the new president time to formulate his policy.

From Obama down, officials have stressed that the election has not changed US economic and strategic interests, and that Trump may yet recalibrate his views. But there is little chance Trump's Republican allies in Congress would ratify TPP anytime soon. "That is a real blow to US interests, economically and strategically, in terms of our position in Asia, but I

think that is the reality, that the US is not going to be participating," said Matthew Goodman, an expert on Asian economics with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"But there are 11 other countries in TPP and I think that it is possible that they will agree to go ahead and pass TPP," he added in an interview, saying the others could "tweak" the agreement to keep it alive without US participation.

Turning to China

Some allies are turning their attention to a rival Chinese-backed free-trade agreement. Japanese leader Shinzo Abe, who took domestic political risks to back TPP, visited Trump in New York on Thursday to hear from the president-elect himself. The real estate mogul has prompted concern in Japan and South Korea in particular by questioning decades-old mutual defense obligations that underpin their security.

National Security Advisor Susan Rice said ahead of Obama's visit that allies should expect those obligations to hold. "It is manifestly in the United States' interests for these alliances to endure and to be a source of confidence to our partners and for them to understand that they don't need to come out



LIMA: US President Barack Obama waves while waiting for a meeting with Peru's President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (R) and others at the Lima Convention Center Airport yesterday. —AFP

from under the US umbrella," she told AFP.

Stressing that she did not want to speculate about Trump's foreign policy, she sought to reassure key

US allies in NATO and the Pacific Rim that they will not be abandoned.

Many Pacific countries are clamoring for deeper trade ties with the

rest of the world.

But in the United States and throughout the West, opposition is growing to deals that many say have contributed to jobs being

sent overseas. Obama is likely to make the case that globalization is a fact of life, and modern trade deals-with sturdy environmental and labor provisions-help shape that trend in the right direction.

Nuclear Korea

Obama is also set to hold talks with the leaders of Russia, Canada, Australia, Peru and, crucially, China's Xi-the final meeting between the leaders of the world's two largest economic powers. The sit-down will also deal with efforts to stop North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs, US officials say.

Obama is expected to press for an increase in the pace and severity of sanctions against North Korea, which is trying to develop a miniaturized nuclear warhead and a missile capable of delivering the weapon to the United States. Beijing has long dragged its heels over sanctioning its allies in Pyongyang, fearing a flood of refugees if North Korea's economy collapses.

But earlier this year, China moved to sanction a conglomerate based in its frontier city of Dandong that had an estimated \$530 million in trade with North Korea between 2011 and 2015. —AFP

NO CHARGES FOR QUEBEC POLICE OVER ABORIGINAL SEX ASSAULT CLAIMS

MONTREAL: Charges will not be filed against six police officers accused of sexually assaulting indigenous women in Quebec, although officials are not ruling out that the events occurred, prosecutors said Friday.

A spokesman for the prosecutors said there was not enough evidence to take the police officers to trial over accusations of sexual assault, abuse of power and intimidation brought forth by women in the small town of Val d'Or, about 500 kilometers northwest of Montreal.

According to the women, who came forward a year ago on broadcaster Radio-Canada, officers routinely picked them up from Algonquin communities near the rural town and forced them to perform sex acts.

Paid in cash or drugs

Some were paid in cash or drugs. If they refused, the women said they were physically assaulted or left in remote areas, their mobile phones broken, to walk home in the cold. Eight officers were suspended following the accusa-

tions, although two have since been reinstated. Based on results from an investigation which looked at 35 complaints, the public prosecutor declined to charge the officers. "There is insufficient evidence to bring charges," a spokesman for the province's Director of Penal and Criminal Prosecutions told a press conference.

However, the decision "does not necessarily mean that the alleged events did not occur," he said. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples said it was "deeply concerned for Indigenous women in Val d'Or." "Indigenous women need an outlet to voice their complaints and concerns against police. Without a safe place and process to do that, these incidents will continue," said the group's Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin. When contacted by AFP, provincial police declined to comment on whether the six agents would be reinstated and said they were determining whether to conduct a disciplinary investigation. Several dozen indigenous people gathered in peaceful protest in Val d'Or on Friday following the announcement. —AFP



SALT LAKE CITY: This file photo taken on March 3, 2016 shows former Governor and presidential candidate Mitt Romney during a speech for Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah. —AFP

TRUMP NATIONAL SECURITY PICKS UNDER SCRUTINY

ROMNEY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE?

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump met yesterday with Mitt Romney, one of his most vocal Republican Party critics now considered a long-shot choice for secretary of state, after naming three polarizing conservatives to fill key national security and judicial posts. Anti-immigration Senator Jeff Sessions, one of Trump's earliest supporters during the campaign, was nominated Friday to be attorney general, signaling Trump is prepared to take his hard line on illegal immigration into the White House. To lead the CIA, Trump tapped hawkish Congressman Mike Pompeo, a strident opponent of the Iran nuclear deal and a sharp critic of Trump's campaign rival Hillary Clinton during hearings into the 2012 attack on the US mission in Benghazi, Libya.

The incoming commander-in-chief also appointed retired lieutenant general Michael Flynn, a top military counsel to the 70-year-old Republican billionaire-turned-world-leader, as his national security advisor. Hours after the picks were revealed, New York state's attorney general announced that Trump had reached a \$25 million settlement in class action suits accusing his now-defunct Trump University of fraud.

Reassuring signals

The case had been a cloud over his campaign for months, and the deal spares him the embarrassment of further legal wrangling as he forms his government. Attorney Daniel Petrocelli hailed it as a "victory for everybody." In New York, Vice President-elect Mike Pence was booed at a performance of award-winning Broadway musical "Hamilton," whose cast made an unusual on-stage plea for the Trump administration to "uphold our American values and work on behalf of all of us."

While his picks suggest he is adhering to

conservative positions, Trump made efforts to send reassuring signals about stability and continuity regarding America's place in the world. NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said he had a "good talk" with Trump by telephone, telling AFP in Brussels he was "absolutely confident" that the incoming president remains committed to the transatlantic alliance.

Kansas lawmaker Pompeo, 52, co-authored a report slamming then-secretary of state Clinton's handling of the Benghazi attack, in which the US ambassador to Libya and three other Americans died. Deeper controversy surrounds Trump's national security adviser Flynn, 57, who is set to play an influential role in shaping policy for a president with no experience in government or diplomacy, including how to contend with an increasingly aggressive Russia.

Flynn raised eyebrows when he traveled to Moscow and dined alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin. And he has refused to rule out enhanced interrogation techniques like waterboarding, which have been described as torture and which Trump repeatedly condoned while campaigning.

Flynn has described Islam as a "cancer" and a "political ideology", and in February tweeted that "fear of Muslims is rational."

He is highly respected as a decorated military intelligence officer who helped combat insurgent networks. But President Barack Obama fired him as head of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2014 following complaints about his leadership style.

Flynn's appointment does not require Senate approval. But that of Sessions as attorney general does, and he has baggage: Racially charged comments he made in the 1980s and which once cost him a chance for a job for life as a federal judge.

A panel denied him a federal judgeship in

1986, after hearing testimony that he had used racially derogatory remarks to describe blacks, that civil rights groups were "communist-inspired" and "un-American," and joked that the only issue he had with the Ku Klux Klan was their drug use.

Sessions has also been a fiery opponent of immigration, waging war on efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform through Congress in 2007 and 2013. Senator Chuck Schumer, who will be the chamber's top Democrat come January, warned that Sessions could have a confirmation fight on his hands. "Given some of his past statements and his staunch opposition to immigration reform, I am very concerned about what he would do with the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice," Schumer said.

'Working all weekend'

The appointments came a day after the president-elect met with a foreign leader for the first time: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who said he could have "great confidence" in Trump as a US leader.

Some US allies have been rattled by Trump's campaign comments that questioned whether he would maintain US loyalty to joint security arrangements and free trade accords. Romney-the moderate, failed 2012 presidential candidate-would be a long-shot choice for secretary of state, alongside former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani.

If chosen, Romney would bring a more orthodox Republican worldview to foreign policy. In 2012, he described Russia as the top geopolitical threat—a sharp contrast to Trump, who has exchanged compliments with Putin. Romney had described Trump as a "fraud," rebuking the tycoon for proposals such as banning the entry of all foreign Muslims.—AFP



NEW YORK: People walk near Trump Tower after the street was closed to foot traffic by police with barricades and officers at the entrance to the block at both ends for more than two weeks on Friday. —AFP

WHAT IF TRUMP WANTS TO LIVE IN TRUMP TOWER? NY MAYOR WEIGHS IN

NEW YORK: What if speculation proves correct and Donald Trump decides against settling in Washington and maintains his principal residence in New York?

That's the question the city's mayor Bill de Blasio raised on Friday. Since his election last week, the real estate billionaire—who has always lived in New York—has hardly left Manhattan. He has spent most of the time entrenched with his family and advisors in his Fifth Avenue building, Trump Tower, causing havoc in the heart of the country's largest city due to his security detail and ongoing anti-Trump protests. "We have never faced that situation before," De Blasio told reporters. Although he provided no concrete figures, De Blasio said security for the president-elect has been more formidable than during the annual UN General Assembly, which brings together dozens of world leaders.

City authorities—who expect Trump to remain in Manhattan as the holidays approach—plan to reinforce security measures and traffic restrictions already in place around Trump Tower until his inau-

guration in Washington on January 20.

De Blasio, who met Trump in his tower on Wednesday, refused to speculate. "The president elect has to get into office and have the experience of being in the White House and make the decision that's right for him and his family," he said.

"When the president-elect takes on the role of president of the United States and has that responsibility, the need to be in Washington and deal with situations that can only be handled from the White House will become quite frequent," he added. "But it's not right to prejudice."

Whatever happens, De Blasio did not hide the fact that he hopes to limit the cost and recuperate the "maximum" possible reimbursement from the federal government. Apart from the additional police and anti-terrorist units deployed 24 hours a day around Trump Tower, De Blasio highlighted the loss of revenue suffered by area businesses due to traffic jams and anti-Trump demonstrations.

And he called on New Yorkers to avoid the area as much as possible when driving or riding in cars. —AFP

JEWISH LEADER VOWS TO REGISTER AS A MUSLIM

NEW YORK: The Jewish director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which campaigns against anti-Semitism and other bigotry, said Friday that he would register as a Muslim if Donald Trump establishes a database of Muslims in America. "The day they create a registry for Muslims is the day that I register as a Muslim because of my Jewish faith, because of my commitment to our core American values, because I want this country to be as great as it always has been," Jonathan Greenblatt told AFP.

During his campaign, President-elect Trump variously called for banning all Muslim visitors to the United States, subjecting those in the country to loyalty tests and even for some to be deported. Asked on MSNBC in November last year whether the White House should institute a database system to track Muslims in the country, Trump replied, "Oh, I would certainly implement that, absolutely."

Trump campaign attempted to walk back his pledge on Thursday, saying in a statement that the president-elect "never advocated" a registry. However, at least two prominent Trump supporters raised the prospect again this week, including one who cited World War II-era Japanese-American internment camps as a precedent. "We've done it based on race, we've done it based on religion, we've done it based on region," Carl Higbie, who during the campaign was

spokesman for a pro-Trump "super PAC" fundraising group, said on Fox News.

"As a Jewish community, we know what happens with litmus tests," Greenblatt said. "We can remember. We have painful memories of when we ourselves were identified, registered and tagged." Greenblatt, who previously worked in the White House as a special assistant to President Barack Obama, also criticized Trump's hiring of Stephen Bannon as his chief strategist. The appointment ignited controversy due to Bannon's role as the head of the Breitbart News website - a key outlet for the extreme right wing, or "alt-right," movement.

Bannon "in his own words has presided over making his former business Breitbart THE platform for the 'alt-right,' this loose-knit group of white supremacists, anti-Semites and racists," Greenblatt said. Nevertheless, the ADL wants to "engage" with Trump and his administration "on the issues we care about," he added, although "we will hold them relentlessly accountable to those issues." Trump's election last week prompted a spike in racist attacks and harassment across the country. But Greenblatt said it also moved many people to volunteer for the ADL and donate money. "Even though we have seen some of the worst impulses of society lifted up, we've also seen some of our better angels prevail." —AFP



NEW YORK: In this Nov. 14, 2016 courtroom file sketch, the drug trial of two nephews of Venezuela's first lady proceeds, from left, Francisco Flores, with earphones and Efrain Campo, with earphones. —AP

NEPHEWS OF VENEZUELA FIRST LADY GUILTY OF US DRUG CHARGES

NEW YORK: A jury on Friday convicted two nephews of Venezuela's first lady of plotting to smuggle 1760 pounds (800 kilograms) of cocaine into the United States, with Caracas saying the pair were essentially framed.

Efrain Antonio Campo Flores, 30, and Francisco Flores de Freitas, 31, were arrested in Haiti in November and flown to New York by US Drug Enforcement Administration agents. Their week-long trial in federal court in New York resulted in Friday's guilty verdict for conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States as well as manufacturing and distribution with the intent to import.

Lawyers for both defendants tried to argue that the nephews were not crafty

enough to plot or carry out the scheme and that they had fallen into a trap set by the DEA, in a covert operation in which \$20 million was offered for the drugs.

Prosecutors, however, argued that the men believed they were above the law as relatives of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. The pair are the sons of brothers of Maduro's wife Cilia Flores, who served as speaker of the National Assembly from 2006 to 2011.

The current speaker of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, has likened their arrest to a kidnapping by the DEA, saying they were effectively set up. Sentencing is set for March 7, according to Judge Paul Crotty, with the crimes carrying a minimum of 10 years to life in prison. —AFP

POPE DECRIES SURGE OF POLARIZATION

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis yesterday decried what he called a polarizing surge in much of the world to exclude people with different nationalities, races or beliefs as enemies, as he led a ceremony welcoming 17 new cardinals from six continents.

The consistory ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica formally inducted the churchmen into the cardinals' ranks. One of the new "princes of the church," as the cardinals are sometimes called, an 87-year-old bishop from Lesotho, Africa, was too frail to attend the ceremony; his red hat will be delivered to him, the pope announced in Latin.

Francis used his homily to encourage the new crop of cardinals to be near to, not remote from, the flocks of faithful they will lead. He said love is needed for "the conversion of our pitiful hearts that tend to judge, divide, oppose and condemn," and cautioned solemnly against those who "raise walls, build barriers and label people." "We see, for example, how quickly those among us with the status of the stranger, an immigrant, or a refugee, become a threat, take on the status of an enemy. An enemy because they come from a distant country, or have different customs," the pope said.

Defying Pence

Popes, in selecting cardinals, look for men who share their approach to the church's mission in the world. Among the newly made cardinals is Indianapolis Archbishop Joseph Tobin, who defied the governor of the US state of Indiana, Mike Pence, by welcoming Syrian refugees. Tobin in January will become archbishop of Newark, New Jersey; Pence will be installed as vice president of the United States.

The new cardinals who pledged loyalty to the pope on Saturday included prelates from Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and North and South America. Some of their homelands include Papua New Guinea, Mauritius, Malaysia, Venezuela, Mexico, Bangladesh and Brazil. One of them, an 88-year-old Albanian priest, Ernest Simoni, personally knew the suffering caused by hatred. Simoni spent 18 years in prison because of his faith, facing both solitary confinement and hard labor, in his homeland during its communist regime. Since cardinals are usually bishops already, Francis bestowed a rare honor on giving that rank to Simoni, a simple priest. After Simoni knelt before Francis to receive his red hat, he clasped the pope's hand tightly and seemed to fight back tears.

When Francis visited Albania in 2014, he was brought to tears after Simoni told him how he was persecuted. Simoni, who worked to reconcile feuds in many of that country's villages, after decades of serving clandestinely as a priest until the country's communist rule ended in 1990. —AP

THREE CHILDREN KILLED BY CROSS-BORDER FIRE

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan: Three children were killed and three others injured yesterday when mortar shells fired by Indian forces hit a village along the Line of Control (LOC) in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, officials said. "Two girls and their brother died when mortar shells fired by Indian troops hit their house in Kotli district along the Line of Control (LOC)," Raja Arif Mehmodd, a

local administration official, told AFP. He said the eldest girl was aged 10 and the youngest girl aged five. "All belonged to the same family," he added. Meanwhile, the Pakistani military said Pakistan and Indian border troops exchanged fire across the Line of Control (LoC) in two other sectors on Saturday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. "Indian troops resort to unprovoked

firing in Tander and Baroh areas of Bimber sector today," said a statement issued by the military adding that no loss of life was reported in the latest exchange of fire.

On Friday, Pakistan's navy said it had "pushed" an Indian submarine away from Pakistani waters, as tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals continue to smoulder over unrest in the disputed

Kashmir region. 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.

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. —AFP

AFGHAN CAVE DWELLERS BRACE AGAINST A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

BAMIYAN, Afghanistan: Marzia and her husband Qadeer thought themselves lucky when they moved into a 1,700-year-old Buddhist cave hand-carved into the side of a mountain in Afghanistan's central highlands - it was clean and dry, warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and there was plenty of work on the local farms. But now, even this bare-bones way of life is threatened.

The family, along with another 242 cave-dwelling households dotted around the capital of Bamiyan province, also called Bamiyan, could be forced to move soon. They are what's left of around 10,000 families who have been relocated over the past decade as part of the local government's program to protect the unique man-made grottoes that it hopes will transform Bamiyan into a global tourist destination once Afghanistan's war with the insurgent Taliban, now in its 16th year, is finally over.

The couple moved here from neighboring Maidan-Wardak province because they believed it was a stepping stone to a better future. "We had no money and my husband couldn't get a job," Marzia said as she breastfed her baby. "We left because we were poor."

But 12 years later they are still living in the cave, along with their five children aged from 10 months to 8 years, including 6-year-old Freshta who hasn't been the same since a land mine exploded close by her four years ago. Her mental development stopped and she spends most of her time lolling on the thin mat that covers the cave's floor.

Original features

Any original features, such as the brightly-colored geometric murals that were painted by the monks who created these caves, are long gone. They've been destroyed by time, the elements and the wear-and-tear of hundreds of years of habitation - including the fires that residents build for cooking and heat. "Life here is difficult," Marzia, 30, said. Water must be fetched from a nearby stream, and a 9-volt battery charges a solar panel that provides light after dark. Cooking is done on a stove fuelled by a gas bottle. They have installed a door and a step up into the one room that all seven members of the family share. Smaller caves outside are used for storage.

On the rural outskirts of the city, amid the rutted fields where the province's main potato crop is grown, the cave-dwellers do what they can with their meagre resources, determined that the next generation will have a better life. As Shiite Muslims of the Hazara minority they have suffered historic persecution, but they have also benefitted from immense largesse from international charities and governments.

Amid an intensifying Taliban-led insurgency, Bamiyan is a haven of peace, as the Shiite Hazaras have successfully kept the war off their territory since the end of the Sunni Taliban's regime - under which they were persecuted and much of the province's Buddhist heritage destroyed. A proliferation in recent years of all-covering burqas and hijabs among the local women attests to a growing concern about the war as it spreads elsewhere in the country.

Freshta Ahmadi runs a school for 25 children aged 4 to 9 years old, who gather in the living room of her family's three-room cave home six days a week to learn reading, writing and math. Freshta is 18, in her last year of secondary school and hopes one

day to become a doctor. She has been running the cave school since 2012 with money donated by Parsa, an Afghan charity. "These children are from poor families, their fathers are itinerant workers, farmers, or refugees from other poorer areas," she said. Their circumstances don't dampen ambition, however - the children, mostly girls, stand in turn at the whiteboard, complete a few exercises in front of their classmates, then reiterate their plans for a future as doctors, police officers or engineers.

Two massive Buddhas

Bamiyan is probably best known as the site of two massive Buddhas, one 55 meters tall, the other 38 meters (124 feet) tall, that were carved into the cliff face above the modern city between the 4th and 6th Centuries and which were destroyed by the Taliban at the urging of al-Qaida in early 2001, in a defiant show of extremist power and hubris ahead of the attacks on the United States on September 11 that year.

Their memory lingers now in gaping niches where the magnificent statues stood as part of an extensive monastic center that included up to 12,000 caves used by monks as devotional getaways. It formed an elaborate network of monasteries, assembly halls, residences and large sanctuaries that were decorated with frescoes and statues, many produced with techniques unique to this part of the world, according to archaeologist Rasool Shojaei, who previously worked on their restoration with the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UNESCO has classified the "cultural landscape and archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley" as a world heritage site representing Buddhist and Islamic religious and artistic developments from the 1st to 13th Centuries.

The provincial government is working with UNESCO to restore the valley's eight significant sites, including the Ghulghulah fortress, believed to be Bamiyan's original staging post on the old Silk Road that linked China to India. The fortress was razed by Genghis Khan's hoards in the early 13th Century and never regained its glory.

Determined to develop on its own terms, the province hosts around a dozen international events a year, said Kabir Dadras, head of the local office of the Ministry of Information and Culture, including a marathon, a skiing competition and a variety of cultural festivals. "Bamiyan is very popular with Indians, Japanese and Koreans because of the Buddhist heritage," he said.

As part of those plans, he said, all the people still living in the grottoes, and assessed as sufficiently poverty-stricken to qualify for the government's land re-distribution program, will be moved to new townships on the outskirts of the city by 2018, he said.

For Marzia, it's been a lot of talk and no action. "I've spoken with the governor and a lot of officials have been here to see us," she said. "They keep promising that they will give us a flat, but we've no idea when, or even if, it will happen."

Meanwhile, her 8-year-old daughter Shepha Qah, who studies at the Parsa cave school, harbors hopes of becoming a doctor. "I have belief in my daughter's ambitions, that's why we left Maidan-Wardak, so that our children could go to school and have a better life," said Marzia.—AP



SEOUL: South Korean protesters hold up cards during a rally calling for South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down yesterday.—AP

WITH ROCK MUSIC AND PINATAS, S KOREANS RALLY AGAINST PARK

DEMANDING RESIGNATION

SEOUL: South Korea is seeing its biggest wave of street demonstrations in decades, but gone are the raised fists, flying rocks and police water cannons that had symbolized the intensity of the country's protest culture.

For the tens of thousands of people who filled a major avenue in downtown Seoul for the fourth straight yesterday, demanding the resignation of scandal-ridden President Park Geun-hye has become a form of family entertainment. That means rock music, comedy, open mics and pinata bashing. "My kids are having fun ... they just love these plastic horns," said Hong Seonok, who sat on a mattress with her three daughters, the oldest of them 10. "I definitely wanted to come out and show my daughters we can accomplish something by protesting."

Police said about 170,000 people turned out for the latest anti-Park protest in streets near City Hall and a boulevard fronting an old palace gate, where a week earlier, hundreds of thousands marched in what may have been the largest protest in the country since it freed itself from dictatorship three decades ago. Protest organizers sized Saturday's crowd at 600,000.

Demonstrators also marched in streets near the presidential offices, carrying candles and illuminating cellphones, and shouting "Park Geun-hye step down" and "Arrest Park Geun-hye."

State prosecutors prepare to question Park

The rally came as state prosecutors prepared to question Park over suspicions that she allowed a secretive confidante to manipulate power from the shadows and amass an illicit fortune, a scandal that critics say undermines the country's democracy.

On Sunday, prosecutors plan to indict the confidante, Choi Soon-sil, and two presidential aides who allegedly helped her interfere with state affairs and bully companies into giving tens of millions of dollars to foundations she controlled. The protests continue to draw people from all ages and regions, including many families with children.

People swayed to the music of the rock band Deulgukhwa, which played in front of a massive video screen on a temporary stage that has become the center of the rallies. Earlier Saturday, children threw bean bags at a Park pinata, which burst open to reveal a Choi pinata. Popping out from the smaller pinata was a Barbie doll on a stuffed horse, meant to be Choi's daughter, an equestrian athlete who allegedly got a virtual free pass into an elite university because of her family's presidential ties. Nearby, actors impersonating Choi and Park encouraged protesters to mock them. "Satire, not anger, is the strongest form of expression," said Lim Ok-sang, an artist who created the

pinata. For teenagers stuck in South Korea's hyper-competitive school environment, the allegations surrounding Choi's daughter, Yoora Chung, 20, seemed to be their biggest source of anger. In South Korea, graduating from elite universities is seen as important in career and even marriage prospects.

"We invest blood and sweat into our studies to get into a good school, and it's disheartening to see how everything was so easy for Chung," said Moon Jeong-ju, a high school student who took an eight-hour bus ride from the southern city of Suncheon to participate in the rally.

On Friday, South Korea's Education Ministry said it demanded that Ewha Womans University cancel the admission of Chung after it found that the school had manipulated its admissions process to accept her. Emboldened by the huge protests in recent weeks, opposition parties have been stepping up pressure to force Park to quit.

On Thursday, they used their parliamentary majority to pass a law that would allow for a special prosecutor to independently investigate the scandal and potentially expose the president's wrongdoings. There is a growing voice within the opposition that an impeachment attempt is inevitable because it's unlikely Park will resign and give up her immunity from prosecution. —AP



BAMIYAN, Afghanistan: In this Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 photo, Marzia, 30, in blue, talks to her neighbor near her cave.—AP

MYANMAR DENIES BANGLADESHI CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS TRYING TO FLEE OVER BORDER

YANGON: Myanmar's state media yesterday denied Bangladesh border guards' accounts of Rohingya Muslims fleeing conflict at home by trying to cross into the northern neighbor. A commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said on Friday his staff provided food and medicines to 82 people, including women and children, attempting to leave Myanmar but turned them back from the frontier. Two boats with 86 people were pushed back on Tuesday.

State-run English language newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar said on Saturday a newly created information taskforce had found the reports to be untrue. "An inquiry into news reports by Reuters that nearly 200 people fleeing Myanmar had been arrested and repulsed yesterday by Bangladesh border guards has been found to be false," said the newspaper, quoting BGB officials.

Soldiers have flooded the north of Rakhine state, along Myanmar's frontier with Bangladesh, responding to attacks by alleged Muslim militants on border posts on Oct. 9. Sixty-nine suspected insurgents and 17 members of the security forces have been killed since the violence began, according to official reports.

Earlier this month, Myanmar denied accusations by Rohingya that its military had killed people fleeing the conflict which has displaced up to 30,000 people. Rohingya residents have told Reuters hundreds have tried to flee to Bangladesh after fighting intensified a week ago. The U.N. refugee agency has said the border should be kept open for people fleeing violence.

The conflict is the biggest test for Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi since becoming Myanmar's de facto leader seven months ago, laying bare her lack of oversight over the military, which has been accused of human rights violations against ethnic minorities in the past. The Global New Light of Myanmar said the government planned to create an investigation commission to look into the "violent attacks in Maungdaw," the

region in Rakhine at the center of the unrest. The report did not specify whether the probe would include an investigation of allegations of human rights abuses that the United Nations, the United States and Britain have called for.—Reuters

BLAST KILLS THREE SOLDIERS, INJURES FOUR IN ASSAM, INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army announced yesterday that at least three security personnel were killed and four other injured following a powerful blast that targeted an army vehicle in Digboi village in Tinsukia district of north eastern state of Assam.

"The militants had planted an improvised explosive device on the road. When the IED exploded, the convoy stopped, then the militants fired indiscriminately," at around 5:30 am, in the Pengeri area, killing at least three soldiers and injuring four others, Indian defense public relations said.

The blast came as the Indian forces launched an attack against suspected militants in Tinsukia district. The militants had attacked a van of the Pengeri tea estate on Wednesday, killing one and injuring two others.

According to local media reports, the United Liberation Front of Assam, which is fighting the Indian state for an independent country in Assam, mounted the attack against the army. —KUNA

MYANMAR MAN ACCUSED OF SELF-IMMOLATION IN AUSTRALIAN BANK

CANBERRA, Australia: A 21-year-old man accused of injuring 26 bystanders when he set himself on fire with gasoline in a bank branch in Australia's second-largest city was identified on Saturday as a Myanmar asylum seeker who had been waiting three years to be accepted as a refugee.

guard on Saturday, came to Australia by boat as a lone teen in 2013 and had been waiting to be granted a refugee visa ever since, said Pamela Curr, who recently retired from the non-government Asylum Seeker Resource Center outside Melbourne.

Muslim Rohingya community in Melbourne, Habib Habib, said Noor speaks Rohingya, although he might not himself identify as Rohingya.

resolved. "This system makes all of them crazy. They're in legal limbo," Habib said.

banning refugees who arrive by boat after that date from ever making Australia home. Since then, asylum seekers have been sent to Australia-run camps on the Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

CHINA'S AFRICAN POPULATION DECLINES AMID CRACKDOWN

GUANGZHOU, China: Dreams are fading in China for African traders like Mouhamadou Moustapha Dieng, who in 2003 was among the first wave of Africans to set up homes and companies in this port city and forge trading links between China and the African continent.

Young African traders who want to follow in the footsteps of Dieng's generation complain of difficulties getting visas, police crackdowns and prejudice, which come amid rising nationalism and slowing economic growth.

In recent times

Over recent decades, Chinese companies and entrepreneurs have spread out across Africa building stadiums, roads and other large projects, cultivating land, running hotels and opening restaurants.

their offices rather than going to markets. They also have more competition from Chinese, like Dieng's former employee who started her own business targeting his clients after picking up the Senegalese language Wolof.

The Associated Press spoke to 15 Africans in Guangzhou, both residents and traders who travel back and forth. Some long-timers reported that the city had become more welcoming over the years as mutual understanding increased between Chinese and Africans.

Claudia Thaiya, 30, who sends electronics, furniture, clothes and shoes back home to Kenya, says when she went to look at an apartment recently, the advertised price went up when the landlord saw her.

Benjamin Stevens had a business selling liquor in Zambia before coming to study Chinese and civil engineering two years ago. He says he sees Africans being stopped by police to have their papers checked every day, and Chinese move away from him on the subway.

An officer at the Jianshe police station, who did not identify himself, said that it "depends on different cases" as to how often foreigners should register.

Heidi Haugen, who researches Africans in China at the University of Oslo, said that the government wants to appear "in control to their local constituents - although they're not elected, that's an all-important part of legitimizing the government."



GUANGZHOU, China: In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016, head of Guangzhou's Tanzania community, John Rwehumbiza, poses for a photo during an interview.—AP

TRUMP'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER TO TACKLE N KOREA NUCLEAR THREAT

SEOUL: US President-elect Donald Trump's national security adviser says North Korea's nuclear programme would be given a high priority under the new administration, a South Korean official who held talks with him said yesterday.

Michael Flynn, one of Trump's closest advisers, also said he would work to strengthen the US alliance with South Korea, calling the relationship "vital," the South's deputy presidential national security adviser Cho Tae-yong was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency.

Cho was leading a South Korean delegation to the United States to meet with key advisers to the president-elect to discuss the two countries' response to the North's pursuit of nuclear weapons in defiance of international sanctions.

Cho spoke to South Korean reporters in Washington following the meeting with Flynn, Yonhap said.

Flynn is a retired Army lieutenant general and a military intelligence veteran of three decades who has championed Trump's promises to take a more aggressive approach to terrorism. His appointment as national security adviser this week does not

require Senate confirmation. The North conducted its fourth and fifth nuclear tests this year under young leader Kim Jong Un, who has vowed to build a nuclear arsenal and ballistic missiles to deliver them.

The UN Security Council has held discussions to adopt a toughened new sanctions resolution following the North's Sept. 9 nuclear blast. US President Barack Obama has been criticized by Congressional Republicans that his policy of "strategic patience" was a failure and that he must make full use of sanctions authorities given to him by Congress.

Trump pledged his commitment to defend South Korea under an existing security alliance during a phone call with South Korean President Park Geun-hye, Yonhap said last week. Trump had suggested during the election campaign he would be willing to withdraw US military stationed in South Korea unless Seoul paid a greater share of the cost of the deployment.

There are about 28,500 US troops based in South Korea in combined defense against North Korea.—Reuters



TAGUIG CITY, East of Manila, Philippines: In this photo provided by Jun Gudoy from the Office of Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, led by wife Imelda Marcos, in black, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' family follows the flag-draped casket during a ceremony of his burial at the Heroes' Cemetery on Friday.—AP

MARCOS FAMILY HOLD VIGIL AT TOMB AMID PROTESTS

'FINALLY RESTING HERE AT THE HEROES' CEMETERY'

MANILA: Family members and followers of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos gathered Saturday for a vigil at his tomb, a day after his secrecy-shrouded burial at the country's Heroes' Cemetery triggered widespread protests three decades following the strongman's ouster.

Thousands of pro-democracy activists who rallied in Manila on Friday say the decades long debate over the ex-president's final resting place was far from over and they were planning more protests in the days and weeks ahead.

President Duterte

President Rodrigo Duterte, who gave the go-ahead for the burial, appealed for calm. "I know Ferdinand will at last be at rest here at the Heroes' Cemetery," Imelda Marcos said in front of a black tomb surrounded by wreaths of white flowers.

Her daughter, Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, and son Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. also thanked supporters and apologized for keeping the burial secret. He said there were reports that anti-Marcos groups would create trouble.

The burial threatens to open old wounds in the Philippines, where Marcos is accused of massive human rights violations and corruption under martial law he had placed the country during half of his 20-year iron-fist rule. He was ousted in a "people power" street protests in 1986 that sent him and his family into exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who ran in May elections under Duterte's rival party, questioned why the burial was carried out even before a Supreme Court decision allowing it has become final. "We are alarmed by the brazenness of its execution," she said in a speech.

A lawmaker considered asking the Supreme Court to exhume the newly buried Marcos. But Duterte, who is attending an Asia-Pacific summit in Lima, Peru, said through his spokesman that "hopefully both sides will exercise maximum tolerance and come to terms with the burial."

margin to Robredo. In 1993, Marcos's body was taken to his hometown in Ilocos Norte, where it was displayed in a glass coffin and became a tourist attraction. Duterte backed Marcos's burial, saying it was his right as a president and soldier.—AP

But his family fought for his remains to be transferred to the Heroes' Cemetery. Duterte backed Marcos's burial, saying it was his right as a president and soldier.—AP

DALAI LAMA PREACHES IN MONGOLIA, ANGERING CHINA

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia: The Dalai Lama preached yesterday to thousands of supporters in Mongolia, on a visit set to test the country's ties with China at a time when it is seeking a critical aid package from its powerful neighbor.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader addressed followers at the Gandantegchenlin monastery and spoke about materialism to kick-start a four-day visit that Mongolia has said will be purely religious in nature and won't include meetings with officials. Still, the trip could have repercussions for land-locked Mongolia's relationship with China, which protested previous visits by the Dalai Lama by briefly closing its border in 2002 and temporarily canceling flights from Beijing in 2006.

China views the Dalai Lama as a separatist seeking to split Tibet from China and strongly opposes all countries from hosting the monk, who has been based in India since fleeing Tibet during an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

On Friday, China's Foreign Ministry strongly urged Mongolia to deny the Dalai Lama a visit for the sake of a "sound and steady" development of bilateral ties. The Dalai Lama's visit comes at a time when Mongolian leaders are seeking a \$4.2 billion loan from Beijing to pull the country out of a deep recession. With commodity prices slumping,

Mongolia is running out of hard currency to repay foreign debts and is seeking help from a neighbor that accounts for roughly 90 percent of its exports.

Mongolian Buddhism is closely tied to Tibet's strain and many in the heavily Buddhist country revere the Dalai Lama, who made his first visit in 1979. Mongolian religious figures say the visit could be the last for the 81-year-old spiritual leader, and some of his followers traveled hundreds of miles to see him while braving the coldest November temperatures in a decade.

Daritseren, a 73-year-old ethnic Mongolian from Russian Siberia, said she only heard on Friday that the Dalai Lama was visiting Mongolia and traveled with 40 other people for 15 hours overnight to make it just in time for the sermon.

Boldbaatar, a 75-year-old herder, said he rushed from 200 kilometers away. "I'm an old man," he said. "Maybe I'm seeing His Holiness, the incarnation of Lord Buddha, for the last time." The Dalai Lama is scheduled to chant special sutras on Sunday at a large sports facility built by Chinese companies through Chinese aid. Religious scholars say during the visit the Dalai Lama is expected to offer input on the search for the 10th reincarnation of the Jebtsundamba Khutuktu, a top-ranked lama in Buddhism.—AP



ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia: Dalai Lama, center, waves as he arrives at the Janraiseg temple of Gandantegchenlin monastery to greet Mongolian people yesterday.—AP

REGIME JETS POUND REBEL ALEPPO

Continued from Page 1

"The severity of the bombing has inflicted huge damage on the few hospitals working around the clock to provide medical care."

A White Helmets centre in the Bab Al-Nayrab district was also destroyed in an air strike on Friday, and rescuers have struggled to cope with the pace with of the bombing. "We have no more (body) bags," said one rescue worker in another video posted yesterday by the group. The Observatory said at least 27 civilians were killed in east Aleppo yesterday, with the toll likely

to rise because of the number of seriously wounded. The deaths brought the death toll since Tuesday to 92, with state media saying two people were also killed in rebel fire on the government-held west of Aleppo yesterday.

The assault on rebel-held Aleppo has ended a period of relative respite after Russia halted its strikes and organized a series of brief truces to encourage residents and surrendering rebels to leave. Syria expert Thomas Pierret said regime forces "intended to combine air strikes with famine resulting from the siege to get rebels to surrender". — AFP

TRUMP SETTLES TRUMP UNIVERSITY LAWSUITS

Continued from Page 1

to settle the lawsuits. "I settled the Trump University lawsuit for a small fraction of the potential award because as President I have to focus on our country," Trump wrote on Twitter yesterday morning. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has said over 5,000 students across the country were defrauded out of about \$40 million, so Trump's settlement of \$25 million was around 60 percent of these estimated damages. "The ONLY bad thing about winning the Presidency is that I did not have the time to go through a long but winning trial on Trump U. Too bad!" He said in a second tweet.

In announcing the settlement, Schneiderman said the deal followed repeated refusals by Trump "to settle for even modest amounts of compensation for the vic-

tims of his phony university". In a statement, Schneiderman called the settlement a "stunning reversal by Donald Trump and a major victory for the over 6,000 victims of his fraudulent university."

Students had claimed they were they were lured by false promises into paying up to \$35,000 to learn Trump's real estate investing secrets from his hand-picked instructors. Trump's lawyers denied this. The deal covers three lawsuits relating to Trump University: Two class actions suits in California and a New York case brought by Schneiderman. US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel in San Diego must still approve the settlement. During his election campaign, Trump said that Curiel, who was born in Indiana to Mexican immigrant parents, could not be impartial because of Trump's campaign pledge to build a wall on the US-Mexico border to control illegal immigration. — Reuters



SANAA: A Yemeni youth rides his bicycle at a market yesterday in the capital as a 48-hour ceasefire began. — AFP

FIGHTING MARS YEMEN CEASEFIRE

SANAA: Yemen rebels and loyalist forces battled yesterday around third city Tazeh even as a 48-hour ceasefire announced by a Saudi-led coalition fighting the insurgents began following US pressure. A few hours after the ceasefire took effect at midday (0900 GMT), fighting still raged around the flashpoint southwestern city, where violence has killed dozens this week, despite clashes subsiding on several fronts.

Clashes were heaviest in the town of Salo southeast of Tazeh, military sources said, reporting casualties on both sides. Inside Tazeh itself, rebel rocket fire into a residential district killed one civilian and wounded two, the sources added. Intermittent fighting was also reported in Nahm near the capital Sanaa, in Shabwa in the south and Sarwah to the east.

The ceasefire comes after a push by US Secretary of State John Kerry who this week met rebel representatives in Oman and also urged the government to come on board. At first the government, which has deep reservations about a UN peace blueprint it believes undermines its authority, rejected the peace bid before later agreeing to observe it. Yemen's government has come under huge pressure to back down in the face of an international outcry over the mounting civilian death toll from 20 months of conflict. "There are international pressures to observe a ceasefire and to resume (peace) negotiations," a source close to the presidency told AFP, requesting anonymity.

The 48-hour truce could be extended if the rebels hold fire and allow aid into besieged loyalist enclaves, said a coalition statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. "We really hope that the war will end. All Yemenis are very tired of the conflict," said Khaled Al-Waysi, a resident of Sanaa. Another resident, Sadeq Juhaifi, said: "We want one of the parties to be courageous enough to announce longterm peace, not just a two or one-day ceasefire."

AFP received a copy of an official document issued by the defense ministry ordering all pro-government

forces to abide by the ceasefire, report violations, and reserve the right to respond to any rebel breaches. A spokesman for forces allied to the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, Brigadier General Sharaf Luqman, confirmed that they would also abide by the ceasefire. "Based on the agreement reached in Muscat, we affirm our commitment to the ceasefire if the other party respects it," Luqman said of the accord signed Monday with Kerry.

Six previous attempts to clinch a ceasefire have foundered, the latest in October. All those truces were "useless", said Sanaa resident Abdullah Hassan. "We need a real truce, not one which is just for media consumption," added the 29-year-old. UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed urged all parties "to encourage full respect for the cessation of hostilities and to ensure that it leads to a permanent and lasting end to the conflict."

Exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi has rejected a UN proposal to step down while his government forms a unity administration with the rebels. In an apparent bid to prove his legitimacy, the coalition underlined that the ceasefire came at Hadi's request. The president asked Saudi King Salman for the pause "in response to UN and international efforts to bring peace to Yemen" and allow aid deliveries, its statement said. Millions of civilians, many of whom have fled their homes, desperately need humanitarian aid. The coalition has enforced an air and sea blockade on rebel-held areas throughout its intervention. That will remain in place for the duration of the ceasefire, it said.

Despite the support of coalition firepower, the rebels still control Sanaa and most of the northern and central highlands. Some towns held by loyalist garrisons are under rebel siege, including Tazeh. The coalition insisted that aid must be allowed into those areas for the ceasefire to be extended. It also demanded that the rebels send representatives to a monitoring committee provided for under a previous, abortive ceasefire. That committee is to meet just across the border in Saudi Arabia. — AFP

287 CANDIDATES REMAIN IN RACE

Continued from Page 1

Ahmad Al-Mulaifi leads a host of former lawmakers who are bidding a comeback. They include former opposition MPs Adel Al-Damkhi and Osama Al-Shaheen and leading Shiite cleric Hussein Al-Qallaf, who will be fighting against his brother Fakher Al-Qallaf.

In the second district, 44 candidates are left in the field with seven members of the previous house and eight former MPs. Prominent among candidates are speaker of the dissolved house Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Ahmad Lari, Rakan Al-Nasef and Khalaf Dumaitheer. Former MPs include Salafists Ahmad Baqer and Fahd Al-Khannah, Islamists from the Islamic Constitutional Movement Jamaan Al-Harbash and Hamad Al-Matar, in addition to Riyadh Al-Adasani.

Fifty-four hopefuls are competing for the 10 seats in the third constituency. They include nine members of the

dissolved Assembly and seven former MPs, five of them from the opposition. Jamal Al-Omar, Yaqoub Al-Sane, Roudhan Al-Roudhan and Khalil Abul are among the outgoing Assembly members, while Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Ammar Al-Ajmi, Shaye Al-Shaye and Safa Al-Hashem are former lawmakers.

In the fourth constituency, 68 candidates are left with eight members of the previous Assembly and eight former MPs - all of them from the opposition. The former include Askar Al-Enezi, Mubarak Al-Khrajneij and Mohammad Tana, while the latter include opposition figures Osama Al-Munawer, Shuaib Al-Muwaizri and Mohammad Hayef.

The fifth district has the largest number of hopefuls with 69, including seven members of the previous Assembly and six former MPs. Prominent candidates are Hamdan Al-Azemi, Mohammad Al-Huwailah, Bader Al-Dahoum and Nayef Al-Merdas.

US ENVOY: TIES WITH KUWAIT STRONG DESPITE...

Continued from Page 1

There are more than 30,000 Kuwaitis in the US, according to Silverman, about half of whom are students. "We welcome more Kuwaitis and we are very happy because of their positive experience in the US. They study in the US and come back to Kuwait to contribute to the society and economy. I presented my credentials to HH the Amir and met high-ranking officials at the ministry of foreign affairs, defense, interior, education, labor and information, and I appreciate the cooperation I have with these officials. We also had a few trade missions in Kuwait this year on health, education, security and safety," he pointed out.

Silverman was asked about recent cases of Kuwaiti students arrested in the US for having videos and photos on their laptops and mobiles that were deemed inappropriate. "Kuwait has around 15,000 students in the US, and a very tiny number of students have experienced this problem," he explained. "These cases are being highlighted on social media, but even American citizens are questioned by the authorities, and not just foreigners. They are not being arrested because they are Kuwaitis, or because they are Arabs or Muslims," he emphasized.

Silverman said a majority of these cases are related to students who quit their studies but do not change their status. "When you go back to America and have not changed your status, you'll be questioned. If you are a

student, please coordinate with your schools. If you have credit hours, you have to follow up - these are university regulations. The government of Kuwait is mostly paying their expenses, so when they send students abroad, they expect them to study. So my advice to Kuwaiti students is please change your status if you are no longer a student. If you have any issues, you have to inform the university about it," he explained.

Silverman spoke about his meeting with HH the Amir during the opening of the new Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. "It's more than an opera house - it's for theater, film and music. I understand it will be an educational center too. I was impressed as the building itself is state-of-the-art and a work of art. It will help put Kuwait on the global cultural map. It is very important that we have cultural exchanges," he added.

The US envoy also hailed Kuwait's humanitarian work, which he said has helped many people around the world. "I believe Kuwait plays an important role in humanitarian work. Before coming here as US ambassador, I came three times as a US representative, as Kuwait hosted many pledging conferences for Syrian refugees and for countries hosting refugees. We really appreciate the Kuwaiti role. Kuwait also cosponsored the refugee conference in London, where HH the Amir was recognized, and the UN Secretary General was there too. It reflects the generosity of the Kuwaiti people. It does make a difference," he concluded.

FIFA THREATENS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST KUWAIT

Continued from Page 1

It added that the action could include "claims for the consequences of any damages resulting from your illegal acts". The IOC sent a similar warning at the start of November. The IOC and FIFA protested

after police were used to forcibly take over the headquarters of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the KFA. "FIFA will not accept any of its members to establish contact or sporting relations with the government-appointed officials," the FIFA secretary general said in the latest letter. — AFP

'OLDEST' FINGERPRINT FOUND IN KUWAIT

Continued from Page 1

He added that NCCAL is in consultation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to add Bahra I Excavation Zone to the World Heritage List given its universal value and unique and exceptional signifi-

cance to human civilization. "A UNESCO team led by Dr Mohammad Bu-Zyan visited the site as part of efforts to list it as a world heritage site," Duweesh said. NCCAL pursues a careful plan for archeological excavations and survey of the area, which bears the promise of providing a clearer insight into human life in the Stone Age, he added. — KUNA

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INJURED BROAD DOUBTFUL FOR THIRD INDIA TEST

VISAKHAPATNAM: England fast bowler Stuart Broad is doubtful to feature in the third Test against India after a foot injury forced the team management to review his fitness. Broad, who underwent a scan on his right foot after Friday's play in the ongoing second Test, has suffered damage to a tendon. "Stuart Broad has strained a tendon and one of the small joints in his right forefoot. The injury will be reviewed further at the end of the Test," an England media statement said yesterday. However Broad, who rattled the Indian top-order with his twin strikes in the final session on day three, will "continue to bowl" in the rest of the innings. Broad, 30, also got Indian opener Lokesh Rahul for a duck in the second over of the match but struggled as the game progressed. Broad's injury scare has added to the woes of a team already missing leading paceman Chris Woakes who is nursing a knee injury. Woakes' replacement James Anderson has just returned to action after recovering from a shoulder injury. England have Steven Finn and Jake Ball in the squad as pace backup for the marathon five-match series. The first Test at Rajkot ended in a draw. —AFP

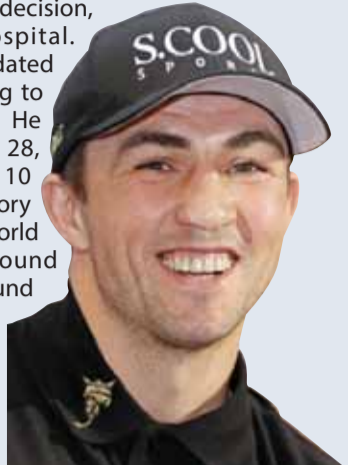


KANE DREAMS OF BEING ENGLAND, SPURS SKIPPER

LONDON: Prolific striker Harry Kane is proud of his leadership skills and dreams one day of captaining both boyhood club Tottenham Hotspur and England. Kane, who came through the ranks at the north London club, has become a key figure for Mauricio Pochettino's side after scoring 49 Premier League goals since his breakthrough 2014-15 campaign. The 23-year-old remains an influential figure for England, despite failing to live up to expectations during the country's woeful Euro 2016 campaign. "It's my personality. I've always been a leader, on and off the pitch. I don't think a captain is just having the ability to shout on the pitch, or moan at someone," Kane said in an interview with the Times. "It comes with a whole package ... meeting with the fans and having that aura in the dressing room. I've managed to captain Spurs a couple of times. It would be a dream to captain Spurs full time and captain England. Who wouldn't want to do that?" Kane also lauded Pochettino's bravery for giving youth a chance rather than taking the easy route of buying experienced players. —Reuters

GUTKNECHT IN HOSPITAL AFTER GROVES LOSS

LONDON: Kazakhstan's Eduard Gutknecht has undergone surgery after falling ill following his super-middleweight defeat by George Groves at London's Wembley Arena on Friday. The English boxer beat the 34-year-old Gutknecht on a unanimous decision, with the losing fighter then taken to hospital. Gutknecht, based in Germany, has been sedated and will continue to be monitored, according to the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC). He took plenty of punishment before Groves, 28, was declared a 119-109, 119-109 and 119-110 winner on the three judges' scorecards. Victory left Groves on course for a fourth shot at a world title some time next year. A cut opened round Gutknecht's swollen left eye in the ninth round but he made it through to the final bell and appeared to be taking everything in as the judges' scores were announced. But his condition worsened in the dressing room and he was then taken to hospital. — AFP



Omar Sulaiman Alkazi



Fuhaid Al-Dihani



Abdullah Al-Tarqi

MUTAWA ALKAZI HONORS KUWAITI OLYMPIC CHAMPS

KUWAIT: In appreciation for their achievements in the sports arena and for encouraging the Kuwaiti youth for persistence and innovation in all areas, Mutawa Alkazi Group and its affiliates celebrated two Kuwaiti Olympic champions, Fuhaid Al-Dihani and Abdullah Al-Tarqi, on the occa-

sion of their historical achievements. Fuhaid Al-Dihani was awarded the gold medal in Olympiad Rio 2016 in Double Trap competitions after defeating the Italian contestant 28-27, while Abdullah Al-Tarqi Al-Rashidi was awarded the bronze medal in the Olympiad in the shooting skeet com-

petitions for men. The Group held a party at its showroom located in Rai Area on Monday, 12 November, which was attended by the group management and its administrative staff and executives, besides a number of its customers and visitors.

Omar Sulaiman Alkazi, CEO of Mutawa Alkazi Group and its affiliates and the sole agent of BAIC Motor, GAC Motor and DFM Motor, presented for each a BJ40 4WD vehicle as a present, in appreciation for such honorable achievement. The champs restored the glories of Kuwaiti sports and

pleased millions of Kuwaitis and Arabs for their magnificent achievement. They proved for the whole world that the Kuwaiti youth is capable of exerting efforts, innovating and glorifying Kuwait and holding its head and flag high in international circles and before all nations.



BEIJING: Elena Radionova (C) of Russia celebrates winning the gold medal of the ladies free skating on the podium as she stands next to Kaetlyn Osmond (L) of Canada who won silver and Elizaveta Tuktamysheva who took bronze at the Ice Dance short dance at the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

OSMOND, JIN LEAD IN BEIJING

BEIJING: Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond and China's own Jin Boyang took the lead on the first day of the Cup of China on Friday, the penultimate heat of the ISU Grand Prix of figure skating.

Both now edge closer to securing places for next month's grand final. Osmond landed all jumps cleanly and with a sense of ease, ending her crowd-pleasing programme with a knowing change foot combination spin, earning 72.20, a couple of points below her season best of 74.33 at Skate Canada.

The 20-year-old 2014 Winter Olympic team silver medalist said simply of her performance "there's a couple small things I wish I could change".

At the end of the first day there was everything to play for among the women with scores close in the standings. Osmond has a slim margin over Russia's Elena Radionova on 70.75 and Japan's Mai Mihara in third place with her season best 68.48. After showing off during the warm up, World Championship bronze winner Jin, 19, gave a flamboyant performance to the Spiderman theme, landing a quadruple lutz and high quadruple toeloop to rapturous applause.

His 96.17 score was over 20 points above his season best (72.93) and gave him a huge 12.70 point margin over Daniel Samohin in second place with his season best despite a point deduction at 83.47. The Israeli was in turn just 0.06 points ahead of third placed Patrick Chan of Canada on 83.41.

Chan was on track to clean up but a hand on the floor coming out the triple axle cost him. Jin's programme got the night's only standing ovation as spectators waved Spiderman banners and hurled Spiderman toys. The first skater to perform a quadruple Lutz-triple toeloop combination at an ISU competition, at last year's Cup of China, Jin has even more ambitious plans for tomorrow's free skate. Afterwards, he said his performance had been "really not bad" and that he had worked hard after Skate America.

Canada's two time national champions Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje led in the Ice Dance category with their season best 73.78, just 0.55 ahead of second place sister and brother pair Maia and Alex Shibutani of the United States on 73.23.

Weaver and Poje got bronze in the previous Rostelecom Cup round in Russia and Weaver observed, "there were a couple of minor mistakes today, we're getting the bugs out". The Pairs category was similarly close, but with strong home representation. Leading the standings were home team Yu Xiaoyu and Zhang Hao on 72.49 for their understated and ethereal performance with perfect triple twist lift, throw triple loop and reverse lasso lift.

The couple only became a team earlier this year after their association re-paired them with the two skaters who make up today's third place pair, Peng Cheng and Jin Yang (69.93) competing internationally for the first time. Between, in second place, were Canada's Liubov Ilyushechkina and Dylan Moscovitch (71.28).

Medals and places in the final will be decided by the free skates tonight. —AFP



BEIJING: Shiyue Wang and Xinyu Liu of China perform during the ice dance free dance at the Ice Dance short dance at the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

BEST HOPES REFEREE PEYPER IS ON TUNE

DUBLIN: Ireland's hopes of backing up the historic win over New Zealand a fortnight ago could rest in today's match referee Jaco Peyper being less harsh on them than he was in the Six Nations defeat to France, says captain Rory Best.

The South African official's penalising of the Irish scrum, his error in calling a knock on in an Irish try when the ball came off the midriff not the hands of Robbie Henshaw, and failing in coach Joe Schmidt's eyes to sin bin two French players for a late hit on Jonathan Sexton and a high tackle on Dave Kearney left a sour taste in the losing side's mouth back in February. However, Best said he hoped the match would be free of such contentious issues as the Irish seek to become the first side since South Africa in 2009 to win back to back Tests against the world champions. "We had a few angling issues last time (with Peyper) at the scrum," said the 34-year-old hooker, who will win his 99th cap. "The All Blacks, though, are a different style of scrum to the French. "We'll have a lot of confidence in him as a referee and hope he can produce because we don't intend to change anything in the way we are disciplined... we have no intention of changing from two weeks ago." All Blacks coach Steve Hansen, who despite the bookies dictating otherwise claimed his side were the underdogs going into the game after losing for the first time in 29 Test meetings stretching over 111 years to the Irish in Chicago, said he was looking to the Kiwis' characteristic of resilience to see them bounce back. "There's a lot of resilience in New Zealand and a lot of earthquakes," Hansen told the Daily Mail. "That's (resilience) been passed down through generations, being

looked down on as colonials-that created a fierce determination for the early All Blacks teams. "Those standards have created a legacy for today's All Blacks. We're only passing through.

"None of us earn the jersey. The responsibility is to make sure the jersey is better than how you found it."

Ireland assistant coach Greg Feek knows exactly what Hansen is referring to as he wore the All Blacks jersey 10 times as a prop and was part of the 1999 World Cup squad that lost sensationally to France in the World Cup semi-final. "I remember getting back after the '99 World Cup, a few guys said what are you coming back here so early for because we had failed. "It's moments like that where you realise the weight in terms of expectations."

As if there wasn't enough emotion surrounding the game at Lansdowne Road two late great players for each side will be prominent in their thoughts. Legendary wing Jonah Lomu was also part of that 1999 All Blacks side and the fact the anniversary of his death a year ago-after years of battling kidney disease-fell on the eve of the match focussed a lot of the present squad's thoughts on him.

"He was an inspiring man, he went through a lot of his own personal battles and faced a lot of adversity in his life away from rugby," said second choice fly-half Aaron Cruden.

"Hopefully the boys use a bit of that on the field." For the Irish there will be no repeat of forming the figure 8 — in memory of Munster coach and former No8 Anthony 'Axel' Foley who died in October aged 42 — like they did in Chicago as the All Blacks performed the haka. "Of course he will forever be in our minds," said Best. —AFP



FORD IN FIGHT FOR TEAMS' TITLE AT WEC SEASON FINALE

DUBAI: The Ford Chip Ganassi Racing team is in the Kingdom of Bahrain this week for the final round of the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship.

After two wins in a row for the #67 Ford GT, the GTE Pro teams' title is within reach, although the latest Balance of Performance changes will make it a challenging target. Andy Priaulx (GB) and Harry Tincknell (GB) need to finish ahead of the current leader (#95 Aston Martin) to snatch the title. Anything could happen though, as the Ferraris are still in the hunt as is the sister #66 Ford GT crew of Stefan Mücke (GER) and Olivier Pla (FRA) who will be pushing hard for their first win of the season.

"Who would have thought that in our debut World Endurance Championship season we would be heading into the final race with a long shot at the teams' title?" said Dave Pericak, Ford Performance global director. "The last two races have been incredible for the team. The Fuji track suited us but the win in Shanghai was even sweeter as we had to work harder for it. We now have a very exciting finale to look forward to in Bahrain."

It was the #67 Ford GT crew of Andy Priaulx and Harry Tincknell who took the wins in Fuji and Shanghai so they are hoping for a hat trick in Bahrain, as Tincknell explains.

"Confidence is really high in the camp, especially on the #67 side of the garage where



we've had two wins in a row," Tincknell said. "The mechanics have worked so hard on the car and improving their pit stops, while the car is getting faster with every race. I said going into Fuji that I wanted three podiums from the last three races so to have won the last two is really incredible. I want to reach that target and it will be extra hard now with the performance adjustments but going for a hat trick of wins would be a fantastic achievement for a

team reaching the end of its first year in the World Championship.

"If we can take the title for the team it will be a huge testament to every single person who has worked on the programme this year," he continued. "Once the race starts Andy and I will be pushing 100 per cent to achieve just that."

Bahrain is expected to be a hot and humid race where tyre degradation will once again



be key. It's a high-speed circuit with some long straights, fast corners and big stops, which should suit the Ford GT.

Stefan Mücke and Olivier Pla are highly motivated to grab their first win of the season in Bahrain.

"We're feeling good going into the last race of the season," Mücke said. "I really like the Bahrain circuit; it has an interesting layout and I have always had good pace there. Bahrain is

a special race as we run into the night, which can make tyre choice a real challenge as the temperature can drop quickly. We are more than ready for this and can't want to get into the battle."

The final pole position of the WEC season will be decided during a 20-minute qualifying session on Friday at 17:00 local time (15:00 CET). The Bapco 6 Hours of Bahrain gets underway on Saturday at 16:00 (14:00 CET).

ATHLETES USING SELFIE TO CLEAN SPORTS OF DOPING

BOSTON: It resembles the symbol for infinity: a sideways "S" that Kara Goucher, Molly Huddle and other elite US athletes suddenly are sporting on biceps, wrists and shins. The tattoos are temporary. But the campaign they represent is an all-out attempt to permanently purge competitive athletics of doping. "People are getting the impression that everyone's dirty," Goucher, a top-ranked marathoner based in Boulder, Colorado, told The Associated Press. "We need to build the sport back up in a positive light."

That's the goal of the Clean Sport Collective, a new anti-doping initiative making a splash on social media. It



GREENVILLE: In this Nov. 2, 2016, self-portrait provided by Esther Atkins, the elite marathoner displays a temporary tattoo of the Clean Sport Collective in Greenville, SC. — AP

launched this month with an aggressive campaign on Facebook, Twitter and other platforms. Olympians and amateurs alike have been publicly pledging to live, train and compete "clean" - totally free of banned performance-enhancing drugs - and taking selfies aimed at both inspiring and shaming track-and-field competitors, swimmers, cyclists, triathletes and others.

Significantly, their bully pulpit is getting a boost from the corporate world: Brooks Running, Oiselle, Skechers and other companies have signed on as partners.

Shanna Sparks Burnette, a former Division I collegiate runner, co-founded the Collective to get the focus off the cheaters and back onto athletes committed to drug-free achievement, whether at an Olympics or a local 5K.

"We really wanted to make a positive impact and change the narrative to celebrate the brands and all of the amazing and inspiring people who are doing it the right way," she said. "The mentality is 'win at all costs' - do whatever you can do to get ahead. As a society of people, we need to not do that to each other."

It's been an especially tough year on the doping front. Russia's track and field federation remains barred from interna-

tional competition, with no end in sight, and all but one member of the team was forced to sit out the Rio Olympics after the World Anti Doping Agency issued a damning report into widespread use of banned substances.

Kenya, too, has been caught up in dozens of offenses implicating dopers who robbed clean athletes of winnings and glory. Last month, former Chicago and Boston Marathon champion Rita Jeptoo had her doping ban doubled to four years and was stripped of her Boston title from 2014, when she'd been hailed as a hero for winning the iconic race's first running since the deadly 2013 finish line bombings. Huddle, a two-time Olympian, said it's gotten to the point where she wonders about some of the runners who outkick her in international competition.

"Sports are supposed to be inspiring to people watching them, but there's so much cynicism implanted now," said Huddle, who wore the Collective's tattoo on the back of her hand while finishing third at this month's TCS New York City Marathon, her debut at the 26.2-mile distance. The upstate New York native, who now lives and trains in Providence, Rhode Island, is calling for a one-strike-you're-out approach to the doping scourge - a lifetime ban, not just a brief suspension, for those who test positive once for a banned substance. "That would put the fear in the back of an athlete's mind: 'What if I get caught?'" she said.

"Right now there's just not enough risk." The Clean Sport Collective means business. Pro athletes who take the pledge promise to donate \$25,000 to the nonprofit if they ever test positive. Those opting for the extra step of certification have to get bloodwork and a "biological passport" that attests they're drug-free.

Corporate partners, likewise, commit to sponsor and invest in clean athletes only. And athletes of all abilities are using the hashtag #cleansportco to post about their vows. To Kevin Rutherford, CEO of Nuun Life, a Seattle-based sports hydration and energy company, that makes sense for both the finish line and the bottom line. "There are very few brands that are saying something outwardly. I just think we've got to take a stand and say we won't stand for it - we'll only work with clean athletes," he said. "There's been scandal after scandal. It's talked about, it hits the headlines, and then it goes away. How do we make it a conversation, a movement? How do we make doping the smoking of sports?"

Jesse Williams, global sports marketing manager at Brooks Running, said contracts for the elite athletes he sponsors all contain a clause forbidding the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

"If we don't hold our athletes to the highest standard, we're not moving the sport forward," he said. "If there's no punishment for the crime, what's the incentive to stop doing it?"

Huddle hopes the sport can clean up its act. "Amazing still does exist," she said, "and clean athletes are still getting it done." — AP

BEAGLE SCORES IN THIRD, CAPITALS BEAT RED WINGS

WASHINGTON: Jay Beagle scored with 5:11 left in the third period to give the injury-ravaged Washington Capitals a 1-0 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night. Dmitry Orlov's shot was stopped by Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard, but Beagle tapped in the rebound for his fourth of the season. Braden Holtby had 25 saves for his first shutout this season and 24th of his career. Washington was coming off a seven-goal outburst against Pittsburgh on Wednesday after scoring just five goals in its previous four games. Howard finished with 27 saves for the Red Wings, who have lost three straight for the first time this season.

PENGUINS 3, ISLANDERS 2, OT

Kris Letang scored 1:24 into overtime, lifting Pittsburgh past the last-place Islanders to rebound from a blowout loss. Sidney Crosby set up the winner by faking a shot and then passing to Letang, who fired in his second of the season. Pittsburgh was beaten 7-1 by the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night, its biggest defeat during coach Mike Sullivan's nearly year-long tenure. Matt Murray had 20 saves, and the Penguins also got goals from Crosby and Trevor Daley. Brock Nelson and rookie Anthony Beauvillier scored for the Islanders, who dropped their fourth straight and are mired in a 1-3-4 stretch. Jaroslav Halak stopped 32 shots in his seventh straight start.

BLUE JACKETS 4, RANGERS 2

Matt Calvert returned from taking a slap shot to his forehead that required about 30 stitches and scored a short-handed, tiebreaking goal in the third period to lift Columbus to its franchise-record seventh straight home win. William Karlsson had a goal and an assist, and Sam Gagner and Boone Jenner also scored for Columbus, which led 2-0 in the second period before the Rangers tied it in the third. The Blue Jackets have won three in a row overall and seven of nine. Sergei Bobrovsky had 25 saves. Michael Grabner and Mika Zibanejad scored for New York, which lost for the third time in 14 games. Henrik Lundqvist made 20 saves for the Rangers. About three minutes after Zibanejad evened the score at 8:32 of the third, the Rangers were looking to take the lead on the power play, but a bandaged Calvert snuck a shot under Lundqvist's right arm on a 2-on-1 with Karlsson.

HURRICANES 3, CANADIENS 2

Victor Rask had a goal and an assist in Carolina's three-goal third period as the Hurricanes rallied past Montreal. Jeff Skinner and Teuvo Teravainen also scored for the Hurricanes during their outburst over a 5-minute, 50-second span of third period. Ron Hainsey had two assists and Cam Ward stopped 31 shots. Jeff Petry and Andrew Shaw scored for league-leading Montreal. Montoya finished with 15 saves. Montoya was playing in the building, now known as PNC Arena, which was the site of the 2004 draft in which he was



WASHINGTON: Anthony Mantha #39 of the Detroit Red Wings moves the puck in front of John Carlson #74 of the Washington Capitals in the third period at Verizon Center on Friday in Washington, DC. — AFP

the first-round pick by the New York Rangers.

BLACKHAWKS 3, FLAMES 2

Marian Hossa's controversial goal with 2:23 left in the third period lifted Chicago past Calgary. Artemi Panarin's hard shot was deflected by Chad Johnson's glove high in the air and as the puck came down behind him, Hossa knocked it in. While replays showed it

might have been a high stick by Hossa, Flames coach Glen Gulutzan had used his time out earlier in the period and was unable to challenge the call. Ryan Hartman and Brent Seabrook also scored for Chicago which has points in 12 of its last 13 (10-1-2) games. Corey Crawford stopped 28 shots. Sam Bennett and Sean Monahan scored for Calgary, and Johnson had 21 saves. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

Pittsburgh 3, NY Islanders 2 (OT); Washington 1, Detroit 0; Columbus 4, NY Rangers 2; Carolina 3, Montreal 2; Chicago 3, Calgary 2.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference						
Central Division						Atlantic Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Chicago	12	4	2	57	45	26	Montreal	13	3	2	58	41
St. Louis	9	6	3	44	50	21						
Winnipeg	9	8	2	56	55	20						
Minnesota	9	6	1	42	29	19						
Dallas	7	6	5	48	59	19						
Nashville	7	6	3	46	44	17						
Colorado	7	9	0	33	45	14						
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division						
Anaheim	9	6	3	48	43	21	NY Rangers	13	5	0	74	42
Edmonton	9	8	1	49	49	19	Washington	11	4	2	46	37
San Jose	9	8	0	39	39	18	Pittsburgh	11	4	2	51	48
Los Angeles	8	9	1	44	47	17	New Jersey	9	4	3	39	34
Vancouver	7	10	1	38	57	15	Columbus	9	4	2	51	35
Calgary	7	11	1	44	63	15	Philadelphia	8	7	3	62	64
Arizona	5	9	2	41	54	12	Carolina	6	6	4	42	48
							NY Islanders	5	8	4	42	54

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

Sports

Athletes using
selfie to clean
sports of dopingToure at the
double as Man
City beat Palace

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ZIMBABWE SALVAGE TIE IN THRILLER WITH WEST INDIES Page 17



MANCHESTER: Arsenal's Petr Cech, centre, saves a shoot during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Arsenal at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, yesterday. —AP

ARSENAL CONTINUES 17-GAME UNBEATEN SEQUENCE



Man Utd 1



Arsenal 1

MANCHESTER: Substitute Olivier Giroud converted Arsenal's first effort on target in the 89th minute to rescue a smash-and-grab 1-1 draw for Arsene Wenger's side at Manchester United yesterday.

Juan Mata's 69th-minute strike looked to have earned Jose Mourinho's United a much-needed win, only for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to tee up his fellow substitute Giroud for a last-gasp leveller.

The result preserved Arsenal's six-point lead over sixth-

place United, but left United falling even further behind the table leaders. Arsenal remain without a league win at Old Trafford in 10 years and Wenger has still not beaten Mourinho in the league in 12 attempts.

But this was a draw that will have felt like a win for the Frenchman, particularly after Mourinho provocatively cited his 12-year wait for a league title in the build-up to the game.

Giroud's goal, only his fourth of the season, extended Arsenal's unbeaten run to 17 games in all competitions and left United with just two wins from their last nine league fixtures. Mourinho, who shared an icy handshake with Wenger before and after the match, must now rouse his players for Thursday's key Europa League home game with Feyenoord. Alexis Sanchez came through a fitness check on a troublesome hamstring to boost Arsenal and he was his usual, buzzing self in the early stages, steering a header off-target from Theo Walcott's flick-on. But with Michael Carrick anchor-

ing United's midfield again and Antonio Valencia, back from a fractured arm, supplying drive from right-back, there was poise and purpose to the hosts' football.

VALENCIA PENALTY CLAIM

Carrick's presence allowed Paul Pogba to get forward and he gave a glimpse of his ability by steamrolling Francis Coquelin and drilling a cross into the box that Arsenal managed to clear.

United felt they should have had a penalty in the 35th minute when Valencia nutmegged Nacho Monreal and then went down as the Spaniard leaned across him, but referee Andre Marriner said no. Pogba then teed up Mata, who had earlier bent a free-kick wide, for a low shot that Petr Cech pushed around the post and the Arsenal goalkeeper also saved three times from Anthony Martial. Arsenal did not register a shot of note in the first half, but as United's momen-

tum waned after half-time, Mourinho turned to his bench.

Wayne Rooney, aiming to redeem himself from late-night carousing while on England duty last weekend, and Daley Blind came on, with Martial and Matteo Darmian making way. Slowly, United picked up the pace and with 21 minutes remaining they made the breakthrough.

Pogba's pass sent Ander Herrera haring towards the byline on the right and from his cut-back, Spanish compatriot Mata arrived to send the ball past Cech with a sumptuously crisp side-foot effort. Wenger introduced Giroud for Mohamed Elneny, which saw Sanchez, whose influence had dimmed, withdraw to the left flank, and Granit Xhaka also entered the fray.

Mourinho's men continued to dominate, Marcos Rojo heading wide from Blind's deep cross, only for Oxlade-Chamberlain to skin Marcus Rashford before crossing for Giroud to snatch an unlikely point. — AFP

MISFIRING LIVERPOOL HELD IN SOUTHAMPTON STALEMATE



Southampton 0



Liverpool 0

SOUTHAMPTON:

Premier League leaders Liverpool missed a chance to burnish their title credentials as they were held to a 0-0 draw at Southampton yesterday.

Jürgen Klopp's men had the majority of possession, but Southampton goalkeeper Fraser Forster denied his former team-mate Sadio Mane in the first half and Philippe Coutinho, Roberto Firmino and Nathaniel Clyne missed second-half chances.

Liverpool remain in first place ahead of Manchester City only on goals scored, but now Chelsea will go above them with a win at Middlesbrough today. Both sides were without key creative players, with Southampton midfielder Dusan Tadic not risked after breaking his nose while on international duty. Former Southampton captain Adam Lallana did not travel with the Liverpool party after sustaining an injury while playing for England. But Coutinho was deemed fit enough to start despite a hamstring problem while Dejan Lovren, another ex-Saint, returned to the back four after recovering from a virus. Lovren was jeered every time he received the ball in an early spell of Liverpool possession that forced the home side back towards their own penalty area. But when the Merseysiders were able to find a gap, either their touch or the final pass eluded them. Southampton were seeing little of the ball and were restricted to attacks on the break, one of which ended with right back Cedric Soares shooting a yard wide with his left foot from 22 yards. The Portugal defender then

sent over a cross from the right that Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius punched clear under very little pressure.

Otherwise it was mostly Liverpool and they created what could have been a decisive opening in the 28th minute when Georginio Wijnaldum found Mane free in the penalty area with an intelligent diagonal pass. Mane's shot was struck hard and true but Saints' England goalkeeper Forster flung himself to his left to save. Five minutes from the break, Mane had another chance as he charged goalwards from the right but Virgil Van Dijk slid in to block the Senegal winger's shot. Saints were still not an attacking force, which was shown when Charlie Austin got into the penalty area and looked around for support-but found none.

The second half opened in similar fashion. Liverpool appealed confidently but in vain for a penalty as Van Dijk tugged Firmino's shirt, Forster saved Mane's shot at the foot of his near post and Coutinho sliced his shot wide after Firmino's pass sent him in on goal. Then it was central defender Joel Matip's turn to miss chances. First he failed to reach Coutinho's inviting free kick from the right with an attempt at a header and the result was the same from a corner from the other side.

Liverpool's wastefulness almost cost them after 59 minutes when Austin's head met a cross from Soares but his effort glanced just wide. Five minutes later Liverpool missed their best chance yet. Coutinho's pass found Firmino advancing into the penalty area with only Forster in front of him, but he slid his shot wide from 10 yards.

Next, Clyne headed wide after beating teammates and opponents alike to a cross from substitute Daniel Sturridge. That was to be the final chance as Southampton settled for a draw after successive defeats by Chelsea and Hull. — AFP



SOUTHAMPTON: Liverpool's English defender Nathaniel Clyne (C) heads the ball towards goal but fails to score during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and Liverpool at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England yesterday. —AFP

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GULF BANK WINS 'BEST CUSTOMER LOYALTY PROGRAM IN KUWAIT'

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LIMA: US President Barack Obama (left) waves next to Peru's Vice President Mercedes Araoz on upon his arrival at Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit yesterday. — AFP

APEC MULLS TRADE OPTIONS IN TRUMP ERA

SUMMIT HOST PERU WARNS OF THREATS TO FREE TRADE

LIMA: Leaders of Pacific rim nations scrambled to find new free trade options yesterday as a looming Donald Trump presidency in the United States sounded a possible death knell for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). After lower-level meetings, US President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russian President Vladimir Putin were due to arrive at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that brings together leaders whose economies represent 57 percent of global gross domestic product.

While campaigning for the presidential election which he won, Trump labeled the TPP a job-killing "disaster" and called for curbs on immigration and steeper tariffs on products from China and Mexico.

Though Obama championed the TPP as a way to counter China's rise, his administration has now stopped trying to win congressional approval for the deal that was signed by 12 economies in the Americas and Asia-Pacific, but excluded China. Without US approval the agreement as currently negotiated cannot come to fruition. China's Xi is selling an alternate vision for regional trade by promoting the Beijing-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which as it stands excludes the Americas.

The Obama administration said China would be happy to take over the United States' role as global free trade promoter. "We see people around the table here right now talking about if the TPP does not move forward

then they're going to have to put their eggs in the RCEP basket," US Trade Representative Michael Froman told journalists. Froman said that RCEP would not have labor and environmental protections that are written into TPP. Mexico, Japan, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore, however, aim to continue with TPP with or without the United States, Mexico's Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said. "We determined that our countries will press ahead with this agreement independently of what Washington decides," Guajardo said of the trade deal on Mexican radio.

DIFFICULT TO EXCLUDE US

Alan Bollard, the APEC secretariat's executive director, said it was premature to write the TPP off, and that excluding the United States could prove difficult. "Actually there were concessions given to the US in those negotiations that they may not want to sign up to without the US in it," he said in an interview. "Without the US, it does change the economics of the whole thing quite a bit."

The 21 members of the (APEC) summit have finished a study for a regional free trade area but will not discuss it until the next annual summit in Vietnam, Peruvian Trade Minister Eduardo Ferreyros said. Both the TPP and RCEP were seen as pathways toward an APEC-wide agreement. Though most were careful not to criticize Trump directly, leaders at APEC, which ends today, universally warned of the dangers of turning away from globalization and free

trade. "To anyone who wants to propose protectionism I suggest that you read the history books about the 1930s," Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said. Sun Xiao from China's Chamber of International Commerce blamed unequal distribution of free trade's benefits for rising protectionism, and suggested it would be different under Chinese leadership. "If there was a bigger role for China we would promote the principle of joint participation and shared benefits to ensure free trade arrangements can benefit all," he said.

GROWING HOSTILITY

The US presidential election is a sign of growing hostility to free trade that threatens the global economy, the president of Peru warned Friday as he opened an Asian-Pacific summit hosted by his nation. President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski told delegates gathering in Lima for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum that global trade already stopped growing in the last two years and would get much worse if nations close off their economies. "It is fundamental that world trade grow again and that protectionism be defeated," Kuczynski said.

The Peruvian leader cited the US election, though he did not specifically mention President-elect Donald Trump, who pledged to overhaul US trade policy and tear up trade agreements such as NAFTA or the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP.

Kuczynski, a US-trained economist and for-

mer investment fund manager who took office this year, also cited the vote in June by Britain to leave the European Union as evidence that "protectionist tendencies are taking over" in the world. "And for anyone who wants to promote protection I suggest they read an economic history of the 1930s," he said, a reference to the Great Depression that many argue was aggravated by protectionist policies. Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, also touched on the US and British elections as she called for action to address rising economic inequality that has accompanied increased global trade.

"The social and political consequences are now becoming all too apparent," she told an audience at the Universidad del Pacifico after an appearance at APEC. "Voters in the United States and the United Kingdom, for example, have sent clear signals of concern about migration, trade and technological change."

APEC has brought more than 1,000 delegates from 21 countries, representing nearly 40 percent of the world's population, to Lima for a forum aimed at easing global commerce. US President Barack Obama was expected to arrive late Friday for his last international summit before leaving office in January. Also expected were Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Obama had been expected to promote the TPP, which would have included 12 members of APEC but not China. That trade pact is now considered politically dead because of Trump's

victory. The Chinese president is expected to seek support for an alternate agreement backed by his country that would include all 21 countries in the organization.

But not all countries were ready to throw in the towel on the TPP. Mexican Finance Minister Ildefonso Fajardo said he met with officials from five other signatories to the pact - Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Japan and Singapore - on the sidelines of the summit and they agreed to forge ahead regardless of what the new US administration decides.

Kuczynski and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe later issued a statement saying they would work to see that the treaty goes into effect. "Both leaders agree that the TPP is not only important geopolitically and in terms of trade, but also for the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole," it said. It's unclear if they'll succeed. Under terms of the TPP agreement signed this year in New Zealand, the vast free trade agreement can only be implemented if it is ratified by at least six countries that account for 85 percent of the combined gross domestic production of the 12 TPP nations. APEC ministers, meeting ahead of the leaders' summit, endorsed a study of the Chinese-backed plan and called for further talks in a joint statement issued Friday that also echoed concerns about protectionism. "Faced with rising skepticism over trade and stagnated trade growth, we reiterate our commitment to build an open economy in the Asia-Pacific," it said. — Agencies

OIL COULD RISE TO \$55 IF ALL PRODUCERS COOPERATE: IRAN

DUBAI: Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh expressed optimism yesterday about an upcoming OPEC meeting and said crude prices could jump to \$55 a barrel if an agreement is reached and non-OPEC producers cooperate.

"We are receiving positive signals that increase the likelihood of agreement at the meeting ... and I'm optimistic about the situation," Zanganeh told state television by telephone, after meeting OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo in Tehran ahead of the Nov 30 meeting.

"I think if we can reach an agreement, God willing, the price would rapidly reach above \$50 per barrel ... If non-OPEC (producers) also cooperate, I don't think \$55 per barrel would be out of reach." Benchmark Brent crude rose by 37 cents to \$46.86 per barrel on Friday. Asked about an OPEC proposal for an output cap of 3.92 million barrels per day for Iran, Zanganeh said: "We have not reached any agreement. We have expressed our views and we look forward to explaining them."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is moving closer towards finalising its first deal since 2008 to limit oil output, with most members prepared to offer Iran significant flexibility on production volumes, ministers and sources

said on Friday. Iran has been the main stumbling block for such a deal because Tehran wants exemptions as it tries to regain oil market share after the easing of Western sanctions in January.

Meanwhile, Iraq's exports from the Kirkuk oil field through an export pipeline to Turkey have dropped because of power outages, an official at state-run North Oil Co said yesterday. Export are currently running at 100,000 barrels per day (bpd), compared with 133,000 bpd in October, the official said.

The pipeline delivers crude to Turkish terminal of Ceyhan, on the Mediterranean. It also carries crude produced in fields developed by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), an autonomous region in north Iraq. OPEC's second-largest producer after Saudi Arabia, Iraq exports most of its oil through the southern ports, on the Gulf.

Total exports for September, including the KRG, were 3.871 million bpd, of which 3.276 million bpd were shipped from the southern ports, according to the last figures published by the nation's state-oil marketer SOMO, in October.

North Oil resumed exports through the Kurdish-controlled pipeline in August, after a five-month halt caused by a dispute on oil revenue sharing between Baghdad and the KRG. — Reuters



AMRITSAR: Indian senior citizens gather outside a bank as they wait to deposit and exchange 500 and 1000 rupee notes in Amritsar yesterday. Long queues formed outside banks in India since the government's shock decision to withdraw the two largest denomination notes from circulation. India's government asked its citizens to put up with what it called the "short-term inconvenience" when it announced the move to withdraw 85 percent of currency in circulation in a bid to tackle widespread tax evasion. — AFP



TOYOTA: UAE CAN BECOME CAPITAL OF CLEAN ENERGY WORLD 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUTURE MOBILITY

DUBAI: Standing by its commitment to environmental sustainability, Toyota Motor Corporation has highlighted the UAE's potential to become the capital of the clean energy world by producing and utilizing hydrogen as a promising energy source that powers the most eco-friendly vehicles, namely Fuel Cell Vehicles (FCVs).

At the 2nd International Conference on Future Mobility, Toyota has proposed that the possibility of setting up a hydrogen-based society is studied and evaluated to understand the role it can play in contributing to the UAE Vision 2021's sustainability goals and help mitigate the environmental impact of fossil fuel consumption.

Toyota introduced Prius as the world's first mass-production hybrid vehicle in 1997. To date, the company has sold around 9 million hybrids that have already contributed to a CO2 reduction of 67 million tons and this number is increasing further.

"We believe that hybrids with their eco-friendly technology offer a great way to reduce fossil fuel consumption and thereby decreased CO2 emissions. However, to boost this even further, technologies such as those that power FCVs are crucial," said Kiyotaka Ise, Senior Managing Officer of Toyota Motor Corporation.

"Having identified hydrogen as a promising energy source for the future, we are committed to developing

FCV as the ultimate environmentally friendly vehicle," he added. Highlighting some of the numerous advantages of FCVs, Ise noted that hydrogen as a fuel source for FCVs can be produced using a wide variety of primary energy sources. In addition, FCVs emit only water when driven, thereby producing zero CO2 emissions, with the powertrain offering smooth, quiet driving and excellent acceleration at low-to-mid range speeds. FCVs can also be used as a power supply, which can prove to be extremely useful in case of natural disasters. Further, they also offer an excellent range, and refueling them only takes three minutes - giving owners a considerable freedom of use.

"If hydrogen usage is extended beyond vehicles towards an establishment of hydrogen-based society, naturally, the benefits of CO2 reduction would be much greater," Ise added.

The UAE already has an abundant supply of hydrogen being generated from using excess capacity at oil refineries and ammonia plants, as well as a byproduct at its existing caustic soda and ethylene plants.

"A careful assessment of hydrogen's potential as the fuel source of the future can help the UAE become the capital of clean energy world," Ise concluded. The 2nd International Conference on Future Mobility is taking place until 15 November, 2016 at Grand Hyatt, Dubai.

ASAR, KUWAIT LEGAL COUNSEL TO JOINT LEAD MANAGERS OF AUB'S \$200M SUKUK ISSUANCE

KUWAIT: ASAR - Al-Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR), Kuwait's leading and most prominent corporate law firm, and one of the region's top tier law firms, is pleased to have acted as Kuwait law counsel to Citigroup Global Markets Limited, CrEdit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, and Credit Suisse Securities (Europe) Limited (collectively, the Joint Lead Managers) in relation to the \$200 million issuance of Tier 1 Sukuk by

tory of acting as Kuwait law counsel in high quality debt capital market transactions, and this issuance of Ahli United Bank is no exception. While global and GCC markets remain under pressure, we believe that similar transactions are key to the overall stability of steady economic growth. We acknowledge the challenging environment under which banks in general are operating, and thus we are proud

United Bank, the relevant regulators in Kuwait including the CBK and the CMA, and the Joint Lead Managers."

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with comprehensive legal advice and support for their business activities in Kuwait, Bahrain, across the GCC and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and commercial law firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the International Financial Law Review (IFLR), Chambers Global Guide, and the Legal 500. In 2016, ASAR was awarded with the IFLR National Law Firm of the Year Award; an award which ASAR has been delighted to receive for the 8th consecutive year.

ASAR lawyers have also received multiple awards under different categories in the Fourth Edition of 'Best Lawyers' in Kuwait.

ASAR - Al Ruwayer & Partners ("ASAR") is Kuwait's leading tier one corporate law firm and one of the most prominent firms operating across the GCC. ASAR provides clients with comprehensive legal support for their business activities. Together with its office in Bahrain, the firm advises a broad array of local and international businesses in both the public and private sectors.

ASAR operates across an extensive list of practices that include banking and finance, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, privatizations, corporate and commercial transactions, energy, real estate, restructuring, private equity, shipping, employment, environment, franchising, insurance, agencies and distributorships, construction, government projects, intellectual property, securities, taxation, commercial litigation and arbitration.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and commercial law firm in Kuwait by legal guides such as the Chambers Global Guide, International Financial Law Review and the Legal 500.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES FIRST WINNER OF AL-THURAYA SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday Mohammad Eid Adnan Ali as the first lucky winner of the newly re-launched Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The winner expressed his excitement for being presented with a Nissan Patrol SUV.

The new draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month and with every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The introduction of this new draw is part of Burgan Bank's approach of rewarding loyal customers with higher chances of winning while encouraging new customers to benefit from the bank's unique offerings.

The Al-Thuraya Account's features range from the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and any other major currencies, access to account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards and much more.

Customers wishing to open an Al-Thuraya account can do so by simply visiting the nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details, or simply call the bank's call center on 1804080.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second

largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENA region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS, HONG KONG AIRLINES EXPAND CODESHARE

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has announced an expanded codeshare agreement with Hong Kong Airlines, an internationally-acclaimed Skytrax 4-star airline, to give air travellers enhanced connections between Australasia, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America.

The two airlines have obtained regulatory approval to codeshare on nine additional routes, bringing the total number of services in their codeshare agreement to 14.

Under the expanded codeshare agreement, Hong Kong Airlines has placed its 'HX' code on Etihad Airways' flights between Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the UAE, and a number of the most-visited cities in Europe and North America, including Paris, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Manchester, Milan, Munich, New York and Zurich.

Etihad Airways has placed its 'EY' code on Hong Kong Airlines' scheduled flights between Hong Kong and Auckland, the thriving multi-cultural tourism hub of New Zealand.

Kevin Knight, Chief Strategy and Planning Officer at Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Our codeshare agreement with Hong Kong Airlines was initiated in 2014 with a primary focus on enhanced connectivity between Asia and the Middle East. Ever since then, we have continuously reviewed opportunities to provide improved offerings and greater access to our customers in

Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi and beyond. The expanded codeshare will drive commercial opportunities for both airlines, and more importantly unleash the true benefits of the partnership by offering business and leisure travellers enhanced connections and a more frequent service between Australasia, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America."

Li Dianchun, Chief Commercial



Officer of Hong Kong Airlines, said: "We are glad to strengthen the partnership with Etihad Airways through a codeshare expansion. There is an increasingly strong demand in Asia for travel to the GCC region, Europe and the Americas. On the other hand, the visitors from the GCC region and even Europe will also enjoy convenient connections via Hong Kong to Auckland, one of the most popular destinations in the southern hemisphere. We have no doubt the enhanced connectivity will provide a wider range of choices while experiencing the world-class services and products offered by both airlines."

Etihad Airways and Hong Kong Airlines initiated their codeshare agreement in December 2014, allowing Etihad Airways to place its 'EY' code on Hong Kong Airlines' flights between Hong Kong and Bangkok, and on flights between Hong Kong and Okinawa, while Hong Kong Airlines placed its 'HX' code on Etihad Airways' service between Abu Dhabi and Bangkok. The codeshare partnership

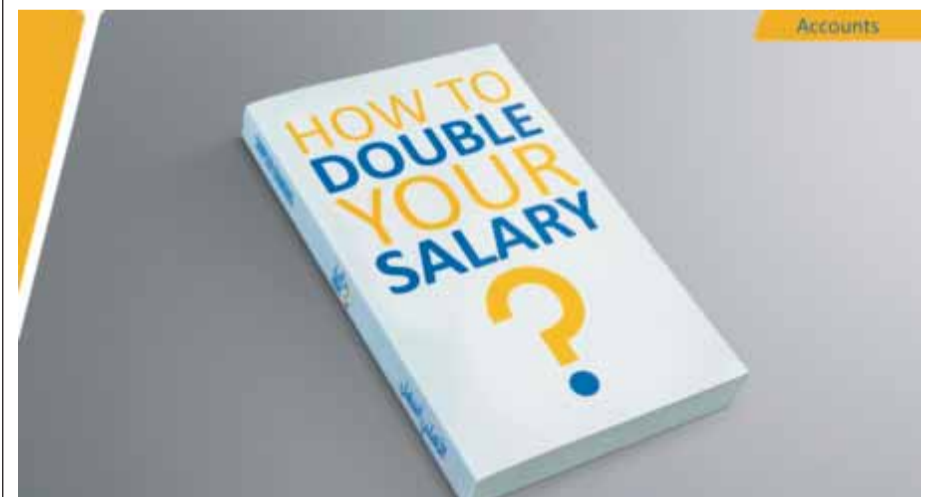
was expanded in June 2015 with 'HX' code on Etihad Airways' Madrid and Hong Kong services. Etihad Airways will increase the frequency of its Madrid service from four flights a week to daily from 1 June 2017, with Hong Kong Airlines also codesharing on the additional flight.

Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) is a diversified global aviation and travel group comprising four business divisions - Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, Etihad Airways Engineering, Hala Group and Airline Equity Partners. The group has minority investments in sev-

en airlines: airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Jet Airways, Virgin Australia, and Swiss-based Darwin Airline, trading as Etihad Regional.

From its Abu Dhabi base, Etihad Airways flies to, or has announced plans to serve, 117 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. The airline has a fleet of 123 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, with 204 aircraft on firm order, including 71 Boeing 787s, 25 Boeing 777Xs, 62 Airbus A350s and 10 Airbus A380s. For more information, please visit: etihad.com

Established in 2006, Hong Kong Airlines is a full-service airline firmly rooted in Hong Kong with a wide destination network covering over 30 major cities across the Asia Pacific region, including Gold Coast, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Tokyo, Sapporo, Bangkok, Bali and Okinawa. The current operating fleet is made up of 34 Airbus aircraft with an average age of around 4.1 years, consisting of 29 passenger aircraft and five freighters, being one of the youngest fleet in the world. Hong Kong Airlines has been awarded the internationally acclaimed 4-star rating from Skytrax since 2011. Adhering to the concept of "Fresh and Very Hong Kong", Hong Kong Airlines is committed to "Bringing Greater Journeys Sky High", and is dedicated to providing a pleasant and enjoyable journey to all passengers.



ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 29TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 29th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 14th November, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017.

The winners this week were:

- 1) Ibrahim Naser Ibrahim Alammari, Al-Zahraa Branch
 - 2) Tintu Mary Alex, Andalus Branch
- New customers who transfer their salary

to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 21st November, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

HYPERLOOP ONE SETTLES CO-FOUNDER LAWSUIT

SAN FRANCISCO: Hyperloop One on Friday said it settled a lawsuit filed by a co-founder who accused former colleagues of nepotism, threats and mismanagement at the startup devoted to revolutionizing transport with super-speedy travel. "Hyperloop One is pleased to announce that it has reached a confidential resolution of litigation with its former employees and looks forward to continuing to execute on its business plan," a spokesman said in an email to AFP.

Co-founder Brogan BamBrogan, who

left the company in June, was among others from the startup to file a civil suit in a California state court. "It became apparent that those in control of the company continually used the work of the team to augment their personal brands, enhance their romantic lives and line their pockets," the lawsuit said. Orin Snyder, an attorney representing Hyperloop One, responded at the time by calling the lawsuit an "unfortunate and delusional" effort by employees behind a failed coup at the startup.

The case was filed just months after

Hyperloop One held its first public test in the desert outside Las Vegas, trying out engine components designed to zip pods that carry people or cargo through tubes at speeds of 700 miles per hour or more. The company hopes to realize a futuristic vision for transportation at near-supersonic speeds laid out three years ago by billionaire Elon Musk, the entrepreneur behind electric car company Tesla and private space exploration endeavor Space X. "Lawsuits can be distracting for companies; they often halt momentum until they can be resolved,"

Hyperloop One chief executive Rob Lloyd said in a staff memo, a copy of which was obtained by AFP. "That didn't happen here."

Dubai this month said it is collaborating with Hyperloop One to look into the feasibility of constructing a near-supersonic transport link that could slash travel times to Emirati capital Abu Dhabi to minutes. The deal will see both parties explore a route for a vacuum-sealed pod transportation system, which could potentially cut travel between Dubai and Abu Dhabi - 90 miles apart - to

around 12 minutes. The startup says the system offers better safety than passenger jets, lower build and maintenance costs than high-speed trains, and energy usage, per person, that is similar to a bicycle. Last month, port colossus DP World Group of Dubai announced it was investing in the concept, joining backers including French national rail company SNCF, US industrial conglomerate General Electric and Russian state fund RDIF. Hyperloop One has so far raised more than \$160 million (145 million euros). — AFP

PIONEERING US HEART SURGEON COOLEY DIES

TEXAS: Dr Denton Cooley, who sparked controversy and a feud with another pioneering heart surgeon when he performed the world's first artificial heart implant in 1969, died on Friday at the age of 96, the Texas Heart Institute said. Cooley, who also performed the first successful human heart transplant in the United States, founded the Texas Heart Institute and was one of the most celebrated heart surgeons in the world. The Texas native was also known however for a long-running dispute with another world-renowned innovative surgeon in Houston, Dr Michael DeBakey, over the implant operation.

A spokeswoman for Texas Children's Hospital, where Cooley's son-in-law acts as surgeon in chief, said Cooley died in his Houston home on Friday morning, surrounded by his four daughters. Cooley, who estimated he operated on about 100,000 people, developed many techniques used in cardiovascular surgery and received honors including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award. "Nothing can compare with the activity of the human heart," Cooley, who grew up wanting to be a dentist like his father, once told an interviewer. "And besides that, it's always had a special connotation in our society, or in our life. It's been the seat of the soul and the seat of emotions."

"But now we find that it really is a tough little organ. It can tolerate a great deal and it certainly has been revealed that it can be corrected in many ways and even replaced by organ transplantation." Cooley performed the first successful heart transplant in the United States in 1968, a year after South African Dr Christiaan Barnard had done the first one in the world. Cooley also broke ground with surgical methods to fix congenital heart anomalies in infants and children and methods for repairing and replacing diseased heart valves and went on to found the Texas Heart Institute.

On April 4, 1969, with no donor heart available for a dying patient, Cooley

implanted an artificial heart in Haskell Karp, a 47-year-old man from Illinois. The device kept Karp alive for 65 hours until a human heart became available. Cooley transplanted the human heart to Karp but the patient died a day later. The procedure led to trouble because Cooley had used an artificial heart developed in the laboratory of his former partner DeBakey without his approval. Cooley, who had worked with DeBakey at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, argued that he implanted the heart device in an urgent bid to keep his patient alive until a human heart was available for transplant.

DeBakey called what Cooley did an unethical "childish act" in order to claim a medical landmark, as well as a theft and a betrayal. The device had been tested in animals but had not been approved for use in people. The US government ordered an investigation and the American College of Surgeons censured Cooley. The controversy prompted Cooley to leave Baylor. In 2007 Cooley and DeBakey ended their feud and DeBakey died the next year at age 99. "He wanted to be able to say he was the first one to use an artificial heart in a patient," DeBakey told the New York Times in 2007. "I never quite understood it other than his ambition was almost uncontrolled. I mean, you don't let your ambition get you in trouble." Cooley told the Times he was justified in doing the implant.

He said that at the time he was performing more heart operations than DeBakey or anyone else and viewed himself as "the appropriate person to do the first implantation of an artificial heart." It was not until 1982 that the first artificial heart intended for permanent use was implanted in a person, at the University of Utah. In his interview with the Times, Cooley said a lawyer once asked him during a trial if he thought of himself as the world's best heart surgeon. "Yes," he replied. "Don't you think that's being rather immodest?" the lawyer asked. "Perhaps," Cooley said. "But remember I'm under oath." — Reuters



MARRAKESH: A member of an International delegation plays with a giant air globe ball outside the COP22 climate conference on Friday. — AFP

UNDER TRUMP SHADOW, CLIMATE TALKS SET 2018 DEADLINE TO AGREE ON RULES

TRUMP URGED TO RECONSIDER CLIMATE DOUBTS

MARRAKESH: Nearly 200 nations agreed around midnight on Friday to work out the rules for a landmark 2015 global deal to tackle climate change within two years in a new sign of international support for a pact opposed by US President-elect Donald Trump. At the end of two-week talks on global warming in Marrakesh, which were extended an extra day, many nations appealed to Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, to reconsider his threat to tear up the Paris Agreement for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Showing determination to keep the Paris Agreement on track, the conference agreed to work out a rule book at the latest by December 2018. A rule book is needed because the Paris Agreement left many details vague, such as how countries will report and monitor their national pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Two years may sound like a long time, but it took four to work out detailed rules for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement's predecessor,

which obliged only developed countries to cut their emissions. Paris requires commitments by all.

The final text also urged rich nations to keep building towards a goal of providing \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020. Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar told a news conference that Marrakesh had been the start of turning promises made in Paris into action. "We will continue on the path," he said, urging Trump to join other nations in acting to limit emissions. Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who will host next year's climate meeting in Germany, invited Trump to drop his scepticism about climate change and visit the South Pacific nation to see the effects of stronger storms and rising seas.

Trump plans to favor fossil fuels over renewable energies and has threatened to halt any US taxpayer funds for UN climate programs. On Thursday, governments reaffirmed their commitment to "full implementation" of the Paris accord

which seeks to phase out greenhouse gas emissions this century and to limit a global average rise in temperature to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). "Not one country has said that if President Trump pulls the United States out of Paris, they will follow him," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Environmental groups said the outcome in Marrakesh was a step in the right direction, but many issues needed to be resolved over the next two years, including funds for developing nations. "Rich countries have been trying to wriggle out of their pledges to help poorer countries meet the costs of coping with impacts and greening their economies," said Harjeet Singh at ActionAid. Also on Friday, a group of 48 developing countries most at risk from climate change said they would strive to make their energy production 100 percent renewable "as rapidly as possible", as part of efforts to limit global warming. — Reuters



In this file photo, Dr Denton A Cooley holds up a Jarvick-7 heart pump model at a news conference in Houston, while discussing the 20 year anniversary of the first implant of an artificial heart in a man. Cooley, a Texas surgeon who performed some of the earliest heart transplants and implanted the world's first artificial heart, has died. — AP

CANADA OPIOID ABUSE A 'HEALTH EMERGENCY'

OTTAWA: Deaths from opiate overdoses in Canada have become a "public health crisis" that could prompt the government to declare a national health emergency, the Canadian Health Minister said Friday. If such a measure is found "appropriate and helpful," then "we will use all the tools available," Jane Philpott said in Ottawa at the opening of a national summit on the crisis. Others participants reinforced the sense of urgency. An estimated 2,000 Canadians died from opiate overdoses in 2015, said Don Davies, spokesman for the left-leaning New Democratic Party.

"Many provinces are seeing an even higher number of fatalities in 2016," he added. "When you have 700-plus deaths occurring in Ontario each year, a similar number in British Columbia, growing numbers in places like Alberta and Manitoba, I think there is a societal understanding that we need to act urgently and effectively," Ontario Health Minister Eric Haskins said. Experts say the crisis is being fueled by the proliferation of counterfeit tablets of opiates such as fentanyl, a powerful sedative that caused the death of pop icon Prince in April.

In British Columbia, authorities recorded 332 fatal fentanyl overdoses during the first nine months of this year, three more than last year. The drug is believed to be 100 times more potent than morphine. "A lethal dose of pure fentanyl for a typical adult can be as little as two milligrams, or the size of a few grains of table salt," the federal police said. The health care industry also took

on some blame for opioid painkiller prescription practices, which often lead to addiction. "We also recognize that opioid prescribing patterns are one of the many contributing factors to this crisis," the Canadian Medical Association said.

Ottawa resident Donna May said her daughter became hooked after a doctor prescribed the opiate OxyContin following a fall on a staircase. Her daughter's addiction prompted her to buy fentanyl on the streets after her OxyContin prescription ran out, and she eventually ended up homeless, May told state broadcaster CBC before speaking at the conference.

"It eventually led to her contracting a flesh-eating disease and taking her life," Solving the crisis, Philpott said, must involve increasing the number of medically supervised injection centers as well as the use of naloxone-which counteracts the effects of overdoses-by first responders in the field.

Vancouver is the only Canadian city that allows intravenous drug users to inject themselves with illegal substances under medical supervision-currently has a single injection center. However, Montreal is set to open three, along with a mobile clinic. Philpott said she wants to speed up the opening of centers "in communities that need them" by amending Canada's drug law, which is delaying the process. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has already changed the law to make naloxone available over the counter and distribute it to federal police officers for administering to victims.— AFP

IN GRAVEYARD OF DEAD CORAL IN PACIFIC, HOPE AND LIFE BLOOM

DESPITE MASS MORTALITY, THERE ARE SIGNS OF HOPE'

WASHINGTON: In a ghost town of dead coral off a remote Pacific island, scientists have found a bit more life. In excursions a year ago and then last April, scientists examined the normally stunning coral reefs around the island of Kiritimati and pronounced it mostly a boneyard of dead coral. About 85 percent of the coral was dead, 10 percent was sick and bleached but still technically alive, and only 5 percent was doing OK. The same scientists returned this month and found that 6 to 7 percent of the coral is alive and not bleached, said University of Victoria coral reef scientist Julia Baum, speaking by Skype from the island.

"We left with a sense of dread and came back with a renewed purpose because there are some corals that literally came back from the brink," said Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb, who returned from the expedition earlier. "It's the best we could have hoped for." Many of the fish that rely on the reef and had been absent seem to be back, Cobb said. Hot water - mostly from El Nino, the natural occasional warming of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide, and man-made global warming - had made the area one of the worst hit coral spots in the world. Later, nearby Jarvis Island was even more damaged. And the death of 85 percent of the coral of the better known and much larger Great Barrier Reef has been reported, said C Mark Eakin, coral reef watch coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "But despite this mass mortality, there are a few small signs of hope," Baum said. "It's clear that coral reefs have great resilience and the coral here is trying to recover." Not only has some of the bleached coral recovered, she said, but "there are coral babies that have settled on the reef sometime in the last year to year and half and these are the reef's best hope for recovery." A study published Thursday in the journal

Current Biology goes back more than a million years and finds that even during mass die-offs, coral species are able to rebound. Eakin points to Scott reef off western Australia where 12 years after the damaging 1998 El Nino coral die-off, nearly half the original reef revived. But it was damaged

again by the recent El Nino. Even after the recovery seen at Kiritimati, Baum is wary: "It's like having a patient who is very sick and instead of letting them recover we keep infecting them with more and more illnesses. There's only so much that any person - or any natural system - can take." — AP



Photo shows Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb in November at the remote Pacific island of Kiritimati, finding a bit of hope and life amid what (in April) was a ghost town of dead coral. — AP

WHY THE ZIKA VIRUS IS CAUSING ALARM

Global health officials are racing to better understand the Zika virus behind a major outbreak that began in Brazil last year and has spread to more than 60 countries. The following are some questions and answers about the virus and current outbreak:

How do people become infected?

Zika is transmitted to people through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the same type that spreads dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are found in all countries in the Americas except Canada and continental Chile. The virus can also be transmitted through sex, from either a male or female partner who has been infected, and a few cases of apparent infection via blood transfusion have been reported.

How do you treat Zika?

There is no treatment for Zika infection. Companies and scientists are racing to develop a safe and effective vaccine, but a preventative shot is not expected to be ready for widespread use for at least two or three years.

How dangerous is it?

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that Zika virus infection in pregnant women can cause the birth defect microcephaly. The condition is defined by unusually small heads that can result in developmental problems and other severe brain abnormalities in babies. The World Health Organization has said the "most likely explanation" is that Zika virus infection during pregnancy is a cause of congenital brain abnormalities including microcephaly. In addition, the agency said that Zika infection in children and adults can trigger Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological disorder that can result in paralysis. Brazil has confirmed more than 2,100 cases of microcephaly believed to be linked to Zika infections in pregnant women. It is investigating 3,086 suspected cases of microcephaly. Current research indicates the greatest microcephaly risk is associated with infection during the first trimester of pregnancy, but health officials have warned an impact could be seen in later weeks. Recent studies have shown evidence of Zika in amniotic fluid, placenta and fetal brain tissue.

What are the symptoms?

People infected with Zika may have a mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain and fatigue that can last for two to seven days. As many as 80 percent of people infected never develop symptoms.



MEXICO CITY: Photo shows a mosquito in Mexico City. The World Health Organization on November 18, 2016 announced in an online press conference that the Zika virus outbreak no longer poses a world public health emergency. —AFP

How can Zika be contained?

Controlling Zika's spread requires eliminating mosquito breeding sites and taking precautions against mosquito bites such as using insect repellent and mosquito nets. US and international health officials have advised pregnant women to avoid travel to Latin American and Caribbean countries, sections of Miami, Florida in the United States and Singapore where they may be exposed to Zika. They are also advising that men and women who have traveled to Zika outbreak areas use condoms or abstain from sex for six months to prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

How widespread?

Active Zika outbreaks have been reported in more than 60 countries or territories, most of them in the Americas, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Brazil has been the country most affected. Africa (1): Cape Verde; Americas (49): Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Bonaire, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saba, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthelmy, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Eustatius, St Maarten, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, United States, US Virgin Islands and Venezuela. Asia, Oceania and Pacific Islands (11): American Samoa, Fiji, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore and Tonga.

What is the history of Zika?

The Zika virus is found in tropical locales with large mosquito populations. Outbreaks of Zika have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Southern Asia and the Western Pacific. The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in rhesus monkeys and was first identified in people in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania, according to the WHO.

What other complications?

Zika has also been associated with other neurological disorders, including serious brain and spinal cord infections. The long-term health consequences of Zika infection are unclear. Other uncertainties surround the incubation period of the virus and how Zika interacts with other viruses that are transmitted by mosquitoes, such as dengue. — Reuters



PERNAMBUCO: Angelica Pereira (left) watches as her 1-year-old daughter Luiza (disabled by the Zika virus) goes through a physical therapy session at the UPAE hospital in Caruaru, Pernambuco state, Brazil. — AP

WHO DECLARES END OF ZIKA EMERGENCY

VIRUS REMAINS A THREAT

GENEVA: The World Health Organization on Friday declared that Zika no longer constitutes an international emergency, but it stressed a need for a long-term effort to address the virus, which has been linked to birth defects and neurological complications. Officials on WHO's Emergency Committee made clear the Zika still constitutes a global public health threat. They warned the virus, which has been found in 60 countries since the outbreak was identified last year in Brazil, will continue to spread where mosquitoes that carry the virus are present.

Removing the international emergency designation will put Zika in a class with other diseases, such as dengue, that pose serious risks and require continued research, including efforts to develop effective vaccines. But some public health experts worried that losing the "international emergency" label could slow research into the virus, which continues to cause infections in the United States and elsewhere.

WHO in February declared Zika a public health emergency of international concern - a designation under international law that compels countries to report outbreaks. The move was part of an effort to determine if Zika was linked to reports in Brazil of the severe birth defect microcephaly and the neurological disorder Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Traditionally, Zika had only been thought to cause mild symptoms. That goal has been met, said Dr David Heymann, chair of the Zika Emergency Committee and a professor of infectious disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in a conference call with reporters following the

committee meeting in Geneva. Because research has now shown that Zika and microcephaly are linked, "the committee felt that what is best now is a very robust technical response to the virus, and that would require work within WHO," he said. The UN health agency maintained recommendations including that people exposed to the Zika virus should take preventive measures for six months to avoid sexual transmission. "It remains crucially important that pregnant women avoid traveling to areas with local transmission of Zika, because of the devastating complications that can occur in fetuses that become infected during pregnancy," the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said in a statement.

Some experts, expressed concern that losing the "international emergency" designation might result in less support for research into the virus. "I think WHO's decision is unwise," said Lawrence Gostin, a global health law expert from Georgetown University.

"Although Zika's spread has waned, it still holds the potential for an explosive epidemic. If it were to reemerge in the Americas or jump to another part of the world, it would significantly threaten a new generation of children born with disabilities such as microcephaly." Gostin said the international response to Zika has been "lethargic" and WHO's decision will give countries even less reason to invest in preparedness and research.

At the press conference, Dr Peter Salama, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Program, insisted that WHO is "not downgrading the importance of Zika." By framing Zika as a

longer program of work, Salama said, "we are sending the message that Zika is here to stay and WHO's response is here to stay in a very robust manner." Dr Amesh Adalja, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, said public health emergency declarations help direct the world's attention to a disease, and the Zika emergency designation accomplished that goal. But much work remains to be done, including the development of a vaccine, he added. The removal of the emergency declaration "doesn't change that fact."

Brazil hard hit

There have been some 2,300 confirmed cases worldwide of babies born with microcephaly, most in Brazil, but the figure is most likely a "significant under-estimate", Salama said. Heymann said the Brazilian government is conducting studies to look for additional factors that could explain the high number of cases there, particularly in the northeastern part of the country, but so far those studies have turned up nothing. Salama said 28 countries and territories have now reported microcephaly and 19 countries have reported Guillain-Barre Syndrome. He said it is "very likely we will see many reports of microcephaly, including countries in Latin America such as Guatemala and Colombia." The US CDC said WHO's announcement does not change the urgent need to better understand Zika's impact on fetuses and infants, to develop better diagnostics and to make vaccines that can prevent infection and spread of disease. — Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



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JUMEIRAH GROUP ORGANIZES ITS ANNUAL ROADSHOW IN KUWAIT

DOUMET: TOURISM ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE TO GROUP'S GROWTH

Jumeirah Group, the global luxury hotel company, held the first of its annual regional Roadshow events at Jumeirah Messilah Hotel and Spa in Kuwait, with the next steps in Riyadh, Jeddah and finally Doha. The Kuwait Roadshow event took place on Sunday 13 November, welcoming over 300 specialists in the travel trade industry, including tourism, hotels, tour operators, and travel agents as well as the Group's prominent clients and media representatives. The Group revealed its latest growth and expansion developments internationally, highlighting recently inaugurated hotels, resorts and new facilities worldwide which draw Kuwaiti tourists.

Jad Doumet, Director of Global Sales at Jumeirah Group said: "We decided to commence our regional roadshow with Kuwait given the importance of this market for the Group. Kuwait is among the top five markets with tourists visiting Jumeirah Group's hotels around the world. In addition, it also contributes to the growth of our Group's business through bookings at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa in Kuwait in light of the increased traffic to Kuwait,

especially from around the GCC."

"What distinguishes Jumeirah Group is its hotels and luxury resorts that offer unique experiences across three continents, which is what we have focused on through the event. The United Arab Emirates is one of the main destinations for visitors from Kuwait however, our hotels in other cities have marked an increase in Kuwaiti guests as well. The hotels include the Jumeirah Bilgah Beach Hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan, as well as Jumeirah Dhevanafushi and Jumeirah Vittaveli Resorts in the Maldives. The Maldives Vittaveli recently launched the Royal villa which includes five bedrooms, specially designed to meet guests' needs from Kuwait and the Gulf due to the privacy and luxury it offers," he added.

With regards to expansion plans, Doumet explained: "The Group currently manages 5,500 hotel rooms across 21 hotels and resorts in 10 different destinations. We aim to open 25 new facilities, including 10 new hotels and resorts planned to open between 2017 and 2019. In addition, we will be upgrading and expanding facilities to

ensure we attract new travelers and continue to provide exceptional experiences to our guests, such as the opening of the Burj Al-Arab Terrace, which has already begun to attract tourists from across the GCC and from Kuwait in particular."

The newest addition to the Jumeirah portfolio was highlighted during the event, Jumeirah Al-Naseem in Dubai. The hotel name is inspired by the breeze of fresh air (which is Naseem in Arabic). Located across from Burj Al-Arab on the longest stretch of private beach in the city, the hotel boasts 430 luxurious rooms and suites. It is scheduled to open on December 1, 2016 presenting its guests with the finest experiences in Madinat Jumeirah. It includes more than 10 restaurants and cafes, a private beach club as well as parks and green spaces.

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa comprises seven restaurants and modern hallways, Talise Spa, in addition to beautiful beaches, which make it a luxurious and favorite destination for travelers from the UAE, KSA and the Gulf region.



THE PROMENADE CELEBRATES 6TH RUN Q8 SUCCESS

The Promenade, Kuwait's neighborhood mall, has celebrated the success of the recently concluded Run Q8, a charitable initiative that supports the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Unit, under Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute, a non-profit organization.

The sixth annual 10km and 5km runs, which attracted more than 2,000 runners, saw The Promenade supporting as a Platinum Sponsor. In the run up to the event, The Promenade served as the collection point for bib numbers and t-shirts, and actively encouraged staff, friends, family and the wider community to sign up for the run. Various stores across the mall also provided gifts that were awarded to winners of the races.

"We are committed to initiatives such as the recent Run

Q8, which not only supports the wider community, but go further in offering much needed care to those who require it. The Promenade is a charity mall and alongside our own internal activities, we are a keen ambassador to raise awareness of worthy causes," Alyah Al-Jasser, Al Othman Portfolio Marketing Manager said.

Owned by the Abdulla Abdullatif Al Othman Charity Fund which provides funds for buildings mosques, schools, as well as helping the orphans and families in need, the Promenade is also home of the Promenade Culture Centre, the cultural arm of the mall. It is a multi-purpose development, created to act as a canvas for artistic expression in Kuwait. Its mission is to actively encourage and host a variety of artistic and cultural activities for the community.

AUK HOSTS HYDROPONIC EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOPS

The College of Business and Economics at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) will be organizing "Hydroponic Exhibition and Workshops". The event will include three exhibitors: Smart Hydro Company, Al-Shaheen Nurseries Company and Kuwait Environmental Protection Society. The event will be held throughout 2 days and will discuss various topics about the features and prospects of Hydroponic, in addition to a workshop. The event will take place at the Multipurpose room and the Main corridor at the AUK, and will run from November 20th through November 21st, 2016.



MOHAMED NASER AL-HAJERY AND SONS INAUGURATES 5TH HAAGEN-DAZS BRANCH



Haagen-Dazs, the most savored ice-cream brand worldwide since 1961, inaugurated its 5th brand-new branch in Manqaf, The Gate Mall, ground floor, while adding new ice cream products and juices to its menu. The launch event took place in the presence of employees of Mohamed Naser Al-Hajery and Sons, the exclusive Haagen-Dazs dealer in Kuwait, along with media delegates who savored the new offerings of mouth-watering ice cream and juices flavors.

Haagen-Dazs has been making quality ice cream like no other since 1961. The world's best-tasting ice cream is created in 24 flavors and from the best ingredients that are carefully selected from around the world. Each Haagen-Dazs ice cream flavor starts with real cream unlike the ordinary ice cream that is made from milk, eggs and sugar which is blended with carefully selected ingredients to create an ice cream with a smooth, silky and unique velvety texture and unforgettable taste. The founder, Reuben Mattus' vision was to make the best ice cream in

the world using high quality, carefully selected ingredients. Reuben believed that if you were going to indulge in ice cream, it should be a real and fulfilling experience rather than the 'cold and sweet stuff' of his time. Reuben's ambition was to create the world's best-tasting ice cream and his devotion to the highest standards changed the way people thought about ice cream. The Haagen-Dazs philosophy remains the same to this day. We believe that everyone deserves to experience pleasure that is fulfilling and real and this guides everything we do.

It's worth mentioning that the mouth-watering Haagen-Dazs ice cream selection is available at 950 stores in more than 80 countries around the world. In Kuwait, Mohamed Naser Al-Hajery and Sons opened the first branch of Haagen-Dazs in 2000 in Souk Sharq, and today the company owns 5 branches that are perfectly situated in prime malls; Souk Sharq, ArrayaCenter, Al Hamra Tower, The Avenues and The Gate Mall.



Over 120 boys and girls enjoyed the Friday morning PSA Everton basketball and football coaching course program at Bayan.



M2R WINS EXCLUSIVE ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE RIGHTS OF GRAND CINEMA IN KUWAIT

In a private reception, M2R, the leading advertising representative for commercial centers, announced the signing of an exclusive advertising representation agreement with Grand Cinema, the fastest growing chain of cinemas in the region. The agreement went into effect on September 1st. Held at the Grand Cinema Al-Hamra Luxury Center on Monday November 7th, the event was attended by VIPs, top customers, representatives of Kuwaiti advertising agencies, and media representatives.

The event was packed with numerous entertaining activities for the pleasure of the attendees, who enjoyed an LED light dancing show, in addition to various activities to spread a smile in the atmosphere. Adding to the excitement and enthusiasm, the event concluded with a screening of the latest 2016 movie "Hacksaw Ridge", directed by "Mel Gibson" with a cast consisting of leading superstars. The movie recounts the events of World War II.

On this occasion, Abed Al-Rahman Dally, Project Manager at M2R: "We are pleased to be with our esteemed guests on this wonderful ceremony to announce our partnership with Grand Cinema. We are proud to be the exclusive advertising representative, as this enables us to provide customers with integrated advertising solutions and services which grant them reach to their targeted audience in Kuwait through their advertisements at Grand Cinema."

For his part, Issac Fahed - Sales and Distribution Manager at Grand Cinema noted, "We found common

grounds with M2R given the similarities between both companies in terms of profile, milestones and market positioning in Kuwait, which we interpreted in a solid long term Tie-up.

Grand Cinemas has always been home for Media and advertising, catering to all agencies and advertisers in region, which falls in the Brand's strategy of creating a distinct entertainment platform be it B2B or B2C. We are confident that joining forces with M2R will solicit new opportunities thus different experience".

It is worth mentioning that M2R was founded in 2005, and is considered one of the leading companies in the advertisements industry. The company provides integrated and innovative solutions by offering clients unique advertising opportunity to introduce their products and services to the widest audience in the market.

Also, Grand Cinema, owned by Selim Ramia and Company, opened its theatre in Kuwait in 2012 after a series of unprecedented successes in the UAE, Lebanon, and Jordan. Grand Cinema broke movie monopoly in Kuwait and provided audience with an advanced cinematic experience for more than two decades. Grand Cinema is located in Al-Hamra Luxury Center- Sharq. It offers 9 screens, as well as 9 other screens at the second branch located in the Gate Mall in Aquila area. The theatre also offers two Grant Class screens, therefore offering a total capacity of 18 display screens and 2,200 seats.



OSN MOVIES ACTION

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies Action, including titles like 'Let The Bullets Fly', 'Attila', and 'Last Action Hero'.

ANIMAL PLANET HD

Table of TV programs for Animal Planet HD, including titles like 'River Monsters', 'Bondi Vet', and 'Wild Animal Repo'.

BBC FIRST

Table of TV programs for BBC First, including titles like 'The Collection', 'Class', and 'Silent Witness'.

Table of TV programs for Discovery Family, including titles like 'John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show'.

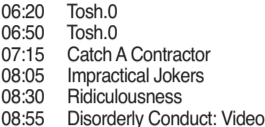


Table of TV programs for Discovery Family, including titles like 'Hank Zipzer', 'Binny And The Ghost', and 'Violetta'.

Discovery Family

Table of TV programs for Discovery Family, including titles like 'Redesign My Brain', 'Kids Do The Craziest', and 'Pick A Puppy'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies Action, including titles like 'I Almost Got Away With It', 'True Crime With Aphrodite', and 'Jones'.

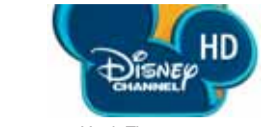
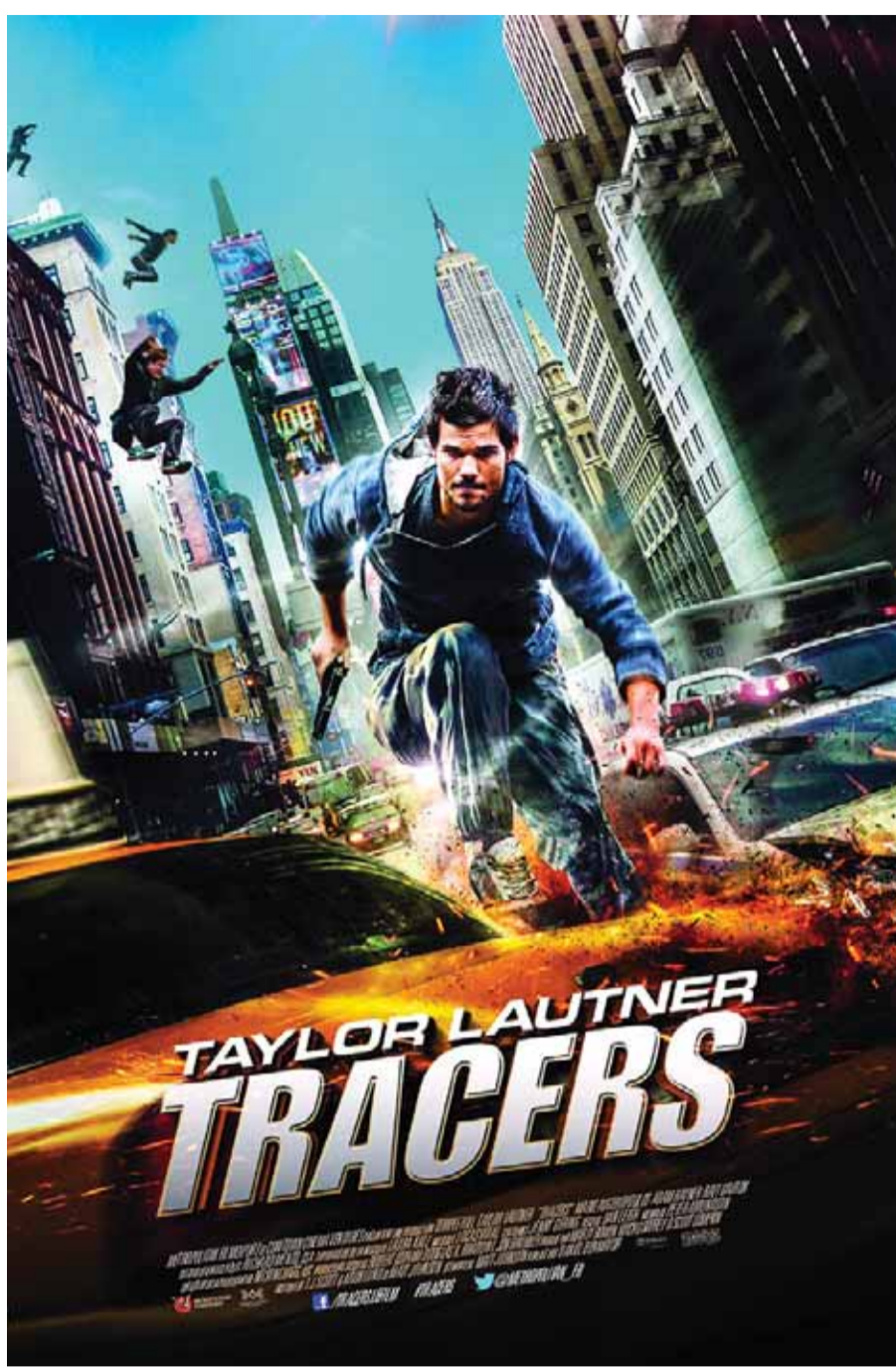


Table of TV programs for OSN Movies Action, including titles like 'Hank Zipzer', 'Binny And The Ghost', and 'Violetta'.

Discovery Family

Table of TV programs for Discovery Family, including titles like 'Redesign My Brain', 'Kids Do The Craziest', and 'Pick A Puppy'.



TRACERS ON OSN MOVIES HD

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'The Hive', 'Minnie's Bow-Toons', and 'Sheriff Callie's Wild West'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Much Everything', 'Mighty Med', and 'Pickle And Peanut'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like '5 Star Family Reunion', 'The Doctor Blake Mysteries', and 'Keep It In The Family'.



REIGN OF ASSASSINS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



Table of TV programs for Crime & Investigation Network, including titles like 'Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence', 'Gangsters: America's Most Evil', and 'Born To Kill'.

Table of TV programs for Crime & Investigation Network, including titles like 'Guinness World Records', 'Smashed New Zealand', and 'Unchained Reaction'.



Table of TV programs for Investigation Discovery, including titles like 'Six Degrees Of Murder', 'Dates From Hell', and 'Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen'.



Table of TV programs for Disney Junior, including titles like 'Doc McStuffins', 'Minnie's Bow-Toons', and 'Loopdidoo'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Sofia The First', 'Sheriff Callie's Wild West', and 'Mickey Mouse Clubhouse'.



Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Star vs The Forces Of Evil', 'K.C. Undercover', and 'Phineas And Ferb'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Fast N' Loud', 'Street Outlaws', and 'Gold Rush'.



Table of TV programs for itv CHOICE, including titles like 'Keep It In The Family', 'Emmerdale', and 'Coronation Street'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'America's Book Of Secrets', 'Ancient Aliens', and 'The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved'.



Table of TV programs for National Geographic Channel, including titles like 'To Catch A Smuggler', 'Big Fish, Texas', and 'Explorer'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Ancient Aliens', 'Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate', and 'The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved'.



Table of TV programs for History Channel, including titles like 'Aussie Pickers', 'Storage Wars', and 'Leupu And Pitbull'.



Table of TV programs for NAT GEO people HD, including titles like 'Bangkok Airport', 'Maximum Foodie', and 'Top Tables, Top Cities'.



Table of TV programs for H2 HD, including titles like 'America's Book Of Secrets', 'Ancient Aliens', and 'The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved'.



Table of TV programs for National Geographic Channel, including titles like 'To Catch A Smuggler', 'Big Fish, Texas', and 'Explorer'.

Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Ultimate Survival Alaska', 'Don't Tell My Mother', and 'Live Free Or Die'.



Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'A Little Chaos', 'Where Hope Grows', and 'The Cobbler'.



Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Good Luck Chuck', 'Forces Of Nature', and 'Coneheads'.

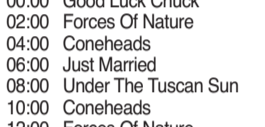


Table of TV programs for OSN Movies HD, including titles like 'Uncle Buck', 'Scrubs', and 'You're The Worst'.

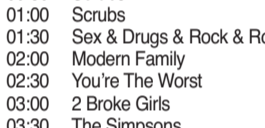


Table of TV programs for OSN First HD, including titles like 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon', 'George Lopez', and 'Galavant'.



Table of TV programs for OSN First HD, including titles like 'Fresh Off The Boat', 'George Lopez', and 'Galavant'.

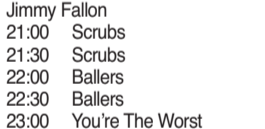


Table of TV programs for National Geographic Channel, including titles like 'To Catch A Smuggler', 'Big Fish, Texas', and 'Explorer'.



JUST MARRIED ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

CROSSWORD 1436

Crossword grid with numbers 1-84.

ACROSS

- 1. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
5. (informal) Very bad.
11. A special way of doing something.
15. Tear down so as to make flat with the ground.
16. National capital of Kiribati.
17. A genus of Mustelidae.
18. Antelope with white markings like a harness and twisted horns.
19. Antineoplastic drug (trade name Elspar) sometimes used to treat lymphoblastic leukemia.
20. Not in action or at work.
21. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
23. Any ameba of the genus Endamoeba.
25. 16th President of the United States.
27. The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
28. A doctor's degree in dental surgery.
29. The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
30. A Lolish language.
34. The inside lower horizontal surface (as of a room or hallway).
37. New Zealand conifer.
40. A Lolish language.
42. Of or involving the rectum.
44. Being one more than fifty.
45. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
46. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
47. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
48. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
49. Cheap showy jewelry or ornament or clothing.
52. A small carriage in which a baby or child is pushed around.
56. The head or top of a mast.
59. Sour or bitter in taste.
60. Before noon.
62. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
63. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
65. A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
69. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
73. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
74. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
78. A container.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
81. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
82. (informal) Of the highest quality.
83. The academic world.
84. A metric unit of length equal to 10,000 meters.
10. (informal) 'Johnny' was applied as a nickname for Confederate soldiers by the Federal soldiers in the American Civil War.
21. Greek mythologist.
26. Genus of mainly American more-or-less succulent herbs.
27. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
28. Greek mythology.
29. A festival featuring African-American culture.
30. A unit of length equal to 3 feet.
31. God of dawn and light.
32. (Greek mythology) The god of the underworld in ancient mythology.
33. Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
34. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
35. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
36. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
37. A lump of material formed from the content of a liquid.
38. Scottish sea captain who was hired to protect British shipping in the Indian Ocean and then was accused of piracy and hanged (1645-1701).
39. An irritable petulant feeling.
40. Of surpassing excellence.
41. A facial expression of contempt or scorn.
42. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
43. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
44. A crown-like jeweled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
45. Make less active or intense.
46. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
47. (sports) With hand brought forward and up from below shoulder level.
48. A member of a Caddo people formerly living in north central Texas.
49. A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
50. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
51. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
52. A derogatory term used by Jews to refer to non-Jewish women.
53. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
54. Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers.
55. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
56. A native or inhabitant of Denmark.
57. A lyric poet.
58. On or toward the lee.
59. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
60. Declare untrue.
61. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
62. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
63. The cry made by sheep.
64. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
65. Being one more than one.

DOWN

Yesterday's Solution

Solved crossword grid showing words like CHOMSKY, SAHIB, SNARF, AIRS, etc.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good day to get things done, especially around your living area. You have good eye-hand coordination and seem determined to give a sustained effort to whatever task you choose.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may have noticed that your old zest is back and your social life is picking up-you will seek out new people, maybe even a new job. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It may be time to reschedule some of your previous plans so that a loved one can get more attention. This could mean you cancel an activity so you can pay more attention to a young person today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could spend a lot of time planning about how to reach a particular goal or how you would encourage others to become involved with some project. There may be some difficulty in getting a plan formulated.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Some things are slow today. Slow will seem fast to a snail, unless you are another snail. Things have to happen at their own pace and eventually, when you least expect it, a secret dream or wish will come true.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have a high burn rate when it comes to questions of your independence and autonomy. If you are the young person and expect to be granted some time away from home this evening, see to it your chores are out of the way before you begin securing your plans.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You might decide to rise early for an early morning run, especially if there is someone to run with you. Otherwise, it could be afternoon before anyone sees your lazy head.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There is much to motivate you at this time. There is a fantastic opportunity to see, feel or experience some new product that many have not yet seen.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Now may be good for setting aside some time for a physical checkup. If you have other family members to care for, you might consider fitting in eye exams as well.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It is a wonderful day for a wedding and if you are not attending a wedding, you could be helping to plan a wedding for your best friend. Sharing some fun plans with some of your other friends may bring out your best imagination.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Emotional security and a sense of belonging and nurturing are the issues felt instinctively now. You want roots and you crave a sense of intimate connection that will last.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A touch of financial genius can result in phenomenally successful investments. One way or another, changes in your financial status are in the near future.

WORD SEARCH

Farm

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a common farm animal.

Word search grid with letters H, A, Y, E, S, E, E, H, C, B, A, L, E, R, etc.

- BALER, BARN, BUTTER, CAT, CHEESE, CORN, COW, CREAM, DAIRY, DOG, FENCE, FARMER, FERTILIZER, GOATS, GRAIN, HARROW, HARVEST, HAY, HEN, HORSE, HOUSE, LIVESTOCK, MILK, PASTURE, PIG, PLOW, PRODUCE, ROOSTER, SEEDS, SOIL, SOWING SEED, STABLES, TRACTOR, TROUGH, TURKEYS, WEATHERVANE, WEEDS, WELL, WHEAT

Yesterday Solution

Birds

Word search grid for birds with words like BLACKBIRD, BUDGIE, CANARY, etc.

- BLACKBIRD, BUDGIE, CANARY, CARDINAL, CHICKEN, CRANE, CROW, DODO, DOVE, DUCK, EAGLE, EMU, FALCON, FINCH, FLAMINGO, GOOSE, HAWK, HERON, JAY, MAGPIE, MARTIN, MOCKINGBIRD, MYNA, OSTRICH, OWL, PARAKEET, PARROT, PELICAN, PIGEON, RAVEN, ROBIN, SEAGULL, SPARROW, SWAN, TURKEY, VULTURE, WOODPECKER, WREN

The hidden message is: HUMMINGBIRD

Daily SuDoku

Daily Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9.

Yesterday's Solution

Solved Sudoku grid showing numbers in each cell.

Taboo opens up on battle with cancer

The 41-year-old rapper - real name Jaime Luis Gomez - has revealed a trip to the emergency room when he thought he had the flu ended up saving him from stage two testicular cancer. Speaking to People magazine, Taboo said: "It all started with a pain in my back and abdomen. I was so busy working that I wasn't worried about it, but I went to the emergency room to get checked out." After a series of tests in 2014, doctors diagnosed the 'Where Is the Love?' hitmaker with the stage two cancer - which means the cancerous cells have spread from the testicle to nearby lymph nodes in the abdomen or pelvis. Taboo says that his fellow Black Eyed Peas bandmate will.i.am "instantly

reached out" to help him. He continued: "The very next day I went into surgery to have the 'mother ship' removed. But my fight had just begun. "My family and the group were all in shock, but will.i.am instantly reached out to a great doctor who helped me figure out a treatment plan. I was racing against the clock." After 12 weeks of "aggressive" chemotherapy, the 'I Gotta Feeling' musician - who is joined in the band by will.i.am, apl.de.ap, and Fergie - has been cancer-free for two years, and is hoping to use his experience to "inspire others" in his position.



Keith Urban says Kidman is an 'incredible' mother

The 49-year-old musician and actress Nicole, 49, share two children together - Sunday, eight, and Faith, five - and Keith is constantly amazed by how his wife handles being a parent. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight' at the premiere for Nicole's new movie 'Lion' on Wednesday, he said: "[She's] an incredible mom. Loving, maternal, and [she's] teaching me a lot about how to raise children, especially girls. "I have no reference for girls. I grew up in a house of boys, so it's quite the learning curve." And the 'Eyes Wide Shut' actress says she's constantly getting fashion advice from her two young daughters. She said: "I would go to the school to pick them up,

and they'd be like, 'Please don't pick me up in sweatpants or jeans,' They're like, 'Can you just get dressed up and do your hair and put on makeup and wear heels?' "Nicole - who also has two adopted children Isabella, 23, and Connor, 21, from her former marriage to Tom Cruise - previously spoke about her role in 'Lion', in which she plays an adoptive mother, saying she could completely relate to the character due to her own experience of adoption. She said: "I can see now, for 'Lion', that it was important to me because I'm a mother with adopted children. This movie is a love letter to my children.

Mariah Carey and James Packer settlement talks break down

The singer and the billionaire businessman recently ended their engagement and were reported to be in negotiations for a financial settlement for Mariah, who wanted \$50 million after claiming she had to uproot her life and move to Los Angeles for him. TMZ reports that James insists there is "no legal basis" for him to pay Mariah anything as they weren't married. However, she has accused him of being a "lying opportunist" and claimed he used her fame to help secure lucrative business deals. Mariah, 46, was said to have been left "blindsided" when James called off their engagement. A source recently said: "The split has been devastating for Mariah. She loved James and was planning to marry him. She made life changes for this man to prepare for their future as husband and wife, even relocating to Los Angeles, at James' request, so he could be closer to his children. "Everything she has done over the past year is to prove how fully committed she is to their life together. She really wanted this to work. And then, completely out of the blue, it imploded."

Tobey Maguire splashes out \$12,995,000 m on luxury home

The 41-year-old actor recently split from Jennifer Mayer after nine years of marriage and after they sold their Santa Monica home for \$3 million, Tobey spent \$12,995,000 on a luxury home in Brentwood, California. Trulia reports that the six-bedroom, nine-bathroom residence has a wine cellar, gym, library, and barbecue area and an infinity pool. Tobey and Jennifer announced their split last month and said their two children - Ruby, nine, and Otis, seven - are their top priority. In a joint statement, they said: "After much soul searching and consideration we have made the decision to separate as a couple. "As devoted parents, our first priority remains raising our children together with enduring love, respect and friendship." The couple tied the knot in 2007 - four years after they met - in a ceremony in Hawaii in front of their close family and friends. The actor has remained tight-lipped about his personal life throughout his career but previously gave an insight into their family life. Speaking about welcoming their first child, he said at the time: "It's a very dramatic change. My whole life is in transition now with friendships and where I'm gonna live, you know? Just your whole perspective. It's great. Ruby's so adorable. She's just a smiley, little beautiful thing."



Lauren Jauregui has come out as bisexual

The Fifth Harmony singer discussed her sexuality in an open letter on Billboard.com, in which she blasted those who voted for Donald Trump in the recent US presidential election. She wrote: "I am a bisexual Cuban-American woman and I am so proud of it. I am proud to be part of a community that only projects love and education and the support of one another." Directly addressing those who supported Trump, she added: "To every single Trump supporter trying to say that voting for Trump does not mean that you are racist, homophobic, sexist, xenophobic, a*****... that you just like the way he didn't really care what people thought and just said whatever he wanted... that he wasn't a politician, so he wasn't part of the establishment and didn't have corrupt money backing him. This is for you: "Your words are worthless, because your actions have led to the single-handed destruction of all the progress we've made socially as a nation. You have, with your pure ignorance and refusal to understand the way the government and the world works, allowed a power-hungry business tycoon to take over the United States of America. The land of the free, the home of the brave, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for ALL. You are HYPOCRITES."



Lady Gaga suffers from chronic pain

The 30-year-old singer took to Instagram to reveal that she is dealing with the health issue but said that she draws strength from thinking about her late Aunt Joanne who died of lupus at just 19 and her loved ones, including manager Bobby Campbell. She wrote: "Having a frustrating day with chronic pain, but I find myself feeling so blessed to have such strong intelligent female doctors. I think about Joanne too and her strength and the day gets a little easier. Plus I got @wanaynay by my side. 'Hey Girl, we can make it easy if we lift each other.'" Gaga's new album 'Joanne' is named after her late aunt and she recently said the track 'Joanne' helped her father to deal with his grief over her death. Gaga said: "[The first time I played 'Joanne'] I looked over at him and he just looked at me like, 'How did you know that? How did you know that's what I wanted to say?'" And the 'Perfect Illusion' musician said that although she never met her aunt, she felt "connected" to her through her father, and wrote the song in the hopes that it would be "healing" for him.



MARC ANTHONY AND DE LIMA SEPARATE

According to E! News, the pair - who tied the knot in 2014 - separated a few months ago. However, the split comes as a surprise, as in September, Shannon, 28, posted a gushing message on Instagram to celebrate her spouse's 48th birthday. She wrote: "Thank you for sharing your life with me...and for being the best husband and friend someone could wish for." Marc was previously married to Dayanara Torres, the mother of his sons Cristian and Ryan, and Jennifer Lopez, with whom he has twins Max and Emme. This week Marc and Jennifer shocked fans when they kissed on stage at the Latin Grammy Awards. The pair stunned the crowd when they shared a kiss at the event, which took place at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas after they performed 'Olvidame y Pega la Vuelta', a classic Pimpinela song. Jennifer also presented her ex with the Person of the Year award for his longstanding career and told the crowd: "Marc is a living legend. He is a magical and pure artist giving away classics that will stay forever. He will always be many things in my life." Meanwhile, Jennifer previously spoke about the "nostalgia" they feel when they sing together.





Al Maknoon unveils its visionary concept

'Discovering New Dimensions in the world of Furniture'



Al Maknoon Company launched its new visionary concept in the world of furniture and design at its /2D showroom, located in Al Tital Mall (Shuwaikh) - reflecting its slogan "Discovering New Dimensions in the world of Furniture". The event was attended by VIP customers along with media representatives.

During the event, the company stressed on its continuous aim to offer comprehensive quality solutions coupled with after-sale services to meet customers' needs and expectations. Besides, the company unveiled its new dimensions in design that combines Italian elegance with German quality. The /2D studio offers the biggest collection of contemporary designs, including: walking closets, bedrooms, living rooms, reception, dining tables, wall paper, curtains (fabric) and other decorative accessories to add a distinctive touch to interior spaces.

Moreover, /2D's expert team of interior designers will provide the best consultancy services that help customers to design and decorate their homes according to their specific requirements. It's worth noting that Al Maknoon Co. has been in the local market for more than 10 years, and was the sole agent for international trademarks like (Hulsta) (Rolf Benz), Casa Milano and many European brands. Through continued dedication and passion, the company adopted forward-thinking approach to furniture based on innovative ideas and new interior design concepts, aiming to provide customers with inventive designs without compromising on quality.



FEATURES

Big-voiced Dap-Kings soul singer **Sharon Jones** dies

In this June 14, 2008 file photo, Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings perform at the Bonnaroo music festival in Manchester, Tenn. Jones, a big-voiced soul singer who performed with high energy onstage has died at age 60 in New York, after battling pancreatic cancer. — AP

Sharon Jones, the stout powerhouse who shepherded a soul revival despite not finding stardom until middle age, has died. She was 60. Jones' representative, Judy Miller Silverman, said Jones died Friday at a Cooperstown, New York, hospital after battling pancreatic cancer. Loved ones and members of her retro-soul band, the Dap-Kings, were among those surrounding her, Silverman said. The story of Jones' battle with cancer, first diagnosed in 2013, was told in Barbara Kopple's documentary, "Miss Sharon Jones!" released earlier this year.

Though she triumphantly returned to the stage in 2015 after the cancer went into remission, Jones late last year announced its return. Still, Jones mounted another comeback with the defiant single "I'm Still Here" and hit the road again this summer with the Dap-Kings even while undergoing chemotherapy. "You got to be brave," a debilitated Jones told the Associated Press in July, in between tour stops. "I want to use the time that I have. I don't want to spend it all laid up, wishing I had done that gig." Jones' death was immediately noted on social media and throughout the music industry.

The British producer Mark Ronson, who brought the Dap-Kings in to play backing band to Amy Winehouse on her breakthrough album, "Back in Black," said, "Sharon Jones had one of the most magnificent, gut wrenching voices of anyone in recent time." The youngest of six children, Sharon Lafaye Jones was born on May 4, 1956, in Augusta, Georgia. Her fami-

ly lived in nearby North Augusta, South Carolina, across the Savannah River from the birthplace of James Brown. Jones, who would grow into a dynamic, show-stopping performer, grew up idolizing the Godfather of Soul and would later be frequently tagged as "the female James Brown."

But for decades, such a fate was unimaginable. On "I'm Still Here," she sings of being turned down by music executives for being "too short, too fat, too black and too old." After growing up in Brooklyn (her mother moved to escape an abusive husband), Jones regularly sang gospel at her church, performed for years in a wedding band and sang back-up for various session bands. To make ends meet, she worked as a corrections officer at the Rikers Island jail complex and was a bank security guard.

But in one recording session, she caught the attention of Gabriel Roth and Philip Lehman. The two, blown away by Jones' fiery voice, made her the lead singer of their newly formed Dap-Kings and launched the Bushwick, Brooklyn-based label, Daptone Records, around her unlikely star power. They debuted with 2002's "Dap-Dippin' With Sharon Jones and The Dap-Kings," released when Jones was 46. Three more albums followed in the ensuing decade, and two compilations. Standouts included a soulful rendition of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" and the single "100 Days, 100 Nights," in which she belts: "100 days, 100 nights to know a man's heart/ And a little more, before, he knows his own."

The sound, backed by walls of horns and tightly guided by bandleader Roth, was propelled by Jones' grit and ferocity. For her, soul and survival went hand in hand. Her torrid performances began, like Brown's, with a prolonged introduction from her bandmates. Jones never disparaged the better-selling British soul revival led by Ronson and Winehouse that coincided with her rise. But she wasn't shy about claiming to be the more genuine article. "We've been there, and we're still doin' this," Jones told New York magazine in 2010. "In another few years, what are they gonna be doin'?"

Their sixth album, "Give the People What They Want" earned Jones her first Grammy nomination for best R&B album. Their last album, "It's a Holiday Soul Party," was released last year. Kopple witnessed the charismatic Jones light up hospital wards while undergoing chemo. "When people are around or there's an audience, that gives her fuel and she forgets her pain," the director said ahead of the release of "Miss Sharon Jones!" Even while suffering the effects of her cancer and its treatments, the workmanlike Jones toured relentlessly. "It's therapy," Jones said of performing in July. "I know I need rest and sleep. But I want to work and that is our job." — AP

Thrones star Emilia Clarke joins 'Star Wars' spin-off

From the mystical land of Westeros to a galaxy far, far away-British actress Emilia Clarke has been announced as the female lead in the "Star Wars" Han Solo spin-off. Clarke, 30, who plays flaxen-haired warrior queen Daenerys Targaryen in "Game of Thrones," joins Alden Ehrenreich and Donald Glover, who have already been announced as Han and Lando Calrissian on the project. "Clarke's role will round out a dynamic cast of characters that Han and Chewie will encounter on their adventures," StarWars.com, the franchise's official website, said in a statement. Like "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," which comes out next month, the new, as yet untitled, spin-off will be set before the franchise's original 1977 film, "Star Wars," which was later renamed "Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope."

Lucasfilm boss and Hollywood veteran Kathleen Kennedy is co-producing the stand-alone film, which is expected to begin filming in January, according to Variety magazine. It will be directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, the team behind "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (2009), "The Lego Movie" and the "Jump Street" films (2012 and 2014). It is set for release in the United States on May 25, 2018. Last year's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" made more than \$2 billion worldwide-much of it in 2016 - contributing to Walt Disney Studios marking its biggest-ever year at the global box office. The spin-off films are not expected to be as big as the main series but analysts have backed "Rogue One" to dominate this year's box office. — AFP



WORK FOR 'ALL OF US', 'HAMILTON' CAST ASKS VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Vice President-elect Mike Pence was booed at a performance of award-winning Broadway musical "Hamilton," whose "alarmed and anxious" cast made an unusual call from the stage for the incoming Trump administration to work on behalf of all Americans. Donald Trump's right-hand man attended a performance late Friday of the hit musical about young colonial rebels who shaped the country whose founding fathers they would become.

The show's lead actor, Javier Munoz, is openly gay, HIV positive and a cancer survivor. Activists have worried that the incoming Trump administration will be hostile to gay rights. Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays former vice president Aaron Burr, read a statement to Pence during the curtain call that echoed some of the biggest concerns critics have voiced since Republican firebrand Trump was elected on November 8. And with that, a performance of a musical about the American Revolution and the dawn of a young nation became even more political.

Thanking Pence for attending the performance, Dixon asked him to "hear us out." "We, sir, we are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights, sir," Dixon said. "But we truly hope this show has inspired you to uphold our American values and work on behalf of all of us. All of us." The audience cheered and applauded loudly his comments. Dixon highlighted the fact that Hamilton, which won 11 Tony Awards in June, was performed by "a diverse group of men, women of different colors, creeds and orientations."

Audience goes 'nuts'

The New York Times reported that although Pence was leaving as Dixon began to read his statement from the stage, he stood in the hallway by the auditorium's entrance and heard the entire mes-



sage. When he entered the theater earlier before the show, Pence was greeted with a mix of boos and cheers from the audience. The show celebrates diversity and immigrants' contribution to the nation. The audience gave a standing ovation at the line "immigrants we get the job done", theatergoer Christy Colburn wrote on Twitter. "Crowd went NUTS at King George's lines 'when people say they hate you' & 'do you know how hard it is to lead?' He had to stop the song."

Trump has deployed polarizing rhetoric to describe immigrants, vowing to build a wall along the US-Mexico border and to ban Muslims from

entering the US. And the bombastic billionaire real estate investor, who was showered with widespread condemnation from both within and outside his party after video emerged of him making lewd boasts of groping and forcing himself on women, has largely appointed older white men to major posts so far in his presidential transition. — AFP

Police remove protesters from the streets after they shouted slogans at Vice President-elect Mike Pence while he was leaving the Richard Rodgers Theatre after a performance of 'Hamilton' in New York on Friday, Nov 18, 2016. — AP

'Speechless' big winner as Media Access Awards salute people with disabilities

People with disabilities-aka the world's invisible minority-were saluted Friday at the annual Media Access Awards, with producer John Murray reminding that their presence onscreen is not just appropriate, "it's also good business." Murray ("The Real World," "Keeping Up With the Kardashians") was given the PGA George Suga Award, one of seven prizes handed out at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills. Murray said that people with disabilities, or PWD, "have been placed on the margins and sidelines of TV."

He pointed out that his A&E reality-show "Born This Way," about seven individuals with Down syndrome, increased viewership more than 80% during its first season, so depiction "is not only the right thing to do, it's also good business." Scott Silveri, creator-writer of ABC's "Speechless," was a double winner. He and fellow producers Melvin Mar and Jake Kasdan were honored for series with the SAG-AFTRA Disability Awareness Award, while Silveri himself also took home the WGAW Evan Somers Memorial Award. "We weren't looking to do anything revolutionary, we were just looking to tell a story," Silveri said.

He thanked the educators and advocacy-rights champions who have been fighting for years to open the doors "that we were able to walk through." Danny Woodburn was given the Media Access Norman Lear-Geri Jewell Lifetime Achievement Award, for his advocacy as well as his career. (Presenter Mark Povinelli dryly described Woodburn as "an icon of dwarf televi-

sion.") Woodburn also doubled as emcee of the event. Speaking of President-elect Donald Trump, Woodburn said "He mocked us!" And that mockery, he predicted "will really get us moving."

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Scholarship went to MacGregor Arney, which is always given to an upcoming young actor. Presenting the award, Zach Weinstein said he became a father for the first time only 13 days ago, and he's happy to know that his son will grow up in a world "where disability is going to be normalized." Casting director Susie Farris was given the CSA Award, for her work on "Mr. Robot" and "Speechless," among others. Actress Jamie Brewer of "American Horror Story" received the SAG-AFTRA Harold Russell Award, earning her the only standing ovation of the day. Brewer, who has Down syndrome, gave an emotional speech, talking about the opportunity of "finding our true selves within our work." The event was organized by SAG-AFTRA, the Producers Guild of America, Writers Guild of America and the Casting Society of America; the event is intended to honor individuals and to raise industry awareness. The co-chairs of the event were Deb Calla and Alan Rucker. Among those in attendance were JK Simmons, Geri Jewell, Margaret Nagle, Micah Fowler, Kyla Kennedy, Mason Cook, Cedric Yarbrough, Katie Leclerc, Chad Coleman and Drew Tappon. — Reuters



An auctioneer leads an auction presenting comic-books by French Jean Graton at the Artcurial auction house in Paris. A Tintin comic strip has been sold 1.55 million euros. — AFP

Tintin drawing sells for a record 1.55 million euros

An original drawing from "Explorers on the Moon," widely regarded as one of the two best Tintin adventures, sold for a record 1.55 million euros at a Paris auction yesterday, auction house Artcurial announced. The 50 cm X 35 cm drawing in Chinese ink by the Belgian cartoonist known as Hergé shows the boy reporter, his dog Snowy and crusty sailor Captain Haddock wearing spacesuits and walking on the moon while looking at Earth.

It had been expected to sell for between 700,000 and 900,000 euros (\$741,000 and \$952,000). Artcurial's comics expert Eric Leroy described the "Explorers on the Moon" as "a key moment in the history of comic book art... it has become mythic for many lovers and collectors of comic strips. "It is one of the most important from Hergé's postwar period, on the same level as 'Tintin in Tibet' and 'The Castaflore Emerald,'" he added. The 1954 book is viewed as one of Hergé's masterpieces.

The sale was a record

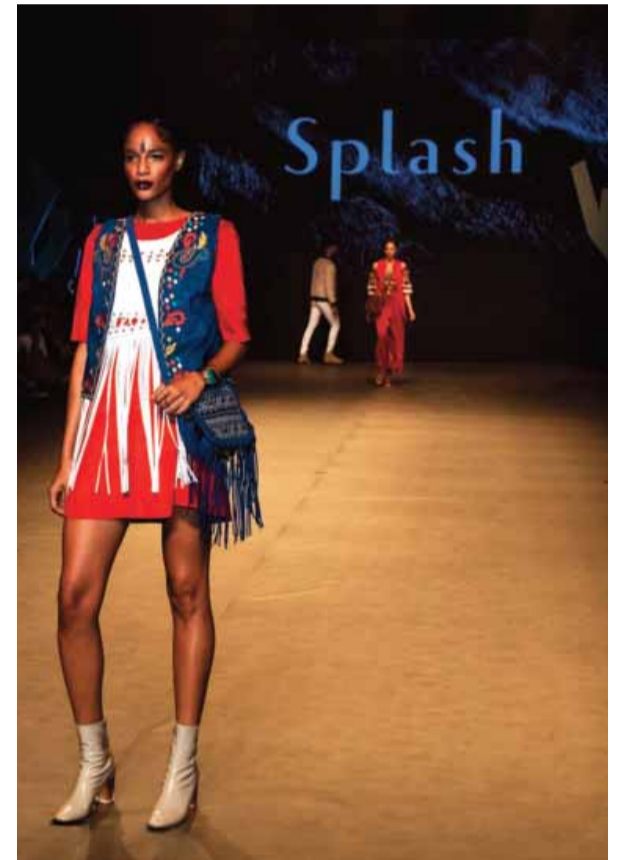
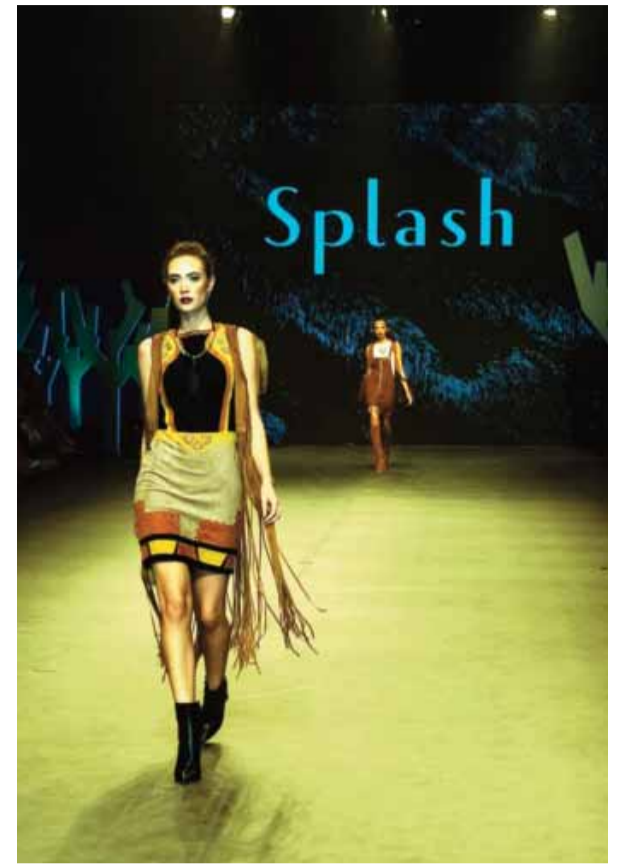
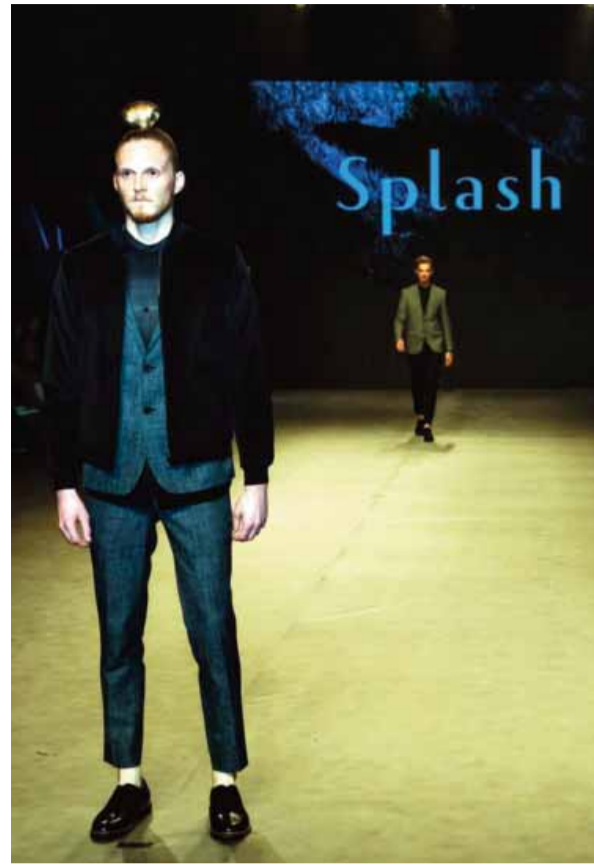
Yesterday's sale was a record for a single cartoon drawing. Hergé already holds the world record for the sale of a comic strip. A double-page ink drawing that served as the inside cover for all the Tintin adventures published between 1937 and 1958, sold for \$3.7 million to an American fan two years ago. Rival auction house Christie's is putting drawings

from another rare Hergé strip up for sale later in the day in Paris.

It said the page from the unfinished story "Tintin and the Thermozero"-estimated at 250,000 euros-was the first ever to come to market. Why the artist never finished the tale of espionage and a terrifying secret weapon set against the backdrop of the Cold War, is one of the great mysteries for Tintin-ologists. The 1954 "Explorers on the Moon" completes the lunar adventure started in "Destination Moon" (1953) and features several hilarious episodes including Haddock getting drunk on whisky and floating off into space to briefly become a satellite of the asteroid Adonis.

It turns on Tintin foiling a plot by a mysterious foreign power to hijack the rocket by the evil stowaway spy Colonel Jorgen. The moon drawings are being sold alongside 20 ink sketches Hergé created for a series of New Year's greeting cards known as his "snow cards". Prices for cartoon art have multiplied tenfold in the last decade, according to gallery owner Daniel Maghen, who also works with comic art. The sales comes as Tintinmania again grips the French capital, with Hergé currently the subject of a huge retrospective exhibition at the Grand Palais. — AFP

FASHION



Splash 'Into the Wild'

Winter '16 fashion show at Fashion Forward Dubai

Fashion explores the wild side of the urban lifestyle this winter. It's fascinating to know that within the urban landscape that we live in exists different people who represent varied aspects of fashion. This season the recently concluded Splash 'Into The Wild' show explored various trends that really captured the essence of the urban jungle dweller. A highlight event at Fashion Forward Dubai, Season 8, the Splash runway was replete with artistic tree installations and all black background which set the mood for the incoming season. Keeping it in sync with the band's true style, the show was followed by an after-party.

The dominant trends featured at Winter '16 fashion Show

for women were: Global Traveler- the 70's vibe is strong with long lines in rich spice tones like burgundy, burnt orange and teal. Be a glamorous nomad in pieces that highlight folklore and hand crafted prints in suede and patchwork fabrics. Mix&Mix - Print on print in sporty elements is the all new rage and this trend is not for the weak- hearted. Think bright hues, mix and matched bold prints with embellished and very luxe details. Bombers jackets and pinafore are the key pieces in the line.

Studio 54- The name says it all! All glam and fabulous dressed in sequins and shimmer. This trip down memory lane will leave of nostalgic of this roaring era and the disco age.

Metallics and shiny fabrics will rule the collection. All Black collection - The grunge inspired collection has an array of fabrics to experiment with. You will find leather, satin, silk georgette and spandex in key pieces like jackets, skirts, dresses and shirts.

The dominant trends featured at Winter '16 fashion Show for men were: Anti-fashion + future utility- As the name suggests this trend leans towards Normcore, clean lines and tone on tone looks for a more functional and practical approach to fashion. Oversized silhouettes, drop shoulder pieces are key in earthy tones like sand, black and olive. Tough 90's- This trend is DIY at its best. Flaunt your personal style and create pieces

that is essentially you! Busted knee denims, DIY tracker jackets and tartan shirts are your staples which can be highlighted with grunge elements.

Studio 54- This range is for the very dapper man who can carry of plush fabrics with Elan. Clean and sophisticated, the range is all about the glamour from the era and not exactly OTT. Outerwear is print heavy and luxe fabrics in key pieces like polos and blazers. The collection presented on the runway will be available across all Splash stores in Centrepont at Splash -The Avenues, Phase II and at Salam Mall- Salmiya.



Models display creations by Jac Mode.

Africa International Fashion Week



A model displays a creation by O'Saunders during the Africa International Fashion Week in Lagos.



A model displays a creation by Maxine Laces Coll during Africa International Fashion Week.



Models display creations by Maxine Laces Coll during the Africa International Fashion Week in Lagos, Nigeria on Friday, Nov 18, 2016. — AP photos



Models display creations by TB during the Africa International Fashion Week in Lagos.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Singer Sharon Jones dies at 60

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Mari Vartmann and Ruben Blommaert of Germany perform during the pairs free skating at the Ice Dance short dance at the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Hip-hop draws growing academic interest



Tupac Shakur

The forgotten music of Boston's early hip-hop and rap scene is being revived by two unlikely heroes: a local college and the public library. Researchers at the University of Massachusetts Boston have been working with the Boston Public Library to compile an online archive of demo tapes by the city's top hip-hop and rap artists of the 1980s. Opening to the public on Saturday, the Massachusetts Hip-Hop Archive was created in part to reclaim the city's role in the genres' history. "It's been an untold story," said Pacey Foster, a rap historian and professor at UMass. "Boston is not a city that has had its rightful place in the early stories of hip-hop history."

The archive aims to connect new audiences to early rap artists such as the Almighty RSO, Guru, and others who have faded from memory even in Boston. But the project is also intended to spark academic interest in the city's rap and hip-hop roots. Like a growing number of US colleges, UMass is encouraging students to approach hip-hop as a scholarly subject. Several students have already started research tied to the archive, and the university launched a new course on hip-hop in 2014.

It joins dozens of other schools nationwide that have added classes on hip-hop in recent years, analyzing its value to fields from sociology to women's studies. At Bowie State University, a historically black college in Maryland, students can earn a minor in hip-hop studies. The University of Arizona says it offered the nation's first hip-hop minor in 2012. A year later, the rapper Nasir Jones - known as Nas - established a fellowship at Harvard University for scholars of hip-hop. "There are so many dimensions to the culture," said Murray Forman, a media

studies professor at Northeastern University. "It's really rich for analysis in all kinds of contexts."

Some scholars still question whether hip-hop has a place in academia, but its acceptance is growing, said Forman, who was a Nasir Jones fellow last year. University presses have published dozens of textbooks on rap and hip-hop's political and cultural importance. Scores of graduate students have taken on similar topics for their dissertations. For archivists in particular, there has been a surge of interest in preserving the artifacts of hip hop, especially from its early days in the 1970s and 1980s, Forman said. "A lot of the early materials are at risk of disappearing," he said. "People don't want to be carrying around all the ephemera, the concert fliers and promotional materials."

Other schools with major hip-hop archives include Harvard and Cornell University. Four historically black colleges in Atlanta house the notebooks and letters of rap icon Tupac Shakur. The new archive at UMass features almost 300 demo tapes, along with audio from a local radio show whose host was credited with discovering many of Boston's biggest acts. Most of the artists aren't household names, but Foster said their work captures the youthful spirit of a time when artists were seeking a new sound. "It will have natural interest for academics," Foster said. "This collection is a very complete look at a scene that nobody has heard about, at a moment when rap was just exploding." — AP



BOSTON: Pacey Foster, a rap historian and professor at UMass, reviews with a collection of hip-hop cassette tapes and memorabilia from the 1980's at the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Thanks to UMass, the world will soon have access to 300 unreleased demo tapes from the early days of Boston hip-hop.



A collection of hip-hop cassette tapes and memorabilia from the 1980's are displayed at the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts in Boston. — AP photos

GLOBAL CITIZEN FESTIVAL INDIA



Indian Bollywood actresses Sonakshi Sinha (left) and Vidya Balan pose for a photograph on the red carpet in Mumbai yesterday.



Indian Bollywood and Hollywood actress Freida Pinto poses for a photograph on the red carpet at the 2016 "Global Citizen Festival India" to end extreme poverty by 2030 yesterday.



Indian Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor poses for a photograph on the red carpet. — AFP photos