

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF



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Kuwaiti citizens abroad express desire to vote in elections



Asia-Pacific leaders defend trade against Trump tide



Fitzpatrick wins finale, Stenson the Race to Dubai



Kuwait Times infographic: NBA Power Rankings



CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ACCEPTS PETITION AGAINST ELECTIONS

OPPOSITION CANDIDATES DEMAND POLITICAL REFORMS



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



150 FILLS
NO: 17057
40 PAGES

120 KILLED AS INDIAN TRAIN DERAILS

AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES

PUKHRAYAN, India: Emergency workers raced to find any more survivors in the mangled wreckage of an Indian train that derailed yesterday, killing at least 120 people, in the worst disaster to hit the country's ageing rail network in recent years. Shocked passengers recalled being jolted out of their early morning slumber by a violent thud as 14 carriages leapt from the tracks in a remote area near Kanpur city in Uttar Pradesh state.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a condolence cable to Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, voicing sincere and heartfelt condolences over the victims of the accident and wished quick recovery to the injured. HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables of condolences.

Survivors also told of their desperate search for loved-ones on the train, which was carrying at least one wedding party with the marriage season in India in full swing. "My 12-year-old daughter is missing, I have been looking for her for hours," a survivor told AFP at the accident site, breaking into uncontrollable sobs. "My wife has received serious head injuries and I have lost all my belongings. I am feeling so helpless, my whole world has turned upside down."

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PUKHRAYAN, India: Rescue workers search for survivors in the wreckage of a train that derailed in Kanpur district yesterday. — AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The constitutional court yesterday accepted a petition calling for scrapping the Nov 26 general elections on the basis that the Amiri decree dissolving the National Assembly was not in line with the constitution. The petition was filed by lawyer Hani Hussein, who was barred from contesting the polls by the election committee for being previously convicted by courts. Hussein did not elaborate on the petition except by saying that it was accepted by the court, whose decisions are final. He however said he will explain the nature of his petition at an election rally today.

Acceptance of the constitutional petition does not give the challenge any credibility, but it means that the court found the arguments are legal and can be debated. No date has been set by the court for any hearing. In his request, the lawyer claimed that the Amiri decree dissolving the Assembly was not constitutional, and accordingly the election must be called off and the dissolved Assembly reinstated. Hussein last week promised a "big surprise" that could lead to delaying the election. Many commentators saw the petition as a very normal move that is likely to lead nowhere.

Separately, the court of cassation, whose rulings are final, is expected to determine the fate of 17 candidates this week. These candidates are among 47 hopefuls disqualified by the election committee. A number of them have been reinstated, while others have been disbarred, including former MP Abdulhameed Dashti, who has been living abroad since March.

Meanwhile, candidates are rushing with their final election rallies this week before a campaigning embargo starts at the weekend ahead of Saturday's polls.

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Shrimpy



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HAD ENOUGH?!

EAT MORE SHRIMP



CROWN PRINCE MEETS STATE OFFICIALS



KUWAIT: His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Dr Mariam Jasser Al-Shammari.

KUWAIT: His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Nawaf also received the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Encyclopedia

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister received Dr Mariam Jasser Al-Shammari, a consultant at As'ad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center. During the meeting, Shammari dedicated to His Highness the Premier her book on Atlas of skin diseases, which is a first Arab scientific encyclopedia in this field.

His Highness the Premier expressed his appreciation to efforts exerted in preparing the encyclopedia which guides medical researchers and enriches the Arab medical library. His Highness the Prime Minister also extolled the role of the Kuwaiti citizens in raising their country's status on scientific scenes and their keenness on manifesting its civilized image, expressing his great confidence in youth who have made progress in all fields. —KUNA



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

AMIR PATRONIZES INFORMATICS AWARDS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize the winners of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's 16th Informatics Award today at 10:30 am at Bayan Palace. During the ceremony, His Highness the Amir will be accompanied by His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Meanwhile, the forum's organizing committee announced that preparations for the three-day event are finished, noting that the forum will be organized by Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award Foundation. The committee added that international and Kuwaiti participants will take part in this year's award, the committee added in a statement. The participants will display various inventions including the Teleporter; a robot that can be remotely controlled from any place worldwide, mobile phone apps, smart cities, online opportunities, 3D printers, digital future and computer clouds, it added.

HEADING GLOBAL ORGANIZERS LAUDED

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) concluded its 'Heading Global' conference, which was held at the Regency Hotel last week in the presence of Education and Higher Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa. PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari thanked Dr Essa for his patronage and attendance of the conference, and lauded the role of those who sponsored and supported the event. Meanwhile, PAAET's official spokesperson Fatima Al-Azmi lauded the role of the conference's President, coordinator and rapporteur, as well as all members of the higher organizing committee and subcommittees.



Dr Ahmad Al-Athari



Fatima Al-Azmi

NATO'S 3RD ICI MEETING OPENS WITH KUWAITI PARTICIPATION



Secretary General of the Qatari Foreign Ministry Dr Ahmad bin Hassan Al-Hamadi.



DOHA: Kuwait's delegation to the third meeting of NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI). —KUNA

DOHA: The third meeting of NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) kicked off yesterday with Kuwaiti participation. In a speech to open the two-day meeting, Secretary General of the Qatari Foreign Ministry Dr Ahmad bin Hassan Al-Hamadi underscored that Qatar has long sought to enhance its ties with NATO, especially on issues that contribute to peace and stability in the region.

Moreover, on the Gulf nation's relations with NATO, he said they have made some progress in recent years, noting that Qatar has participated in most political events organized by NATO. On the meeting, Al-Hamadi said it represents a valuable opportunity for ICI and NATO member nations to work together to bring goals of restoring stability and peace in the world to fruition. Meanwhile, NATO's Assistant Secretary

General for Emerging Security Challenges Sorin Ducaru lauded Qatar's efforts to bolster NATO's ties with ICI member nations, noting that this meeting will prove crucial for further cooperation.

The NATO official also added that the meeting will feature discussions over a host of security challenges, with focus on the fight against terrorism and other issues. Kuwait's delegation to the meeting is head-

ed by the country's Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and head of its missions to NATO and the European Union (EU) Jassim Al-Bdaiwi.

The delegation also includes head of the Kuwaiti National Security Apparatus security information and follow-up department Sheikh Fawaz Mishal Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and secretary at Kuwait's embassy in Belgium Abdulmohsen Al-Mansour. —KUNA

BOOK FAIR HIGHLIGHTS KING ABDULAZIZ FOUNDATION ROLE IN PRESERVING LIBRARIES



KUWAIT: Kuwait Book Fair held a symposium Saturday to highlight King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (Darrah)'s role in preserving Saudi, Arab and Muslim heritage and personal libraries in the Saudi Kingdom.

"Darrah surveys the country in search for personal libraries, then contacts their owners to offer its services," Ayman Al-Hanehan, a specialist at Darrah's Manuscripts Department, said in the symposium. "Darrah also creates a database for the surveyed libraries and draws maps for their sites."

He pointed out that the database includes important information such as the owner of the library, its address, administrator, the number and types of books, manuscripts and other materials and the condition of the contents. Then, Darrah staff sterilizes, restores, catalogs, binds, renovates the available materials through King Salman bin Abdulaziz Restoration Center (Tarmeem), he stated.

He clarified that Darrah also seeks to collect



materials of historic significance through direct purchase from their owners, endowment or gift-

ing. The aim of this collection is to better protect and preserve these materials from damage, he noted. Furthermore, Hanehan touched upon the history of libraries in the Saudi Kingdom and the efforts exerted by Darrah in collecting, renovating, digitalizing, and preserving historical manuscripts and books.

King Abdul Aziz Foundation (Darrah) was established by a Royal Decree in 1972. It aims to serve the history, geography literature and heritage of Saudi Arabia as well as of other Arab and Islamic countries in general. Darrah's Manuscripts Center has a valuable collection of local and original manuscripts, as well as a large number of manuscripts about the history of the Arabian Peninsula. The Center aims at sterilizing, restoring, cataloging, binding and keeping manuscripts available for researchers. The total number of pictorial manuscripts related to the Arabian Peninsula's history exceeds 2,000 pictorial manuscripts of several places around the world. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub hosted a reception recently to celebrate the anniversary of the Palestinian Declaration of Independence. Top state officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



Local spotlight

CHALLENGES AHEAD OF THE ELECTIONS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Kuwait will hold elections on Nov 26 amid complex internal and external challenges, with its outcome unknown. This election will bring about many changes, especially with the return of senior former opposition figures. This is why the results of this election may redraw the political scenario of the future.

On Oct 16, early elections were called. It was surprising news amid many interpretations and public complaints about the performance of the Assembly. The dissolution of the Assembly brought hope and optimism for a change in the parliamentary scene. There is no better time to make promises than now.

The interesting and important aspect is the return of many opponents of the one-vote system, despite criticizing this process openly and loudly for many years. It shows they are reevaluating their political agendas. I still think the one-vote system is the best. It did not serve the interests and the electoral arrangements of some, but at least it brought some change.

The Assembly has faced several crises annually since 2006. The Kuwaiti parliamentary experience is the oldest in the Gulf, as the first parliamentary election was held in 1963. But, with many ups and downs in political life, the parliamentary arena saw many differences and was dissolved nine times from 1976 till 2016. This is too much. Kuwait has gone backwards tremendously during this period.

The repeated dissolutions are not positive at all for Kuwait's reputation internationally and politically and the process of reform and development. Today, while all GCC states are making great strides socially, politically and economically, Kuwait only looks at the rear, which is unfortunate and sad. I am asked by many people why Kuwait is on the retreat. I have no answer. I don't know whom to blame - it is like a chain and no one is innocent.

The obvious imbalance in demographics creates internal problems of dual loyalty and affiliation. This means that voters give preference to personal interests in the selection of the candidates for the National Assembly, amid speculation and rumors to the possibility of the elections being scrapped. The Kuwaiti opposition lacks leadership in the absence of their imprisoned leader, so people feel that there is no clear agenda. But they express and confirm the rejection of corruption in all seminars.

Women seem almost absent from the elections with no influence on the political arena. There are a few women in the race who apparently do not have common agreement between themselves, and it doesn't seem that they are receiving support from the society. Of course, they have ideas, but the situation is complex. This is my opinion and an unfortunate reality for women in 2016.

The government will try to convince people of the importance of lifting subsidies gradually, especially in light of the budget deficit. But I do not think it will be easy. Voters will be back on Nov 26, but questions will remain over the future of the election process, or a possible new dissolution.

CITIZENS ABROAD EXPRESS DESIRE TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: In spite of the long and leading march of democracy of Kuwait, the parliamentary election law does not give citizens abroad the opportunity to vote as is the case in most democratic countries. It has been the practice in democratic countries where citizens living abroad are allowed to vote in the elections, even if they are resident outside the country, making it easier for the voters to exercise their right and increase the rate of participation in the electoral process.

Participation of Kuwaitis living or studying abroad is of a great significance especially with the rise in their numbers in recent years, which is difficult for many of them to return to the country on time for the parliamentary elections.

Not allowed

In response to a question on the possibility of opening the door for Kuwaitis abroad to vote like in many countries, assistant Director General of the Department of Elections in the Interior Ministry Colonel Salah Al-Shatti said the elections law No. 35/1962 did not entail any clause allowing citizens residing abroad to vote from their places of residence.

Shatti added that enabling citizens to vote while they are outside the country requires a legislative amendment to the election law, indicating that the onus is on members of the National Council to make the necessary amendments, pointing out that it is not the prerogative of the Ministry of Interior to discuss or make any amendment on this matter.

Article IV of the election law states that a voter shall exercise his or her electoral rights himself in the constituency in his country and the home of the election is the place where a person lives in permanently.

Popular demand

In this context, a number of scholarship students abroad said that exercising their electoral right while being abroad is a popular demand, expressing hope that an approval in this respect sees the light in the near future.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Buabas, a student in the United Kingdom, expressed his support for enabling the scholarship students to exercise their rights, but called for taking into account full preparation for this sensitive process through the provision of specialized people who oversee the voting process and maintain strict confidentiality, especially with the time difference between some remote countries and Kuwait.

Sheikha Al-Qallaf, another scholarship student said that wished she could be able to vote while studying abroad as the number of Kuwaiti students is increasing, saying that Kuwaiti students want to express their opinions as well.

Ali Dashti, also a student in the UK, said he does support the idea of opening the door for Kuwaiti nationals abroad as this matter will have a negative impact on students' careers during the electoral process. Dashti said that the students' union elections attest sometimes verbal altercations between some students asking, "What would be the case if the elections were at the level of the National Assembly." —KUNA



Meshari Al-Nayef



Saad Al-Mutairi



Meshaal Bader

HOUSING, EDUCATION, TRAFFIC TOP VOTERS' LIST OF CONCERNS

RETURN KUWAIT AS 'PEARL OF THE GULF'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: "What do citizens want from the coming parliament?" With this question in mind, Kuwait Times interviewed a number of citizens at various electoral campaign headquarters to learn about their expectations for the coming parliament. Many citizens agreed the most urgent issues are housing, education, traffic, employment and developing Kuwait to make it once again the 'Pearl of the Gulf'.

Housing

Meshari Al-Nayef said the new parliament has to work on resolving the housing problem and provide enough land to build more housing units. "We have an abundance of empty land and are only living on 10 percent of Kuwait's total area," he underlined, pointing out that not owning their own homes is a nightmare haunting most citizens, who still live with their parents or in rented apartments.

Unemployment

Saad Al-Mutairi said the coming parliament and its lawmakers will have to work on resolving the problem of unemployment and find enough job opportunities

for young men and women who have obtained university degrees and have been waiting for employment for more than two years. Murtairi also called for providing equal chances and preventing waste in employment.

Development

Meshaal Bader said that the coming parliament will have to give due care to development in order to restore Kuwait's leadership in the region. Abdullah Al-Sour stressed that developing education was the most urgent issue and it should be prioritized. He also urged the coming parliament to protect state funds, find alternative sources of national income, stop overburdening citizens and boost foreign investments.

Youth

Turki Mohammed said the coming parliament will have to pay more attention to the youth by developing their skills and preparing them to assume leadership roles in various ministries and government establishments. Mohammed also expressed hope of resolving the problem of traffic congestions on various roads.

None of the citizens spoken to expressed excessive concerns about the role of expatriates in Kuwait, their numbers or the problems created by their presence.



Turki Mohammed

PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES RATCHET UP CAMPAIGNS AS ELECTION NEARS

KUWAIT: Parliamentary candidates contesting elections slated for November 26th have stepped up their campaigns in a bid to entice voters, particularly those who may be on the fence about who to vote for.

Through increased marketing ploys and strategies, candidates are working round the clock to try to connect to various segments of the electorate, part of the extensive coverage given to this year's elections, where pictures and biographies of the candidates are emblazoned on the front pages of daily newspapers.

Moreover, many of the candidates are using social media outlets such as Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to further their campaigns by reaching out to the youth, a segment of the population seen as decisive in determining who ends up with the lion's share of the votes.

Meanwhile, candidates have still maintained their presence in traditional media platforms, appearing on state television and

radio stations on a near daily basis. However, it seems that most candidates have made it a point to woo female voters, given the fact that women make up more than half of the electorate, as many election seminars held have touched on women's issues.

On October 16, as per clause 107 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah ordered parliament dissolved, citing mounting security challenges and volatile regional conditions.

The 2016 parliamentary elections are being held in accordance with law number 20/2012, which deals with the nation's electoral constituencies. Each constituency will field a total of 10 candidates, where the electorate can only vote for one candidate per constituency. According to the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) Election Affairs Department, a total of 287 hopefuls are standing for this year's parliamentary elections after closing the doors for registration and withdrawals. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A man reads a booklet while attending a rally for second constituency candidate Aliya Al-Khaled. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: The new service enables a voter to inquire about his or her registration number and print a card with all the information needed. —KUNA

NEW AUTOMATED QUERYING SERVICE INTRODUCED AHEAD OF ELECTIONS



KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior has invented an automated querying service to enable voters cast their ballots easily besides posting various posters of candidates and polling centers. And through punching the voter's civil identification number in the electronic devices provided by the ministry in a number of commercial complexes, the voter will be able to inquire about his or her registration number and print a card with all the information needed. This distinguished service, which will continue until the elections on 26 November, comes according to an integrated mechanism of action for communication between the security establishment and the community in order to make it easier for voters and help them to cast ballots without trouble. —KUNA



In Brief

FM LEAVES FOR EQUATORIAL GUINEA

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah flew yesterday to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to lead his country's delegation to the preparatory meeting of the Africa-Arab Summit today. The Kuwaiti delegation includes Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Affairs Ambassador Saleh Salim Al-Loughani and some officials from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS). — KUNA



AFRO-ARAB COORDINATION

MALABO: The Malabo declaration to be issued by the Africa-Arab Summit slated for Wednesday will boost the bilateral cooperation, Deputy Secretary-General of the Arab League Ambassador Ahmad bin Helli said. The declaration would also enhance Africa-Arab consultations on the political level and coordination on the international level in all issues of mutual interest, bin Helli said on the sidelines of the summit's meetings. He added that the Abdulrahman Al-Sumait Prize for African Development is a symbol of Afro-Arab cooperation, lauding the State of Kuwait's effort in this regard. — KUNA



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Environment Public Authority organized yesterday a workshop dubbed 'Identifying Environmental Issues in Kuwait' in collaboration with the Environmental Studies and Research Institute at the University of Ain Shams in Egypt. EPA's Chairman of the Board and Director General Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah said in a statement that the workshop comes in order to effectuate the memorandum of understanding and cooperation in the field of research and environmental studies that took place last year between the two sides. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Antiques put for display at a local museum in Kuwait City. — KUNA Photo

SAFWAT CENTER PROVIDES HEALTH, EDUCATION SERVICES IN BENIN

COTONOU: Safwat Center of Direct Aid Society, which was established in the capital in 2007, has been offering healthy and educational services as well as psychological support for Benin's people. The center's schools are distinguished across the country, they have developed scientific laboratories, a library and a hospital which services more than 50,000 citizens. The number of male and female students are 500.

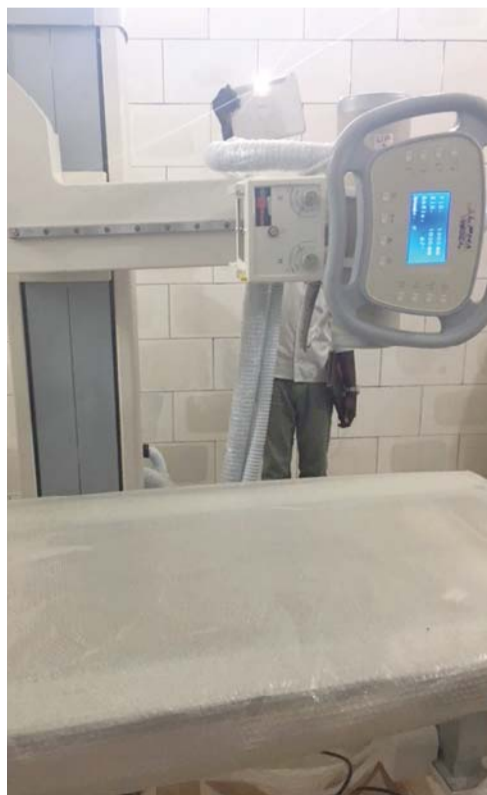
In an interview yesterday, the Kuwaiti Embassy's diplomatic attache to Benin Fahad Al-Bathali extolled the projects carried out by the society that covered the country's poorest places. He asserted that Kuwait has been named by the UN in 2014 as a "Humanitarian Center" and His Highness the Amir as a "Humanitarian Leader" for the continued humanitarian aid provided to people regardless of sex or religion.

Meanwhile, Humaid Al-Absodhy, director of the society's office in Benin, told KUNA that the society would extend its projects to serve all people and help women and well as provide psychological support for female orphans numbering 150. He said that there was an extension on Sunday at some departments of hospital.

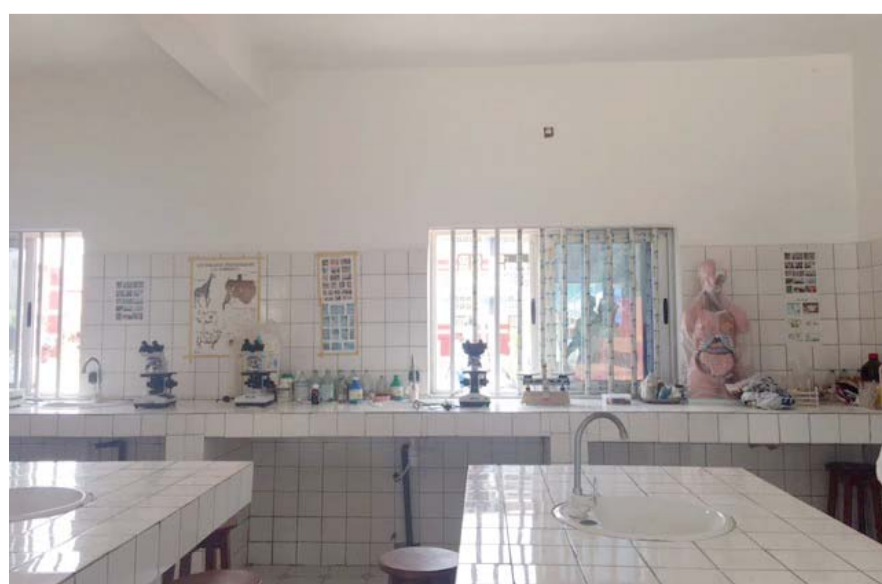
The Direct Aid (Africa Muslims Committee) started its works in 1981 as a voluntarily non-governmental institution interesting in the development in the neediest places in Africa. It conducts its works in a scientific way and does



Kuwaiti Embassy's diplomatic attache to Benin Fahad Al-Bathali



not look into the individual conditions. It pays attention to the education with all its types as a basic means to change the miserable situation people facing in Africa. — KUNA



KUWAIT CARRIES ON WITH AID TO IRAQIS IN MOSUL

IRBIL: The State of Kuwait yesterday continued offering urgent humanitarian aid to the people in Mosul as part of the 'Kuwait by your side' campaign. Today, aid is being offered to Iraqis in Mosul's neighborhood of Al-Samah, recently retaken from the so-called Islamic State (IS).

Director of the city's township of Bartla Ali Mohammad expressed gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its humanitarian initiative offering relief aid to Mosul's people in the re-captured areas. Meanwhile, head of the municipality in Iraq's second biggest city Mohamed Kassem highlighted Kuwait's distinct humanitarian support to Mosul. He said that they had delivered food supplies to the liberated areas in Mosul in cooperation with officials in the Nineveh Governorate.

Up to 1,000 food packages were

today offered to the Mosul's people, Kassem said, adding that aid was distributed to people in Al-Samah neighborhood in cooperation with Ahebaa society for relief and development. Ahebaa deputy chairman Mohamma Selim said that more Kuwaiti campaigns would follow. "Kuwait has been a pioneer in offering aid to Mosul," head of the Nineveh Council of Elders Hashim Fathi Al-Shobki said.

The Mosul people have been in dire need for the aid, he said, voicing hope other countries would follow the Kuwait's model. Many of the Iraqi people in Mosul thanked Kuwait for the aid which they badly needed, as they were suffering severe shortage of food stuff. Kuwait has offered 170,000 food packages to the Mosul people, as the Iraqi forces began regaining control on the city's districts. — KUNA



DOHA: Officials attend the Katara 6th Traditional Dhow Festival. — KUNA

SEA CULTURE MEETINGS IN GCC KEY TO EDUCATE FUTURE GENERATIONS: RESEARCHER

DOHA: Nawaf Al-Asfour, a research in Sea Culture from Kuwait, on Saturday underlined importance of specialized meetings in Arab Gulf countries because they educate future generations about history of forefathers. He said these meetings were also important to revive traditions and culture of sea of the Gulf countries.

Asfour was speaking on sidelines of Katara 6th Traditional Dhow Festival. He said Kuwait's pavilion in the festival displayed tools and equipment used by pearl divers and traders, as well as navigation instruments used in dhow ships.

There are samples of Kuwaiti wooden-made dhows built by Ibrahim Al-Failawi, noted Asfour, while Hadi Al-Asousi was responsible for the setting up of the pavilion. The pavilion, he explained, consisted of shapes depicting old Kuwaiti houses including the room of the pride and her belongings. Asfour thanked the organizers for honoring Kuwaiti sea culture researcher Dr Yaaqoub Al-Hajji, Dhow Skipper Khaled Khalifa Al-Rashed and Al-Failawi. Al-Rashed, the skipper of Al-Muhallab Dhow, praised the festival because it would preserve the traditions and history of ancestors to keep them for future generations. The five-day festival displayed a variety of sea-related jobs and skills, like the pearl diving and trading, ship-building, pearl opening technique, sail manufacturing and fishing. — KUNA

NEW BLOOD BANK TO OPEN IN ADAN

60% OF SCHOOLCHILDREN SUFFER FROM SPINAL PROBLEMS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Hind Al-Subaih stressed the importance of cooperation between the three development partners - the private sector, the public sector and NGOs - to achieve development and build projects that would help serve citizens. Speaking on inspecting the new blood bank project in Adan that is being funded by cooperative societies' shareholders profits, Subaih stressed that the new blood bank would be the second one after over 50 years since the first blood bank in Jabriya opened. She added that 406,000 shareholders from 63 co-ops participated in funding the project. "This is reminiscent of 1911 when all Kuwaitis participated in building Mubarakiya School," she underlined, noting that the project's total cost is KD 6,982,000 that construction had started in Dec 2015. She said it would be handed over to MoH in Oct 2017.

New hospital

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has announced that the new Ahmad Hospital will officially open in February and will provide highly-

developed medical services, including developmental and intervention radiology. KOC added that patients would not have to wait long to see doctors and patients already hospitalized in the old hospital would be moved into the new one using special ambulances. KOC explained that the old hospital building would be kept intact as a historical building and that some of its departments would still be operational to provide full clinical services to geriatric patients and those in coma.

Spinal problems

Physiotherapist at the Chest Diseases Hospital Dr Hanan Humoud said 50-60 percent of schoolchildren in GCC states suffer from spinal problems because of their schoolbags. Speaking at an event organized by the hospital's health awareness committee at Ibn Rushd primary school in Faiha under the title 'Schoolbag', Humoud stressed that a schoolbag should not be heavier than 10-15 percent of the child's total weight, its weight should be in accordance to that of the child and that it should have a waist strap to protect the back. Humoud also advised schoolchildren to stick to their daily timetables to avoid overloading the bag with

books. She also advised them to put heavier books close to the back of the bag. In addition, Humoud said trolley bags' handles should be adjusted to avoid forcing a kid to bend and drag a heavy bag. Humoud then taught the kids a few exercises to strengthen their back muscles to avoid spinal problems.

Anticorruption

Head of the Anticorruption Authority Chancellor Abdul Rahman Namash Al-Namash said Kuwait is the only regional country in which the anticorruption authority demands financial disclosures from senior officials and employees. Speaking at a press conference held on the occasion of publicizing executive charter number 300/2016, Namash said lawmakers are obliged to file their financial disclosures within 60 days of winning parliamentary membership and that any delay would subject them to legal actions. Namash also said that the law allows prosecuting officials' wives and children for illicit gains resulting from crimes committed by these officials. Namash added that officials appointed before the issuance of the charter will have to file in their financial disclosures within six months.

Legalese

PROBLEMS WITH PASSPORTS AND RESIDENCY

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

As a practicing lawyer, I am appalled by the large number of violations regarding passports and residencies, even though I have written about the topic multiple times. I do not want to portray the private sector in Kuwait negatively. There are many really great employers here who abide by the law and understand that their employees are the company's biggest assets. As a writer though, I feel the need to focus on such issues in order to provide my readers with awareness on the topic, should they go through a similar situation in the future. I hope the questions and answers below help.

Keeping the passport

Question: My boss took my passport away claiming that she needed it to renew my residency. My residency was about to expire, but she has kept it for three months now, and I doubt that it takes that long to renew an iqama. Can you shed some light on the issue? What can I do?

Fajer: I know this is a tough situation to be in. It is like a catch 22 situation - on one hand you need to renew your residency. On the other, you don't want to provide your boss with your passport. Just to make things clear to you, renewal of visa should not take longer than a few days, if not just a day. It definitely does not take months. It could be that your employer has issues at the Shuoon (Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs) for previous violations, but if this is the case, she shouldn't keep the passport with her.

Unfortunately, a lot of companies have been using renewal of residency as an excuse to keep passports. I would highly suggest that you get your employer to email you or provide you with a written document stating that they are withholding your passport for residency renewal and to write how long they have withheld your passport for.

Question: My passport is with my employer and he doesn't want to give it back. Can I call my embassy? Are they responsible by law?

Fajer: Different countries have different laws, so therefore different embassies have different policies. It wouldn't hurt to call them though. Some embassies will provide you with the names of lawyers, or will get involved in passport cases because the passports are the property of the country as well. It is best to call them and check.

Expired residency

Question: My residency has expired but I need to file a complaint against my previous employer for holding my passport. Can I go to the Shuoon (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor)? I am afraid to leave the house with an expired residency - I do not want to get deported.

Fajer: Having an expired residency is a clear violation of Kuwaiti law and could easily get you deported. But there are exceptions to this rule, one of them being if you have a complaint at the Shuoon. If you file a complaint at Shuoon for not having your passport and then your residency expires, you cannot get deported as you have an ongoing case.

Question: I need your help because I really need my passport, but I am afraid to file a complaint at the Shuoon. I am also afraid to come to your office. Can you help?

Fajer: Unfortunately, if I do not have a power of attorney on your behalf, I cannot help you. Also, I will need to go to Shuoon to obtain your passport. I do not have access to other means. I may be able to call your employer and try to negotiate on your behalf, but I will need a power of attorney. It is an official document that gives me the right to speak on your behalf and defend you. I know that if you or I go to the Shuoon, it may cause you some issues as your boss may be aggressive towards you at work, and as sad as this sounds, it will not be simple. If you are filing a complaint against your employers, they will have the power to make your work difficult, so it is best to discuss things first and think things through. I always suggest to try resolving things amicably first.

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



ATVs and motorbikes impounded during traffic campaigns carried out last week.



MAN FOUND DEAD IN KU TOILET

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Fatal crash

KUWAIT: A person thought to be unconscious in the toilets of Kuwait University's Shuwaikh campus was declared dead by paramedics. He was a 50-year-old citizen, and authorities said he is neither an employee nor a student there.

An expat was killed and five others were injured during a violent collision on King Fahd Road. Nuwaiseeb fire center responded, and firemen had to cut the cars open to get the trapped people out. A case was filed to investigate the causes of the accident.

Traffic campaigns

Traffic campaigns from Nov 9-18 resulted in recording 211 violations, one for a motorcyclist running the red light, 89 for riding a motorcycle without a license, 27 for disturbing the peace, nine for riding unlicensed motorcycles and nine for driving without insurance, while 58 ATVs were impounded.



NATIONALIZATION OF LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ONE OF OUR TOP PRIORITIES: KIB

KUWAIT: In line with its commitment towards investing in the national workforce, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) actively seeks to support, nurture and develop local talents within the banking sector. The Bank aims to continuously attract aspiring young Kuwaiti professionals of both genders, providing numerous career opportunities and professional training programs for newly graduated Kuwaiti nationals.

In a testament to its outstanding employment strategies and its ongoing efforts to promote Kuwaitization, KIB was recently honored at the 15th ceremony recognizing excellence in

the highest rates for nationalization of labor over the past few years," said Nigel Holmes, General Manager of Human Resources Department at KIB. "Moreover, we are heavily focused on human resources development, as we strongly believe that investing in human capital is one of the most important investments any organization can make. It is also a crucial step that will enable us to achieve KIB's long-term strategic goals."

Holmes further noted that human resources is one of the most vital sectors within any organization, adding: "At KIB we have set forth clear, encompassing strategies when it comes to human resources. Our goal is to attract qualified local talents, providing them with the best possible career opportunities to suit their professional aspirations. We are also keen on developing initiatives that support and encourage young men and women looking to pursue careers in the banking industry. Not to mention that we are committed to investing in our own employees and promoting their professional growth and development."

On that note, Holmes said that KIB continues to provide professional training and development opportunities for all its employees, across all divisions and levels. The Bank maintains a rolling calendar of training workshops and seminars, featuring leading experts in the field. Based on certified programs and qualifications, these training opportunities are designed to enhance skills and capacity, enabling KIB employees to carry out the Bank's mission of providing the highest standard of service to customers.

It serves to note that the national workforce at KIB continues to grow, and the Bank is dedicated to continuing to support local professionals - not only by providing the best job opportunities, but also by offering the best working environment that would nurture their talents and promote growth and development.



Nigel Holmes

workforce nationalization policies in the private sector across the GCC - an event which took place in Riyadh on the margins of 33rd Session of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Council of Ministers of Social Affairs of GCC States.

"When it comes to nationalization, KIB is one of the leading private sector entities in the market, having successfully achieved one of



KUWAIT: The General Department of Civil Defense organized a training program for 97 female employees at the Interior Ministry who were selected out of 1,900 applicants to volunteer during elections day next Saturday.



Crime

Report

LARGE LIQUOR BREWERY BUSTED

KUWAIT: Jahra police busted the large liquor brewery where huge amounts of alcoholic drinks were found. A suspect who was arrested said he brewed the liquor and sold it to expats. The factory was in Saad Al-Abdullah, where 5,000 liquor bottles, drums and distillation equipment were found. In other news, Salmiya police arrested seven people - five citizens, a Syrian and an Egyptian - for being extremely drunk in public. They were taken to the police station and charged.

Drug possession

A citizen in his 20s was caught in Fintas with three types of drugs. The citizen is an ex-convict and there are three cases against him. When searched, chemical, shabu and hashish were found on him. He was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

Fugitives detained

Hawally police arrested an Egyptian man wanted to serve a jail sentence after a chase in Nugra. Police found Tramadol on him. The Egyptian saw police approaching, so he fled, prompting them to chase him. He was sent to the DCGD. Meanwhile, a citizen in her 30s wanted over threatening to harm and theft was arrested. The arrest was made when she was stopped in Salmiya.

Suspected theft

An Egyptian man told Khaitan police that KD 650 was missing from his bag, but he did not suspect anyone. But a few days later, he noticed his roommate had bought two mobile phones and other things, and was spending money in an unusual manner. The Egyptian confronted his roommate, who denied any wrongdoing, so he went back to the police and complained against him. Police are investigating.

Break in and theft

An Egyptian man told police the health club his company is leasing from a sports club was broken into and files, promissory notes, copiers, 500 motor oil cans, furniture and exercise equipment were stolen. A felony case was registered and referred to detectives.

—Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



Al-Jarida

التقريب

Al-Qabas

THIS IS WHY IT SHOULD BE REJECTED

By Abdellatif Al-Duaij

A majority of people objected to, or rather ridiculed, the religious document that was put out for signing lately, because most of those who signed it do not believe in it or have behaviors that are contrary to its content in their personal lives. This majority may be truthful and right, but this majority regrettably overlooked that the document contradicts the constitution to start with, as well as democratic principles and the rules and origins of ruling in Kuwait. This makes it contradictory with National Assembly elections. It is good to be signed by any religious person anywhere, but not by someone who is a candidate, and this should have been the basis of opposing it.

Running for the Assembly means accepting the constitution, the oath to respect it and the undertaking to protect it from those wanting to mess with it. The undertakings mentioned in the document contradict the democratic system and put down the constitution. The document rejects democratic principles and clashes with many of the constitutional articles that those who signed it will swear to respect.

It is not an accident that the Arabic alphabets "NFRD", which means we reject, are the same that are used in "NFRD", which means we impose, because the meaning is the same, as rejection and imposing are two undemocratic principles and behaviors. You propose and not impose, and you oppose and not reject, as both rejection and imposing are contrary to the democratic system and clash with the Kuwaiti constitution in particular. So signing this document contradicts the constitution, and should not be done by a candidate running in the Assembly elections.

The bad successive governments and cowardliness of the democratic national powers led to religious groups being audacious over the constitution and democratic system. Tinkering with constitutional articles became acceptable and allowed, especially article 91 of the parliamentary oath of office which religious groups were keen on openly manipulating by adding what they believed in and the conditions related to the oath's text, which makes the oath void. But with regret, none of the elder lawmakers were courageous to confront this, except Dr Salah Al-Ateeqi, who was the elder lawmaker in 2012 Assembly.

The document - which some of these backward people are proud of - is against the constitution and contradicts the behavior of its signees and reveals their fakeness and hypocrisy, because the Assembly candidate should be a believer in personal freedom and support pluralism and differences. Also, any candidate who signs it should be struck out because he admits in advance that he does not respect the state's system and constitution.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

النبا

Al-Anbaa

CROWS AND FOXES

By Saad Al-Motesh

When we were young, we were taught a very nice and wonderful proverb, which was frightening at the same time, because it mainly depends on the concept of 'tell me who your companions are and I will tell who you are' (birds of a feather flock together). Through knowing your company, I assure you that I will know who you really are regardless of how hard you might try to hide. Thanks to the Almighty, I avoided bad company, but the terrifying part lies in the fear of our folks if they find that we have been keeping bad company.

I use this idiom very often, and through using it, I realize that many people seem to have nothing to do but criticize Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud. It is obvious that those criticizing him are supporters of people who are eating their hearts out with envy on the success and achievements this man has

made in ministries under his jurisdiction. Nobody can deny that he managed to take Kuwait's shooting sport to international levels.

In the information ministry, he managed to achieve considerable success at Radio Kuwait and KTV after it became the true family channel showing decent programs. He also helped Kuwait win several awards at various Arab media conferences, the last of which was winning the lion's share of 39 out of a total of 50 awards at the Cairo Mondial.

Those critics may not know what a lion's share means, for which I cannot blame them, because they are nothing more than crows and foxes feeding on what is left from the lion's prey. Therefore, I would like to tell them that knowing them reveals much about the caliber of those criticizing Abu Sabah!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Through knowing your company, I assure you that I will know who you really are

KUWAIT AIRWAYS NOW FLIES DIRECT TO BANGKOK, ROME, MANILA AND PARIS

TWO CONNECTING FLIGHTS TURNED INTO DIRECT DESTINATIONS

KUWAIT: As part of its revised new schedule of timings, frequency increases and ever-increasing number of destinations, Kuwait Airways, the national carrier of the State of Kuwait, has confirmed that Bangkok, Rome, Paris and Manila are now non-stop destinations on its international network. The new schedule's timings and increased frequencies, which came into force on 30 October 2016, have been applied across Kuwait Airways' total network of 36 destinations.

The new schedule is part of Kuwait Airways' five-year transformation strategy to

overhaul its operations, commercial and service offerings to passengers and travel partners. One of the first steps in this transformation being the adoption of a dynamic new livery - revealed last month. The new livery was unveiled at a ceremony at Boeing's factory in Everett, near Seattle, USA, on the first of 10 soon-to-be-delivered Boeing 777-300ERs, with the first due to arrive in Kuwait in December 2016.

Commenting on why new direct routes have replaced the previous one-stop connecting flights, Rash Al-Roumi, Chairperson and

CEO of Kuwait Airways, said: "Bangkok, Paris, Manila and Rome represent some of our most popular destinations and it was clear that a direct, non-stop route was the way forward, in order to offer our loyal passengers a more convenient option for reaching home, taking a business trip or going on holiday."

"In conjunction with the new schedule's better timings and increased frequencies, Kuwait Airways is confident that we are growing our share of the local and regional market - with passenger numbers up 40 per cent, over the last two years," Roumi added.



KFH - BAHRAIN CONCLUDES SUMMER TRAINING

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) concluded its Summer Training Program that was organized by the Human Resources Department during the months of July and August 2016. During the two months, the training program hosted a group of students from various local and international universities.

As part of this program, thirty three students were selected and allocated to the Bank's various departments, where they were given the opportunity to receive hands-on training and to familiarize themselves to the work environment.

In a closing ceremony, Yousif Al-Hammadi, Executive Manager - Head of Human Resources commented, "KFH-Bahrain is following a clear and consistent path to support Bahraini youth and to develop their practical skills and knowledge. Through such programs, we aim to provide

the interns with a sound exposure to the work environment and to equip them with the necessary workplace skills and competencies needed for their future careers."

Hammadi further commented, "We are pleased to have hosted 33 talented students this year, and shall continue to organize similar programs in the long run with the aim of sustaining the continuous development of young Bahraini talent and molding them to become future leaders."

During the ceremony, the trainees were also given the opportunity to share their feedback and recommendations and to exchange with each other the various experiences gained throughout the training period. The event was concluded with the distribution of certificates to the trainees in appreciation of their efforts and for their successful completion of the program.

ZAIN PLATINUM SPONSOR OF NUKS USA'S 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Platinum sponsorship of the 33rd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS USA), which is set to be held from the 24th - 26th November 2016 in San Francisco, California, under the patronage of HE the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa and the attendance of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Zain expressed its pride in being the main supporter of this national event for 13 consecutive years, as it is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students abroad. The company's support comes in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the youth and education sectors and its belief in the importance of connecting with the country's youth abroad.

Each year, Zain contributes to the event by organizing and participating in a number of cultural and sporting activities. Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan will be participating in a discussion panel alongside a number of prominent local leaders. Additionally, the company will recognize and honor the top performing Kuwaiti students studying in the US.

During this year's conference, Zain will also sponsor the sports discussion

panel that will feature prominent Kuwaiti sports figures as well as organize the annual students football tournament.

The company will also participate in the event's careers fair through its own booth to offer students career opportunities and share its leading experience in the telecom sector.

Zain's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti youth, especially those who pursue their education abroad, as the NUKS USA conference is one of the largest gatherings of Kuwaiti students outside of Kuwait. The distinctive event appeals to students on both an intellectual and social level and it serves as an open forum for them to exchange opinions and views regarding important domestic issues with the presence of distinguished figures from the Kuwaiti society.

Zain sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis who are looking to enter the job market with suitable career development opportunities.

Participating in this event affirms Zain's role as a leading national company that takes the development of young people seriously, with the ultimate intention to induce positive change within the Kuwaiti society.

Kuwait Times International

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016



UN envoy in Damascus as regime pounds Aleppo

ERDOGAN SAYS TURKEY CAN SPURN EU AND JOIN THE SHANGHAI PACT

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BERLIN: In this Feb. 24, 2016 file photo German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends the weekly cabinet meeting of the German government at the chancellery. — AP

MERKEL TO SEEK FOURTH TERM

WILL ALSO RUN FOR PARTY'S CHAIRWOMAN

BERLIN: Angela Merkel will seek a fourth term as Germany's chancellor in general elections next year, the German news agency dpa reported yesterday. Dpa, citing sources at the Berlin headquarters of Merkel's Christian Democrat party, reported that the 62-year-old chancellor also will run to be re-elected as the party's chairwoman when it holds its national convention next month.

Merkel is expected to declare her candidacy for chancellor at a press conference at the party's headquarters later yesterday. A physicist by training, Merkel became Germany's first female head of government in 2005. She also is the first leader of a reunited Germany to have grown up under communism in the former East Germany.

If she wins next year and serves the entire four-year term, Merkel would match her one-time mentor Helmut Kohl's post-war record of 16 years in office. Repeatedly named "The World's Most Powerful Woman" by Forbes magazine, Merkel also has been suggested by some as the last powerful defender of liberal values in the West following Donald Trump's election as the next US president.

60 percent pro-Merkel

Nearly 60 percent of Germans surveyed in a recent poll said they wanted Merkel to run for office again, Manfred Guellner, the head of the Forsa polling agency, said. "In these difficult times, Merkel is a pillar of stability," Guellner told The Associated Press. "People have the feeling she represents German interests well abroad."

While she's never been described as a visionary or earned much praise for stirring speeches, Merkel has won respect for being tough, shrewd and doggedly tackling problems. Since becoming chancellor, she's dealt with several international crises, including the Eurozone debt crisis in 2008-09 for which she brokered compromises among fractious European Union leaders. She has been a strong advocate of efforts to combat climate change, and in 2011 abruptly accelerated the shutdown of Germany's nuclear power plants following the meltdowns at Japan's Fukushima plant.

Unresolved diplomatic challenges include Europe's relationship with Russia, the future of Ukraine, autocratic developments in Turkey, the ongoing war in Syria and negotiations over Britain's exit from the European Union.

Merkel also needs to brace herself for the populist

wave sweeping both the United States and Europe, where elections next year could see a far-right politician become president of France.

Domestically, the nationalist Alternative for Germany, or AfD, could prove to be one of the biggest stumbling blocks to her re-election. The populist party, which is now represented in 10 state parliaments, has aggressively campaigned against Merkel decision to welcome an estimated 890,000 migrants into the Germany last year and in elections in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania earlier this year, Merkel's party, the Christian Democratic Union, came in third behind the Alliance for Germany. According to recent polls, the AfD would win around 10 percent of the vote if general elections were to be held now.

Merkel, the oldest of three children and the daughter of a Protestant pastor, entered politics in her mid-30s after working as a physicist behind the Iron Curtain. She served as minister for women and families in Kohl's first post-reunification Cabinet in the 1990s and then also as an environment minister.

In the beginning of her political career, she was often underestimated by her mostly male, Catholic, West German party companions who sometimes referred to her condescendingly as "Kohl's girl." But in the end, she eliminated her rivals with lots of tactical skill and sheer luck to make it all the way to the top in 2005.

In Germany, Merkel is sometimes referred to as "Mutti," or "mom," despite being known for a pragmatic, rational style of governing. While Merkel often appears reserved and even stiff in public, she has tried in past campaigns to show a more human side. She opened up about her favorite pastimes outside politics, which include baking plum cake for her husband, the publicity-shy chemistry professor Joachim Sauer, and spending weekends at a little cabin outside Berlin.

If Merkel wins and serves out a fourth term, she wouldn't just equal Kohl's record tenure but overtake conservative icon Konrad Adenauer, who served just over 14 years as chancellor from 1949-1963. "I can see how Merkel has this personal ambition to show the people that she, who used to be such an outsider when she first entered politics as an East German and a woman, made it all the way," Gero Neugebauer, a political scientist at Berlin's Free University, said. A date has not yet been set for the election, but they will take place sometime between August 23 and October 22. — AP

YEMEN CALM AS TRACE TAKES HOLD

SANAA: Yemen saw a rare respite from fighting yesterday, the second day of a 48-hour ceasefire that followed a US push to halt a conflict that has wrought devastation and killed thousands. An AFP correspondent in Sanaa said there had not been any Saudi-led air strikes in the rebel-held capital since the ceasefire took effect, and officials in Ta'izz said it was also calm in the flashpoint southwestern city.

The ceasefire comes after US Secretary of State John Kerry met rebel representatives in Oman and urged the internationally recognized government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi to come on board. The conflict erupted in 2014, when the Iran-backed Huthi rebels and their allies of renegade troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh overran Sanaa and other parts of Yemen.

It escalated in March 2015 when Saudi Arabia-the archfoe of Iran-launched a military campaign to drive back the rebels, and the UN says more than 7,000 people have been killed and nearly 37,000 wounded since. The ceasefire was taking hold in Sanaa despite intermittent fighting reported in Nahm, near the capital, in the hours after it began at midday (0900 GMT) on Saturday.

Ta'izz was also calm, according to a military official who only spoke of a "limited exchange of fire" after dozens were killed during battles in the city this week. Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition's air defenses destroyed three ballistic missiles the rebels fired at dawn at Marib province, east of Sanaa, a military official said.

Coalition spokesman Major General Ahmed Assiri accused the Huthis of 180 violations in the first 10 hours of the ceasefire. He said 150 breaches took place in Yemen, while 30 others were along the northern border with Saudi Arabia, according to Al-Jazeera news network.

At first Hadi's government rejected the peace bid, saying it had not been consulted, while the Huthis and Saleh declared their commitment to it. But the government came under huge pressure to back down in the face of an international outcry over the mounting civilian death toll.

The Huthis yesterday welcomed "all efforts to end the

aggression" but denounced the Saudi side for escalations "during the so-called ceasefire," according to the rebel-controlled sabaneews.net website.

'New hope'

Relief agencies had been hoping the ceasefire would allow delivering aid to the needy in areas that were inaccessible due to fighting. UN children's aid agency UNICEF said the ceasefire "offers new hope in a situation that is increasingly catastrophic for children."

The conflict has killed well over 1,000 children and left millions more without access to basic care and at risk of imminent death, said UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake. One and a half million children were suffering from acute malnutrition, and thousands more were at risk from rapidly spreading cases of cholera and measles.

"For some time now we have been constrained in our efforts to reach these children with therapeutic food and medical supplies," Lake said in a statement. "We urge all parties to the ceasefire to allow unhindered humanitarian access for the delivery of life-saving supplies and services to all children in need. "It cannot be in anyone's interest to endanger the future of Yemen-its children," he added. The 48-hour ceasefire could be extended if the rebels hold fire and allow aid into besieged loyalist enclaves, the coalition said.

The spokesman of defected Yemeni troops, Brigadier General Sharaf Luqman, said on Saturday that they would also abide by the ceasefire. Six previous attempts to clinch a ceasefire have foundered, the latest in October.

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". 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. — AFP

CHURCH IN NORTHERN IRAQ REOPENED AFTER TWO YEARS UNDER IS CONTROL

BASHIQA, Iraq: The bells have rung out after two years of silence in the Mar Korkeis church in the town of Bashiqa, some 15 km north of Mosul, Islamic State's last major city stronghold in Iraq.

Kurdish Peshmerga fighters retook the town on Nov 7, ending two years of rule by the hardline Sunni group which persecuted Christians and other minorities in the Nineveh plains, one of the world's oldest centers of Christianity.

Women thrilled to celebrate the moment when a new crucifix was erected on the church, replacing one that was broken by the Islamic State militants.

The town is largely empty as the Peshmerga have not finished clearing explosives and mines left behind by the insurgents in their fight against US-backed Iraqi and Kurdish forces who launched an offensive on Mosul on Oct. 17. "We want people to be patient and not to return here until we completely clear the area, as we want to ensure their safety," said Peshmerga Brigadier General Mahram Yasin.

After seizing the Nineveh plains in 2014, Islamic State issued an ultimatum to Christians: pay a tax, convert to Islam, or die by the sword. Most abandoned their homes and fled to the nearby

autonomous Kurdish region.

The priest at the Mar Korkeis church, Father Afram, said he would prefer Bashiqa to remain under the control of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and not revert to the Iraqi central government in Baghdad, about 400 km to the south. "Of course we would prefer to be part of the KRG, because of our proximity to the area and because, for the past 13 years, the regional government has been looking after us," he said. "Nobody from Baghdad came here to say hello, at all," since the US-led invasion that toppled Iraqi leader

Saddam Hussein, he said. Christianity in northern Iraq dates back to the first century AD. The number of Christians has fallen sharply during the violence which followed the 2003 toppling of Hussein, and Islamic State's takeover of Mosul two years ago saw the city purged of Christians for the first time in two millennia.

From a Mosul mosque in 2014 Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a "caliphate" spanning parts of Iraq and Syria. The recapture of Mosul would mark the effective defeat of the group in Iraq. — Reuters



DAMASCUS: UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura arrives (C) for a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister yesterday. — AFP

UN ENVOY IN DAMASCUS AS REGIME POUNDS ALEPPO

100 PLUS CIVILIANS KILLED IN RECENT DAYS

ALEPPO: Syria's regime yesterday pursued a relentless assault of rebel-held east Aleppo that has killed more than 100 civilians in recent days, as the UN's peace envoy arrived in Damascus for talks.

Air strikes, artillery fire and barrel bomb attacks continued through the night and into yesterday morning as the army pressed a new offensive that has been condemned by Washington and the United Nations. An AFP journalist in eastern Aleppo said streets were deserted, with only ambulances and rescue workers moving through battered neighborhoods.

Damascus launched the renewed assault on east Aleppo on Tuesday in a bid to seize full control of the divided city, a key battleground in Syria's five-year civil war. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the war, said early yesterday that 54 people had been killed in the previous 24 hours, most of them civilians.

That brought to 103 the number of civilians killed, including 17 children, since the regime renewed its bombardment of Aleppo, it said. The Observatory also reported heavy fighting between regime forces and rebels as the army sought to gain ground in the Bustan al-Basha and Sheikh Saeed neighborhoods of the rebel-controlled east.

More than 300,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began with anti-government protests in March 2011. Successive international attempts to find a peaceful resolution to the war have failed. Staffan de Mistura, the UN's peace envoy for Syria, arrived in Damascus yesterday for talks with Foreign

Minister Walid al-Muallem that were likely to address the latest violence.

International concern has grown over the renewed assault, which has forced the closure of hospitals and schools, destroyed rescue worker facilities, and left residents covering in their homes. On Saturday, Washington slammed what it described as a "heinous" operation.

UN 'appalled' by violence

US National Security Advisor Susan Rice said Washington condemned "in the strongest terms these horrific attacks against medical infrastructure and humanitarian aid workers." "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 began a military intervention in support of President Bashar al-Assad's government last year. It says it is not involved in the current assault on Aleppo, concentrating its firepower on opposition and jihadist forces in neighboring Idlib province instead. But Damascus and its allies have made clear they want rebels expelled from eastern Aleppo, which fell from regime control in mid-2012.

More than 250,000 people remain in the east of the city, which has been sealed off since government forces surrounded it in mid-July. On Saturday, 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 to east

Aleppo and evacuate the sick and wounded. "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 in a joint statement.

Family of six killed

Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by the war. No aid has entered east Aleppo since July, and the government siege has led to food and fuel shortages, while sustained bombardment has forced schools and hospitals to close.

In mid-October, Russia said it was halting its strikes on Aleppo, and organized a series of brief ceasefires intended to encourage civilians and surrendering rebels to evacuate the east. But few did so, and the UN said the short windows were insufficient for it to secure security guarantees for aid deliveries or evacuations.

The renewed bombing has particularly affected medical and rescue facilities in the east, with shelling on Friday destroying one of the last hospitals in rebel-held Aleppo. Staff were also forced to evacuate the east's only children's hospital because of repeated attacks, removing babies from incubators.

Among those killed in the overnight bombing yesterday were a couple and their four children who died in a barrel bomb attack in the Sakhr neighborhood, the Observatory said. Activists circulated footage they said showed the children, in which the four siblings lay lifeless on a stone floor, among them a little girl with her hair in pig-tails wearing a blue jumper with a cartoon animal on it. — AFP

MOSUL ESCAPEES TELL OF HUMAN SHIELD ORDEAL

QABR AL ABD, Iraq: Iraqi civilians who escaped from the Islamic State group stronghold of Mosul said jihadists forced them from their villages and drove them "like sheep" to use as human shields.

Bashar huddled with his family on the back of an Iraqi security forces pick-up truck after finally fleeing an area of Mosul still held by IS. As government forces earlier this month advanced on the city—the last major population centre held by IS in Iraq—the family was herded with residents from outlying villages into Mosul by the retreating jihadists as an insurance against the US-led coalition air strikes and Iraqi shelling.

Eventually they got lucky and managed to escape-trekking homewards on foot before the small group he was with managed to attract the attention of interior ministry troops on the other side of the river Tigris.

The troops sent a boat for them and brought them across on a last leg that finally saw them get out of IS territory. "We saw the security forces and started shouting to them so they came to us," Bashar told AFP, shivering in the chilly evening air. "I swear we are going to die from cold."

What they left behind, he said, was an increasingly desperate situation for civilians in the bulk of the Mosul still controlled by IS as Iraqi forces battle fierce resistance while pushing slowly into the eastern part of the city. "I

swear the situation is not good-shooting everywhere, families sleeping in the streets, people are so tired," he said. "They are in the middle of the fire."

'Nothing to lose'

The United Nations has reported that IS forced "tens of thousands of people from their homes in some districts around Mosul" as Iraqi forces pushed the jihadists back.

Among them were Hassan, his mother and their family, who said they were "driven like sheep" towards the IS bastion when the government offensive started. "Mosul is full of people. They lack proper accommodation. They don't have food," he said. "They are just waiting for their destiny."

Hassan's father and some of their relatives are still trapped inside Mosul, so he asked AFP to use a pseudonym and his mother refused to give her name. They said they snuck out of the violence-wracked city at night and spent two days without sleep as they dodged IS and got lost trying to find their way home.

After spending their first night back in their house they were still exhausted but relieved to be out from under the control of the jihadists. Hassan's mother pointed to her feet and said that they were still swollen from all the walking it took to get back to their village. "We made it out because we felt like we had nothing to lose," she said. — AFP



DOHA: French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault attends the 9th Edition Global Governance conference as he meets Qatari leaders and representatives of the Syrian opposition in the Qatari capital Doha yesterday. — AFP



ALEPPO: Syrian children are being evacuated after their school was reportedly hit by rebel rocket fire in the Furqan neighborhood of the government-held side of west Aleppo. — AFP

REBEL FIRE ON WEST ALEPPO KILLS 7 CHILDREN

DAMASCUS: At least seven children were killed yesterday by rebel rocket fire that hit a school in the government-held west of Aleppo city, state media said. State television initially gave a toll of 10 killed, but the official SANA news agency subsequently said eight people had been killed, seven children and a woman.

The rocket fire hit a school in the Furqan neighborhood, and also injured at least 32 people, SANA said, citing a police source. The news agency reported additional rebel fire on other parts of west Aleppo, which is regularly targeted by the opposition forces that hold the eastern part of the city.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the war, also reported the deaths of seven children in rebel fire. It said the deaths brought the toll in the last two days in west Aleppo to 13, among them nine children. Government forces are currently waging a ferocious assault against east Aleppo, targeting it with air strikes, barrel bombs and artillery fire.

They renewed their fire on the east on Tuesday, after a period of relative respite, in a bid to recapture the rebel-held side of the city. The Observatory says at least 103 civilians have been killed in east Aleppo since the latest government assault began. — AFP

IRAQI FORCES PUSH ON AGAINST IS IN MOSUL

MOSUL, Iraq: A top Iraqi commander said yesterday that troops were continuing to advance toward the center of Mosul, pushing back Islamic State fighters, but slowed down by sniper fire and suicide bombings as well as concern over the safety of civilians in a city that is home to some one million people.

A few hundred civilians, meanwhile, emerged from rubble-strewn frontline neighborhoods in search of safer ground, including women and children, some of them carrying bags or small suitcases packed with belongings.

Maj. Gen. Sami al-Arabi told The Associated Press that his special forces were searching homes in areas retaken from IS, looking for militants and vehicles rigged to be used in suicide

bombings. Troops in those areas continue to be hit by mortar and sniper fire, he said.

Another Iraqi army commander, Brig. Gen. Haidar Fadel, said a suicide car bomber hiding inside a house attempted late Saturday to drive his vehicle toward troops in the city's Tahrir neighborhood. He was shot dead and his explosives-laden car detonated at a safe distance, he added. However, Fadel said the car exploded close to a house, causing it to collapse, killing four civilians and wounding four others.

The troops fighting in Mosul's eastern side laid siege Sunday to the Al-Zohour neighborhood, about eight kilometers (five miles) from the city center. The arrival of the troops at the neighborhood's fringes prompted hundreds of

civilians to emerge from their homes waving white flags and walking to relative safety behind army lines. "The biggest hindrance to us is the civilians whose presence is slowing us down," declared al-Arabi of the special forces. "We are soldiers who are not trained to carry out humanitarian tasks."

The Iraqi military began the campaign one month ago to retake Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and the last major urban center in the country still held by the militants. The campaign has been slow, with IS putting up stiff resistance. Most gains thus far have been made by the special forces operating in the section of Mosul east of the Tigris river. The campaign is being assisted by airstrikes from the U.S.-led military coalition.

IS captured Mosul, 360 kilometers north of Baghdad, in the summer of 2014 as part of a blitz that placed nearly a third of Iraq under the militants' control. Iraqi troops, federal police and allied Shiite and Sunni militias have over the past year pushed IS militants from most of the vast Sunni province of Anbar, west of Baghdad, and areas to the north and east of the Iraqi capital.

Army troops, meanwhile, arrived on the outskirts of Tal Afar west of Mosul to reinforce the state-sanctioned Shiite militias who have captured the town's airport and are preparing to retake the town, according to two senior militia officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. Prior to its capture by IS, Shiites constituted the majority of Tal Afar's estimated 200,000 residents. Human Rights Watch, meanwhile, claimed in a report Sunday that Sunni militiamen fighting alongside the Iraqi military detained and beat 22 men from villages near Mosul and recruited 10 children from displaced camps in the area to join the fight against IS. — AP



MOSUL CITY: An Iraqi special forces soldier patrols at al-Tahrir neighborhood yesterday. — AP

HAITI HOLDS LONG-AWAITED VOTE STILL REELING FROM HURRICANE

LES CAYES, Haiti: Haiti holds a long-delayed presidential election yesterday that its people hope will lift the economy after a devastating hurricane and more than a year of political instability. First held in October 2015, the election was annulled over allegations of fraud, and a rescheduled vote was postponed last month when Hurricane Matthew struck, killing up to 1,000 people and leaving 1.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance.

Homes, schools and farms across southwestern Haiti all bear the scars of Matthew, which piled fresh misery onto the nation of more than 10 million on the western half of the island of Hispaniola still recovering from a major earthquake in 2010. "(I want) for everyone to come together, for the country to be rebuilt," said Judeline Hubert, a 23-year-old nursing

student from the southwestern port of Les Cayes.

Depressing voter

Officials said the lingering effects of the hurricane and a bad weather forecast yesterday risk depressing voter turnout in the poorest country in the western hemisphere, where democratic participation is generally low. Weak turnout may undermine the legitimacy of the contest, which pits more than two dozen candidates in the race to succeed the former president, Michel Martelly, who left office in February. Since then, a caretaker government has run the island. "The Haitian people need a leader they have chosen, not someone chosen for them," said Louis St-Germain, the vice-delegate, or elected representative, for Les Cayes. "They are tired

of the instability, of things that are missing." Opinion polling is far from reliable in Haiti, civil society groups say. Still, a recent survey by pollster BRIDES made local entrepreneur Jovenel Moise the favorite to take the presidency for Martelly's Bald Heads Party in the first round. Among his most prominent competitors are the onetime boss of a government construction company, Jude Celestin, former senator Moise Jean-Charles, and Maryse Narcisse, a doctor backed by ex-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Unless one candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote or wins by at least 25 percent, a second round run-off will be held for the top two finishers, likely on Jan. 29. The victor is scheduled to take office in February. To safeguard voting in a country

with a history of electoral violence, nearly 13,000 officers from the national police and the United Nations mobilized yesterday.

But how many of the hundreds of thousands of people battered by Hurricane Matthew last month will make it to polling stations is a particular worry in southern Haiti. Only 4,000 identification cards have so far been produced to replace those lost to Matthew, said Wilson Fievre, general director of Haiti's National Identification Office. Having the wherewithal to vote may still not be enough. "Even if they can get voting material to all of these places, there's still an open question of whether people will actually care," said Jake Johnston, a Haiti specialist at the Washington-based think tank Center for Economic and Policy Research. —Reuters



TIJUANA, Mexico: Members of the Hernandez family hug each other and react as they encounter at the gate of the US-Mexico border fence opened for a few minutes on Saturday.—AFP

THREE MINUTES TO EMBRACE ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER

SAN YSIDRO, United States: For 20 years, Laura Avila had yearned to hug her mother again. On Saturday, tears streaming down her face, the 35-year-old had her wish finally come true—if only for three minutes.

At 12:27 pm, she hesitantly walked toward a heavy metal gate on the US-Mexico border in San Diego that a US Border Patrol agent had opened only minutes before, burying her face in her mother's embrace.

Avila and her 11-year-old daughter were among six families chosen to take part in an event organized by the migrant advocacy group Border Angels in cooperation with US authorities on the occasion of United Nations Children's Day yesterday.

One by one, each family was escorted to the opening in the steel fence separating the San Diego suburb of San Ysidro from Tijuana, in Mexico, and for three minutes—under the watchful eye of border agents and a scrum of journalists—hugged and kissed their loved ones who had waited on the other side. "I last saw my mother when she was 50 and next week she turns 71," Avila, who lives in the Los Angeles area, said after the emotional reunion. "It was an early Christmas present for the two of us, and a birthday present for her. "She had to take a four-hour flight from Puebla (in east-central Mexico) to see us," she said of her mother who had been deported after illegally entering the US.

Saturday's event—the fourth organized by Border Angels since 2013—took on added meaning for those attending, coming on the heels of the election of Donald Trump as president. Trump vowed during the presidential campaign to build a wall along the US-Mexico border and to deport millions of illegal immigrants from the country. Whether Trump pushes ahead with his harsh immigration proposals was clearly on everyone's mind Saturday as the families hugged and cried, with many wondering if it would be the last such event to take place. "I am terrified," said Luis Hernandez, 25, who hadn't seen his

father in five years. His parents slipped into the United States through the border with Tijuana when he was five years old and his father was arrested and deported five years ago.

But Hernandez, like several of those at the event Saturday, was allowed to stay in the US thanks to President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. DACA allows immigrants like Hernandez who arrived in the United States as children to work and study in the country on a temporary basis. But many of these so-called "Dreamers" now fear Trump will repeal the action, leading to tragic consequences to some 750,000 recipients.

'Touching the sky'

"What Trump has proposed is so scary for a lot of minorities, myself included," said Hernandez, who runs a television and Internet service in Los Angeles. "He has said he plans to undo the law that protects me. He doesn't even have to look for me. He has my address given that I'm in this program." Still, he said he remains hopeful and had promised his father that they would soon hug again. "It was like touching the sky," his elated father, Eduardo Hernandez, told AFP through the fence after the brief reunion. "I just wish it could happen more often, and for longer than three minutes." The area where Saturday's reunion took place is called Friendship Park and it is where families from both sides of the border every weekend are allowed to speak and lock pinky fingers through the steel mesh. But since 2013, on only four occasions—including this Saturday—has the large gate along that border been opened to allow a lucky few families chosen by Border Patrol to physically embrace. Enrique Morones, founder and director of the San Diego-based Border Angels, said he hoped the park as well as reunions like Saturday's would continue with the new administration. "My only message to Trump is this," he told AFP. "Love has no borders. And he should remember his roots and the roots of migrants all over the world"—AFP

GOLD STAR FAMILY OF SLAIN SOLDIER BOOED ON FLIGHT

STOCKTON, California: The father of a California soldier recently killed in Afghanistan says he felt disrespected and

hurt by passengers who booed him and his family when they were on a flight to meet his son's remains.

Stewart Perry, his wife and daughter were on an American Airlines flight Monday from Sacramento to Philadelphia with a transfer in Phoenix to receive the remains of his son, Sgt. John Perry, of Stockton, when the flight was delayed, the Stockton Record reported Saturday.

Perry, an ex-Marine who lives in Stockton, said the flight to Phoenix was 45 minutes late and the crew, fearing the Gold Star family could miss their connecting flight, made an announcement for passengers to remain seated to let a "special military family" deplane first.

Perry said several passengers in first class booed, complaining that it was "baloney" and that they paid first-class fares. He said he doesn't know if the passengers from Sacramento knew there was a Gold Star family on board or whether people sitting in the coach section complained. "It was just disgusting behavior from people in first class; it was terrible to see," Perry said.

Perry, 30, and another American soldier died of injuries inflicted by an improvised explosive device Nov. 12 inside Bagram Airfield. The husband and father of two young children died a hero, his father said. "He made a decision that saved a lot of people," he said. "I was told that he was found protecting a female soldier. He didn't get to live a full life, but he lived." —AP



TEXAS: This undated file photo provided by the Fort Hood, Texas Press Center shows US Army Sgt. John W. Perry of Stockton, California.—AP

TRUMP SEES 'TREMENDOUS TALENT' BUT GIVES NO NEW CABINET PICKS

'YOU'LL HEAR SOME THINGS TOMORROW'

BEDMINSTER, United States: US President-elect Donald Trump said Saturday he saw "tremendous talent" in a stream of cabinet hopefuls—including former critic Mitt Romney—invited to his golf club for talks, but did not reveal any new nominations. "You'll hear some things tomorrow," the 70-year-old Republican billionaire president-in-waiting told reporters after a marathon day of meetings at his golf retreat in New Jersey, a 90-minute drive outside Manhattan. Trump is building his new administration after his shock November 8 election win over Democrat Hillary Clinton, with an eye on his inauguration on January 20.

Romney, the failed Republican presidential candidate in 2012, is reportedly in the running to be Trump's secretary of state, even though the two men traded harsh barbs throughout the White House campaign.

Other high-level candidates who trekked out to Trump's golf resort included retired general James Mattis, a potential Pentagon chief his team called a "real deal" and "American hero," and Michelle Rhee, the controversial former head of schools in the US capital.

Trump—with Vice President-elect Mike Pence at his side—said his meetings had gone "really efficiently. Tremendous talent. We're seeing tremendous talent." This included talks with Romney, who emerged from the session saying nothing about whether he was offered the job or was interested in it. "We had a far-reaching conversation with regards to the various theaters in the world where there are interests of the United States of real significance," Romney said. "We discussed those areas and exchanged our views on those topics."

Trump's team described a "substantive and in-depth conversation about world affairs, national security and the future of America." "It was an extremely positive and productive conversation," a statement added. During their discussions with Rhee, Trump and Pence discussed "the possibility for increasing competition through charter and choice schools. They also brought the idea of merit pay for teachers going above and beyond in their classrooms into the conversation," a statement read.

Full schedule

The huge, exclusive Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster is one of the president-elect's favorite sanctuaries, where he likes to spend weekends and where he prepared for campaign debates against Clinton. Trump saw several business leaders including Lew Eisenberg, Andrew Puzder, Betsy DeVos and Todd Ricketts, the own-



BEDMINSTER, United States: US President-elect Donald Trump and US Vice President-elect Mike Pence depart after a day of meetings at the clubhouse of Trump National Golf Club on Saturday.—AFP

er of the Chicago Cubs baseball team. When asked if the cabinet was being formed, Trump replied: "Yes. Partially. We're doing this again tomorrow."

Romney appears to be on the shortlist for the State Department, along with former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani. Romney would bring a more orthodox Republican worldview to foreign policy. He described Russia in 2012 as the main American geopolitical threat—a sharp contrast to Trump, who has exchanged compliments with Russian President Vladimir Putin. During Trump's campaign, Romney described him as a "fraud," rebuking the tycoon for proposals such as banning the entry of all foreign Muslims.

'Apologize!'

Trump, who was spending his first weekend outside Manhattan since his election, had not appeared in public since he gave reporters the slip to take his family to dinner in New York on Tuesday. He has, however, been active on Twitter, a forum he has won fans-and detractors—with his off-the-cuff message style.

Trump also tweeted that he had settled three class action lawsuits over his now-defunct Trump University for \$25 million so that all his energy could be focused on his new job, dismissing any hint of guilt. "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 tweeted.

Cabinet takes shape

So far, Trump has announced a handful of government nominations, including ultra-conservative Senator Jeff Sessions as attorney general, hawkish congressman Mike Pompeo as CIA director and retired lieutenant general Michael Flynn as his national security advisor.

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 that cost him a chance for a job for life as a federal judge. With some 15 senior positions in his cabinet still to fill, the property mogul will remain in Bedminster until Sunday night, far from the protesters besieging his New York building.

More than 1,000 demonstrators marched from Queens—the New York borough where Trump was born—to Trump Tower in midtown Manhattan on Saturday, decrying what they see as a threat to democratic values under a Trump administration. Demonstrators, many waving rainbow flags in support of the gay community, carried such signs as "No to fascism" and "Stop racism." —AFP



WASHINGTON: Attendees arrive at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church for the memorial service for journalist Gwen Ifill on Saturday.—AP

THOUSANDS GATHER TO MOURN, CELEBRATE, JOURNALIST GWEN IFILL

WASHINGTON: Thousands of mourners—including first lady Michelle Obama—remembered and celebrated veteran Washington journalist Gwen Ifill on Saturday, recalling her as a standard bearer, cherished friend, devoted mentor and woman of abiding faith. Ifill died Monday at 61 after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Mrs. Obama did not speak at the service, but several journalists and political figures offered reflections. "We didn't look like other anchor pairs—and we loved that," said Judy Woodruff, half of the history-making team that became the first female co-anchors of a major news broadcast in 2013. The two co-hosted PBS' "NewsHour." Woodruff added that Ifill is needed "more than ever."

"Never have we faced tougher challenges, and no one would've risen to them better," she added. Ifill, she added, will "be our compass." Former Attorney General Eric Holder read a letter from President Barack Obama, who was in Peru. Holder likened Ifill to "a comet" and challenged the colleagues she leaves behind to honor her legacy with their work by holding those in power accountable. "Will you cower? Will you normalize that which is anything but?" Holder

asked in a veiled reference to the incoming administration of Donald Trump.

The service, held at the historic Metropolitan A.M.E. Church—where Ifill was a longtime member—was also a grand display of her faith and roots as the daughter of Caribbean immigrants whose father was a leader of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Her pastor of many years, Bishop James L. Davis, recalled Ifill as "brilliance cloaked in humility."

Ifill's media background

A former reporter for The New York Times and The Washington Post, Ifill transitioned to television in the 1990s, covering politics and Congress for NBC News. She moved to PBS in 1999 as host of "Washington Week" and also worked for "NewsHour." She moderated vice presidential debates in 2004 and 2008.

John Dickerson, host of CBS' "Face the Nation" who joined Ifill as a regular panelist on "Washington Week," said Ifill "wore her grace like a garment," but added her infectious laugh came with a withering scowl. "I'm not going to say it in church, but there's a very specific word for what Gwen could detect," Dickerson said. —AFP

MARCH IN NY PRESSED TRUMP ON DIVERSITY, DEMOCRACY

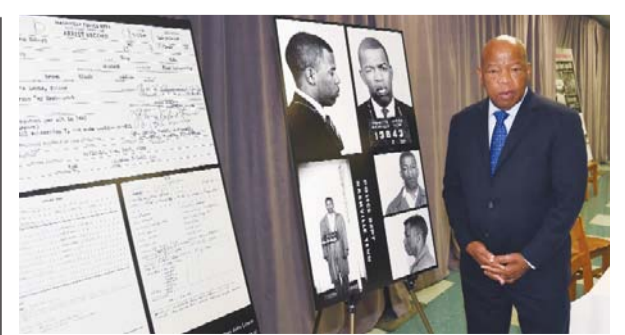
NEW YORK: More than a thousand demonstrators marched Saturday in New York from the Queens borough where President-elect Donald Trump was born to Trump Tower, calling for diversity and the defense of democratic values.

Marchers crossed the bridge that connects Queens to Manhattan under a sunny sky before arriving outside the home and transition headquarters of the real estate developer and ex-reality TV host. "We know that our diversity makes us stronger: Trump may have grown up here, he is no longer Queens today," said openly gay New York City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, who is from Queens and called for the march.

He received an anonymous homophobic death threat by email on Thursday, which police are investigating. Hate speech has been on the rise since Trump's largely unexpected election, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which seeks to track and combat racism.

Trump, 70, was born and raised in the prosperous Jamaica Estates neighborhood in Queens. The area was very white; now it is much more diverse. Demonstrators, many waving rainbow flags in support of the gay community, carried signs that read: "Queens will resist hatred," "No to fascism" and "Stop racism."

The demonstration broke up without incident shortly before 5:00 pm (22H00 GMT). Trump Tower has been the scene of numerous protests since the billionaire real estate mogul won the election a week and a half ago. Trump Saturday was spending his first weekend outside Manhattan since the election, meeting with candidates for his cabinet at one of his golf clubs in nearby New Jersey.—AFP



NASHVILLE: Congressman/Civil Rights Icon John Lewis views for the first time images and his arrest record for leading a nonviolent sit-in at Nashville's segregated lunch counters, March 5, 1963.—AFP

EU URGES AZERBAIJAN TO RELEASE OPPOSITION LEADER

BRUSSELS: The EU called Saturday on Azerbaijan to comply with a European court ruling and release jailed opposition leader Ilgar Mammadov after the former Soviet state's supreme court rejected his appeal.

Mammadov, 46, was arrested in 2013 just before he was expected to stand for president and sentenced in 2014 to seven years in jail for "inciting anti-government riots".

The European Court of Human Rights in 2014 ruled that the criminal proceedings against Mammadov had no legal

basis and were aimed at silencing him for criticizing the government. The European Union's diplomatic service said Azerbaijan's supreme court ruling Friday to throw out Mammadov's appeal "runs counter" to the European court's verdict. "We call on Azerbaijan to uphold its obligations as a member of the Council of Europe and to meet its commitments taken under the European Convention on Human Rights," it said following the ruling it observed.

It then urged Azerbaijan "to comply

with judgments of the Court of Human Rights and to release Mr Mammadov," Mammadov's lawyer Fuad Agayev told AFP on Friday that his "client's guilt has never been proven and he has been jailed on bogus and politically motivated charges."

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, which ensures compliance with court judgments, has repeatedly called for Mammadov's release and last year launched an investigation into Azerbaijan's observance of human rights. In September, it called Baku's fail-

ure to free Mammadov a violation of the European Human Rights Convention.

Rights group Amnesty International has described him as a "prisoner of conscience". The leader of the Republican Alternative movement was seen as President Ilham Aliyev's leading political opponent and widely expected to run in the October 2013 presidential election.

He was arrested in February 2013 and accused of being behind protests that turned into violent clashes in the town of Ismayilli in January that year. He denied any role in the clashes, which

saw police use rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannon to disperse thousands of protesters after residents set several buildings and cars on fire.

In October 2015, Mammadov's lawyers said he was severely beaten in the head by prison guards. Any display of public discontent and political dissent usually meets a tough government response in Azerbaijan. Rights groups say the government of the energy-rich Caspian state has clamped down on opponents since Aliyev's re-election in 2013. —AFP



PARIS: Former French president and candidate for the right-wing Les Republicains (LR) party primary ahead of the 2017 presidential election Nicolas Sarkozy (C), flanked by LR deputy Claude Goasguen (R) casts his vote in a ballot box at a polling station yesterday. —AFP

SARKOZY UNDER PRESSURE AS FRENCH RIGHT HOLDS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

LATE CHALLENGE FROM AN OUTSIDER

PARIS: French voters went to the polls yesterday for the first round of a US-style primary to choose a rightwing candidate for next year's presidential elections, with former president Nicolas Sarkozy and ex-prime minister Alain Juppe facing a late challenge from an outsider. A last-minute surge in the opinion polls by Francois Fillon, who was prime minister under Sarkozy, showed he was in contention to grab one of the top two spots for next Sunday's runoff. It is the first time the French right has held such a primary. The outcome is crucial because with the French left divided, the conservative candidate who emerges is tipped to take the presidency in May after beating far-right leader Marine Le Pen. Some voters surveys at the end of campaigning put 62-year-old Fillon nearly level with Sarkozy, 61, and Juppe, the 71-year-old political veteran who had been the frontrunner for the past two months. Juppe's strategy of playing the moderate against the fiery Sarkozy and the reform-minded Fillon appears to have backfired. The vote is not restricted to right-wing voters. An unknown factor is how many left-leaning supporters will take

part after paying two Euros (\$2.1) and signing a declaration that they subscribe to "the values of the center and the right".

One such Socialist voter, a sports teacher in his fifties who identified himself only as Eric, said yesterday he was voting "against Sarkozy". "I'm fed up of that guy, he thinks he is all-powerful and he has been involved in too many scandals. Juppe, despite everything else, is the opposite," he told AFP as he cast his vote in the Paris suburb of Pantin.

Sarkozy scandals

In a final TV debate of the seven candidates on Thursday, Sarkozy angrily ducked a question about fresh claims that he received millions in funding from the late Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi towards his 2007 campaign.

The case is one of several investigations to dog Sarkozy since he left office in 2012, losing to the Socialist Francois Hollande following what was dubbed a "bling-bling" presidency because of his flashy lifestyle. The three leading candidates have similar programs, underpinned by pledges to

reinforce domestic security in a country still under a state of emergency following the jihadist attacks. They also share a desire to reinforce European borders and reduce immigration, while tax cuts also loom large. Ultimately, the choice will come down to style. Sarkozy has emphasized his tough-guy credentials, saying it makes him a better choice than the mild-mannered Juppe to safeguard France's position in an uncertain world following the election of Donald Trump in the United States.

Fillon, who is popular in the business world, has promised "radical" economic measures but is the most conservative of the three on social issues. The nomination of the right-wing candidate on November 27 is expected to trigger an announcement from Hollande on whether he intends to bid for re-election despite the lowest popularity ratings of any post-war French president. On Wednesday, Hollande's former economy minister Emmanuel Macron, 38, announced he would stand as an independent. Polls Sunday close at 1800 GMT, with the first indication of the outcome expected around 2130 GMT. —AFP

RESCUE SHIP CARRYING MIGRANTS REACHES ITALY AFTER DEADLY WEEK IN MEDITERRANEAN

MESSINA, Italy: A rescue ship carrying more than 200 migrants and eight bodies, docked in Sicily yesterday after a deadly week in the Mediterranean in which hundreds drowned trying to reach Europe from Libya. Most of the 219 men, women and children on the rescue ship Bourbon Argos were West Africans, according to Doctors without Borders, which operates the ship. They included 27 men who were rescued by the British navy on Wednesday, and transferred to the Bourbon Argos, after the rubber boat they were on deflated. Six bodies were fished out of the water on Wednesday and 97 others who were on the dinghy are missing and feared dead.

In total, an estimated 365 migrants drowned last week in the Mediterranean, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Friday. Survivors of the dinghy said that a smuggler towed them out to sea for two hours and then at gunpoint forced them to hand over the life jackets they had paid for, plus the dinghy's engine, and left them adrift.

"At that moment I thought we were

going to die, I knew we were not close to Italy and without an engine we could not get far. The smuggler told us we would be rescued, but I felt we were going to die," Abdoullae Diallo, 18, from Senegal said in French in an interview conducted on board the rescue vessel.

The British Royal Navy's HMS Enterprise, patrolling as part of the EU's anti-smuggling mission Sophia, picked up the survivors clinging to what was left of the rubber boat about 55 nautical miles from Tripoli. The death toll in the Mediterranean—the most dangerous border crossing on the planet for migrants—is estimated to be 4,636 this year, 1,000 more than in all of 2015, the IOM said on Friday. More than 168,000 migrants have reached Italy by boat this year, exceeding 154,000 for the whole of 2015 and quickly approaching 2014's 170,000 record.

Italy has borne the brunt of new arrivals since the implementation in March of an agreement between the European Union and Turkey to curb the flow of migrants sailing for Greece. —Reuters

ISRAEL'S NETANYAHU BACKS SUB PURCHASE AMID CALLS FOR INQUIRY

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday tried to downplay a brewing scandal over the purchase of German submarines, saying his only consideration in ordering the deal was fortifying the country's security.

Netanyahu's comments came amid calls for an inquiry after it was revealed that his personal attorney, David Shimron, had represented the German company building the submarines. The reports into Shimron's involvement in the \$1.5 billion sale raised concerns over a potential conflict of interests. Suspicions of impropriety were heightened after former Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said he was sidelined on the purchase plans - which went forward after he was replaced.

Israel has ordered six submarines from Germany over the past two decades, with the final one scheduled to be delivered in 2018. Israel recently decided to purchase three new ones to replace its older submarines. "The security of Israel requires the acquisition of submarines and the renewal of the submarine fleet. These are strategic weapons systems that ensure the future, and I tell you, the very existence of the state of Israel for decades to come," Netanyahu told his Cabinet. "Increasing the security and strength of the state of Israel is the only consideration that guided me in acquiring the submarines."

The subs are considered crucial to Israel's security, particularly since they are assumed to provide it with a "second strike" nuclear capability if ever attacked by

nuclear weapons. Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, though it has never acknowledged having them. But the involvement of Shimron, perhaps Netanyahu's closest associate, raised concerns that ulterior motives were at play. Netanyahu says he was only made aware of this in recent days.

"This is the prime minister's royal attorney, who is also a private attorney, and the Netanyahu family lawyer, and also a lawyer who serves as the prime minister's official representative. He has a finger in every pot. And it was Netanyahu, of all people, who did not know that Shimron was involved with the submarines?" wrote Yediot Achronot columnist Ben-Dror Yemini.

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog has called for a parliamentary commission of inquiry to be established. Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak also chimed in, tweeting: "Submarines are essential, the public's trust is even more essential." —AP



Benjamin Netanyahu

70,000 HOMES WITHOUT POWER IN STORM-HIT FRANCE

RENNES, France: Winds gusting to hurricane force left nearly 70,000 homes in western and northwestern France without power yesterday, the national electricity grid Enedis said.

The national weather agency Meteo France said winds powering to 160 kilometers per hour battered the Breton peninsula and Normandy coast overnight, and two other regions remained under a storm alert.

Enedis said 33,000 homes were without power in Normandy, 18,700 in Brittany and 16,500 in the Loire-Atlantique region, which lies south of Brittany.

A woman was seriously hurt in

Brittany's Cote d'Armor department when her car hit a fallen tree, local officials said.

The fire brigade in Brittany was called out more than 600 times during the night, mainly to clear blocked roads, they said. Meteo-France said storm conditions in the northeastern Atlantic had combined with a strong airstream directed at northwestern France, producing "an event that occurs three or four times per year."

The agency maintained a high-winds alert for three departments—the rough equivalents of counties—in the northwest, and for three in the centre-east. The winds were expected to die down today. —AFP

QUEEN TO INVITE TRUMP TO BRITAIN FOR STATE VISIT

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth will invite US President-elect Donald Trump for a state visit to Britain next year to try to cement close ties between the two countries, The Sunday Times newspaper said.

Citing two ministers and a senior official close to Downing Street, the Sunday Times reported that discussions between British officials and Trump's team would start soon to ensure that a date could be agreed for June or July next year.

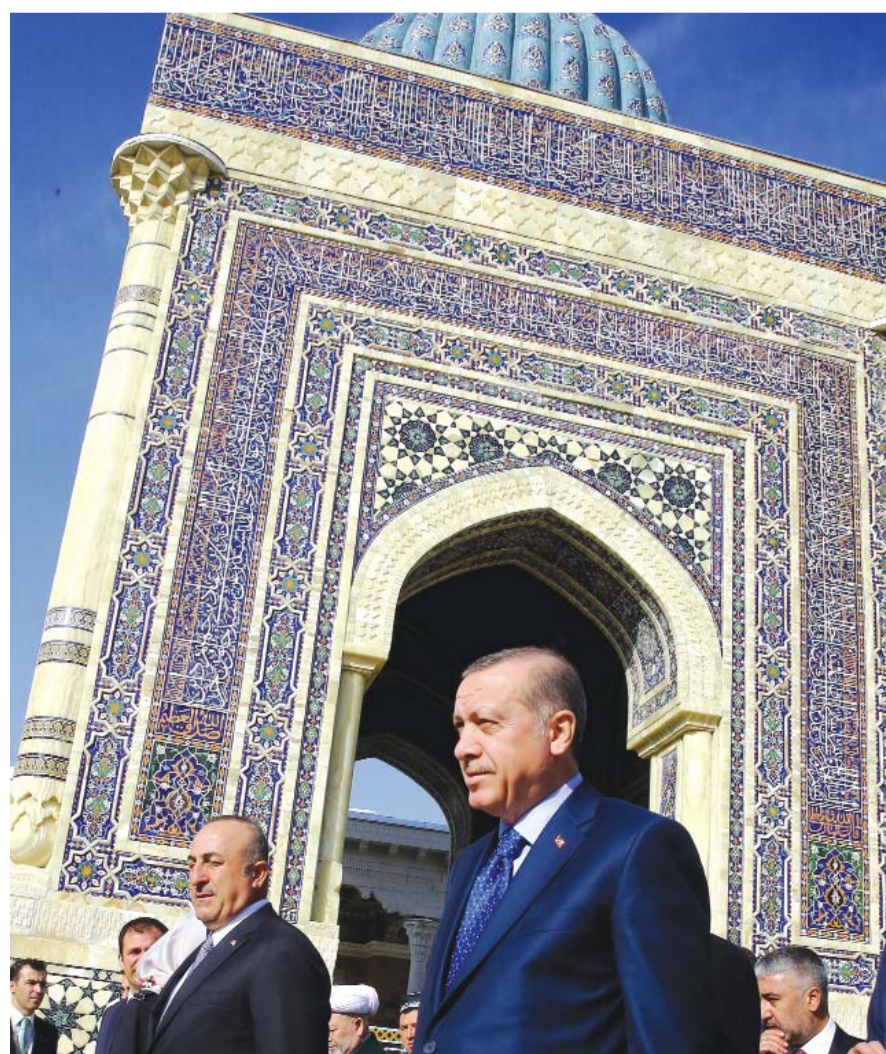
Britain is keen to reinforce its "special relationship" with the United States as the government of Prime Minister Theresa May prepares to leave the European Union, a divorce that will shape the country's standing in the

world. Trump invited May to visit him as soon as possible during their first telephone call since his election victory, the British prime minister's office has said. Aides for May have said as yet there is no date for the trip.

The Sunday Times said the British government hopes that an official state visit will be its "secret weapon" for cementing ties after Trump met leading Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage earlier this month - the first British politician to do so.

The newspaper also said the president-elect told May during their phone call last week that his late Scottish mother was a "big fan" of the Queen and asked the prime minister to pass on his best wishes to her. —Reuters

ERDOGAN SAYS TURKEY CAN SPURN EU AND JOIN THE SHANGHAI PACT



SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, front, visits the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari, one of most respected Islamic scholars and intellectuals by Sunni Muslims, on Friday. —AFP

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Turkey should not be "fixated" on joining the EU and has reiterated the idea of joining Russia and China in a Eurasian security group, local media reported yesterday.

His comments come as Turkey's decades-long hopes of joining the European Union have reached a nadir, driven by the aftermath of the July 15 botched coup. "Turkey should first of all feel relaxed about the EU and not be fixated" about joining it, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on a plane from Uzbekistan, Hurriyet newspaper and other media reported. "Some may criticise me but I express my opinion. For example, I say 'why shouldn't Turkey be in the Shanghai 5?'" he said. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) — also called the Shanghai Pact—is a loose security and economic bloc led by Russia and China. Other members are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Erdogan said he had already discussed the idea with Russian President Vladimir Putin and with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Floating plans

Erdogan has several times floated plans for Turkey to join the SCO, a move that could scupper its long-standing EU membership bid. The SCO option became clouded, though, when a Russian warplane was downed by the Turkish air force last

November. Turkish media reported in August that Nazarbayev mediated a deal between Ankara and Moscow to smooth over the dispute. Turkey formally applied to become an EU member in 1987 and accession talks only began in 2005, even though Ankara's aspirations to become part of the bloc dates back to the 1960s.

Brussels has harshly criticized the Turkish government's crack-down on alleged coup plotters, urging Ankara to comply with rights and freedoms criteria. Erdogan this week warned the EU to decide by year's end on its membership bid, threatening to otherwise call a referendum on this matter.

Turkey and the EU agreed to speed up membership talks in March as part of an accord on curbing migrant flows into Greece. The deal was clinched in return for several incentives for Ankara including EU cash assistance for Syrian refugees in Turkey, as well as visa-free travel to Schengen area by Turks.

But the process, which was already in difficulty, is on a sharp downward spiral following Ankara's crackdown after the attempted coup. Mass arrests and job dismissals and measures against the Turkish press have triggered a sharp reaction from EU politicians and rights watchdogs. Some European parliamentarians have even backed calls for membership talks with Ankara to be halted. —AFP

TWO DEAD IN FIGHTING IN MYANMAR TOWN

YANGON: Two civilians were killed yesterday when fighting broke out in a northern Myanmar town on the border with China, a region long plagued by ethnic rebel insurgencies. The latest clashes are another blow to civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's hopes of forging a nationwide peace agreement after years of war in Myanmar's many ethnic minority border regions.

Locals in the town of Muse, a hotbed of smuggling, reported that fighting began in the early morning. "People from (the) border checkpoint are now

fleeing to Muse because of heavy fighting," Aye Aye, a resident of the town, told AFP. "A man and a woman died because of gunshot wounds after they arrived in hospital this morning," said a worker at the local hospital, asking for anonymity, adding that some 25 others were wounded.

Fighting between Myanmar's military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin state, which reignited in 2011 after the collapse of a 17-year ceasefire, has displaced around 100,000 people and spilled over into

parts of neighboring Shan state.

Muse lies in the north of Shan, not far from Kachin, and is separated from China by a river. Two rebel representatives confirmed their troops were involved in the clashes. "We are fighting together with our alliance of ethnic armed groups," Khine Thu Kha, from the Arakan Army, told AFP.

The rebels said the groups involved included the powerful KIA, the Arakan Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army. The latter

three have not been invited to the current or last round of peace talks. One of Suu Kyi's priorities is a peace deal with the patchwork of armed minorities fighting the state.

But continuing fighting in Kachin and Shan states overshadowed the peace talks and it is expected to take years to end the complex conflicts. In September renewed clashes broke out in southern Karen state between the military and rebels. The northern half of the western state of Rakhine is currently under a military lockdown after a

string of deadly attacks against border posts last month.

More than 30,000 people have been displaced and at least 70 people killed in the latest fighting in Rakhine. Myanmar's military has a long history of rights abuses that has fostered a deep mistrust among ethnic minorities of the central government.

Suu Kyi also has limited control over the army which retains 25 percent of parliamentary seats as well as key defence and security positions in government.—AFP



BOSTON: In this Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016 photo photographer Mark Chester stands for a portrait next to images in his exhibit called *The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape - Photographs of New Americans*, at the Statehouse.—AP

PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURES IMAGES OF IMMIGRANTS FROM ALL NATIONS

BOSTON: A photographer has made it his mission to photograph two people from every nation who have settled in Massachusetts. Mark Chester is well on his way to achieving his goal.

Since 2011, he's photographed people from 185 of the world's 196 countries, all of them immigrants who live in the state and have become naturalized US citizens.

Chester's collection of more than 350

photographs has been exhibited around Massachusetts. He is now in the process of putting them into a book he plans to distribute free to schools and libraries around the state. He said his project has taken on new meaning since Republican President-elect Donald Trump has said he would build a wall along the US-Mexico border and temporarily ban Muslims from entering the country.—AP

OBAMA TO MEET AUSTRALIA, CANADA LEADERS BEFORE RETURN TO US

MULTINATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT AT RISK

LIMA: President Barack Obama planned separate talks with the leaders of Australia and Canada before wrapping up the final foreign trip of his presidency. Both countries helped negotiate a multinational trade agreement with the US and nine other Pacific Rim countries. But Congress is unlikely to ratify the deal, dealing a blow to Obama's once high hopes of having the agreement become part of his presidential legacy. President-elect Donald Trump says trade deals can hurt US workers, and he opposes the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. Besides participating in meetings yesterday with other world leaders attending the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Forum taking place in Peru's capital, Obama was sitting down first with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia, a US ally and partner in the trans-Pacific trade deal.

The president also planned to speak with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose nation is another TPP partner. Before boarding Air Force One for the flight to Washington, Obama was to answer questions from the journalists who accompanied him to Greece, Germany and Peru. Trump's election overshadowed every stop on Obama's trip. The president went to once unimagineable lengths to defend the real-estate mogul and reality TV star who he had repeatedly denounced during the campaign as " temperamentally unfit" and "uniquely unqualified" to be president. "I think it will be important for everybody around the world to not make immediate judgments, but give this new president-elect a chance to put their team together, to examine the issues, to determine what their policies will be," Obama said in response to a question about Trump during a forum here Saturday with some of Latin America's future leaders. "As I've always said, how you campaign isn't always the same as how you govern," he added.

Softening hard line positions

Obama's suggestion is that Trump could



LIMA: US President Barack Obama speaks at a town hall with Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) on Saturday.—AP

soften some of his more hard line positions on immigration, terrorism and other issues once he confronts the reality of having to run the country.

But the candidates Trump announced this past week for key national security posts - Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn for national security adviser and Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo to lead the CIA - sent a signal that Trump intends to lead exactly as he said he would during the campaign. Leaders in every region of the world have expressed concern about Trump's stances on immigration, trade, NATO and other matters. Obama's first stop was Greece, where he lent

support to the prime minister's effort to turn around the country's economy. He gave a speech about the value of democracy, despite its sometimes "messy" nature, as he says the US election showed.

Obama campaigned hard for the losing Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton.

During his stop in Greece, he also carved out time to tour the Acropolis and Parthenon. From there, it was on to Germany to visit one final time with Chancellor Angela Merkel, with whom he has collaborated closely during the past eight years. Obama also met as a group in Berlin with the leaders of Germany, Britain, Spain, France and Italy before he headed for Peru.—AP



ULAN BATAR, Mongolia: Dalai Lama speaks to worshippers during ceremonies at the Buyant Ukhua sports stadium yesterday.—AFP

CHINA SAYS DALAI LAMA'S MONGOLIA VISIT COULD HARM TIES

BEIJING: China urged Mongolia yesterday to take steps to protect the two countries' relations after the Dalai Lama visited the central Asian country at the weekend, despite Beijing repeatedly voicing its opposition.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader arrived in Mongolia on Friday to meet Mongolian Buddhist leaders, according to his website. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, in a statement, said Mongolia should "adopt effective measures to eliminate the negative effects of the Dalai Lama's visit, in order to prevent the disruption of the healthy development of China-Mongolia relations."

Mongolia had repeatedly ignored China's cautions against allowing the visit, much to Beijing's dissatisfaction, the statement said. Beijing frequently expresses its anger with countries that host the 81-year old Nobel Peace Prize winner, who fled to India in 1959 following a failed uprising against the Chinese.

After the Dalai Lama visited Mongolia in

2006, China cancelled flights between Beijing and Ulaanbaatar.

Flights later resumed. China regards the Dalai Lama as a separatist, though he says he merely seeks genuine autonomy for his Himalayan homeland Tibet, which Communist Chinese

troops "peacefully liberated" in 1950. Rights groups and exiles accuse China of trampling on the religious and cultural rights of the Tibetan people, charges strongly denied by Beijing, which says its rule has brought prosperity to a once backward region.—Reuters

TURKISH SOLDIER KILLED IN SYRIA

ISTANBUL: A Turkish soldier was killed and two others wounded in a bomb attack by Islamic State militants near the northern Syrian city of al-Bab, Turkish security sources said yesterday. The three soldiers were evacuated alive by helicopter on Saturday and taken to the southern Turkish town of Gaziantep, but one of them died from his injuries, the sources said.

Turkey launched an incursion into Syria in August, sending in warplanes, tanks and special forces in support of largely Turkmen and Arab rebels, to try to drive Islamic State and

Kurdish militants away from its border. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said last week that Turkish-backed forces were just 2 km from Islamic State-held al-Bab and were expected to take it quickly despite some resistance. Al-Bab is of particular strategic importance to Turkey because Kurdish-dominated militias have also been pushing to seize it. Ankara is determined to prevent Kurdish forces from joining up cantons they control along the Turkish border, for fear it will stoke Kurdish separatism at home.—Reuters

NEPAL PM ADMITS 'DELAYS' IN JUSTICE FOR MAOIST WAR VICTIMS

KATHMANDU: Nepal yesterday marked the 10th anniversary of the peace deal that ended a bloody Maoist insurgency as the prime minister admitted that justice for its victims has been delayed.

In a TV show late Saturday, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal—who led the guerrillas in the decade-long war-blamed political turmoil for delaying justice over wartime abuses. "It would have been better if we were able to conclude it on time... but political difficulties of the transitional period delayed the process," Dahal said, during a fortnightly show in which he takes questions from the public.

More than 16,000 died, 1,300 disappeared and thousands more were displaced during the conflict that ended in 2006. The agreement brought the Maoist rebels into mainstream politics, hastened the end of a 240-year-old Hindu monarchy and transformed Nepal into a secular republic. But the impoverished Himalayan nation has since cycled through nine governments as fractious political parties have traded blame over failures to draft a new constitution and to secure justice for victims of wartime abuses by both sides.

The peace pact included plans to establish two commissions to investigate crimes committed during the conflict—but they were only set up in 2014 after years of political infighting. "Since I became the prime minister, I have been pushing for legal amendments and a positive environment for the (war crimes) commissions to speed up their work," said Dahal, who was elected prime minister for the second time in August.

'Injustices need redress'

More than 60,000 victims have filed complaints with the two commissions, which were only granted a two-year mandate that expires in three months—leaving many doubtful they will ever see justice. "The victims feel a little hopeless. We have waited so long, but the intentions of the government and the leaders are not sincere," said Suman Adhikari, who heads an organization that supports victims in their fight for justice.

Adhikari's own father, a teacher, was killed by Maoist rebels. Rights groups have also expressed alarm at a deal signed in May between the previous government and the Maoist parties to withdraw civil war cases from the courts and offer amnesty to people accused of abuses.

Human Rights Watch said Nepal's leaders have failed to deliver on their promise of accountability. "The war was brutal, and Nepal's political leadership should not forget that injustices need redress," said Brad Adams, Asia director for the US-based watchdog, in a statement Friday. "Nepali political leaders should stop sweeping war crimes and justice issues under the rug, and instead live up to the incredibly brave promises made under the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Accord)."

Since the conflict ended, Nepal's courts have issued several arrest warrants for alleged perpetrators. But only one case has resulted in convictions: that of five former rebels jailed in 2014 for murdering a journalist.—AFP



KATHMANDU, Nepal: In this photograph taken on November 15, 2016, Sabitri Chilwal, widow of victim Ganesh Chilwal who was shot dead by alleged Maoist cadres in 2004 during Nepal's decade-long war, speaks to AFP in an interview.—AFP

CHINA SAYS TERRORISM, FAKE NEWS IMPEL GREATER GLOBAL INTERNET CURBS

WUZHEN, China: China's ambitions to tighten up regulation of the Internet have found a second wind in old fears - terrorism and fake news. Chinese officials and business leaders speaking at the third World Internet Conference held in Wuzhen last week called for more rigid cyber governance, pointing to the ability of militants to organise online and the spread of false news items during the recent US election as signs cyberspace had become dangerous and unwieldy.

Ren Xianling, the vice minister of China's top internet authority, said on Thursday that the process was akin to "installing brakes on a car before driving on the road". Ren, number two at the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), recommended using identification systems for netizens who post fake news and rumours, so they could "reward and punish" them.

The comments come as US social networks Facebook Inc and Twitter Inc face a backlash over their role in the spread of

false and malicious information generated by users, which some say helped sway the US presidential election in favour of Republican candidate Donald Trump. Over the last year, China has formalised a series of internet controls, including a controversial cybersecurity law passed earlier this month, rules that overseas business groups say could block foreign firms from the market.

Some fear such controls could, however, hinder the growth and innovation that is boosting Chinese influence in global tech. The Wuzhen conference, held annually in the picturesque town outside Shanghai, gave a glimpse of China's tougher new stance; in past years attendees were given unfettered access to websites normally blocked by China's 'Great Firewall', including Google and Facebook, but not this year.

President Xi Jinping addressed the conference in a short video speech on Wednesday, repeating calls to respect "cyber sovereignty" - the imposition of

government controls over cyberspace within China's borders.

Cyber sovereignty is seen as a direct challenge to the US-led view, which encourages non-government stakeholders to take the lead in governing specific internet industries. "The value of the internet comes from its flexibility," said Jared Ragland, senior director of policy for the Asia-Pacific region at software lobbyist group BSA. "We don't think it would be helpful to start treating it like a public utility that can be walled off behind borders."

Critical infrastructure

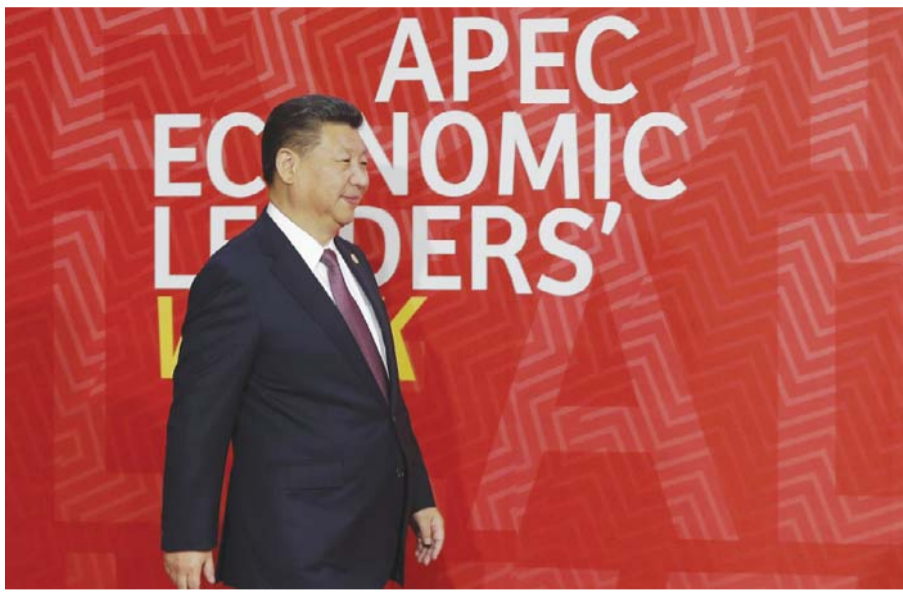
China's new cyber law, which comes into effect in June next year, has sparked concerns of heavy-handed surveillance and local data storage requirements. China's internet regulator says the law does not target foreign firms and is designed to mitigate cyber terrorism threats to "critical infrastructure". UN officials attending the conference are also currently weighing the possibility of a

multilateral cyber-terrorism treaty, though a stalemate over the definition of cyber-terrorism has hampered efforts, a UN officer told Reuters.

Despite the recent regulatory chill, several leading foreign tech firms joined the conference, including representatives from Facebook, International Business Machines Corp, Qualcomm Inc and Tesla Motors Inc. On Thursday, Reid Hoffman, chairman and co-founder of LinkedIn Corp, a professional networking site, praised China's "hustle" and "pragmatism" in a speech on digital globalisation. The following day, regulators ruled to block the company's site in Russia, a country that also champions cyber sovereignty. China's top tech firms also rallied behind Beijing at the event, lending support for the recent cybersecurity regulations and pointing to the role of social media in Trump's election as a cautionary tale in the fight against fake news. Ma Huateng, the chairman and chief executive of Tencent Holdings Ltd, which oversees

China's most popular social networking app, WeChat, said Trump's win sent an "alarm" to the global community about the dangers of fake news, a view echoed by other executives at the event. "(Trump's popularity) reinforces wariness about how much freedom should be allowed in the use of the internet in China," says Jingdong Yuan, an associate professor at Sydney University specialising in Asia-Pacific Security.

Controls can have downsides for innovation, however. Baidu Inc, which held the first public trial of its autonomous cars in Wuzhen, has met with roadblocks due to recent restrictions on autonomous vehicles. "In China a few months back they just have a new regulation that banned the testing on highways, so we only do it in the streets now," said Wang Jing, the vice president in charge of Baidu's autonomous driving unit. "I don't know why." If you (regulators) want to have this kind of driving in China early on then you've got to support us," said Wang. —Reuters



LIMA: China's President Xi Jinping arrives for the opening session of the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit yesterday. — AP

XI SAYS US-CHINA TIES AT 'HINGE MOMENT'

LIMA: Presidents Barack Obama and Xi Jinping met for the final time Saturday, with the Chinese leader warning the period after Donald Trump's election is a "hinge moment" in relations between the two powers.

Without referring to Trump directly, Xi spoke of his hope for a "smooth transition" in a relationship that Obama described as "the most consequential in the world." The two men were meeting in Lima, Peru on the margins of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

During a vitriol-filled election campaign Trump frequently took a combative stance against China, blaming Beijing for "inventing" climate change and rigging the rules of trade. The White House, surprised by Trump's lack of details on the issues, has urged world leaders to give Trump time to get his feet under the desk. For much of Obama's presidency, China and the United States have slowly improved cooperation and tried to limit the fallout from disputes, all while vying for influence in the Asia-Pacific. China has been quick to seize on the failure of a US-backed Pacific trade deal to push its own version of the pact-excluding Washington at the APEC meeting. Xi, who the White House sees as perhaps the most powerful Chinese leader since Deng Xiaoping or even Mao Zedong-said he wanted to see cooperation continue. "I hope the two sides will work together to focus on cooperation, manage our differences, and make sure there is a smooth transition in the relationship and that it will continue to grow going forward."

The two men have met nine times since Obama took office in early 2009. Obama said he wanted to "take this opportunity to note our work together to build a more durable and productive set of bilateral ties." "I continue to believe that a constructive US-China relationship benefits our two peoples and benefits the entire globe," he said at the start of the meeting. "We've demonstrated what's possible when our two countries work together," he said, citing an agreement to tackle climate change.

CHINA'S XI PRESSES PHILIPPINES, VIETNAM TO KEEP SOUTH CHINA SEA ISSUES BILATERAL

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping, in separate meetings with the leaders of the Philippines and Vietnam, said disputes over the South China Sea should be resolved bilaterally, state media reported yesterday.

The comments underscore Beijing's opposition to involving other countries or international organizations in the maritime territorial dispute, where claimants to the waters also include Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Experts say China prefers a 'divide and conquer' tactic over allowing its opponents to group together. Beijing has also repeatedly blamed the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, and opposes an arbitration tribunal's July ruling in favor of the Philippines, rejecting China's claims to economic rights across large swathes of the waters.

During a meeting in Peru, Xi told Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte "to actively mull maritime cooperation and promote positive interaction on the sea," turning the South China Sea into "an opportunity for bilateral friendly cooperation," said the official Xinhua news agency. That sentiment

was echoed by Duterte, Xinhua reported. The Philippines president has overseen a rapid improvement of previously frosty relations between the two countries since taking office in June.

The Philippines "is willing to properly address maritime issues with China through dialogue and consultation," said Xinhua. Xi made similar overtures to Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang while attending a summit of Asia-Pacific countries in Lima.

The Chinese president said the two countries should "solve disputes through bilateral consultations and dialogues, adhere to a cooperative path of 'shelving differences and engaging in joint development,' and properly address problems in order to maintain regional peace and tranquility," Xinhua said. The Chinese news agency did not say whether Quang also addressed the South China Sea. On Thursday, a US think tank reported that Vietnam is extending a runway on an island it claims in the South China Sea, in apparent response to China's building of military facilities on artificial islands in the region. —Reuters

SOUTH KOREA'S PARK COLLUDED WITH AIDE IN GRAFT SCANDAL

COERCION AND ABUSE OF POWER CHARGES FOR AID

SEOUL: South Korean prosecutors said yesterday that President Park Geun-Hye had colluded with her close confidante in a corruption and influence-peddling scandal that has sparked massive nationwide protests and calls for her impeachment.

Park's longtime friend Choi Soon-Sil was charged yesterday with coercion and abuse of power, as was one of the president's former aides. Another presidential aide was charged with leaking confidential state documents. "The president played a collusive role in a considerable portion of the criminal activities involving the (three) people," said Lee Young-Ryeol, a Seoul prosecutor who is leading a probe into the scandal.

Choi, 60, has been accused of using her personal ties to Park to meddle in state affairs and of coercing local firms to "donate" more than \$60 million to dubious non-profit foundations. She allegedly then used some of the funds for personal gain. Park faces allegations that she helped Choi extract money from the firms and that she ordered her aides to leak state documents to Choi, who has no official title or security clearance.

Under the constitution the incumbent president cannot be charged with a criminal offence except insurrection or treason. But she can still be probed by prosecutors and possibly charged after leaving office.

Lee acknowledged that prosecutors could not formally charge Park at present but vowed to continue to investigate her. Prosecutors had previously described the conservative leader as a witness to Choi's crimes but changed her status to that of a criminal suspect, said a senior prosecutor at the investigative team. "From now on, she will be probed as a suspect... for violation of Section 30 of the criminal code on collusion," Roh Seung-Kwon told reporters.

Impeachment calls

The latest revelations piled pressure on opposition party lawmakers to seek the impeachment of Park, the daughter of a former president, who has about a year left in her five-year term.

Presidents serve only a single term in South Korea. The main opposition Democratic Party has not seriously pushed for Park's impeach-

ment due to fears of a backlash from conservative voters before the presidential election in 2017. But recent opinion polls suggest growing support for Park's impeachment, with the latest survey showing 74 percent backing.

Park has promised to answer prosecutors' questions—a move which would make her the first South Korean president to be quizzed by prosecutors while in office. More than 50 local firms including Samsung and Hyundai were forced to donate a total of 77.4 billion won (\$65.5 million) to the two foundations controlled by Choi.

Many made the donations due to fear of political reprisals, such as harsh tax audits or difficulties getting regulatory approvals for their businesses, prosecutor Lee said. Choi also pressured major firms including the South's largest carmaker Hyundai and top steelmaker Posco to award lucrative contracts to firms linked to her, he added. One of the aides leaked 180 confidential documents to Choi including papers on foreign policy and the nomination of top offi-

cial and cabinet members, according to prosecutors. The scandal has sent Park's approval ratings plunging to five percent—the lowest for any sitting South Korean president.

The ever-widening probe also shed light on questionable ties between Choi's family and the South's largest and most powerful business group, Samsung. Samsung, which made the biggest donation to Choi's foundations, is accused of separately offering 2.8 million euros to Choi to bankroll her daughter's equestrian training in Germany.

It is also accused of offering donations to a dubious foundation run by Choi's niece, who is seen as her key aide and is facing formal arrest by prosecutors. Many senior Samsung officials, including the group scion Lee Jae-Yong, have been summoned to prosecutors to answer their questions. Choi is a daughter of a shadowy religious figure who was a longtime mentor to Park until his death in 1994. He is known to have befriended Park after the assassination of her mother in 1974. —AFP



SEOUL: Lee Young-Ryeol, who is leading a probe into the presidential scandal, announces the interim probe result at the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office yesterday. —AFP

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE MEETS 'HERO' PUTIN

LIMA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday met the man he calls his hero, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and unburdened his gripes about US "hypocrisy," "bullying" and foreign wars.

Duterte, who has publicly expressed his admiration for the Russian leader, said the Cold War had stood between their two countries as the Philippines, a former US colony, was historically identified with the West.

But that has changed now that he is president. Since taking office in June, the foul-mouthed Duterte has upended the Philippines' historical military alliance with the United States, repeatedly saying he was shifting toward China and Russia as he embarks on an independent foreign policy. "It was good (while) it lasted," Duterte told Putin of what he has called his

"separation" from the United States. "Of late, I see a lot of these Western nations bullying small nations. And not only that, they are into so much hypocrisy," he said during their 45-minute meeting on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the Peruvian capital Lima.

"And they seem to start a war but are afraid to go to war. That is what is wrong with America and the others. They've been waging wars in so many places — in Vietnam, in Afghanistan and in Iraq for one single reason that there was a weapon of mass destruction, and there was none."

Duterte also said the United States "forced" the Philippines to contribute soldiers in its wars in Vietnam and Iraq.

When Manila pulled out non-combat troops that were part of

the US-led coalition against Saddam Hussein in Iraq in 2004 following threats to behead a kidnapped Filipino worker there, Washington "made it hard for us," Duterte told Putin in a video shot by the Philippine presidential palace broadcast team. "These are the things I see which is not a good idea," Duterte said in English. He also said the Philippines longed to be part of Europe. "We've been longing to be part also of-despite the distance—we have been longing to be part of Europe, especially in commerce and trade around the world."

Guns, women and Putin

Duterte, who has cultivated an image as a no-nonsense leader, said last month that "my favorite hero is

Putin." He has also said that he and Putin seem to share a passion for guns and women. Favorite targets for his abusive verbal tirades are US President Barack Obama, UN chief Ban Ki-moon and the European Union. All three have expressed concern over Duterte's iron-fisted policy against drugs, which they said violated human rights and due process. Duterte missed the gala dinner at the APEC summit Saturday evening, sending a message to the hosts that he was sick.

Staying put in his hotel may have avoided a potentially awkward encounter with Obama, who cancelled a meeting with him at another summit in September after Duterte called him a "son of a whore." —AFP

TWO INDONESIAN FISHERMEN ABDUCTED NEAR MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Indonesian fishermen have been abducted in waters off Malaysia that are plagued by kidnappings by Philippine-based Islamic militants, a security official said yesterday.

The Malaysian head of security in the area, Wan Abdul Bari Wan Abdul Khalid, was quoted by Bernama news agency as saying the pair were seized Saturday night. The perennially poor security situation in the area has prompted the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to cooperate more closely on bringing the banditry to heel.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said earlier this month after talks with President Rodrigo Duterte that the Philippines had agreed to allow Malaysian and Indonesian maritime forces to pur-

sue the Islamist kidnappers into its waters.

The three countries agreed earlier this year to increase cooperation, including possible joint sea patrols.

The waters between Malaysia's eastern state of Sabah on Borneo island and the southern Philippines have for years seen repeated kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf militant group.

While the Abu Sayyaf's leaders have in recent years pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, analysts say it is mainly focused on running a kidnapping business rather than religious ideology.

On November 11 gunmen abducted five crewmen of a Vietnamese cargo vessel in southern Philippine waters. —AFP



LIMA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte arrives at a hotel to attend a bilateral meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit (APEC) on Saturday. —AFP



BEDMINSTER, New Jersey: US President-Elect Donald Trump (right) and Vice President-Elect Mike Pence (second right) leave the Lamington Presbyterian Church after Sunday services yesterday. — AFP

TRUMP CHILDREN'S ROLES BLUR LINE BETWEEN TRANSITION, COMPANY

NEW YORK: Nearly every morning since their father's stunning victory on Election Day, three of Donald Trump's grown children walk through the Trump Tower lobby and board an elevator. But are Don Jr, Ivanka and Eric going to the campaign office on the 5th floor? Their business offices on the 25th floor? The president-elect's penthouse on the 56th floor? That uncertainty highlights the multiples roles the children play for their father. For the past year, the lines were constantly blurred between political campaign and business empire, raising questions about a possible conflict of interest between Trump's White House and his sprawling business interests.

The children are poised to wield incredible influence over their father, even if they don't follow him to Washington. Trump said consistently during the campaign that if he won, those children would stay in New York and run his business. But the three - plus Ivanka's husband, Jared Kushner - were all named to the transition team's executive committee.

So far, they've been heavily involved in shaping the new administration. They've sat in on meetings and taken late night calls from their father. They advocated for making Reince Priebus, the Republican National Committee chairman, the White House chief of staff. They counseled against bringing back Corey Lewandowski, Trump's first campaign manager, who was fired in June on their advice. On Thursday, Ivanka Trump and Kushner were present for the president-elect's meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Trump Tower.

Trump has insisted he will build a wall between his White House and his company by placing his holdings into a blind trust, but with his children as its trustees. Federal requirements are that independent outsiders run such trusts. "We are in the process of vetting various structures with the goal of the immediate transfer of management of The Trump Organization and its portfolio of businesses to Donald Jr, Ivanka and Eric Trump as well as a team of highly skilled executives," Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said. She said the structure "will comply with all applicable rules and regulations."

Trump's company is the largest business portfolio to belong to a modern sitting president. Federal ethics rules would allow Trump to run his business interests

from the White House, or, perhaps more likely, influence decisions made by his children. That raises conflict of interest concerns: For example, Trump could set domestic policy while making deals abroad that could affect his corporation, even if it were technically in his children's hands.

Breach of Trust

Kellyanne Conway, a senior adviser, disputed the idea that the Trump children's involvement in the transition could lead to a breach of trust. "You're presuming that they are doing certain things that they should not be doing," Conway said. "They are his children. And they've been his business colleagues for a long period of time. They obviously will support their father as president."

But the potentially problematic entanglement revealed itself this past week when Ivanka Trump's company promoted a \$10,800 bracelet she wore during a "60 Minutes" interview on CBS. The spokeswoman for the company later apologized. The children - who were not made available for interviews - are limited in what formal role they could take in a Trump administration. Congress passed an anti-nepotism law in 1967 that prohibits the president from appointing a family member to work in the office or agency they oversee. The measure was passed as a reaction to President John F Kennedy appointing his brother Robert as attorney general.

But the law does not appear to prevent the children - or Kushner, who is one of Trump's closest aides and is said to be weighing a White House role - from serving as unpaid advisers or providing informal counsel. The three grown children - whose mother is Ivana Trump, Trump's first wife - delivered well-received speeches at this summer's Republican National Convention in which they tried to humanize their father.

Don and Eric Jr were staples on conservative radio and on the road, trekking to campaign offices and small rallies across battleground states like Ohio and North Carolina. Ivanka Trump, meanwhile, was utilized in some of the campaign's biggest moments, including introducing her father before his convention speech, unveiling his family leave plan and campaigning across the crucial Philadelphia suburbs.— AP

RATS TRAIN TO SNIFF OUT TRAFFICKED PANGOLINS

JOHANNESBURG: The pangolin, a scaly anteater coveted by poachers, might have a new champion: Rats that will be trained to sniff out trafficked pangolin parts in shipments heading from Africa to Asia. A pilot project to turn African giant pouched rats into conservationist sleuths is literally in its infancy - the 10 to 15 rodents being reared in Tanzania to detect pungent pangolin remains as well as smuggled hardwood timber are just a few weeks old and most are still with their mothers.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service, however, is on board with the vermin trial, which organizers hope can eventually be used to find hidden elephant ivory and rhino horn. The American agency has provided \$100,000 to support what it says could be "an innovative tool in combating illegal wildlife trade".

The challenge seems overwhelming. Conservationists describe the pangolin as the world's most heavily trafficked mammal because its meat is considered a delicacy in Vietnam and some parts of China, and its scales are used in traditional Chinese medicine. Wildlife contraband is concealed among vast numbers of shipping containers that annually leave Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Mombasa in Kenya and other African ports.

Yet APOPO, a non-profit group based in Tanzania, already harnesses the rats' keen sense of smell to find mines and other explosive material on old battlefields in

Angola, Mozambique and, more recently, Cambodia. The organization also uses rats to detect tuberculosis in sputum samples of patients in Tanzania and Mozambique. The rats in the conservation project will start "socialization training", which means being carried around on people's shoulders and in their pockets, being driven around and generally getting used to sights and sounds, APOPO spokesman James Pursey said.

Then comes "click and reward" training in which the rats are fed a treat whenever they hear a clicking sound, and they'll eventually learn to link the gamey smell of pangolin scales with edible rewards. Later, the intensity of the pangolin smell will be reduced and other smells will be added to confuse the rats. The ultimate aim is to train the rodents to scratch or linger over the pangolin or hardwood aroma for three seconds, tipping handlers to a possible find. APOPO is confident it can get rats to discriminate between a pangolin scent and other smells, and "the challenge is going to be how the rats actually test the containers", Pursey said.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust, a South African group leading the project, said the trial "builds on the use of scent detection by dogs, but will take advantage of the rats' added agility and ability to access the container vents, which would provide the most air from the container, and potentially the most scent. Alternatively, the rats will detect scents sampled onto a filter through the vents." — AP

120 KILLED AS INDIAN TRAIN DERAILS

Continued from Page 1

Hundreds of army and police have been deployed at the scene, where rescue workers used metal cutters to slice through severely mangled coaches to try to get to survivors. Disaster response teams also set up special lights to ensure rescue work was not hampered in the night. "We have been able to pull out 24 people so far, out of which five were found to be alive," said Brigadier A Chhibbar, who is leading the army's rescue operations. "We will carry on day and night, till there is any inkling of even a single person being pulled alive."

Police said 120 people had been killed and at least 200 others were undergoing treatment in nearby hospitals, which were placed on high alert after the early morning disaster. "The death toll has reached 120. At least 200 others are injured," Zaki Ahmad, police inspector general of Kanpur zone, told AFP. The accident was the worst since 2010 when a passenger train crashed into a freight train in the eastern state of West Bengal, killing 146 and injuring over 200. Authorities have launched an official investigation into the accident, which junior railways minister Manoj Sinha said may have been caused by damage to the tracks.

India's railway network, one of the world's largest, is still the main form of long-distance travel in the vast country, but it is poorly funded and deadly accidents occur relatively frequently. A 2012 government report said almost 15,000 people were killed every year on India's railways, describing the deaths as an annual "massacre". Nitika Trivedi, a student who boarded the train with her family, said images of the victims' bodies would long haunt her. "I had never seen anything like this in my life before. I am shaken to the core," she said.

"Suddenly I could feel that the carriage was overturning. I immediately held the metal rod near the bathroom door," said Faizal Khan, who was travelling with his wife

and two children, all of whom survived the accident. Another survivor, Rajdeep Tanwar, said, "I can see bodies lying near the tracks, everyone is in a state of shock. There is no water or food for us."

Anxious relatives thronged the station in Indore in central India where the train originated, many clutching pictures of their loved ones. Railway officials said special trains and buses had been deployed for stranded travellers. "We are also trying to clear the tracks and complete the restoration work as quickly as possible," Vijay Kumar, a spokesman for north-central railways, told AFP. Local media reports said the train was packed with families, some of them travelling home for weddings. Bride-to-be Ruby Gupta, who survived the accident with a fractured arm, was desperately searching for her father. "I have been looking everywhere for him," she told the Press Trust of India.

In 2014 an express train ploughed into a stationary freight train, also in Uttar Pradesh, killing 26 people. And last year 27 people died when two trains derailed in Madhya Pradesh state during heavy rain. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has pledged to invest \$137 billion over five years to modernize the crumbling railways, making them safer, faster and more efficient. Modi, who started out selling tea outside a train station, tweeted yesterday that he was "anguished beyond words" by the loss of life in the latest accident.

Suresh Prabhu, India's railways minister, said in a tweet that the government would investigate the causes of the derailment and promised accountability with the "strictest possible action", as well as compensation for the affected passengers. The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin had contacted Modi and "passed on words of sympathy and support to the relatives and loved ones of the dead and wished a fast recovery of the injured." — Agencies

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ACCEPTS PETITION...

Continued from Page 1

Among those planning to speak this week is former Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, who was strongly criticized by opposition candidates for leading the previous Assembly that issued a number of highly unpopular legislations.

Already, several candidates have said they will challenge Ghanem for the speaker's post in the next Assembly. They include opposition candidate and former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri. Former veteran MPs Abdullah Al-Roumi, who once served as deputy speaker, and former MP Ahmad Al-Mulaifi, a former education minister, have said they will run for the speaker's post if they are elected.

Opposition candidates are holding at least two huge

rallies tonight with several opposition figures due to speak. More opposition rallies are also planned in the coming few days. Opposition candidates have been targeting Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and warning that they will be tough against him if they get elected. Former opposition MP Mubarak Al-Waalan warned the minister that "real men" will be elected to the Assembly, who will hold him accountable for revoking citizenships and other oppressive measures.

Liberal former MP Rakan Al-Nasef said the next stage requires more political reforms, mainly amending the electoral law and approving the legislation for the independence of the judiciary. He said that a new electoral law must be enacted with the approval of the lawmakers and the support of the people.

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Focus

TURKEY AND EU:
END OF THE ROAD?

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to call a referendum on the future of Turkey's EU membership bid, while Brussels accuses Ankara of "backsliding" on key commitments. After an already exhausting process of over half a century, could this finally be the end for the long-running saga of Turkey's EU membership bid? The situation reached a turning point after the failed July 15 coup, with Brussels angrily criticizing a relentless crackdown and Ankara accusing the bloc of failing to show solidarity.

Turkey formally applied to become a member of the European Union in 1987 and accession talks began in 2005. Its ambition to become part of the bloc dates back to the 1960s. Analysts say that, despite all the problems, both sides are keen to keep up an illusion of an accession process. Brussels is also acutely aware of the importance of a deal with Turkey to reduce the flow of migrants to Europe.

Half-Century Accession Bid Over?

The Turkish government said it may now propose bringing back the death penalty, a move the EU has warned would mark the immediate end of its accession bid. "It's their (the EU's) choice to continue the path with or without Turkey," Erdogan warned in October. But German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, visiting Ankara this week, said that the ball was in Turkey's court. "It is not a decision for Europe or the European capitals," he said. Aykan Erdemir, senior fellow at Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said there is "a reluctance in Brussels to suspend Turkey's accession process." "The continuation of Turkey's membership bid is seen as one of the last tools available to the EU for checking Erdogan's arbitrary rule."

What is the Impact of Crackdown?

Since a rogue military faction tried to oust Erdogan from power, over 100,000 people within the judiciary, media, military and civil service have been arrested, suspended or sacked. Among those arrested include secular daily Cumhuriyet columnists and the co-chairs of the second biggest opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). For Roy Karadag, political scientist at the University of Bremen, the crackdowns mean "factually, this is the end of the Turkish accession process." "This is a tough sell, diplomatically speaking, but no European leader can credibly commit to the Turkish accession, any longer," he told AFP.

Yet on the surface at least, EU leaders have been keen to keep the membership bid going, with only Austria at a meeting of foreign ministers this week suggesting a halt. EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini said it was "very important that channels remain open between a candidate country and a partner and the EU". Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin wrote in Daily Sabah that membership was a "strategic goal" for Turkey and talks should be accelerated rather than stopped.

What Future for Refugee Deal?

Last year the continent experienced its worst refugee crisis since World War II, with more than a million people fleeing war and poverty landing on Europe's shores mostly by Turkey. In a bid to stem the flow, Brussels and Ankara agreed a €6 billion (\$6.4 billion) deal in which Turkey would take back migrants in exchange for money, visa-free travel and the opening of new chapters.

Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkey Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the EU was painfully aware it needs Erdogan's cooperation in the refugee crisis. Erdogan "could actually bluff and walk away from the EU, knowing that the EU will come to him (almost begging) in the spring when the Aegean warms up and becomes crossable for refugees again, threatening to inundate the continent with refugees," he said.

How Great is Economic Dependence?

While the rhetoric now is red hot, a significant reason that cooler heads may prevail is Ankara's economic dependence on the EU, say experts. Anthony Skinner, head of political risk at Verisk Maplecroft consultancy, said with Turkey's slowing GDP growth an end to talks "would land a heavy and multi-dimensional blow to trade with Europe and inbound European foreign direct investment (FDI)". Erdemir agreed, saying that the president could "shy away" from suspending talks to protect the Turkish economy. "The Turkish president might be a firebrand populist but at the same time he is smart enough to know that 85 percent of Turkey's FDI comes from the West." —AFP

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CHICAGO LOOKS TO TOUGHER GUN LAWS

On a recent evening on Chicago's southwest side, an all-too-familiar scene unfolds: Within sight of the Windy City's iconic downtown highrises, dozens of police officers swarm. A 21-year-old man has been shot outside his home. All of a sudden, a deafening scream pierces the silence: The man's family has just learned he has been declared dead at the hospital.

Chicago - the Midwestern stomping grounds of Al Capone, the ruthless mobster who left a trail of blood in the Roaring 1920s - is grappling once again with a gun violence problem and a soaring murder rate. There have been more than 670 murders in Chicago from January to mid-November, according to police - a 56 percent jump in just one year. The city is on track to end 2016 with the most killings since 1998.

On Friday night, the grandson of Illinois congressman Danny Davis was fatally shot in the head - over a pair of shoes, police said. The nation's third largest city is struggling to figure out how to stem the free flow of bullets and blood, and is hoping new, tougher gun laws are the answer. "I have seen too many lives torn apart. Too many parents lose a child," Chicago's police chief Eddie Johnson said at a recent public forum. "As a Chicagoan, I'm ashamed, because we could do better."

'Beyond Frustrated'

Johnson and his state lawmaker allies want to reduce the number of shootings by stiffening jail sentences for those repeatedly arrested for gun offenses. The police department says that a hard core of 1,400 recidivist gun offenders - many of them gang members or drug dealers - are fueling much of the violence. "We're beyond frustrated," said Anthony Guglielmi, a police department

spokesman. "You could reduce the violence in the city by 40 percent just by keeping people in jail for crimes they have committed."

The new draft bill is headed for the Illinois state legislature in the next few weeks, where there are indications of bipartisan support. It would ask judges to sentence repeat gun offenders at the higher end of the three-year to 14-year guideline range. Judges who hand down lighter sentences would need to offer a written explanation of their reasoning. Despite a tough national climate for passing gun control measures, the bill's authors are hopeful that Illinois will be different.

One reason is that the state's Republican governor Bruce Rauner has already agreed to tougher gun laws. Earlier this year, he signed a bill to increase penalties for gun trafficking from nearby Wisconsin and Indiana - border states with more permissive gun laws. Another reason is that this latest sentencing law would not impose strict mandatory minimums, something legislators and gun-rights advocates have opposed. "Illinois can be a real trend-setter here," said state representative Michael Zalewski, a Democrat who supports the measure. Republican state lawmaker Michael Connelly has also offered cautious support, saying, "We have to do something."

'No Employment, No Resources'

But officials admit that tougher gun laws cannot fix the deeper problems at the root of the violence. Alicia Means, 42, lives in the struggling Marquette Park neighborhood on the city's southwest side. When she hears the sounds of gunshots, she says, she and her children drop to the floor inside their home, just in case a stray bullet pierces the walls. Life was not always this way. Growing up, she said her neighborhood was "nice and clean... People cared about other people's children."

But the housing crisis and Great Recession took a toll on the streets around her, where there are now a number of abandoned homes. "Change has been mainly no employment, no resources, people losing their homes... no way to pay their bills," Means said. Alex Kotlowitz has heard all of this before, having spent decades studying Chicago's economically-challenged neighborhoods. His book "There Are No Children Here" takes an unblinking look at growing up poor in Chicago.

"There are a lot of reasons why there is violence in what is a fairly concentrated part of the city," Kotlowitz said, citing historic socio-economic factors and trauma from past bloodshed. But he says longer jail terms are not the answer for predominantly African-American communities that "have faced longer and longer sentences in every crime imaginable." "There's a kind of tone-deafness about it," he said. "The idea that this is the premier solution that people are talking about, for me, is just so disappointing."

Johnson, the city's police chief, who is black, insists he understands the pitfalls. "I want our focus to be on individuals that we know are driving the violence on the streets," he said. "The last thing I'm looking to do is lock someone up based on the color of their skin or where they live." —AFP



Chicago Police officers inspect a handgun during a gun turn-in event at Uptown Baptist Church on Saturday in Chicago. —AFP

WOMEN INCREASINGLY JOIN FIGHT IN ISRAELI ARMY

Her face covered in mud, 18-year-old Smadar crawls beneath thorny brush, her automatic rifle around her neck. She smiles despite the intensity of the training, and her commander, also a woman, shouts encouragement. "I don't regret choosing this unit," said Smadar, who was not allowed to provide her last name under Israeli army rules. "I wanted to do my military service in the most combative unit possible."

Smadar is part of a discreet but profound change taking place within the Israeli military, with a growing number of women taking part in combat units. Just four years ago, some three percent of enlisted women served in combat units compared to seven percent today, according to the army. That number is expected to rise even further to 9.5 percent in 2017.

The increase has come both due to changes in society, with women's participation in combat units no longer dismissed, and a shortage in available soldiers due to reductions in the amount of required service time for men. Israel's military is an institution at the heart of society, with nearly all Jewish citizens required to serve, and such changes are likely to reverberate beyond the barracks.

Equal Right to Serve

Even before the state of Israel was created in 1948, women played an important role in the Haganah, the forerunner to the country's military, today the region's most powerful. Currently men are required to serve two years and eight months after they turn 18, while women serve two years. Women's roles had historically been confined to such positions as nurses or radio operators - an arrangement undergoing rapid change.

The first mixed unit, known as the Caracal battalion, was formed in 2000, taking its name from a type of wild cat whose males and females look the same. It was that year that the law was amended to state

that "women's right to serve in any position is equal to the right of men." Smadar, who was training in the hills of the Galilee in the country's north, is preparing to join the Bardelas battalion and will likely be stationed in the semi-desert south. Bardelas is one of what are now three mixed combat units in the Israeli army. A fourth battalion is planned for March 2017.

Women wanting to take part in combat units must commit to serving eight more months, an equal amount of time as men. It has not dissuaded volunteers. "What a man can do, a woman can also do," said Smadar. A 25-year-old woman from the Caracal battalion wondered why all units cannot be mixed. She arrived in Israel in 2004 from Ukraine and said she wanted to do whatever possible for her new country. "Whoever can fight must do it," she said. "Man or woman - there is no difference."

A Global Trend

Israel's experience is similar to trends globally, said Megan Bastick of the University of Edinburgh, who has studied women's participation in security forces. "Across the Western world, there has been a general increase over recent decades in the proportion of women joining the military," she said. She cited Australia and Canada as two countries in particular offering equal opportunities. In the Middle East, fighter pilot Major Mariam al-Mansouri led a combat mission for the United Arab Emirates against Islamic State group jihadists in 2014, recalled Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck of the Carnegie Middle East Centre.

Algeria has a number of women generals, while women also serve in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, she said. In Syria, a number of women hold the rank of general



This photo taken on Sept 13, 2016 shows Israeli soldiers from the mixed-gender Bardelas battalion take part in a training at a military camp near the northern Israeli city of Yoqne'am Illit on Sept 13, 2016. —AFP

and fight in combat units. Ghanem-Yazbeck says that remains the exception. Within combat units in the region, women often "continue to be in traditional gendered positions such as translators or data-entry personnel or social workers and so on." "Despite an evolution, women remain the aides of their male counterparts."

Integration Tool

Israel's army has served as an integration tool for society, bringing in Israelis of different ethnic backgrounds as well as sexual orientations, a contrast with the conservatism of much of the region. The military is thought to include more than 120,000 soldiers in mandatory service - an estimation since the army does not provide such figures. More than 41 percent of those serving are women, the military says, and 85 percent of army posts are available to women. More than half of women serve, with ultra-Orthodox Jewish families exempt.

Amos Harel, defence correspondent for influential Israeli newspaper Haaretz, said the increase in women does not reflect "ideology but a need," with the timeframe for men to serve recently reduced from 36 to 32 months. Mixed units operate along relatively calm borders, including those with Egypt and Jordan, the only two Arab countries with peace treaties with Israel. Other units are assigned to more risky areas, such as the Lebanese border and along the Gaza Strip. Forty-four female soldiers have been killed in combat since 1948.

Harel questions whether the military will follow through and allow women to serve in all roles at the risk of what has concerned many: one of them being kidnapped. The kidnapping of male soldier Gilad Shalit in 2006 by Hamas caused shock nationwide. "One cannot help wonder whether the response to the abduction of a female soldier would be more extreme," Harel wrote recently in Haaretz. —AFP

JORGENSEN STUNS OLYMPIC CHAMP CHEN IN CHINA



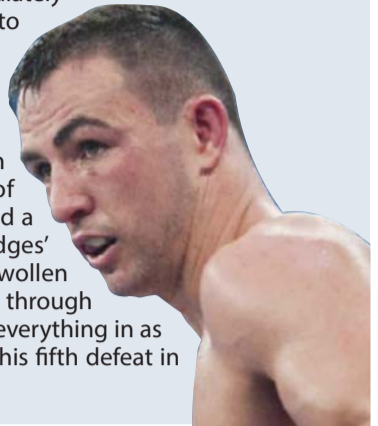
BEIJING: Denmark's Jan O Jorgensen upset world and Olympic champion Chen Long in front of his home fans to win the China Open in Fuzhou yesterday. Jorgensen won 22-30, 21-13 for only his second victory over second-ranked Chen in 10 attempts, and his first since the 2014 Indonesian Open. The Dane edged a nip-and-tuck first game but after he hit the front at 4-3 in the second, he was never headed and he gunned to the title in just 46 minutes. Jorgensen's first individual trophy of the year comes after he helped Denmark to their maiden Thomas Cup international team title in Kunshan, China, in May. There were also celebrations for India when P.V. Sindhu beat China's Sun Yu 21-11, 17-21, 21-11 to win the women's singles, to add to her Olympic silver medal won in August. — AFP

CANADA AND USA TO HOST 2025 WORLD CUP

LONDON: The 2025 Rugby League World Cup will take place in North America after the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) endorsed the proposal yesterday. RLIF directors backed the United States and Canada to stage the tournament's 17th edition, after they were overlooked in favour of England for the 2021 competition. It will be the first time the tournament is staged outside Europe or Australasia. "The award of the 2025 World Cup to North America is a historic moment in the global development of rugby league," said RLIF chairman Nigel Wood after the organisation's annual meeting in Liverpool. "The USA and Canada provide world-class stadia allied to a significant multi-cultural population, which made the bid so persuasive." The Toronto Wolfpack, Canada's first professional team, are due to compete in the third tier of English rugby league next year, reflecting the sport's growing popularity in North America. Australia won the last World Cup in 2013, hosted by England and Wales. The 2017 tournament will take place in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. —AFP

GUTKNECHT IN INDUCED COMA AFTER SURGERY

BERLIN: Boxer Eduard Gutknecht has been placed in an induced coma in a London hospital after undergoing emergency surgery, a German boxing official said yesterday. The 34-year-old, who was born in Kazakhstan but fights out of Germany, was rushed to hospital and had brain surgery after he fell gravely ill in the changing rooms immediately following his super-middleweight defeat to George Groves at Wembley Arena on Friday. "He was placed in an artificial coma, that's normal with this type of surgery," Thomas Puetz, president of the German professional boxing federation, told SID, an AFP subsidiary. Gutknecht took plenty of punishment before Groves, 28, was declared a unanimous points winner on the three judges' scorecards. A cut opened by 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. It was his fifth defeat in 36 fights. — AFP



Runners getting ready for the marathon.



Aerial shot of the crowd.



Faye Al Sultan.

'GULF BANK 642 MARATHON' IS A RECORD BREAKER!

KUWAITI OLYMPIAN FAYE AL SULTAN KICKED OFF EVENT

KUWAIT: The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' was an unprecedented success with over 4,000 participants and more than 100 nationalities represented in Kuwait's biggest walk/run event. Due to high demand, the two longer distance categories (21K and 42K) were sold out days before the event, with many marathon runners joining the race from overseas.

The event kicked off with Kuwaiti Olympic swimmer Ms Faye Al-Sultan highlighting the importance of a healthy lifestyle and being active. She was happy to see such a large turnout and further added, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' is also raising awareness of very important cause.

This year 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' partnered with the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, and its 'Voices for Refugees' initiative. This is an online awareness and fundraising campaign to stand with Syrian refugees to make their voices heard so that people will keep remembering that they are human. It seeks to bring hope to the men, women, and children who have lost everything through no fault of their own. You can still raise your voice for them and support them financially by going to the UNHCR Voices website, www.voices.unhcr.org. By adding your voice to the #Voices4Refugees campaign, you will be calling for immediate and practical steps that can improve humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those in need inside Syria.

'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' along with its strategic partner, Pro-Vision Sports Management express their gratitude and appreciation to all those who participated in making this event a major success. Gulf Bank and Pro-Vision Sports Management would like to thank the Kuwait government and governmental agencies whose contributions were crucial to a successful event day. A special thanks to the Ministry of Interior, and Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs, Major-General Ibrahim Al Tarrah, and Kuwait Police whose support and efforts were crucial to making race day safe and secure for all those who took part. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Health for their ongoing support. Our appreciation is also extended to Souq Sharq who have been hosts of this growing event. Additionally, Gulf Bank would like to thank the all the people who turned out to walk and run the event, as well as those who volunteered their time to help make this event Kuwait's biggest run/walk event.

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

This year's marathon comprised of individuals, families, teams of walkers and runners from various backgrounds and organizations. All the participants took a route starting from Souq Sharq, to the Gulf Road, passing by Kuwait Towers, the Grand Mosque, Al Seif Palace, the National Assembly, Souk Al Mubarakiya, Gulf Bank's head office, as well as many other landmarks.

- * Full Marathon (42KM): Belal Ahmad and Jeanine Huh.
- * Half Marathon (21KM): Maali Taur Babiker and Renata Hoppova.
- * Souq Run for regular runners (10KM): Ahmed Saber Bakry and Taiba Alnouri.
- * Family Fun Run for beginners (5KM): Hussain Kamal and Charlene Scodellaro.



Women runners.



A couple taking part in the race.



Participant in a wheel chair.



Finish line.



KUWAIT TENNIS FEDERATION HONOURS OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

KUWAIT: Under the patronage and presence of President of Kuwait and Arab Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, KTF held a dinner in honor of professional players and international referees, who participated in the Futures Kuwait International Tennis

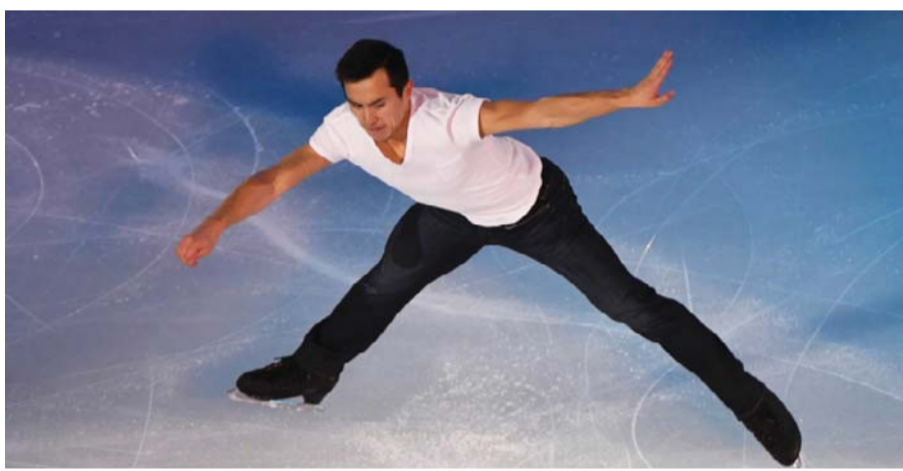
Professionals tournament 2016, which was held in the period October 30 until November 19, which saw a large participation by players from all over the world, including several Kuwaiti players.

Kuwait National team members who won the gold medal in the U16 and the silver

medal in the U12 in the Gulf Championship that was held earlier in Qatar were also honored. They are Fuad Behbehani, Essa Qabazard, Bader Antar and Ali Al-Shatti in the U16 team. Yacoub Mohammad, Mohammad Al-Shatti, Abdel Razzaq Abdul, Suleiman Al-Duwaisan, Hussein Al-Shatti for

the U12 team. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber welcomed those present, and emphasized the success of the championship and lauded the participation of National team members and the foreign players. He also lauded the distinguished performance of Kuwait's Abdallah Maqdis, adding that he along with his col-

league Mohammad Al-Ghareeb are examples that others should follow in order to make major achievements. Sheikh Ahmad thanked the Public Authority for Sports and its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for supporting and sponsoring all KTF activities.



BEIJING: Patrick Chan of Canada performs during the gala exhibition at the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

CHAN AND RADIONOVA FINISH STRONGLY TO WIN AT CUP OF CHINA

BEIJING: Three-time world champion Patrick Chan of Canada rebounded from a subpar short program to capture the Cup of China on Saturday, while Elena Radionova won the ladies event for her first Grand Prix victory of the year. Chan, who also won Skate Canada earlier this season, was third after the men's short program, but landed a quadruple-triple toe combination, quadruple toe and two triple Axels to finish first in the free skate with a score 196.31. He had a combined total of 279.72.

"The program felt very methodical," said Chan, whose only misstep was a fall on a quad salchow. "Even after the fall on the quad salchow, I did not panic. I got up and started doing the program as I do it at home." Jin Boyang of China, the leader after the short program, finished second with a score of 278.54, while Sergei Voronov of Russia was third. Radionova, who was second after the ladies short program, received 135.15 points for her free skate to finish with a total of 205.90. The 17-year-old Russian under-rotated on her opening triple lutz-triple toe loop combination and was deducted points on a triple flip, but completed all of her remaining jumps to win her first GP event since last year's Rostelecom Cup in Moscow.

"My performance was not flawless today," she said. "But it was the best performance of the season as for the jumps and the skating

overall." Kaetlyn Osmond of Canada, the leader after the short program, finished second overall with 196.00 points and Russia's Elizaveta Tuktamysheva, the 2015 world champion, was third.

Ashley Wagner of the United States, the 2016 world silver medalist, finished sixth, one place ahead of compatriot Karen Chen.

In the pairs, the new team of Yu Xiaoyu and Zhang Hao won the gold after scoring 131.27 points in the free skate despite a fall by Zhang on a side-by-side triple toe loop. They had a total score of 203.76.

"I made a big mistake on the jump, I think the last time I made that kind of mistake in competition was at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games," Zhang said. "Maybe it was the pressure to skate in front of a home crowd."

China's Peng Cheng and Jin Yang were second and Canada's Liubov Ilyushchikina and Dylan Moscovitch were third.

Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani of the United States won the ice dance competition with 185.13 points after placing first in the free dance. Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje were second, followed by Russian skaters Alexandra Stepanova and Ivan Bukin. The Cup of China is the fifth event in the International Skating Union's Grand Prix Series. The sixth and final competition is the NHK Trophy which will be held in Sapporo, Japan, on Nov. 26-27. — AP

QATAR WARNS OF LEGAL ACTION OVER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CLAIMS

DOHA: The Qatar Athletics Federation said yesterday it was considering legal action following newspaper claims it paid nearly \$3.5 million to a company headed by the son of disgraced former IAAF president Lamine Diack. In a statement, the QAF added it had "no knowledge or involvement" of the money allegedly paid out by Oryx Qatar Sport Investments to Papa Massata Diack's Pamodzi Sports Consulting company.

The allegations were made earlier this month in French newspaper Le Monde. "With regards to Le Monde's article regarding wire transfers from Oryx Qatar Sport Investments to Pamodzi Sports Consulting, the QAF can confirm that they have no relationship with Oryx Qatar Sport Investments and no knowledge or involvement of the wire transfers to the named party or individual," said the federation in Sunday's statement.

"The QAF upholds the highest standards of ethics and we followed the IAAF's rules at every stage of our 2017 and 2019 bids to host the IAAF World Championships in Athletics.

"We are very disappointed to be named in these allegations. "In response, legal action is being considered and will be taken if such false allegations continue to be made against the QAF." It had been alleged by Le Monde that

two money transfers were made on October 13 and November 7, 2011. The payments— which totalled around 2.5 million euros at the time— came just a few weeks after Qatar had announced it would bid to host the 2017 World Athletics Championships.

Le Monde said it had seen receipts showing the payments had been made. The 2017 championships were eventually awarded to London. Last month the IAAF said it would not investigate bribery claims against Qatar after finding no more than "rumours" surrounding bidding for the 2017 world championships. Papa Massata Diack was banned for life from athletics earlier this year. Lamine Diack, who headed the IAAF from 1999 to 2015, has been charged by French police on suspicion he accepted bribes to cover up doping cases in Russia. Qatar though was later successful in bidding for the 2019 championships. The World Athletics Championships in Doha will be held in the Khalifa International Stadium, which will also be used as a venue during the 2022 football World Cup. FIFA's controversial decision to award Qatar football's biggest tournament is the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Swiss Attorney General, who is examining allegations of corruption in the 2022 bidding process. — AFP

HENRIK STENSON WINS HIS SECOND RACE TO DUBAI TITLE

DUBAI: Henrik Stenson won the Race to Dubai title for the second time in four years yesterday, and Matthew Fitzpatrick claimed the biggest victory of his short career at the World Tour Championship.

Fourth-ranked Stenson shot 7-under 65 in the final round on the Earth Course at Jumeirah Golf Estates to stay ahead of his rivals in the year-long race. The Swede earned a bonus of \$1.25 million as the European Tour's top player. The 40-year-old Stenson, who also won the Race to Dubai in 2013, ended Sunday on 12-under 276 in a four-way tie for ninth, which included Rory McIlroy (65).

"I've always thought it was going to be hard to top 2013, but I think I've done that this year," said British Open champion Stenson. "Maybe not to the level of golf over six months, but certainly with the highlights of winning the Open, (silver at) the Olympics and taking the Race to Dubai again."

Stenson's closest rival in the Race to Dubai, Masters champion Danny Willett, remained second after finishing tied 50th in the tournament with a 70, some 11 shots adrift of Stenson.

Fitzpatrick, who earned his card exactly two years ago, shot 5-under 67 to finish on 17-under 271. The 22-year-old Englishman finished one stroke ahead of compatriot Tyrrell Hatton (68), who had a bogey on the final hole after his tee shot trickled into the stream that bisects the fairway. "I love playing golf obviously, but it's been a long year for me," said Fitzpatrick, who is expected to move into the top 30 from his current 51st ranking. "This means the world ... For me to win on the final week of the year is special." Fitzpatrick survived a scare on the 15th hole when he pulled his tee shot into thick trees, but the ball somehow kicked back into the rough and he made par from there. South African Charl Schwartzel (67) was two shots further behind in third.

Overnight leader, France's Victor Dubuisson (72), was among those tied fourth at 275. That group included Austria's Bernd Wiesberger (68), Italian Francesco Molinari (70), Dane Soren Kjeldsen (68) and Belgian Nicolas Colsecaerts (71).



DUBAI: Henrik Stenson of Sweden poses next to Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed al-Maktoum with the trophy after he won the Race to Dubai at the Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, yesterday. — AP

The Race to Dubai did not need any major calculations when leader Stenson finished best among the four players in with a chance.

His score of 65 on Sunday tied McIlroy but left behind his two closest rivals, Willett and Sweden's Alex Noren.

Noren could not reproduce the form that saw him win last week in South Africa which included a sensational 9-under 63. He finished with a double bogey on the 18th for a round of 71, which put him four behind Stenson. Stenson started the day tied with McIlroy on 5-

under, and the two were paired together. Between them, they had 15 birdies, three bogeys and one eagle - McIlroy on the par-5 No. 7. For Stenson, "it's been a great year, the best year of my career."

Stenson's first victory this season came as late as June, when he won the BMW International Open in Munich with a three-stroke victory. He then went toe-to-toe with Phil Mickelson at the Open, with Stenson shooting the lowest ever final round (63) by a winner. — AP



KUWAIT DISABLED BASKETBALL TEAM TO PLAY EGYPT'S IMBABA CLUB

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Disabled Basketball team will meet Egypt's Imbaba Club in four matches, as it prepares for the Gulf Wheelchair tournament to be held in Abu Dhabi in December.

Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Disabled Sports Club Nasser Al-Ajmi told Journalists after receiving the Egyptian delegation the matches will continue

until Wednesday, and will be an opportunity to prepare the players physically and technically for the Gulf tournament, which Kuwait National Teams holds and is looking forward to keep.

Al-Ajmi added that Imbaba team includes a large number of Egypt's national team, and is known for its strength at the Arab and African levels. He said that Kuwait National team with complete its preparation by holding a

training camp in Turkey starting November 28, and will continue until the tournament start on December 19.

Al-Ajmi said his club, chaired by Shafi Al-Hajiri is keen on supporting all its teams and players to allow them to make sports achievements, he also appreciated the support of the public authority for sports and its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



AUSTRALIA WIELD THE AXE FOR THIRD S AFRICA TEST

SYDNEY: Australia's selectors have responded to the threat of a first ever test series sweep on home soil by dropping five players from their squad for the third match against South Africa, which begins in Adelaide on Thursday.

Joe Burns, Adam Voges and Callum Ferguson, as well as wicketkeeper Peter Nevill, paid the price for a string of batting collapses, while seamer Joe Mennie was also axed after the innings defeat in the second Test in Hobart.

Four uncapped players-openers Matt Renshaw and Nic Maddinson, wicketkeeper-batsman Peter Handscomb and seamer Chadd Sayers-came into the 12-man squad.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade and seamer Jackson Bird, both given previous chances at Test level before being discarded, were also recalled.

South Africa have ensured a third straight series triumph in Australia with thumping victories in Perth and Hobart, rendering the day-night third Test a dead rubber and plunging the host nation into crisis.

Chief selector Rod Marsh stood down from his post ahead of schedule last week and so on Sunday it was his temporary replacement Trevor Hohns who wielded the axe in Adelaide.

"Matt has established himself in a short period of time as one of the best young opening bats in the country," Hohns said.

"Peter's form over the last couple of seasons has been very consistent. He has a good all-round game and we think he is

the type of player who could succeed at the next level.

"Nic is an exciting and talented young player and we feel now is the ideal time for him to be involved with the Australian team." Coach Darren Lehmann suggested after the Hobart defeat that only captain Steve Smith, his vice-captain David Warner and seamers Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc were secure and the selection panel was true to his word.

Top order batsman Usman Khawaja, who has been recalled and discarded regularly since making his debut during the 2010-11 Ashes series, also survived along with off-spinner Nathan Lyon.

Sayers and Bird are likely to be in contention for one spot in the pace attack along with Starc and Hazlewood, while Wade looks set to replace Nevill behind the stumps.

"Chadd bowls very well in Adelaide and Jackson is coming off a strong performance in his last Test match earlier in the year and both deserve their chance," Hohns added.

"Matthew has worked extremely hard on his keeping in the past few seasons and we consider it to have improved substantially. He is also a very valuable player with the bat and will add to the depth in our batting order."

Squad: Steve Smith (captain), David Warner, Jackson Bird, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Usman Khawaja, Nic Maddinson, Nathan Lyon, Matt Renshaw, Chadd Sayers, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade. — Reuters



CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson (L) bats with Pakistan's keeper Sarfraz Ahmed during day four of the first cricket Test match between New Zealand and Pakistan at Hagley Park in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP

NEW ZEALAND THRASH PAKISTAN BY 8 WKTS

CHRISTCHURCH: A Kane Williamson half century saw New Zealand snap a four-Test losing streak when they beat Pakistan by eight wickets yesterday in the first Test at Hagley Oval, Christchurch. A low-scoring match was wrapped up inside eight sessions after the first day's washout, with Williamson's second innings 61 — his 24th Test 50 — the top score of the match.

Set 105 to win after Pakistan were all out for 171 in their second innings on the morning of the fourth day, Williamson lost his wicket with the scores level, leaving debutant Jeet Raval to seal victory with a boundary off Yasir Shah.

It was a much-needed confidence boost for the home side, coming off a 3-0 series white-wash in India and a comprehensive 204-run loss to South Africa. "It was a nice toss to win," said Williamson who put Pakistan into bat on a seaming wicket and had them all out for 133 in their first innings. "After a couple of really tough tours in South Africa and India, it was important we learned a lot but at the same time put some of that baggage away." Azhar Ali, who will take over the Pakistan captaincy with Misbah-ul-Haq having to dash home after the match because of a family illness, said the tourists had no excuses. Azhar said Pakistan should have been able to cope better with the short-pitched barrage from Neil Wagner that undid them in the second innings. "As a professional, as a team, we have to adapt to conditions wherever we go," Azhar said.

"If you come to this part of the world, you expect that. You expect sub-continent teams will be tested with that short stuff and we all knew that.

Debutants shine

"As time goes on, we'll get better. We're hopeful to turn things around quickly." New Zealand's debutants shone. Opener

SCOREBOARD	
CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: Completed scoreboard in the first Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on yesterday.	
Pakistan first innings 133 (Misbah-ul-Haq 31; C. de Grandhomme 6-41, T. Southee 2-20)	Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Aslam), 2-58 (Azam), 3-64 (Younis), 4-93 (Misbah), 5-93 (Azhar), 6-95 (Ahmed), 7-105 (Amir), 8-158 (Sohail), 9-166 (Shafiq), 10-171 (Rahat)
New Zealand first innings 200 (J. Raval 55, H. Nicholls 30; Rahat 4-62, Amir 3-43, Sohail 3-78)	Bowling: Boult 17-5-37-3 (1w), Southee 23.4-10-53-3, de Grandhomme 14-4-23-1, Wagner 20-6-34-3, Astle 4-0-12-0.
Pakistan second innings (overnight 129-7; Sohail 22 not out, Shafiq 6 not out)	
Sami Aslam c Watling b de Grandhomme 7	
Azhar Ali b Boult 31	
Babar Azam c Watling b Wagner 29	
Younis Khan c Watling b Wagner 13	
Misbah-ul-Haq c Boult b Southee 1	
Asad Shafiq c Raval b Wagner 17	
Sarfraz Ahmed b Boult 2	
Mohammad Amir c Astle b Boult 6	
Sohail Khan c de Grandhomme b Southee 40	
Yasir Shah not out 6	
Rahat Ali c Latham b Southee 2	
Extras: (b5, lb7, w5) 17	
Total: (all out; 78.4 overs) 171	
New Zealand second innings	
T. Latham c Shafiq b Amir 9	
J. Raval not out 36	
K. Williamson c Aslam b Azhar 61	
H. Nicholls not out 0	
Extras: (nb2) 2	
Total: (2 wks; 31.3 overs) 108	
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Latham), 2-104 (Williamson)	
Bowling: Amir 7-2-12-1 (2nb), Sohail 6-1-21-0, Rahat 6-0-24-0, Shah 9.3-1-45-0, Azhar 3-1-6-1.	
Result: New Zealand won by eight wickets	

Raval was unbeaten on 36 in the second innings after top-scoring in the first innings with 55 while Colin de Grandhomme gave a masterful display of medium-paced bowling, taking 6 for 41 in the first innings when Pakistan were skittled for 133. After New Zealand replied with 200, Pakistan resumed their second innings on Sunday at 129 for 7 and added a further 42 to be all out for 171. Sohail Khan posted a Test-best 40 as he and Asad Shafiq (17) showed gritty resistance at the start of the day.

But their 53-run stand for the eighth wicket came to an end when Sohail half-heartedly pulled a short-pitched Southee delivery to de Grandhomme at backward square.

Wagner, who returned figures of 3 for 34, claimed the wicket of Shafiq and Southee closed the innings when he had Rahat Ali

caught for two. Southee finished with 3 for 53 and Trent Boult, who leaked 19 runs in two overs on Sunday, took 3 for 37.

Pakistan removed opener Tom Latham early in New Zealand's saunter to the finish when he fended at a sharply rising Mohammad Amir delivery and was caught by Shafiq in the gully for nine. It ended a disappointing Test for Latham who fell lbw to Amir in the first innings for one. Williamson and Raval were largely untroubled through to the end of the innings, until New Zealand reached 104 to level the scores and Williamson swept Azhar Ali straight to Sami Aslam at fine leg.

The second and final Test in the series starts in Hamilton on Friday with New Zealand searching for their first series win over Pakistan in 31 years. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

VISAKHAPATNAM, India: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between India and England at Visakhapatnam on yesterday.

India 1st innings: 455 (V. Kohli 167, C. Pujara 119; J. Anderson 3-62, M. Ali 3-98)

England 1st innings: 255 (B. Stokes 70, J. Bairstow 53, J. Root 53; R. Ashwin 5-67)

India 2nd innings		
M. Vijay c Root b Broad 3		
L. Rahul c Bairstow b Broad 10		
C. Pujara b Anderson 1		
V. Kohli c Stokes b Rashid 81		
A. Rahane c Cook b Broad 26		
R. Ashwin c Bairstow b Broad 7		
W. Saha lbw b Rashid 2		
R. Jadeja c Ali b Rashid 14		
J. Yadav not out 27		
U. Yadav c Bairstow b Rashid 0		
M. Shami st Bairstow b Ali 19		
Extras (b5, lb8, w1) 14		
Total (all out; 63.1 overs) 204		
Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Vijay), 2-17 (Rahul), 3-40 (Pujara), 4-117 (Rahane), 5-127 (Ashwin),		

6-130 (Saha), 7-151 (Kohli), 8-162 (Jadeja), 9-162 (U. Yadav), 10-204 (Shami)

Bowling: Anderson 15-3-33-1, Broad 14-5-33-4, Rashid 24-3-82-4, Stokes 7-0-34-0, Ali 3.1-1-9-1.

England 2nd innings:	
A. Cook lbw b Jadeja 54	
H. Hameed lbw b Ashwin 25	
J. Root not out 5	
Extras (lb 3) 3	
Total (2 wickets, 59.2 overs) 87	
Fall of wicket: 1-75 (Hameed), 2-87 (Cook)	
Bowling: Shami 9-2-16-0, U. Yadav 8-3-8-0, Ashwin 16-5-28-1, Jadeja 22.2-8-25-1, J. Yadav 4-1-7-0.	
To bat: B. Duckett, M. Ali, B. Stokes, J. Bairstow, Z. Ansari, A. Rashid, S. Broad, J. Anderson	



VISHAKHAPATNAM: Indian captain Virat Kohli (R) watches as England captain Alastair Cook (2L) plays a shot during the fourth day of the second Test cricket match between India and England at the Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Vishakhapatnam yesterday. — AFP

INDIA ON TOP AFTER LATE COOK DISMISSAL

VISAKHAPATNAM: Alastair Cook led England's dogged resistance with a diligent fifty before falling to the final delivery of the day as India stayed on course for victory in the second Test yesterday.

Trapped in front by a Ravindra Jadeja delivery, Cook reviewed but could not get the lbw decision overturned in what was a massive blow to England ahead of an intriguing fifth day's play today.

Joe Root was batting on five with the tourists on 87-2, still needing 318 runs for an improbable victory on a track offering significant turn and uneven bounce. Chasing a daunting 405 on a deteriorating wicket, Cook and Haseem Hameed initially defied the Indian bowlers, who could not separate the openers in the afternoon session. Hameed lived up to his 'Baby Boycott' moniker, frustrating the home bowlers with his solid defence even if the 19-year-old took a couple of painful blows to his body during his three-hour spell at the crease.

In desperation for a breakthrough, India captain Virat Kohli wasted both reviews on Cook in successive overs, trying to get his counterpart leg-before.

After India spent 50 overs toiling without success, Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed Hameed leg-before with a deliv-

ery which kept low. Cook brought up his 53rd Test fifty in 171 balls but his late dismissal for 54 was a disappointing end to a day England had begun well by bowling India out for 204 in their second innings. England paceman Stuart Broad (4-33) was exceptional despite physical discomfort as he and leg-spinner Adil Rashid (4-82) claimed six of the last seven India wickets after the hosts had resumed on 98 for three.

Broad is nursing a foot injury and will be assessed after the Test but there was no let up in hostility from the bowler who troubled the Indian batsmen with his probing cutters. Ajinkya Rahane was out on 26 when he surrendered to one such leg-cutter and, surprised by the extra bounce, gloved it to Cook at slip.

Broad then got Ashwin caught behind to peg back India before Rashid took over. The 28-year-old dismissed Wriddhiman Saha and then struck a body blow, tempting Virat Kohli into a wild drive only for the edge to fly to slip where an airborne Ben Stokes took a spectacular one-handed catch.

Debutant Jayant Yadav made 27 not out as he and Mohammed Shami added 42 for the final wicket in the first ever Test match in the port city of Visakhapatnam. — Reuters

WARD STUNS KOVALEV TO CLAIM LIGHT-HEAVY CROWN

LOS ANGELES: Sergey Kovalev accused American judges of favouring Andre Ward after the Russian suffered a controversial defeat by decision in their world lighthetweight title battle on Saturday.

Many neutrals at ringside believed Kovalev—who scored the fight's only knockdown when he sent Ward to the canvas in the second round—had done enough to retain his WBA, WBO and IBF crowns. But the three US judges scoring an attritional bout at Las Vegas's T-Mobile Arena all gave more weight to Ward's disciplined display over the closing stages, when he landed scoring blows as the previously unbeaten Kovalev tired.

All three judges scored it 114-113 in Ward's favour, improving the 2004 Olympic champion's record to 31-0 with 15 knockouts. Kovalev however was distraught at the loss, which he suggested was influenced by his nationality.

"It's the wrong decision. But I don't want to give my opinion. Everybody is here, witnesses are here, everybody saw what happened," he said. "He got maybe a few rounds. But not the whole fight. I kept control. I lost maybe three rounds. Look at his face and look at my face."

"I'm a guest here in the USA and he's a local, and all the judges are from the USA. I agree they support their boxer but honestly, this is sport. Don't make it like politics."

The statistics from a gripping 12-rounder reflected the closeness of the battle.

Kovalev landed more punches, 126-116, and more power punches, 78 to 61. Ward however, who stepped up a division to take on Kovalev landed more jabs, 55-48.

'WE GOT THE BELTS'

Ward was unfazed by Kovalev's grievances. "I can't do anything about controversy. I thought I won the fight," Ward said. "It was a close fight. You never know how judges are going to see it. But take nothing away from

Kovalev. "In a tight fight, he's going to feel like he got robbed, I'd have been disappointed. But we got the belts tonight." Ward, meanwhile, was satisfied at the way he came back after his second-round knockdown.

"I knew it was going to be a tough fight but you never anticipate getting dropped," he said. "That was the first time in my career I got dropped. I'm pleased with the way I responded." The tight nature of the contest makes a rematch almost inevitable.

Asked if he would face Ward again, Kovalev replied: "Sure and I'll kick his a**"

Earlier, Kovalev had quickly made his superior punching power tell, rocking the challenger with two stiff jabs that appeared to startle Ward towards the end of the first round.

Ward was soon in trouble in the second round, with Kovalev piercing his gloves at will with stinging jabs. With 40 seconds left in the round, Kovalev dumped ward on the floor, soft-

ening him up with a left jab before a short chopping right landed flush on his chin.

Ward scrambled to recover his senses and was clinging on for the bell. Kovalev had the better of the exchanges in the third round, but Ward did well to steady the ship without troubling the Russian. Ward managed to frustrate Kovalev in the fourth, fighting in clinches and attempting to keep his rival off balance.

But the statistics told the story after four rounds, with Kovalev landing 22 power shots to Ward's seven. Ward, however, refused to buckle and enjoyed his best period of the fight through the fifth and sixth, sticking and moving to score consistently. Another good round in the seventh, with Ward connecting with three stiff jabs, drew loud cheers, but Kovalev was still landing shots. As the fight moved into the later rounds, Ward appeared to be increasingly comfortable, keeping his distance and uncorking several energy-sapping body-shots to the Russian. — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Andre Ward and Sergey Kovalev exchange punches during their WBO/IBF/WBA Light Heavyweight Championship fight at T-Mobile Arena on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of NBA news, Kuwait Times is introducing a new feature this year: the NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. The actual record for each team (put between brackets) does play a role in the assessment process but is not the main factor for deciding each team's ranking, thus making it different from league standings. This week saw yet another team claim the top spot after extending its winning streak to seven games behind their balanced offense.



1- Golden State Warriors (11 - 2) Last week: 4 - The Warriors are finally starting to figure things out with their new lineup. They are on a seven-game winning streak as of Sunday, and look poised to keep winning before facing the league's toughest defense (Atlanta) near the end of the month.



2- Los Angeles Clippers (12 - 2) Last week: 1 - A tough loss against the Grizzlies, in which center Marc Gasol hit a three pointer to seal victory for his team, prevented the Clippers from having a perfect record for the second consecutive week.



3- Cleveland Cavaliers (10 - 2) Last week: 2 - The Cavs opted to rest LeBron James on Thursday after their controversial win against the Raptors two nights earlier, and were unable to secure a victory against the struggling Pacers.



4- San Antonio Spurs (10 - 3) Last week: 5 - An unbeaten record and an announcement that legend Tim Duncan's number will be retired on December 18 caps a perfect week for the Spurs.



5- Atlanta Hawks (9 - 3) Last week: 6 - The Hawks had won six straight games and were heading for their seventh against the Hornets on Friday before Dwight Howard was ejected, and their defense couldn't contain Charlotte's late run without him.



6- Toronto Raptors (8 - 4) Last week: 3 - Weekly DeMar DeRozan watch: the NBA's leading scorer has 10 30-point games in his team's first 12 games of the season, the most since Michael Jordan did it in 1986-87. Meanwhile, the Raptors continue to struggle with ball movement, ranking last in the league in assist percentage.



7- Charlotte Hornets (8 - 4) Last week: 7 - Charlotte suffered defeat on Saturday against the resurging Pelicans on the second night of a back-to-back following their win against the Hawks. Meanwhile, Kimba Walker is averaging a career best 25.4 points per game.



8- Oklahoma City Thunder (8 - 5) Last week: 8 - OKC rebounded with victories against the Rockets and Nets following tough defeats against the Pistons and Magic last week. Russell Westbrook tallied his league-leading fourth triple-double in his team's win against Brooklyn on Saturday.



9- Chicago Bulls (8 - 5) Last week: 11 - Chicago's four-game winning streak was snapped on the road against the Clippers on Saturday, but the Bulls have to be pleased with Jimmy Butler's progress and Dwyane Wade's improvement in three-point shooting.



10- Memphis Grizzlies (8 - 5) Last week: 19 - The Grizzlies are allowing an average of only 84.5 points during their four-game win streak, and their defense will be key to determine how far they can go this season.



11- Houston Rockets (8 - 5) Last week: 13 - James Harden lost his battle against Russell Westbrook last week, but he currently leads the league with six games of at least 30 points and 10 assists. Meanwhile, center Clint Capela is averaging 16 points in the last three games, scoring a career-high 20 points on Saturday.



12- Boston Celtics (7 - 6) Last week: 12 - Al Horford and Jae Crowder returned in time to help the Celtics find their winning ways, and quite literally in the case of Horford whose putback with 1.3 seconds remaining propelled Boston to victory against the Pistons on Saturday.



13- Los Angeles Lakers (7 - 6) Last week: 15 - The Spurs, who rank among the best in offensive and defensive ratings, struggled to defeat the Lakers on Friday without their top scorer D'Angelo Russell, which says a lot about Los Angeles' will to compete



14- Utah Jazz: (7 - 7) Last week: 9 - The Jazz lost some momentum it had gained with four wins last week after losing their last three games, which also came against teams with similar records and who are making strong pushes to ascend the rankings.



15- Portland Trail Blazers (7 - 7) Last week: 10 - Jrue Holiday's 21 points off the bench in his season debut were too much for the Blazers to avoid a loss against the Pelicans on Friday. While Damian Lillard continues to put up solid numbers (the first Blazer ever to score 375 points through 13 games), the team continues to struggle with little-to-no contribution from his supporting cast.



16- Indiana Pacers (6 - 7) Last week: 20 - The Pacers held former coach Frank Vogel's Orlando Magic to 69 points in a

victory on Monday, and followed by beating the LeBron-less Cavs two nights later, but lost all of that momentum with their loss to the Suns on Saturday.



17- Detroit Pistons (6 - 7) Last week: 14 - After beating the Thunder on Tuesday, the Pistons dropped three straight games against the Knicks, Cavs and Celtics. The team, which still ranks among the top ten in defensive rating and bottom ten in offensive rating, has a tough test ahead with games against the Rockets, Clippers and Thunder.



18- Milwaukee Bucks (5 - 7) Last week: 16 - The Bucks' 121 points against the Warriors on Saturday were still not enough to beat Golden State, who scored 124 and had Draymond Green shut down Giannis Antetokounmpo late in the game.



19- Orlando Magic (6 - 7) Last week: 27 - Orlando's week included a big victory over the Thunder, loss to the Pacers, followed by wins against the Pelicans and Mavericks. They need to improve on offense, which currently ranks 28th in the league, if they ever hope to win on a more consistent basis.



20- New York Knicks (5 - 7) Last week: 24 - the Knicks' ascension of the rankings this week has more to do with other teams struggling than it is for their own performance. Meanwhile, Kristaps Porzingis is stealing the spotlight in the Big Apple from All-Stars Carmelo Anthony, Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah.



21- Minnesota Timberwolves (4 - 8) Last week: 25 - Andrew Wiggins and Karl-Anthony Towns led Detroit with 24 points and Andre Drummond had 20 points and 17 rebounds. The Pistons became the last NBA team to lose at home. After Tobias Harris tied the game with a 3-pointer, Jae Crowder missed a baseline 3 and Marcus Smart missed a tip-in, but Horford got to the ball and his tip dropped. Horford then blocked Aron Baynes' jumper at the buzzer.



22- Denver Nuggets (4 - 8) Last week: 21 - Kenneth Faried's insertion into the starting lineup was made in hopes of making things work in Denver. Although they beat the Suns on Wednesday and came within an inch of beating the Raptors two nights later, the Nuggets continue to show mediocre results on both defense and offense.



23- Brooklyn Nets (4 - 8) Last week: 17 - The Nets had a tough week, dropping three games against the Clippers, Lakers and Thunder on the road. They play four of the next five games at home, starting with last night's match against the Blazers.



24- Miami Heat (4 - 8) Last week: 26 - Hassan Whiteside's monster play helped the Heat snap a six-game losing streak by beating the Bucks on Friday and then the Wizards one night later. But his biggest test comes next week with matchups against Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Detroit's Andre Drummond and Memphis' Marc Gasol (twice).



25- Sacramento Kings (4 - 9) Last week: 18 - The Kings hope that playing 'small-ball' by sliding center DeMarcus Cousins back to his natural position and playing Rudy Gay at power forward helps end their season-high four-game losing streak.



26- Phoenix Suns (4 - 10) Last week: 23 - The Suns' only win last week came against a Pacers squad playing without their All-Star Paul George, while they also lost against the 76ers and Nuggets. The experiment of benching Brandon Knight in favor of Devin Booker needs more testing before it can properly be assessed.



27- New Orleans Pelicans (4 - 10) Last week: 29 - Jrue Holiday's return provided the spark the Pelicans desperately needed, and the team responded with huge victories against the Blazers and Hornets. In Saturday's victory over Charlotte, New Orleans scored 121 points against the league's fourth best defense.



28- Washington Wizards (3 - 9) Last week: 28 - John Wall led the Wizards to a win over the Knicks on Friday, but his 34 points came up short to propel his team to victory over the Heat the following night. Even center Marcin Gortat admitted that Washington has 'one of the worst benches in the NBA.'



29- Dallas Mavericks (2-10) Last week: 22 - Owners of the league's worst record, the Mavs have a tough week ahead with games against the Spurs, Clippers and Cavaliers; which could also make them lose their position among the top ten in defensive rating.



30- Philadelphia 76ers (3 - 10) Last week: 30 - Joel Embiid is putting up historic numbers despite still being on a minutes restriction. The 76ers improved slightly in defensive rating, but remain horrible in offensive and net ratings, where they rank 29th and 30th respectively.



MICHIGAN: Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (36) shoots against the Detroit Pistons during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Auburn Hills, Mich., Saturday. Boston won 94-92. —AP

CELTICS WIN ON HORFORD'S FOLLOW IN FINAL SECONDS

AUBURN HILLS: Al Horford's follow shot with 1.3 seconds left gave the Boston Celtics a 94-92 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Saturday night. Isaiah Thomas had 24 points and eight assists for Boston, while Horford added 18 points and 11 rebounds. Marcus Morris led Detroit with 24 points and Andre Drummond had 20 points and 17 rebounds. The Pistons became the last NBA team to lose at home. After Tobias Harris tied the game with a 3-pointer, Jae Crowder missed a baseline 3 and Marcus Smart missed a tip-in, but Horford got to the ball and his tip dropped. Horford then blocked Aron Baynes' jumper at the buzzer.

WARRIORS 124, BUCKS 121

Kevin Durant scored 33 points, Klay Thompson had 25 of his 29 in the second half, and Golden State held on to beat Milwaukee for its seventh straight victory. The Warriors led by as much as 14 before Jabari Parker and Giannis Antetokounmpo led a 13-4 run in the fourth quarter that cut it to 122-120 with about 2 1/2 minutes left on Parker's three-point play. Rowdy Bucks fans had designs of an upset of Golden State at the Bradley Center, just like last season. The teams exchanged empty possessions before Draymond Green's sparkling defensive effort with 10 seconds left. Green tipped away an inbound pass intended for Antetokounmpo, with Thompson getting fouled after securing the loose ball. Thompson hit both free throws with 8 seconds left for a four-point lead. Antetokounmpo finished with 30 points, while Parker had 28.

CLIPPERS 102, BULLS 95

Blake Griffin had 26 points and 13 rebounds, Chris Paul added 19 points and Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter to snap Chicago's four-game winning streak. Maurice Speights scored 11 of his season-high 16 points in the fourth for the Clippers, whose only two losses have come at home to Oklahoma City and Memphis. Speights' biggest assist came with 49 seconds left. Jamal Crawford missed a 3-pointer and Speights got the rebound. He fed Crawford for a driving reverse layup that restored the Clippers' lead to five points. Dwyane Wade led Chicago with 28 points, hitting five 3-pointers. Jimmy Butler added 22 points, making 11 of 12 free throws.

ROCKETS 111, JAZZ 102

James Harden had 31 points and 10 assists to lead Houston over Utah. Eric Gordon added 20 points and fellow reserve Nene added a season-high 16 as the Rockets won for the third time in their last four games and improved to 4-1 at home. The injury-plagued Jazz dropped their third straight game following a 6-2 start to November. Besides Gordon Hayward, the four other Jazz starters had a combined seven years of NBA experience. Rodney Hood led Utah with 25 points and Trey Lyles had 21. Rudy Gobert added 12 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks.

Harden shook defender Dante Exum and buried a 3-pointer with less than a minute remaining to give Houston an 11-point lead and put away the game for good.

76ERS 120, SUNS 105

Joel Embiid scored a career-high 26 points in 20 minutes, and Philadelphia routed Phoenix for its most convincing win of the season. Nik Stauskas added a season-high 21 points on 8-for-9 shooting for the Sixers, who have split their last six games after starting the season with seven straight losses. Sergio Rodriguez had eight points, 11 assists and eight rebounds. Eric Bledsoe led Phoenix (4-10) with 27 points. The Suns have lost three of their first four on their current six-game road trip.

PELICANS 121, HORNETS 116, OT

Anthony Davis had 38 points and 16 rebounds, Jrue Holiday added 22 points and nine assists, and New Orleans beat Charlotte in overtime for its second straight win. New Orleans (4-10), which hadn't won back-to-back games all season, overcame a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit and found unlikely bench scoring from guard Langston Galloway to keep Charlotte (8-4) from tying its best franchise start through 12 games. Galloway finished with 23 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter. Kemba Walker led the Hornets with 25 points, while Marco Belinelli added 22 points and 10 rebounds. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist added 10 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte.

HEAT 114, WIZARDS 111

Goran Dragic scored 22 points, Hassan Whiteside added 18 and 18 rebounds and Miami held on to beat Washington. James Johnson had 17 points off the bench for

Miami, which scored its most points in a game this season and got its first back-to-back wins. Dion Waiters scored 16 points to help the Heat total six players in double figures in their first road victory since their season opener at Orlando. Bradley Beal scored a season-high 34 points for Washington in his second game back from a hamstring injury. John Wall also hit a season high with 34 points and Marcin Gortat scored 10 along with 16 rebounds. No other Wizards hit double figures on a night Washington lost starting forward Markieff Morris to a sprained right ankle in the second quarter.

GRIZZLIES 93, TIMBERWOLVES 71

JaMychal Green had 19 points and eight rebounds, Zach Randolph added 18 points and seven boards, and Memphis clamped down on defense to beat Minnesota. The Timberwolves had their worst offensive performance of the season with season lows in points scored and shooting percentage (39.1 percent) Mike Conley and Andrew Harrison added 13 points apiece for Memphis, which won its fourth straight. James Ennis finished with 11 points. Zach LaVine led the Timberwolves with 22 points, providing a third-quarter push when Minnesota tied the game. Karl-Anthony Towns scored 17 points and Gorgui Dieng had nine points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota, which lost its second straight. Andrew Wiggins, Minnesota's leading scorer at 27.4 points, was limited to seven points and missed nine of his 11 shots.

MAGIC 95, MAVERICKS 87

D.J. Augustin scored 18 points, Serge Ibaka added 15 points and nine rebounds and Orlando beat short-handed Dallas. In a game that was close throughout, the Magic pulled away late in the fourth quarter. Evan Fournier came through with a 3-pointer and Nikola Vucevic hit two free throws with 1:38 remaining to put it away. The game was tied eight times and the lead changed six times on the night. The Mavericks, who were playing without Dirk Nowitzki, Devin Harris and Deron Williams, played efficient at times and was able to hold brief leads. Rookie Jonathan Gibson, who signed as a free agent Friday, led the Mavericks with 26 points. Gibson converted 8 of 16 from the field and 5 of 9 from 3-point range. —AP

NBA results/standings

Houston 111, Utah 102; New Orleans 121, Charlotte 116 (OT); Miami 114, Washington 111; Orlando 95, Dallas 87; Boston 94, Detroit 92; Philadelphia 120, Phoenix 105; Memphis 93, Minnesota 71; Golden State 124, Milwaukee 121; LA Clippers 102, Chicago 95.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	8	5	.615	-	
Toronto	8	4	.667	Portland	7	7	.500	1.5	
Boston	7	6	.538	Utah	7	7	.500	1.5	
NY Knicks	5	7	.417	Denver	4	8	.333	3.5	
Brooklyn	4	8	.333	Minnesota	4	8	.333	3.5	
Philadelphia	3	10	.231	5.5	Pacific Division				
Central Division					LA Clippers	12	2	.857	-
Cleveland	10	2	.833	Golden State	11	2	.846	0.5	
Chicago	8	5	.615	LA Lakers	7	6	.538	4.5	
Indiana	6	7	.462	Sacramento	4	9	.308	7.5	
Detroit	6	8	.429	Phoenix	4	10	.286	8	
Milwaukee	5	7	.417	5	Southwest Division				
Southeast Division					San Antonio	10	3	.769	-
Atlanta	9	3	.750	Memphis	8	5	.615	2	
Charlotte	8	4	.667	Houston	8	5	.615	2	
Orlando	6	7	.462	3.5	New Orleans	4	10	.286	6.5
Miami	4	8	.333	5	Dallas	2	10	.167	7.5
Washington	3	9	.250	6					

WOMEN HOCKEY PLAYERS WANT INFO ON SLASHED SALARIES

BUFFALO: Players in the National Women's Hockey League will play at least one more game but want more information before agreeing to a 50 percent salary cut the commissioner says is necessary "to save the season."

Brant Feldman, an agent who represents numerous top NWHL players, said on Twitter Saturday that the Boston Pride will play at Buffalo today. Feldman called the decision to play a "sign of good faith" and challenged the league to do the same in responding to player demands. Feldman said the players have

been placed in a difficult position because the NWHL "may cease operations" if the games aren't played. The other game features the Connecticut Whale at the New York Riveters.

The four-team league is in its second season, and its future has been thrust into question a day after NWHL Commissioner Dani Rylan announced the salary cuts. Rylan is the founder of the NWHL, whose business model is essentially a startup venture supported by investors and corporate sponsors.

Last year, the NWHL became North

America's first women's hockey league to pay player salaries, which range from \$10,000 to \$26,000. The salary cuts represent as much as \$540,000 in savings.

On Saturday, several players said on Twitter they were willing to work with the league but sought more information and transparency. The players asked for proof of insurance, a third-party audit, the names of league investors and an explanation for the revenue shortfall.

Without specifically mentioning players' concerns, Rylan said in a statement she hoped to continue a "positive, constructive dialogue" with the players over the next two weeks.

"The players have many concerns and disappointments, and I understand that completely," Rylan said. "I deeply appreciate that, despite the emotions of the last two days, they have continued with their preparation for tomorrow's games."

On Friday, Rylan blamed the cash crunch on the league falling short of projections, including declining attendance a month into the season. Players will be required to sign an addendum to their contracts for the cuts to take effect. It's

unclear if the players will do that before their games, and whether the NWHL will allow the games to be played if the restructured contracts aren't signed.

Riveters defenseman Ashley Johnston said players were surprised by the salary-cut announcement, and called the decision "gut-wrenching."

Feldman wrote that the players have been put in an "impossible position" because they do not know the league's "true financial health." He added that the players want the league to succeed, but there must be a "true partnership." —AP

EDMONTON ENDS FIVE-GAME SKID WITH WIN OVER DALLAS

DALLAS: Connor McDavid got his first career hat trick, helping the Edmonton Oilers beat the Dallas Stars 5-2 on Saturday night to end a five-game skid. McDavid, the first overall pick in the 2015 draft, ended a 10-game stretch without a goal. Tyler Pitlick got his sixth goal of the season for Edmonton, and Oscar Klebom also scored. Cam Talbot made 31 saves. The Oilers led 4-0 early in the second period when Dallas coach Lindy Ruff swapped starting goalie Kari Lehtonen for Antti Niemi. Patrick Eaves and Jamie Benn scored for Dallas during a 4-minute power play late in the second. Eaves scored in his fifth straight game, the longest streak of his 12-year career.

SABRES 2, PENGUINS 1, SO

Cal O'Reilly scored the lone goal in a shootout, helping Buffalo end a six-game losing streak. William Carrier scored his first NHL goal and Sabres goalie Anders Nilsson stopped 46 shots through overtime plus all three shootout attempts he faced. Buffalo snapped an 0-4-2 skid and ended a nine-game slide against the Penguins. The Sabres had gone 0-8-1 versus Pittsburgh since a 4-2 road win on April 23, 2013. Sidney Crosby scored for Pittsburgh, which has alternated losses and wins over its past five games since a 9-2-2 start. O'Reilly's shootout goal came after he was called up from Buffalo's AHL affiliate in Rochester earlier in the day.

BLACKHAWKS 4, CANUCKS 3, OT

Marian Hossa scored late in overtime to cap Chicago's comeback from three goals down in the third period against Vancouver. Ryan Hartman tied the game with 4:14 left in regulation after Artemi Panarin and Vinnie Hinostroza scored earlier in the third. The 22-year-old Hinostroza got his first NHL points with a goal and two assists. Hossa beat Jacob Markstrom at 4:04 of overtime for his 11th goal of the season. Scott Darling made 24 saves for the Blackhawks. Loui Eriksson, Bo Horvat and Brandon Sutter scored for the Canucks.

CANADIENS 2, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Carey Price made 31 saves and Montreal ended a three-game skid with a victory over Toronto. Paul Byron and Alex Galchenyuk scored for the Canadiens, who have won 12 straight against their oldest rival dating to Jan. 18, 2014. William Nylander scored for the Maple Leafs, who were coming off a pair of home wins in which they totaled 12 goals. Montreal fired 29 shots at Frederik Andersen. Byron was on the doorstep to jam the rebound of Shea Weber's shot past Andersen at 15:45 of the first period. It was the diminutive winger's seventh goal this season, only four shy of his career high.

BRUINS 4, JETS 1

Tuukka Rask was rarely tested in his latest win, and Patrice Bergeron's power-play score capped a three-goal second period that carried Boston over Winnipeg. Rask needed only 11 saves to raise his record to 11-2, but lost a bid for his fourth shutout with 2:40 to play. He was the NHL's First Star last week, going 4-0-0 with a 0.75 goals-against average. Brad Marchand, Matt Beleskey and Tim Schaller also scored for the Bruins, who won for the eighth time in 11 games. Adam Lowry scored for Winnipeg and Michael Hutchinson made 34 saves.

BLUES 3, PREDATORS 1

Kyle Brodziak and Vladimir Tarasenko scored in the third period, lifting the St. Louis Blues over the Nashville Predators 3-

1 on Saturday night. David Perron also scored and Jake Allen made 30 saves, helping the Blues finish 3-0 on their home stand. St. Louis is 8-1-2 at home this season. Mike Ribeiro scored and Pekka Rinne made 31 saves at Nashville, which finished a three-game trip 1-2. The Blues snapped a two-game losing streak vs. Nashville but have dominated the Predators at Scottrade Center, winning five straight. Overall, the Blues have won six of eight against the Predators.

LIGHTNING 3, FLYERS 0

Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 32 shots in his second consecutive shutout, leading Tampa Bay over Philadelphia. Tyler Johnson, Ondrej Palat and Jonathan Drouin scored for the Lightning, who extended their winning streak to four games and improved to 12-6-1. The Flyers (8-8-3) lost in regulation for the first time since Nov. 11, ending a 2-0-1 streak. They went 0 for 5 on the power play. In his previous appearance, Vasilevskiy made 24 saves for a 4-0 win over the New York Islanders. The Lightning haven't lost since, outscoring opponents 15-4 on a road trip that ends Monday night in Nashville.

COYOTES 3, SHARKS 2, OT

Martin Hanzal redirected Alex Goligoski's shot into the net at 1:16 of overtime, giving Arizona a win San Jose. Mike Smith stopped 43 shots for Arizona, 18 in the third period. Tobias Rieder and Max Domi scored for the Coyotes, who ended a four-game losing streak and played into overtime for the third straight game. San Jose lost its third straight despite finishing with a season-high 45 shots on goal. The Sharks cut the Coyotes' lead to 2-1 just 41 seconds into the third period with Joe Pavelski's sixth goal of the season, a long, rising shot that was too fast for Smith to deflect. Tommy Wingels then scored off a deflected shot from teammate Matt Nieto at 10:28.

KINGS 4, DEVILS 2

Jeff Carter scored his team-high seventh goal of the season and Peter Budaj made 21 saves to help Los Angeles beat New Jersey. Tanner Pearson, Alec Martinez and Jake Muzzin, into an empty net, also scored for the Kings. John Moore and Nick Lappin had the goals for New Jersey. After winning five straight, the Devils have lost their past two. Kings center Anze Kopitar missed his fourth straight game with an upper-body injury.

PANTHERS 4, SENATORS 1

Roberto Luongo made 39 saves, Jaromir Jagr had a goal and two assists and Florida beat Ottawa. Jussi Jokinen, Jonathan Marchessault and Derek MacKenzie also scored for the Panthers. Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored and Craig Anderson made 19 saves for the Senators.

AVALANCHE 3, WILD 2

Nathan MacKinnon's goal with 10 minutes left finished off a third-period comeback, and Calvin Pickard stopped 41 shots to help Colorado beat Minnesota. Colorado trailed 2-0 heading into the final period, but goals by Mikko Rantanen and Carl Soderberg just 3 minutes apart tied the game. MacKinnon's individual play, taking the puck up the center of the ice and beating Minnesota goalie Devan Dubnyk, completed the rally. Dubnyk made 31 saves for the Wild, but his shutout streak was snapped at 15:45 minutes, 6 seconds. Charlie Coyle and Tyler Graovac scored for Minnesota, which had been 6-0-1 when leading after two periods. —AP



BERGAMO: Atalanta's Mattia Caldera, left, and Roma's Kevin Strootman fight for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Atalanta and Roma, at the Atleti Azzurri d'Italia stadium, in Bergamo, Italy, yesterday. — AP

SPOT-ON KESSIE DENTS ROMA HOPES AT ATALANTA

MILAN: A 90th-minute penalty from Ivorian teenager Franck Kessie gave Atalanta a 2-1 home win over wasteful Roma yesterday, leaving coach Luciano Spalletti ruing the missed chance to cut the seven-point gap to top spot.

"On account of our second half display, we deserved to lose," Spalletti candidly told Sky Sport. Roma travelled to Bergamo under pressure after Juventus opened up a sizeable gap at the top of the pile with a 3-0 rout of league newcomers Pescara on Saturday.

But Spalletti's men were incredibly profligate in a dominant first half in which Edin Dzeko and Mohamed Salah missed a number of chances before Diego Perotti put the visitors ahead from the spot on 40 minutes.

Salah spurned a potential game-changer minutes later after he ran on to another great delivery by Radja Nainggolan only to fire straight at Etrit Berisha from point-blank range.

Roma's reputation for running out of steam after such one-sided opening halves gave ideas to the hosts. Spalletti added: "They were angry at the end of the first half but Atalanta did well to lift the pace of the game in the second period." Atalanta were indeed fired up, but conjured their equaliser on the hour in bizarre circumstances. Roma goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was forced into action to thwart a Kessie cross but palmed it on to Mattia Caldera's face, the ball ricocheting into the net.

Roma were stunned, but Atalanta were revived. A Kessie drive was blocked and when Alejandro Gomez went on a mazy run he left Kostas Manolas grounded before seeing his cross nodded out of danger by Antonio Rudiger.

Dzeko has been in fine form for Roma with 10 goals in 12 games but the towering Bosnian's appeal for an unlikely penalty was waved away when he clashed with Roberto Gagliardini.

It was another sign of Roma's desperation, and Atalanta continued to press. Remo Freuler's deflected strike on 76 minutes came off the near post and into the welcome arms of Szczesny and Gagliardini's drive was goalbound until Federico Fazio got in the way.

The hosts were not to be denied, though. When Leandro Paredes tripped the lively Gomez in the area, Kessie, 19, stepped up to send Szczesny the wrong way to secure Atalanta's sixth win in their past seven outings.

It moved Gian Piero Gasperini's men up to fifth, one point ahead of Napoli and only eight behind Juventus. "We spent the first half watching Roma, who had a few chances, but I asked the lads to take it up a notch in the second," said Gasperini, who admitted their purple patch has lifted the whole town. "It's really pleasing to see how enthusiastic everyone is. We haven't seen anything like it in Bergamo for years." Roma's first defeat in seven games gives AC Milan the chance to move up to second place if they beat city rivals Inter in the derby later. Elsewhere, Felipe Anderson's 11th-minute strike set Lazio up for a 3-1 home win over Genoa, who saw Lucas Ocampos level on 52 minutes before Lucas Biglia, from the spot, and Wallace added two more for the hosts.

Bologna moved up to mid-table position with a 3-1 win over Palermo, while Italy striker Andrea Belotti's purple patch continued with a brace in a 2-0 away win at basement side Crotona that kept Torino seventh.

Fiorentina are just two points behind Torino in eighth after a 4-0 romp at Empoli, where Federico Bernardeschi and Josip Illicic, with one from the spot, hit a double apiece. Earlier, Fabio Quagliarella scored his 100th Serie A goal and set up Luis Muriel for an unlikely, late double as Sampdoria completed a dramatic 3-2 come-from-behind win at home to Sassuolo. — APF

RONALDO TREBLE SINKS ATLETICO

BARCELONA: Cristiano Ronaldo ensured Atletico Madrid fans will have bitter memories of the last local derby at the Vicente Calderon stadium by scoring a hat-trick in a 3-0 win for La Liga leaders Real Madrid on Saturday.

Ronaldo's deflected free kick put Real in charge in the 23rd minute in the first meeting of the teams since the Champions League final in May. The prolific Portuguese killed off Atletico's resistance by winning and converting a penalty in the 71st minute and capped a harrowing night for the home side by tapping in the third in the 77th. It was Real's first league win over their city rivals since 2013 while Ronaldo's treble took him to the top of the league's scoring list on eight goals along with Barcelona pair Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez. Real are top of the table with 30 points from 12 matches, four above Barcelona after the champions were held to a goalless draw at home to Malaga who finished the game with nine men. Atletico are nine points adrift of Real in fifth while Sevilla are third on 24 after beating Deportivo La Coruna 3-2.

The Madrid derby took on extra significance for being the last league meeting of the sides at the Vicente Calderon with Atletico due to move from the 50-year-old ground to a new 67,000 capacity arena next year.

"It's a very important victory for us at a difficult ground. We played very well from the start and there's not many teams that can do that at this ground," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane. "I'm delighted with Cristiano's goals and (midfielder) Isco was incredible, he didn't give the ball away once."

Real were without midfield duo Casemiro and Toni Kroos and Zidane decided to rest Sergio Ramos and Karim Benzema, who had only just recovered from injury.

After a frantic end-to-end start, the visitors took control and came close to taking the lead when Ronaldo headed towards goal and Jan Oblak dived low to hook the ball off the line.

Real's all-time top scorer told the referee's assistant the ball had gone over the line but he did not have to wait much longer to cele-

brate a legitimate goal.

SAVIC DEFLECTION

He whipped a free kick at the wall and saw it deflected off Stefan Savic's hip beyond Oblak. Just like the Champions League final, Atletico made a better start to the second half and set about trying to get a foothold in the game. Antoine Griezmann burst into the box from the left but could only fire the ball out for a throw from a tight angle while Yannick Carrasco came close with a long-range strike.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone threw caution to the wind by bringing on forwards Kevin Gameiro and Angel Correa for Fernando Torres and Gabi but Ronaldo took advantage of the extra space at the back, racing behind Savic and tumbling over the defender's stray leg. Ronaldo sealed Real's 11th European Cup triumph with a penalty against Oblak and made no mistake from the spot here, sending the Slovenian the wrong way. He then stuck the knife into Atletico by turning in Gareth Bale's low cross to complete his treble. Atletico midfielder Koke felt the scoreline was harsh on his side. "It's been a difficult night. We leave here very sad, I don't think we deserved to lose 3-0," he said. — Reuters



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Albion v Burnley 23:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD

SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA DIV

Leganes v Osasuna 22:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD
beIN SPORTS 17 HD ES



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Uruguayan defender Diego Godin (L) vies with Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo during the Spanish league football match Club Atletico de Madrid vs Real Madrid CF at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, on Saturday. — AFP



DALLAS: Edmonton Oilers goalie Cam Talbot (33) and Dallas Stars right wing Patrick Eaves (18) watch a shot by Eaves bank off the post behind Talbot in the first period of an NHL hockey game, Saturday, in Dallas. — AP

'Gulf Bank 642
Marathon' is a
record breaker!Henrik Stenson
wins his second
Race to Dubai title

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016

SPOT-ON KESSIE DENTS ROMA HOPES AT ATALANTA

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MIDDLESBROUGH: Chelsea's Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard (L) hurdles a challenge from Middlesbrough's English defender Calum Chambers during the English Premier League football match between Middlesbrough and Chelsea at Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough, northeast England yesterday. — AFP

POACHER COSTA SENDS CHELSEA TOP OF TABLE



Middlesbrough 0



Chelsea 1

MIDDLESBROUGH: Diego Costa scored his 10th goal of the season as Chelsea won 1-0 at Middlesbrough to record a sixth consecutive victory and take over at the Premier League summit.

Costa struck for the third straight game with half-time approaching as Antonio Conte's side underlined their title credentials by posting a sixth clean sheet in a row. It took them a point clear of Liverpool and Manchester City, and three ahead of fourth-place Arsenal. Only the woodwork prevented Chelsea from winning by a more handsome margin as Pedro

Rodriguez hit the bar midway through the second half, during which Middlesbrough were forced to hang on for long spells.

Aitor Karanka's side retained hope while the deficit remained at a single goal, but the gulf in class between the sides was clear and it leaves Boro one point above the relegation zone in their first season back in the Premier League following promotion.

Costa rewarded Chelsea's dominance as the Spaniard put the visitors unchanged for the fifth consecutive league game-ahead four minutes before the end of a tight first half.

It stemmed from a disputed corner, as Middlesbrough claimed debutant full-back Fabio da Silva had not touched the ball as it ran out of play.

Eden Hazard's in-swinging set-piece looped into the air as Calum Chambers and Gaston Ramirez challenged Marcos Alonso at the near post.

Despite the hosts having numbers back to defend

for the Uruguay international, but it was a rare threat from the hosts. Boro have forced draws against Arsenal and Pep Guardiola's City this season, but after falling behind they rarely looked like troubling Chelsea's three-man back line.

FINGERTIP SAVE

His indecision was in stark contrast to earlier in the half when the former Barcelona man produced a stunning fingertip save to deflect a first-time Pedro shot over the bar.

It was one of few clear-cut chances before the interval as Boro were largely successful in their attempts to negate the threat of Conte's side by packing midfield and looking to counter-attack.

The out-of-touch Alvaro Negredo wasted their two main openings, first firing across the face of goal and then heading wide from Antonio Barragan's deep cross.

Ramirez shot over early in the second half after Negredo's dummy created space on the edge of the box

for the Uruguay international, but it was a rare threat from the hosts. Boro have forced draws against Arsenal and Pep Guardiola's City this season, but after falling behind they rarely looked like troubling Chelsea's three-man back line.

Having not conceded a league goal since September 24 — almost 10 hours of football-Chelsea are on their best defensive run for six years.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois preserved their latest shut-out late on when he parried a powerful Negredo volley as the hosts belatedly pushed bodies forward.

The majority of chances arrived at the other end.

Alonso almost doubled the visitors' advantage within seconds of kick-off in the second half, the Spaniard forcing a fine low save from Valdes after Hazard helped on Victor Moses's cross. The second goal failed to materialise, but Chelsea closed out their latest victory with relative ease to secure another valuable three points towards their growing title challenge. — AFP

AUSTRALIA CRUSH NZ IN FOUR NATIONS FINAL

LIVERPOOL: Australia demolished New Zealand 34-8 in yesterday's Four Nations series final at Liverpool's Anfield stadium to avenge their loss to their regional rivals in the 2014 decider. Josh Dugan scored two tries and Johnathan Thurston kicked three conversions and two penalties as Australia claimed their fourth victory over New Zealand in 2016.

It leaves Australia as world champions, Four Nations holders and the number one team in the world.

"It was a goal of ours to win the Four Nations, so that is a big plus for us," said Australia coach Mal Meninga.

"We have built as the games have progressed and that is a coach's dream. They're one of the best groups we've seen in international rugby league, so we're lucky in that sense, but you've still got to build a team and everybody did their job today."

Australia started as strong favourites, having won all three of their group-stage games, while New Zealand were held to a shock draw by rank outsiders Scotland. Hosts England were the other team. New Zealand coach David Kidwell said: "We spoke at half-time about getting our completion rate up."

"I wish we'd done that in the first half, but there were encouraging signs that we can compete when we do that."

Blake Ferguson needed just three minutes to open the scoring for the

Kangaroos and New Zealand crumbled thereafter. Dugan followed over twice, either side of a Trent Merrin score, and with Thurston's kicking assured, Australia took in a 24-0 lead at the break. Australia's pace slowed in the second half, despite Darius Boyd's try, as the game ambled to an inevitable conclusion.

To their credit, the Kiwis regrouped through a Jordan Kahu double, but Boyd Corder had the last say for the victors.

BOYD BARRELS THROUGH

As well as a third Four Nations title in seven years, Australia had eyes on the Kiwis' number one world ranking.

In front of Anfield's famed Kop in the first half, Australia looked every bit the world's best.

Following a first-minute scrum beneath the posts, Meninga's side seized the initiative with Ferguson going over, unchallenged, on the right flank. Thurston, in his last appearance on English soil in a Kangaroos jersey, added the conversion.

On the quarter-hour, centre Dugan burst through a beleaguered New Zealand rearguard after taking Boyd's pass to stretch the Australian advantage. Despite missing the resulting conversion Thurston soon tapped over an easy penalty to put the Aussies 12 points in front before the first quarter



LIVERPOOL: Australia's hooker and captain Cameron Smith (C) holds the trophy after winning the rugby league Four Nations Final match between Australia and New Zealand at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

was up. They went over again almost immediately after, Merrin this time taking advantage after New Zealand had cheaply given up possession. Australia showed no signs of relenting. Thurston slotted another simple penalty before the 33-year-old's deft kick set up Dugan's second. Thurston hit the post with his kick, but it was hardly a blemish in a first half that ended with Australia a mammoth 24 points to the good. A promising New Zealand start to the second half came to a halt through another sloppy penalty before

Australia flyer Boyd, spotting a sliver of space, barrelled through and over the try-line.

Some of the loudest cheers of the afternoon were reserved for Kahu in the 57th minute as Kevin Proctor's smart offload released the full-back for New Zealand's first score.

Jason Taumalalo then crashed past two defenders and the ball made its way to Kahu again to touch down over the whitewash, but Corder took on Thurston's pass to add more Australian gloss. — AFP

DWIGHT GAYLE BRACE FIRES NEWCASTLE FIVE POINTS CLEAR

LONDON: Dwight Gayle scored twice as Rafael Benitez's relentless Newcastle United won 2-0 at Leeds United yesterday to move five points clear at the top of the Championship.

Gayle punished a howler by Leeds goalkeeper Rob Green to put Newcastle ahead in the 23rd minute and netted the visitors' second early in the second half to take his tally for the campaign to 13 goals.

It was Newcastle's eighth straight win in the English second tier, keeping them on course for an immediate return to the Premier League.

"The performance of the team defending and attacking has been brilliant," Benitez told Sky Sports. "It's good and all we have to do is keep doing the same thing, keep playing with the same intensity, no complacency."

"We know that until the end everything can happen, so we have to approach every game the same." Benitez's men are five points clear of second-place Brighton and Hove Albion and nine points above third-place Reading.

Leeds remain a point outside the play-off places in seventh place. "We gave them a goal, so obviously that against a good side makes it difficult," said Leeds manager Garry Monk. "I'm happy with my team's effort. Obviously I'm disappointed with the result, but it doesn't change anything for us." The meeting of two of England's fallen giants brought a crowd of 36,000 to Elland Road—the first time Leeds had sold out a league game in almost six years.

Green produced an alert early block to deny Gayle from Jonjo Shelvey's quick free-kick, but midway through the first half the former England goalkeeper's blunder gifted Newcastle the lead.

Forced back onto his goal-line by Jack Colback's lofted ball, Green appeared caught in two minds and dropped the ball right in front of him, allowing the opportunistic Gayle to stab home. — AFP



INFINITI PARTNERS WITH EMOTIV



LIMA: US President Barack Obama (right) with China's President Xi Jinping (left) and members of their delegations, during their meeting as part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Lima yesterday.—AP

APEC DEFENDS TRADE AGAINST TRUMP TIDE

ASIA TO NARROW TRADE FOCUS AS PROTECTIONISM RISES

LIMA: Asia-Pacific leaders are expected to send a strong message in defense of free trade yesterday as they wrap up a summit that has been overshadowed by US President-elect Donald Trump's protectionism. The broad consensus at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which features some of the world's most powerful leaders on both sides of the Pacific, is that free trade is a force for good. But the assembled leaders-US President Barack Obama, China's Xi Jinping, Russia's Vladimir Putin, Japan's Shinzo Abe and others-are under pressure to defend that view against a rising tide of populist, anti-globalization sentiment in the United States and Europe.

The summit in Lima, Peru was to be briefed on the state of the world economy by International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde. A draft seen by AFP praises open markets, denounces protectionism and warns that curbing free trade will slow the ongoing recovery of the world economy.

But it is a far cry from the fiery language and visceral appeals Trump used on the campaign trail to whip working-class supporters into a frenzy. The brash billionaire's attacks on free trade deals and vows to cut back the US role as "policeman of the world" are causing jitters in the Pacific Rim.

Trump has vowed to kill Obama's signature trade initiative in the region, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP-an arduously negotiated 12-country agreement.

He campaigned against the proposal as a "terrible deal" that would "rape" the United States by sending American jobs to countries with cheaper labor.

In a Pacific region hungry for trade, that has left even longtime US allies looking to a once unlikely place to fill the void: China, which was excluded from TPP.

China's Xi has set himself up as the anti-Trump at this week's summit, defending open markets and offering leadership on alternative free trade agreements to rival TPP. That has all made it an uncomfortable summit for Obama, who is facing awkward questions from allies about the future of US policy in his last foreign visit as president.

Despite attacking Trump as an unfit successor during the campaign, Obama urged the world to give the president-elect time to get his feet under the desk. "How you campaign isn't always the same as how you govern," he told a townhall meeting of young Latin Americans in Lima, defending democracy even as he admitted it can be "frustrating."

'Hinge moment'

Xi, meanwhile, warned that Trump's win has created a "hinge moment" in US-China ties, as he held his final meeting with President Obama Saturday. Obama described the relationship between the two leading economies as "the most consequential in the world."

Washington and Beijing compete for influence in the Asia-Pacific. During a vitriol-

filled campaign, Trump frequently took a combative stance against China, blaming Beijing for "inventing" climate change and rigging the rules of trade.

It is unclear whether there is any future for the arduously negotiated TPP. Some experts say Trump's attacks on the agreement and his Republican allies' control of Congress mean it is dead in the water. Others say the deal-making real estate mogul could negotiate a number of changes and then claim credit for turning it around. As alternatives, China is backing a free trade zone across APEC-a 21-member group that accounts for nearly 40 percent of the world's population and nearly 60 percent of the global economy. It is also pushing a 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) that excludes the United States.

Fast-growing Asia-Pacific economies will strike more trade deals among themselves as opposition grows in Europe and the US to globalization, analysts say, warning the West will lose out as the dynamic region powers ahead.

The most high-profile victim of recent protectionist sentiments has been a major US-led trans-Pacific deal, which is as good as dead after the shock American election victory of Donald Trump this month. The Trans Pacific-Partnership (TPP), an agreement of 12 Pacific Rim economies, was the economic plank of President Barack Obama's "pivot" to Asia, and notably excluded China as the US sought to combat

Beijing's rising influence. But it is just the latest accord to run into trouble amid growing protectionism in developed economies, where globalization is increasingly regarded as a bogeyman responsible for sending jobs abroad and eroding living standards.

A proposed deal between the European Union and the US is now unlikely to be signed after Trump's win, while a trade accord between the EU and Canada took seven years to complete and was nearly torpedoed by resistance from a tiny Belgian region. Given such problems, much of Asia-where economies have generally enjoyed robust growth in recent years and are heavily dependent on exports-will be looking with trepidation at potential accords with the West, analysts say.

'Focus on regional deals'

"The result of having the US and Europe turn inward is that Asia will focus on regional agreements," said Deborah Elms, executive director of the Asian Trade Centre in Singapore. "The global system will not function if the US blocks action and the EU remains stymied."

The immediate effect will be to give China a free hand to push its own favored regional accords, a heavy blow to Obama, who had hoped the TPP would allow the US to write the region's trade rules before Beijing got there. At a meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group in Peru this week, Chinese President Xi Jinping took the opportunity to urge support for two potential accords it is backing.

These are an APEC-wide deal, and a 16-nation agreement whose members include Southeast Asian countries and India, but notably excludes the United States.

In reality, myriad small-scale trade deals had already mushroomed in Asia in recent years as efforts to forge truly global accords through the World Trade Organization proved difficult. According to a study carried out by APEC and released at this week's meeting, 145 trade deals existed between the group's members as of December last year, at least 30 of which had been struck since 2008.

The US election of Trump-who repeatedly railed against trade accords and dubbed the TPP a "terrible deal"-combined with rising opposition to free trade elsewhere is likely to accelerate that trend, experts said. "If the US significantly alters its trade policies with Asia... this could catalyze greater intra-Asian trade liberalization initiatives," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist with IHS Global Insight. Rising protectionism has alarmed supporters of free trade, who feel that it is being scapegoated in many developed nations as an increasingly squeezed middle- and working-class seek something to blame.—AFP

INFRASTRUCTURE KEY TO UK'S FIRST POST-BREXIT BUDGET

LONDON: Britain's first post-Brexit budget will focus on infrastructure and could spell an end to the previous government's rigid fiscal targets, according to a treasury statement released yesterday. The budget will be new finance minister Philip Hammond's first set-piece since replacing George Osborne who resigned following the June vote.

Under previous prime minister David Cameron, Osborne oversaw an austerity program of spending cuts and tax rises at odds with new premier Theresa May's views on the economy which she has said no longer works for everyone. Hammond will promise to place "investment in infrastructure... at the heart" of Wednesday's autumn statement to lawmakers, exactly five months after the referendum backing Brexit, the statement said.

Hammond will this week announce 1.3 billion pounds (\$1.60 billion) in new spending on roads as part of his plans to bolster the economy as Britain prepares to leave the European Union, the Treasury said yesterday. Hammond's first budget statement as chancellor of the exchequer on Wednesday will also commit to whittling down Britain's large budget deficit, but he will also carve out some flexibility to allow him to spend more and offset any sharp slowdown in the economy.

Britain's economy is so far faring better than expected after the vote to leave the EU, but growth is set to slow next year, limiting his options.

Measures to boost infrastructure and improve Britain's weak productivity growth will be at the heart of the chancellor's plan, the Treasury said, as Hammond aims to give some long-term support to the economy as Britain exits the EU. Last month, the Confederation of British Industry urged a boost in public investment to 2 percent of economic output, or an increase of around 6 billion pounds a year.

The Treasury said it had identified quick-turnaround infrastructure projects and upgrades to existing networks that would help to relieve road congestion, easing the commute for millions and boosting productivity. A spokeswoman for the Treasury said the money could be available as soon as the Transport Ministry wanted it. Hammond will also announce on Wednesday details of support to families that are struggling to get by, the Treasury said, echoing a pledge by Prime Minister Theresa May to address the financial frustrations of many voters who chose to leave the EU.

"He will set out how the government will fire up the nation's economic infrastructure-all part of plans which form the backbone of ongoing work to close the UK's productivity gap," it added. The treasury statement also hinted at a loosening of Britain's fiscal straightjacket, introduced by Osborne. Osborne's austerity policies had intended to eliminate the budget deficit following the global financial crisis.—Agencies

ABU DHABI BANKS DENY MERGER TALKS

ABU DHABI: Three Abu Dhabi banks denied they were in merger talks yesterday, sending their share prices lower as investor hopes of a shake-up in the banking sector were dashed. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), Union National Bank (UNB) and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank in separate statements to the bourse each denied they were involved in merger plans.

Shares in the lenders had been suspended earlier yesterday until they responded to a Bloomberg news story published last week, an exchange source told Reuters. The story cited unnamed sources as saying the Abu Dhabi government was weighing a merger between ADCB and UNB, and another between ADIB and Al Hilal Bank. Al Hilal is not listed. Rumours have been circulating in recent months of more possible banking tie-ups after Abu Dhabi's two largest banks, National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) and First Gulf Bank (FGB), agreed

a merger that is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

Crowded with more than 50 banks, the UAE banking sector has been squeezed over the past two years by lower government spending and stricter global capital rules. Shares in ADCB, UNB and ADIB jumped last week on renewed speculation about possible mergers. After the release of statements by the banks, trading on their shares resumed. Shares in ADCB closed 2.65 percent lower at 5.88 dirhams, while shares in UNB fell 5.16 percent to 4.23 dirhams. ADIB's shares closed 0.83 percent lower at 3.57 dirhams.

Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich capital of the United Arab Emirates, has been revamping its economy and pressing ahead with consolidating state-owned entities after two years of low oil prices that have weighed heavily on its revenues. Aside from the NBAD-FGB merger, Abu Dhabi is pushing ahead with the merger of two

sovereign funds, Mubadala Development Co and International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC), and recently announced the merger of three of its universities.

Prior to that, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company said it was merging two of its offshore oil and gas companies.

Meanwhile, shares in Abu Dhabi banks Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) resumed trading yesterday after being suspended earlier in the day, according to Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange's website. An exchange source earlier told Reuters that shares in the two banks, along with those of Union National Bank (UNB), had been suspended.

The shares jumped last week on renewed speculation that the Abu Dhabi government might engineer a merger between ADCB and UNB, and another between ADIB and Al Hilal Bank, as part of an efficiency drive.—Agencies

ABU DHABI HIT AFTER MERGER TALK QUASHED; SAUDI SLIPS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Shares of three of Abu Dhabi's top lenders pulled back yesterday after the banks denied they were in merger talks, while Saudi shares were hit by profit taking. Egypt's stock market gained as foreign funds continued to accumulate blue-chips. Abu Dhabi's index dropped 1.7 percent as Union National Bank retreated 5.2 percent and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank lost 2.7 percent after both lenders issued separate statements yesterday denying last week's Bloomberg report that the two lenders were involved in merger talks.

Similarly Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank pulled back 0.8 percent after the lender said in a bourse statement that it has no merger plans. Bloomberg reported on Wednesday that the bank is in talks to merge with Alhilal Bank. Shares in the three lenders were suspended earlier yesterday and trading resumed after their statements. "The consolidation genie is out of the bottle with the Abu Dhabi government having already announced the merger of two banks and two sovereign funds. This is a sound strategy when trying to cope with a prolonged economic slowdown, so it is unsurprising investors are trying to second guess which companies may be next in line," said Akber Khan, director of asset management at Qatar's Alrayan Investment.

Rumours have been circulating in recent months that as part of an efficiency drive more banking tie-ups might happen in the wake of

Abu Dhabi's two largest banking heavyweights, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank pushing ahead with their own merger, expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

Yesterday NBAD closed down 1.0 percent and FGB lost 2.9 percent. Dubai's Shuaa Capital jumped 7.5 percent to 1.58 dirhams (\$0.43) after the investment firm announced that Abu Dhabi Financial Group (ADFG) had carried out a previously announced acquisition of 48.36 percent of the firm from Dubai Banking Group, a subsidiary of Dubai Group, for 0.705 dirham a share.

Although the purchase price was well below the market price, some investors are betting ADFG will develop Shuaa into a much bigger company. Dubai's index, however, closed down 0.3 percent with the main drag coming from large-cap shares. Emaar Properties fell 0.3 percent and telecom operator Du pulled back 0.8 percent.

SAUDI DIPS, EGYPT RESILIENT

Riyadh's main index retreated 0.9 percent to 6,570 points, pulling away from technical resistance on the July peak of 6,703 points. The index is still up 16.3 percent over the last 30 days. Banking shares, which have been the chief gainers over that period, were some of the worst performers yesterday as all but two of the 12 listed lenders closed lower. Banque Saudi Fransi dropped 3.7 percent to 26.10 riyals, it is now trading at par with the mean fair value of analysts polled by Reuters. "When a market gains

about 20 percent in one month some profit taking is a given. Sentiment swung from extreme fear to extreme greed in a short period," said Khan of Alrayan Investment. Khan added that the rally has been fuelled by institutional investors while Saudi retail investors - which usually make up the majority of trading volumes - have remained sellers. "As a result, the larger, more liquid names have done very well." According to exchange data, local mutual funds were aggressive net buyers of Saudi stocks over a one week period to Nov. 17 while retail investors were net sellers.

In Egypt, the blue chip index closed up 0.5 percent, a fresh eight-year high but traded volumes fell by about 30 percent from a record high struck on Thursday. The index is now up 32.3 percent since the Egyptian pound was floated on Nov. 3 and foreign funds continued to be net buyers of shares on Sunday, bourse data showed. "Foreign buyers did not relent despite some weakness in the pound," said a Cairo-based broker. The Egyptian pound was trading at between 17.30 and 17.45 against the dollar after closing at about 16.05 on Saturday. Oramos Telecom, the most traded share, added 5.9 percent and Arabia Cotton Ginning climbed 6.5 percent. But real estate investment firm Pioneer Holding Company fell 1.0 percent after the company posted a 34.8 percent drop in third-quarter net profit, with revenue falling about a fifth for the period. — Reuters

SAUDI PAYS \$10.7BN TO PRIVATE SECTOR

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's government has made payments of 40 billion riyals (\$10.7 billion) that it owed to private sector companies, the kingdom's Arab News newspaper quoted a senior construction industry executive as saying. With its oil revenues slashed by low crude prices, the government of the world's largest oil exporter has cut spending sharply this year and reduced or suspended payments owed to construction firms, medical establishments and even some of the foreign consultants who helped to design its economic reforms. The payment delays have tightened liquidity in the banking system and caused severe financial problems for some companies, particularly those in the construction industry. In recent weeks, top officials have indicated that all or most of the delayed payments would soon be made.

Construction firms have received 40 billion riyals in the past two weeks, representing 25 percent of money owed to them by various government agencies, Fahad Al-Hammadi, chief of the National Contractors' Committee at the Council of Saudi Chambers, a business association, was quoted as saying by Arab News yesterday. "The Saudi government is expected to pay up to 80 percent of the total dues to contractors during the remaining few weeks of this year by disbursing another 100 billion riyals," he

told the newspaper. "More than 80 percent of the back-logged payments will be released within the next few days or weeks." Providing further proof that delayed government payments are starting to flow, Fawwaz Al-Khodari, chief executive of major local builder Abdullah Abdul Mohsin al-Khodari and Sons, told Al Arabiya television yesterday that 10 to 15 percent of the 500 million riyals it was owed by the government had been paid. He told Al Arabiya he was optimistic the company would receive 40 to 45 percent of the total outstanding dues by the end of the year in the best case scenario.

The company, which builds housing and infrastructure, last month reported a wider third-quarter net loss. The government set aside 100 billion riyals to pay debts that it owed to private sector companies after the payment delays, which lasted months, Reuters reported on Nov. 11, citing an official document. Authorities have not disclosed the total size of the unpaid bills. Most construction projects suspended as a result of low oil prices will eventually be revived and implemented in order of priority, Hammadi also told the newspaper.

Arab News said some construction firms from Germany, Turkey, Spain and India, contacted by Arab News on Saturday, had confirmed they were being paid their dues. — Reuters

EGYPT'S POUND WEAKENS AS DOLLAR DEMAND SURGES

CAIRO: The Egyptian pound weakened significantly yesterday as banks scrambled to meet a surge in demand for dollars and the central bank held benchmark interest rates steady. The pound was trading at between 17.25 and 17.75 against the dollar by 1138 (0938 GMT), after closing at about 16.05 on Saturday. "There is a lot of pent up demand (for dollars) ... There are people who are willing to buy at any price and they are mainly importers of non-essential goods," said one banker. Another banker echoed those comments, saying the pound had also weakened on the parallel market where prices were roughly in line with those at the banks.

Yesterday's drop comes after six bankers told Reuters over the weekend that the central bank had informed them verbally that they could supply dollars to importers of non-essential goods provided they prioritize basic imports and obtain the dollars they

need on the interbank market. Egypt floated the pound on Nov. 3 and raised interest rates by 300 basis points in a dramatic move welcomed by businesses as the key to unlocking investment.

It devalued the currency by about a third from the former peg of 8.8 against the dollar and allowed it to drift lower. Egypt's dollar peg had drained the central bank's foreign reserves, which have been hit by reduced foreign investment following political turmoil in the past few years, forcing the bank to impose capital controls and ration dollars. That prompted desperate importers to turn to a burgeoning black market where the dollar at one point fetched more than twice its official value. A severe shortage of dollar liquidity when markets opened for the first time after the float had resulted in low volumes and saw the pound weaken to 18 versus the dollar. — Reuters

MEXICO SAYS LABOR, ENVIRONMENT RULES COULD BE IN NAFTA UPDATE

LIMA: Mexico could include labor and environmental rules in talks over modernizing a trade deal between the United States and Mexico, President Enrique Pena Nieto said on Saturday as he seeks to avoid a standoff with US President-elect Donald Trump. Trump has threatened to ditch the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that binds the United States, Canada and Mexico if he cannot renegotiate it in favor of the United States, arguing it has led to a loss in US manufacturing jobs.

The New York real estate magnate has also threatened to slap hefty tariffs on Mexican-made goods, sparking anxiety south of the US border because Mexico currently sends four-fifths of its goods exports to the United States. Mexico's government has made clear it is willing to talk to Trump about NAFTA, and Pena Nieto said during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Lima that he was in favor of modernizing the trade treaty, not renegotiating it.

That meant looking at issues that were not contemplated when the treaty was signed more than two decades ago, he noted. "There are elements that could be included, issues to do with the environment ... the labor issue is one I think that

wasn't incorporated in NAFTA, just to mention some chapters that could be included in this modernization," Pena Nieto said.

Before Trump's surprise win, Mexico had been hoping to use the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a wider accord between the NAFTA members and nine other countries, to address issues such as labor standards and the environment with the United States.

However, Trump was highly critical of TPP during his election campaign and policymakers are doubtful whether it will be ratified by the US Congress under him. Without US ratification, TPP cannot take effect as the deal currently stands, although Mexico's government has said it and five other signatories aim to press on with it regardless. Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo has said he does not believe Trump will scrap NAFTA, but also put forward the idea of adding additional chapters to the accord. Mexico's government and its business leaders are eager to make the case to Trump that the United States' economic integration with Mexico and the latter's lower cost base has made all of North America more competitive on the global stage. To break up NAFTA, they argue, would be to damage both the US and Mexican economies. — Reuters



PERU: (left to right), South Korea's Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, Indonesia's Vice President Jusuf Kalla, China's President Xi Jinping, Canada's Minister for International Trade Chrystia Freeland, Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Peru's President Pedro Kuczynski, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Chile's President Michelle Bachelet, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak, attend a meeting with business leaders during the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Lima yesterday.—AP

LARGE SAUDI BANK CUTS MONEY QUOTE; RATES MAY FALL BACK BELOW REPO

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's biggest commercial bank cut its quote for three-month money in the interbank market yesterday in a signal that rates could fall further as a liquidity crunch in the banking system eases.

Saudi interbank offered rates soared this year, pressuring companies and banks seeking to raise funds, as low oil prices slashed flows of petrodollars into banks and forced the government to issue bonds domestically to fund a big budget deficit.

Three-month SAIBOR hit a seven-year high of 2.386 percent last month, from below 0.80 percent in August 2015. In a sign of unusual stress on the system, it rose above the central bank's

repurchase rate of 2.00 percent, which the central bank uses to supply funds overnight to banks caught short of money. In the past four weeks, however, rates have been falling by around 1 or 2 basis points each day, with three-month SAIBOR dropping back to 2.134 percent yesterday from 2.148 percent at the end of last week.

In a signal that rates could drop further, National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank, quoted three-month SAIBOR at 2.10 percent yesterday, down from the 2.15 percent which it had quoted throughout this month. The government is the biggest shareholder in the bank. An international banker familiar with the Saudi money

market said rates appeared to be returning to more normal levels, though liquidity would not become loose again as long as oil prices stayed low. He suggested three-month SAIBOR might drop in coming weeks below the repo rate.

"For many years, SAIBOR has rarely if ever been above the repo rate for a significant amount of time. This was an extraordinary situation," he said. "Now to some extent the situation is normalizing." Several factors are fuelling the downturn in rates. In September and October, the central bank launched seven-, 28- and 90-day repurchase agreements that it could use to supply banks with funds; previously it had typically only used one-day repos. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.752
Indian Rupees	4.484
Pakistani Rupees	2.914
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.063
Nepali Rupees	2.809
Singapore Dollar	215.050
Hongkong Dollar	39.344
Bangladesh Taka	3.864
Philippine Peso	6.145
Thai Baht	8.597

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.428
Qatari Riyal	83.867
ani Riyal	793.009
Bahraini Dinar	810.810
UAE Dirham	83.124

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	24.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	19.230
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.226
Tunisian Dinar	134.580
Jordanian Dinar	429.940
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.034
Syrian Lira	2.176
Morocco Dirham	30.980

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.150
Euro	324.980
Sterling Pound	380.830
Canadian dollar	227.050
Turkish lira	91.360

Swiss Franc	305.760
Australian Dollar	226.120
US Dollar Buying	303.950

GOLD

20 Gram	246.57
10 Gram	126.20
5 Gram	63.95

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

US Dollar	304.200
Canadian Dolla	225.044
Sterling Pound	383.455
Euro	329.642
Swiss Franc	301.458
Bahraini Dinar	805.769
UAE Dirhams	83.216
Qatari Riyals	84.433
Saudi Riyals	82.003
Jordanian Dinar	429.495
Egyptian Pound	19.620
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.065
Indian Rupees	4.498
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.875
Philippines Peso	6.189
Cyprus pound	160.643
Japanese Yen	3.826
Syrian Pound	2.427
Nepalese Rupees	3.860
Malaysian Ringgit	72.482
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.243
Thai Bhat	9.664
Turkish Lira	94.850

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.371828	0.381828
Czech Korune	0.004010	0.016010
Danish Krone	0.039506	0.044593
Euro	0.319506	0.328500
Norwegian Krone	0.031721	0.036921
Romanian Leu	0.084639	0.084639
Slovakia	0.009126	0.019146
Swedish Krona	0.029038	0.034036
Swiss Franc	0.296432	0.307432
Turkish Lira	0.087954	0.098254
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.216564	0.228564
New Zealand Dollar	0.208509	0.218009
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.221039	0.230039
Georgina Lari	0.137938	0.137936
US Dollars	0.301300	0.306000
US Dollars Mint	0.301800	0.305600
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003385	0.003969
Chinese Yuan	0.043112	0.046612
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037291	0.040041
Indian Rupee	0.000388	0.004507
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002696	0.002876

Kenyan Shilling	0.003141	0.003141
Korean Won	0.000248	0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066046	0.072046
Nepalese Rupee	0.002835	0.003005
Pakistan Rupee	0.002710	0.003000
Philippine Peso	0.006092	0.006392
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.209653	0.219653
South African Rand	0.015284	0.023784
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001638	0.002218
Taiwan	0.009467	0.009647
Thai Baht	0.008269	0.008819

	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.803508	0.812008
Egyptian Pound	0.015594	0.024847
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000188	0.000248
Jordanian Dinar	0.426608	0.435608
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020074	0.044074
Nigerian Naira	0.001265	0.001900
Omani Riyal	0.786826	0.792506
Qatar Riyal	0.083074	0.084524
Saudi Riyal	0.080353	0.081653
Syrian Pound	0.001295	0.001515
Tunisian Dinar	0.129823	0.137823
Turkish Lira	0.087954	0.098254
UAE Dirhams	0.081725	0.083425
Yemeni Riyal	0.001381	0.001461

IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX-PILLAR REFORM PLAN: THE KEY CHALLENGE FOR KUWAIT

CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF IMF MISSION'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Kuwait's fiscal and external accounts have been adversely affected by the lower oil prices, and financing needs have emerged. Resilient nonoil activity and strong oversight by the Central Bank of Kuwait have kept the financial sector sound. The key challenge for policymakers is to implement the government's comprehensive six-pillar reform plan, which aims at promoting fiscal consolidation and boosting private sector growth, diversification, and job creation for nationals. Notwithstanding large buffers that provide policy space to smooth the necessary adjustment, policymakers have initiated important fiscal reforms. These should be sustained to gradually raise fiscal savings, focusing on further rationalizing energy subsidies, containing the wage bill and increasing nonoil revenue, which will create space for higher growth-enhancing capital outlays. Better aligning labor market incentives, promoting higher productivity through privatization and partnerships with the private sector, and further efforts to improve the business climate are key to encourage diversification, private sector development and employment opportunities for nationals. The IMF team highly values the candid and comprehensive discussions with the Kuwaiti authorities. Staff would like to express its sincere gratitude to them for their hospitality and excellent cooperation.

I. Recent Macro-Financial Developments

1. Economic activity in the nonoil sector has continued to expand, albeit at a slower pace, reflecting the impact of lower oil prices. Nonhydrocarbon growth slowed from 5 percent to an estimated 3 1/2 percent in 2015, as lower confidence weighed on consumption. Notwithstanding an improvement in project implementation under the five-year Development Plan, available indicators point to a further modest softening in nonoil growth this year. However, with oil production recovering after three consecutive years of decline, overall growth is on track to reach about 3 1/2 in 2016. Inflation, which has been hovering at around 3 percent, is set for an uptick to about 3 1/2 this year, reflecting the recent gasoline price increases.

2. The financial sector has remained sound and credit conditions favorable. As of June 2016, banks featured high capitalization (capital adequacy ratio of 17.9 percent), robust profitability (return on assets of 1 percent), low nonperforming loans (ratio of 2.4 percent), and high loan-loss provisioning (206 percent coverage). Bank liquidity has improved, supported by a recovery in deposits of government entities. Credit to the private sector has been increasing at a solid pace (about 63/4 percent year-over-year in September 2016), driven mainly by installment loans. Nevertheless, a few sectors to which banks have sizable exposures have shown some weakening. The real estate sector is confronted with a further slowdown in the volume and the value of sales. Nonfinancial corporate earnings have continued to deteriorate. Stock prices have registered broad-based declines since mid-2014 and have remained volatile. Banks' exposure to Investment Companies has been reduced to 3 percent on average, but the latter are exposed to real estate and local and regional equities.

3. Notwithstanding efforts to contain government spending, the fiscal and external accounts have deteriorated markedly. Dwindling oil revenues have pushed the government's fiscal balance—excluding investment income and after mandatory transfers to the Future Generations Fund (FGF)—into a large deficit of over 17 percent of GDP in 2015/16, generating significant financing needs. Even when including investment income and before transfers to the FGF, fiscal surpluses have vanished. The underlying (non-oil) fiscal position has nevertheless improved over the past two years, reflecting a decline in the subsidy bill, non-recurrence of one-off spending, and efforts to curtail current expenditure. The composition of government expenditure has also improved in favor of growth-enhancing capital spending. The external current account surplus has also declined significantly, reaching 5 1/4 percent of GDP in 2015 and is set to fall further to 4 1/2 percent in 2016.

4. Financing needs have thus far been met mainly by drawing down financial buffers, and the government has also started borrowing. The government deficit has been financed mainly through draw down of General Reserve Fund (GRF) assets. The issuance of domestic bonds has been stepped up this year, contributing to a net financing of about KD 1.4 billion year to date—over half the targeted amount for 2016/17. The government has also announced its intention to tap international capital markets to raise up to KD 2.9 billion.

II. Macro-financial Outlook and Risks

5. Growth is expected to gain momentum over the medium term, supported by infrastructure investment. A continued improvement in project implementation under the Kuwait Development Plan will support a gradual recovery in real nonoil GDP growth to about 3 1/2 percent in 2017 and 4 percent thereafter. Hydrocarbon output is set to increase by 2 percent annually, consistent with investment in the sector. Overall, real GDP growth would reach about 3 percent over the medium term. Inflation is expected to temporarily increase to 4 1/2 percent in 2017, reflecting energy prices increases in 2016-17, before easing gradually. Higher hydrocarbon exports will lift the current account surplus above 10 percent of GDP by 2021.

6. Kuwait's fiscal position is projected to improve modestly, but financing needs after transfers to the FGF will remain large. The mission's baseline scenario assumes oil prices will gradually recover to some \$60 by 2021. It takes into account the fiscal impact of the measures recently enacted (increase in gasoline prices and legislated electricity and water price reform) but does not factor in the government's planned fiscal reforms that have not yet been implemented. Under this baseline scenario, the government fiscal balance after transfers to the FGF is projected to decline from about 17 1/2 percent of GDP this year to some 13 percent of GDP over the medium term, and cumulative gross financing needs would amount to about KD 35 billion over the next 6 years. These are assumed to be covered by a continued drawdown of assets in the GRF, measured amounts of domestic bond issuance to avoid crowding out private sector investment, and some external borrowing.

7. This macro-fiscal environment is expected to remain broadly supportive of financial stability and credit growth. Growth enhancing capital expenditures will support bank profitability and internal capital generation. While there are downside risks to asset quality, loss absorption buffers are high. Credit growth has been robust, but the significant contribution of installment loans that are secured by salary assignments mitigates concerns of a build-up of financial risks.

8. However, Kuwait would remain significantly exposed to a number of potential external and domestic risks under the baseline scenario. The main risk to the outlook is a further sustained drop in oil prices, which would lead to larger deficits and financing needs. Although the government's strong credit rating (AA) would enable it to tap international markets, investors' appetite for GCC bonds could decline in case of large regional financing needs. Kuwait would, therefore, be faced with the tradeoff of issuing more domestic debt, at the risk of squeezing domestic liquidity and crowding out private sector credit, or allowing readily available buffers to run lower. Other risks include reform setbacks or slow Development Plan implementation, which could entail a larger fiscal deficit and slower growth. Heightened security risks could also affect investor confidence and more volatile global financial conditions could increase borrowing costs. The mission and the authorities' bank-

	2013	2014	Kuwait; Selected Economic Indicators, 2013–21						
			Est.	Proj.					
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Oil and gas sector									
Total oil and gas exports (billions of U.S. dollars)	108.6	97.6	48.8	45.0	54.0	57.8	60.4	63.7	66.5
Average oil export price (U.S. dollars/barrel)	105.4	98.0	51.9	44.0	51.9	54.4	55.9	57.8	59.3
Crude oil production (millions of barrels/day)	2.93	2.87	2.86	2.97	3.03	3.09	3.15	3.22	3.28
(Annual percentage change, unless otherwise indicated)									
National accounts and prices									
Nominal GDP (market prices, in billions of Kuwaiti dinar)	49.4	46.3	34.3	33.8	38.2	41.1	43.9	47.1	50.4
Nominal GDP (market prices, in billions of U.S. dollars)	174.2	162.7	114.1	111.3	125.8	135.3	144.6	155.2	166.0
Real GDP (at factor cost)	0.4	0.6	1.2	3.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.9
Real oil GDP	-1.8	-2.1	-0.3	3.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Real non-oil GDP	4.0	5.0	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0
CPI inflation (average)	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.4	4.5	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4
Unemployment rate (Kuwaiti nationals)	4.7	5.0	4.7	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Percent of GDP at market prices)									
Budgetary operations¹									
Revenue	73.8	67.3	52.6	54.3	55.9	55.1	54.0	53.0	51.3
Oil	60.3	52.0	35.3	36.7	39.2	39.1	38.6	38.0	37.1
Non-oil, of which:	13.6	15.4	17.2	17.6	16.7	15.9	15.4	14.9	14.2
Investment income	9.0	10.5	13.6	13.9	13.3	12.7	12.3	11.9	11.3
Expenditures	38.3	48.8	52.6	53.7	51.0	49.9	49.5	49.1	48.8
Expense	34.1	43.4	44.9	45.6	43.1	42.0	41.5	40.9	40.4
Capital	4.1	5.5	7.6	8.1	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.2	8.4
Balance	35.6	18.5	0.0	0.7	4.9	5.2	4.5	3.8	2.5
Balance (after transfer to FGF and excl. inv. income)	20.0	2.4	-17.5	-17.3	-12.6	-11.7	-12.0	-12.1	-12.8
Non-oil balance (percent of non-oil GDP) ²	-91.2	-102.8	-88.3	-85.7	-84.3	-82.0	-80.4	-78.8	-77.2
Excluding oil-related subsidies and benefits (percent of non-oil GDP)	-70.7	-81.4	-77.5	-76.5	-76.0	-74.8	-73.3	-71.9	-70.5
Total gross debt (calendar year-end) ³	3.1	3.4	4.7	12.0	18.2	23.0	26.3	29.1	31.8
(Percent change; unless otherwise indicated)									
Money and credit									
Net foreign assets ⁴	11.4	3.6	-2.1	8.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.6	0.8
Claims on nongovernment sector	7.2	5.2	7.6	7.1	8.1	8.0	8.5	8.7	8.7
Kuwaiti dinar 3-month deposit rate (year average; in percent) ⁵	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	...	...	...	...	...
Stock market unweighted index (annual percent change) ⁵	27.2	-13.4	-14.1	-6.1	...	...	...	...	...
(Billions of U.S. dollars, unless otherwise indicated)									
External sector									
Exports of goods	115.8	104.5	55.3	51.9	61.4	65.6	68.8	72.6	75.9
Of which: non-oil exports	7.2	7.0	6.5	6.9	7.4	7.9	8.4	8.9	9.4
Annual percentage change	6.6	-2.8	-6.5	5.8	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.1
Imports of goods	-25.6	-27.0	-27.3	-26.9	-28.3	-29.5	-30.9	-32.5	-33.9
Current account	69.5	54.4	6.0	5.0	11.7	13.2	14.1	16.0	17.0
Percent of GDP	39.9	33.4	5.2	4.5	9.3	9.8	9.8	10.3	10.2
International reserve assets ⁶	32.2	32.3	28.3	31.5	33.4	34.9	36.7	38.9	40.8
In months of imports of goods and services	7.5	7.4	6.5	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3
Memorandum items⁵:									
Exchange rate (U.S. dollar per KD, period average)	3.53	3.52	3.32	3.31	...	...	...	...	...
Nominal effective exchange rate (Percentage change)	1.0	1.4	3.1	-0.3	...	...	...	...	...
Real effective exchange rate (Percentage change)	0.8	1.9	4.8	1.0	...	...	...	...	...
Sovereign rating (S&P)	AA	AA	AA	AA	...	...	...	...	...

Sources: Data provided by the authorities; and IMF staff estimates and projections.

¹ Based on fiscal year cycle, which starts on April 1 and ends on March 31.

² Excludes investment income and pension fund recapitalization.

³ Excludes debt of Kuwait's SWF related to asset management operations.

⁴ Excludes SDRs and IMF reserve position.

⁵ For 2016, data is latest available.

⁶ Does not include external assets held by Kuwait Investment Authority.

ing stress tests indicate that the financial system is resilient to severe solvency and liquidity shocks, but a protracted period of lower oil prices has the potential to increase liquidity and credit risks, exacerbate stock market volatility, and negatively affect real estate prices.

III. Policy Discussion

A. Anchoring macroeconomic stability

9. A gradual but sustained fiscal effort is needed to reduce vulnerabilities and bring government savings closer to levels consistent with intergenerational equity. Under the mission's baseline projections, rising gross government debt and large fiscal financing needs make the fiscal position more vulnerable to shocks. In addition, the nonoil balance is projected to diverge from levels consistent with intergenerational equity by some 20 percent of nonoil GDP by 2021, calling for a significant additional increase in fiscal saving. At the same time, large fiscal buffers and low debt allow for a gradual approach to consolidation that supports growth and financial sector stability.

10. The mission recommends an adjustment path that will allow for achieving the intergenerational equity over a ten-year period. This would entail reducing the government deficit (after transfer to the FGF) from a projected 17 1/2 percent of GDP in 2015/16 to about 7 percent by 2021 and broadly eliminating this deficit by 2025. This proposed path, which strikes a balance between achieving necessary fiscal savings and mitigating the impact of adjustment on growth, can be achieved through a combination of the main expenditure and revenue reforms included in the government's six-pillar reform plan.

11. The mission supports the authorities' plan to raise nonhydrocarbon revenue as part of the medium-term fiscal consolidation program. This includes introducing a value-added tax (VAT) at a rate of 5 percent, as well as raising excise tax on tobacco and sugary drinks. These measures will be implemented in the context of the regional GCC agreement and could generate additional revenue in the order of 13/4 percent of GDP. The mission encourages the authorities to step up tax administration reforms so as to implement the VAT as early as possible. In addition, the authorities are preparing a business profit tax reform that will apply to all enterprises. At a rate of 10 percent, it could raise an additional 11/2 percent of GDP in revenue by 2020. Staff also supports the government's plans to gradually adjust the price of government services.

12. Further subsidy reform is critical. The government has taken important steps this year to raise gasoline and utility prices. The mission encourages the authorities to move ahead with their plans to further rationalize energy subsidies (estimated to have amounted to about 6 percent of GDP in 2015/16). Gradual implementation would help reduce the inflationary impact and give time to businesses to adjust. Mitigating measures should be designed so as to target the most vulnerable households and promote energy efficiency. A well-designed communication strategy, highlighting the budgetary costs and distortions generated by energy subsidies, as well as their distributional impact and the planned compensatory measures, would help build consensus for these reforms.

13. The mission welcomes the authorities' intention to control the wage bill as part of the medium-term fiscal effort. The

authorities' proposed wage reform is intended to help simplify and harmonize the wage structure and centralize wage policy decisions. In view of the already high total government wage bill—including in comparison with peers—the reform should be designed in a way to ensure that the overall wage bill does not rise further, and that any initial costs of moving to the new wage grid are offset by savings in allowances and bonuses. Moreover, to allow better control over future wage growth, the reform should provide flexibility in setting wage increases. Over time, this would help reduce the wage gap with the private sector, reduce nationals' reservation wages, enhance private sector competitiveness, and facilitate diversification of the economy in a way that maximizes the participation of nationals. The mission also encourages the authorities to limit employment growth, while promoting private sector job creation for nationals, and communicate early on about its objectives to help reset expectations.

14. Further streamlining other current spending will create space for higher growth-enhancing investment. Containing transfers to enterprises and households and goods and services would contribute to the adjustment effort, while allowing for higher capital outlays. This would in turn mitigate the contractionary impact of fiscal adjustment, provided it is accompanied by public investment management reforms to improve implementation capacity and efficiency. In this regard, the mission welcomes the efforts underway to better prioritize projects through strengthened appraisal processes, with emphasis on encouraging diversification and employment opportunities for nationals. Systematic ex-post evaluation and effective implementation of the anti-corruption framework are also important.

15. A medium-term fiscal framework is needed to guide fiscal consolidation and reduce implementation risks. The mission welcomes the ongoing efforts to strengthen budget planning, including the move from the annual incremental budgets to medium-term budgets starting in FY2017/18 and the planned introduction of three-year expenditure ceilings. These reforms should take place within the context of a comprehensive medium-term framework, guided by an overarching long-term fiscal policy objective (for example based on intergenerational equity considerations) and setting a consistent path for an intermediary target (a nonoil fiscal balance objective would help delink spending from oil revenue volatility). In this context, the mission underscores the importance of developing a top-down approach, strengthening budget processes—including by reducing the fragmentation of the investment budget—and expenditure control mechanisms, and developing reporting and accountability mechanisms.

16. Borrowing and investment decisions should be guided by a comprehensive asset-liability management strategy that takes into account macro-financial implications. The appropriate mix between the various borrowing and investment options should be guided by a systematic assessment of their relative costs and benefits, including that of maintaining liquid buffers as insurance against shocks. The macro-financial impact of these options should also be assessed carefully, taking into consideration the implications of building up debt and the impact of borrowing on domestic liquidity, credit, and central bank reserves. In this regard, coordination with CBK will remain important. A balanced approach entailing domestic and exter-

nal borrowing from diversified investors and drawdowns in GRF assets would help maintain adequate buffers, take advantage of the current favorable borrowing conditions, and mitigate potential negative macro-financial implications.

17. Continued progress toward strengthening the institutional and legal frameworks for debt management and increased transparency would help. The establishment of a high-level debt committee, backed by the creation of new debt management unit (DMU) at the ministry of finance, provides a strong basis for coordination across all relevant government bodies. Further efforts are ongoing to clarify responsibilities and improve institutional cooperation and fully operationalize the DMU. It would also be important to put in place a medium-term debt strategy. The mission welcomes the authorities' intention to address legal hurdles that constrain the amounts and type of instruments that can be issued, including Sukuk, hence helping broaden the investor base. Maintaining a debt ceiling would, however, help maintain fiscal discipline. Improved disclosure of the government's assets and liabilities, moving to more comprehensive fiscal accounts, and improving timeliness of intra-year budgetary execution data would help strengthen investor confidence and reduce borrowing costs. Promoting a deep and liquid government debt market that facilitates private debt issuance is important to foster capital market and private sector development. Introducing regular auctions, communicating transparently, and developing secondary markets would help in this regard.

18. The mission considers the peg to an undisclosed basket appropriate, as it has provided an effective nominal anchor. The authorities are fully committed to the current exchange rate regime. The modest depreciation against the dollar since mid-2014 (7 percent) on account of having a basket rather than dollar peg has been helpful during a period of dollar strength. Staff's external sector assessment suggests a moderate current account gap, the bulk of which would be closed by increasing fiscal savings as recommended over the medium term. The mission notes that over the longer term, as the economy diversifies, the benefits of greater exchange rate flexibility may increase.

B. Safeguarding financial stability

19. The CBK has been proactive in strengthening regulatory oversight and mitigating financial stability risks. Banks are under Basel III regulations for capital, liquidity, and leverage. Macro-prudential measures to prevent excessive debt build up by households and limit banks' exposure to real estate and equities-are being enforced to minimize systemic risks. A new corporate governance framework has also recently been introduced. In light of the potential risks from a sustained further decline in oil prices, and given high loan concentrations, common exposures and interconnectedness of the financial system, the CBK's enhanced surveillance bodes well for early identification of financial stability risks. In particular, the mission welcomes the ongoing initiatives to strengthen stress testing techniques, develop early warning indicators, step up efforts to monitor deposit trends, and identify emerging pressures in corporate and household balance sheets.

20. A number of steps would help further strengthen financial sector resilience. The mission underscored that a formal framework for operationalizing macro-prudential measures would help maintain appropriate coverage of risks over time and the balance between preempting the buildup of excessive risks and alleviating possible liquidity shocks and pro-cyclicality in credit and asset markets. Reforms to strengthen the insolvency regime are ongoing in collaboration with the World Bank. Progress on this front, combined with judicial reforms to introduce commercial courts and expedite enforcement, would help minimize losses-given-default. While the CBK is well-equipped to deal with possible liquidity shortages-as it applies five liquidity requirement instruments, including the liquidity coverage ratio and the net stable funding ratio-developing a liquidity forecasting framework would also help anticipate potential system-wide pressures. Sustaining efforts to streamline noncore bank activities where corporate structures are complex would facilitate risk identification and effective supervision.

21. Strengthening the crisis management framework would promote market discipline and safeguard fiscal resources. A special resolution regime for banks has not yet been put in place. A blanket guarantee covers all banking system deposits. Consideration should be given to establishing frameworks that allow for least-cost and effective resolution in the event of stress in the banking system. Formalizing arrangements between key regulatory institutions would also help improve crisis preparedness. The mission welcomes the advanced arrangements for technical cooperation with the IMF in these areas.

C. Private sector-led growth and economic diversification

22. Creating jobs for a growing young national population will require addressing labor market inefficiencies and encouraging private sector development and diversification. Labor market and civil service reforms should aim at improving incentives for nationals to take up jobs in the private sector, including by managing expectations about the limited future availability of public sector jobs. Sustaining the recent efforts to streamline public sector wages and benefits would also contribute to making the private sector more attractive and encourage the hiring of nationals by private-sector firms. Boosting the private sector demand for nationals' labor will also require fostering an education system that reduces skill mismatches.

23. The mission welcomes the focus of the government's six-pillar reform plan on privatization and PPPs. Building on stronger legal and institutional frameworks, the government aims at a greater use of these options to enhance the role of the private sector in the economy and upgrade infrastructure. While the privatization program is still in its early stages, several Build-Operate-Transfer projects are in the pipeline. Continued progress toward establishing clear timetables, advancing preparatory work to strengthen underlying assets, and promoting a transparent environment that fosters competition and reduces hidden costs and contingent liabilities for the government will help stimulate private sector investment and boost productivity.

24. Further improving the business environment is important to foster diversification. Recent efforts include the opening of the Kuwait Business Center, a one-stop window that will help streamline registration and licensing procedures, and steps toward digitalizing administrative procedures. Given the central role SMEs can play in economic diversification and job creation, a similar initiative is planned for SMEs. The mission emphasized the need to sustain reforms to facilitate access to land and finance, reduce the burden of administrative procedures and excessive regulations, and foster competition. It welcomed the authorities' intention to improve the functioning of the National Fund for SMEs development to free up resources for small businesses. Consideration could be given to reviewing the hurdles to SMEs' access to finance, including the potential impact of the cap on lending rate spreads.

Note: The article sent by the IMF Press Center, is the concluding statement describes the preliminary findings of IMF staff at the end of an official staff visit (or 'mission') to a member country.

DOLLAR UP ON HOPES OF TRUMP'S FISCAL POLICIES

TOKYO/SEOUL: Asian currency policymakers are worried that the strengthening of the dollar on expectations of US President-elect Donald Trump's fiscal policies could be used by his administration as a stick to beat them with on trade protectionist grounds.

China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are already on the US Treasury's monitoring list, along with Germany and Switzerland, having met some of the conditions to be labelled a currency manipulator, and are wary of the criteria being changed to make it easier.

The dollar's post-election surge, which has taken it to eight-year highs against China's yuan and 5-1/2 month highs against Japan's

yen this week, has been driven by views that Trump's spending and tax plans will lead to higher interest rates. "Weaker currencies will give an excuse for Trump to blame Asian countries, particularly China, for manipulating exchange rates," a Japanese official with knowledge of currency policy told Reuters.

Asia's trade surpluses with the United States were firmly in Trump's sights during the election campaign. US government data shows China ran a surplus last year of \$366 billion, while Japan had a surplus of \$69 billion, South Korea \$28 billion, and Taiwan \$15 billion. Trump said he would label China a currency manipulator on his first day in office,

allowing him to slap 45 percent across-the-board tariffs on its exports, and accused other Asian nations of unfair trade practices.

"A major shift toward trade protectionism in the US could have a significant impact on Asian economies," Fitch Ratings said in a report. "Disruption to trade between China and the US would have ramifications for the region," Fitch said, adding they expected the new administration would pursue incremental measures, such as raising more trade dispute cases at the World Trade Organization.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION?

The US Treasury currently monitors three

conditions to declare a country a currency manipulator; running a significant trade surplus; running a material current account surplus; and persistent one-sided foreign exchange intervention. The surplus levels and degree of intervention that trigger those conditions could be changed, however, making it easier to fall foul of the "manipulator" label.

"With Republicans in control of Congress, we think a Trump administration would secure passage of legislation relaxing the criteria," ING chief Asia economist Tim Condon said in a report.

South Korea is already bracing for tougher scrutiny under Trump and is anxious not to be tripped up by any such rule changes. "We're paying close attention to make sure (South Korea) is not added to the list of 'enhanced analysis' or 'currency manipulators', even if the rules are strengthened," a South Korean foreign exchange official told Reuters.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday became the first foreign leader to meet with Trump since the election. Abe was seeking clarity on a range of campaign statements by the president-elect, but would not disclose specifics of the conversation.

China has warned Trump about putting up trade barriers, with President Xi Jinping telling him on Monday that cooperation was "the only choice" for relations between the world's two largest economies.

CONFUSION

Part of the difficulty for policymakers in Asia trying to prepare for the new administration is that Trump spoke in broad terms to a domestic audience, but with no track record in public office to go by, it is hard to gauge how or if that rhetoric will translate into policy. "The policies of President-elect Trump will be hard to match what he was promoting during his election campaign," a Taiwanese central bank official told Reuters.

"For example, Trump in his campaign had said he wanted Apple Inc and other companies to repatriate their profits home. This could lead to a stronger US dollar, which doesn't seem to be what Trump wants." And with global markets driving the broad gains in the dollar, it is not clear what Asian economies could do to stop their currencies from weakening.

With dollar-selling intervention not considered a realistic option, there is little Tokyo could do except argue that Japan is a job creator in America, through Japanese companies operating there, not "stealing jobs". Indeed, should Trump want America's main trading partners to reverse their falling currencies, he might have to aim for coordinated action such as a repeat of the 1985 Plaza Accord deal to stabilize currency rates, the Japanese official said. "That would be impossible, though, unless the dollar rises further to the point that draws sympathy from Japan and Europe," the official said. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 20 November 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▼ -4.43	5,507.31	5,511.74	5,528.85	5,499.24
Weighted Index	▼ -0.11	369.87	369.98	371.25	368.94
KSX 15	▲ 0.25	871.82	871.57	874.82	868.45

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86
IKARUS	38.0	36.5	98,100	3,653	4	38.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5
GPI	41.5	40.0	4,368,732	177,263	85	41.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96
Oil & Gas			4,466,832	180,916	89	783.23

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KFOUC	176	174	102,239	17,926	3	176
BPCC	465	460	625,000	289,625	12	465
ALKOUT	590	590	160,000	94,400	2	590
ALQURAIN	214	212	46,721	9,953	13	214
Basic Materials			933,960	411,904	30	932.04

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCEM	405	405	100	41	1	405
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310
CABLE	380	375	265,500	100,363	22	380
SHIP	154	152	141,897	21,821	10	154
PCEM	950	950	17,724	16,838	2	950
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66
ACICO	260	255	95,069	24,718	18	260
GMCM	300	300	4,410	1,323	1	300
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
EQUIPMENT	43.0	42.0	408,800	17,334	17	42.5
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100
SALBOOKH	56	54	48,250	2,652	6	56
AGLTY	550	540	3,199,364	1,738,661	71	540
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192
CLEANING	42.5	41.0	1,021,312	42,791	30	42.0
KGL	55	52	1,697,665	90,523	55	52
KPCP	166	160	31,600	5,057	3	166
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,820
NAFAIS	182	182	9,000	1,638	1	182
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390
GFC	31.5	31.5	1	0	1	31.5
MAYADEEN	28.5	28.0	1,323,695	37,214	22	28.0
CGC	610	610	10,000	6,100	1	610
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680
ALAFCO	216	214	100,000	21,500	4	216
MUBARRAD	53	52	33,500	1,746	4	53
LOGISTICS	77	75	1,558,526	118,370	34	76
SCEM	80	79	292,500	23,200	2	79
GCEM	74	73	43,600	3,216	4	74
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70
FCM	84	84	498,000	41,832	8	84
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78
Industrials			10,800,313	2,316,936	317	1216.31

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64
PAPCO	90	90	800	72	1	90
CATTL	220	214	41,000	8,934	7	214
DANAH	92	90	44,430	4,001	3	90
POULT	176	176	10,000	1,760	1	176
FOOD	2,620	2,620	300,001	786,003	5	2,620
Consumer Goods			396,231	800,769	17	1112.20

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920
YIACO	315	300	2,032,373	639,947	14	315
Health Care			2,032,373	639,947	14	1185.49

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCIN	950	950	1,000	950	2	950
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150
OUJAFUEL	114	114	55,740	6,354	14	114
MUNTAZAHAT	75	75	18,100	1,358	1	75
JAZEERA	790	780	62,188	49,117	9	790
SOOR	118	114	7,002	800	8	118
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114
ALRAI	146	138	605,611	84,862	29	140
ZIMAH	41.0	40.0	985,501	39,891	27	41.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170
Mezzan	980	970	129,827	127,081	14	980
Consumer Services			1,864,969	310,412	104	910.70

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
ZAIN	420	410	3,696,617	1,527,529	63	410
OOREDOO	1,100	1,100	1,047	1,152	2	1,100
HITSTELEC	43.0	42.0	3,465,819	146,561	49	42.5
VIVA	880	870	108,026	94,176	37	870
Telecommunications			7,271,509	1,769,418	151	609.48

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
NBK	640	630	1,669,261	1,068,155	44	640
GBK	238	236	1,146,700	270,661	23	236
CBK	420	415	180,115	75,598	7	420
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305
ALMUTAHED	400	395	160,495	63,398	9	400
KIB	204	202	266,870	54,168	11	202
BURG	325	320	1,569,500	509,350	38	325
KFIN	530	520	3,353,741	1,743,950	78	520
BOUBYAN	400	395	116,064	46,366	8	400
AUB	196	194	131,688	25,638	4	194
ITHMR	39.5	38.0	18,864,511	729,533	204	38.0
WARBANK	218	214	889,003	192,290	64	214
Banks			28,347,948	4,779,108	490	834.43

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620
AINS	435	435	3,000	1,305	2	435
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.5
WETHAQ	34.0	30.0	791,500	25,497	72	30.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355
Insurance			794,500	26,802	74	946.16

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOUK	32.5	32.0	357,714	115,504	77	32.5
KRE	56	55	1,740,655	95,736	19	56
URC	96	95	170,000	16,220	9	96
NRE	88	86	1,052,105	90,524	23	86
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0
ARABREC	29.0	28.0	344,000	9,639	16	28.0
ERESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0
MABANEE	850	840	12,741	10,736	4	850
INJAZZAT	72	71	310,151	22,193	12	72
INVESTORS	21.5	21.0	6,910,599	146,525	64	21.0
IRC	27.5	27.0	284,100	7,726	5	27.0
ALTUARIA	81	80	2,181,100	174,489	26	80
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0
AAYANRE	68	62	80,200	5,033	7	



INFINITI PARTNERS WITH EMOTIV TO MEASURE HUMAN EXCITEMENT WITH Q50 RED SPORT 400

STUDY AIMS TO DELIVER QUANTIFIABLE DATA OF INCREASED BRAIN ACTIVITY

KUWAIT: INFINITI Middle East, in collaboration with Emotiv Inc yesterday announced the launch of an innovative new study, where the premium brand will seek to identify and measure the level of human excitement unleashed when individuals get behind the wheel of the recently launched INFINITI Q50 Red Sport 400.

Over the course of the next four weeks, customers around the region will have the opportunity to drive the Q50 Red Sport 400 wearing the pioneering EMOTIV Insight headsets that will measure their mental performance indicators and sub-conscious responses to characterize their driving experience.

Rolled out under the banner of 'UnleashYourPotential' the study aims to demonstrate how the changes in brain activity when driving the powerful sports sedan can affect their enjoyment, excitement, engagement and focus, improving driving performance and thereby increasing their potential.

"With new turbocharged engines and a range of enhanced technologies, the new INFINITI Q50 Red Sport 400 delivers a truly empowering drive," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, INFINITI Middle East. "It delivers an experience that provokes powerful emotions, passion and excitement, enabling its driver to really push their



limits. Through our collaboration with EMOTIV Inc. we are now focusing on translating what this emotion, power and excitement really means through a unique and innovative study that will allow us to quantitatively test how the Q50 Red Sport 400 helps our drivers to 'Unleash their potential.'

Emotiv Insight is a sleek, 5-channel, wireless EEG headset that records your brainwaves and translates them into meaningful and easily understandable data. Emotiv Insight is the only device in its category that offers 5 EEG sensors + 2 reference sensors. Emotiv's headsets provide in-depth information on brain activity and are the most technically advanced and credible consumer EEG devices on the market.

Customers seeking to participate in this unique experiment should contact their nearest INFINITI representative to register their interest. Held over the next four weeks, INFINITI plans to showcase the results of this study at a unique and visually exciting regional event for which more details will be unveiled as the study draws to a conclusion.

Schmitz concluded: "At INFINITI, we design and build vehicles that push human potential. We build technologies that enhance the senses, create design that demands a response and deliver performance that makes the driver feel alive - and we are confident that the result of this study will truly showcase the truly empowering drive that our

Q50 Red Sport 400 users can expect."

The Q50 Red Sport 400 features a 3.0-liter V6 twin-turbo gasoline engine with direct injection that delivers 400hp (298 kW) at 6,400 rpm and 475 Nm (350 lb-ft) maximum torque at 1,600-5,200 rpm. It also features a host of technological advancements that include: Directive Adaptive Steering, Dynamic Digital Suspension and safety innovations that include: Back-up Collision Intervention with Cross Traffic Alert, Predictive Forward Collision Warning and Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection.

Infiniti Motor Company Ltd is headquartered in Hong Kong with sales operations in over 50 countries. The Infiniti brand was launched in 1989. Its range of premium automobiles is currently built in manufacturing facilities in Japan, the United States, United Kingdom and China. Infiniti plans to also expand manufacturing into Mexico by 2017.

Infiniti design studios are located in Atsugi-Shi, near Yokohama, London, San Diego and Beijing. Infiniti is in the middle of a major product offensive. The brand has been widely acclaimed for its iconic design and innovative driver-assistance technologies. From the 2016 season, Infiniti is a technical partner of the Renault Sport Formula One team, contributing its expertise in hybrid performance.

TRUMP'S GROWTH STRATEGY SCARING BOND INVESTORS

By Haider Tawfik

Donald Trump's promise of doubling US economic growth has made bond investors run to the exit door. The bond market is sending the president-elect a simple and unambiguous warning: be careful, or it's going to cost you more than what you are going to get. The US's financing costs have unexpectedly soared in the days after the billionaire won the election with a mix of populist rhetoric and promises to cut taxes and spend big on infrastructure.

Yields on US Treasuries jumped, contributing to the biggest increase since the taper tantrum. Part of the bond-market selloff, of course, has to do with expectations Trump's fiscally expansive, pro-growth agenda will spur faster inflation. But crucially, it serves as a not so subtle reminder that America's creditors can still wield considerable power to constrain public spending, and force the incoming administration into making some hard choices about the proposals it can and cannot afford.

Tax cuts and doubling of US Gross Domestic Product under Donald Trump would widen the deficit further. Something that has happened before. Under Bill Clinton, bond investors forced him to scale back on his promises of tax cuts and focus more on reducing the budget deficit. Bill Clinton spent his first term in office reducing the deficit, which he successfully managed to do so.

Donald Trump has all these big spending plans, but he doesn't have the correct revenue to pay for it. Meanwhile, bond investors are not taking the risk. As short and long-term interest rates go up, US funding costs go up and deficits get worse. He will face reality in the months ahead and will realize that he will not be able to afford to deliver all he promised during his presidential campaign.

The details of his economic policy haven't all been announced yet, but as part of his plan to jump-start the US economy, Trump has pledged to reduce personal taxes across the board, reduce corporate taxes to 15 percent from 35 percent and spend \$1 trillion to rebuild and improve the nation's crumbling infrastructure. Some costs would be offset by a one-time repatriation tax of 10 percent for companies, which hold some \$2.6 trillion abroad.

His promise of building a wall along the US border with Mexico to stop illegal and undocumented immigrants cross into the US will add to the costs immensely. To see other stories detailing the US fiscal outlook, so far, no one is suggesting Trump will face the same degree of pushback from the bond market that Clinton confronted in 1994.

Bond supply, demand

I think the bond market situation might be starting to change. US Treasury 30-year bond yields climbed six basis points, or 0.06 percentage point, to 3.00 percent on last, Monday. Going the through the 3 percent level for the first time since the start of the year. The US 10-

year Treasury bond's yield jumped 37 basis points last week, the most since June 2013. The yield climbed another seven basis points on last Monday to 2.23 percent. These kind of moves was short and sharp and hardly any investor saw it coming.

Concerns about big spending under Trump will widen the budget deficit and lead to faster inflation. This has already prompted some investors to step back from buying US Treasuries. On the day following his victory, demand at the government's sale of \$23 billion of 10-year notes fell to the lowest since 2009. More fiscal policy would possibly also cause more issuance, which is already impacting markets.

A steady and continuous retreat, especially by foreign investors who have been the biggest source of demand in the \$13.8 trillion Treasury market, could potentially undermine Trump's spending plans even before he takes office.

The new administration under Donald Trump will need to cough up with another extra \$10 trillion of debt to cover the rising cost of programs like Social Security and Medicare over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office. For the next few months, I strongly recommend that investors diversify away from fixed income if they can. The bond Bull Run which has lasted for more than two decades will have to come to an end at one point, but the victory of Trump probably brings this on earlier than previously thought.

I wouldn't be surprised if 10-year yields keeps on rising in the coming months or even years. It will be up to the Federal Reserve to stop it from rising too much. It all depends on the future inflation outlook that has been rising too. The threat of higher borrowing costs may do little to deter Trump's ambitions. As a businessman, he often used high-cost debt to fuel expansion at his casinos and hotels, even as some defaulted on bondholders and others ended up in bankruptcy. In May, Trump said that if the economy were in a prolonged slump, he might use his business skills to push America's creditors to accept write-downs on their government debt.

Cost Benefit

US Congress being totally Republican, he might not be able to get fiscal policy through quite easily. Even if investors give Trump the green light, fiscal conservatives in his own party might not. Led by the Tea Party faction, congressional Republicans have clashed numerous times with Obama over spending priorities and the doubling of the national debt under his administration's watch. But now, more debt-financed spending is what Trump and his advisers are advocating to spur the economy. In October, Trump claimed his plan would unleash growth of 5 percent or 6 percent, about double today's pace.

Whatever the case, keeping the bond market on board will be key. In recent years, the global savings glut and rock-bottom rates helped keep Treasuries in demand. But any misstep now could be disastrous. Based on duration, a one percentage point increase in yields would lead to more than \$400 billion in losses, which might cause investors to push borrowing costs even higher. That could have lasting consequences on Trump's ability to get America back on track.

AN EXPLOSIVE BULLISH RUN FOR THE US DOLLAR

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: Last week, the US dollar exploded higher against most all the majors on the back of better US data, supporting rate hike expectations in the market and a continuation of the Trump election shock. Expectations of a rate hike in December have reached 85 percent as the US economy continues to release positive figures across all sectors, especially manufacturing. Additionally, fiscal policy implementations promised by President elect Trump have dictated the markets' outlook of a strong Dollar theme.

The Dollar Index opened the week at 99.113 and reached a 13-year high of 101.140 amid historical 43-year-low unemployment claims at 235K. Furthermore, the index continued the hawkish move as Fed Chair Janet Yellen hinted that a rate hike is possible as the labor market is reaching full capacity and postponing a hike could over-shoot the inflation target of 2 percent. The index closed the week at 101.340.

The Euro opened the week at 1.0847 and continued the free-fall following the previous week downward move. The currency reached an 11-month low of 1.0580 at the end of the week as a strong dollar rally continued and a slight increase of the Euro zone GDP figures were the main themes. The Euro ended the week at 1.0585.

In the UK, the Sterling Pound opened the week at 1.2591 and traded in a relatively tight range compared to the other major currencies. Cable retracted as inflation figures came below expectations by 0.1 percent at 0.9 percent and the currency ended the week at 1.2343.

In Japan, the Yen also accelerated the free-fall against the greenback reaching a 5-month-low of 110.60. The economy in Japan has picked up in the third quarter of this year, yet the Dollar's bullish run overshadowed the expansion. The currency closed at 110.91. On the commodities side, oil prices fell as a strengthening US dollar beat back renewed hope that OPEC might finally agree on production cuts. Brent crude oil futures fell 32 cents to \$46.17 per barrel while West Texas futures were down 47 cents to \$44.95 a barrel. On the other hand, gold prices fell to a 6-month low of \$1,205 on continuing expectations of a rate hike in December now standing at 85 percent.

Manufacturing activity

Results from the October Manufacturing Index suggest that regional manufacturing conditions continued to improve. Indexes for general activity, new orders, and

shipments were all positive this month. But firms reported continued weakness in overall labor market conditions. Firms expect continued growth for manufacturing over the next six months and are becoming more optimistic about employment expansion.

The index for current manufacturing activity in the US edged down, from a reading of 12.8 in September to 9.7 this month. The index has now been positive for three consecutive months. Other broad indicators showed notable improvement. The new orders index improved markedly this month, increasing from 1.4 in September to 16.3 in October. The percentage of firms reporting increases in new orders this month rose to 40 percent from 30 percent last month. The current shipments index also improved, rising 24 points to 15.3. The delivery times, unfilled orders, and inventories indexes remained weak, however, with all registering negative readings, although they were less negative than in September.

Producer Price index was unchanged for the month of October following a 0.3 percent increase in September. However, the Core Producer Price Index, which excludes food and energy, fell by 0.2 percent in October. The data might seem mixed, but an overall look on the US economy would suggest that inflation has reached a healthy level across many sectors.

A Surge in retail sales

Sales at US retailers rose more than forecast last month in a broad advance after an even stronger September than initially estimated, showing consumers continue to pump up the economy. A 0.8 percent rise in October followed an upwardly revised 1 percent jump in the prior month, marking the biggest back-to-back increase since March-April 2014. Healthy hiring, wage growth and limited inflation are giving Americans the wherewithal to spend at stores, malls and online merchants. Momentum at the start of the quarter bodes well for household purchases, which account for about 70 percent of the economy, during the approaching holiday-shopping season.

Unemployment claims

Unemployment claims hit a 43-year-low this week as the fewest Americans since 1973 filed for unemployment benefits last week at 235K dropping by a 19K week to week. This figure suggests that the economy is expanding at a modest level and employers are hiring to keep up with demand with unemployment claims

below 300K for 89 straight weeks the longest streak since 1970 proving healthy labor market.

US new-home construction jumped to a nine-year high in October as an outsized advance in the number of apartment projects accompanied a strong pickup for single-family housing. Residential starts surged 25.5 percent to a 1.32 million annualized rate, the fastest since August 2007. The increase from September was the biggest since July 1982. Multifamily-home building was up a whopping 68.8 percent. The figures indicate the housing market was making greater progress a month before a jump in mortgage rates. While increased hiring and healthier finances have been driving demand, a sustained pickup in borrowing costs threatens to discourage first-time buyers and become a hurdle for the industry.

Draghi optimistic

Draghi has expressed his optimism on the modest yet steady recovery of the eurozone's economy. He mentioned the recent development in the labor market as employment has grown by more than four million since 2013. Furthermore, the ECB's president emphasized that the solvency of the banking sector is a development that provides comfort to policy makers at the current market conditions. Draghi attributes the solvency of the financial sector to the re-regulation that has led to welcomed improvements. Meanwhile, asset quality has also improved along with the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio has been decreasing in the euro area, even if modestly, he added.

Flash GDP for the eurozone grew was confirmed at 0.3 percent with Italy at 0.3 percent outperforming Germany at 0.2 percent suggesting that German GDP growth could be a little slower still in coming months. Furthermore, Euro area annual inflation was 0.5 percent in October 2016, up from 0.4 percent in September signaling a modest growth yet far from the 2 percent inflation target set by the ECB.

"Brexit" negotiations

Bank of England Governor Carney focused on his term as Governor during the Inflation Report Hearings. He stated that he would not extend his term further following the announcement of a 1-year extension and that he would leave the bank at the end of June 2019. He also reiterated that his decision to stay until 2019 was motivated by the desire to provide certainty during the period of EU exit negotiations. Looking at monetary

policy, he reiterated that, at present, there was forward guidance in place on the likely stance of monetary policy. Carney played down the impact of the latest inflation data, which was weaker than expected, with comments that monthly data is erratic.

According to Carney, inflation is still likely to increase, especially as the producer prices data was stronger than expected for the month. There will be a delayed pass-through in cost increases, but the effect will still be seen over the next few months. Carney reiterated that there was a limit to the tolerance of accepting an over-shoot, but there was no specific level of inflation above the 2.0 percent target.

On the data side, unemployment rate in the UK decreased by .01 percent from 4.9 percent to 4.8 percent in October indicating a stable labor market in the UK. Yet Claimant Count Change rose from 5.6K to 9.8K in October showing mixed signals on the labor market's condition.

Japanese GDP

The Japanese economy grew much faster than expected in the third quarter, although the underlying trend remained weak despite robust government spending and highly accommodative monetary policy. Gross domestic product expanded by 0.3 percent to a 6-quarter high of 0.5 percent.

On the foreign trade front, BoJ governor Kuroda said that the US and Japanese economies would both lose huge benefits if the TPP trade pact were to fail. The aim of the trade pact is to create one of the world's greatest free-trade zones. Kuroda added that while financial markets appeared to be welcoming the victory of Republican Donald Trump in the US presidential election, he was closely watching how his economic policies could affect Japan.

Chinese production

Industrial production, a broad indicator of factory output, rose at an annualized 6.1 percent in October from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics reported Monday in Beijing. Industrial production rose by a similar amount the previous month indicating a steady growth in the economy. Yet, disappointing retail sales growth and fears of US trade frictions under incoming President Donald Trump are increasingly clouding the outlook.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30385
The USD/KWD opened at 0.30385 yesterday morning.



AL-BABTAIN INTRODUCES ATTRACTIVE OFFER ON ITS RENAULT DOKKER VAN

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co; (AABC), the authorized dealer of Renault cars in the State of Kuwait has launched an attractive offer on the Renault Dokker Van, the most robust and reliable light commercial vehicle available in its segment.

The Dokker Van is offered at 2,999 Kuwaiti Dinars only. The offer also includes a five year warranty or 200,000 km, free registration and 3rd party insurance. Aimed towards small business owners and tradespeople, the Renault Dokker Van is a modern and an efficient transport solution with an innate sense of practicality and versatility. It offers a 1.6L engine and the best load volume

in its category with a carrying payload of 750 KG assisted with sliding doors and two asymmetrical rear doors, a volume upwards of 3.3m³ and a loading length of 1.9m; swiftly meeting the challenges of transport and delivery.

The Renault Dokker is known to move with times. Its economic engine, low CO₂ emissions and respect for both environment and customers' budget make it a truly model employee. The body design and proportions reflect generous interior space and a range of accessories to match the different needs of drivers.

The Renault Dokker exudes aptly the finesse of Renault's automotive expertise, proving it to be the

partner in business and progress. You can use this chance and buy the Dokker from Renault Al-Babtain store in Al-Rai.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years, Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible manage-

ment style and long-term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information technology, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main activity within Al-Babtain Group's business, which represents some of the bestselling brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipment. The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC) is the exclusive agent and distributor of leading Japanese, European (French) and Chinese vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Infiniti Renault and Citroen.

HENKEL CONTINUES STRONG PERFORMANCE IN Q3 2016

ACQUISITION OF SUN PRODUCTS SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED

KUWAIT: "Henkel continued to deliver strong business performance in the third quarter. Sales, adjusted EBIT and adjusted earnings per preferred share reached new highs. The successful development and the high quality of earnings was driven by all three business units and the strong commitment of our global team," said Henkel CEO Hans Van Bylen.



"In the third quarter, we were also able to successfully close the acquisition of Sun Products and secure its financing at favorable conditions. We expect the overall challenging and uncertain market environment to persist in 2016. We will continue to focus on leveraging our successful brands, leading market positions and strong innovation capabilities to achieve our ambitious targets."

Henkel confirmed the outlook

for the current fiscal year: "For the full fiscal year 2016, we expect organic sales growth of 2 to 4 percent. We expect our adjusted EBIT margin to rise to more than 16.5 percent and adjusted earnings per preferred share to grow between 8 and 11 percent," said Hans Van Bylen.

In the third quarter of 2016, Henkel's sales reached a new high. Sales rose by 3.4 percent to 4,748 million euros. The sales performance was driven by the solid organic development as well as acquisitions. Organic sales growth - i.e. adjusted for foreign exchange and acquisitions/divestments - was at 2.8 percent. Adjusted for negative foreign exchange impact of 3.3 percent, sales increased by 6.7 percent.

The Laundry & Home Care business unit recorded organic sales growth of 4.0 percent. The Beauty Care business unit posted an improvement in organic sales of 2.6 percent. The Adhesive Technologies business unit reported an increase in organic sales of 2.5 percent.

After allowing for one-time charges and gains and restructuring charges, adjusted operating profit (EBIT) rose by 7.6 percent from 778 million Euros to 837 million Euros. Reported operating profit grew by 16.4 percent from 666 million Euros to 775 million Euros.

Adjusted return on sales (EBIT margin) showed an increase of 0.7 percentage points to 17.6 percent. Reported return on sales rose from 14.5 percent to 16.3 percent. Henkel's financial result was at -15 million Euros and, due to acquisitions, below the level of the prior-

year quarter. The reported tax rate was at 23.2 percent; in the prior year quarter it was at 24.6 percent.

Adjusted net income for the quarter after deducting non-controlling interests grew by 9.2 percent from 564 million Euros to 616 million Euros. Reported net income for the quarter increased by 18.2 percent from 494 million Euros to 584 million Euros.

After deducting 8 million Euros attributable to non-controlling interests, quarterly net income amounted to 576 million Euros (prior-year quarter: 484 million Euros). Adjusted earnings per preferred share (EPS)



rose by 9.2 percent from 1.30 Euros to 1.42 Euros. Reported EPS increased from 1.12 Euros to 1.33 Euros. Net working capital related to sales improved year on year by 0.8 percentage points to 5.2 percent.

The third quarter of 2016 saw the Laundry & Home Care business unit successfully continue its profitable growth path by increasing both sales and EBIT. Sales grew organically by 4.0 percent year on year. Nominally, sales increased by 12.6 percent to 1,479 million Euros, also driven by the acquisition of Sun Products. In Africa/Middle East, the business unit achieved double-digit growth.

The Beauty Care business unit

also successfully extended its long-established path of profitable growth in the third quarter of 2016. Organically, sales rose by 2.6 percent. Nominally, sales increased by 0.4 percent to 968 million Euros. Sales in Africa/Middle East showed very strong growth.

The Adhesive Technologies business unit generated solid organic sales growth of 2.5 percent in the third quarter. Nominally, sales amounted to 2,272 million Euros, after 2,279 million euros in the prior-year quarter. Sales in Africa/Middle East were below the level of the prior-year quarter.

Growth in the Africa/Middle East region continued to be impacted by the geopolitical unrest prevailing in some countries. Nevertheless, a strong organic sales growth of 6.9 percent was achieved. Nominal sales increased by 9.0 percent to 348 million Euros.

Outlook

Henkel expects to generate organic sales growth of 2 to 4 percent, with each business unit generating growth within this range. Regarding the share of sales from emerging markets, Henkel anticipates a slight decrease compared to the prior-year level due to foreign exchange effects. For adjusted return on sales (EBIT), Henkel expects an increase to more than 16.5 percent and the adjusted return on sales of each individual business unit is expected to be above the level of the previous year. Henkel expects an increase in adjusted earnings per preferred share of between 8 and 11 percent.



TAKAUD PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS KUWAIT'S AHLI CAPITAL CLIENT OFFERINGS

KUWAIT: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of savings, investment, and pension solutions for the MENA region, and Ahli Capital Investment Company K.S.C.C., have signed an agreement that provides Ahli Capital with access to TAKAUD's Sharia-compliant Investment Strategies, which comprises of the best performing Sharia-compliant mutual funds globally. The Investment Strategies are available in three investment risk profiles and have significantly outperformed their respective benchmarks over a 5-year period.

"TAKAUD is pleased to be selected by the investment arm of Kuwait's fourth-largest bank to provide savings and investment solutions that span a great range of investment needs," Luc Metivier, TAKAUD CEO said. "Ahli Capital clients will now benefit from our stringent investment-screening processes. We always aim to offer significant

value to investors, and they will continue to benefit from our ongoing refinements."

Muhsen M Alharbi, CEO of Ahli Capital said, "This partnership with Takaud would help to increase the range of investment solutions we could offer our clients. This arrangement will increase the depth and breadth of our product range. We are quite excited about this new relationship and we believe our clients will certainly benefit from this arrangement."

TAKAUD Savings and Pensions B.S.C. is licensed as an Investment Business Firm (Category 1) by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and is a closed joint stock company incorporated in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

TAKAUD provides long term savings, investment and pension solutions to individuals and corporations in the local and expatriate communities across the MENA region.

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Saqer Al-Manaie.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Saeed AbuBaker Saeed Ali — KD 7000, Raeda Rajab Ali Ayoub — KD 7000, Reyadh Mezel Al-Enezi — KD 7000, Pooman Moti Lal Bhasin and Moti Lal Mohan — KD 7000, Modem Bujji Modem Subba Rayudu — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account

Daily draw to win KD 7000.

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

1ST QUARTER — KD 100 000, 2ND QUARTER — KD 150 000, 3RD QUARTER — KD 200 000, 4TH QUARTER — KD 250 000.

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

* Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you a chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

- * ATM card
 - * Issue a credit card against your account
 - * Obtain all CBK banking services
- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

AL-MAL INVESTMENT WINS 'MOST INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL PRODUCT' AWARD FOR TAKHAROJ

THE BANKER MIDDLE EAST KUWAIT PRODUCT AWARDS 2016

KUWAIT: Al-Mal Investment has announced yesterday that it has been awarded the "Most Innovative Financial Product" award for Takharoj from The Banker Middle East Kuwait Product Awards 2016, one of the region's leading financial awards. Al Mal received this award for its newly launched product, Takharoj, a one-of-a-kind and first web-based application in the region that connects minority investors in Unlisted Securities together, enabling their voices to be heard while empowering them to get more value from their minority shares in return.

The award was presented to the Board Member and CEO Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.), Abdul Wahab Al-Mutawa, on November 16, at Al-Mal's head office. On this occasion, Abdul Wahab Al-Mutawa said: "We are very proud to see our newly launched product, Takharoj, being recognized by a leading entity in the region such as 'The Banker Middle East'. Takharoj has been well received in the Kuwaiti marketplace since its recent launch, thanks to its innovation in being able to fulfill a major need that exists in the market among individuals, companies and banks. This award not only reinforces our position in the market, it also demonstrates the high level of receptivity and maturity of the regional financial market. Additionally, receiving this award is a tribute to our continuous efforts to delivering products that cater to the market needs."

Takharoj is a revolutionary product that connects minority investors in Unlisted Securities together, allowing them to get more value from their shares. By simply submitting their basic investment information, the shareholders can become part of a sizeable shareholding block with the power to negotiate optimal outcomes, as well as benefit from short and



Abdul Wahab Al Mutawa receiving the award from Banker Middle East

long-term solutions based on thorough analysis conducted by Al-Mal's experts. These solutions cater to the minority investors who lack control over their investments, whose voices are not heard, their share value is either stuck or stagnating, or have a hard time getting valuable financial information or return.

CPI Financial, through its financial magazine, The Banker Middle East, organizes the leading financial award that honors successful institutions, products and services both across the Middle East and North Africa. The

awards are voted by registered readers and subscribers of CPI Financial Products once the magazine has shortlisted the nominees.

Launched by Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.), Takharoj is the region's first web-based application that can connect minority investors in Unlisted Securities together, enabling them to be heard and empowering them to get more value from their minority shares in return. By submitting their basic investment information, the shareholders can become part of a sizeable shareholding block with the power to negotiate optimal outcomes, as well as benefit from short and long-term solutions based on thorough analysis conducted by Al-Mal's experts. These solutions cater to the minority investors who lack control over their investments, whose voices are not heard, their share value is either stuck or stagnating, or have a hard time getting valuable financial information or return.

Al-Mal is an innovation-driven, forward-looking investment banking and asset management company that offers sustainable and attractive investment opportunities in both traditional and emerging portfolios. Established in early 1980, Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) has a current capital of KD 66.9 Million. Its investment portfolio is geographically well diversified, offering maximized returns to investors. It caters to its clients through its many subsidiaries and affiliates spread across the world. Al Mal is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange and is licensed and regulated by the Capital Market Authority and the Central Bank of Kuwait. It implements and adopts the highest level of ethical standards, internal controls and corporate governance practices.

Ghosn unveils new Nissan Intelligent Get & Go Micra service

Nissan to pioneer world's first digitally powered shared car ownership scheme

DUBAI: Nissan yesterday announced a pioneering new digital-first shared car ownership service which is set to transform the traditional car sharing industry. NISSAN INTELLIGENT GET & GO MICRA, revealed by Nissan Chairman and CEO Carlos Ghosn at the Web Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, will give people the possibility to partown a brand new Nissan Micra.

Social networking is at the heart of this plan, as Nissan is able to profile-match consumers to form next-generation car sharing communities through a 100 percent digital experience.

Launching initially in the Paris area later this year, cars are expected on the road by April 2017. The service, based on a unique algorithm that uses social profiling and geo-localisation technology, will match compatible owners with complementary driving needs to form a 100 percent digital, shared ownership community. With bespoke monthly invoicing based on car usage, members can expect no surprises.

Commenting on the launch, Ghosn said: "We are moving toward a future where car usage may be more flexible, social and shared. At Nissan, we're pioneering new ways to allow drivers to enjoy the freedom and financial benefits of shared car ownership. And there is no better vehicle to launch this program than the all-new Micra, which embodies the vision of Nissan Intelligent Mobility."

This new service is borne out of Nissan's

Intelligent Mobility vision, which provides a framework for how cars are powered, driven, and integrated into society, all while staying focused on creating more enjoyable driving experiences. With the proliferation of the shared economy model, which impacts everything from cars to food to homes, today's announcement is a step towards realising this Intelligent Mobility goal.

NISSAN INTELLIGENT GET & GO MICRA service uses the new Nissan Micra Acenta 0.90 MT with Bose Personal Audio (a world first), and will include insurance, servicing, access to the online matching tool, smartphone app and in-car technology. Communities will need to agree upon an annual mileage limit of 15,000 km.

Nissan is a global full-line vehicle manufacturer that sells more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. In fiscal year 2015, the company sold more than 5.4 million vehicles globally, generating revenue of 12.19 trillion yen. Nissan engineers, manufactures and markets the world's best-selling all-electric vehicle in history, the Nissan LEAF. Nissan's global headquarters in Yokohama, Japan, manages operations in six regions: ASEAN & Oceania; Africa, Middle East & India; China; Europe; Latin America and North America. Nissan has a global workforce of 247,500, and has been partnered with French manufacturer Renault under the Renault-Nissan Alliance since March 1999.



NISSAN INTELLIGENT GET & GO MICRA



WHY ARE BUSINESSES SHIFTING TO MANAGED SERVICES FOR IT NEEDS?

By Yasser Zeineldin

Look around any industry today and we see a huge change in the way they run their business. From large enterprises, to governments, to small and medium businesses, organizations are moving deeper into the digital era where technology is making an impact on the way they are changing their processes and systems for growth and expansion.

While a number of companies are making large investments in IT infrastructure and upgrades, most of them are faced with the challenges of evolving technology, the need for highly skilled professionals, etc. Simultaneously, they are also aware that managing and maintaining their IT infrastructure needs to be given priority, and, with the lack of know-how and skilled personnel, the trend is now moving towards outsourcing these IT requirements to Managed Service Providers (MSPs).

Key drivers for increased adoption of Managed Services

Increasing use of cloud based solutions

According to the Cisco Global Cloud Index, from 2014 to 2019, the Middle East and Africa is expected to have the highest cloud traffic growth rate (41-percent CAGR). Cloud based solutions help business support their growth, and they are moving their business applications to the cloud to ensure greater agility and flexibility. MSPs help organizations scale down the burden of employing specialized teams for IT management, provide the complex compliance requirements and support the organization with the most suitable technologies that can either be taken as a whole or avail of smaller components.

Skills gap

Regardless of the size of an organization, it is a huge challenge to hire and maintain skilled employees across various domains. On the other hand, most MSPs are equipped with well trained staff and their expertise provides strong capabilities to understand the customers business needs. Moreover, a much larger pool of professionals is available to provide strategic guidance for maintaining the IT systems and propose timely upgrades for better performance.

Growing security threats

While emerging technology uptake provides a competitive edge to businesses and organizations, they are faced with a growing number of cyber threats. In-house IT teams are focused on the daily needs of the enterprise and more often lack the time to look into complex security needs. Specialized Managed Security Services Providers or MSPs can provide the critical 24/7 service and deploy latest security needs in a highly proactive manner. Simultaneously, the global partnerships that MSPs have helps them leverage the latest technologies and global experience in a cost effective manner.

Data storage and Backup

Data is one of the most critical aspects of any organization and it is important that it is protected, stored and backed up against any unforeseen failures or natural calamities. The risk of losing data can be fatal to businesses. MSPs are equipped to deliver these services as well as capable of recovering lost data with services such as data duplication across different mediums and locations. They can ensure continuous availability of data which is vital for the day to day business operations.

Cost reduction

There are multiple areas where cost reduction is very apparent in using MSPs. One of the biggest advantages is the OPEX model which does not call for high capital investments. Many MSPs also offer a Pay-as-you-go option which makes a significant impact by paying only for the services used. The choice to scale the services depending on the business needs also plays a huge role in ongoing IT cost reduction. Budgets for employee recruitment for IT management are lowered with technical support staff now coming in as a part of the MSPs deliverables. MSPs are aligned with global technology partners who are able to provide advanced technology to ensure business growth and provide greater customer experiences.

According to a Frost & Sullivan report, the GCC is expected to see a strong growth for MSPs with spends rising from \$1.07bn in 2012 to \$1.1bn by 2018. While the initial uptake was mainly by the large enterprise sector, it is expected that the small and medium businesses are showing strong interest in Cloud-based infrastructure services and will contribute to the growth of regional MSPs.—Yasser Zeineldin is CEO, eHosting DataFort.

MICROSOFT TO SHOWCASE LATEST EMPOWERED GOVT SOLUTIONS

4TH E-GOVERNMENT FORUM IN KUWAIT FROM NOV 27 TO 29

KUWAIT: With the theme "An Empowered Government", Microsoft has announced its participation as platinum sponsor at the 4th E-Government Forum for Electronic Services Perspective, due to be held from the 27th to 29th of November at the Marriott Courtyard, Kuwait. Charles Nahas, General Manager Microsoft Kuwait commented, "The theme derives from the company's strategy to drive Digital Transformation across all government entities in Kuwait to launch advanced digital services and applications to the Kuwaiti citizens."

We believe that EGOV4 will achieve its objectives, especially with the high level of support that is represented by the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. We are also pleased to be closely working with NoufEXPO and CAIT to ensure success of EGOV4."

The Forum and expo will focus on transformational e-Services as the basic e-Government program deliverable and will discuss all aspects related to it; from planning till deployment and continuous improvement. Attendees from diverse government agencies will gather at the event to engage with experts on board, to discuss implementation e-services and issues in the government sector. Also, Microsoft will deliver different sessions and live demos around Electronic Correspondence Management System with Digital Signature as per the government electronic law integrated with the Public Authority for Civil Information (Electronic Correspondences, Signatures and Accreditations System) and the Smart Help Desk System as per the latest governance recommendations from the Central Agency of Information and Technology (the Smart Help Desk System).

Microsoft's Regional General Manager - Public Sector / Middle East & Africa, Sayed Hashish will deliver a keynote speech, discussing about how digitized services within

government bodies can help accelerate and drive widespread changes in the technology infrastructure across Kuwait.

Commenting on this participation, General Manager Microsoft Kuwait said, "Delegates visiting the Microsoft Stand in the expo area, will get the opportunity to experience a showcase of solutions including Azure, Power BI analytics, IoT followed by insightful demonstrations around how the Microsoft Digital Transformation framework delivers impact for governments, empowering them to drive growth, innovation and productivity. Anchored on its 'systems of intelligence', the Microsoft's solutions built around four pillars of digital transformation will demonstrate how governments can effectively - engage with citizens, empower employees, optimize operations, and transform government services."

Efficient e-services

Nahas added, "This is the era of digitization - and the speed at which technology is permeating our lives, is fascinating. We, at Microsoft are thrilled by the partnership with government entities to take full advantage of our latest innovations and technologies built on the Microsoft e-government framework, supported by an expert ecosystem of government service partners. Our participation in EGOV4 forum pays testament to Microsoft's increased efforts towards enabling Kuwait's government attain efficient e-services while improving productivity and effectiveness to do more and achieve more, for the citizens they serve."

Microsoft, with its innovative solutions and cloud services, has continued to be a strong advocate for modernization of the local government bodies and reiterates its commitment of empowering government bodies by providing a flexible, low cost and scalable platform that allows optimization of resources through e-services, enabling employees to boost service deliv-



Charles Nahas

ery and citizen engagement. An Accenture research states that digital transformation of services have a significant positive impact on a country's economy, competitiveness and innovation; reducing back office costs to 45 percent. It also highlights that a 1 percent increase in digitization can result in 0.5 percent GDP gain, and a 1.9 percent gain in international trade.

"Governments are at a pivotal juncture where they have the opportunity to drive true public service transformation through digital technologies. We aim to enable government agencies achieve this objective through streamlining processes; keeping up with the demands of digital natives through innovative tools that provide public services of the future," said Nahas.

ALIBABA, TENCENT BACK CHINESE CYBER LAW FACING OVERSEAS CRITICS

WUZHEN, China: China's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and Tencent Holdings Ltd rallied behind Beijing's recently-imposed cyber security law on Thursday, following criticism of it from overseas technology rivals. The country's two tech giants also urged closer cooperation between the public and private sectors at China's third World Internet Conference, which has focused on heightened threats to cyber security over the past year, including disruptions to financial systems and online terrorist radicalisation.

China says the new law, which formalises broad restrictions on technology companies working in China, was designed to remove cyber security threats in "critical" industries not to target foreign businesses and will help counter terrorism.

However, overseas business groups and technology organisations say it unfairly targets them with overzealous surveillance measures and local data storage requirements.

Analysts say Alibaba and Tencent operate websites and apps that have a largely local user base, and so face fewer changes in the way they store data as a result of the law.

"This marks a step forward for China. We are asking professionals to learn from these regulations," Yang Peng, director of Tencent's Executive Committee for Information Security, said at the conference, which is organised by China's internet regulator and has also focused on building more robust global governance and the responsibility of the media.

CYBER CLEANSING

Critics of the cyber security law say while China's influence in global technology has grown, its ruling Communist Party led by Xi has presided over broader and more vigorous efforts to control, and often censor, information online. Alibaba's Vice President Yu Weimin said the group has 3,000 people dedicated to security, and the e-commerce giant is "working with law enforcement" to crack down on some content.

"With all this technology together we can win the war on terrorism," Yu said.

Tencent's Yang said the company is working within state regulations to clean up content, and has removed 80,000 video clips from their site this year. Cyber security took on a greater focus among regulators worldwide in February when it emerged that hackers stole \$81 million from the Central Bank of Bangladesh via SWIFT, the global financial messaging system. The funds were transferred to accounts in the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Both Tencent and Alibaba operate online payment platforms that offer services ranging from bill payments to money transfers. Alibaba's Alipay dominates the online payments industry in China, while Tencent's WeChat payment system is increasingly popular.

"Big internet companies are the ones with the means to fight cyber terrorism, which is why we need more cooperation between the private and public sector," Alibaba's Yu said. — Reuters

DANTE SPINOTTI ON TECHNOLOGY, NEW WORKFLOW, DIRECTORS' PERSONALITIES

LOS ANGELES: BYDGOSZCZ, Poland-Dante Spinotti, who served as a jurist on this year's Cinematographers' Debuts Competition at the Camerimage film festival, is a firm believer that changing technology benefits filmmaking at all levels.

The Italian-born DP, who has credits that go back to the 1970s, says that the advent of digital tools has democratized entry into the profession as small, inexpensive, and easily available cameras have made it possible for anyone to create moving images.

But if technology is more plentiful, talent is not. "What has not changed is that good ideas are just as difficult as they've always been. Anyone can push a button, but what's important is what's inside their heads." Spinotti's enthusiasm for digital extends all the way from production through exhibition.

For example, he welcomes the presence of on-set monitors and how directors and crew today can view and evaluate material immediately after shooting it. "I'm happy to see dailies when I'm shooting," he proclaims. "I don't want to wait 15 hours. I'll choose anything that takes me there faster."

This new, more rapid workflow has slightly altered the exalted status of the cinematographer, he admits. "We used to be the bishops on the movie set. We did the sign of the cross at the end of the day and said 'go in peace because we will see beautiful things in the screening room.' But today everyone can look at the monitor."

But that convenience, he says, while speeding things up and making the process more efficient, does not in any way minimize the cinematographer's role. "Our contributions remain just as important." — Reuters

CUTTING FOOD WASTE SAVES MONEY FOR FRENCH SUPERMARKETS

PARIS: Cutting food waste is an appealing social goal, but experiments in France found that measures to cut the amount of food being thrown out also saved supermarkets money. Like a number of other countries, France has recently adopted legislation that forces supermarkets to donate to charities food that is unwanted or past its sell-by date but still edible. While retail shops and markets account for the smallest percentage of losses in the food chain, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency ADEME nevertheless found that they were responsible for the equivalent of 2.8 billion meals going to waste annually, and that there was much that could be done to reduce spoilage.

It recently teamed up with five supermarket chains—Auchan, Carrefour, E.

Leclerc, Intermarche and Systeme U—to experiment in 10 stores. The result: “With often simple actions that cost little it is possible to cut food waste by 22 percent in three months across the stores,” said ADEME. If adopted across the country, “the measures would save 300,000 tonnes of food per year and more than 700 million euros (\$745 million) per year”, it said. In the northwestern town of Boulogne-sur-Mer, Auchan hired two people to sell delicate fruit such as peaches, which often get bruised by being handled too much by customers and staff as well as overstacked on displays.

“Over two months we made 15,000 euros in savings,” said the store manager, Frederic Vaccaro, at a recent news conference presenting the results of the

experiments. By adjusting the grocery selection and selling some products, like pies, by the piece, his store made 220,000 in annual savings. “The effort is worth the money,” said Vaccaro.

‘Considerable impact’

The changes made in the 10 supermarkets resulted in saving the equivalent of 160 tons of food per year, or some 320,000 meals. “For each store, that represented a savings of 70,000 per year on average,” said ADEME, adding that food waste usually costs supermarkets some 400,000 euros per year on average. ADEME calculated that would boost a supermarket’s grocery sales by an average of 0.9 percent. In a business known for razor-thin margins, this would “have a considerable impact on the net margin

of stores, that is to say their profits”, said the agency.

One of the major problems that ADEME identified was supply management. In certain supermarkets, it found over-ordering resulted in less than one percent of products causing 20 percent of food waste by value. Another was products were being damaged by being handled too much, and employees weren’t being trained to focus on avoiding waste. ADEME has put up a list of recommended measures for supermarkets to adopt, like reducing the number of products on shelves and appointing a staff member to be responsible for reducing food waste.

Alain Vallee, head of the Systeme U supermarket in the western town of Mayenne, expanded the stores practice

of discounting products that are damaged or close to their sell-by date. Fruit and vegetables that are slightly bruised are sold at discounts of up to 30 percent, and all discounted food is now in a central location. The result: 90 to 95 percent of such goods are sold, compared to 27 percent when left in their respective department.

Vallee said he cut food waste by nearly a third in his store, generating 96,000 euros in savings. While ADEME is encouraging a bit of flexibility, food inspectors are not always on board. “I want to offer slightly damaged products, but when there are inspections we get rapped on the knuckles,” said Vallee. ADEME intends to launch studies next into how food waste can be reduced on farms and in food processors.—AFP

TRUMP’S PLEDGE TO KILL OBAMACARE FACES REALITY CHECK

‘VERY MUCH SOMETHING WE’RE GOING TO TRY AND KEEP’

WASHINGTON: With his shock victory in the race for the White House, President-elect Donald Trump at last is in position to deliver on one of his most strident campaign promises: to repeal Obamacare. With fellow Republicans in control of the US Congress, Trump has the means and ostensibly a mandate from his party to gut the law. But he may find the reality is more challenging. Exit polls suggest Trump rode to victory in no small part on the support of those battleground state voters who strongly disliked President

Republican lawmakers who have attempted on scores of occasions to repeal Obama’s landmark health reform.

Trump told the television newsmagazine “60 Minutes” it was “very much something we’re going to try and keep.” Yet analysts say keeping those features will be difficult if not impossible if Trump’s reform abolishes another key part of Obamacare, the so-called “individual mandate.” That is the requirement that Americans carry health coverage regardless of whether they are

administration late last month announced that costs will jump by an average of 25 percent next year. Individual US states already have experience with this dilemma. When Kentucky attempted in the 1990s to guarantee coverage without instituting an individual mandate, it saw 43 of 45 insurance companies flee its market over seven years. Similar outcomes occurred in New York and New Jersey. Already there are signs that a “Trump effect” is roiling the health care market. In just the day after Trump’s victory, enrollments in the Obamacare individual marketplace surged to 100,000, the government said.

By early next year, providers will have to settle on premium rates but they currently do not know whether the public subsidies that help low-income consumers will exist by then. Two days after Trump’s victory, America’s Health Insurance Plans, an industry lobby, warned against “sudden disruptions” that could jeopardize “continuous coverage.”

Some in the resurgent GOP may fear a backlash. “Clearly, we don’t want to do any harm to people already in the system,” Mississippi Republican Senator Roger Wicker told Bloomberg last week. Since Obamacare took effect, 20 million people gained health coverage, pushing the level of the uninsured below 10 percent, an historic low. And one survey found more than 80 percent of those who gained coverage are happy with their plans.

Disappointing the base

The Congressional Budget Office estimated about 22 million people would have lost their coverage, with a large share being children and the poor, had congressional Republicans succeeded in repealing Obamacare early this year. Trump’s softening stance also may cause him problems among supporters. Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies at the libertarian Cato Institute and a critic of Obamacare, warned Trump risks alienating his most ardent supporters if he fails to go through with a full repeal, including eliminating the ban on denying insurance to those with pre-existing conditions.

“That’s going to be a big problem not only for President Trump but also for a lot of congressional Republicans,” he told AFP. “President Trump could be starting his administration by signaling that he’s no different from anyone else.” Representatives for Trump and for Paul Ryan, the Republican leader in the House of Representatives, did not respond to requests for comment.—AFP



NEW JERSEY: President-elect Donald Trump listens to questions from the press as he exits the clubhouse after a day of meetings at Trump International Golf Club, in Bedminster Township, New Jersey.—AFP

Barack Obama’s sweeping health care reforms, especially given rising costs. However, after Trump met President Barack Obama last week he seemed to backpedal on his intentions.

Candidate Trump vowed to “completely repeal” the Affordable Care Act and describing it as a “total disaster.” But after his win, President-elect Trump said he hoped to preserve two of the most popular features: allowing children to stay on their parents’ plans until age 26, and forbidding insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.

‘Death spiral’

The latter element is popular even with

sick or healthy. To cover the cost of providing coverage for sicker patients, health insurers depend on the revenue they get from the healthy enrollees that Obamacare required to buy in. If that requirement is eliminated, “that’s basically going to cause a death spiral,” Sandy Ahn, a research professor at Georgetown’s Health Policy Institute, told AFP. Insurers lose income from departing healthy consumers, they will raise premiums, putting coverage out of reach for many. “The health care markets will look like they did before the Affordable Care Act,” said Ahn. In fact, problems getting enough healthy young people to sign up for insurance have already contributed to rising premiums. The

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

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



BOKHOL, Senegal: This file photo shows technicians operating electrical cabinets during the opening ceremony of a new photovoltaic energy production site in Bokhol.—AFP

AFRICA LOOKS TO SOLAR FOR COMMUNITIES OFF THE GRID

DAKAR/NAIROBI: Above the sacks of seeds and coal, three kerosene lamps gather dust in the tiny shed that Kenyan chicken farmer Bernard calls home. He prefers to use solar energy to light up his evenings, listen to the radio or watch television, after abandoning a diesel generator he said was expensive to maintain and burned fuel too quickly. “Solar panels are a good, cheap solution,” he told AFP. Across the continent, consumers are opting for their own off-grid solar solutions to power homes and small businesses, even as African governments unveil massive new solar projects seemingly every month to expand their grids.

According to International Energy Agency projections, almost one billion people in sub-Saharan Africa will gain access to the grid by 2040, but by that time 530 million will remain off-grid, almost comparable with the 600 million who cannot access power today.

Governments have ramped up their efforts: on Africa’s Atlantic coast, Senegal last month inaugurated a massive 20 megawatt (MW) project that will deliver energy to 160,000 people, which President Macky Sall saluted as ushering in “a new, clean-energy era”. But Mouhamadou Makhtar Cisse, director-general of national utility Senelec, underlined upcoming problems in an interview with AFP. “We actually have an excess of 100MW of power,” he said. “But we have a distribution problem. We have been thinking in terms of roads and railways... but not about electricity highways.”

With around 55 to 65 percent of homes receiving electricity, Senegal’s grid strength is above average for sub-Saharan Africa, whereas in South Sudan and Liberia this hovers between one and two percent. But even in Senegal, neighboring

Mauritania and Rwanda, which have all invested in large-scale solar projects as the cost of panels tumble, the twin challenges of limited grids and Africa’s demographics remain.

‘Space for innovation’

“The grid and the off-grid are so far apart right now that it’s creating a huge space for innovation,” enthuses Andrew Herscovitz, coordinator for US President Barack Obama’s Power Africa initiative. Power Africa, which identifies governments and businesses requiring sustainable and affordable energy and offers funding and expertise in more than 15 countries, has taken a particular interest in solar. Power Africa is pushing this renewable source so that people “don’t have to wait for the grid to arrive to them, they can access a company today and have a solar panel put on their roof,” Herscovitz told AFP.—AFP



SPACE: This image obtained November 19, 2016 courtesy of NASA TV shows NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson (left), Oleg Novitskiy (center) of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, and Frenchman Thomas Pesquet (right) of ESA (European Space Agency) after docking at the International Space Station.—AFP

RUSSIAN SPACESHIP DELIVERS THREE ASTRONAUTS TO SPACE STATION

MIAMI: Russia’s Soyuz spacecraft arrived at the International Space Station on Saturday, carrying a European, a Russian and an American astronaut for a six-month mission at the orbiting outpost. “Capture confirmed,” said a NASA commentator as the spacecraft docked at the ISS at 4:58 pm (2158 GMT), US space agency live television images showed. The trio-Frenchman Thomas Pesquet, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy and American astronaut Peggy Whitson-launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Thursday.

Pesquet, 38, a rookie astronaut and amateur saxophone player, is the first French national to be sent to the ISS by the European Space Agency since 2008. Novitskiy, 45, a Russian Air Force pilot and decade-long veteran of the space agency Roscosmos, is making his second trip to the ISS. Whitson, 56, is an experienced veteran and biochemistry expert who will break records with this space mission, including the title of the most days in space by a US astronaut.

She is scheduled to surpass NASA astronaut Jeff Williams’s 534 days on April 24. In February, Whitson will become the first woman to command the space station twice. She previously commanded the station in 2007, when she became the first woman to hold this post, NASA said. Their arrival means the staff at the orbiting outpost goes back up to six. Already staffing

the ISS are Russians Andrei Borisenko and Sergey Ryzhikov, and American Shane Kimbrough. But even after a two-day journey in cramped quarters, the three new arrivals were not allowed to exit the spacecraft right away. More than two and a half hours of checks were needed to make sure the seal was airtight between the station and Soyuz. When the hatches finally opened at 7:40 pm (0040 GMT yesterday) the crew was all smiles as they floated into the space station-first Novitskiy, then Pesquet and finally Whitson and exchanged hugs with their crewmates.

“Watching you, we could not be more proud,” said NASA administrator Charles Bolden, speaking to the crew from Earth. Russia’s Soyuz capsules offer the only way for global astronauts to reach the space station since the American space shuttle program was retired in 2011. Astronauts pay more than \$71 million per seat for a ride on the Soyuz, which carries three people at a time. Private industries including SpaceX and Boeing are designing spacecraft to once again ferry astronauts from US soil. Their first flights are not expected until late next year or in 2018. Humans have lived continuously at the space station for more than 15 years. More than 200 people from 18 countries have visited the microgravity laboratory that circles Earth at a distance of about 250 miles (400 kilometers), NASA said.—AFP

CAMBODIA ARRESTS AUSSIE NURSE OVER SURROGACY CRACKDOWN

PHNOM PENH: An Australian nurse and fertility specialist has been arrested for allegedly running an illegal surrogacy service in Cambodia, the country’s anti-human trafficking police said yesterday. The arrest was made just weeks after Cambodia became the latest country to ban commercial surrogacy. Tammy Davis-Charles, 49, was arrested on Friday along with two Cambodians during a raid on a rented house in Phnom Penh, Police Colonel Keo Thea, head of the Anti-Human Trafficking Office, told AFP. “She has been arrested for being an intermediary in surrogacy and for falsifying documents,” Keo Thea said.

“Australian people who wanted kids would contact her and she would charge US\$50,000 for each request,” he said. Keo Thea said Davis-Charles had moved to Cambodia from Thailand for more than a year, adding she arranged for some 23 Cambodian women to carry babies for Australian couples. “Five babies have been born,” he said, adding that a Cambodian girl received between \$10,000 and \$12,000 in each case. Davis-Charles, who is from Melbourne, will be sent to court on Monday for questioning. She could face up to two years in jail if convicted, Keo Thea said, adding it was the first arrest for surrogacy in Cambodia.

Earlier this month Cambodia banned commercial surrogacy, after curbs on the industry in other parts of the globe sparked a local boom in the unregulated baby business. Surrogacy agencies started springing up in the Southeast Asian nation after former hubs like Thailand and India blocked foreigners from the services following a flurry of scandals and concerns about exploitation. With cheap medical costs and no laws excluding gay couples or single parents, Cambodia quickly absorbed much of the demand. But a government edict sent to Cambodian fertility clinics earlier this month said that surrogacy was now “absolutely banned”.

The proclamation, signed by the health minister last week, asked all medical professionals to comply with the injunction, though it did not spell out a legal punishment. Cambodia now boasts some 50 surrogacy agents, a number of which cropped up in the past year, according to experts. Bangkok’s military government passed a law banning foreign couples from using Thai women as surrogates last year after a series of controversies-including tussles over custody-tainted the lucrative industry. In one controversy, authorities discovered nine babies in a Bangkok apartment that had been fathered by a Japanese man using Thai surrogate mothers.—AFP

MYANMAR HEALTH AUTHORITIES STRUGGLE TO PREPARE FOR ZIKA OUTBREAK

YANGON: Myanmar is largely unprepared for an outbreak of Zika, experts say, with the health ministry slashing anti-virus measures due to lack of funds, overworked doctors skipping check-ups and pregnant women saying they are in the dark about the dangers. Zika has spread to some 60 countries and territories since the current outbreak was identified last year in Brazil, raising alarm over the rare birth defect microcephaly, as well as other neurological disorders it can cause in infants and adults. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Myanmar country head Dr Jorge M Luna, warned Myanmar was likely to experience more cases of the mosquito-borne virus that has spread quickly in the region, with the number of infections doubling in Vietnam and 33 fresh cases confirmed in Thailand this week.

Myanmar detected its first Zika-infected patient more than two weeks ago, prompting pledges of increased monitoring and stepped up mosquito-prevention measures. But more than a dozen interviews with pregnant women, doctors in public hospitals and government officials show the country of 51.5 million is struggling to inform the public about the virus or prevent it from spreading.

On a recent afternoon more than 100 pregnant women waited - some standing for more than three hours - in noisy, crowded corridors of the Yangon Central Women's Hospital, the largest such institution in the country. "I wanted to ask doctors some questions about Zika, but they are very busy because they have to see many pregnant women at the same time," said San San Aye, 42. She had heard about Zika from a friend, but was unsure how it could affect her pregnancy. Myanmar is struggling to shed the legacy of nearly 50 years of junta rule that has left its economy and public services - especially healthcare and education - in tatters.

It has only 0.6 physicians per 1,000 people, according to the WHO, six times fewer than Kazakhstan. Total expenditure on health stands at \$20.3 per person, about 18 times less than Thailand, and dilapidated and overcrowded hospitals often lack basic supplies. A Reuters reporter visiting the Yangon hospital did not see any stickers or signs posted alerting or explaining Zika to the women. Healthcare workers said they did not know how to educate patients about the virus. At smaller public hospitals nurses

often carry out check-ups instead of specialist doctors, who sometimes do not turn up for scheduled appointments, Reuters reporters found when visiting two township-level hospitals on Yangon's outskirts. Dr Than Htun Aung, in charge of Zika emergency response and international relations at the Ministry of Health, said a shortage of doctors meant they could not always attend appointments. He said nurses were qualified to examine the women.

Confusion, lack of funds

At hastily called news conference after the first case of Zika in Myanmar was confirmed, Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, who heads public health department at the Ministry of Health, has urged women to avoid pregnancies in the next six months. The statement has confused some Myanmar healthcare specialists, who said they did not understand the reasoning behind the recommendation, and whether it meant no more Zika cases were expected after the six-month period.

That made them reluctant to discuss the risks with patients, doctors and nurses told Reuters. The WHO's Luna said the organization's guidelines were to give couples full information about potential risks and impact on newborns, but the decision on whether to have children was up to the couple. "You have to give them information, good information, what is going on, and it's the couple's choice," said Luna.

Than Htun Aung, at the health ministry, said medical specialists were trained about Zika guidelines last week. "During the training, we told them how to give instructions to patients on how to avoid sexually transmitting Zika," he said.

But in Yangon, Dr Tun Lwin, who heads the regional public health authority, said Zika was not the priority, compared with sometimes fatal dengue fever and other mosquito-borne diseases. He said the regional government did not provide funds to local staff to carry out public health campaigns about the virus, but some staff members campaigned spending their own money. The Ministry of Health's Than Htun Aung said measures to control mosquitoes in cities were progressing slowly because of a lack of staff and funding. He added the government wanted to test all pregnant women, travellers, and foreigners, but "we do not have the budget to test them because the tests are expensive". —Reuters



PHARMA LIFE RELEASES THE NEW COLLECTION OF 'PERLAMAR' GERMAN PRODUCTS FOR SKINCARE

KUWAIT: PharmaLife Company launched its new collection of "Perlamar" German brand for all skin types, in cooperation with Al Dawaaya pharmacies. A lunch reception was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Failaka Hall and was attended by doctors and pharmacists, beauty advisers, PharmaLife sales team as well as media delegates and journalists who got the opportunity to experience the product's formulas that hydrates and moisturizes the skin. "Perlamar" products are the perfect choice to empower the skin for a smoother, listed look.

"Perlamar" is one of the most recommended products by dermatologists in more than 63 countries worldwide.



CALIF ZOO'S LION CUB ROMPS, NAPS AND NEEDS A NAME



FRESNO, California: This file photo shows a 5-week-old lion plays with his leg in the hay of his enclosure at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, in Fresno, Calif.—AP

FRESNO, California: A zoo in central California is showing off a new lion cub and asking visitors to choose his name. The Fresno Bee reports that reporters got a glimpse of the 5-week-old cub Thursday at Fresno Chaffee Zoo as he rolled in his enclosure and napped on his mom, Kiki. Kiki gave birth to three cubs on Oct 11, but only the unnamed cub survived.

Voting on his name will run through Nov 27, and the little lion will likely get his public viewing a month or so later. Zoo staff has selected six Swahili names to choose from: Enzi (powerful), Kijani (warrior), Asani (rebellious), Erevu (clever), Mansa (king) and Bwani (gentleman). Visitors can buy a token and place it in a box corresponding to the name they like best.—AP



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AL-MULLA EXCHANGE PRESENTS INSPIRATIONAL PLAY ON GANDHI



Al-Mulla Exchange, the leading money exchange company in Kuwait, organized a special play titled, Mohan's Masala, tracking the intense childhood journey of Mahatma Gandhi towards self-awakening. Two shows of the play were held on November 11 and 12, 2016, at the American International School, Maidan Hawally, to a capacity crowd.

The play was performed by a team of professional theater artists: director - Manoj Shah, lead actor -Pratik Gandhi, writer - Ishan Doshi, art - Atul Dodiya, music - Kanhaiya, singer - Parthvi Gohil and production - Janam Shah.

Mohan's Masala gives an inspirational account of Gandhiji's journey from his childhood to the time he finds the purpose of his life - that of gaining freedom for himself and his people from Colonial rule. It begins from his school days and ends when he gets thrown out from the train in South Africa, which is often portrayed as the starting point in his self-awak-

ening in most other films and plays on Gandhiji. The play is fresh take on Indian's father of nation, because it is peppered with true incidents that have rarely been enacted before and is also unique because the play is not about his struggle against the British, nor his search for truth or non-violence. But it's about finding his own self. How from a common man he goes on to become the Mahatma. It's a journey where Mohandas Gandhi finds the Mahatma in himself. And this inspires each one of us to find the hero within our own selves.

Talking to the media about the play, Rakesh Joshi General Manager Al-Mulla Exchange said Gandhiji's life has a great lesson for all of us even in the current times. "We wanted to provide the Indian community and people from all nationalities with a message that resonates deep within. Gandhiji is greatly admired by the people all over the world for the example he set with his life that inspired the largest democracy in the world."



RUBY TUESDAY IS BIGGER, BOLDER AND BETTER!



Ruby Tuesday Kuwait unveiled its new food and drinks menu. Top media personalities of Kuwait were invited to an exclusive food tasting at the relaxing waterfront in the Sharq branch next to Kuwait Towers.

Guests were treated with new flavors starting from our new Cocktails. Being astounded with the Mango Orange Cooler Pitcher, followed by our new appetizers like Chicken

Quesadilla which is a sliced chicken, cheddar cheese, Swiss cheese, beef bacon and pico de gallo. The hand breaded and fried Crispy Chicken Bites was another shareable served with a choice of different Thai, Barbecue, mild or hot buffalo or classic sauce with honey mustard. For the healthy option, an Avocado Crab salad with a sensational mix of Salmon, shredded crab meat and mixed green salad tossed in spicy

ranch. Seafood lovers can now feast on the new Ocean Platter, the goodness of the seas, which has grilled shrimp and fish fillet, fried calamari and oven baked mussels served with yellow rice, lemon butter, sweet chili and cocktail sauces.

The meat family has many new entrants. Veal Chop along with the Lamb Shank and the T-Bone Steak is the most popular dishes in Ruby Tuesday. The New Ribs and

Mushroom Alfredo was also inducted in our Pasta Selections.

Ruby Tuesday has managed to bring the delicious Club Sandwich and the Clubhouse Burger together - the two-in-one masterpiece. It is a beef burger layered with cheese, beef bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and honey mustard served on cheese sandwich.

Dessert lovers got a slice of sweetness in the form of Chocolate

Fondue, the Cookie Monster and the Classic Profiteroles. The guests comprising of media personalities had a fabulous time by the waterfront with music and a fabulous display of drinks, the new menu boasted of.

Constantly looking at enhancing the brand, Ruby Tuesday Kuwait has continued to evolve from a burger-centric menu to the one that features lobster tails and top Sirloins. With the weather favoring the way,

you are cordially invited with friends and family to try out the new menu at our different Ruby Tuesday locations - in Sharq next to Aqua Park, in Salmiya at Laila Gallery Mall, in 360 MALL, in Shaab Zone, in Abu Halifa and the soon to be opened branch in The Avenues Mall built with the new Ruby Tuesday design and authentic atmosphere. Come and enjoy the difference in Ruby Tuesday!

AAW CELEBRATES WORLD DIABETES DAY WITH FREE CHECK-UPS FOR EMPLOYEES

In observance of World Diabetes Day on November 14, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Company (AAW) hosted employee awareness events at the company's headquarters in both Sharq and Shuwaikh and discussed preventative measures and healthy eating practices, in addition to offering free on the spot check-ups to AAW employees.

The sessions were hosted on November 14-15, and extended from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at AAW headquarters where employees were given medical

advice on how to prevent diabetes by Dr Mostafa Hakam from Green Apple Company, the free check-ups were administered to 160 employees by medical representatives from Safwan Trading and Contracting Company, a sister company of AAW.

Following the informative sessions, employees were given educational pamphlets about ways to prevent diabetes and the importance of early detection, in addition to Johnson and Johnson's OneTouch Verio Meter, and detox prod-

ucts from Green Apple's Fit 4 Life range.

World Diabetes Day is observed yearly on November 14 with an aim to raise awareness towards the different types of diabetes and stress the importance of early detection and leading a healthy lifestyle. With one in two adults undiagnosed, yearly screenings are important to ensure early detection and treatment to reduce serious complications.

AAW Chairman and CEO, Faisal Ali Al Mutawa said, "As part of AAW's corporate social responsibility, we pay great attention to the importance of promoting awareness towards diabetes for it is one of the most prevalent diseases worldwide, according to the International Diabetes Federation, in Kuwait, there are 400,000 diabetic persons, about 140,000 of whom are undiagnosed. We are observing World Diabetes Day through this event to raise awareness towards the importance of preventing diabetes and encourage people to lead a healthier lifestyle by eating healthy and exercising more."

Diabetes describes a group of metabolic diseases in which the person has high blood glucose (blood sugar) and is identified by various types, Type 1 occurs when insulin production is inadequate, while Type 2 occurs when insulin is produced adequately but the body's cells do not respond properly to it.



Faisal Ali Al-Mutawa takes part in the diabetes check-ups.



'TREASURES OF CHINA' AT MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART

By Ali Akasha

The Museum of Islamic Art in Doha is currently hosting and exhibition entitled "the Treasures of China," which includes the world-famous Terracotta Army statues.

Many civilizations throughout ancient history believed in the afterlife. The ancient Chinese were amongst them. Imagine one tomb guarded by an army of more than 8,000 statues consisting of archers, infantry units, superior officers, and horse-driven chariots. This is known as the Terracotta Army. The tomb they guarded is that of the first Emperor of China Qin Shi Huang (r. 220 - 210 BCE), a successful warlord who unified China and established the Qin Dynasty. Nearby his mausoleum, the statues were placed in pits, hence serving as funerary statues. In 1974, they were uncovered by farmers in the Xi'an province. Most of these statues are on display in the museum of the mausoleum site in the same province.

Since the late 2000s, the Terracotta Army have been loaned to many institutions across the world. Qatar is now one of them. The exhibition in Doha marks the Terracotta Army's debut in the Middle East. It will last until January 7, 2017.

NREC HOSTS GULF BANK 642 MARATHON AT SOUQ SHARQ

National Real Estate Company (NREC), one of the leading real estate companies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), hosted yesterday the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon with huge number of participants at Souq Sharq Waterfront development.

The race comprised four stages: Family Fun Run (5km), Souq Run (10km), Half Marathon (21km), and Full Marathon (42km), thus offered those who just want to enjoy a run in the city or serious athletes wanting to finish a full marathon the chance to participate and compete. The race was held on November 19 from 7.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. where monetary prizes ranging from KD90 to KD900 were given to the top three winners of each race.

The Gulf Bank Marathon 642's name is derived from the number of muscles in the human body and is the first marathon in Kuwait to be certified by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). The 42km race started and finished at NREC's Souq Sharq development after passing through several famous landmarks in Kuwait City such as Souq Mubarakiya, Grand Mosque, Kuwait Towers, and parts of the Gulf Road.

NREC CEO, Samuel Sidiqi, said: "We thank Gulf Bank for choosing our Souq Sharq Waterfront development to hold its 642 Marathon, the first AIMS certified marathon in Kuwait. We at NREC are advocates of promoting a healthier and more athletic lifestyle, in addition to always supporting initiatives that encourage this lifestyle."

Offering a range of everything for everyone, the Souq Sharq Waterfront remains one of the most visited sites in Kuwait and a great venue for outdoor events such as Gulf Bank's 642 Marathon. Souq Sharq houses three distinguished offerings: The Shopping Center, which is home to a wide selection of retail brand names, restaurants, cafes and entertainment centers; The Fish and Vegetable Market, where the blend of old and new stands as a testament to a historical record of quality, freshness and a vibrant economy; and finally the National Yacht Club and Marina, offering a gateway for fishing vessels as well as accommodating hundreds of private yacht docks.



DIWAN CELEBRATES AWARD-WINNING MOVIE 'HABIB AL ARDH'

By Nawara Fattahova

The old diwan of Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah hosted a celebration marking the fourth anniversary of the founding of Lulua Production House and the first anniversary of the founding of the First Cinema Troupe, in addition to the success of the first movie produced by Lulua - 'Habib Al Ardh' - at the Alexandria International Festival and the Gulf Festival in Abu Dhabi. The celebration was attended by many

popular actors and the media.

Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali, President of Lulua and the Al Nowair Initiative for Positivity, said she is sure "we are on the right path". "Our goal was to make Kuwait the capital of the film industry in the GCC. I worked on achieving this goal with my team for the past few years by setting up a strong base and platform for creative youth. There are many creative young Kuwaitis who need to be supported to improve their talents. This was the reason behind founding the First Cinema Troupe,

where top academics train members of the group. Eighteen talented stars have graduated as directors, interior designers, lighting, voice and make-up technicians and screenwriters to form the base of the cinema industry, not only at Lulua Production, but in Kuwait in general," stressed Sheikha Intisar.

She said Lulua will always be the platform and gathering point for young filmmakers in the GCC and the Arab region. "We will always support them as there are many creative individuals seek-

ing a chance to show their creativity. I think that presenting these talents is one of the main reasons for the success of the cinema industry in the world," she noted. "We will present many movies that show the beauty of Kuwait," she added.

Sheikha Intisar founded Lulua Production House as a nonprofit to reach the public through art and deliver her message. "The media has a great role in highlighting the important personalities who have a long history of struggle. Our first movie Habib Al Ardh was successful, and our com-

pany will continue to produce excellent movies," she vowed.

Ramadan Khasroh, Director of the First Cinema Troupe, said young talents need help and a chance. "When I wrote the screenplay of Habib Al Ardh, I went to the house of the martyr Faiyq Abduljaleel and spoke to his family to get information about his life. I also searched for his friends to get a complete view and worked on this movie for four years. The result was a successful movie that received international awards," he explained.



JUMEIRAH MESSILAH SPONSORS RUNQ8 FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa sponsored Kuwait's largest 10km charity event, RUNQ8, for the 2nd consecutive year as "Friends of the race" in line with the resort's commitment to supporting initiatives that improve the health and wellness of the local community.

General Manager Hakan Petek said: "We are pleased to uphold our passion and dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility efforts in Kuwait in the name of a good cause that raises awareness on children with disabilities. Through our ongoing sponsorship of RUNQ8, we are keen to make a positive impact on children who are in need of quality care and active development and to extend our support to their families."

Following the race, Hakan Petek presented the 10km winners with a three-month Talise Fitness membership program for the first and second male and female winners in the Adult and Youth groups and for runners aged 55 and above in the Masters category.

The annual fund-raising event hosted by the Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute, supports the provision of therapy programs for babies, children and young adults, while encouraging healthy living and a quality life.



Greetings



Happy birthday to Umar Imran, who turns 7 years old. God bless you and may you have prosperous future ahead. Best wishes and love from papa, mama, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousin brothers Abdullah, Osama, Ali, Hassan, Mohsin, Talha and sisters Fatima, Ayesha, Meeqat, Aamina.



OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Pusher
02:00 Sharknado 2: The Second One
03:45 Reign Of Assassins
06:00 The Dogs Of War
08:00 Swelter
10:00 Sword Of Vengeance
12:00 Mutant World
14:00 Memorial Day
16:00 Swelter
18:00 Sword Of Vengeance
20:00 One In The Chamber
22:00 Predator

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:00 The Inbetweeners Movie 2
02:00 The Theory Of Everything
04:15 Madoff Part 1
06:00 Bill
08:00 The Grand Seduction
10:00 Madoff Part 2
11:45 Taken 3
13:45 Oblivion
16:00 The Grand Seduction
18:00 The Drop
20:00 Pawn Sacrifice
22:00 7 Minutes

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:00 Red Wing
03:00 Enter Nowhere
04:30 Mood Indigo
07:00 Breaking Through
09:00 Stolen From Suburbia
11:00 Red Wing
13:00 Odd Thomas
15:00 Stranded
17:00 Stolen From Suburbia
19:00 Cake
21:00 Lucky Them
23:00 Loitering With Intent

SUNDANCE CHANNEL MOVIES HD

- 01:45 Edmond
03:30 Dr. T And The Women
05:30 Hurricane Season
07:15 Starsky & Hutch
09:00 Million Dollar Baby
11:15 From Dusk Till Dawn
13:00 Code 46
14:45 To The Wonder
16:45 Drowning Mona
18:30 Edmond
20:00 The Quiet American
21:45 House Of D
23:30 The Painted Veil

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:00 Earth To Echo
03:00 Dunston Checks In
05:00 My Girl
07:00 My Girl 2
09:00 Earth To Echo
11:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness
13:00 One Christmas Eve
15:00 Black Beauty
17:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
19:00 Mousehunt
21:00 The Lone Ranger
23:00 Black Beauty

SUNDANCE CHANNEL

- 00:00 Rounders
02:00 Iconoclasts
03:00 Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
04:00 Tangerines
05:30 Wreckers
07:00 Touchy Feely
08:30 The Horse Boy
10:05 Colin Fitz Lives
11:35 The Strongest Man
13:15 Standby
14:40 Maravilla
16:00 Writers' Room
16:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
17:00 Touchy Feely
18:30 The Portrait
18:50 Colin Fitz Lives
20:20 The Strongest Man
22:00 Pandora's Promise
23:30 Movie Talk

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:00 Pay The Ghost
03:00 Alex Of Venice
05:00 I'll See You In My Dreams
07:00 Racing Hearts
09:00 Tracers
10:45 5 Flights Up
12:30 Far From The Madding Crowd
14:30 The End Of The Tour
16:30 San Andreas
18:30 American Sniper
20:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
23:00 Vacation

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Superstore
00:30 Scrubs
01:00 Scrubs
01:30 7 Days In Hell
02:30 You're The Worst
03:00 2 Broke Girls
03:30 The Simpsons
04:00 Fresh Off The Boat
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 George Lopez
06:00 Galavant
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Fresh Off The Boat
08:30 George Lopez
09:00 2 Broke Girls
09:30 Wrecked
10:00 Modern Family
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Hank
12:30 Fresh Off The Boat
13:00 George Lopez
13:30 Community
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 Wrecked
15:00 Modern Family
15:30 Scrubs
16:00 Scrubs
16:30 Hank
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 2 Broke Girls
18:30 The Simpsons
19:00 Angie Tribeca
19:30 Modern Family
20:00 Telenovela
20:30 Superstore
21:00 Scrubs
21:30 Scrubs
22:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
22:30 Modern Family
23:00 You're The Worst
23:30 Telenovela

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:15 Egon And Donci
02:45 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
04:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
06:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
07:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
09:15 Columbus In The Last Journey
10:45 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
12:30 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
14:15 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
16:00 Blue Elephant 2
18:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
20:00 The Boxcar Children
21:45 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
23:30 Blue Elephant 2

OSN FIRST HD

- 00:00 Mr. Robot
01:00 Notorious
02:00 How To Get Away With Murder
03:00 Mistresses
04:00 Recovery Road
05:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
06:00 Lie To Me

- 07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Bones
09:00 Recovery Road
10:00 Lie To Me
11:00 This Is Us
12:00 Bones
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Bones
19:00 Rosewood
20:00 The Fosters
21:00 Quantico
22:00 Roadies
23:00 Game Of Silence

OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO

- 01:00 Banshee
02:00 Veep
02:30 Ballers
03:00 Amy Schumer: Live At The Apollo
04:00 Tsunami: The Aftermath (Part 2)
06:00 Dead Silence
08:00 In The Gloaming
09:00 Something The Lord Made
11:00 Lackawanna Blues
12:45 As You Like It
15:00 Sugar
17:00 Lackawanna Blues
19:00 In Treatment
19:30 In Treatment
20:00 Banshee
20:45 The Comeback
21:30 Divorce
22:00 Westworld
23:00 Insecure
23:30 Curb Your Enthusiasm

BBC FIRST

- 00:10 Doctors
00:40 One Of Us
01:35 Ripper Street
02:30 Silent Witness
03:25 Mad Dogs
04:10 Doctors
04:40 Doctors
05:10 Call The Midwife
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Holby City
08:00 Father Brown
08:50 The Musketeers
09:45 Call The Midwife
10:40 Doctors
11:10 Doctors
11:45 Father Brown
12:35 The Musketeers
13:30 Call The Midwife
14:25 Doctors
14:55 Doctors
15:25 Father Brown
16:10 The Musketeers
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 The Durrells
21:00 Last Tango In Halifax
21:55 Silent Witness
22:50 Mad Dogs
23:40 Doctors

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:00 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
00:50 South Park
01:15 Tosh.0
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 JB Smoove: That's How I Dooz It
03:00 Workaholics
03:25 Ridiculousness
04:15 Key And Peele
04:40 Impractical Jokers
05:05 Ridiculousness
05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
06:20 Tosh.0
07:15 Hungry Investors
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Ridiculousness
08:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:45 Workaholics
10:35 Ridiculousness
11:25 Hungry Investors
12:15 Nathan For You
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Impractical Jokers
14:20 Ridiculousness
14:45 Coaching Bad
15:35 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
16:30 Workaholics
17:50 Hungry Investors
18:39 Tosh.0
19:03 Tosh.0
19:27 Catch A Contractor
20:13 Impractical Jokers
20:37 Ridiculousness
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 Idiotssitter
21:54 Chappelle's Show
22:18 Broad City
22:42 Tosh.0
23:05 Tosh.0
23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition

FOOD NETWORK

- 00:00 Private Chef
01:00 Restaurant Takeover
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Man Fire Food
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Barefoot Contessa
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 Anna Olson: Bake It Now
11:00 Chopped
11:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Man Fire Food
14:00 Chopped
15:00 The Kitchen
16:00 Cooking For Real
16:30 Cooking For Real
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Iron Chef America
19:00 Restaurant Stakeout
20:00 Mystery Diners
21:00 Mystery Diners
22:00 Restaurant Takeover
23:00 Iron Chef America
23:00 Restaurant Stakeout

Syfy HD

- 00:10 Face Off
01:50 Sanctuary
02:40 Stargate SG-1
03:30 Warehouse 13
04:20 Sanctuary
05:10 Smallville
06:00 Stargate SG-1
06:50 Sanctuary
07:40 Warehouse 13
08:30 Smallville
09:20 Face Off
10:10 Sanctuary
11:00 Stargate SG-1
11:50 Warehouse 13
12:40 Smallville
13:35 Sanctuary
14:30 Isa
16:00 Face Off
16:50 Smallville
17:40 Sanctuary



TAK 3 ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

- 18:30 Stargate SG-1
19:20 Warehouse 13
20:10 Smallville
21:00 The Magicians
21:50 Hunters
22:40 Ice Road Terror
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Unchained Reaction
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Dirty Jobs
12:00 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous
12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
17:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:50 Pick A Puppy
18:15 Pick A Puppy
18:40 Unchained Reaction
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
22:00 Pick A Puppy
22:25 Pick A Puppy
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:40 Science Of The Movies
01:30 Science Of The Movies
02:20 Invisible Worlds
03:10 Curiosity: Brainwashed
04:00 Food Factory
04:25 Food Factory
04:49 Mythbusters
05:37 Mythbusters
06:24 Mythbusters
07:12 Mythbusters
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Nextworld
09:14 Mythbusters
10:02 Junkyard Wars
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
12:26 Nextworld
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Junkyard Wars
15:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
16:26 Nextworld
17:14 Mythbusters
18:02 Science Of The Movies
18:50 Nextworld
19:40 Junkyard Wars
20:30 Invent It Rich
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 Science Of The Movies
23:00 Invent It Rich
23:50 Curiosity: How Evil Are You?

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Dangerous Encounters
01:10 Hippo vs Croc
02:00 Natural Born Monsters
02:50 Man V. Monster
03:45 Giraffe: African Giant
04:40 Animal ER
05:35 Natural Born Monsters
06:30 Man V. Monster
07:25 Giraffe: African Giant
08:20 Animal ER
09:15 Freaks & Creeps
10:10 Grizzly Empire
11:05 Moody Beasts
12:00 Shark Alley
12:55 Natural Born Monsters
13:50 Man V. Monster
14:45 Animal ER
15:40 Last Devils
16:35 World's Weirdest Creepy Cures
17:30 Bear Nomad
18:25 Wild Swamplands
19:20 Animal ER
20:10 Last Devils
21:00 World's Weirdest Creepy Cures
21:50 Bear Nomad
22:40 Wild Swamplands
23:30 Shark Alley

DISNEY CHANNEL

- 00:10 Hank Zipper
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipper
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipper
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Mouk
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'D
09:10 Austin & Ally
09:35 Shake It Up
10:00 A.N.T. Farm
10:25 A.N.T. Farm
10:50 That's So Raven
11:15 That's So Raven
11:40 Good Luck Charlie
12:05 Good Luck Charlie
12:30 Jessie
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 The 7D
13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:40 Hank Zipper
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Austin & Ally
15:00 Dog With A Blog
15:25 Jessie
15:50 Rolling To The Ranks
16:15 Hank Zipper
16:40 Bunk'D
17:05 Star Darlings
17:10 Elena Of Avalor
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:25 Descendants Wicked World
18:30 Liv And Maddie
18:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:00 Jessie
19:25 Star Darlings
19:30 Best Friends Whenever
19:55 Descendants Wicked World
20:00 Dog With A Blog
20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts
20:30 Jessie
20:55 Liv And Maddie
21:20 Austin & Ally
22:10 Girl Meets World
22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
23:00 Binny And The Ghost
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
06:25 K.C. Undercover
06:50 The 7D
07:00 Phineas And Ferb
07:15 Atomic Puppet
07:40 Danger Mouse
07:50 Counterfeit Cat
08:05 Future World
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Danger Mouse
10:20 Annedroids
10:45 Annedroids
11:10 Counterfeit Cat
11:35 K.C. Undercover

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Mountain Monsters
02:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Too Cutel Pint-Size
09:15 Big Fish Man
10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Too Cutel Pint-Size
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Big Fish Man
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Rogue Nature With Dave Salmon
18:25 Monster Croc Invasion
19:20 Wild Animal Repo
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Wildest Africa
22:05 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
23:00 Wild Animal Repo
23:55 Gator Boys

ci

- 00:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
04:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 My Haunted House
07:00 Homicide Hunter
08:00 Beyond Scared Straight
09:00 Crime Stories
10:00 The First 48
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 Frenemies
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job
14:00 Beyond Scared Straight
15:00 Crime Stories
16:00 It Takes A Killer
16:30 Frenemies
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job
19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
20:00 Beyond Scared Straight
21:00 It Takes A Killer
21:30 Frenemies
22:00 Crime Stories
23:00 Tbc

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Unchained Reaction
01:20 Unchained Reaction
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
05:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
06:20 How It's Made



OBLIVION ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (17/11/2016 TO 23/11/2016)

SHARQIA-1	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	AVENUES-3
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 12:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 11:30 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 12:00 PM
BLEED FOR THIS 2:15 PM	FANAR-3 12:30 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 1:45 PM
TROLLS 4:45 PM	AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 12:30 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 3:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 6:45 PM	FORCE 2 - Hindi 3:30 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 5:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 8:45 PM	AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 6:00 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 7:00 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 10:30 PM	FORCE 2 - Hindi 9:00 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 8:45 PM
BLEED FOR THIS 12:15 AM	AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 11:30 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 10:30 PM
		ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 12:15 AM
SHARQIA-2	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	360° 1
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 1:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 1:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 11:45 AM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 4:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 4:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 2:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 7:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 7:00 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK 5:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 9:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 9:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 8:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:30 AM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:30 AM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 10:45 PM
SHARQIA-3	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	360° 2
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:30 PM	RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE 12:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 3:15 PM	TROLLS 3:15 PM	RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE 2:15 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 6:00 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 5:30 PM	RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE 4:00 PM
THU+FRH+SAT 6:00 PM	GHOST COINS 8:00 PM	RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE 6:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM NO THU+FRH+SAT 6:00 PM	GHOST COINS 10:00 PM	SHUT IN 8:15 PM
BLEED FOR THIS 9:00 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 12:15 AM	OPERATION CHROMITE 10:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 11:30 PM		OPERATION CHROMITE 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	360° 3
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 11:30 AM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 11:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN 1:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 2:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 2:00 PM	FORCE 2 - Hindi 3:45 PM
TROLLS 4:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 4:45 PM	SABER GOOGLE 6:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 6:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 6:45 PM	SABER GOOGLE 8:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 8:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 8:30 PM	FORCE 2 - Hindi 11:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 10:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 10:15 PM	
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 1:00 AM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 1:00 AM	
MUHALAB-2	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	AL-KOUT1
BLEED FOR THIS 12:00 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 12:00 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 12:00 PM
TROLLS 3:00 PM	TROLLS 3:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 1:45 PM
THU+FRH+SAT 2:30 PM	THU+FRH+SAT 2:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 4:30 PM
BLEED FOR THIS NO THU+FRH+SAT 2:30 PM	BLEED FOR THIS NO THU+FRH+SAT 2:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 7:15 PM
FORCE 2 - Hindi 5:00 PM	FORCE 2 - Hindi 5:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 10:00 PM
BLEED FOR THIS 7:30 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 7:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:45 AM
BLEED FOR THIS 10:00 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 10:00 PM	
BLEED FOR THIS 12:30 AM	BLEED FOR THIS 12:30 AM	
MUHALAB-3	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	AL-KOUT2
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 1:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 1:00 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 1:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 3:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 3:45 PM	RAVEN THE LITTLE RASCAL- THE BIG RACE 3:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 6:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 6:30 PM	TROLLS 4:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 9:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 9:15 PM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 6:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:05 AM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:05 AM	ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 8:30 PM
		ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 10:15 PM
		ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 12:05 AM
FANAR-1	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	AL-KOUT3
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 1:00 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK 11:30 AM	BLEED FOR THIS 1:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 2:45 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE 2:00 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 1:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 4:30 PM	JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK 4:15 PM	FR 3:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 6:15 PM	FORCE 2 - Hindi 6:45 PM	BLEED FOR THIS 6:15 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 8:00 PM	AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi 9:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM - 3D 8:45 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 9:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:30 AM	BLEED FOR THIS 11:30 PM
ATTEJ (Kuwaiti Film) 12:15 AM		
FANAR-2	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	AL-KOUT4
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D -4DX 12:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 12:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 3:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D -4DX 3:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 3:00 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 5:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D -4DX 5:45 PM (2D+3D+4DX)	GHOST COINS 5:45 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 8:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D -4DX 8:30 PM	GHOST COINS 7:45 PM
	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -3D -4DX 11:15 PM	GHOST COINS 9:45 PM
		FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 11:45 PM

SITUATION WANTED
M.Com 15 years experience in independently handling accounts of medium sized companies up to finalization familiar with computerized accounting systems at present working in Hospital seeking suitable position. Mobile: 66019422 (C 5230) 21-11-2016

Purchase Manager experience 20 years from Jordan, seeking job in one of the leading construction co. Contact: 99061637 (C 5235)

A Mechanical Engineer with over 6 years Kuwait work experience in Sales having Kuwait driving license, looking for senior sales engineer job. Contact: Subhas 94039171 (C 5236) 20-11-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pedro Domingo Dias s/o Domingo Dias holder of Indian Passport No. G3441110 and Civil ID No. 268113001912 has changed my name Pedru Domingo Diasy to Pedro Domingo Dias herein after in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Pedro Domingo Dias. (C 5233) 18-11-2016

I, NAZEEMA MOHAMMED holder of Indian Passport No. L-4904837 and Civil ID No. 278022005597 has changed my name from NAZEEMA MOHAMMED to NASIMUNNISA hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of NASIMUNNISA. (C 5234) 17-11-2016

FOR RENT (JABRIA)
Super Deluxe Flat For Family (2 BR + 2 Bathrooms)
 Tel: 98575263

FOR RENT
Big floor 4 room, 1 master and maid room With bathroom - 2 sallon - big balcony Separate entrance - shadow car park Al-Suhada - Area 2
 TEL: 50830720

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:54
Shorook	06:16
Duhr:	11:34
Asr:	14:31
Maghrib:	16:51
Isha:	18:11

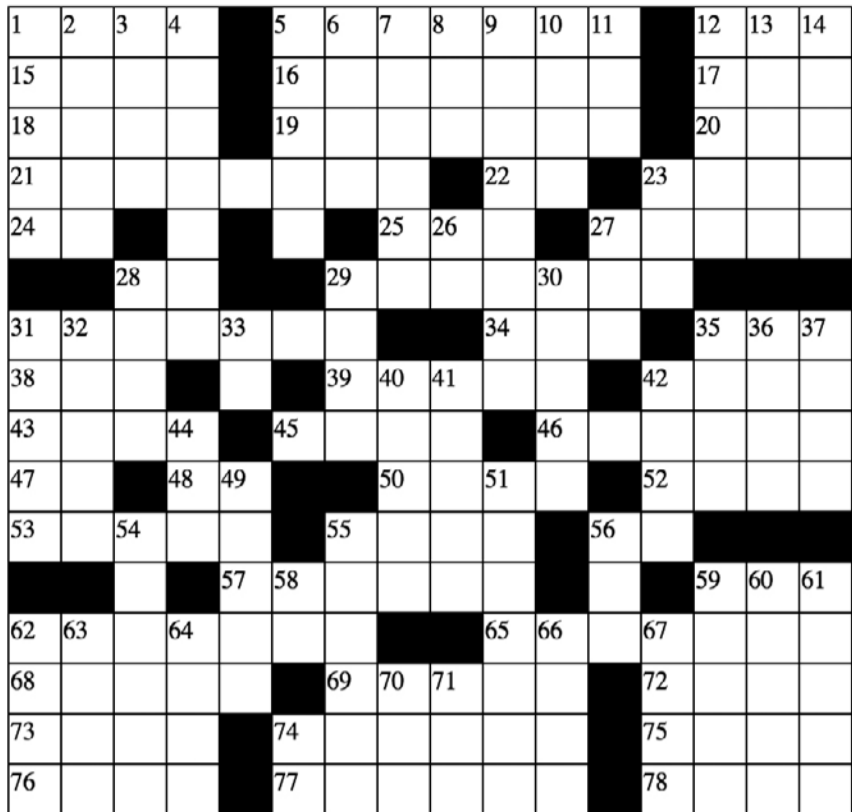
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)



DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 21/11/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 21/11/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	221	Bahrain	14:40
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	102	London	00:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	RJA	640	Amman	16:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	502	Beirut	18:45
KAC	302	Bahrain	08:20	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	KAC	620	Doha	19:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KNE	381	Taif	19:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	166	Rome	19:55
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	174	Munich	20:45
KAC	618	Doha	11:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	FDB	5053	Dubai	21:00
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
QTR	8513	Doha	13:25	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	13:55	JZR	241	Amman	22:45
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	KAC	164	Paris	22:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	BBC	143	Dhaka	23:55
				KAC	162	Geneva	23:55

CROSSWORD 1437



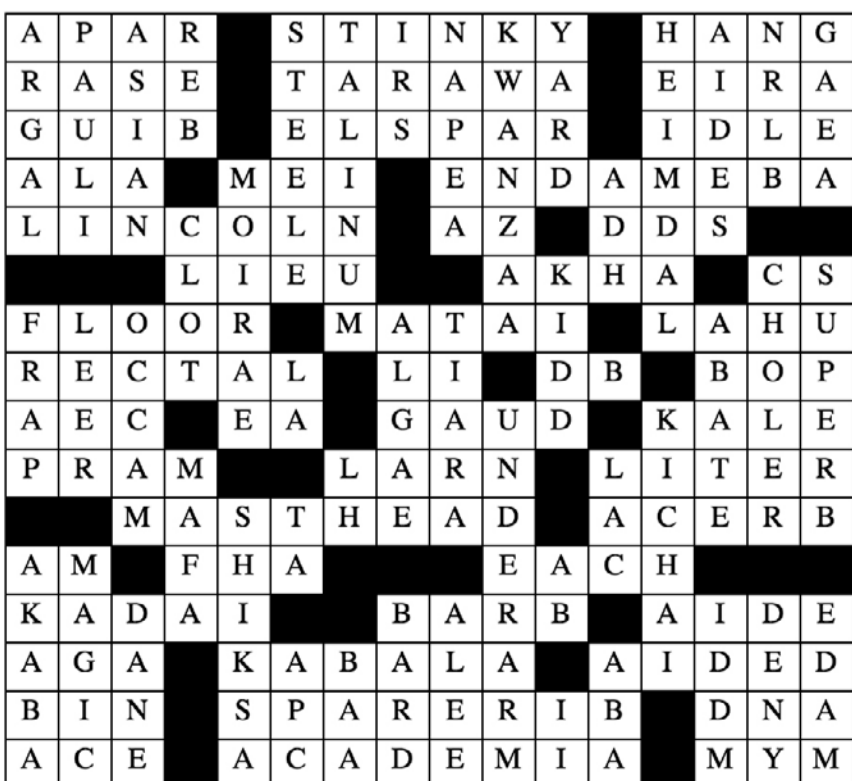
ACROSS

1. A bachelor's degree in music.
5. An androgen (trade names Durabolin or Kabolin) that is used to treat testosterone deficiency or breast cancer or osteoporosis.
12. Floor covering consisting of a piece of thick heavy fabric (usually with nap or pile).
15. Channel into a new direction.
16. Having or showing profound knowledge.
17. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
18. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
19. Molding in the form of a ring.
20. Any triangular fore-and-aft sail (set forward of the foremast) v 1.
21. Plant cultivated for its enlarged fleshy turnip-shaped edible stem.
22. A unit of luminous flux equal to the amount of light given out through a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source of 1 candela intensity radiating uniformly in all directions.
24. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
25. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
31. Artifact consisting of soft or resilient material used to fill or give shape or protect or add comfort.
34. Fiddler crabs.
38. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
39. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
43. Fallow deer.
45. A master's degree in library science.
46. City in northern Austria on the Danube.
47. An honorary degree in science.
48. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
50. Wearing or provided with clothing.
52. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
53. Yellow-fever mosquitos.
57. Highly seasoned fatty sausage of pork and beef usually dried.
62. Estimation of the amount of lumber in a log.
65. Normal relaxed breathing.
68. Marine microorganism having a calcareous shell with openings where pseudopods protrude.
69. The time of life between the ages of 12 and 20.
72. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
73. Weapons considered collectively.
75. Tough protective covering of the woody stems and roots of trees and other woody plants.
76. A Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Christ.
77. A ballplayer who is batting.
78. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.

DOWN

3. Goddess of fate.
4. (biology) Having or growing on or from a peduncle or stalk.
5. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
6. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
7. A painful swelling of the bursa of the first joint of the big toe.
8. Not divisible by two.
9. An imaginary land inhabited by tiny people (in Swift's Gulliver's Travels).
10. A distinct part that can be specified separately in a group of things that could be enumerated on a list.
11. Remaining after all deductions.
12. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
13. Bearded reddish sheep of southern Asia.
14. The vertical triangular wall between the sloping ends of gable roof.
23. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
26. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
27. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
29. A city in northern India.
30. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
32. Lower in esteem.
33. Being nine more than ninety.
35. United States feminist and suffragist (1793-1880).
36. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
37. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
40. Genus of erect herbs of the Middle East having showy flowers.
41. Muslims collectively and their civilization.
42. A rounded projection or protuberance.
44. (informal) Of the highest quality.
49. State in northeastern India.
51. (psychology) An urge to accept or approach a situation or an object.
54. Basic principles of the cosmos.
55. Any of various orchids of the genus Bletia having pseudo-bulbs and erect leafless racemes of large purple or pink flowers.
56. An ester of adenosine that is converted to ATP for energy storage.
58. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
59. Steadfast in allegiance or duty.
60. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
61. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
63. Solid swollen underground bulb-shaped stem or stem base and serving as a reproductive structure.
64. A girl or young woman who is unmarried.
66. A person who makes use of a thing.
67. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
70. A newt in its terrestrial stage of development.
71. Take in solid food.
74. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Put your mind to work and take care of any details or chores around the house that you may have left undone for another day. Problems and obstacles that have previously been difficult should find easy explanation. Your inner resources and emotions are accented. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. This afternoon you will take care of important communications. Answer an rsvp; speak out about something in which you believe. Getting close and opening up to friends can be most therapeutic at this time. This afternoon you may become involved in some trivia game. While the whole family is together, you may decide that now is the best time to talk about party plans for the next holiday. Preparation is a plus.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have an appreciation for responsibilities this day and will carry out your fair share of the work on the home front. There is a feeling of being at peace and stable on the emotional level. You are learning some valuable tools to having better relationships. Remember that the frustrations you may experience from time to time are opportunities to use your new problem-solving techniques. Stability satisfies a deep emotional need. There could be insight regarding your support system-your mother or other females may be included in this. You could discover a young person that opens up to you today, perhaps with a young people's volunteer group. Visiting with friends this evening promotes happy times and future memories.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Some of the issues that come to your attention now are in making peace with the past and coming to terms with any karmic debts you may have accrued in this life. Some might suggest a backward walk or a review of each day and then letting go of any negative thinking. Mother nature might appreciate it if all people would look backward into how they care for the land, and make positive changes. Learning how you take care of the planet you will once again move through each day with renewed appreciation filling your life. Whatever we do has a ripple effect on our lives for good or bad for some time to come. Take care and encourage others to do the same. Someone you know may be asking your advice on legal matters tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are most persuasive with others and a communication attempt with a difficult person is successful. Your patience with the elderly is commendable and you may decide to choose some form of volunteer work or take on a business for yourself that includes the care or service for the elderly-making their life easier. There are good opportunities for you to work outside this afternoon. Perhaps you will be applying some mulch or some other product that will protect your garden this winter. Visiting with neighbors or young people this afternoon provides you with a stage for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself serving or guiding a friend in important matters this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This morning you are ready, willing and able to be the speaker in a religious meeting. You are charming, witty and know just what to say when it comes to the question and answer period. The energies later today lend themselves to lecturing, traveling and study. You explore many social opportunities that will help to highlight or bring attention to your teachings. Participating in groups and organizations and accepting all types of invitations will bring you wonderful rewards in the future. Remain optimistic about a relationship. You have a lot in common with each other, making it fun to be together. Marriage can also be in the works once you consider some change or plans that could be important. You remain the center of attention all day long.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are a good friend and you enjoy being with your friends in an inspiring environment this morning. You have insight into your emotions and you can talk about your feelings with great understanding. You may find that today you are most imaginative, at least when it comes to ideas and thoughts. Music is an important aspect of this day as well. You may discover a new method of expressing yourself in some creative endeavor. This could be in the way you draw or paint or you could create a new melody or poem. Whatever you choose to create, today can be successful and enjoyable for you and others. This is a day that should find everything running smoothly.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You enjoy visiting with friends and playing a guessing game that includes the question of what might happen if you had a different life. If we ever want things to be different, we can change our life situation in most cases. The better questions are how to include talents and skills into everyday life and in what ways to be of service to your fellow man. All good and responsible choices can be yours for the taking at this time. Success is nearby for you. Almost anything you become involved with calls for patience and perseverance. Now is a good time to show your appreciation to others and perhaps correspond to family members out of town in order to keep in touch. Give yourself credit for your many accomplishments and enjoy the evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This Sunday you may decide to begin a project around your living area. This is something you have looked forward to for a long time. A birthday is the best motivation to action in the direction of your goals. It is easy for you to come up with brilliant ideas that will speed you along in the progress of your goals. Interest in religion or mysticism is strong. Trust your intuition today. This is one of your better days and a day of psychic insights! Consider writing out a plan for reaching your goals as well as some of those psychic insights you have gleaned recently. It might be interesting to keep writing those out-of-the-ordinary insights. You enjoy any celebration that takes place today. Expect the unexpected.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Difficulties from the past seem to clear up quite nicely. Where others have tried to sway you into another way of thinking, you can now reply and respond with the love, warmth and understanding that were always yours. You may gain some ideas of ways in which you could earn extra money or go into a business for yourself. Real estate may be a subject you become particularly interested in these days. Your own growth and success may be linked to questions of security-home and family, in particular. This may be a time during which you can get ahead by finding your limits. Be very careful with the words you use when you are around children today-they will notice the words or concepts and may not understand the meaning.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A favorite hobby or skill takes priority this morning and may occupy your mind until you eat your next meal. Your many interests may include reading, trains, dolls, model building, miniatures, etc. There may be an opportunity to attend an art show later this afternoon, perhaps a public showing of collections and hobbies. You will enjoy being with some of your friends that have the same sort of hobby interest as you. Working with hobbies is a wonderful way to get to know someone better. A common interest in spiritual values among family members may occur as well. You happily involve yourself in many conversations with great people today.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your circle of friends is forward moving and upward climbing and while you enjoy the ride-along, there are times when you just need to hang out on a more peaceful level with slower-paced friends. This is the general pattern of the day. Gathering and exchanging information with friends and family becomes a more important part of your Sunday life. Neighbors or siblings have a big impact on your goals and make a big impression. A friend of yours, the wild and crazy one, would love to drag you off for the afternoon. You could make arrangements. Be sure to take some suntan lotion if you are to be outside for long, no matter the season. The sun is still something of a problem to your skin type. This is a mentally and socially active time; enjoy.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You exhibit the ability to focus and make spiritual ideas a practical matter, bringing them down to everyday life. You have great discipline when it comes to working with spirituality and unity-whatever binds or links all of us together. You would be able to teach and show others these realms. You may be teaching a religious class to a group of young people this morning. Later today you may find that a friend's ideas need adjusting and you seem to be able to help the friend create a smooth adjustment-almost undetected. You are not afraid to get into the most interesting situations-you always come up with the essence of the matter at hand. You enjoy playing with some computer games. Lighthearted stories are shared this evening.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Dogs

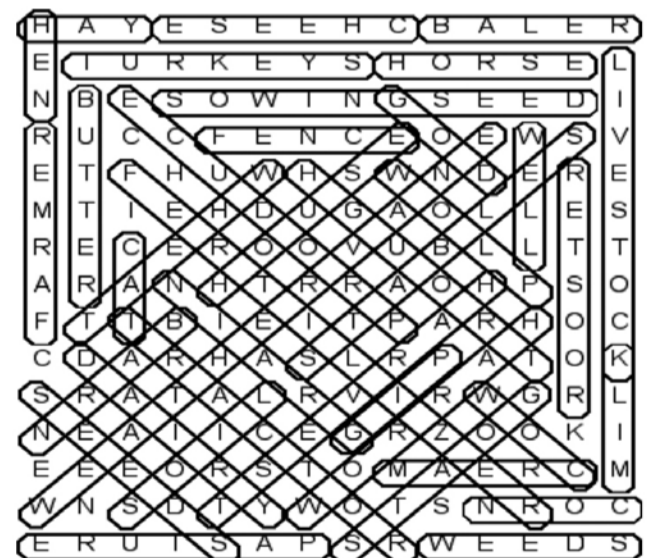
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 44 letters spell an Ogden Nash quotation.



- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| BASSET HOUND | DACHSHUND | MASTIFF | SAMOYED |
| BEAGLE | DALMATIAN | PEKINGESE | SCHNAUZER |
| BLOODHOUND | DEERHOUND | PINSCHER | SETTER |
| BOXER | DINGO | POINTER | SHAR PEI |
| BULLDOG | GERMAN SHEPHERD | POMERANIAN | SHEEPDOG |
| CHIHUAHUA | GREAT DANE | POODLE | SPITZ |
| CHOW CHOW | GREYHOUND | PUG | TERRIER |
| COCKER SPANIEL | HUSKY | RETRIEVER | WHIPPET |
| COLLIE | LHASA APSO | ROTTWEILER | |
| CORGI | MALAMUTE | SAINT BERNARD | |

Yesterday's Solution

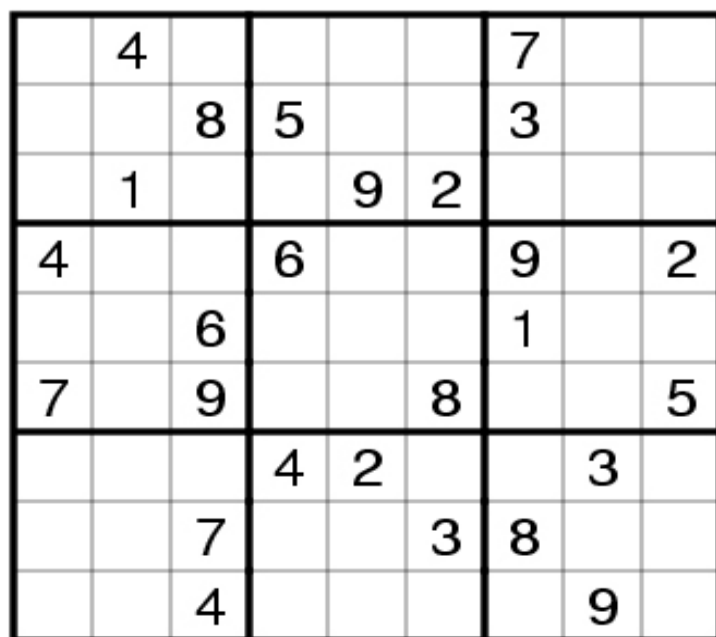
Farm



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

The hidden message is: CHICKENS

Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 20/11/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 27 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h
By Night : Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h

SFC. CHART

Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy	sunny	partly cloudy	partly cloudy + scattered rain later on that might be thundery at times
Min Temp °C	14	13	13	14
Max Temp °C	26	26	25	24
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly to light variable	variable	north easterly becoming south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	06 - 26	06 - 22	15 - 40

Warnings & Weather Watches
no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	MAX °C
KUWAIT CITY	18	27
KUWAIT AIRPORT	15	27
ABDULY	13	27
BUBYAN	12	27
JAHRA	15	28
FALAKA ISLAND	16	27
SALMIYAH	18	25
AHMADI	17	26
JAL ALIYAH	13	26
QAROH ISLAND	21	26
UMH AL-MARADEM	21	25
NUWAISIB	14	28
WAFRA	15	28
MANAGISH	12	26
SALMY	11	25
MUTRIBA	11	28

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	27
Min Temp (°C)	15
Max Rel Hum (%)	83
Min Rel Hum (%)	12
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise 06:16
Sunset 16:52

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:54
Sunrise	06:16
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:52
Isha	18:11

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons	Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444	Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222	Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700	Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171	Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999	Family Doctor	Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700	Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223	Psychiatrists	Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100	Dr. Musesad Faraj Khamees 22666288
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282	Rheumatologists:
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0	Dermatology	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660	Dr. Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581	Dentists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478	Dr. Verginia s. Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321	Dr. Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581	DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996	Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539	Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daary 25731988	Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166	Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272	Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444	Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426	Dr. Salem soso 22618787	Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557	Head, Division of Cardiology
General Practitioners	General Surgeons	Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash 22525888	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123	Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044	Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312	Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148	Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111	Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem 23926920	Internists, Chest & Heart	Neurologists	MD, PH.D, FACC
Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465	Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939	Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324	Inaya German Medical Center
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadab 25655528	Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875	Te: 2575077
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781	Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004	Gastrologists	Fax: 25723123
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafae 25333501	Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515	Dr. Sami Aman 22636464	
Urologists	Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446	Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534	Dr. Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali 22633135	
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Handler has blasted Jolie again

The chat show host - who is a good friend of Brad Pitt's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston - previously branded Angelina, 41, a lunatic and has now called his divorce from the star an "emancipation". Introducing Angelina's divorce lawyer and her own good friend, Laura Wasser, at a charity event in Los Angeles this week, Chelsea said: "[Laura's] very dynamic, she's very principled and she's a very accomplished human being. And she's such a humanitarian, she's actually currently negotiating Brad Pitt's emancipation." TMZ obtained a video of Chelsea making the comments at the A Place Called Home gala. After Angelina filed for divorce from Brad, 52, in September, Chelsea said: "There are reports that part of the problem was Brad was allegedly drinking and smoking too much weed. I wonder why he needed to self-medicate. Maybe because he could have been spending the last 12 years at Lake Como hanging out with George Clooney and Matt Damon, instead of being stuck in a house with 85 kids speaking 15 different languages? "Oh yeah, because he married a lunatic, that's why!" Chelsea, 41, also went on to joke that she would celebrate the impending divorce by getting married. She said: "Brad and Angelina always said they wouldn't get married until everyone could get married. And I always said I wouldn't get married until they got divorced. So I'm officially accepting proposals! I'm ready!" But we should all respect their privacy during this very difficult time. So, this will be the last time I speak of this... on TV. You can follow me on Twitter." And in 2010, she called her a "homewrecker", saying: "She's a homewrecker, she is. She can rescue as many babies from as many countries as she wants to, I don't believe you."

Kanye West axes gig after just 30 mins

Kanye West stormed off stage just 30 minutes into his concert in Sacramento, California on Saturday. The controversial rapper performed just a few songs before going on an extended rant where he took aim at Beyonce, Jay Z, Hillary Clinton, Facebook and the radio industry and leaving the stage. He said: "Beyonce I was hurt, I went down for seven years on your behalf. I put my career, my life, my public well-standing at risk. This is a moment in the matrix. I heard you said you wouldn't perform unless you won Video of the Year over me and over 'Hotline Bling'. In my opinion, now don't go dissing Beyonce, she's great. Taylor Swift is great. We are all great people. But sometimes we be playing the politics too much and forget who we are - just to win." At the risk of my own success. I've been sent here, at the risk of my own life, at the risk of my own career, to give ya'll the truth. "Jay Z, call me. I know you got killas. Please don't send them at my head. Just call me - talk to me like a man." Just days after endorsing US president-elect Donald Trump, he also blasted his defeated rival Clinton, saying: "This Saint Pablo tour is the most relevant (thing) happening. If your old ass keeps following old models, you'll be Hillary Clinton." Fans were already upset when Kanye took to the stage an hour and a half late for the show on his 'Saint Pablo' world tour and they were left infuriated by his rant and decision to cut the gig short.



Kylie celebrates Tyga's birthday with racy picture

Kylie Jenner celebrated Tyga's birthday with a racy picture of them together. The 19-year-old reality TV star took to Instagram to share a topless picture of herself as she straddled the 27-year-old rapper and she captioned it, "happy birthday baby". She added another picture of them both in a similar pose and wrote: "Irreplaceable." Last week Kylie and Tyga's son King Cairo, four, threw the rapper an early surprise birthday party and she shared a number of videos on Instagram. One video showed King Cairo standing on the kitchen table surrounded by balloons, whilst the lip kit mogul held onto his waist for safety. As Tyga walked in the door,

they started to sing him 'Happy Birthday', leaving the 'Rack City' hitmaker completely stunned. Another featured Kylie handing Tyga a painted ornament of the word "dad", made by the youngster. Tyga said to his son in the video: "Aw thank you man! Gimme a high five, gimme a high five!" King Cairo instead went in for a cuddle, before being picked up by his dad. And Kylie spared no expense on the wide spread of food that was laid out for the 'Ayo' rapper, making sure to include some of his favorite items such as fried chicken, and two separate cakes. The rest of the night was spent playing around with Tyga's son - whom he shares from his previous relationship to Blac Chyna, who is now engaged to Kylie's half-brother Rob Kardashian - as one video captured the boy in a fabric tunnel toy, giggling and screaming as his dad went to catch him. Tippi Hedren has no sense of taste or smell. The 'Birds' actress has little interest or enjoyment in meals because there is no pleasure in it for her after suffering damage in a fall over a decade ago. She admitted: "I have no sense of taste or smell anymore, so I don't care about food. I had two falls and hit my head in the same place, which affected my olfactory nerves. It was over 10 years ago. "[I love chocolate] but that's because I loved chocolate before." And the 86-year-old actress admitted her condition can be "dangerous" so she's had all the gas-fuelled appliances removed from her home because she'd be unable to realize if there was a leak. She added: "It's dangerous having no smell though because I can't smell smoke. I've had all the gas appliances taken out of the house." Though some stars have spoken of their desire not to have their children follow in their footsteps, Tippi is overjoyed both her daughter Melanie Griffith and granddaughter Dakota Johnson have pursued the same career path. Being interviewed by her famous granddaughter for Britain's Vogue magazine, she said: "I think it's fabulous that you and Melanie are actors. I didn't suggest it to her, she just came home one day and said, 'Mum, I'm going to be in a movie.'" Dakota added: "I grew up on sets. I thought, this is their job, this is what my job will be." But the 'Marnie' star didn't always want to be an actress. She said: "I wanted to be a figure skater - there are 10,000 lakes in Minnesota - but my parents didn't have enough money to send me to classes. I used to watch my friends' lessons then go out to one of the little lakes in our neighborhood and practice."



Prince William admits fatherhood struggles

Prince William admits he has struggled with fatherhood. The 34-year-old royal - who has children Prince George, three and 18-month-old Princess Charlotte with his wife Duchess Catherine - admitted that there are "wonderful highs and lows" to being a dad. Speaking on English-language show 'Talk Vietnam' during a two-day visit to the country, he said: "It's been quite a change for me personally. I'm very lucky in the support I have from Catherine, she's an amazing mother and a fantastic wife. "I've struggled at times. The alteration from being a single, independent man to going into marriage and then having children is life-changing. "I adore my children very much, and I've learned a lot about myself and about family just from having my own children." Speaking about his children, he called George "a right little rascal", adding, "he keeps me on my toes but he's a sweet boy". And when asked about Charlotte, he said: "Bearing in mind I haven't had a sister, so having a daughter is a very different dynamic. So I'm learning about having a daughter, having a girl in the family." He went on to add: "I would like [my kids] to grow up with simple aspirations. I think there's a lot of huge aspirations and people living with an enormous amount of stuff that they don't necessarily need. "The materialism of the world - I find quite tricky sometimes. "I would like George and Charlotte to grow up being a little bit more simple in their approach and their outlook, and just looking after those around them and treating others as they would like to be treated themselves."



Scooter Braun's grandmother has died

The heartbroken 35-year-old talent manager - whose clients include Justin Bieber and Usher - took to Instagram on yesterday to share a touching tribute to the woman he refers to as "Ma". He wrote: "I don't know where to start. This morning the world lost one of the great ones. There was no one like her. No one. She loved regardless of all the hate she witnessed in her life. She made everyone smile and she gave and gave and never asked for anything but love in return. The world needed people like Ma more than ever right now. I won't ever let her be forgotten. I will keep my promise. Yael and I promise our children will know her. I was so blessed to call myself your grandson. I love you Ma. Thank you. I will miss you so much. I'm afraid to stop typing because I just don't want to admit you are gone. For all the lives touched by this hero you know you are better for it." But Scooter also revealed there was happiness amidst the tragedy as just three hours after his grandmother died, his brother Adam and wife Tehillah welcomed twins. He added: "Like I said she was one of the greats...and in only Ma form 3 hours after she left us my brother Adam and his wife Tehillah brought their twins into the world. Classic...Ma always gave us twice as much as we expected. It is fitting. It just seems to make sense. I will miss you Ma. But I won't forget you. Give a kiss to Apu for me. I love you. We love you. I will talk to you soon. I am so thankful for all that you taught me. Goodnight Ma. #thegreatest (sic)." Scooter and his own wife Yael Cohen welcomed their first child, son Jagger Joseph Braun, into the world in February 2015 and are expecting a second baby together.



Susan Boyle wants a baby

The 55-year-old singer admitted she would love to adopt a child but is worried that her beloved cat might get jealous. She told the Sunday Mirror: "I would love to adopt a child but my cat might get jealous. I don't want to see a cat and a baby fighting. It's something I might do later." Susan - who recently over two stone - also revealed that she is still in touch with the mystery doctor she met while touring America, even though their romantic relationship is not serious. She said: "I don't want to reveal the doctor's name. It's nothing serious at the moment. I will send him a picture of my weight loss - if he's a good boy! I do enjoy male companionship." The star has a new album, 'It's A Wonderful World', but has not performed live in some time and is unsure when she will take to the stage again. She said: "I haven't performed live because I've been ill. The short answer is that it has been connected to my Asperger's syndrome. "When you sing, you put on a persona. I hide behind that person on stage. You can feel like death, but you have to put it on. The audience wants to see someone smiley. "There are no firm dates for another tour. I'm taking baby steps. I've decided to record and see how it does first. "Do a little at a time. Record, see how it does. Then build it up from there. When you have been ill, it's a bit like a house. You rebuild the floor first."



Cheryl: 'I don't care what people think about me'

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini no longer "care what people think of her. The 33-year-old singer says getting older has left her less concerned about other people and she is happier than ever after divorcing her second husband Jean-Bernard Fernandez-Versini. She told The Sun on Sunday's Fabulous magazine: "The good thing about being in your 30s is that you know yourself better. I learned to be less apologetic and not care about what people say. I think you just focus on what is right for you and you learn to trust your own instincts and follow them. "I've been through difficult stages and you never know what's going to hit you in life. You just don't have a clue. But I'd tell myself: 'You will get through things. You do. You just get through it and you keep going.' It has been claimed that Cheryl is pregnant with her first child with boyfriend Liam Payne, 23, and although she has refused to confirm the speculation, she admitted she is in a good place in her life right now. She said: "I know you can tell exactly what is going on with me. My eyes give everything away. I can't ever hide my emotions, and it's great that you can see I'm really happy." Meanwhile, Cheryl also insisted she hasn't ruled out having plastic surgery in the future but doesn't feel the need for it right now. She said: "Ask me when I'm in my 40s. I don't think there's anything wrong with it, if that's what you want. I think women should do what they want to do. I love Madonna. I love the way she wears what she wants. I'd like to think if I'm 60 and I want to break out a leotard, I still would!"



Hidden Bergman 'masterpiece' to hit Swedish movie screens

Discovered in Ingmar Bergman's archive, a previously unknown manuscript about sexual and social revolution in the 1960s is to be turned into a movie, nearly a decade after the Swedish director's death. "Sixty-four minutes with Rebecka," written by the legendary filmmaker when he was aged 51, was found in 2002 when Bergman donated his work to an institute in his name, shelved among thousands of letters, completed screenplays and photographs. "Finding an unknown but finished Ingmar Bergman screenplay would be the equivalent of finding a manuscript by Hemingway or if not Shakespeare," Jan Holmberg, head of the Ingmar Bergman Foundation, told AFP.

Known for broaching issues of death, loneliness and religious self-doubt, Bergman portrays the main character Rebecka as an emotionally alienated teacher of deaf mutes, seeking sexual and political liberation during the tumultuous 1960s. "This is the mature artist at his very best, making one of his masterpieces," Holmberg said. The married Rebecka visits a sex club while she is pregnant and decides to leave her forgiving husband in the hand-written

script, which touches on gay relationships, desire, guilt and mental suffering.

Bergman, who was an introverted and conservative filmmaker, portrays the era's frenetic sexual and social revolution in the script, which was originally meant to be a movie collaboration between Bergman, Federico Fellini and Akira Kurosawa, a trio of directing giants.

Hollywood blow

Fellini had contacted Bergman in 1962 to ask if the Swedish director would be interested in filming a joint movie series with Kurosawa, who years later dropped out for unknown reasons, according to Holmberg. In 1968, Bergman and Fellini signed a Hollywood contract to turn the script into a joint motion picture, but when the Italian screenwriter did not keep his part of the agreement, Bergman was offered to direct the film by himself. Suffering a major blow to profits because of the emergence and dominance of television in the 1960s, the US film industry began to diversify, drawing inspiration from European cinema.



This file photo shows the Ingmar Bergman archives located at the Film House in Stockholm. — AFP

Holmberg said several letters sent back and forth between Bergman and movie executives indicated "an increasingly irritated atmosphere, where the movie companies suddenly wanted the film to be longer than what had been thought earlier" to turn it into a TV series. He noted

that the script has "many daring sex scenes, homosexuality and violent sexuality... which would never have been shown on American TV in the 60s". — AFP



Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem

Cruz, Bardem to star in Iranian director Farhadi's new film

Oscar-winning Spanish actors Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem will star in a new film set in Spain by Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, Cruz said in an interview published yesterday. Farhadi, who won the foreign-language Oscar in 2012 for "A Separation" about a middle-class couple's divorce, is currently finishing the original screenplay for the movie, she told Barcelona newspaper La Vanguardia. "The idea is to film in Spain, we still don't know where. It is an intense drama which is a gift for actors. And it is a luxury to work for the director of 'A Separation', which is wonderful," the 42-year-old actress said.

The plot of the movie, which remains mostly under wraps, revolves around a family of winemakers living in rural Spain. Shooting is expected to begin next year. Cruz and Bardem, who were married in the Bahamas in 2010, are currently working on "Escobar", a movie about Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar. Bardem plays Escobar and Cruz plays his lover, journalist Virginia Vallejo, in their first film together since the 2008 Woody Allen romantic comedy "Vicky Cristina Barcelona". — AFP

Cruz said it was "incredible" that the couple have the chance to work together once again in Farhadi's new film. "No one planned it. And we are not going to work together in everything, but if things come up (for both of us) and they make sense, why not?" Cruz won a supporting-actress Oscar for her role in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona". Bardem, 47, won a supporting-actor Oscar for the 2007 crime thriller "No Country for Old Men". The couple first met while filming "Jamon, Jamon" in 1992, one of Cruz's first films. — AFP

Shirley Caesar isn't cooking 'beans, greens' at Thanksgiving

Shirley Caesar won't be cooking "beans, greens, potatoes, tomatoes" at Thanksgiving this year. The legendary gospel singer, who is enjoying viral success with a remix of one of her sermon-songs featuring a line referencing food items, says she's not cooking this year during the US holiday. "I ain't cooking nothing," 79-year-old Caesar said with a laugh in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Friday. "Absolutely zilch."

The Grammy-winning singer has become a hot topic online after her song, the 9-minute "Hold My Mule," was recreated with a new addictive beat. On the song, Caesar tells the story of "Shouting John," who is told he is too loud and cannot dance in church because of his excitement. But Caesar later sings in a live version of the song that John fires back, explaining that God created this land and he's been blessed with "beans, greens, potatoes, tomatoes, lambs, rams, hogs, dogs, chicken, turkeys, rabbits. You name it!"

In the new alteration of her song, the viral clip includes the question, "Grandma, what are you cooking for Thanksgiving?" The response is a video of Caesar singing the line "beans, greens..." as well as videos of various people

dancing happily. "I was excited. I'm just grateful that I've been chosen, that the Lord is blessing me like this," Caesar said. "This is a mind-boggling thing for me. Who would have thought that something like that would have gone viral?"

The online video being used of Caesar is a few years old, from when she performed the track live; she said she originally recorded the song in 1988. Caesar's singing the words "you name it" sparked the #UNameItChallenge online, which features people doing dances to the song. Chris Brown and other celebrities have participated, though Caesar said she's not enjoying all of the videos. "There's those where they have women showing their rumps, their butts ... I think they call it twerking ... I want them to know that I see it as a sign of disrespect because I'm a pastor, I'm a gospel singer and I love the Lord," she said. "I'm shocked they would do that." — AP

In this Nov 9, 2008, file photo, Dr Shirley Caesar-Williams prays for President-elect Barack Obama during a church service at Mt Calvary Word of God Church in Raleigh, NC. — AP



This image released by the Cohen Film Collection shows Alva Rogers as Eula Peasant, from left, Trula Hoosier as Trula and Barbara-O as Yellow Mary Peasant in a scene from "Daughters of the Dust." — AP

Julie Dash's landmark 'Daughters of the Dust' is reborn

Julie Dash's 1991 film "Daughters of the Dust" was the first film directed by an African American woman to get a nationwide theatrical release. When it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, its director of photography, Arthur Jafa, won best cinematography. In 2004, it was added to the Library of Congress's National Film Registry. Rapturously lyrical, wholly original, it's been called "a landmark achievement" and "one of the most distinctive, original independent films of its time."

And yet Dash - though she has since made a number of noted shorts and television films - hasn't gotten another chance to direct a feature film. "I'm the poster child for if you make a film that's deeply authentic, you may be benched for many, many years," Dash, 64, said in a recent interview. "If you make a film that's more pop or trendy or fits into various tropes, people are more comfortable with you and your ideas. But that's not the reason we became filmmakers."

Dash never got the second shot she deserved, but "Daughters of the Dust" - widely cited as an inspiration to Beyonce's "Lemonade" - has only gained in esteem over the years. For its 25th anniversary, Cohen Media Group has digi-

tally restored the film. Beginning Friday with New York's Film Forum, the restored "Daughters of the Dust" is heading back into theaters. "It's perhaps not as much as a shock to the system as it was for some in '91, '92 when we were seeing a lot of African-American male urban films," said Dash, speaking by phone from Atlanta. "This was so very, very different from all that."

"Daughters of the Dust," set in 1902, is about the Gullah women of the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina. Their isolation from the mainland helped its people preserve much of their African heritage, culture and language. Dash was partly inspired by writers like Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and Melville Jean Herskovits, whose "The Myth of a Negro Past" detailed the deep cultural roots that African-American slaves carried with them. In "Daughters of the Dust," some are preparing for the post-Civil War migration north. It's a moment of both loss and new beginning, rendered emotionally and poetically by Dash, a Queens native who grew up seeing foreign films at the Studio Museum of Harlem. — AP

Alibaba, 'Harry Potter' producer to make 'Warriors' movie

The film unit of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba and the British "Harry Potter" producer David Heyman announced yesterday that they will make a fantasy movie "Warriors" based on a book series about warring cats. The live action film with computer-generated cats is based on the British books for young adults about clans of wild cats, with themes including adventure, forbidden love and good versus evil. The series has a fan following in countries including China, and the film is intended for worldwide audiences.

Heyman, an independent film producer behind "Paddington" and "Gravity," said he sought out Alibaba when he was in China almost two years ago on a trip to promote "Paddington," British creativity and British-Chinese cultural exchange. "This is becoming the largest market in the world so you are looking to understand that market," he said at a news conference at the British Embassy in Beijing. "It's hard to get a film made today, I've had some success but every time you start a film you start a new business, so I'm always looking for people over the world." — AP



British "Harry Potter" producer David Heyman gives his autographs for fans during an event at the British Embassy in Beijing yesterday. — AP



Argentinian composer, musician and singer Andres Calamaro performs as part of his tour "Licencia para Matar" in Medellin, Colombia on Saturday. — AFP

Debate over 'Hamilton' speech exposes post-election cracks

President-elect Donald Trump demanded an apology from the cast of the Broadway musical "Hamilton" a day after an actor in the hit show delivered a pointed message about diversity to his running mate who was in attendance. The speech aimed at Mike Pence prompted angry responses from liberals and conservatives alike - underscoring yet again the fractious aftermath of the 2016 election. The bitter back-and-forth came after the vice president-elect caught Friday night's performance of "Hamilton" with his nephew and daughter. A mixture of boos and cheers could be heard inside the theater as

Pence took his seat. When the show ended, Pence was asked by a cast member to hear a prepared speech after the curtain call from the multiracial and multicultural cast, saying it is concerned about the Trump administration.

"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," said Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays Aaron Burr, the nation's third vice president, as his fellow actors joined hands. "We truly hope that this show has inspired you to uphold our American values

and to work on behalf of all of us."

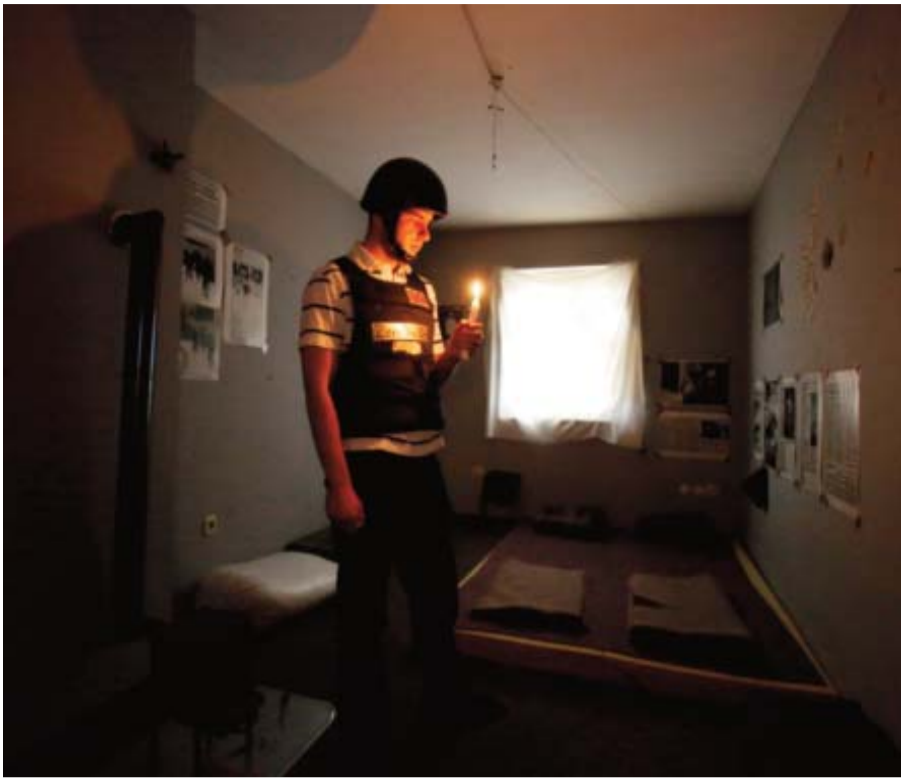
The unusual address quickly went viral and Trump on Saturday tweeted that it was "very rude," arguing that Pence was "harassed" and theater "must always be a safe and special place." He urged the cast to apologize. Dixon responded on Twitter that "conversation is not harassment sir" and added that he appreciated Pence stopping to listen. Pence had ducked out before Dixon finished the unprecedented message but heard the full remarks from the hallway outside the auditorium. — AP



In this image made from a video provided by Hamilton LLC, actor Brandon Victor Dixon who plays Aaron Burr, the nation's third vice president, in "Hamilton" speaks from the stage after the curtain call in New York, Friday. — AP photos



People line-up to see the Broadway play "Hamilton," Saturday in New York.



Bosnian Arian Kurbasic, the owner of the War Hostel in Sarajevo stands with a lit candle in his hand in one of the sparsely furnished hostel rooms.—AP photos



Bosnian Arian Kurbasic, left talks with his guests, Andrew Burns from the US, center, and Eren Bastaymaz from Turkey in the hostel's common room.

A hostel in Sarajevo offers guests a taste of life in war



"Welcome to Sarajevo" graffiti is seen on a bullet-raked wall of the War Hostel in Sarajevo that offers visitors a unique opportunity to live like civilians in a war zone.



Bosnian Arian Kurbasic, left, talks to one of his guests, Andrew Burns from the US, in the replica of an underground wood bunker built in the hostel basement.

A hostel in Bosnia is offering visitors a unique experience: the opportunity to live like civilians in a war zone. But at the Sarajevo War Hostel, guests have the luxury of knowing they won't be killed, starved or lose family or friends. And unlike the Sarajevoans who actually endured the 1992-95 war, the visitors can leave any time. Those who check in to the War Hostel are greeted by the owner wearing a helmet and a flak jacket. They get to sleep in rooms with just one bulb on the ceiling, running on a car battery. The plastic sheets on the windows are just like the ones the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees handed out to Sarajevoans so they could replace window glass shattered by bombs.

At night, they use candles to move around the hostel and to read by. The walls are plastered with wartime newspaper articles - most of them from The Associated Press - depicting the daily struggle in besieged Sarajevo. At the War Hostel, visitors quickly discover it is one thing to watch people surviving wars on TV. But it is really something else to spend the night on a sponge mattress on the floor, covered with military blankets, and in the darkness listen to the sound of exploding bombs outside. A tape of the bombs plays all night long.

In a makeshift bunker and by candlelight, the hostel owner, Zero One, 25, shares with guests his childhood memories of wartime and the postwar era, and tells them how wars can influence people's lives forever. His birth name is Arijan Kurbasic, but he calls himself Zero One, the wartime code name used by his father, who was a soldier in the Bosnian Army. The code name conceals his ethnic background. "I just want to be identified as a human being as this was the most important thing to be during the war. Either you are one or you are not," he explained. "Zero One I chose to honor my father."

The war unfolded after Yugoslavia fell apart and its republics declared independence one after the other. Nationalist politicians were determined to divide the new country of Bosnia and Herzegovina along ethnic lines and

pitted the country's Muslim Bosniaks, Roman Catholic Croats and Christian Orthodox Serbs against each other. However, Sarajevo, as well as other parts of Bosnia, were ethnically diverse and many locals rejected the nationalist plans - for which they paid a high price.

The Serb siege of Sarajevo went on for 46 months - precisely 1,425 days - longer than the siege of Leningrad, now St Petersburg, during World War II. Sarajevo's 380,000 people were left without food, electricity, water or heating, as they hid from snipers and the average 330 shells a day that smashed into the city. Over 100,000 people were killed during the Bosnian war, 11,541 of them in Sarajevo.

Hostel simulation

Guests appreciate the intensity of the hostel simulation. "The best way to learn about something is usually experience," said Andrew Burns, 21, a hostel guest from the US "It provides emotions behind events. I can read a textbook all I want, but most of that information escapes from the mind immediately. But when I come here and I see people who talk about their experiences, that makes it real, that makes me want to learn about it, to try to help, try to love." Zero One also offers guests a chance to watch documentaries about the siege, and can organize tours of the city's war sites, like the front lines and a tunnel Sarajevoans dug under the airport runway to connect the city with the outside world.

"They come here, they experience this and it changes their perspectives," Zero One says of his guests. "For one or two nights, to live like this, it changes their views and then they appreciate their own life, they appreciate water, they appreciate comfort, they appreciate a bed, they appreciate everything else. It really gives them a different perspective and that is the whole point of this." Guests agree that the War Hostel is "unique," as Eren Bastaymaz, 30, from Turkey, put it. "You can find better hostels anywhere in the world, but this atmosphere, I've never seen anything like this before."—AP



Bosnian Arian Kurbasic, center talks with his guests, Andrew Burns from the US, right, and Eren Bastaymaz from Turkey in the hostel's common room.

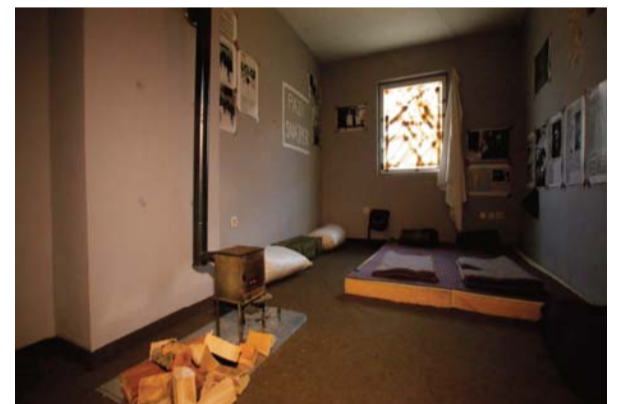


Photo shows one of the rooms in the War Hostel in Sarajevo.



Andrew Burns, a student from the US, inspects a mechanically powered light and radio in the War Hostel in Sarajevo.



Bosnian Arian Kurbasic, right, talks to one of the guests Andrew Burns of the US.



Bosnian Arian Kurbasic stands with a lit candle in his hand next to a wall of one of the hostel rooms.



This undated photo provided by Ember Technologies shows the Ember mug, holding 12 ounces of liquid.

Got a java head?

Some holiday gift ideas for coffee lovers

Coffee lovers can also be lovers of other things, clearly, but the true java head surely wouldn't scoff at a related holiday gift.

Some ideas:

Not your average to-go cup: A coffee lover AND a tech nerd's dream come true is rolled into the Ember coffee mug. Smart technology allows it to rapidly cool down your liquid to your desired temperature for up to two hours on the go or hours more when placed on its special coaster. Sleek, black design. Holds 12 ounces. The creation of entrepreneur and coffee lover Clayton Alexander and his Ember team. On pre-order in November. Embertech.com. \$149.95.

Little rocket ships: Speaking of technology, the 3D-printing loving folks at Shapeways.com offer the Rocket Espresso Cup. By designer Craig S. Kaplan, it's the little java ship that could in porcelain that's food, oven and dishwasher safe in a variety of colors, or in white plastic. Hey 1 percenters, you can get one of these printed up in platinum for \$150,000. For the rest of us, the plastic is \$40 and the porcelain versions \$33.17. Shapeways.com.

Coffee and espresso combo: Higher end and lower end combination machines are out there, so shop around if you're on a budget or have a truly dedicated coffee fanatic who's in search of

the ultimate pour but looking to combine. Some have steam wands and brew at the same time. Some are compact. Generally, they take up less space than two or more machines. Look to DeLonghi for some nice ones.

Pods with a purpose: Oakland Coffee, owned by Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong and Mike Dirnt, offers fairly traded organic beans packaged in plant-based rather than plastic bags. Oakland, based in Oakland, California, has partnered with San Francisco Bay Coffee Co. on fully compostable single-serve soft pods of arabica blends from small farms in Peru and Honduras. The pods contain no plastic. A 10-count costs \$12.99 on Amazon but are currently out of stock. Worth waiting for. Details at Oaklandcoffee.com.

It's about the grind: Fancy automatic coffee grinders can make the taste and are abundant, but they can be pricey. Treat your java lover but do your research. Not looking to break your bank and got a DIY-er? Go for a manual grinder. There are plenty, including the Hario Skerton Ceramic Coffee Grinder available at Williams-Sonoma.com for \$49.95. It promises burrs that easily adjust to produce a range of grind sizes, from super fine espresso to coarse for French press brewing. And it looks cool.—AP



This undated photo provided by Craig S Kaplan shows the Rocket Espresso Cup, designed by Craig S Kaplan and available at Shapeways.com. —AP photos



This undated photo provided by Oakland Coffee Works shows a soft, single-serve coffee pod from Oakland Coffee Works that is fully compostable.



A guinea pig santa costume and a small pet habitat are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Pet Holiday Pie Slice dog treats and Merry Meals dog food are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Pendleton collection bedding, leashes, and coats are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Pet Holiday Ballistic dog toys are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Tinkerbell the Dog models a Martha Stewart Pets scarf sweater and a Santa hat during the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Glass bird feeders are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Chloe Kardoggian, a 12-year old rescue chihuahua, models a guinea pig elf costume during the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Pet Holiday cat toys are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.

Pets are people too

Remember that come gift time

Pets are people, too - at least when it comes to holiday gifts. More than half of dog owners and nearly 40 percent of cat owners buy their pets gifts for Christmas or Hanukkah, according to the American Pet Products Association, an industry trade group. Potentially, that's 39 million dogs and 32 million cats on holiday lists this year, the group reports. And don't forget all those pet aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends, let alone pleasing favorite pet parents and all-around animal enthusiasts with human gifts just for them.

Some ideas:

Pet toys: Flatties, some that squeak, are always popular, said Mardi Larson, a spokeswoman for the retail chain PetSmart. And they can be cheap. For the holidays, PetSmart has some with Christmas motifs, like a bright green dinosaur in a Santa cap. "Pets just love to destroy their toys. Flatties are safe because they have no stuffing," Larson said. You can't go wrong with balls. Lots of balls. Or go for durable toys in sturdy nylon or rope. Consider safety in such things as sewn-on doodads or other swallowable bits.

Pet beds & bedding: Face it, a pet's bed is part of home decor. You might as well find one that looks reasonably good as a gift. Choose one with a holiday theme for an added festive feel. For a classic or rustic look, PetSmart.com's exclusive Pendleton collection includes beds in autumn colors or rainbow stripes. The company also has combination gift sets that come with a dog bed, cozy blanket and bone toy for about \$20. Petplay.com will donate 20 percent of any pet bed purchased in November to support Movember and the fight against prostate cancer. That includes beds adorned with bright yellow mustaches. Oprah chose as one of her Favorite Things of 2016 the Charles Fradin Home Customizable Pet Blanket. It's a 60-by-54, micro-fleece printed with an original hand-drawn image of said pet, for \$395. Head to Amazon.

For humans: Gift your animal-loving human a paw pendant, or head to one of the sites that will customize using a pet's actual paw, including 4pawsforever.org. At Uncommongoods.com, there's a woman who will make you a pendant from a mold of your pet's nose. Look for other customizables there, including pet portraits and pillows that look like your dog. There are kits available for your pet lover to make a paw print mold to turn into a tree ornament or garden stone. How about a throw? PetSmart has a red one selling strong emblazoned with: "I Just Want to Drink Wine & Pet My Dog." \$29.99. At Originalterritory.com, there's a 30-by-40 fleece that reads: "Naps are Better with a Dog." \$19.99. Friendshipcollar.com if just that: A matching collar for pet and bracelet for the human. In a range of designs. \$25 and \$35.

Clothes: For the pets. Widely available.

Because, equality, PetSmart sells tiny Santa and elf looks for Guinea pigs, complete with pointy hats. They've also got a Santa with snorkel and goggles for a fish tank, in place of fish attire. Look around for one that amuses or fits your pet gift recipient's personality.

Cats & dogs etc: How about a holiday scratcher, a la the one that looks like a Christmas tree or the one that looks like a sleigh at PetSmart. Lots of these things exist so don't sweat it. There's one scratcher shaped like a DJ's turntable that really spins. It's adorned with stickers of cat smiley faces, paw prints, photos of fish-shaped cat treats, and faux band stickers, including "Run DOG." Flat pack cardboard. No glue necessary for assembly. \$35. Widely available from a company called Suck UK. Search for DJ Cat Scratching Pad.

Holiday stockings are a thing for pets, including one filled with cat balls that comes with a purple feather toy that's part of the company's holiday collection. Another for dogs from PetSmart says: "Bones, Bones and more Bones!" There are plenty of little sweaters and collars that are gifty, too, at just about any place that sells pet stuff. You don't have to spend a lot.

Wildlife lovers

The World Wildlife Fund lets you select two mugs featuring Morten Koldby images of species the nonprofit is working to protect: The tiger, snow leopard, rhino and bison. Choose two different animals or a matching set of the same animal. Each mug holds 12.5 ounces. They're a thank you for a donation of \$55. Go to WWFcatalog.org. Colorful and frameable wildlife photographs are widely available. Hunt around for a favored species and spring for a nice frame.

Or pick up a box of animal-theme note cards. Also widely available. While you're at it, the U.S. Postal Service has Forever 47-cent pet stamps in a book of 20 with photographs by Eric Isselee. Puppies, beta fish, iguanas, mice, hermit crabs, chinchillas, corn snakes and, yes, dogs and cats are among them. Wildlife stamps are also out there.

Pet treats

Giftly boxed-up collections that look like human food fit right into the humanization of pets trend building over the years, said PetSmart's Larson. Her company carries treats that look like cannolis and macaroons, along with a bag of treats in the shape of lumps of coal, from Bocce's Bakery. Organic. \$4.49.

Outwardhound.com sells a cheery plastic doggie slot machine that will dispense kibble when a dog pulls down a front compartment. \$24.99.—AP



Pet gifts are displayed in a doggie gift bucket containing a Harry Barker fabric doggie bone, a rubber chewy toy and doggie cheese puffs are among holiday pet gifts selected by Oprah Winfrey at the headquarters of "O, The Oprah Magazine," in New York.



Chloe Kardoggian, a 12-year old rescue chihuahua, poses for a photo with Santa wearing a guinea pig elf costume during the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York. —AP photos



Pet Holiday Bark Beer dog toys are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Photo Bocce's Bakery Lumps of Coal and other dog treats are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Photo Burt's Bees brand grooming products are on display at the PetSmart holiday collection preview in New York.



Young dancers strike pose in his "Thobas" costume made from recycled materials, during the Folkloric Dance For A Cleaner World Festival, at the Great Britain public school, in El Alto, Bolivia, Saturday. Participating students and their parents were asked to create the folklore outfits out of recycled materials. The aim of the festival was to raise awareness among the students regarding solid-waste management.—AP

Eco-friendly ways to save leftovers

Holiday meals tend to mean lots of leftovers; either we make enough for an army, or the army we expected didn't materialize. If you're worried about the environmental impact of that king-size roll of plastic wrap or that stack of disposable plastic tubs, here are some alternatives:



This undated photo provided by Bee's Wrap, shows the company's eco-friendly alternative to plastic wrap.—AP photos



This undated photo provided by Bee's Wrap, shows the company's eco-friendly alternative to plastic wrap.

Glass jars, stainless steel

"The key to storing leftovers in an eco-friendly way is to use - and reuse - what you already own," says Madeleine Somerville of Edmonton, Alberta, author of "All You Need Is Less: The Eco-Friendly Guide to Guilt-Free Green Living and Stress-Free Simplicity" (Viva, 2015). "Making use of (jars and containers) that you already have will almost always beat out buying something new," she says. "Don't worry about not having a perfect, Instagram-worthy fridge or freezer. As your old containers break, get lost or wear out, then you can begin investing in glass or stainless steel options."

Soups, stews, smoothies, frozen fruits and vegetables all work well decanted and stored in glass jars; just leave 1/4 of the jar empty for expansion. And while a glass container with a snap-lock lid isn't 100 percent plastic-free, it does a good job keeping turkey and other meats and leftovers fresh, and can be used indefinitely.

Williams-Sonoma stocks a variety of glass Mason or Weck canning jars. Check out Fishes Eddy's jar collection, embellished with strawberries, flowers, bees or polka dots. Mighty Nest stocks Duralex's tempered-glass storage containers, which can go from fridge or freezer to microwave or oven. The lids are free of phthalates, BPA, PVC and lead. They've got sturdy stainless steel containers, too. Boston Warehouse has a stoneware collection that can be used for cooking as well as storage. Pieces have modern geometric prints on them, and vented lids. Check out Corelle's enamel steel storage collection, in a variety of prints and patterns, ready to go from fridge to table.

New alternatives

Bee's Wrap, invented by Bristol, Vermont, mom and gardener Sarah Kaeck, is a beeswax, jojoba oil and resin-coated organic cloth that can be used to cover bowls or to wrap breads. It comes in several sizes and warms to a pleasing malleability when handled. The wraps last about a year, and can be cleaned with cool water.

And if you find it hard to relinquish zippered plastic bags, consider Bio Bags. They're made of plant starch, so when you've eaten up the leftovers you can compost the bag.

Freeze it

Kris Bordessa, who writes a blog called Attainable Sustainable, suggests: "When it's time to clean up after dinner, we often have small amounts of vegetables or sauces left in the pan. Not quite enough for a leftover lunch, but enough that I don't want to waste it."

She collects those odds and ends in containers in the freezer. When she makes soups, she reaches for one of those jars. The trick, she notes, is not to mix incompatible flavors.

She also freezes small quantities in muffin tins. Once the food's frozen solid, she wraps it in wax paper and foil to store.

HGTV's Scott McGillivray also utilizes his freezer: "I use a lot of fresh herbs from my garden while cooking for Thanksgiving, so I cut up the leftovers and freeze them in olive oil in ice cube trays. You can toss the frozen cubes in a sauce pan or frying pan for a future meal and you're good to go."

He also uses ice-cube trays for leftover wine. "In the unlikely event you actually have wine left over, you can freeze it and use it to enhance your next dish."—AP



Bag Productions Inc.
Tittenhurst Park,
Ascot, Berkshire,
Ascot 23022

Dear Linda and Paul,

I was reading your letter and wondering what middle aged cranky Beatle fan wrote it. I resisted looking at the last page to find out - I kept thinking who is it - Queenie? Stuart's mother? - Clive Epstein's wife? - Alan Williams? - What the hell - it's Linda!

You really think the press are beneath me/you? Do you think that? Who do you think we/you are? The self-indulgent - doesn't realize who he is hurting? bit - I hope you realize

This image provided by RR Auction, of Boston, shows the top of the first page of a two-page typed draft with handwritten annotations from John Lennon to Paul and Linda McCartney, written shortly after the Beatles' breakup.—AP photos

Lennon's Beatles breakup letter sold at auction for \$30,000

An angry letter from John Lennon to Paul and Linda McCartney written shortly after the Beatles' breakup has been sold at auction for nearly \$30,000. The two-page typed draft, with handwritten annotations by Lennon, was sold Thursday by Boston-based RR Auction. RR says the letter is believed to have been written in 1971 in response to criticism Lennon received from Linda McCartney about his decision

to not publicly announce his departure from the band. The profanity-filled and sometimes rambling letter reads: "Do you really think most of today's art came about because of the Beatles? I don't believe you're that insane - Paul - do you believe that? When you stop believing it you might wake up!" The letter was sold to a collector in Dallas who requested anonymity.—AP



In this 1971 file photo, former Beatles singer and guitarist Paul McCartney arrives with his wife, Linda, at function in London.