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 Saadoun Al-Otaibi	 Thamer Al-Dhafiri	 Mubarak Al-Hajraf	 Hamdan Al-Azmi	 Hamoud Al-Khudair
 Mohammad Al-Hadiya	 Abdullah Al-Roumi	 Khalil Al-Saleh	 Jamaan Al-Harbash	 Yousef Al-Fadhlah
 Abdulkareem Al-Kandari	 Mohammad Hayef	 Saad Khanfour	 Al-Humaidhi Al-Subaei	 Talal Al-Sahli
 Adel Al-Damkhi	 Saleh Ashour	 Hamad Al-Harshani	 Mohammad Al-Mutair	 Safaa Al-Hashim
 Mohammad Al-Dallal	 Mohammad Al-Dallal	 Shuaib Al-Muwaizri	 Abdullah Al-Enezi	 Faisal Al-Kandari
 Majed Al-Mutairi	 Mubarak Al-Harees	 Osama Al-Shaheen	 Khalaf Dumaitheer	 Rakan Al-Nasef
 Waleed Al-Tabtabaei	 Khalil Abul	 Ali Al-Deqbasi	 Askar Al-Enezi	 Khaled Al-Otaibi
 Nayef Merdas	 Khaled Al-Shatti	 Salah Khorsheed	 Oudal Al-Ruwai	 Omar Al-Tabtabaei
 Mohammad Al-Jabri	 Ahmad Al-Fadhli	 Saud Al-Shuwaier	 Faraj Al-Arbeed	 Nasser Al-Dossari
 Mohammad Al-Huwailah				

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition groups and individuals made an impressive showing in the National Assembly elections by winning almost half of the 50 seats, with Kuwaiti voters dealing a heavy blow to the previous Assembly that failed to stop the government from raising petrol prices. The Islamist, nationalist and liberal opposition, which returned to the polls after a four-year boycott, won at least 15 seats, with between seven and 10 seats won by its allies.

This will enable the opposition to grill ministers and vote them out of office, which will considerably boost its power in the next Assembly. Islamists make the backbone of the opposition, with the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), the local arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, bagging four seats and a few supporters.

They include Jamaan Al-Harbash, Osama Al-Shaheen and Mohammad Al-Dallal. Salafist Islamists also won four seats, including veteran former MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Mohammad Hayef and Nayef Merdas.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables to state senior officials and government bodies, voicing appreciation for the efforts they lavished to provide favorable conditions for the National Assembly elections to make it easy for voters to cast their votes. HH the Amir lauded the huge turnout by citizens and their positive response to their national duty and responsibility, as well as the spirit of cooperation that dominated the scene between candidates and the electorate. The Amir voiced deep thanks to members of the higher judiciary commission for their efforts in supervising the elections. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also

sent similar cables.

The voting saw a heavy turnout with unofficial figures putting the turnout at least at 70 percent, much higher than the previous two elections boycotted by the opposition. Kuwaiti voters severely punished the dissolved Assembly members, with only 20 of the 50 members re-elected. They included former speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and former MPs Adnan Abdulsamad and Saleh Ashour.

Twenty-two members of the dissolved house failed in their re-election bid, while eight others did not run in the polls. Two of three former ministers - Ali Al-Omair (public works) and Yacoub Al-Sane (justice and Islamic affairs) were not reelected, but former minister of communications Essa Al-Kandari won easily. People are upset from the previous Assembly for approving a large number of unpopular laws and for failing to prevent the

government from raising the prices of petrol and other services.

But the opposition's win raises fears that the country will return to political crises like before the 2013 era. Opposition candidates have raised a number of key issues as their priorities. These include a pledge to prevent the government from applying austerity measures against Kuwaiti citizens and a promise to settle the controversial issue of revoking citizenships. They also vowed to amend or completely change a number of highly oppressive legislations like the DNA test law, imposing controls on the Internet and others.

The election passed without any incident and without allegations of rigging or deliberate errors. The Shiite minority was reduced to just six MPs from nine in the previous Assembly. They won only four seats in their main stronghold in the first electoral district.



(Left) Former National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem celebrates with supporters in Abdullah Al-Salem following his victory in the parliamentary elections early today. (Center) Former MP Safaa Al-Hashem celebrates in Adailiya. (Right) Former MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei celebrates in Kaifan. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



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Kuwaiti women flash their passports as they arrive to cast their votes at a polling station.



KUWAIT: Officials count votes after polling stations closed their doors yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A Kuwaiti policewoman bodychecks a woman voter as she arrives to cast her vote at a polling station.

VOTERS OPTIMISTIC NEW PARLIAMENT WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The first hours at the polling stations for the 2016 parliamentary elections yesterday saw a moderate turnout of all age groups. Senior citizens were seen casting their ballots in the first hours of the day in all main and sub-committees compared with previous elections.

In Salwa in the first constituency, Mansour Al-Mansour, a 56-year-old retiree, voted for former opposition MP Adel Al-Damkhi, who he believes will win. "I always participate in the elections - my whole family is voting. I feel this is a national responsibility and I want to vote for an MP who will present a good performance. I was disappointed with the performance of the previous parliament, but I'm optimistic that the new parliament will be more productive, which will improve the situation in the country," he told Kuwait Times.

Many candidates have agents representing them in committees at polling stations

to monitor the voting process. Talal Al-Hamadi is an agent of candidate Roudhan Al-Roudhan at the Rawda polling station in the third constituency. "Voter turnout has been great - they are coming since morning. We expect more voters to come in the evening. According to a survey we did, our candidate is leading here in Rawda, and is in fifth place overall in our constituency. I'm sure he will win," he pointed out.

Mahmoud Al-Khalif from Egypt is a judge at the main committee in Rawda, and this is his first experience here in Kuwait. "I have been judging elections in Egypt for the past 30 years. Compared to Egypt, the elections here in Kuwait are much more organized. I'm glad to work on these elections, and the voters are disciplined and cooperative. We haven't faced any problems, and the majority of voters till now have been younger people," he stated.

Mohammed Al-Jaber, a 30-year-old employee at the ministry of awqaf, said he

was voting for the first time. "I voted for former MP Ali Al-Omair, as I believe he was productive and had achievements for the benefit for our country. I wasn't satisfied with the performance of the previous Assembly, so I decided to vote this time, hoping for a better parliament. I feel that Omair will win, and I hope he will resolve some of the problems we face," he said. Female voters at the Adailiya polling station were unwilling to speak to Kuwait Times.

The number of ballot papers voters use to mark the name of their candidate is the same as the number of registered voters. "There are no spare or additional ballot papers, so each voter can only use one paper. If he makes a mistake, he won't get another one and can tell the judging committee about his case. But we haven't faced any such cases yet. After the voter receives his ballot paper, we stamp his citizenship document," explained judge Hani Al-Hamdan at the main committee in Khaldiya in the third constituency.



A Kuwaiti woman writes on her ballot paper before casting her vote for the parliamentary elections at a polling station yesterday.



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis head to the polls to choose parliamentary representatives, in Kuwait City, yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and AP

CANDIDATES WHO CARE FOR PEOPLE WILL WIN: VOTERS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Several citizens from the fourth constituency expressed confidence that candidates who care for the people will win, adding they expect a good number of opposition MPs to be victorious, with a 70 percent turnover in the constituency. They said some tribal candidates have a good chance to win, and they intend to defend citizens and their issues that were ignored in the past. They said the most important issues that interest them include revocation of nationalities, housing, education and bedoons.

Fahd Al-Dhafiri, who works for the social affairs and labor ministry, said housing is very important and must be tackled strongly, because most youth are suffering because of it. He added bedoons' rights have been ignored "although they have been living among us for more than 50 years", and the upcoming Assembly should serve them justice.

Hind Al-Harbi, who works for the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) as an engineer, said projects like roads and bridges should be built quickly to avoid problems. She urged the coming Assembly to pay attention to issues that concern citizens. She said new residential areas need planning that is parallel to the construction

activity to avoid burdening the old roads network. Meanwhile, in the fifth constituency, several young voters expressed optimism about electing the best among the candidates among men, but said it was difficult for women to succeed in this constituency. They said there is a heavy presence of tribes in this area, especially the Awazem, from whom a good number of candidates are expected to win. Their concerns include nationality withdrawals, housing, health and education.

Meanwhile, a judge in the fourth district cancelled the vote of a man because he is mentally disabled and did not know whom he wanted to vote for. He had arrived at the polling station with his brother. Another vote of a woman was scrapped after she attempted to photograph her ballot paper by phone. On the other hand, the education ministry warned school administrations not to celebrate if a candidate who is a relative of one of the employees wins. The ministry asked administrations not to get involved in such matters and concentrate on educational affairs.

Development

Social Affairs and Labor Minister Hind Al-Subaih lauded security efforts to ease the voting

process after she cast her vote at Yousuf bin Essa School in Abdullah Al-Salem in the second constituency. She hoped the coming Assembly will concentrate on development and work together for the sake of Kuwait. Meanwhile, Dr Fayeza Al-Kharafi, voting in the same school, asked voters to vote for competent candidates, adding "we should elect 50 candidates who work for the country's development and tackle issues such as housing and education and stay away from conflicts and disputes".

The interior ministry's relations and security information director general Brig Adel Al-Hashash said 15,000 security personnel are participating in securing the elections. Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malik Al-Sabah toured several election committees in various areas of the governorate. He said he is satisfied with the election process and optimistic about its success.

Meanwhile, State Minister of Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah said Kuwait is witnessing a highly-organized democratic festival, which means the society wants to participate and make its voice heard. "We in the government hope that we succeed in organizing the voting process through coordination by various departments," he said.



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is seen inside a polling center yesterday.

GOVERNORS URGED VOTERS TO ELECT CANDIDATES TO SERVE NATION BEST

KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday urged voters to choose the candidates who can best represent them at the National Assembly. People's choice of the 'best' representatives is likely to support development in the country, as well as contributing to the implementation of the Fourth Structuring Plan 2040, Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled said in a press statement.

He added that the new parliament would play a significant role in order to realize these expectations. The Governor congratulated the Kuwaiti political leadership on the "democratic celebrations", that crown the march of one of the oldest and well-established democracies in the region.

He also highly appreciated the efforts by the ministries and other state bodies involved in the process to guarantee smooth elections, the Interior Ministry and the Ministries of Information, Justice, Education, and Health, besides the Kuwait Municipality and the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD). According to Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled, Ahmadi officials made sure that all the requirements of the 'aspired electoral process' were provided.

Meanwhile, Al-Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah had an inspection tour in several polling centers in the governorate. In a press statement, Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud expressed satisfaction over the pace of the elections that proceeded so easily and smoothly. He commended the integration of roles by all the parties involved in the process, representatives of state bodies, as well as the voters, males and females.

Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud also expressed optimism that the elections would be crowned with calm and suc-

cess amid a climate of honest competition, integrity and transparency. The Governor urged the voters to choose nominees capable of meeting requirements of the future stage.

Participation in the elections and voting is a national duty, to carry on with the democratic march in Kuwait, the country of freedoms, law and constitution, Faisal Al-Humoud said. He wished success for all those who can best serve the nation.

Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer retired General Ahmad Abdullatif Al-Rejabb reiterated the importance of taking part in this democratic process for the best interest of the homeland. Speaking during his tour to a number of polling stations for the parliamentary elections 2016, he praised cooperation between voters and candidates with the judges and security personnel as well as their adherence to instructions in this regard. Rejabb also hailed efforts exerted by the interior ministry for the well preparations to ensure smooth electoral process. In the meantime, Capital Governor Lt Gen Thabet Al-Muhanna said that Kuwait's longtime democracy is among the oldest in Arab region, proving success over the years. Muhanna made the statement during a tour that included a host of polling stations in the various areas of the governorate where voters cast their votes in the National Assembly (parliament) elections for the 15th Legislative Term.

He said that the huge turnout reiterates the strong sense of responsibility of the Kuwaiti people and their keenness to elect the candidates who can best fulfill expectations of the nation. The Governor highly appreciated the efforts exerted by the various ministries and other government bodies to secure a smooth election process. — KUNA



A disabled Kuwaiti man is helped to the polls.



Kuwaiti men wait outside a polling station.

VOTERS BRAVE THE COLD TO ELECT NEW PARLIAMENT

KUWAIT: Amid the notable drop in temperature in Kuwait and rain showers, atmosphere of competition for the 2016 National Assembly elections yesterday, added a distinctive and warm atmosphere which blended in with the colors of candidates' slogans. Voters were

eager in the early hours to wear heavy clothing where candidates erected fixed and mobile umbrellas amid expectations for more rain later in the day. Kuwait's sky saw intermittent clouds accompanied by scattered showers in several areas. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti women show their passports as they arrive at a polling station to cast their votes for the parliamentary elections yesterday.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti men supporting a candidate chat outside a polling station. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: A close up shot shows the hand of a Kuwaiti man casting his vote for the parliamentary elections at a polling station.

INFLATION, HOUSING AND STABILITY TOP VOTERS' CONCERNS

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis of both genders, older and younger, headed to the polls yesterday to select a new 50-member parliament. Issues like inflation, housing, the rise of sectarianism and tribalism were main concerns for voters.

Wafaa' Al-Khala, a retired citizen living in Shaab, told Kuwait Times that she is optimistic about the new parliament. "As a Kuwaiti people, we are suffering from the high prices for almost everything, such as the rise of petrol prices and school fees. I hope they can reduce inflation and lower the costs of living, she said.

Hana Khaled Al-Sjari, 43, living in Al-Daiya, also decried inflation. She told Kuwait Times, "I hope that the MPs will care for bigger issues not just sectarian, tribal, and which party [grouping] they belong to. We must love Kuwait before anything else, and unite. Union is strength." She added that candidates must focus on local issues such as employment, housing, health care and education.

Political issues

Some voters focused on solely political concerns. Haya Al-Maqrour, a 32 citizen living in Shaab was unhappy with the single-vote system. "I work at the Parliament and I want to talk about the single-vote system which encourages sectarianism and tribalism. There are a lot of families fighting because one member voted for candidate x and another family member preferred candidate z. The vote is no longer based on the electoral program or the efficiency of the candidate, but based

on sectarian or family," Maqrour explained. "Because I work in the political mainstream, I was able to study the candidates before I voted. I'm optimistic that the new National Assembly will take collective action to make a clear agenda that goes along with Kuwait's interest." For her, wasta (connections) and corruption are also major concerns and she called on the newly-elected lawmakers to focus on this issue.

Engineer Ali Al-Farsi, 42, lives in West Mishref, said that his main concerns as a voter included the dearth of services and the structural problems in the education and health care sectors in Kuwait. For Um Hussain, a 50 year-old housewife from Rumathiyah, the main issue driving her vote was a matter of politics. She voted for former lawmaker who was "known for his actions". "He was the one who stood for the wronged ones," she said without giving any specific names. "We have a big issue that no one is talking about, and it is closed because of political reasons. There are innocent people in Kuwaiti prisons, the files of those people should be open and have a second chance in re-trial," she said.

Passing nationality

Hayfa Al-Mubark, who voted for the first time, called on the new elected parliament to work to change the law regarding women and passing nationality to their children.

"Kuwaiti women who are married to non-Kuwaitis suffer because they cannot pass nationality to their children. I hope the new parliament can make fairer laws to give our children the nationality of their

mother," she said. She also hopes that the parliament works on improving education and updating Kuwait's aging curriculum.

The parliamentary polls were originally scheduled for June 2017, the end of the four-year term of the parliament elected in July 2013. However, His Highness the Amir dissolved the parliament in October and, consequently, snap polls were scheduled for November 26. None of the parliaments elected in Kuwait since 2003 have managed to complete their four-year tenure, and there is a growing call from Kuwaiti citizens for more political stability so that challenges facing the country can be addressed more effectively.



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti woman looks for her name before casting her vote for the parliamentary elections at a polling station.

CHILDREN INTERACT WITH ELECTIONS ATMOSPHERE

KUWAIT: With their spontaneous and innocent actions, Kuwaiti children are seen racing among the masses of voters to distribute identification cards of their candidates outside the polling centers interacting with this democratic process. Children are seen in front of polling stations with cards carrying pictures of their candidates to distribute them to voters, being unaware of their candidates' affiliation nor their trends. —KUNA



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti child gives a thumbs up while holding a candidate's card outside a polling station yesterday.



KUWAIT: A child holds up a candidate's poster outside a polling station yesterday.—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti woman casts her vote in front of a picture of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at a polling station yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



This photo released by the Interior Ministry shows Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah touring a polling station yesterday.



Children greet Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as he arrives at a polling station yesterday.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah greets a voter.



A senior Kuwaiti citizen casts his vote in at polling station yesterday.

SUPREME LEADERSHIP KEEN ON SMOOTH POLLING PROCESS: INTERIOR MINISTER

MINISTRY WARNS AGAINST TAKING PHOTOS OF VOTING PAPERS

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah asserted yesterday that the supreme leadership represented by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Premier are very keen to have the ongoing parliamentary elections 2016 go in harmony with the civilized image and high status of the State of Kuwait regionally and internationally.

The parliamentary elections depict the positive interaction between the leadership and people and a live expression of the active participation of the people in shaping present and future of the country. This came in a statement by the minister while touring a number of polling stations along with Interior Undersecretary, special adviser of the deputy premier and interior minister and a number of senior interior ministry officials.

He said that the interior ministry has harnessed all its potentials to ensure that the elections proceed smoothly and at ease, saying that His Highness the Amir has directed that all facilities be furnished in order to facilitate transparent, secured and free elections.

The minister was briefed about the progress of voting and exchanged cordial talks with a number of voters in various polling stations. The voters expressed their satisfaction for the smooth polling process and the facilities rendered by the security authorities on the polling day.

No photos Meanwhile, Ministry of Interior warned voters not to take photos of the ballots after casting their votes, saying this is prohibited by the election law. According to the law, a violator can spend five years behind bars, and pay a fine of KD 5,000, the ministry's statement added.

Article 44 of Kuwait's Election Law provides for punishing violators in the case of using force or threatening to prevent voters from practicing their rights, or to vote for certain candidates, or refraining from balloting.

The same article provides for a penalty in case of vote buying, promoting false news about a candidate's behavior among voters, or going to the polling station with a device with the intention of taking photos of ballots to prove one has voted for a certain nominee. Also, one will be punished if he goes to the polling centers carrying a fire arm, according to Article 30 of the law. —KUNA

TWENTY-TWO FEMALE PROSECUTORS SUPERVISE ELECTIONS FOR 1ST TIME



KUWAIT: Some 22 female prosecutors took their seats yesterday at the main and sub-committees overseeing the 2016 parliamentary elections for the first time in the history of Kuwait. The female prosecutors shared the responsibilities along with their male peers to chair the electoral



committees for the parliamentary elections and supervise the process following the decision of the supreme judicial council which appointed the 22 female prosecutors, a step meant to indulge women in various spheres and highlight their status in the decision making. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah arrives at a polling station to inspect preparations to maintain a smooth election process. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ALL CAPABILITIES HARNESSSED FOR ELECTIONS: INFO MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday that the state's concerned bodies have taken all measures and plans to facilitate the electoral process for the National Assembly 2016, stressing that all facilities have been provided for voters in all constituencies.

Sheikh Salman stressed, in a statement to reporters on the sidelines of his inspection tour of Sayyid Mohammed Hassan Al-Moussawi school, keenness of the Ministry of Interior represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for providing all the services and facilitating all procedures for all voters to enable them to exercise their electoral right easily. He added that the electoral process is considered a 'democratic ceremony' and to show the world richness of the democratic process in Kuwait, stressing the keenness of the state to make this process a success.

He pointed to the role of the Information Ministry in providing all the technical and logistics services through the media campaign 'My Vote Is For My Country' as an expression of national values and disseminate the democratic awareness among young people. He explained that his ministry was transmitting the electoral process from the start of polling till results are out. He said the real turnout will be decided by the voters. —KUNA



A senior citizen holds up his passport as he arrives to cast his vote at a polling station yesterday.

ELDERLY VOTERS EARLY BIRDS AT POLLING STATIONS

KUWAIT: Various polling stations across the country yesterday witnessed an influx of senior citizens since opening of polls at 8:00 am local time. The senior citizens were very eager to come to the polling centers early compared with young voters. The senior citizens were assisted by various

transportation means and wheelchairs which were available at the polling centers. The election process began quiet at early hours of the day as delegates of the candidates outside the schools were eagerly receiving and distributing identification cards of their candidates to lure voters. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti men arrive to cast their votes for the parliamentary elections at a polling station in Kuwait City yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A Kuwaiti woman writes on her ballot paper before casting her vote for the parliamentary elections at a polling station yesterday.



A close up shot shows the hand of a Kuwaiti man casting his vote for the parliamentary elections at a polling station.

HIGH TURNOUT AS KUWAITIS VOTE AMID PRESSING ECONOMIC, SECURITY CHALLENGES

OPPOSITION'S RETURN ENERGIZED THE ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis went to the polls yesterday for the first election contested by the opposition in nearly four years amid fresh disputes over cuts in subsidies due to falling oil revenues. Turnout was high at many of the 100 polling stations with some centers reporting 70 percent of eligible voters had cast their ballots with two hours to go, according to state-run Kuwait Television. While Kuwait's two previous elections yielded poor turnout due to an opposition boycott, voters said they were encouraged by more candidates running this time around. "Their return is needed to strike a political balance in the country. They are more capable of monitoring the government actions," retired voter Ibrahim Al-Tulaihi said at a polling station south of Kuwait City.

"A wise opposition is needed because we don't want more political disputes," Jarrah Mohammad, a government employee, said after casting his ballot. Unusually for the oil-rich Gulf Arab states, Kuwait has an elected parliament with powers to hold ministers to account, even though senior members of the ruling Al-Sabah family hold all top cabinet posts.

The election comes against a backdrop of discontent among Kuwaiti citizens over mounting cutbacks in the cradle-to-grave welfare system they have long enjoyed as a slump in world oil prices hits government revenues.

Islamist candidate Hamad Al-Matar, a former MP, said he expected the opposition to win a majority in the 50-seat parliament and prevent the government from raising charges. "There will be no charges on citizens because we have no problem with finances. We have a problem with government management and corruption," Matar said. The opposition is fielding 30 candidates among a total of 293 hopefuls who include 14 women.

Women, who have had the right to vote in Kuwait since 2005, were already queuing outside polling stations when voting began at 8 am. "We want the next parliament to stop the government from hiking prices," said pensioner Maasouma Abdullah.

"We want the government to begin taxing the rich and pay great attention to the low-income sections," added Maha Khorshid, an education ministry employee. Opposition candidates campaigned heavily for economic and social reform and an end to what they charge is rampant corruption.

Bleak economic backdrop

The election also comes with Kuwait facing its most acute budget crisis in years. Oil income, which accounts for 95 percent of government revenues, has nosedived by 60 percent over the past two years. And the emirate has fewer alternatives than its Gulf neighbors, partly because of its elected legislature, analysts say.

"It has built an economic model completely funded by oil and natural gas revenue to support its workforce, but with its empowered parliament it has less flexibility than any other state in the region to abandon that model," US-based intelligence firm Stratfor said in a recent report. Kuwaiti citizens make up around 30 percent of the emirate's population of 4.4 million. A total of 483,000 are eligible to vote.

No motivation

But despite some positivity surrounding the elections especially after the opposition's end of boycott, there have been factors that undermined Kuwaitis' confidence that their votes will make much difference. "There is nothing that drives me to cast my vote," says Nasser al-Dawood, a 26-year old marketer. "We boycotted the previous elections for a number of reasons. Those reasons are still valid ... our participation will only give legitimacy to this cat-and-mouse game between cabinet and parliament."

Only a few of the 293 candidates running are seasoned politicians. Opposition members boycotted the last polls in December 2012 and many now have either retired from politics or belong to groups that are seen as fractured and ineffectual.

Slightly smaller than the US state of New Jersey and with only 1.4 million citizens, Kuwait has the world's sixth largest proven oil reserves and enjoyed more than 15 years of budget surpluses until the price of oil collapsed in 2014. Since then, the government has pushed through a program of economic reform that included reductions in subsidies on electricity, water and gasoline. It has also moved to trim massive public-sector labor costs.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pointed to "regional circumstances" and "security challenges" in his decision to dissolve parliament. Kuwait's northern neighbor, Iraq, is fighting to drive

Islamic State militants from the northern city of Mosul.

In June 2015, normally peaceful Kuwait was stunned when an Islamic State-claimed suicide bombing at a Shiite mosque in Kuwait City killed 27 people and wounded scores. In October of this year, an Egyptian who allegedly was an Islamic State supporter rammed a garbage truck into a vehicle carrying US soldiers, wounding only himself.

Those concerns have raised questions about Kuwait's future. Still, economic issues including a critical shortage of housing for citizens and the prospect of further belt-tightening are foremost in voters' minds.

New blood

Turnout had appeared to be low in the first few hours after polls opened, but picked up eventually as officials expected before polls closed. Many of the voters who cast their ballot after polls opened said they hoped the election would inject new blood into parliament.

"I hope we will have a better parliament than the previous one," said a 22-year-old Islamic Waqf Affairs ministry employee after she voted for the first time at a girls' school in the upper middle class al-Rawda district in southern Kuwait City.

"We want young men who can help turn Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub, and who can help give people their rights without the help of influential peo-

ple," said Amal Abul, 45, a department head at the education ministry.

Austerity measures

Campaigning has focused mainly on austerity measures adopted in the past year after officials forecast a deficit of 9.5 billion dinars (\$31 billion) for the 2016/17 fiscal year. The OPEC state relies on oil for about 90 percent of its revenues.

Although the deficit is likely to be smaller than forecast as it was based on an oil price of \$25 a barrel, many Kuwaitis fear the government will try to raise prices further and cut many of the perks they have enjoyed for decades, including free health care, education, subsidized basic products, free housing or land plots and interest-free loans to many citizens.

The cabinet has approved economic reforms, including increasing gasoline prices by as much as 80 percent. "The raising of fuel prices and electricity prices has severely hurt citizens," 23-year-old Abdallah, said after he cast his ballot at a public school in the upper middle class al-Rawda district in Kuwait City.

Amal al-Jarallah, a 50-year-old Education Department employee, said she wanted to see MPs try to improve health and education standards and help working mothers. Asked if she wanted to see women in parliament, she said: "If they are qualified, yes. But that is not an issue." — Agencies

شركة البترول الوطنية الكويتية
Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation
KNPC

AUCTION NO: WH-001/2016 SALE OF SCRAP/SURPLUS MATERIALS AT LOCAL MARKETING - SHUWAIKH

Kuwait National Petroleum Company announce the issuing of auction No.: WH-001/2016, and invite bids in sealed envelopes for the sale of Scrap/Surplus Materials at Local Marketing – Shuwaikh as per attached Brief Scope of Works.

Documents can be obtained from the Tendering Committee at Head Office, 1st Floor, Room # 1A-046 during the official working hours i.e. 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM against the official fee of KD. 10/- (non-returnable), starting from Sunday 27/11/2016

Note: Please arrange to provide us with an official letter from the Company authorizing their representative to collect the documents.

The dates of view and inspect the offered items will be on Wednesday, 07/12/2016 at 09:00 AM at Local Marketing -SHUWAIKH.

The last date of accepting the bids is 12:00 PM on Tuesday, 20/12/2016. A Bank Guarantee equivalent to 10% of the total offered value valid for 60 days will be attached with the bids and to be inserted in the ITC special box and offers shall be valid for 60 days from the bids opening date.

For enquiry and to obtain permission for the materials viewing, please contact / Team Leader Customer Management-GS, Tel. No: 23889020, Mobile No. : 99641576 and Fax No. 23887020 and E.mail ID. aos022@knpc.com

ITC Secretary

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HEALTH MINISTER AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO RULES OF OVERSEAS MEDICAL TREATMENT



Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi said the decisions on overseas medical treatment are bound to specific technical criteria and fall in the framework of a practical system. "Such decisions are made without interferences by a minister. I have decided to refer a number of medical offices to prosecution over reported irregularities in this regard," he said.

The minister made the comments in an interview with 'Ommah 2016' program on Al-Rai TV station on Friday night. The overseas medical treatment is one of a range of services being offered by the Ministry of Health since the ministry was founded long years

ago, he said. "Under this system, a patient can file a report on his/her medical condition to a four-member consultant committee who can decide on the need of overseas treatment. Their decision should be approved by director of the relevant hospital and then be tabled to undersecretary of the ministry for final endorsement," he explained.

Dr Obaidi affirmed that the office of the minister has nothing to do with such applications. He noted that all decisions made by the competent committees in the recent period were correct and away from any exceptions or nepotism.

"There are 55 such technical committees

with a total 275 consultants in hospitals across the country who are known for their integrity and sincerity and serve our fellow citizens pursuant to the provisions of the constitution," he went on. He noted that the doubts cast by some parliamentary hopefuls targeted certain members of such committee not the minister.

He added that the cost of overseas treatment amounted to KD 760 million, noting that the number of Kuwaiti patients being treated abroad topped 2,314, including 1,193 patients in the United States, 462 in the United Kingdom, 370 in Germany and 289 in France. —KUNA

Local spotlight

SALWA CRIMES



By Muna Al-Fazai

local@kuwaittimes.net

I love the Salwa area of Kuwait. It is a great location, close to the city, to shopping in Salmiya, family-friendly and accessible to all services. But there has been a growing rate of crime in the area and more attention needs to be paid to all that goes on there.

Hardly a day passes without the news of a murder, armed robbery, theft or trafficking in drugs and other crimes taking place. Some may claim that it is normal in modern societies. I don't think so because we are a small country and crimes, especially murders, are not something we should accept and simply get used to happening. Salwa was under the microscope this month for a massive increase in crime including cases of murder, drugs, domestic violence, theft, robbery, attacks on vehicles and much more. In one case, a 45-year-old citizen killed his 35-year-old wife, in front of her children, attacking her with a screwdriver and a hammer. The police arrested the man but the impact of this awful crime on the children will never disappear.

A week later another crime has set Salwa residents on edge. Three people were found dead including a member of the ruling family. All three had been tied up and gagged and then shot execution style. Everyone has begun to wonder why and worry over his family and personal safety.

Police acted fast and caught two suspects, two Iranians (it was originally reported that one was bedoon, but the Interior Ministry has confirmed the nationalities in its official statement to the press). According to the statement, the two men, one of whom was the cook for the sheikh, killed the three to steal KD 276,000. They planned to flee once the deed was done. Now they have been caught, and five lives were lost. But for the rest of people living in Salwa, the fear remains. The police and residents will need to work together to reverse the rising crime rate in Salwa and protect its good reputation.

I think that the overall prevalence of violence in the Arab world and the scene of terrorist groups like IS and other terrorist groups that spread in Syria and Iraq have a significant effect on the perpetrators of crimes because they do not feel remorse or hesitate to murder. The high number of crimes have a negative impact on social relations between individuals and spread of fear and anxiety. The Interior Ministry is doing its job now to uncover the causes of crime, but it is necessary to reconsider the reasons to eliminate the number of such crimes. What could be the reason for such crimes in this area? If there is a tip to all here, please make sure to lock all doors and windows at night and never leave any valuables such as credit cards or cash in your car for any reason. Don't be a prey to theft or criminals.

MINISTRY ARRESTS MURDERERS OF TWO KUWAITIS, INDONESIAN

KUWAIT: The General Administration of Criminal Investigation managed to arrest, in less than 24 hours, those responsible for the murder of the two Kuwaiti nationals, including a ruling family member, and an Indonesian female in Salwa on Friday, said the Ministry of Interior yesterday. The suspects were arrested after intense investigation and information from eyewitnesses, the ministry's media and public relations department said in statement. The suspects, Iranian nationals Mohammad Abdullredha Nawasser and Ali Mohammad Al-Bughaibesh, committed the crime using a handgun, said the statement. Before escaping, the two suspects stole KD 276,000 and three guns belong to the house owner, the statement added. — KUNA



KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows two suspects arrested yesterday for triple murder and theft in a crime they are accused of committing on Friday.

THREE KILLED, FIVE INJURED IN SALMI ROAD ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Three people were killed, including a toddler in a car accident reported yesterday morning at Al-Salmi Road. Eight ambulances and two medevac helicopters were dispatched to the scene, located at the 99 kilometer mark, shortly after the accident was reported. Paramedics pronounced three victims dead on the scene, including a 17-year-old Saudi man, 4-month-old Saudi boy and a third person whose identity could not immediately be known. Meanwhile, two other Saudi nationals, aged 18 and 38, were rushed to Sabah Hospital through medevac, while three others were sent to Jahra Hospital through ambulances. A preliminary investigation revealed that the victims' vehicle lost balance and overturned, and investigations are ongoing to reveal what caused the accident.

QATARI GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS MILITARY TIES WITH KUWAIT

DOHA: Head of Qatar's military institutes and colleges authority Hamad Al-Naimi underlined yesterday the deep-rooted military ties between Qatar and Kuwait, mainly training and education. In a statement following visiting the location of a military exercise, Naimi stressed that Qatar provides all support for the army command to make a success of this exercise.

The drill is held for the first time between Kuwait and Qatar, as part of the military cooperation between the two sides. The Qatari army's command briefed Naimi on phases and activities of the exercise as well as achievements made during this period. More than 300 military cadets of Kuwait are taking part in the drill that started on November 19 and will run until December 3. — KUNA



DOHA: Head of Qatar's military institutes and colleges authority Hamad Al-Naimi is pictured with the Kuwaiti military delegation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Archive photos showing students from different eras throughout Kuwait University's history. — KUNA



KUWAIT UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY TODAY

KUWAIT: Marking its 50th anniversary of establishment, Kuwait University earned its respect as one of the leading regional and international high-level educational institutions. The university, which was inaugurated by His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, has made several achievements over the years that contributed to finding scientific solutions to the society's issues. It has been keen on development in accordance with a certain plan aiming to prepare graduates qualified enough for requirements of the modern age.

The university was established under Act No. 29/1966 regarding the organization of higher education and its laws, five years after the State of Kuwait gained its independence. The idea of setting up the university was launched in 1960 as the Ministry of Education appointed a number of experts to form a commission that included professors Solaiman Hozain, from Egypt's Assiut University, Qustantin Zuraiq, from American University in Beirut, and Igor Genges, from Cambridge University.

The first academic years started in September of 1964 at the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Sciences. The Ministry of Education at that time appointed Professor Abdulhalim Montaser as the University's director. During his stay in Kuwait, he made several studies on the establishment of KU and its requirements. The official inauguration of the university coincided with the establishment of the faculties of Arts, Sciences, Education and others.

Expansion

Kuwait University is witnessing a significant expansion in the number of scientific colleges that reached 17 Colleges, with the

issuance of the Amiri Decree to establish a College of Architecture and College of Computer Science and Engineering.

The university is considered the first government one seeking to provide quality

Some Amiri decrees were issued to set up College of Law and Sharia, College of Commerce, Economy and Political Sciences in 1967, College of Administrative Sciences in 1971, College of Medicine in 1973 and

support staff working in teams and in a friendly atmosphere.

The faculty accepted its first class of 32 full-time students into the first year of the curriculum in September 1997.

Innovation

The university aims to preserve and transmit knowledge through scholarship, encourage innovation and development in the arts and the sciences through addressing issues of national, regional and global significance. It has made significant advances since its establishment 50 years ago, and has evolved into a multi-faculty institution of higher learning comprised of 17 colleges.

The institution's scientific culture strives to further postgraduate studies, develop new programs, and enhance collaborations with world renowned universities and research centers to attain global recognition and visibility.

This purpose dynamically involves faculties in exploring new dimensions in academic exchanges and research, in bolstering their institutions external profiles and international standing. The KU takes pride in its distinguished students and bestows honors and awards on students who have demonstrated scholastic excellence; it also strives to nurture talent in rare specializations.

Each faculty maintains a list of its honors students who achieve a grade point average of 3.5 and above. Students who finish their program's requirements within the prescribed period and graduate with a grade point average of 3.67 are awarded an honors degree in recognition of their distinguished accomplishment and academic excellence. — KUNA



education and contribute to knowledge and development to achieve development goals as well as the needs of the community. The university's buildings, modern equipment, high-tech laboratories, advanced libraries and technological resources form a suitable environment for learning, development and innovation, as KU offers programs qualified research excellence performance and scientific interest towards global modern concerns and international academic accreditation for its programs to achieve a prestigious scientific status.

College of Engineering and Petroleum in 1974. Upon some Amiri decrees, it was also agreed to establish College of Graduate Studies in 1977, College of Education in 1980, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies in 1981, as well as College of Allied Health Sciences and Nursing in 1982.

Under Amiri decrees, Faculty of Pharmacy was established in 1996, Faculty of Dentistry in 1998 and Faculty of Social Sciences in 1999.

The Faculty of pharmacy relies on skilled and committed academic support staff, laboratory and research technicians, and





Iraq parliament adopts law legalizing Shiite militias

'MILLION' RALLY TO DEMAND S KOREA PRESIDENT'S OUSTER

CAR BOMB HITS MOGADISHU MARKET

AT LEAST 8 KILLED, BUT DEATH TOLL EXPECTED TO RISE



MOGADISHU: Security officers and military personnel secure yesterday the scene of a suicide car bomb attack in Somalia's restive capital. —AFP

MOGADISHU: A car bomb exploded near a busy market in Somalia's capital Mogadishu yesterday, killing at least eight people, police said, as medical sources warned the toll could be far higher. "We have counted about eight civilians so far who were killed in the blast and more than 10 others wounded but the death toll could be higher because the area is a market and it was so densely populated when the blast occurred, most people who were wounded have serious injuries," said police official Ibrahim Mohamed.

Medical sources suggested nearly 30 people had been killed, but this was not confirmed by authorities. "Our ambulances have collected 13 wounded civilians and 28 dead bodies, the toll could be higher because of the density of the location where the blast occurred," Dr Abdulkadir Abdirahman Adem, director of the AMIN ambulance service, told AFP. The blast took place in the densely populated Afisiyone area in southern Mogadishu.

"There was chaos and severed dead bodies strewn around the street, the market was so busy with people shopping when the blast ripped through the area. I saw many dead bodies but I could not count, I have helped collect more than 10 of them," said Abdulahi Osman, who witnessed the blast.

'Both Dead and Injured'

Another witness, Ismail Mohamad told AFP: "I can't count all, but, I can tell that I have collected about 20 dead people with my hands, also, there have been other people collecting with me both dead and injured persons." No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but immediate suspicion fell on the Al-Qaeda linked Islamist Shabaab group, which is locked in battle with the Somali government and regularly mounts attacks in the city.

Its most deadly recent attack was in August when a car bomb outside a popular hotel close to the presidential palace left 15 dead. Despite being driven out of the capital in 2011 by an African Union force deployed in 2007, the group still controls vast swathes of outlying rural areas from which it launches guerrilla operations. Somalia is currently holding a drawn-out, limited election in which some 14,000 specially selected voters are picking 275 members of parliament who will later join senators in electing a president.

The country had been promised a one-person, one-vote election, however political infighting and insecurity led leaders to ditch the plan in favor of the current process. After the 1991 fall of strongman president Mohamed Siad Barre, warring clan militia plunged the country into decades of civil war and humanitarian crises, leaving it without a central government and the label of the world's foremost failed state. An even more limited election in 2012 - when MPs were nominated by 135 clan elders - gave Somalia the first central government based in the country since the fall of Barre. —AFP

ISRAELI SETTLERS FLEE AS W BANK FIRES SPREAD

JERUSALEM: Wildfires near Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank have forced hundreds to flee their homes, after mass evacuations in Israel and more than a dozen arrests, police said yesterday. Israeli and Palestinian firefighters, helped by foreign aircraft, have been battling dozens of bush blazes fed by drought and high winds that have seen tens of thousands of people evacuated. Around 1,000 residents had to leave

the Halamish settlement near Ramallah as 45 homes were damaged or destroyed by fire, a police spokeswoman said.

Blazes were also reported near the West Bank settlements of Dolev, Alfei Menashe and Karnei Shomron, although there were no evacuations there. Firefighting planes from Israel and countries including Russia, Turkey, Greece, France, Spain and Canada continued to dump tonnes of

water and retardants on fires at locations including the village of Nataf close to Jerusalem. A police spokeswoman said the large-scale effort managed to bring the Nataf blaze under control by Saturday afternoon, allowing residents to return.

A newly arrived US Supertanker, considered the largest firefighting aircraft in the world, joined the emergency operation yesterday. Police said they had arrested 14 people on suspicion of negligence or deliberately starting fires, without providing details about their identities. In the country's third city Haifa, where tens of thousands of people had been evacuated Thursday from the path of towering flames which threatened entire neighborhoods, residents have begun returning home to assess the damage.

The Israeli authorities suspect that some of the fires may have been of criminal origin and linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday there was "no doubt" that some of the fires had been deliberate. "There is a price to pay for the crimes committed, there is a price to pay for arson terrorism," he said. Arab Israeli leaders have argued that their community, which makes up about 17.5 percent of the country's population, is as much affected by the fires as Jews.

The Palestinians joined the efforts overnight to extinguish the blazes, sending 41 firefighters and eight trucks to Haifa where around 200 families have been left homeless, the municipality said. Israel's Nature and Parks Authority issued a statement saying that 13,000 hectares of forest and shrubland have been burned in recent days. Local media quoted authorities as saying an estimated 700 homes have so far been damaged or destroyed by the fires. —AFP



NATAF: The American 747 supertanker helps extinguish a fire over this village close to Jerusalem yesterday. —AFP

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OVERSHADOWED IRAQI AVIATION TAKES ON IS

QAYYARAH BASE, Iraq: Iraqi army pilot Hossam Jassim banked his helicopter sharply to the left as a Russian-made Mi-35 gunship flying alongside unleashed a missile at a suspected Islamic State group target. An explosion flashed in the desert village below and a huge plume of sand and dust rose into the sky. Jassim gave a thumbs up. "It was a pickup truck with a heavy machine gun," he said later as he emerged from the cockpit at Qayyarah base, around 50 km south of jihadist bastion Mosul. "There were about 10 fighters," he said.

Down on the ground Iraqi forces are battling to wrest back Mosul, tightening the noose in the surrounding desert and grinding their way street-by-street through residential neighborhoods. Meanwhile, in the skies above there is a wide array of hardware backing them up. Dominating attention have been the jets, drones and helicopters from the US-led coalition of foreign countries that has been pounding IS with its awesome firepower.

But, in its shadow, Iraq's fledgling aviation has also been playing its own part - carrying out strikes with far more limited resources to back up its troops. Army pilot Golan Salim looked out at the roughly dozen helicopters - a mixture of Russian Mi-28 and Mi-35, American Bell armed reconnaissance choppers and European EC635s - resting on the tarmac at the Qayyarah airbase.

That morning he said he had flown a mission to take out a group of IS fighters with rocket-propelled grenades. "We finished all these targets," he said. "We have broken them."

Salim said that the previous day he had to take evasive action as he faced machine gun fire from the ground. Despite increasing efforts to weaponise drones, the jihadists are far from threatening the air dominance of their opponents. But they have put up other obstacles. Billowing in the middle distance are giant black clouds of smoke from oil fires that IS lit back in August to obfuscate their retreat as they were pushed from the area. "It is very difficult. Once I could not take off," said Salim. "It is very important to shut down the fire."

Human Shields

The large numbers of civilians that remain inside Mosul and the towns around still under IS controls have also placed major restraints on the air campaign. The United Nations has said the jihadists have forced tens of thousands of locals to march back with them as human shields. Iraq's air capabilities were wiped out during the US-led invasion of the country in 2003, and have been rebuilt from scratch since then with many of the pilots trained by America. — AFP



TALL ABTAH, Iraq: An Iraqi army Mi-35 helicopter shoots a missile at an Islamic State (IS) group target near this village near the city of Mosul on Friday. — AFP



ADEN: Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi disembarks from a plane upon his arrival at Aden airport yesterday. — AFP

YEMEN PRESIDENT IN SURPRISE ADEN VISIT

FIERCE FIGHTING RAGES AFTER TRUCE COLLAPSE

ADEN: Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi flew into Aden from his base in neighboring Saudi Arabia yesterday on a surprise visit to the headquarters of his beleaguered government, an aide said. Hadi is expected to stay for a few days in the southern port city, which is still prey to frequent unrest 18 months after his loyalists drove out Iran-backed rebels with the support of a Saudi-led coalition. It is the president's first visit to Aden in a year and comes two months after Prime Minister Ahmed bin Dagher and seven ministers set up base in the city.

The government had previously operated from exile since Oct 2015. The capital Sanaa, like

most of the north of the country, remains in the hands of the rebel and their allies. Hadi's authority is largely confined to the south and areas along the Saudi border. Even within the south, his loyalists have faced repeated attack by jihadists of both Al-Qaeda and its rival, the Islamic State group. Security chiefs in Aden have been a particular target.

Hadi's visit came as fierce fighting raged between pro-government forces and the rebels following the collapse of a US-backed ceasefire on Monday. The rebels launched a renewed assault on the outskirts of the town of Midi, on the Red Sea coast near the Saudi border,

der, killing six soldiers and wounding 14, a military official said. Loyalist forces captured the town in January but it has since changed hands several times.

The rebels lost two fighters but succeeded in clearing loyalist forces from the road between Midi and Haradh, a town inland that has also changed hands several times in the past year, the official said. Further east, government forces launched a cross-border incursion from the Saudi province of Najran, capturing the long-closed Al-Baqaa customs post and killing 18 rebels, another military official said. Six loyalists were also killed. — AFP

IRAQ LEGALIZES SHIITE MILITIAS

BAGHDAD: Iraq's parliament yesterday voted to accord full legal status to government-sanctioned Shiite militias as a "back-up and reserve" force for the military and police and empower them to "deter" security and terror threats facing the country, like the Islamic State group. The legislation, supported by 208 of the chamber's 327 members, was promptly rejected by Sunni Arab politicians and lawmakers who said it was evidence of what they called the "dictatorship" of the country's Shiite majority.

"The majority does not have the right to determine the fate of everyone else," Osama Al-Nujaifi, one of Iraq's three vice presidents and a senior Sunni politician, told a news conference after the vote. "There should be genuine political

inclusion. This law must be revised." Sunni lawmaker Ahmed al-Masary said the legislation fuels doubts about the participation of all Iraqi communities in the political process. "The legislation aborts nation building," he said, adding that the law created a dangerous parallel to the country's military and police.

The law, tabled by the chamber's largest Shiite bloc, placed the militias under the command of Shiite Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi and gave militiamen salaries and pensions that mirror those of the military and the police. In a statement, Abadi welcomed the legislation and said the "Popular Mobilization" forces, the formal name of the militias, would cover all Iraqi sects, a thinly veiled reference to the much smaller and

weaker Sunni tribal forces. The Shiite militias number more than 100,000. "The Popular Mobilization will represent and defend all Iraqis wherever they are," Abadi said.

The vote comes at a time when the government is waging a major campaign to dislodge the Islamic State group from Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and the last major urban center still controlled by the extremist group. The Shiite militias, most of which are backed by neighboring Iran, have been bankrolled and equipped by the government since shortly after IS swept across much of northern and western Iraq in 2014. Many of these groups existed long before IS emerged, fighting American troops in major street battles during the US military presence in Iraq between 2003 and 2011.

They have played a key role in checking the advance of IS on Baghdad and the Shiite Shrine cities of Samarra and Karbala in the summer of 2014 and later helped liberate IS-held areas to the south, northeast and north of Baghdad, standing in for the security forces which largely collapsed in the face of the IS blitz in 2014. However, their role has somewhat diminished as more and more of Iraq's security forces have regained their strength.

Iraq's Sunni Arabs and rights groups have long complained that the militiamen have been involved in extrajudicial killings, abuse and the theft or destruction of property in areas where they drove out IS. The militias' commanders, however, deny the charges or insist that the excesses are the work of an isolated few. Currently, the militias are tasked with driving IS from the town of Tal Afar west of Mosul. They seized the town's airstrip earlier this week. Al-Abadi met militia commanders at the strip on Thursday. — AP



MOSUL: Fighters of the Popular Mobilization forces take a photo on the frontline against Islamic State militants yesterday. — AP

MEN MADE MESS OF SOMALIA, NOW WOMEN WANT TO FIX IT

MOGADISHU: Raped, abused and subjected to genital mutilation, many women suffer terribly in Somalia, an unrepentantly patriarchal country shown by successive surveys as one of the worst places to be female. A quota reserving 30 percent of parliamentary seats for women in current elections is supposed to help bring change and place at least a share of political power in female hands - but it faces stiff resistance. "Somali women participate in daily life but when it comes to politics it is challenging," said Deqa Yasin, the female deputy head of the national election organizing body. "How do you make the process as inclusive as possible?"

Under international pressure, Somalia's top politicians - federal and state leaders, all men, known as the National Leadership Forum - in August announced the 30 percent female quota be applied to the 54 Senate seats and the 275 parliamentary seats. The quota also applies to the 14,025 electoral college delegates who are the only people out of perhaps 12 million Somalis to vote for members of parliament.

After years of strife, political wrangling and insecurity mean the Horn of Africa nation was unable to hold elections by universal suffrage. But promises of female empowerment have not been kept. As of Thursday, just 23 of 142 parliamentary seats (16 percent) and 10 out of 43 senate seats (23 percent) had been won by women. The previous unicameral parliament had 14 percent women, so the fresh figures are a small improvement. It is unclear what, if anything, might be done when the final tally falls short of the quota.

Men, Guns, Money

Clan and tradition are at the heart of Somalia's electoral process, which means women are not. The 51 members of each electoral college that votes for a given parliamentary seat are themselves chosen by a

group of 135 traditional male elders. In what has been called a "limited" election, the senators and MPs - once all elected - will come together to vote for a new president, but the planned date of November 30 will not be met.

Faced with the ruling on a female quota, many clan leaders do not wish to be represented by women and regard female seats as wasted. Some of the many delays in the election timetable have been caused by arguments and horse-trading over which clan would have to allow one of its precious seats to be reserved for a woman. The reluctance means that the 30 percent quota is unlikely to be met, said Michael Keating, the UN's top representative in Somalia.

Despite the challenges "there's been a slight change of political culture" because of it, with more women involved than in the past, according to Keating. Decades of conflict have played a role. A secular dictatorship in which women held public posts was overthrown in 1991 by a loose alliance of clan-based militias with warlord bosses under whom women were increasingly repressed. Men - usually with guns and always after money - have ruled since that time and presided over Somalia's collapse into the world's preeminent failed state.

'We are Not Unique'

Some argue that the time has come to give women a chance to remedy the situation. Miriam Aweis, 46, won a seat reserved for women in the port city of Kismayo. She said that during the long years of war, women were "the backbone of the community" yet "the traditional system we have" excludes them from politics. As minister for women in 2011, Aweis was an early fighter for a quota of females in politics. "We had to talk to the politicians to get them to accept that women are part of this process and decision-making," she said. — AFP



BAIDOA, Somalia: This photo taken on Nov 16, 2016 shows a Somali woman celebrating after the results of an election were announced. — AFP

LIBYA FORCES FACE IS DEFENSE IN SIRTE

SIRTE: Libyan forces faced fierce resistance yesterday from Islamic State militants defending a final strip of land in their former stronghold of Sirte, losing at least five men, officials said. Forces led by fighters from the city of Misrata and backed by US air strikes have taken all but a few dozen houses near Sirte's Mediterranean seaford since they began their campaign to recapture the city in May. As the battle has worn on they have advanced more cautiously, trying to limit casualties among their fighters and among civilians and captives trapped with the militants.

Islamic State militants have defended their positions using snipers, tunnels, and hidden explosives. The Misrata-led forces said in statements posted on social media accounts that they faced two suicide bombers, one using a belt and the other grenades. They also said that "a woman from Daesh (Islamic State) betrayed our forces and fired towards them when they try to provide a safe passage for her".

A Reuters reporter saw Libyan forces suffering casualties as they tried to advance after using tanks and heavy machine guns being used to destroy Islamic State-held buildings. Five fighters from the Libyan forces had been killed and 18 wounded in the clashes said Akram Gliwan, a hospital spokesman in Misrata. The Misrata-led brigades said they had nevertheless managed to take control of new houses in the contested Ghiza Bahriya district.

Islamic State took full control of Sirte early last year, extending its presence along about 250 km of Libya's coastline. Sirte's loss would leave the militant group without any territory in the North African country, though some of its fighters escaped during the early stages of the campaign and officials fear they will wage an insurgency from the south and west of the city. The US has carried out at least 420 air strikes since beginning an air campaign against Islamic State in Sirte on Aug 1. — Reuters

DEATH OF A BABY AS UNWANTED ROHINGYA HUNT FOR A HOME

TEKNAF, Bangladesh: Alam's short life ended yesterday in a dark, tattered tent in Bangladesh, the Rohingya child's skeletal body succumbing to illness contracted while fleeing Myanmar where his stateless people are under attack. He was six-months-old.

Alam died hours after arriving at a makeshift refugee camp close to Teknaf, the gateway to Cox's Bazar, a poor, densely populated coastal area already home to more than 230,000 Rohingya refugees.

But for the Rohingya, Bangladesh is far from a promised land. So far little or no aid has been provided for the new arrivals, with Bangladeshi authorities fearing food, medicine and shelter will encourage more to cross the border. With her child's emaciated body by her side, 22-year-old Nur Begum describes how a Myanmar army raid that killed her husband and two other children forced her to flee Rakhine State for Bangladesh with the tiny Alam.

After three-week trip with little food, Begum and her increasingly sick child made it to the camp in Leda, across the Bangladeshi border. But Alam's journey was at an end.

"I finally had some food in the camp and thought I would be able to feed him," his distraught mother told AFP. "But he left me before I had the chance." Her baby was buried yesterday, his body



Myanmar Rohingya migrant Nur Begum reacts after the death of her six-month-old son Alam in a refugee camp in Teknaf, in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, yesterday. — AFP

washed and then carried to a Rohingya graveyard on a wooded hill near the camp. Up to 30,000 Rohingya have abandoned their homes in Myanmar since early October, after soldiers poured into the strip of land in western Rakhine state following deadly raids on border posts.

The refugees who have reached Cox's

Bazar so far have brought with them horrifying stories of gang rape and murder. The Myanmar army flatly denies the allegations. That Myanmar does not want its more than one million Rohingya population is not in dispute. It refuses them citizenship while many in the majority Buddhist country call the Muslim minority "Bengalis"—shorthand



Myanmar Rohingya refugees wash the body of six-month-old Alam before his burial in a refugee camp in Teknaf, in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district yesterday. — AFP

for illegal immigrants.

Poorest of the poor

Bangladesh provides a mixed reception to the Rohingya. Although people around Cox's Bazar have centuries-long historical ties with the Rohingya, locals increasingly perceive the refugees as a crime-prone nuisance. Only 32,000

Rohingya are formally registered as refugees. The remaining 200,000 scratch an existence without help from government or charities.

And their numbers swell with every crisis across the border in Myanmar. To avoid more arrivals Dhaka has blocked refugee boats from landing and called for Myanmar to stop the exodus. — AFP

PAKISTAN PM SHARIF NAMES BAJWA AS NEW ARMY CHIEF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Prime Minister yesterday picked Lieutenant General Qamar Javed Bajwa to replace outgoing army chief Raheel Sharif, a popular military leader credited for improving security and driving back Islamist militant groups, his spokesman said. General Bajwa will likely take charge of the world's sixth-largest army by troop numbers in a formal handover on Tuesday, when General Sharif, who is no relation to prime minister Nawaz Sharif, formally retires. The appointment of Bajwa is expected to help reset fraught relations between the military and the civilian government in a nuclear-armed nation of 190 million people.

Meanwhile, four heavily-armed suicide bombers attacked a military facility in northwestern Pakistan yesterday and killed two soldiers, but failed to storm a busy mosque inside, the army said. A splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Jamaat-ur-Ahrar (TTP-JA), claimed responsibility for the attack on Ghalani Camp in Mohmand Agency that is part of the lawless Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) bordering Afghanistan.

A spokesman for TTP-JA, Ehsanullah Ehsan, said the Islamist group carried out the raid in an effort to set free fellow mili-

itants from custody of the security forces. The militants began their attack at 6 am local time (0100 GMT) and attempted to storm into a mosque where a large number of army recruits were present, the army said. "Wearing suicide jackets they opened fire and tried to rush inside the mosque. They were taken on and contained in the outer courtyard of the mosque," the military said in a statement.

Two of the attackers were shot dead and two detonated their explosive vests, preventing a "huge disaster", the army added. Pakistan's frontier regions, deeply conservative and hard to access due to rough terrain, have long been the sanctuary of fighters from Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and other militant groups.

In 2014, the army launched a major operation in other parts of FATA including North and South Waziristan against insurgents who routinely attacked government officials and civilians.

Most of the myriad militant groups that stage attacks inside Pakistan seek to overthrow the government to establish an Islamic theocracy and impose a stricter interpretation of the religion than is practiced in much of the country. — Reuters



HERAT: Taliban fighters react to a speech by their senior leader in the Shindand district of Herat province, Afghanistan, in this file photo. — AP

TALEBAN LEADERS MAY HAVE 'RELOCATED' TO AFGHANISTAN

SHIFT FROM PAKISTAN SIGNAL GROUP'S GROWING CONFIDENCE

KABUL: After operating out of Pakistan for more than a decade, the leaders of Afghanistan's Taliban movement may have moved back to their homeland to try to build on this year's gains in the war and to establish a permanent presence.

If confirmed, the move would be a sign of the Taliban's confidence in their fight against the US-backed government in Kabul. It could also be an attempt by the militants to distance themselves from Pakistan, which is accused of supporting the movement. The Taliban's leaders have been based in Pakistani cities, including Quetta, Karachi and Peshawar, since their rule in Afghanistan was overthrown in the 2001 US invasion after the 9/11 attacks.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the leadership shura, or council, relocated to Afghanistan "some months ago," although he would not say to where.

One Taliban official said the shura had moved to southern Helmand province, where the insurgents consider to be part of their heartland and where most of the opium that funds their operations is produced. The official refused to be identified because of security reasons.

Other Taliban sources said the justice, recruitment and religious councils had also moved to southern Afghanistan. The statements could not be independently confirmed. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office said it had no confirmation that any such move had taken place.

"No intelligence confirms that the Taliban has shifted its shura to Afghanistan," said Haroon Chakhansuri, Ghani's spokesman. "We still believe they are still operating in their safe havens outside Afghanistan." Mujahid, however, said Kabul officials were aware of the moves, prompted by battlefield gains that the insurgents believed would put them in a strong position once talks with the Afghan government aimed at ending the war were restarted. Dialogue broke down earlier this year.

The insurgents have spread their footprint across Afghanistan since international combat troops scaled down in 2014. They have maintained multiple offensives and threatened at least three provincial capitals in recent months: Kunduz, in northern Kunduz province; Lashkhar Gar, in Helmand in the south; and Tirin Kot in Uruzgan.

The US military has conceded the insurgents have gained ground, although definitive break-downs are difficult to verify. This year, Afghan

security forces are believed to have suffered their worst losses since 2001, with the military estimating 2016 fatalities at more than 5,000 so far.

A permanent Taliban presence in Afghanistan would send a message to followers and fighters that the insurgents now control so much territory they can no longer be dislodged by government security forces, said Franz-Michael Mellbin, the European Union's ambassador in Kabul. He said he has not confirmed the reports, which have circulated for weeks. But such a move could also be part of "the Taliban's attempt to try to create a more independent position," he said, as "parts of the Taliban would like to be under less direct pressure from Pakistan."

Ghani has failed to make headway in efforts to fully engage Pakistan in cutting support for the Taliban and bringing them into a dialogue aimed at peace. After a year-long diplomatic offensive, Ghani in late 2015 cut ties with Islamabad and has since openly accused Pakistan of waging war on Afghanistan, using the Taliban as its proxy.

Pakistani authorities deny accusations that their powerful ISI intelligence agency supports the insurgents. With the major councils based in

Afghanistan, Pakistan's role could be reduced at a time when the Islamabad government is under pressure from the United States and major ally China to rein in what many see as its terrorist-supporting activities.

Unity among leaders

If the move is confirmed, it could also indicate a unity among leaders, who have recently been portrayed by some observers, including the US military, as suffering widening divisions and struggling for cash - even though the opium production under their control has an annual export value of \$4 billion, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Taliban's leadership shura consists of 16 elected officials who oversee activity across Afghanistan, give permission for any changes in planning and strategy, and mediate disputes among military commanders. The military commanders include Mullah Yaqub, the son of the movement's founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar - who was declared dead last year - and Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the brutal Haqqani network and a co-deputy leader with Yaqub. — AP



Lt Gen Qamar Bajwa, the new chief of Pakistan Army.

INDIAN LAWMAKER SLAMMED FOR \$7M HOME SPLURGE

NEW DELHI: An Indian politician is being slammed for spending \$7.3 million of taxpayers money on a palatial new home, built on an ancient architectural system and fitted with bullet-proof rooms. K Chandrasekhar Rao, chief minister of Telangana, moved to his official residence on Thursday amid the chanting of religious hymns by priests to ward off bad spirits. The 100,000-square-foot (9,000 metre) bungalow on a nine-acre plot has a movie theatre for 250 people, a conference hall for 700 people and bullet-proof offices and bathrooms for Rao and his politician son.

But the grand housewarming function did not impress social media users, who criticized Rao for a "criminal waste of money" and enjoying luxury on taxpayers' expense. "Shame! We've got feudal lords, not leaders.

Do we need a French style revolution, for them to get real?" Smiti Mahabir tweeted.

People also hit out at the politician for promoting superstition after his office released videos of the function showing Rao's spiritual guru performing religious rituals and "blessing" his official chair by briefly sitting on it. The politician is known for favouring Vastu Shastra, an ancient Hindu system of architecture.

Rao is planning to raze the state's main government complex to build a new Vastu compliant one because he believes the present structure is unlucky for the state. The proposed building will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$52 million. His government has appointed a full-time Vastu consultant to make all projects conform with the ancient building system. — AFP



HYDERABAD: This handout picture released by the Public Relation Department of the Government of Telangana and taken on November 24, 2016 shows Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao (center) taking part in a ritual to inaugurate his new home. — AFP

AUSTRALIA ASKS TURKEY TO EXTRADITE TOP IS TERROR SUSPECT

SYDNEY: Australia is seeking the extradition of its most wanted Islamic State terror suspect who was thought to be dead but has been caught alive by Turkey, the government said yesterday.

The announcement followed a New York Times report that so-called Islamic State group operative Neil Prakash had been caught by Turkish forces several weeks ago as he tried to enter their country from Syria. "An individual we believe to be Neil Prakash has been arrested and detained in Turkey," a government spokesperson said in a statement.

"Prakash is subject to a formal extradition request from Australia." Prakash was a senior recruiter for Islamic State and has been linked to terror plots to kill Australians.

In May Prakash was reported dead by Canberra on advice from Washington that he had been killed in a US airstrike in northern Iraq. However, the Times said he was only

wounded, not killed, in Mosul on April 29. Prakash, who is in his early twenties, left Australia in 2013.

He has been linked to a failed Melbourne plot to behead a police officer in April last year, as well as to an 18-year-old who was killed after stabbing two police officers in Melbourne in 2014.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has called Prakash the senior Australian operative in IS. Reported to be of Indian, Fijian and Cambodian background, Prakash used the internet "to promote the evil ideology" of the jihadist group "and recruit Australian men, women and children-many of whom are either still in the conflict zone or dead." Prakash and others ruthlessly target and groom our children-vulnerable children-with hateful propaganda of terrorism which perverts the religion of Islam," Turnbull told parliament in May. — AFP

CASTRO'S DEATH A REMINDER OF CHANGED COMMUNIST AXIS

BEIJING: In the shadow of east Beijing's soaring glass skyscrapers, elderly retirees still speak nostalgically about their Cuban brothers-in-arm, faraway comrades bound by communist solidarity. But in central Beijing's halls of power, Cuba is perhaps seen these days as something less romantic: a market for China's booming private-sector exports.

Viewed from the world's largest communist country, Fidel Castro's death is a reminder of how the communist axis has changed beyond recognition since the ideologically charged era when the bearded revolutionary cut a dashing figure on the world stage alongside leaders like Mao Zedong.

After establishing diplomatic relations in 1960, the countries' fortunes diverged over the ensuing decades: China began adopting free-market reforms in the 1980s and morphed into an economic powerhouse - Communist mostly in name - while Castro persisted with Marxism, Cuba's economy hobbling on.

Today, the two countries' leaders frequently nod to their shared ideological history, but bilateral relations revolve more around jointly developed beach resorts or Chinese telecoms investments. In a September visit, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang offered to support Cuba's development as a "comrade and brother," while Castro congratulated China on the

growth it has achieved and sought assistance in agricultural technology. At around \$2.2 billion a year, trade between the two countries is dwarfed by China's commerce with the rest of Latin America, which totals \$236 billion, according to Chinese state media. But China is Cuba's top creditor and second-largest trading partner after Venezuela, and ties have deepened swiftly. In December, Air China launched a direct flight from Beijing to Havana largely to serve burgeoning Chinese tourists looking to spend holidays in the island nation.

"After China deepened reform and opened up in early 1990s, the development of bilateral ties between China and Cuba did not focus too much on ideology," said Zhu Feng, dean of the Institute of International Studies at Nanjing University. "Economic development and cooperation, which were beneficial to economic and social development in both countries, became more important."

Geopolitical tectonics have realigned in other ways since Castro's prime. Cuba restored diplomatic relations with the United States last year after a half-century freeze, a rapprochement that China viewed warily. Meanwhile, Washington lifted an arms embargo against Vietnam, another erstwhile communist enemy, and has backed Hanoi in maritime disputes against neighboring China. — AP



HAVANA: In this July 22, 2014 file photo, Cuba's former President Fidel Castro (right) greets China's President Xi Jinping in Havana. — AP



SEOUL: South Korean protesters shout slogans during a rally calling for South Korean President Park Geun-hye to step down in Seoul, South Korea yesterday. — AP

'MILLION' RALLY IN SEOUL TO SEEK PARK'S RESIGNATION

S KOREAN OPPN WEIGHS IMPEACHMENT MOTION

SEOUL: Up to 1.3 million protesters braved sleet and freezing temperatures in Seoul yesterday to demand President Park Geun-Hye resign over a corruption scandal or face impeachment, organizers said. Participants raised candles, sang and danced while chanting "Arrest Park Geun-Hye" and "Throw Park into jail," with cries from the main rally site reportedly reaching the presidential Blue House some 1.5 kilometers (0.9 miles) away.

Park's presidency has been rocked by allegations that a close friend used her ties to the leader to meddle in state affairs and wield improper influence. Prosecutors investigating the case have indicted her friend, Choi Soon-sil, and are seeking to question the president about her role in the scandal.

Organizers said 800,000 people had gathered early yesterday evening and expected a total of 1.5 million people to join by the end of the night. Police declined to give an estimate of the crowd size but said 25,000 personnel had been dispatched to police the protest.

The protests, now in their fifth week, have remained peaceful and marked by huge can-

dle-lit rallies where activists and rock bands have entertained a diverse crowd of students, office workers, and young families. "I was watching the news and thought this cannot go on - people really want her to step down but she hasn't," said 45-year-old Kwak Bo-youn, one of the protesters.

"This is the second time for me to the protests, but the first time for my husband and kids". Earlier in the day, a large group of demonstrators marched to within 200 metres of the presidential palace, where Park resides, but a court appeal to allow protesters to remain there after dark was rejected.

Low support

Choi Soon-sil and a former aide to Park have been indicted by prosecutors on charges of colluding with the president to pressure big business to contribute funds to two foundations controlled by Choi.

Park, whose five-year term ends in February 2018, has apologized twice over the affair but is resisting calls for her resignation. Opposition parties are canvassing for support to impeach

her. Her approval ratings slipped one percentage point on Friday after hovering at just 5 percent for three consecutive weeks. Her disapproval rating rose three percentage points to 93 percent, according to a poll by Gallup Korea, which is not affiliated with the US-based Gallup, Inc.

Park Geun-hye's popularity and election as president in 2012 stemmed in part from the symbolic connection to her father who ruled South Korea for 18 years until he was assassinated by his spy chief in 1979. Many, especially the elderly, credit Park's father with the rapid development of Korea.

However, only 9 percent of people aged over 60 said Park was doing well, according to the Gallup Korea survey. Her support is lowest amongst young people. Ninety-nine percent of 19-29 year-olds and 98 percent of people in their thirties disapproved of Park, according to Gallup Korea.

Fears of policy-making paralysis prompted by the political crisis has also dealt a blow to consumer confidence, which fell to its lowest in more than seven years in November, South Korea's central bank said. — Agencies

UN CLOSE TO SANCTIONS DEAL TO SLASH N KOREA EXPORT EARNINGS

PYONGYANG: The UN Security Council's five veto powers are close to approving new sanctions on North Korea to cut the isolated state's earnings from exports by more than a quarter, principally by targeting its coal exports to China, diplomats said on Friday.

The US-drafted resolution, in response to North Korea's fifth nuclear test in September, would set a UN cap on North Korean coal exports with the aim of cutting hard currency revenues by at least \$700 million. The resolution would also restrict North Korea's maritime and financial sectors. If successful, it could cut the country's \$3 billion in annual export earnings by at least \$800 million, UN Security Council diplomats said. The diplomats did not want to be identified as discussions were still under way. The new resolution would also target other North Koreans individuals and entities, they said.

Exports of coal from the North would be capped at \$400.9 million or 7.5 million metric tons per year, whichever is lower, starting on Jan. 1, according to the draft resolution obtained by Reuters. As soon as the resolution is adopted, North's coal exports to the end of this year will be capped at \$53.5 million or 1 million metric tons, whichever is lower, the draft showed.

Over the first 10 months of the year, China has imported 18.6 million tons of coal from North Korea, up almost 13 percent from a year ago. The restrictions on coal would bar exports connected to individuals and entities involved in North Korea's weapons programs, the draft resolution said.

The resolution added 11 individuals, including people who have served as ambassadors to Egypt and Myanmar, and 10 entities as targets for travel ban and asset freeze for their role in the North's nuclear

and ballistic missile programs. The resolution would also ban the North's export of helicopters, vessels and statues, banning contracts similar to the ones worth millions of dollars that the North had signed to build large statues in some African countries.

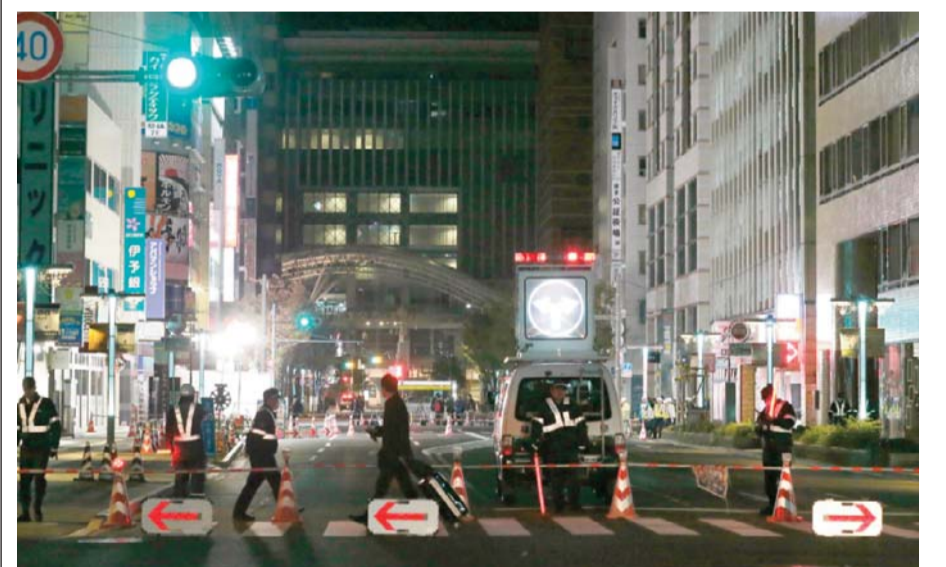
It called on UN states to reduce the number of staff at North Korea's foreign missions and limit the number of bank accounts to one per North Korean diplomatic mission and one per diplomat at banks in their territory, highlighting concerns that the North had used its diplomats and foreign missions to engage in illicit activities.

China on board

Diplomats said on Wednesday that the United States and China had agreed on new UN sanctions to impose on North Korea, but Russia was delaying action on a draft resolution. A senior UN Security Council diplomat who spoke on Wednesday believed China could persuade Russia to agree to the new sanctions and that the 15-member Security Council could vote on the draft resolution as early as next week.

The United States and China, a close ally of North Korea, have been negotiating a new draft Security Council resolution to punish Pyongyang since North Korea's fifth and largest nuclear test on Sept 9. The draft text was recently given to the remaining three permanent council veto powers - Britain, France and Russia.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said this week China supported further Security Council action in response to North Korea's nuclear test, but details of the draft resolution were still being discussed. The aim of the draft resolution is to close loopholes in sanctions imposed in March, following Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test in January. — Reuters



FUKUOKA: Policemen stand guard on a street in Fukuoka yesterday. Police blocked a busy street yesterday as the road, which was hurriedly repaired after collapsing into a giant sinkhole earlier this month, was found to have sunken again. — AFP

IS-LINKED MILITANTS UNDER SIEGE IN PHILIPPINE TOWN

MANILA: Up to 100 Islamist militants from a group behind a deadly bombing in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's home city were yesterday under siege in a remote mountain town, officials said.

Residents of Butig, which has a population of 17,000, have fled after the IS-linked militants holed themselves up in an abandoned government building, Philippine military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla said. "The Armed Forces of the Philippines has launched an operation to chase after the Maute leaders," Padilla told AFP, adding that artillery and military aircraft were aiding ground-based security forces.

Two soldiers had been wounded in skirmishes with the Maute group since military operations began on Thursday, he said. The group is one of several armed Islamist organizations in the southern region of Mindanao which have pledged allegiance to Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria. The stand-off follows the arrest of three members of the group last month, accused of the September bombing that left 15 people dead in Davao, Duterte's hometown and Mindanao's largest city.

Government forces have surrounded between 50-100 Maute gunmen to prevent a possible spillover of the fighting to other areas, Major Filemon Tan, the military spokesman for the southern Philippines, told ABS-CBN television.

He did not provide details of troop numbers. Butig is a mainly Muslim rural town on the lower slopes of Ragang, one of the country's tallest mountains and more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Manila. Government forces captured a Maute training camp in the town in June after a 10-day gunbattle that left four soldiers and dozens of militants dead, according to an army account.

Once described by the military as a small-time extortion gang, the group attacked a remote army outpost in Butig in February, triggering a week of fighting that the military said left six soldiers and 12 militants dead. The group also beheaded two employees of a local sawmill in April, the military has said. The southern Philippines has been plagued by a Muslim separatist insurgency for more than 40 years, leaving more than 100,000 people dead according to government estimates. — AFP

13 DETAINED IN CHINA OVER DEADLY CONSTRUCTION CRASH

BEIJING: Chinese authorities detained 13 people over the collapse of scaffolding at a power plant construction site that killed 74 workers, as a preliminary investigation zeroed in on how the building company had rushed the job.

Most of the dead had been working on the interior concrete wall of a massive circular cooling tower 70 meters (230 feet) up when the scaffolding collapsed Thursday morning, resulting in one of China's most serious industrial accidents in

years. In a statement issued yesterday, the committee of the State Council, or China's cabinet, said early findings suggested that a shortened time-frame for the power plant project, hasty construction and mismanagement played a role in the disaster, without giving details.

Although authorities did not disclose details about the 13 detentions, the focus of the investigation has turned to the power plant's operator, Jiangxi Ganneng, and a major engineering firm,

Hebei Yineng, which has taken on multiple high-profile power plant projects and has a history of workplace fatalities.

Yineng has won contracts to build plants in more than a dozen provinces and in Turkey and Malaysia, according to previous interviews given by executives. In 2012, seven Yineng builders in a cooling tower in Yunnan province tumbled to their deaths after scaffolding collapsed. Three years before that, two workers died after a vehicle accidentally backed onto a scaffolding support beam at a Yineng-built cooling tower in Guangdong province.

Several of the company's publicly listed telephone lines and a mobile phone number for the company's legal representative rang unanswered on Friday. The company's websites could not be opened.

State media reports said the accident occurred during a change of work shifts, possibly accounting for the high death toll. Workers had also been toiling around-the-clock in three shifts to make progress on the project ahead of the arrival of bitter winter weather, according to local media interviews with surviving employees.

The 1,000-megawatt coal-fired plant had been designated a priority project by the province, likely adding to the pressure on workers. The deadly accident has taken on added political significance in recent days after Chinese President Xi Jinping urged local governments to hold those responsible accountable and the State Council established a special committee to investigate. — Agencies



FENGCHENG: Dormitories used by construction workers who were killed when a platform collapsed at a power station are seen near the power station in Fengcheng in China's Jiangxi province yesterday. — AFP

CONTROVERSIAL BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHER HAMILTON DIES

PARIS: Controversial British fashion photographer David Hamilton, 83, was found dead in his Parisian home Friday, emergency services sources said, just weeks after being accused of rape by several former child models. Hamilton, known for his widely published nude images of underage girls, was found in a state of cardiac arrest an informed source said, adding there was medication near his body. He was declared dead an hour later. Hamilton, who rose to fame in the 1970s and whose photography books have sold millions of copies, this week threatened to sue his accusers, saying he had previously been cleared of abuse.

The artist, whose work has long raised questions about where art ends and pornography begins, was at the centre of a raft of allegations after a French radio presenter accused him of raping her when she was 13. Flavie Flament, who modelled for Hamilton almost 30 years ago, published an autobiographical novel last month in which she told of being raped by a famous photographer during a shoot.

Although she did not name Hamilton in "The



British fashion photographer David Hamilton

Consolation", she used his photograph of her as the book's cover. Flament, 42, later told French media that it was Hamilton who had raped her after three other women contacted her with near identical allegations. Flament said Hamilton raped her in the

shower of his apartment after spotting her in a nudist resort at Cap d'Agde in southwest France where she was on holiday with her parents.

Hamilton confirmed Flament had been his model, but denied the allegations, telling AFP on Tuesday: "I have done nothing improper." "Clearly the instigator of this media lynching is looking for her 15 minutes of fame by defaming me in her novel," he said, adding that he would take legal action.

Flament's editor Karina Hocine told AFP Friday the radio presenter was "devastated" by the news of Hamilton's death. "Naturally, we feel horrified and, at the same time, really disgusted that there was not enough time for justice to run its course," she added.

"The horror of this news will never erase the sleepless nights," Flament told AFP, reiterating her allegations.

'Lost paradise'

Hamilton has said that his work looks for the "candour of a lost paradise", and is most famous for his kitschy calendars of young girls and his soft-focus erotic films including "Bilitis" from 1977. He

was born in London in 1933 and studied architecture as a young man, but it was in Paris where he first started to work in fashion, having moved there aged 20 inspired by the impressionist painters.

He first worked as a designer at Elle magazine and then as an artistic director at the luxury Le Printemps department store. With no formal training in photography, he found his calling aged 33, seeking his models in the streets and on the beaches. He became known for his trademark "Hamilton blur", his photos often bathed in a very distinctive artistic vagueness. His photos' subdued light, bluish tint and young girls, often blonde, blue-eyed and crowned with flowers, were fashionable in the 70s and 80s but the style became seen as passe in later decades, and his pictures were considered disturbing by some. Under the French statute of limitations, charges must be brought within 20 years for rape and 10 years for sexual abuse. However, in a twist, the French minister for children's and women's rights asked Flament to head a body which will look at whether to extend the statute of limitations. — AFP

SWEEPING UK SPY BILL DUBBED 'SNOOPERS' CHARTER' BECOMES LAW

LONDON: In Britain, Big Brother just got bigger. After months of wrangling, Parliament has passed a contentious new snooping law that gives authorities - from police and spies to food regulators, fire officials and tax inspectors - powers to look at the internet browsing records of everyone in the country. The law requires telecoms companies to keep records of all users' web activity for a year, creating databases of personal information that the firms worry could be vulnerable to leaks and hackers. Civil liberties groups say the law establishes mass surveillance of British citizens, following innocent internet users from the office to the living room and the bedroom.

Tim Berners-Lee, the computer scientist credited with inventing World Wide Web, tweeted news of the law's passage with the words: "Dark, dark days." The Investigatory Powers Bill - dubbed the "snoopers' charter" by critics - was passed by Parliament this month after more than a year of debate and amendments. It will become law when it receives the formality of royal assent next week. But big questions remain about how it will work, and the government acknowledges it could be 12 months before internet firms have to start storing the records.

"It won't happen in a big bang next week," Home Office official Chris Mills told a meeting of internet service providers on Thursday. "It will be a phased program of the introduction of the measures over a year or so." The government says the new law "ensures powers are fit for the digital age," replacing a patchwork of rules. In a move taken by few other nations, it requires telecommunications companies to store for a year the web histories known as internet connection records - a list of websites each person has visited and the apps and messaging services they used, though not the individual pages they looked at or the messages they sent.

The government has called that information the modern equivalent of an itemized phone bill. But critics say it's more like a personal diary. Julian Huppert, a former Liberal

Democrat lawmaker who opposed the bill, said it "creates a very intrusive database." "People may have been to the Depression Alliance website, or a marriage guidance website, or an abortion provider's website, or all sorts of things which are very personal and private," he said.

Officials won't need a warrant to access the data, and the list of bodies that can see it includes not just the police and intelligence services, but government departments, revenue and customs officials and even the Food Standards Agency. "My worry is partly about their access," Huppert said. "But it's much more deeply about the prospects for either hacking or people selling information on." James Blessing, chairman of the Internet Services Providers Association, said the industry has "significant questions" on how the law will work - including "how to keep the vast new data sets secure." He warned that if the law is not implemented in a "proportionate, considered way, there is a real danger the UK could lose its status as a world-leading digital economy." Some aspects of the new law remain clouded by secrecy. Not all internet companies will have to comply - only those that are asked to by the government. The government won't say who is on that list, and the firms involved are forbidden from telling their customers.

Encryption

Service providers are also concerned by the law's provision that firms can be asked to remove encryption to let spies access communications. Internet companies say that could weaken the security of online shopping, banking and a host of other activities that rely on encryption. The new law also makes official - and legal - British spies' ability to hack into devices and harvest vast amounts of bulk online data, much of it from outside the UK. In doing so, it both acknowledges and sets limits on the secretive mass-snooping schemes exposed by former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. — AP



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande attends the handover ceremony of the Francophonie presidency between Senegal and Madagascar during the 16th "Sommet de la Francophonie" (Summit of French-speaking countries) yesterday. — AFP

HOLLANDE, VALLS SHOULD CONTEST SOCIALIST TICKET, SAYS BARTOLONE

SOCIALIST PRIMARIES DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande and Prime Minister Manuel Valls should contest a Socialist primary election to pick the party's candidate for next year's presidential race, a leading Socialist said yesterday. The comments from Claude Bartolone, who heads France's National Assembly lower house of parliament, contrast with messages from the Valls camp in past months which have said he would not fight Hollande for the Socialist ticket and would only stand if his boss did not.

Hollande's popularity ratings are low. They fell to four percent in one opinion poll, and speculation over whether the unpopular leader will run or not is centre-stage as the opposition centre-right's own presidential primary contest reaches its climax this weekend.

Valls has meanwhile been giving interviews and making prominent speeches on a wide range of subjects, increasing speculation that he is preparing for a shot at next year's April presidential race. The centre-right Les Republicains

party will choose its candidate on Sunday, with former prime minister Francois Fillon in pole position. The Socialist primaries take place in January.

Bartolone said he wanted as many candidates as possible in the Socialist party race. He urged Hollande, Valls and former economy minister Emmanuel Macron to all stand, saying the party would benefit from a large field of candidates. Macron is standing anyway as an independent. "I want Valls to stand in the primaries, and I want Hollande to stand in the primaries," Bartolone told reporters as he arrived at a left-wing political gathering north of Paris.

"I would prefer it if they both stood in the primaries, rather than one of them say 'That's it, I'm out, so I'm moving away from the campaign, I'm moving away from the Socialists, I'm moving away from what the government is doing,'" he added.

The Socialist primaries battle has exposed divisions in the party, with some urging

Hollande not to stand while others have been more circumspect. Hollande, who is expected to say near the end of the first week of December if he intends to run for re-election, got a boost this week when data showed France's jobless total had eased back slightly in October to a two-year low.

However, the French economy remains sluggish and attacks by Islamist militants, including one in Paris in November 2015 that killed 130 people, have also damaged Hollande's ratings.

Current opinion polls show any Socialist candidate would get knocked out of the first round in next year's election, with the Les Republicains candidate seen as likely to beat the far-right Front National in the final vote. But polls have been getting it wrong this year. After Britain's referendum decision to exit the European Union and the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, Fillon confounded the polls with a thumping win in the first round of the Les Republicains party primaries. — Reuters

EU-TURKEY PACT 'MUST BE RESPECTED': JUNCKER

BRUSSELS: The EU-Turkey deal that has substantially reduced the flow of migrants to Europe "must be respected and will be", said European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker in an interview published yesterday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened Friday to walk away from the agreement, speaking a day after the European Parliament angered Ankara by backing a freeze of its EU accession talks.

"We made an agreement, it must be respected and it will be," Juncker told Belgium's La Libre Belgique newspaper. He pointed to the period from 2003-2014 while Erdogan was prime minister, when Turkey "made a lot of progress in terms of the quality of its democracy". But in the past two years, the country has "distanced itself from European principles and values," Juncker said.

"I believe that Erdogan and his government are in the process of 'pre-blaming' Europe for the failure of its accession negotiations," he added. He noted that the current impasse between the two sides stems in particular from the fact that Turkey has refused to launch a reform of its anti-terror legislation, a condition for membership laid

down by the EU. "Instead of putting this failure on the European Union and Commission, Mr Erdogan would do well to start by asking himself if he responsible for Turks not being able to freely move on European territory," Juncker said. On March 18, Ankara and Brussels forged a deal for Turkey to halt the flow of migrants to Europe-an accord that has largely been successful in reducing numbers crossing the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), just over 171,000 have crossed to Greece so far this year, much lower than the comparable figure for 2015 of almost 740,000.

Hundreds of migrants drowned while trying to cross the Aegean in 2015 on unseaworthy boats, including three-year-old Syrian Aylan Kurdi. The images of his lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach spurred the international community into action. Juncker pointed out that the leaders of the 28 EU nations have the final say on Turkey's bid to join the bloc and not the European Parliament. Still, he said Thursday's vote was a "warning sign that Turkey should not underestimate". — AFP



PARIS: People hold a banner reading "Borders divide" and calling for "freedom of movement and residence" during a demonstration in support of migrants and refugees in Paris yesterday. — AFP

HURRICANE KILLS 9 IN COSTA RICA

SAN JOSE: A hurricane that churned its way across Central America before sweeping into the Pacific on Friday killed at least nine people in Costa Rica and caused millions of dollars in damage, officials said.

President Luis Guillermo Solis declared three days of mourning, starting Monday. In neighboring Nicaragua, officials reported no casualties but dozens of homes were damaged in low-lying areas.

Hurricane Otto had sparked red alerts in both countries when it spun in from the Caribbean on Thursday with winds of up to 175 kilometers (110 miles) per hour. It made landfall in southeastern Nicaragua, in an area with national reserves that is sparsely inhabited, before crossing into Costa Rica, losing strength as it went. Early Friday it headed out into the Pacific Ocean as a downgraded tropical storm. It should continue to weaken, the US National Hurricane Center said. A Costa Rican police official, Walter Espinoza, told a news conference:

"The number of people killed is nine. We have recovered eight bodies, only one remains." Solis said the storm dumped a month's worth of rain in just a few hours in Costa Rica. Authorities said it caused around \$8 million in damage to roads. Aerial television pictures from northern Costa Rica showed water and mud in several towns, and small bridges collapsed.

Evacuations

Updating an earlier death toll of four, Espinoza said five of the nine people killed died in Upala, a town near the border with Nicaragua that found itself in the storm's path. An Upala resident, Juan, told the Repretel channel he lost his son when rising waters tore away his home on a river bank. The other four died in Bagaces, a town 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of the capital San Jose. In Nicaragua, the government's



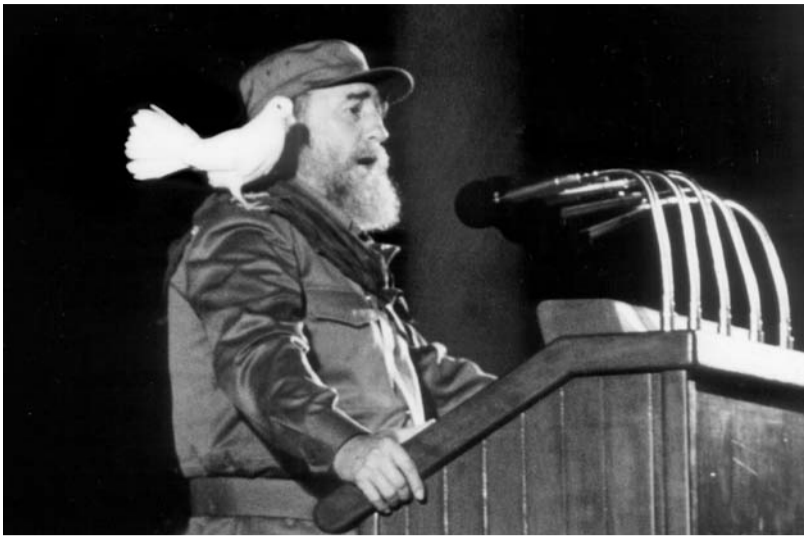
CARDENAS: A young man carries his bicycle across a road that flooded after the passing of Hurricane Otto in Cardenas on Friday. — AP

spokesperson, First Lady Rosario Murillo, said: "Up to now, thank God, we haven't counted any loss of human life." Officials in both countries had evacuated the most at-risk areas before the hurricane hit, and closed schools and mobilized emergency crews. Officials in Costa Rica said 5,500 people had been put up in shelters. Nicaragua had 44 shelters operating for many of the 10,500 people who had been evacuated.

UN agencies and non-governmental organizations had supported the emergency response, the UN office coordinating humanitarian affairs said in a statement. Early this week, as Otto gathered strength in the Caribbean, its outer

bands of wind and rain contributed to the deaths of eight people in Panama, according to the national civil protection service.

On Thursday, at the same time as the hurricane struck, a 7.0 earthquake was registered on the other side of the Central American isthmus, 120 kilometers (75 miles) offshore in the Pacific Ocean. Although the temblor prompted panicked residents in El Salvador's capital to run out of buildings, and briefly sparked tsunami alerts in El Salvador and Nicaragua, no damage was reported. The sole casualty was in Nicaragua, where one person died of a heart attack. — AFP



This file photo taken on Jan 8, 1989 shows a white dove landing on Cuban president Fidel Castro's shoulder as he delivers a speech to Cuban youth at a ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution in Havana. — AP/AFP photos



This file photo taken on Sept 02, 1998 shows South African President Nelson Mandela greeting Castro as he arrives for the opening of the 12th Non-Aligned Movement summit in Durban.



This file photo taken on Sept 9, 1973 shows then Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad (left) speaking with Castro during a meeting in Damascus.

FIDEL CASTRO DIES AGED 90

HAVANA: Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro has died aged 90, prompting mixed grief and joy yesterday along with international tributes for the man whose iron-fisted rule defied the United States for half a century. One of the world's longest-serving rulers and among modern history's most striking personalities, Castro survived 11 US administrations and hundreds of assassination attempts. Fidel Castro crushed opposition at home from the moment he took power in 1959 to lead the Caribbean island through the Cold War. He stepped aside only in 2006 after intestinal surgery.

For defenders of the revolution, Castro was a hero who protected ordinary people against capitalist domination. To opponents, including thousands of Cuban exiles living in the United States, he was a cruel communist tyrant. Castro eventually lived to see the restoration of diplomatic ties with Washington last year.

National Mourning

President Raul Castro, who took power after his elder brother Fidel was hospitalized in 2006, announced the news on national television just after midnight Friday (0500 GMT yesterday). "The commander in chief of the Cuban revolution died at 22:29 hours this evening," Raul Castro said in a solemn voice. He gave no details of the cause of death. He said his brother would be cremated early yesterday. The government decreed nine days of mourning.

From Nov 26 to Dec 4, "public activities and shows will cease, the national flag will fly at half-mast on public buildings and military installations," said a statement from the state executive.

Castro's ashes will be buried in the southeastern city of Santiago on Dec 4 after a four-day procession through the country, it added.

Joy in Miami, Grief in Havana

In the streets of Miami, home to the bulk of the Cuban-American community, euphoric crowds waved flags and danced, banging on pots and drums and honking their car horns. "It's sad that one finds joy in the death of a person - but that person should never have been born," said Pablo Arencibia, 67, a teacher who fled Cuba 20 years ago. "Satan is now the one who has to worry," he added, because "Fidel is heading there and is going to try to get his job." Castro was loathed by many for stifling dissent, but loved by others for providing free universal healthcare and education. "Losing Fidel is like losing a father - the guide, the beacon of this revolution," said Michel Rodriguez, a 42-year-old baker in Havana.

'Socialism or Death'

Fidel Castro came to power in 1959 as a black-bearded, cigar-chomping 32-year-old, in a revolution against former dictator Fulgencio Batista. "When this war is over, a much longer greater war will begin: the war that I am going to wage against them," the United States, he had said in 1958. "That will be my true destiny." Living by the slogan "socialism or death," Castro kept the faith to the end, even as the Cold War came and went.

He endured more than 600 assassination attempts, according to his aides, and the disastrous US-backed Bay of Pigs invasion attempt in

1961. "If I am considered a myth, the United States deserves the credit," he said in 1988. Castro was at the center of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, as the world stood on the brink of nuclear war.

Revolution

Born Aug 13, 1926 to a prosperous Spanish immigrant landowner and a Cuban mother of humble background, Castro was said to be a quick learner and a keen baseball player. He formed a guerrilla opposition to the US-backed government of Batista, who had seized power in a 1952 coup. After a failed uprising in 1953, Castro was put on trial. In a self-defense speech he said defiantly: "History will absolve me." After two years of prison Castro went into exile in Mexico and organized followers for their ultimately triumphant uprising.

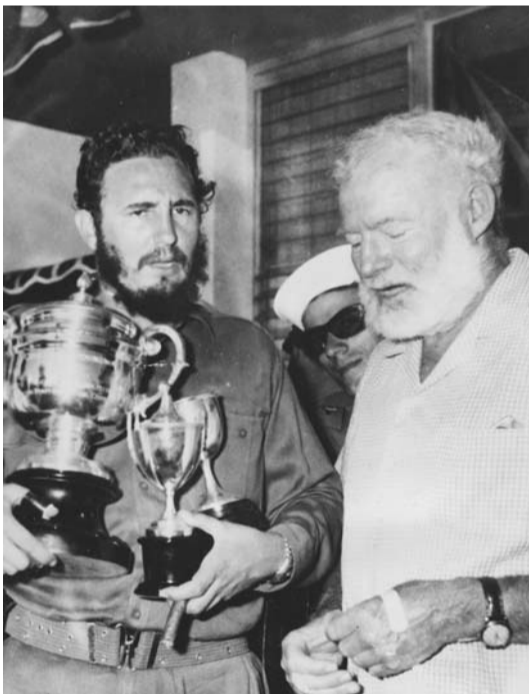
On Dec 2, 1956 the rebels sailed to southeastern Cuba on the yacht Granma. Twenty-five months later, they ousted Batista and Castro was named prime minister. He threw Cuba's lot in with the Soviet Union, which bankrolled his regime until 1989, when the Eastern Bloc's collapse sent Cuba's economy plunging.

Ceded Power

Fidel ceded power to his younger brother Raul, now 85, in July 2006. The revolutionary icon underwent intestinal surgery and largely disappeared from public view. Castro married three times and is known to have fathered eight children. He was last seen in public on his 90th birthday on Aug 13. — AFP



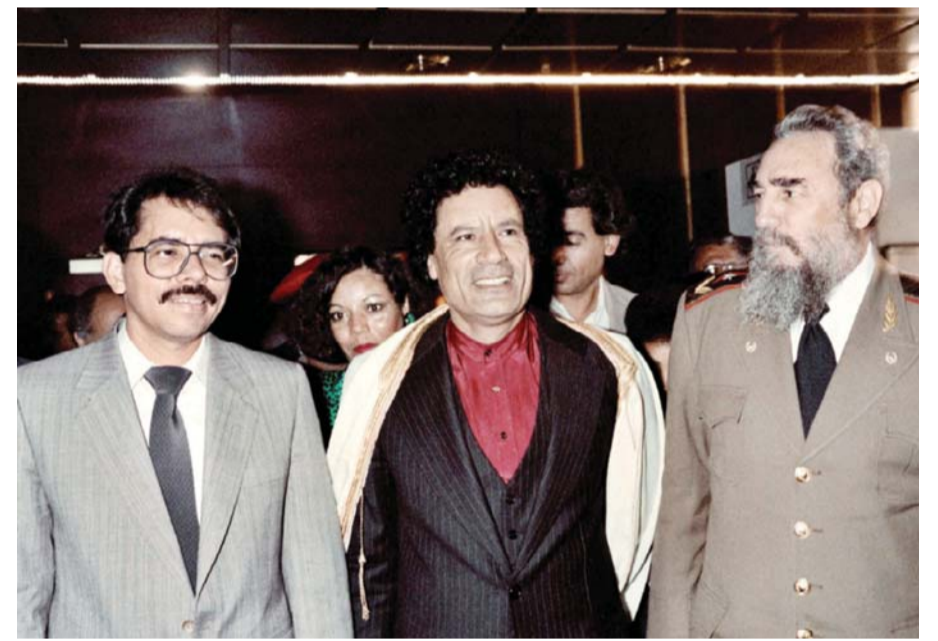
This file photo taken on Nov 16, 1999 shows Castro trying on a pair of sunglasses as he talks to the media in Havana during the IX Iberoamerican Summit.



In this May 15, 1960 file photo, American novelist Ernest Hemingway (right) stands with Castro who holds a trophy after winning the individual championship in the annual Hemingway Fishing Tournament in Havana.



This file photo taken on April 02, 1989 shows then General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev (standing left) and Castro (standing right) greeting onlookers en route from the airport upon Gorbachev's arrival in Havana.



This file photo taken on Sept 04, 1986 shows Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi (center) and Castro walking along with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (left) during the non-aligned countries summit, in Harare, Zimbabwe.



This file photo taken on July 11, 1972 shows Castro (center) wearing a miner's dress of Kotowice during his official visit to Poland.



This Oct 13, 2016 photo shows Castro (right) shaking hands with Algeria's Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal, in one of the last pictures taken of Castro before he died, in Havana.



This file photo taken on Dec 14, 1974 shows Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat (right) walking with Castro during his visit to Cuba.



In this April 14, 1966 file photo Castro stands in a sugarcane plantation in Cuba.



This Jan 01, 1956 file photo shows Castro standing behind bars at the Miguel Schultz prison in the Mexican colony of San Rafael in 1956, after being arrested by the Mexican police with the cooperation of then president of Cuba Fulgencio Batista.



This file photo taken in the 1960s shows Castro (left) lighting a cigar while listening to Argentinian revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara.

WORLD LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO CASTRO

CRITICS LABEL HIM A 'TYRANT'

MOSCOW/CARACAS: World leaders paid tribute yesterday to Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolutionary leader who built a communist state on the doorstep of the United States, but in death just as in life he divided opinion, and critics labeled him a "tyrant". Castro died on Friday aged 90, his younger brother and successor Raul Castro announced on state television.

US President Barack Obama: US President Barack Obama in a statement yesterday offered his condolences to Fidel Castro's family and added that history would judge Castro's impact on Cuba and around the world. "At this time of Fidel Castro's passing, we extend a hand of friendship to the Cuban people," Obama said. "History will record and judge the enormous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him." Obama added that during his own presidency he had worked to "put the past behind us," while working on a future that was built on those things that were in common.

Pope Francis: The leader of the world's Roman Catholics sent a telegram saying he was "praying to the Lord that he (Castro) may rest in peace".

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon: "Under former president (Fidel) Castro, Cuba made progress in the areas of education, literacy and health," the UN secretary-general told journalists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin: "The free and independent Cuba, built by him and his comrades, has become an influential member of international society and served as an inspiring example for many countries and people. Fidel Castro was a frank and tried and true friend of Russia. He has made a great contribution into establishing and developing of Russo-Cuban ties, close strategic cooperation in all the spheres," the Kremlin said, citing Putin's condolences telegram to Raul Castro.

Former leader of USSR Mikhail Gorbachev: Mikhail Gorbachev, the final leader of the Soviet Union which had long acted as an economic and political prop for Cuba, said Castro left a lasting mark on his country and on world history. "Fidel held his ground and strengthened his country at the time of the harshest American blockade, at the time of massive pressure on him," Gorbachev was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying. "Nevertheless he led out his country from the blockade to the path of self-sustained and independent development."

Chinese President Xi Jinping: Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a statement that: "the Chinese people have lost a close comrade and a sincere friend". Xi hailed Castro for his

contribution to the development of communism both in Cuba and around the world.

French President Francois Hollande: French President Francois Hollande mourned the loss of a major figure on the world stage and welcomed the rapprochement between Havana and Washington, while noting concerns over human rights under the Castro regime. "Fidel Castro was a towering figure of the 20th century. He incarnated the Cuban revolution, in both its hopes and subsequent disillusionments," Hollande said in a statement. "France, which condemned human rights abuses in Cuba, had equally challenged the US embargo on Cuba, and France was glad to see the two countries re-establish dialogue and open ties between themselves," added the Socialist party leader. Hollande met Fidel Castro in May, 2015 during the first ever visit by a French head of state to Cuba since the Cuban revolution.

Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy The Spanish prime minister sent his condolences to Cuba's government and people, via Twitter, where he described Castro as "a figure of historic significance".

Indian PM Narendra Modi India's prime minister sent his "deepest condolences" to Cuba. "May his soul rest in peace," he tweeted. "Fidel Castro was one of the most iconic personalities of the 20th century. India mourns the loss of a great friend."

UK Foreign Minister Boris Johnson: "The UK expresses its condolences to the government and people of Cuba, and to the former President's family. Fidel Castro's death marks the end of an era for Cuba and the start of a new one for Cuba's people. Fidel Castro's leadership of the 1959 Cuban Revolution marked him out as an historic if controversial figure. The UK will continue to work with the government of Cuba on a wide range of foreign policy priorities, including on human rights."

EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker: "Fidel Castro was one of the historic figures of the past century and the embodiment of the Cuban Revolution. With the death of Fidel Castro, the world has lost a man who was a hero for many. He changed the course of his country and his influence reached far beyond. Fidel Castro remains one of the revolutionary figures of the 20th century. His legacy will be judged by history."

Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro: In Venezuela, a long-time ally of Cuba and staunch opponent of the political stance of the United States, President Nicolas Maduro said Castro had inspired and would continue to inspire his country. "We will keep on

winning and keep fighting. Fidel Castro is an example of the fight for all the people of the world. We will go forward with his legacy," Maduro told television station Telesur by telephone.

Bolivia President Evo Morales: In Bolivia, where Ernesto "Che" Guevara died in 1967 in a failed bid to export Cuba's revolution, President Evo Morales said in a statement: "Fidel Castro left us a legacy of having fought for the integration of the world's peoples ... The departure of Comandante Fidel Castro really hurts."

Ecuador President Rafael Correa: Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa said: "A great has left us. Fidel has died. Long live Cuba! Long live Latin America!"

South African President Jacob Zuma: South African President Jacob Zuma had warm words, thanking the Cuban leader for his help and support in the struggle to overthrow apartheid. "President Castro identified with our struggle against apartheid. He inspired the Cuban people to join us in our own struggle against apartheid," Zuma said in a statement.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: "A legendary revolutionary and orator, Mr. Castro made significant improvements to the education and healthcare of his island nation. "While a controversial figure, both Mr. Castro's supporters and detractors recognized his tremendous dedication and love for the Cuban people who had a deep and lasting affection for "el Comandante", Trudeau said in a statement.

Vietnam PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc and President Tran Dai Quang: In a letter to the Cuban people: "In the hour of this infinite suffering, the Communists and the people of Vietnam again reaffirm the solidarity and steadfast fighting spirit with the Communists and the Cuban brothers." "The bright life and immortal career of comrade Fidel Castro will forever live in the glorious revolutionary mission of the Cuban people and other nations striving to build a fair, civilized, democratic, prosperous and happy life."

Syria President Bashar Al-Assad: Assad said in a telegram to the Cuban leadership: "Cuba, our friend, managed under his leadership to withstand the strongest sanctions and oppressive campaigns witnessed in our recent history, becoming a beacon of liberation for the people of South America, and the people of the entire world. Fidel Castro's name will live forever in the minds of generations and will inspire those aspiring to true independence and liberation from the yoke of colonialism and hegemony." — Agencies



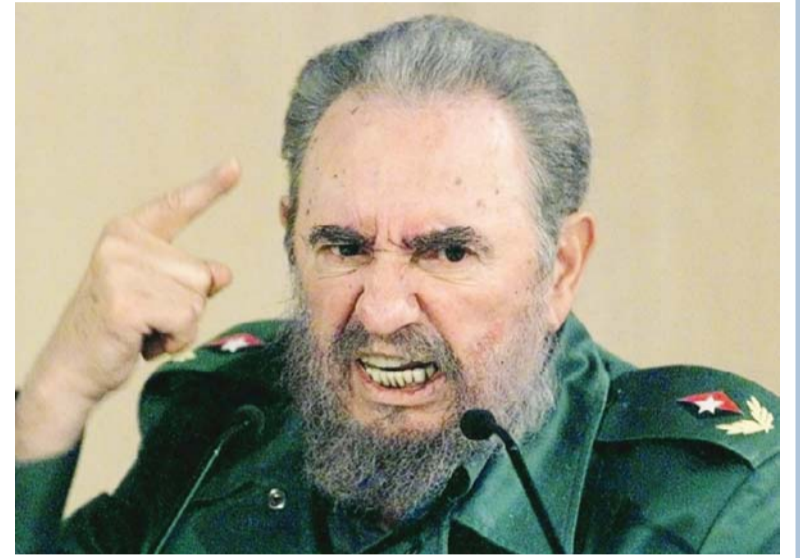
This file photo taken on Jan 26, 2001 shows Castro waving a flag during a visit to the Havana neighborhood of San Jose de las Lajas.

TRUMP SAYS WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO HELP CUBAN PEOPLE

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida: US President-elect Donald Trump said yesterday that his administration would "do all it can" once it takes office on Jan 20 to help boost freedom and prosperity for Cuban people after the death of Fidel Castro. Trump had threatened late in his upstart campaign for the White House that concerns about religious freedom in Cuba could prompt him to reverse President Barack Obama's moves to open relations with the Cold War adversary after more than a half-century's estrangement.

Obama said this was an emotional moment for Cubans and Cuban-Americans and offered condolences to Castro's family. "At this time of Fidel Castro's passing, we extend a hand of friendship to the Cuban people," he said in a statement, noting his administration had "worked hard to put the past behind us." Republicans closely await what Trump - a billionaire businessman known for his unconventional approach to politics and policy - will do on Cuba once he takes office.

"Though the tragedies, deaths and pain caused by Fidel Castro cannot be erased, our administration will do all it can to ensure the Cuban people can finally begin their journey toward prosperity and liberty," Trump said in a statement issued from his West Palm Beach, Florida, resort where he and his family are spending the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.



This file photo taken on Sept 4, 1999 shows Castro gesturing in Havana as he discusses his request to the president of the International Olympic Committee for an investigation into the treatment of certain Cuban athletes.

"While Cuba remains a totalitarian island, it is my hope that today marks a move away from the horrors endured for too long, and toward a future in which the wonderful Cuban people finally live in the freedom they so richly deserve," he added.

At a Miami rally in September, Trump said he would roll back Obama's Cuban policy reforms unless Cuban leaders allowed religious freedom and freed political prisoners.

"The next president can reverse them, and that I will do unless the Castro regime meets our demands," Trump told supporters. A bloc of mostly Republican Cuban-American lawmakers has worked to keep tight restrictions on trade and travel with Cuba for years. Some Republican lawmakers broke with party orthodoxy to back Obama's reforms, drawn by the economic benefits of restoring ties.— Reuters



In this Nov 10, 1971 file photo, Castro (center left) rides with Chile's President Salvador Allende through a crowd waving communist flags in Santiago, Chile.

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Washington Watch

**SECRECY SHROUDED
 DETAILS OF FIDEL
 CASTRO'S HEALTH**

By Paul Handley

Cuban leader Fidel Castro would always laugh off speculation about his health. With an athletic build, and physical stamina that lasted deep into his 70s, it seemed he would continue to rule for many more years. Castro's own physician, a specialist in longevity, even suggested in 2004 that the leader could live to 140. "I am not exaggerating," Dr Eugenio Selman said.

So Cubans were stunned when their aging, yet seemingly indefatigable leader announced he had undergone emergency intestinal surgery and temporarily relinquished presidential powers on July 31, 2006, 13 days before his 80th birthday. He vanished from sight for four years, with videos and photographs of him being released only sporadically. Even his good friend and ally, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, said in early 2009 that he doubted Castro would ever return to the public stage.

But Chavez was wrong. In July 2010, Castro surprised everyone when he was photographed meeting with scientists at a Havana institute, then gave an interview on state television. Soon he seemed to be popping up everywhere, meeting with economists, veterans and even visiting the aquarium. He used the publicity to warn the world of what he described as the threat of a nuclear war pitting the United States and Israel against Iran.

Looked frail, mentally sharp

The revolutionary leader looked frail but mentally sharp, and he seemed to gain strength with each appearance. By September, Castro was strong enough to give two outdoor speeches under Havana's blazing sun: the first on the steps of Havana University, and the second in front of the capital's former presidential palace.

That second speech went on for more than an hour and was attended by tens of thousands of people, and Castro felt comfortable enough to poke fun at his long-faded reputation for oratorical endurance. "We haven't even been here two hours," he grinned in conclusion. "But I'm leaving now. It's getting hot."

Castro's reemergence proved short-lived. By 2011 he was seen less and less often. At a brief appearance at a key Communist Party Congress in April 2011, Castro formally resigned as party leader and he appeared unsteady as he was led to his seat by a young aide. He had apologized in an article days earlier for not having attended a march marking the 50th anniversary of Cuba's victory at the Bay of Pigs invasion. "Believe me that I felt pain when I saw that some of you were looking for me on the dais," Castro wrote. "I thought everyone understood that I can no longer do what I have done so many times before."

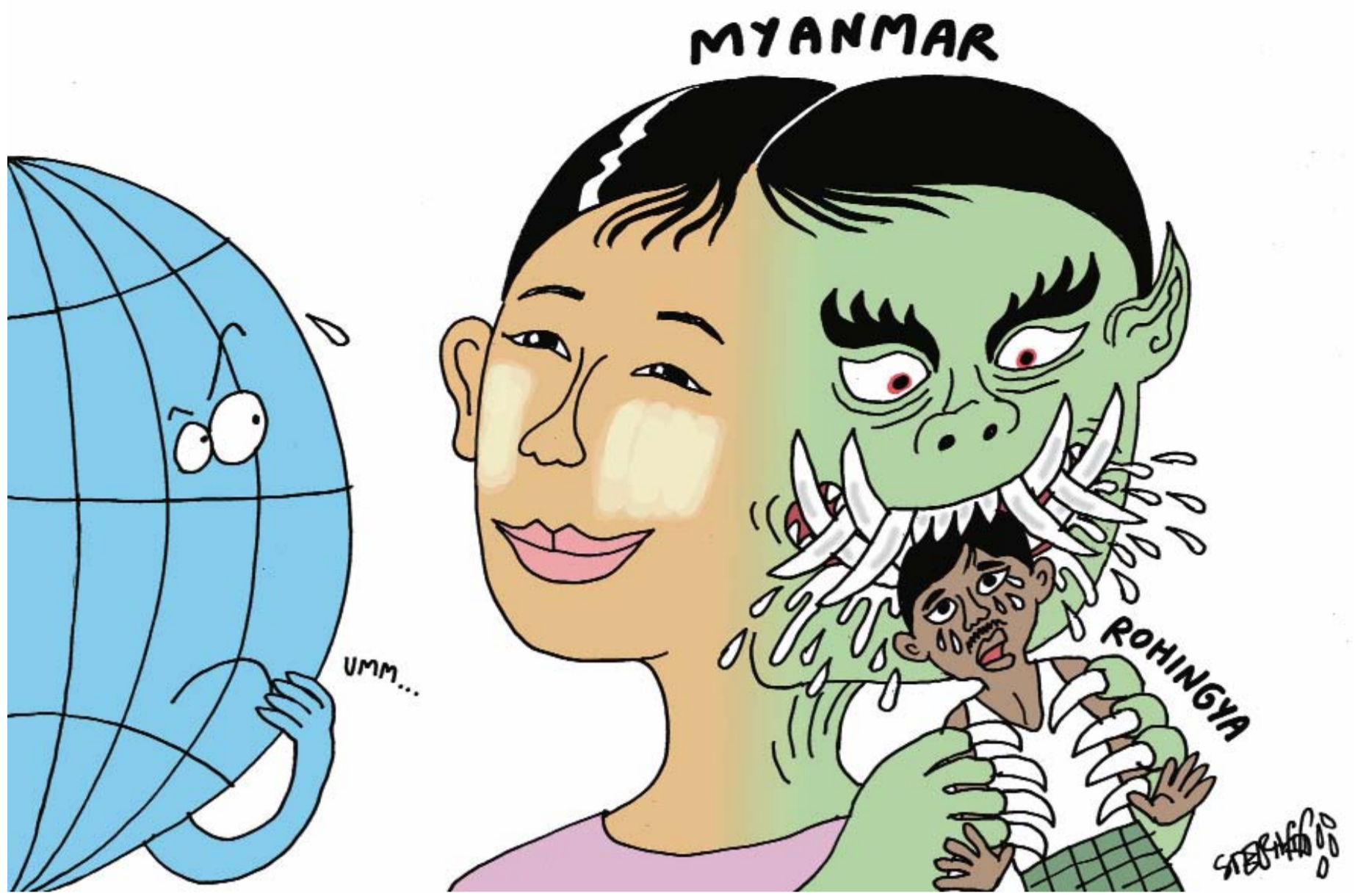
Appearances

After his resignation, the length of time between Fidel's appearances grew and he appeared older and weaker each time. After a Jan 8, 2014 appearance at a Havana art exhibit, he did not appear in public for at least a year. Photos of Castro with world leaders appeared only a handful of times in 2014.

Cuba's government has never said officially what Castro was suffering from when he fell ill, even when he announced in February 2008 that he was resigning for health reasons. But it was widely reported to have been complications involving diverticulitis, an intestinal ailment common in older people. Castro gave a few details of just how sick he was in an Aug 2010 interview with the Mexican newspaper La Jornada, saying his weight fell to 66 kg. That's extremely thin for a man known for his large frame. "I was at death's door, but I came back," Castro told the paper.

In the interview, Castro described lying in a hospital room during the illness, hooked up to machines, and wondering how long it would be before his suffering would be over. "Laid out in that bed, I could only see what was around me, machines I did not understand," Castro said. "I didn't know how long this torment would continue. The only thing I could hope for was that the world would stop." "But I recovered," he added, proudly. Months after falling ill, Castro acknowledged he underwent numerous surgeries for his condition and at least one had gone badly, almost killing him. Cubans first had to face up to their president's advancing age when, on June 23, 2001, he fainted briefly while giving a speech in the searing sun. — AP

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WARM AND COOL: CUBA'S TIES WITH USSR

The death of Cuban socialist icon Fidel Castro at age 90 on Friday stirred memories of his island nation's close but at times fraught relations with the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the USSR, on Saturday hailed Castro for having strengthened Cuba in the face of an American economic blockade, praising his former counterpart for having left a "deep mark in the history of mankind." But Gorbachev, 85, shied from invoking the cooling of relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union, telling Interfax news agency he would not discuss that period "on this day of mourning."

A New Ally

The end of the Cuban revolution in 1959, which propelled Castro to power, saw Moscow gain an ally in the backyard of the United States, its Cold War foe. Initially Soviet authorities were uncertain about how to deal with the new leader in Havana. But the US blockade, which increased pressure on Castro to find external support, led Cuba to develop its burgeoning relations with the Soviet Union. Castro appealed to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev for help. Moscow provided Havana with fuel in exchange for Cuban sugar. The move saw Cuba progressively become totally dependent on the Soviet Union. Havana's relations with the Soviet Union deepened further after Castro's forces defeated the CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, which led him to declare Cuba a socialist state.

Strained relations

The Soviet Union's support for the Cuban regime was far from selfless, serving as a part of its broader Cold War confrontations with the United States. In response to American ballistic missile deployments in Italy and Turkey in 1962, Moscow struck back by deploying its own missile to Cuba - just 144 km from the southern tip of the US state of Florida.

After a tense standoff between the rival superpowers, the world pulled back from the abyss as Moscow agreed to keep the missiles off Cuban soil in exchange for a US promise not to invade Cuba. Castro was angered for not having been consulted on the deal, straining relations with Moscow. In subsequent years Havana moved closer to the Chinese Communist regime while continuing to foster ties with Moscow, with Castro making his first visit to the Soviet Union in 1963. In the later years of the Soviet era, Moscow invested heavily in the Cuban economy and provided it with significant military assistance.

Collapse

In the final years of the Soviet Union, Moscow was struggling to meet its financial commitments to Cuba. After a cutoff of Soviet bloc aid in 1989 nearly collapsed the Cuban economy, Castro allowed more international tourism and modest economic reform.

Ties between Moscow and Havana suffered after the collapse of the USSR in 1991 as the massive flow of financial aid from Moscow dried up. President Vladimir Putin's deci-

sion to close a Soviet-era intelligence base south of Havana in 2001 also chilled relations. Ties picked up a few years later when Moscow began reasserting itself in Latin America.

The Kremlin has since been striving to revive its ties with Cuba as Russia increasingly squares off against Washington over Ukraine and Syria. Putin visited Cuba in 2014, agreeing to write off 90 percent of Havana's Soviet-era debt, a sum amounting to \$32 billion. — AFP

**MILITARY IN CASTRO'S CUBA:
 POLITICAL, ECONOMIC PILLAR**

Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, which preceded the bearded rebels Fidel Castro led to power in 1959, have become economic and political pillars that will remain crucial for the government following the ex-leader's death. During the golden age of Soviet support, the Cuban military was one of the world's most capable: with nearly 300,000 men, it projected Cuban power into Africa, notably Angola where it contended successfully with the formidable South African army.

The implosion of the Soviet bloc at the end of the 1980s and the 1989 execution of Cuba's most celebrated military commander, Arnaldo Ochoa, allegedly for drug trafficking, saw the army prove its resilience. Led from 1959 to 2008 by Fidel Castro's brother Raul, the FAR retreated from the battlefield and assumed a purely defensive posture, while quietly moving first into the island's political and then economic spheres.

With active duty troops in the tens of thousands, the FAR can also count on a million-member "territorial militia" and 3.5 million members enrolled in the country's "production and defense brigades". All are organized under a defensive doctrine of "total popular war," which would involve mobilizing the entire country in the event of a US invasion.

Repairing Weapons

Equipped by the Soviet Union until 1989, the army,

navy and air force today make do with weapons considered obsolete but kept going through an extraordinary domestic training, repair and modernization effort. Even as the military arm has weakened, the armed forces have gained political influence. As the FAR's boss for nearly half a century, President Raul Castro relied on associates from the military to run the country since he replaced Fidel in July 2006 after the latter fell ill. Raul Castro officially assumed the presidency in Feb 2008. Succeeding his brother in April 2011 at the head of the all-powerful Cuban Communist Party, Raul later named six generals to the 15-member Politburo, which also includes retired military officers and veterans of the guerrilla war. But today, the army's weight is felt most heavily in the economic realm. After becoming president, Raul named General Julio Casas Regueiro minister of defense, putting him in charge of all the army's commercial enterprises. He died in 2011.

Economic Force

The army's arrival as a force in the Cuban economy dates to the early 1990s. The collapse of the Soviet bloc plunged Cuba into an unprecedented crisis and the army was used to bring discipline and effectiveness to the economy. The military is active in many sectors: communications, transportation, industry, mines. Tens of thousands of young military recruits are employed in agriculture. — AFP

FIDEL CASTRO: REVOLUTIONARY, RENAISSANCE MAN

HAVANA: His long-winded political rants were legendary. But Fidel Castro also loved burning the midnight oil, the written word, and, ironically, the sport that unites Cuba and its US foe: baseball. Castro squeezed the maximum out of his 90 years which ended when he died late Friday, getting by on snatched rest, sustained by the passion of his interests and the revolution he nurtured for nearly half a century. "I will never retire from politics, the revolution or the ideas I have," Castro said late in his life.

Castro's legendary late-night-manship was a source of constant comment by journalists, biographers and the bemused. For Castro, it was utterly normal to dine into the wee hours, then hold interviews that stretched on hours as guests slumped over in their chairs.

Some of his closest allies and friends said Castro somehow learned to rest while awake, in a sort of active down-time of chatting, swimming or reading, another passion of his. "His devotion to the word is almost magical," wrote a personal friend, Colombian Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He said he was convinced that when Castro is "tired of conversing, he rests by conversing more." Garcia Marquez died in 2014.

Learning to surf Web

Castro thirsted for knowledge, learning late in life to surf the Internet, even as his government controlled access to it. His personal library included books by Ernest Hemingway and texts on hydroponics, or growing plants without soil. There are photos of the day when the only Concorde to visit Havana touched down, and Castro headed to the airport to pepper the pilot with questions about the sleek supersonic jet. The youthful Castro of the 1950s was

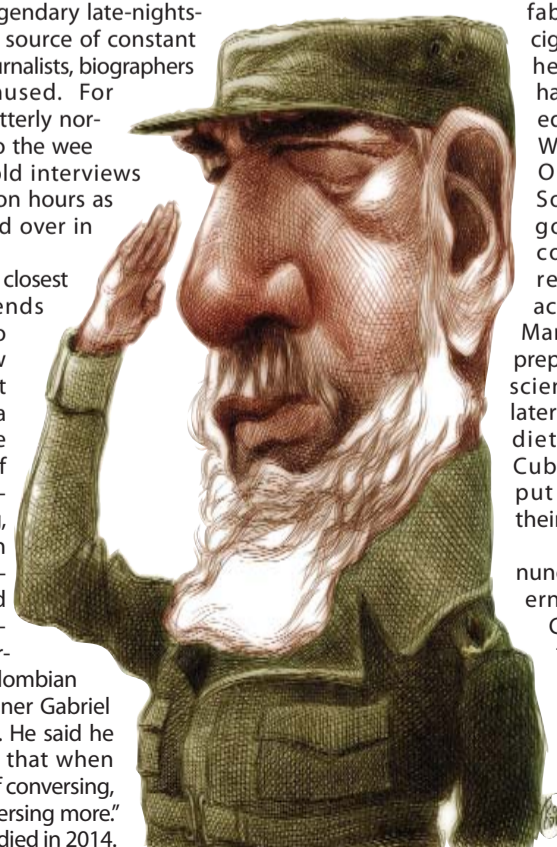
fabled for incessant cigar smoking. When he stubbed out the habit, he was awarded a prize from the World Health Organization. Something of a gourmand, Castro collected cooking recipes which, according to Garcia Marquez, he liked to prepare "with a sort of scientific rigor." In his later years he went on diets, even as many Cubans struggled to put enough food on their own tables.

The first papal nuncio during his government, Monsignor Cesare Sacchi, taught him how to make pasta. Maybe because of his high energy, or maybe to work off dinner, Castro was no stranger to

the gym and he loved swimming. His great sporting loves, however, were basketball, diving and baseball, Cuba's national sport. An inveterate risk-taker, he did not balk at political and military high stakes.

Castro did not take kindly to defeat. When Cuba failed to meet its 1970 sugar

harvest target of 10 million tons (there were only eight) he urged Cubans to "turn misfortune into victory." "In my next incarnation I want to be a writer," Castro was once quoted as saying. He wrote many short pieces and editorials but his books are mainly compilations of his speeches. —AFP



BAY OF PIGS: US' WATERLOO

America's failure to overthrow Fidel Castro during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion lionized the Cuban leader in his country as a leftist David battling an imperialist Goliath. In the midst of the Cold War, six B-26 bombers painted with Cuban colors took off from Nicaragua on the morning of Saturday, April 15, 1961 to attack Cuban airbases. The CIA believed they had wiped out Castro's air force.

On April 16, at the funeral of seven victims of the bombing, Fidel Castro announces: "What the imperialists cannot forgive is the triumph of a socialist revolution right under the nose of the United States." It was the first time he publicly characterized his revolution as "socialist", a fact that would become more obvious in the future.

The next day, Monday, April 17 at 1:15 am, some 1,400 anti-Castro Cubans from "Brigade 2506", who had been trained in secret camps by the CIA, landed at the Bay of Pigs, less than 200 km south of Havana. Offshore, eight ships headed to establish a beachhead. However, nine aircraft from the remains of Castro's air force took off, attacking one ship and sinking another. The other freighters headed back to sea.

In the sky, Castro's T-33 aircraft shot down two B-26 bombers, killing four American pilots. The Cuban air force lost four aircraft. On the ground, the element of surprise had evaporated. The invasion was "an open secret," said Cuba's then interior minister Ramiro Valdes as 200,000 militia members prepared for battle. Castro arrived to direct the operations. Fierce fighting lasted for two days.

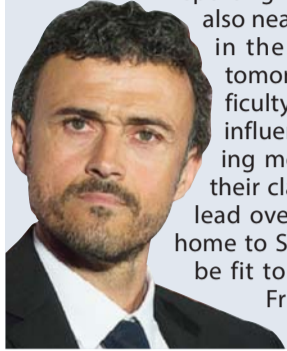
Lacking support, the "mercenaries" surrendered on April 19. There were 1,189 prisoners. Among the invaders, 107 were killed. Castro's forces suffered 161 losses.

Afterward, a nationwide police sweep led to the arrest of some 100,000 Cubans, including 35,000 in Havana. Captured combatants were exhibited on television. Five would be executed, nine sentenced to 30 years in prison, the others released in Dec 1962 in exchange for \$53 million worth of medicine and food.

In Havana, Castro savored his triumph. In Washington, it was a catastrophe. Historians say President John F Kennedy condemned the operation to failure in advance by refusing to give it military support. He was assassinated just two years later in 1963. — AFP

LUIS ENRIQUE AIMS TO FORGET SOCIEDAD WOE

BARCELONA: Barcelona boss Luis Enrique insisted the Catalan giants struggles away at Real Sociedad will have no impact on his side's preparation when they travel to San Sebastian today. The Spanish champions have a terrible recent record at Anoeta, failing to win on any of their last six league visits including five defeats. Enrique's toughest moment as Barca boss also came after a 1-0 defeat to then David Moyes's Sociedad in January 2015 after which sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta was sacked and Enrique also nearly lost his job. "I am not interested in what happened in the past because it doesn't affect what will happen tomorrow," Enrique said yesterday. "We are aware of the difficulty of the game but what happened in the past has no influence." Barca need to avoid another slip up to avoid losing more ground on La Liga leaders Real Madrid ahead of their clash in El Clasico next weekend. Real can extend their lead over Barca to seven points on Saturday with victory at home to Sporting Gijon. Enrique is confident Gerard Pique will be fit to start against Sociedad despite missing training on Friday due to a knock. —AFP



BAYERN MUNICH ANNOUNCE RECORD TURNOVER OF \$664M

BERLIN: German champions Bayern Munich on Friday announced record turnover for the 2015-16 financial year of 627 million euros (£533.3m; \$664.6m), up by more than 100 million euros on the previous year. Bayern's pre-tax profits also increased by around 30 percent, from 23.8 million euros in 2014-15 to 33 million euros. "Our entrepreneurial objective is the maximisation of sporting success alongside financial prudence," said the club's deputy chairman Jan-Christian Dreesen. "Our increasing financial power will be used primarily to make the regular investments required in our first-team squad in order to ensure we remain competitive among the elite teams in Europe." While spending on players and staff rose by 33 million euros, the increase in revenue is largely down to income from sponsorship and marketing growing from 113.9 million euros in 2014-15 to 169.8 million euros. Income from television rights marketing was 83.4 million euros, "a relatively low figure in international terms", as the club said, but up from 58.3 million. —AFP

FORMER CHELSEA DOCTOR REVEALS DEATH THREATS

LONDON: Former Chelsea team doctor Eva Carneiro received death threats following her departure from the club last year, she revealed in a newspaper interview published yesterday. "Even though I don't have a presence on social media-I think I have made one post ever in my life-some of the threats of sexual violence and death threats make it through," she told the Daily Telegraph. "They (the abusers) just seem to be faceless cowards and they should be answerable to legislation." Carneiro, 43, left Chelsea in September 2015 after being publicly criticised by then manager Jose Mourinho for going onto the pitch to treat a player during a home game against Swansea City. Earlier this year she settled a constructive dismissal case with Chelsea, who apologised "unreservedly" over her treatment, and she also reached a discrimination settlement with Mourinho. Carneiro, who now works at her own clinic in London, feels not enough is being done to eradicate sexism in football. "I think sexism is the least challenged form of discrimination," she said. "Anti-Semitic and other racist comments are widely condemned and I don't think that is the case (with sexism) and it begs the question what that leaves room for behind the scenes." —AFP



Khaled Al Otaibi, Manager, Gulf Bank presenting a medal to one of the winners.



Group photo of the winners along with Khaled Al-Otaibi- Gulf Bank and Abdulmohsen Al-Babtain- Head of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open organizing committee.

GULF BANK: GOLD SPONSOR OF KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL JIU-JITSU OPEN

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank concluded its gold sponsorship of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open that recently took place over two days in Kuwait at the Ice Skating Rink in Kuwait City. Gulf Bank's sponsorship comes as part of its commitment to supporting youth initiatives and its campaign of promoting health and fitness activities. The championship included the partici-

participation of 300 athletes, representing 20 countries. A specialized referee crew panel from the United States of America supervised and oversaw the performance of competitors.

The Public Authority for Sports was the strategic partner of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open, along with the Kuwait Olympic Committee acting as governmental partners.

Khaled Al-Otaibi, Gulf Bank Corporate Communications Manager commented on this occasion by explaining: "Gulf Bank would like to thank the organizing committee and its chairman Abdulmohsen Saleh Al Babtain on hosting a world class event. The Bank was proud to be the gold sponsor of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open because we want to stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle and sup-

port world-class youth organized events. Not only do we want to encourage members of the Kuwaiti community to adopt sports activities regularly, but also to motivate young people to show their talents on the local and international levels."

Gulf Bank is strongly committed to giving back to Kuwait and society through its corporate social responsibility program. The Bank supports numerous events

focusing on youth, education, health and fitness, helping the underprivileged, women's empowerment, as well as promoting Kuwait's heritage and culture.

To learn more about Gulf Bank, visit one of Gulf Bank's branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, log on to the Bank's bilingual website www.gulfbank.com, or visit the its social media channels.



KUWAIT: Kenil Kuriakose, President of AECK presenting Man of the Match trophy to Mahesh (AECK).

KEA ENTER SEMIFINALS AS AECK, MACE AND TKM WIN

KUWAIT: The 19th Prof Ramachandran Memorial Cricket Tournament (RMC) conducted by College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni Association (CETAA) and sponsored by GTE Olayan Co continued on 18th November with the second round of league matches.

In the day's 1st match, winning the toss and batting first, NIT were soon in trouble losing wickets at regular intervals against MACE. But Ajay (10) and Soj with a fighting 6th wicket partnership of 28 runs helped NIT to finish on a respectable 47 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their 12 overs. Giju (2 wickets) and Roy, Jayesh, Sandeep, Tinu with a wicket each bowled steadily to keep NIT within manageable proportions. In reply the top order of MACE rose to the occasion with Jayesh

(15 no - man of the match), George Ramachandran Memorial Cricket Tournament (RMC) conducted by College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni Association (CETAA) and sponsored by GTE Olayan Co continued on 18th November with the second round of league matches.

Hosts CET batting 1st in the 2nd match could not make much headway against the persistent attack of TKM and were reduced to 32 for 6 by the 10th over with only Prashanth (11) showing some resilience. But Zakir (15 no) in a late order flourish enabled CET to finish on a fighting 54 for 6 in their 12 overs. Anfar (2), Mukesh, Rahul and Javed with a wicket each had things under control for the majority of the innings. In reply, Shabeer (23) with 3 boundaries took charge early on and with Anfar at his explosive best (15 no - 3x4) took TKM to a commanding 9 wicket victory in the 8th over and put

TKM firmly on course for a semi-final spot. Daniel had the consolation of taking the only wicket to fall in TKM's innings.

In the third match, batting first against TEC, AECK had a good start with the openers putting on 24 runs by the 5th over. But it was the 2nd wicket partnership of 32 runs between Mahesh (35 - 1x6, 2x4, man of the match) and Nimish (23 - 4x4) which took the match away from TEC enabling AECK to put up a dominant score of 92 for the loss of 7 wickets in their 12 overs. Sreekumar (3 wickets) bowled spiritedly with good support by Gireesh and Sandeep (1 wicket each) but could not quite contain the classy AECK line up. In reply, injury hit TEC seemed disheartened as none of their established batsmen could reach double figures and AECK won comprehensively by 55 runs. For AECK, Abulais, Nimish, Remon (2 wickets each), Munaz and Shameer (1 wicket each) once again showed their all round bowling strength.

In the final match of the day, NSS batting first lost their top order quickly and were precariously placed at 18 for 4 wickets at the half way stage. Anesh (20) with good support from Shyfuiddhin helped NSS to reach a fighting 50 runs being all out in the last over. For KEA, Nasif (5 for 10 including a hat-trick) did most of the damage with good support from Sabin (2 for 15). In reply, KEA openers Nitin (29 no - 3x4) and Govind (14 no) put up a brilliant display with fluent drives and pulls to all parts of the ground. KEA won by 10 wickets in the 7th over showing they are a real force to reckon with and strong contenders for the title.



KUWAIT: Sreenath, President, KEA giving away the Man of the Match award to Nasif (KEA).

DOMINANT DANES EXTEND W CUP LEAD IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE: Soren Kjeldsen and Thorbjorn Olesen remained on course to claim a first World Cup of Golf for Denmark after shooting a two-under-par 70 in yesterday's foursomes to extend their overnight lead to four strokes.

The Danish pair started the day at Kingston Heath with a three-shot cushion after sizzling second round 60 and mixed five birdies with three bogeys to move to 14-under for the tournament. "We showed yesterday that a really low score is possible out there in the fourball," Olesen told reporters.

"It's definitely not going to be easy tomorrow. There's a lot of great players here and a lot of birdies out there. It's a four shot lead, which is really nice, but it's not going to be easy." Americans Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker were second after a 69 in the alternate shot format moved them to 10-under, a shot better than China's Wu Anshun and Li Haotong, who made a double bogey-bogey start but recovered for a round of par 72.

Japan (71), France (72) and first-round leaders Spain (73) will be tied for fourth seven shots off the pace going into today's final round fourballs at the sandbelt course.

It looked like being a bigger deficit when 26-year-old Olesen sank a four-foot birdie putt at the 13th to give the Danes a six-shot lead over the field.

The putts would not drop for the duo over the next couple of holes, however, and at the 17th, Olesen's drive found one of the series of bunkers on the left of the fairway.

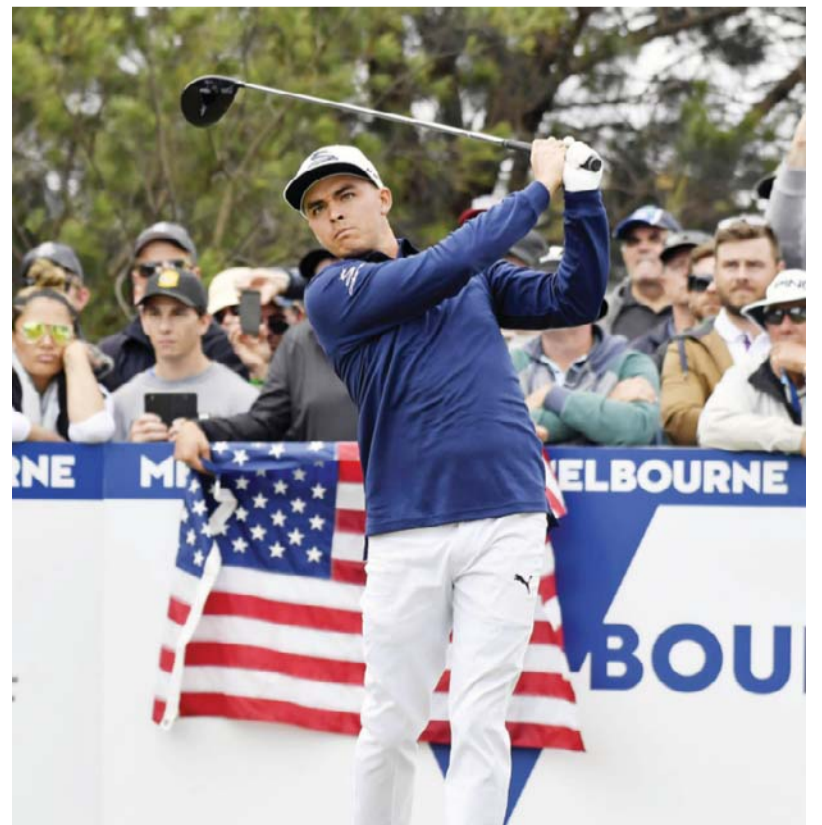
Kjeldsen got the ball onto the green with a fine recovery shot but the pair three-putted for a bogey to take a little bit of the shine off their day. Walker had earlier drained a six-foot birdie putt on the same green to bring the Americans, who have won a record 24 World Cup titles, a shot closer to their rivals.

"It would be nice to be out front or a little closer, but with where we were coming into today, just putting up a solid round of golf was what we wanted to do," Fowler said.

"We did that and we gave ourselves a chance going into tomorrow." Australian Adam Scott's hopes of defending the title he won with Jason Day at Royal Melbourne in 2013 look slight as he and Marc Leishman hit a 70 to stand 10 shots adrift in a share of 11th. — Reuters



MELBOURNE: Denmark's Soren Kjeldsen hit out of the rough on the fifth hole during his match at the World Cup of golf at Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. — AP



MELBOURNE: United States' Rickie Fowler watches his tee shot on the 12th hole during his match at the World Cup of golf at Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. — AP

WOLFF WARNS OF VOLCANO WAITING TO ERUPT

ABU DHABI: Mercedes boss Toto Wolff says the rivalry between team mates Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg is like a volcano ready to erupt ahead of Formula One's season-ending title showdown this weekend.

The Austrian is, however, confident the drivers can avoid taking each other out of Sunday's race at Yas Marina. "It is also clear, and we have to acknowledge it, that now everything is on the line," Wolff told reporters at the Abu Dhabi circuit. "Now it's about losing or winning the drivers' world championship. They can't be in love with each other this weekend but they need to play all the

tricks to put themselves in a situation to hopefully win the championship.

"You just have to respect that there is a fierce rivalry, the competition is intense and like since 2013 we just have to try to keep it together with up and downs," Wolff said.

There have been plenty of mind games already with Hamilton saying he would consider himself the true champion, regardless of the outcome, while Rosberg has been adamant that he is just focused on the race.

"It's normal that here this is like a volcano to erupt with two of them, the two very different personalities. One is going

to dig a little deeper, the other one is going to do it in a different way," Wolff added. Rosberg is 12 points clear of Hamilton in the standings, meaning that he has only to finish on the podium to take his first title regardless of other results. A retirement by triple world champion Hamilton during the race, whether it be due to mechanical failure or a collision, would hand the German the title there and then.

Formula One titles have been settled before by a collision between the contenders-think Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost or Michael Schumacher with Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve-but

Wolff played down that likelihood.

"There are some examples in the past that have been very prominent and very controversial. Lewis's hero (Senna), and the other way around," he said.

"I think it is very difficult to construct such a situation and make it work. I don't think that's the way Nico operates and it would certainly not look very good. There are so many unknowns at the moment. It's about reliability and finishing the race for both of them.

"It is about qualifying, who is in the lead and how the race is going to pan out, that I don't think anyone of them is seriously considering playing that way,



Toto Wolff

because it could come out completely different." — Reuters

VERSTAPPEN READY TO PLAY DESERT 'KINGMAKER'

ABU DHABI: A teenager who passed his driving test little more than a year ago, Max Verstappen is the extravagantly-talented 'outsider' set to create an upset in the final outcome of this year's Formula One world championship this weekend.

If the 19-year-old Red Bull racer can win today's keenly-anticipated Abu Dhabi Grand Prix or split Mercedes duo Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton, who are duelling for the title, he may well be cast in the role of 'king maker' in F1's chronicle.

German Nico Rosberg, who has won nine races this year, needs only to finish on the podium to clinch his maiden championship even if Lewis Hamilton claims his 10th win of the season. If not, and Hamilton wins, defending champion will claim his fourth. "I think Max might become one of my best friends," this weekend, joked 31-year-old Briton Hamilton. Rosberg, also 31, managed a wry grin. He knows that if Hamilton is leading the race, it may be quite a battle to keep the young Dutchman and his Red Bull team-mate Australian Daniel Ricciardo behind him.

"I am only interested in winning and nothing else," said Verstappen. "It is up to the championship contenders to run their own races. I want to beat them and win and whatever happens, the champion will be the one who deserves it in the end."

Verstappen, the son of a former F1 racer, has proved already that he has the ability to win races, break records and embarrass former champions and senior team-mates without breaking sweat.

In May this year he became the youngest winner of a Grand Prix when he triumphed at the Circuit de Catalunya in Spain at the age of 18 years and 228 days, one of only two races not won by a Mercedes driver - the other went to Verstappen's Red Bull team-mate Ricciardo in Malaysia. That achievement meant he displaced four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, who has many times since clashed with the young Dutchman and frequently lost his temper. If his Spanish win was a victory gifted by a

collision between the two dominant Mercedes cars, he has long since shown he needs no special favours to succeed and impress. In a series of spectacular drives, he has mixed aggression with precision and provocative blocking moves with outstanding skill to establish himself as a champion-in-waiting just six months after switching from perennial midfielders Toro Rosso to former champions Red Bull. His win in Spain was delivered with astonishing aplomb on his debut with his new team and came after only 23 outings in an F1 car. Many observers believe that a similar performance or, if needed, a repeat of his stunning wet weather rush to the podium in Brazil could carry him into a position to influence the destination of this year's drivers' title. His performance in Sao Paulo where he recovered from 16th to finish third in torrential rain was praised as one of the greatest wet-weather drives in the history of the sport.

On Friday, he was less spectacular as he struggled slightly with tyre degrading and engine power problems to take fourth place at the end of two free practice sessions. He was also blocked on one of his best laps, an inconvenience that he said cost him at least two-tenths of a second and left him half a second off Hamilton's fastest pace.

"I think it will be tight here," said Verstappen. "Ferrari is looking quite strong here this weekend, but I am sure we can be stronger." Verstappen is trying not only to claim a podium finish, or win. He is also keen to claim fourth place in the drivers' championship in which, before the race, he is just five points behind Vettel - the man with whom he has had a series of run-ins and rows.

The most notable came in Mexico last month when Vettel erupted into a wild rant littered with swear words after Verstappen had moved to defend his position in the final laps when the Ferrari driver was attempting to pass him. In the end, both men were demoted from third place after the race and Ricciardo in the second Red Bull was promoted to finish behind the two Mercedes men.— AFP

HAMILTON WILL STILL BE CHAMPION IN HIS HEART

ABU DHABI: Lewis Hamilton has indicated that, in his heart at least, he will be the true Formula One world champion even if today's title-deciding Abu Dhabi Grand Prix goes against him.

If he was to beat the odds and deny Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg a first championship, it would represent the biggest achievement of the uncompromising Briton's stellar career. "I think in my heart I will feel - and maybe I should keep that private to myself - but I feel a certain way in my heart how I have performed," Hamilton told reporters ahead of the season's finale at Yas Marina.

"If he is labelled 'the world champion' it doesn't necessarily mean that's the way it's labelled in my heart," said the 31-year-old, who was quickest in both Friday practice sessions, making gestures for inverted commas. Like Rosberg, Hamilton has won nine races this campaign but unlike the German he has suffered more reliability problems. The Briton said his feelings did not mean Rosberg could not be considered a worthy winner but world champions were supposed to be "the best in all areas, all year long". "Just like 2007, in my heart I feel like I actually won that championship," he explained.

"Whilst it doesn't show that on paper, and people only remember who won the championship, in my heart I know and that's good enough for me."

Hamilton missed out on the 2007 title by a point to Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen, taking it the next year instead.

OUTSIDE CHANCE

This season he has fought back from 43 points down, taken the lead and then fallen behind again before finally having a chance of becoming Britain's first four times champion. Hamilton's fans will always argue that without a late engine failure while leading comfortably in Malaysia, the Briton would be in charge instead of being 12 points adrift with his fate in Rosberg's hands.

Despite winning the last three races, he is well aware that Rosberg need only finish on the podium to be crowned champion. All the British bookmakers have the German as clear favourite, with Hamilton very much an outside chance. "If I was to win? Oh, by far it would be the greatest, it would be the greatest achievement of my career for sure," he said.

"It would be a battle... similar to the years and years of battle that I have had, particularly in our younger days as a family, all coupled into one year.

"I never want to write a book. I get offers to do books all the time and I turn them down.... but I get excited about one day talking about this year. There are so many thoughts I have on my mind which I can't share with you just yet," he added. — Reuters



ANAHEIM: Anaheim Ducks center Rickard Rakell (67) and Chicago Blackhawks defenseman Duncan Keith (2) chase the puck in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Friday. — AP

KANE PACES CHICAGO PAST DUCKS 3-2 IN BLACK FRIDAY RIVALRY

ANAHEIM: Patrick Kane had a goal and an assist, and the Chicago Blackhawks hung on to beat the Anaheim Ducks 3-2 for their fifth consecutive win in the clubs' Black Friday rivalry game. Artem Anisimov and Ryan Hartman also scored as the Blackhawks snapped their two-game skid even without captain Jonathan Toews. He missed his first game of the season due to an upper-body injury. Corey Crawford made 34 saves for the Western Conference leaders. They have won five straight regular-season games in Anaheim since March 2013. Nick Ritchie and Jakob Silfverberg scored and John Gibson stopped 22 shots for the Ducks. They wrapped up a five-game homestand on a three-game skid. The Ducks fell to 4-4-2 against the Blackhawks on Black Friday. They haven't won this rivalry game since 2009.

SHARKS 3, ISLANDERS 2

Patrick Marleau scored with 22.5 seconds left and San Jose rebounded after allowing the tying goal to New York in the closing minute. Nick Leddy had tied it for New York with a one-timer off a feed from John Tavares with 57.1 seconds left but the Sharks bounced back quickly. Brent Burns took a shot from the point that Marleau deflected in the slot past Thomas Greiss for the winner that helped San Jose improve to 7-2 at home this season. Joe Pavelski and Brent Burns scored 34 seconds apart in the second period and backup Aaron Dell made 26 saves for the Sharks. Dell has earned both of his wins this season against the Islanders Anders Lee also scored for New York, and Greiss made 25 saves.

RED WINGS, 5, DEVILS 4, OT

Defenseman Mike Green scored from the right circle at 3:18 of overtime and Detroit handed New Jersey a rare home loss. Frans Nielsen added two goals, and Dylan Larkin and Anthony Mantha scored one apiece as the Red Wings won their second straight despite losing goalie Jimmy Howard to a lower-body injury in the first period. Petr Mrazek finished and allowed three goals in relief. John Moore, Mike Cammalleri, Pavel Zacha and Adam Henrique scored for the Devils. They are 7-0-2 at home.

WILD 6, PENGUINS 2

Charlie Coyle scored twice in the first period to set the tone as Minnesota matched its season high for goals, and Nino Niederreiter had two of the Wild's three goals on the power play on their way to the victory over Pittsburgh. Zach Parise also scored with the man advantage and Mikael Granlund added a goal to build 5-1 lead by the second intermission. Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury's career record against the Wild fell to 2-7, with 30 goals allowed in those nine all-time matchups. Phil Kessel and Bryan Rust had goals for the Penguins.

STARS 2, CANUCKS 1

Esa Lindell scored his first NHL goal and had an assist to help Dallas beat Vancouver. Playing in his 17th game for Dallas, Lindell at first was

NHL Results/Standings																		
NY Rangers 3, Philadelphia 2; Chicago 3, Anaheim 2; San Jose 3, NY Islanders 2; Minnesota 6, Pittsburgh 2; Washington 3, Buffalo 1; Nashville 5, Winnipeg 1; Calgary 2, Boston 1; Columbus 5, Tampa Bay 3; Detroit 5, New Jersey 4 (OT); Dallas 2, Vancouver 1; Arizona 3, Edmonton 2 (SO).																		
Western Conference					Tampa Bay													
Central Division					Chicago	13	8	1	69	56	27							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Ottawa	12	7	1	47	50	25						
Chicago	14	6	2	65	57	30	Boston	11	10	0	49	49						
St. Louis	11	7	3	54	57	25	Florida	10	9	1	53	54						
Minnesota	11	7	2	55	38	24	Detroit	10	10	1	53	56						
Nashville	10	7	3	60	51	23	Toronto	8	8	4	62	67						
Dallas	9	8	5	57	72	23	Buffalo	7	9	5	39	53						
Winnipeg	9	12	2	60	70	20	Metropolitan Division											
Colorado	9	10	0	42	55	18	NY Rangers	15	6	1	85	55	31					
Pacific Division					Edmonton	12	8	2	67	57	26	Washington	13	5	2	55	44	28
San Jose	12	8	1	50	45	25	Pittsburgh	12	6	3	62	62	27					
Los Angeles	11	9	1	55	53	23	Columbus	11	5	3	61	45	25					
Anaheim	9	8	4	54	52	22	New Jersey	10	6	4	50	51	24					
Calgary	10	12	1	53	70	21	Philadelphia	9	10	3	69	75	21					
Vancouver	8	11	2	46	64	18	Carolina	8	7	4	48	52	20					
Arizona	7	10	2	48	62	16	NY Islanders	6	10	4	49	63	16					
Eastern Conference					Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)													
Atlantic Division					Montreal	15	4	2	65	47	32							

credited with the goal at 9:32 of the second period that tied it 1-1. A scoring change gave the goal to Radek Faksa, who deflected Lindell's drive from the left point past goalie Ryan Miller. bWith 4:02 left in the second, Lindell scored from the inside edge of the left faceoff circle past a screen from Patrick Eaves. Antti Niemi made 30 saves for Dallas, allowing only Jayson Megna's early goal.

BLUE JACKETS 5, LIGHTNING 3

Brandon Saad scored on a power play and Cam Atkinson had a short-handed goal in the third period in Columbus' victory over Tampa Bay. Alexander Wennberg, Nick Foligno and Josh Anderson also scored to help the Blue Jackets improve to 9-2-2 in their last 13 games and 11-5-3 overall. Ondrej Palat, Jason Garrison and Nikita Kucherov scored for Tampa Bay. The loss was only the second for the Lightning in their last eight games against Columbus.

PREDATORS 5, JETS 1

Colin Wilson and Ryan Johansen scored twice, Mike Fisher added three assists and Nashville beat Winnipeg. James Neal also scored and Pekka Rinne made 22 saves for Nashville, winners of three straight. The Predators continued their home dominance, improving to 8-1-1. Dustin Byfuglien scored for Winnipeg. The Jets concluded their five-game trip, losing all five games.

FLAMES 2, BRUINS 1

Chad Johnson made 35 saves and Alex Chiasson broke a tie at 7:05 of the third period in Calgary's victory over Boston. Coming off a 2-0 victory Wednesday night at Columbus, Johnson allowed only David Pastrnak's goal off a rebound

at 5:55 of the third period. Sam Bennett had a goal and an assist to help Calgary win for the third time in four games. Bennett set up winner with a backhand pass from behind the net right to Chiasson, who easily beat goalie Anton Khudobin as he scrambled to get back across. Boston has lost three straight and four of five.

CAPITALS 3, SABRES 1

Marcus Johansson scored, Philipp Grubauer made 29 saves and Washington beat Buffalo. Daniel Winnik and Brett Connolly also scored to help Washington close its five-game homestand with its fourth victory. Sam Reinhart's third-period goal helped Buffalo's NHL-worst offense avoid being shut out for the third this time this season.

COYOTES 3, OILERS 2, SO

Radim Vrbata and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored in a shootout to give Arizona a 3-comeback victory over Edmonton. Mike Smith made 32 saves to help the Coyotes improve to 20-0-4 in the last 24 meetings with Edmonton. Connor McDavid's shot beat Coyotes goalie Mike Smith as time expired in the 3-on-3 overtime, but the goal was disallowed on review when officials deemed it did not cross the goal line before time ran out. Max Domi and Shane Doan scored for Arizona. McDavid and Adam Larsson countered for Edmonton.

RANGERS 3, FLYERS 2

Matt Puempel scored in his first game with New York, and Henrik Lundqvist made 40 saves to help the Rangers beat Philadelphia. Derek Stepan and Kevin Hayes also scored for the Rangers. Shayne Gostibeher and Chris VandeVelde scored in the third period for Philadelphia. —AP



ABU DHABI: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton (C), flanked by his German teammate Nico Rosberg (L) and Infiniti Red Bull Racing's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo, celebrate at the end of the qualifying session as part of the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit yesterday. —AFP

SHAKY PROTEAS HANG ON AS LATE WICKETS TUMBLE

ADELAIDE: South Africa lost skipper Faf du Plessis amid a clatter of late wickets as the match pendulum swung decisively towards Australia in the third day-night Test in Adelaide yesterday.

The Australians, who led by 124 runs on the first innings, reduced the Proteas to 194 for six with the prized wicket of du Plessis for 12 coming late on the third day. At the close, South Africa were holding on and just 70 runs ahead of Australia heading into today's fourth day.

Opener Stephen Cook was in sight of his second Test century and was unbeaten on 81 off 199 balls with Quinton de Kock yet to score. Australia, bidding to prevent South Africa from carrying off a series clean sweep after huge defeats in the opening two Tests, took major strides yesterday with Usman Khawaja leading the way with his near eight-hour epic.

Mitchell Starc captured the big wicket of du Plessis who, motivated by the events of his controversial pre-Test ball-tampering case, scored a career pinnacle unbeaten 118 in the first innings of the match. Du Plessis attempted to drive Starc only to get an outside edge to newcomer Peter Handscomb, who took a brilliant diving two-handed catch in the gully. It was a major moment in the course of the Test given the ability of du Plessis to play out long match-saving innings, memorably his defiant 376-ball unbeaten knock of 110 to deny Australia victory in Adelaide four years ago. Starc started the ball rolling, removing Dean Elgar with the fourth ball of his opening over for a duck and fellow paceman Josh Hazlewood had Hashim Amla caught behind for 45. It was the fifth time Hazlewood had captured Amla's wicket in five innings in the series.

EPIC KNOCKS

Spinner Nathan Lyon tightened the screws with three late wickets. JP Duminy played across the spinner and was bowled for 26 and Temba Bavuma fell three overs from stumps, caught off his gloves by Steve

Smith sweeping Lyon for 21.

Lyon removed nightwatchman Kyle Abbott leg before wicket for a duck in the day's final over.

"It was an unbelievable atmosphere towards the end," Lyon said. "This Test match we have bowled a lot better in partnerships... We still need four wickets and there's still two quality batters there at the moment." South Africa's chances of posting a competitive lead hinge on Cook and de Kock producing a big stand.

"There is an opportunity for us tomorrow to try and capitalise on a big partnership to try and push us up past 180-200 lead," team batting coach Neil McKenzie said. "If we can do that and take a few early wickets as we have done to Australia before that will give South Africa a lot of confidence." Khawaja earlier top scored with 145 with the last four wickets adding 100 runs to put the home side in command.

His 308-ball vigil finally came to an end when he was trapped leg before wicket by Vernon Philander.

The unflappable left-hander occupied the crease for 466 minutes after he was forced to open the innings after a miscalculation over David Warner's time off the field for injury treatment when the Proteas unexpectedly declared. Khawaja left the field to a standing ovation following his second-highest Test score, amassed over three days, ranking only below his 174 against New Zealand in Brisbane last year.

It was the Pakistan-born batsman's fifth Test century, all posted over the last 12 months. Khawaja's epic knock was also the first century by an Australian in the South Africa series and he has now scored 314 runs at 62.80 in five innings. Starc clubbed his seventh Test half-century with a 91-ball 53 before he was caught and bowled by Kagiso Rabada, ending a lively knock that featured five fours and a six.

Abbott was the best of South Africa's bowlers with an economical three wickets for 49 off 29 overs with young gun speedster Rabada claiming three for 84. —AFP



MOHALI: India's Parthiv Patel tries to stump England's Jos Buttler unsuccessfully on the first day of their third cricket test match against India in Mohali, India, yesterday. — AP

BAIRSTOW HITS 89 BUT ENGLAND FALTER IN SECOND INDIA TEST

MOHALI: Jonny Bairstow said England had a "scrappy" opening day after his half-century remained the only bright spot for the visitors who faltered against a persistent Indian bowling attack in Mohali yesterday.

Bairstow hit a gritty 89 to salvage some pride for England's batting after they were reduced to 87 for four in the morning session following their decision to bat first.

Indian bowlers put up a combined effort as Umesh Yadav, Jayant Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja claimed two wickets each. The visitors, who trail the five-match series 1-0, were 268 for eight at stumps with Adil Rashid (4) and Gareth Batty (0) battling on. "It's been a scrappy day but we've dealt with worse in the past and we will carry on to work hard within the game," Bairstow told reporters. "After winning the toss, it was disappointing to lose wickets, at the same time it could have been a disastrous day as well."

"We've also got to take positives from that," Bairstow, who recorded his 13th Test fifty, built crucial 50-plus partnerships with Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler (43) to thwart the opposition's bowling. Bairstow remained calm during his 177-ball stay at the crease before being trapped lbw off Jayant Yadav in the last half hour of play. The batsman, who survived a seemingly close umpire review on an lbw shout off Jadeja on 72, could not overturn his own referral as the on-field umpires call was upheld.

Jadeja halted England's revival twice in the innings only to see Bairstow steady the ship with his composed batting.

Jadeja got Ben Stokes stumped for 29 in the afternoon session and then denied Buttler, who batted with positive intent during his 80-ball

SCOREBOARD

MOHALI, India: Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the third Test between India and England at Mohali on yesterday.

England 1st innings:		Extras (b 8, lb 2, nb 1)	
A. Cook c Patel b Ashwin	27	Total (8 wickets, 90 overs)	268
H. Hameed c Rahane b U. Yadav	9	Fall of wickets: 1-32 (Hameed), 2-51 (Root), 3-51 (Cook), 4-87 (Ali), 5-144 (Stokes), 6-213 (Buttler), 7-258 (Bairstow), 8-266 (Woakes)	
J. Root lbw b J. Yadav	15	Bowling: Shami 20-5-52-1, U. Yadav 16-4-58-2, J. Yadav 15-5-49-2, Ashwin 18-1-43-1, Jadeja 21-3-56-2.	
M. Ali c Vijay b Shami	16	To bat: J. Anderson	
J. Bairstow lbw b J. Yadav	89	India: V. Kohli (capt), M. Vijay, K. Nair, C. Pujara, A. Rahane, P. Patel, R. Ashwin, J. Yadav, R. Jadeja, M. Shami, U. Yadav	
B. Stokes st Patel b Jadeja	29		
J. Buttler c Kohli b Jadeja	43		
C. Woakes b U. Yadav	25		
A. Rashid not out	4		
G. Batty not out	0		

stay, his fifty. While trudging back to the pavilion Stokes had an angry exchange of words with India skipper Virat Kohli, with the on-field umpire jumping in to pacify the two players.

"I don't know what was said, I don't get involved with all that stuff," said Bairstow.

"You got to respect the fact that you have got guys out there who are very passionate, representing the country in the heat of the battle and at some point there are going to be words," Bairstow and Buttler put on 69 runs for the sixth wicket to give England a shot of getting past the 300-run mark, a total which might prove fighting on a pitch that is expected to turn from day two. Chris Woakes' resilience ended in the penultimate over of the day as Umesh Yadav bowled him on 25.

MORNING BLITZ

Earlier the Indian bowlers rattled England's

top order by claiming four wickets in the morning session including that of skipper Alastair Cook. The Indian quicks bowled at a lively pace after the visitors elected to bat as Umesh Yadav struck first to get teenage opener Haseeb Hameed out for nine. Cook failed to capitalise on two dropped chances on three and 23 to eventually fall to Ravichandran Ashwin, who had dropped him the second time, for 27.

"In cricket, it happens. Teammates will take brilliant catches and drop some easy ones. It's part and parcel of the game," said Umesh Yadav. Ali and Bairstow put on 36 runs for the fourth wicket but Shami struck just before lunch to help India dominate the first session of play. Shami, who was at the receiving end of Cook's two spilt catches, got Ali to mistime a hook as the batsman was caught at fine leg for 16. —AFP



ADELAIDE: Australian batsman Jackson Bird (L) hits a ball past South African fielder Temba Bavuma during the third day of the third Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

ADELAIDE, Australia: Scoreboard at the close on the third day of the day-night third Test between Australia and South Africa at the Adelaide Oval on yesterday.

South Africa first innings 259 for 9 declared (F. du Plessis 118 not out, S. Cook 40; J. Hazlewood 4-68)	11-49-3, Rabada 25.1-4-84-3 (2w), Shami 29-4-101-1, Duminy 6-0-25-0, Elgar 2-0-11-0, Bavuma 1-0-1-0.
Australia first innings (307-6 over/night)	
U. Khawaja lbw b Philander	145
M. Renshaw c Elgar b Abbott	10
D. Warner c Elgar b Abbott	11
S. Smith run out (Philander/de Kock)	59
P. Handscomb b Abbott	54
N. Maddinson b Rabada	0
M. Wade c de Kock b Philander	4
M. Starc c and b Rabada	53
J. Hazlewood not out	11
N. Lyon c Amla b Shami	13
J. Bird c du Plessis b Rabada	6
Extras (lb 3, lb 9, w 2, nb 3)	17
Total (all out, 121.1 overs)	383
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Renshaw), 2-37 (Warner), 3-174 (Smith), 4-273 (Handscomb), 5-277 (Maddinson), 6-283 (Wade), 7-327 (Khawaja), 8-357 (Starc), 9-370 (Lyon), 10-383 (Bird)	
Bowling: Philander 29-5-100-2 (3nb), Abbott 29-	

MARADONA SEES ARGENTINA LEVEL DAVIS CUP FINAL

ZAGREB: Argentina football legend Diego Maradona was courted as Juan Martin del Potro beat veteran Ivo Karlovic to draw his country back level at 1-1 against Croatia in the Davis Cup final on Friday.

Maradona, 56, who inspired Argentina to glory at the 1986 World Cup, watched on with his girlfriend as Croatia went 1-0 up when Marin Cilic battled back from a mid-match collapse to beat Federico Delbonis 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 1-6, 6-2 at the Zagreb Arena.

But in the second rubber Del Potro left the final all square when he despatched big-serving 37-year-old giant Karlovic 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 7-5. It was a fine performance from the Olympic silver medalist, who had secured Argentina's appearance in their fifth final when seeing off Andy Murray-his Rio conqueror-in an epic five-setter against the defending champions Great Britain in the semi-final in Glasgow.

Del Potro, 28, is a veteran of two losing finals-both against Spain in 2008 and 2011 — while Karlovic is the oldest player to feature in a Davis Cup singles match since 43-year-old Australian Norman Brookes in 1920.

Del Potro was rock solid, allowing the Croat not one break point in the entire match which kept the 15,000-capacity crowd enthralled for

three hours and 19 minutes.

He clinched the rubber on his second match point. "I was nervous after I lost the second set but in the end I had to take the longer road to victory," said Del Potro. Earlier, former US Open champion Cilic appeared to be cruising towards a routine victory only to lose his way after storming into a two-set lead over the world number 41.

Sixth-ranked Cilic, who made his second appearance at the ATP Tour Finals last week, secured the first two sets with a single break in each, but Delbonis claimed the third before racing through the fourth to force a decider. Backed by an impassioned crowd, Cilic regained his nerve in the final set, breaking his opponent in the first game and building on that momentum to eventually close out victory in three hours and 30 minutes.

"The crowd helped me to stay in there, it was not easy," said Cilic. "Federico played a great tennis from the middle of the third set to the end of the fourth. Just at the beginning of the fifth, I tried mentally to stay in there and get that break, and it was a huge difference." Four-time runners-up Argentina are chasing a first title, while Croatia are looking to emulate their 2005 triumph over Slovakia. —AFP

FIRED UP SOUTHEE CREATES HAVOC IN PAKISTAN RANKS

HAMILTON: Tim Southee captured three quick wickets to put New Zealand in a commanding position in the second Test against Pakistan yesterday. Neil Wagner also bagged two wickets as Pakistan collapsed to 76 for five at stumps on day two, still 195 runs behind New Zealand's first innings total of 271.

Babar Azam was not out 34 at the close of play at Hamilton's Seddon Park with Sarfraz Ahmed unbeaten on nine. New Zealand, chasing their first series win over Pakistan in 31 years, had been in trouble at 5-119 before BJ Watling's 49 not out anchored a tail-end revival that lifted the home team to a competitive total. "We could have been bowled out for 200-210," said Watling after coaxing the tail order to extend the innings as long as possible on a wicket offering encouragement to the seamers.

"I enjoy batting with the tail. It can be a challenge sometimes. you have to try and keep them as focused as they can but you just try to eke out as many runs as you can."

But what the non-recognised New Zealand batsmen achieved, the Pakistan top order failed to do as Southee enticed them into making a string of rash shots, seaming the ball away with a mixture of short and full-length deliveries. In his third over, the New Zealand quickly removed opener Sami Aslam for five and Azhar Ali for one. Then, in his fifth over, he dismissed the veteran Younis Khan for two as Pakistan slumped to 12-3. Azam and Shafiq briefly steadied the innings with a 39-run partnership before Wagner's double strike. He bowled Shafiq for 23 then followed up with a short ball to debutant Mohammad Rizwan which he hooked to Matt Henry on the boundary for a golden duck on his test debut.

Ahmed took a single off the next ball to deny Wagner the hat trick.

A 'DISAPPOINTING' EFFORT

Pakistan speedster Sohail Khan described it as a "disappointing" effort by their senior batsmen. "Our players need to learn as quickly as

possible (to leave) the ball outside the off stump because the new ball does the trick here, and if you start chasing the ball outside the off stump, like Asian pitches, it's not the same here."

At the close, Southee had figures of three for 26 while Wagner had 2-15.

But with three days remaining, Sohail held hope Pakistan could recover. "One good partnership will take us close and from there a new game is started," he said. "The responsibility will (then) be on the bowlers to get New Zealand out as quickly as possible." Resuming on 77-2 after rain washed out most of the first day, New Zealand lost three early wickets. Ross Taylor went for 37, adding eight to his overnight score before he was caught flat-footed by Sohail and edged the ball to wicketkeeper Ahmed. Opener Jeet Raval benefited from two dropped catches by Aslam, progressing to 55 when he nicked Imran Khan to Rizwan who had taken over at

first slip. Henry Nicholls (13) edged Wahab Riaz to Ahmed to have New Zealand 119-5 when Watling went to the crease. He added 51 with Colin de Grandhomme to lift New Zealand to 170-5 by lunch, only for de Grandhomme to fall to Imran on the first ball after the resumption of play for 37. Mitchell Santner contributed 16 to a 33-run stand for the seventh wicket before edging Sohail to Younis Khan in slips.

Southee engaged in an intriguing battle with Riaz which saw the washbuckling New Zealander ducking, weaving and slashing through a barrage of short-pitched deliveries.

He reached 29 off 28 balls before he misjudged a slower ball from Sohail and was bowled. New Zealand were all out in the third over after tea when Watling ran out of partners and was left stranded one run short of a half-century. For Pakistan, Sohail took 4-99 and Imran 3-52. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

HAMILTON: New Zealand: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Seddon Park in Hamilton on yesterday:

New Zealand first innings (overnight 77-2; J. Raval 35 not out, R. Taylor 29 not out)		Bowling: Amir 19-2-59-2, Sohail 25-6-99-4, Imran 20-4-52-3 (1nb), Riaz 18-4-57-1 (1w), Azhar 1-0-4-0.	
J. Raval c Rizwan b Imran	55		
T. Latham c Aslam b Amir	0	Pakistan first innings	
K. Williamson c Ahmed b Sohail	13	Sami Aslam c Raval b Southee	5
R. Taylor c Ahmed b Sohail	37	Azhar Ali c Watling b Southee	1
H. Nicholls c Ahmed b Riaz	13	Babar Azam not out	34
C. de Grandhomme c Ahmed b Imran	37	Younis Khan c Watling b Southee	2
B. Watling not out	49	Asad Shafiq b Wagner	23
M. Santner c Younis b Sohail	16	Mohammad Rizwan c Henry b Wagner	0
T. Southee b Sohail	29	Sarfraz Ahmed not out	9
M. Henry c Sohail b Amir	15	Extras: (lb 1, nb 1)	2
N. Wagner c Younis b Imran	1	: (five wkts; 29 overs)	76
Extras: (w 5, nb 1)	6	To bat: Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir, Sohail Khan, Imran Khan	
Total: (all out; 83.4 overs)	271	Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Aslam), 2-8 (Azhar), 3-12 (Younis), 4-51 (Shafiq), 5-51 (Rizwan).	
Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Latham), 2-39 (Williamson), 3-90 (Taylor), 4-113 (Raval), 5-119 (Nicholls), 6-170 (de Grandhomme), 7-203 (Santner), 8-239 (Southee), 9-270 (Henry), 10-271 (Wagner)		Bowling: Southee 11-3-26-3, Henry 9-2-13-0 (1nb), de Grandhomme 4-2-21-0, Wagner 5-1-15-2.	



FRANKFURT: Frankfurt's Alexander Meier, right, and Dortmund's Marcel Schmelzer challenge for the ball during a German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Dortmund in Frankfurt, Germany, yesterday. — AP

DORTMUND CRASH TO DEFEAT AT FRANKFURT

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund were brought crashing to earth yesterday following their record Champions League win with a 2-1 Bundesliga defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt, who went third in Germany's top flight.

It was a first defeat in 10 games for Dortmund and came hot on the heels of their 8-4 romp on Tuesday at home to Legia Warsaw—a record score for a Champions League game.

Hungary international Szabolcs Huszti had given the home side the lead only for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to equalise, but Haris Seferovic grabbed the winner for Frankfurt.

Unbeaten in six Bundesliga games, they go level on points with reigning champions Bayern Munich, who play Bayer Leverkusen later. Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel started just three of the side which began against Legia and again Dortmund were guilty of poor defending as Frankfurt scored both their goals from restarts.

After a goalless first-half at Frankfurt's Commerzbank Arena in front of a crowd of 51,500, Eintracht took the lead just 16 seconds after the break as Huszti converted a Timothy Chandler cross from close range. Tuchel responded by making three changes with just over half an hour to go, bringing on Germany star Marco Reus, France winger Ousmane Dembele and tough-tackling midfielder Sebastian Rode.

The move initially paid off as Aubameyang headed home Dembele's ball on 77 minutes, but from the restart, Frankfurt attacked and Dortmund allowed Swiss striker Haris Seferovic to slot his shot past goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller. Dembele hit the crossbar in added time with Frankfurt's Finland goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky beaten.

The result saw Frankfurt replace Dortmund in third and broke Borussia's run of four straight wins. It was Dortmund's first defeat since losing to Bayer Leverkusen on October 1. Fresh from their Champions League draw at home to Manchester City on Wednesday, Borussia Moenchengladbach were held to another 1-1 stalemate at Borussia Park, against Hoffenheim, to leave them winless in seven league games. Gladbach took the lead when Syrian-born Mahmoud Dahoud belted his shot into the far corner on 25 minutes.

But Hoffenheim levelled through Nadiem Amiri on 53 minutes to preserve their unbeaten record this season.

Wolfsburg are just two points above the relegation spots after their 1-1 draw with Ingolstadt. Anthony Jung's first-half goal for Ingolstadt was cancelled out by Daniel Caligiuri's equaliser. Wolfsburg goalkeeper Diego Benaglio saved a first-half penalty attempt by Moritz Hartmann with the match goalless. In a thrilling north German derby between the league's bottom two teams, Hamburg were held to a 2-2 draw at home to neighbours Werder Bremen, with all the goals coming in the first half.

Austrian international Michael Gregoritsch scored both of Hamburg's goals either side of a Fin Bartels strike before Bremen's Serge Gnabry, who marked his senior Germany debut earlier this month with a hat-trick, made it 2-2. In the afternoon's other game Cologne, who are fourth, were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Augsburg. Later on Saturday, second-placed Bayern host Leverkusen hoping to bridge the six-point gap unbeaten leaders RB Leipzig opened on Friday with a 4-1 win at Freiburg. — AFP

DAWSON EARNS HULL DRAW WITH WEST BROM

	Hull City	1
	West Brom	1

HULL CITY: Gareth McAuley's powerful downward header was cancelled out by Michael Dawson's late tap-in as West Bromwich Albion were held 1-1 at struggling Hull City in the Premier League yesterday.

Dawson scored his third goal in his last

five matches when he beat Ben Foster in the 72nd minute following Dieumerci Mbokani's nod down, rescuing a point for the home side who were outplayed for large parts of the match.

McAuley looked set to be the unlikely hero after he evaded the home defence and sent a thunderous header past the helpless David Marshall in the 34th minute after being picked out by Matt Phillips.

Salomon Rondon put a header just wide in stoppage time following a frenetic final 15 minutes, leaving West Bromwich in mid-table on 17 points. Hull, who have won once in their last 11 matches, remained in 18th place on 11 points. — Reuters

IRRESISTIBLE MONACO BLOW AWAY MARSEILLE

PARIS: Monaco kept up their outstanding recent form as Valere Germain scored twice in a 4-0 win over Marseille in the Mediterranean principality yesterday.

Gabriel Boschilia opened the scoring from a free-kick before Germain added two more of his own as Monaco put the game to bed before half-time, with substitute Guido Carrillo putting the gloss on the result at the death. The result comes four days after Monaco beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 to secure qualification for the last 16 as winners of their Champions League group.

It was a fifth straight win in all competitions for Monaco and Europe's most prolific side kept up their remarkable scoring record—they are banging in the goals at an average of just over three per game in Ligue 1 this season.

Leonardo Jardim's men go provisionally top of the table on goal difference from Cote d'Azur rivals Nice, who can move back to the summit when they host Bastia today. Defending champions Paris Saint-Germain can also move level on points with Monaco if they win away to Lyon on Sunday evening.

Monaco's starting line-up showed just two changes to the team that had dis-

patched Spurs at the same Stade Louis II on Tuesday, with Boschilia and Andrea Raggi coming in for Thomas Lemar and the injured Benjamin Mendy.

Brazilian prospect Boschilia opened the scoring midway through the first half when he curled a superb free-kick on his left foot beyond the reach of Yohann Pele and into the top-right corner of the net for his fourth goal of the season. Germain, whose father Bruno played for Marseille two decades ago, doubled the home side's lead when he headed in after a brilliant Bernardo Silva assist. And Germain struck again six minutes from half-time, curling a shot beyond the reach of Pele after good play down the right by Djibril Sidibe.

A shell-shocked Marseille, with their new American owner Frank McCourt watching on, had no answer and Monaco secured their record win over OM when they netted again in injury time.

Pele stretched to keep out a Germain chip, but Argentine striker Carrillo, who had replaced Radamel Falcao, converted the rebound to make it four.

Marseille have won just once, and scored just twice, in five league games under new coach Rudi Garcia and remain in mid-table. — AFP

WESTBROOK LEADS OKLAHOMA COMEBACK FOR OT VICTORY

DENVER: Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 18 assists and 12 rebounds for his sixth triple-double, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Denver Nuggets 132-129 in overtime on Friday night. Westbrook scored 24 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to help the Thunder rally from 13 down and end a three-game losing streak. His 18 assists were a season high. Victor Oladipo had 26 points for the Thunder. Westbrook scored 17 points in the fourth quarter to start the comeback. His two free throws with 9.5 seconds left made it 122-119, but Denver tied it when Steven Adams fouled Jamal Murray on a 3-point attempt and the rookie hit the free throws. Kenneth Faried blocked Westbrook's layup at the horn to send it into overtime. Wilson Chandler finished with a season-high 30 points and 11 rebounds. Jameer Nelson had 21 points and 13 assists, both season highs, for the Nuggets.

SPURS 109, CELTICS 103

Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and 10 rebounds and Patty Mills scored 19 to lead San Antonio to its eighth straight victory. Mills made a 3-pointer with 45 seconds left after the Celtics made it a one-possession game. David Lee had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and rookie Davis Bertans scored a career-high 15 to help the Spurs improve to 9-0 on the road this season. San Antonio beat Boston for the 10th straight time. Isaiah Thomas scored 24 points with eight assists and Avery Bradley had 19 points and eight rebounds for Boston, which had won three in a row.

CAVALIERS 128, MAVERICKS 90

Kevin Love scored 27 points, Kyrie Irving added 25 and Cleveland led by as many as 45 points in a rout of Dallas. Love hit seven 3-pointers while Irving, who made his first 10 shots, scored 19 points in the first quarter. Irving's big quarter came two nights after Love scored an NBA-record 34 in the first against Portland. LeBron James, playing in his 1,000th regular-season game, had 19 points and 11 assists. The defending NBA champions faced little resistance from the team with the league's worst record. Dallas scored the game's first basket before the Cavaliers turned the game into a rout. Cleveland led 36-16 after one quarter and was ahead 68-28 late in the second. Dirk Nowitzki, who appeared in only his fifth game of the season because of an injured right Achilles, scored 15 points for Dallas.

ROCKETS 117, KINGS 104

James Harden had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in his fourth triple-double of the season, and Houston set an NBA record with 50 3-point attempts in its victory over Sacramento. The Rockets went 21 of 50 from beyond the arc and came within two makes of matching the single-game record they already share with the Orlando Magic. The Rockets made eight 3s in the first quarter, six in the second, three in the third and four in the fourth. Trevor Ariza added 18 points and nine rebounds, while Clint Capela scored 17 points to lead Houston to its eighth win in the last nine games between the teams. DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and nine rebounds for Sacramento despite being hindered by foul trouble much of the second half. Cousins made four consecutive 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter when the Kings pulled within 112-104.

WARRIORS 109, LAKERS 85

Kevin Durant had 29 points, nine assists and six rebounds, and Golden State beat injury-depleted Los Angeles for the second time in three days. Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Klay Thompson had 18 in the Warriors' 10th consecutive victory. They followed up their 43-point win in Oakland on Wednesday with another comfortable win in these clubs' fifth meeting in 43 days. Draymond Green had 12 points and eight rebounds before leaving in the third quarter with a bruised left ankle from a collision with teammate Ian Clark. Jordan Clarkson scored 20 points for the Lakers, who played without injured starters Julius Randle, Nick Young and D'Angelo Russell.

KNICKS 113, HORNETS 111, OT

Carmelo Anthony scored a season-high 35 points, including the tiebreaking jumper with 3.1 seconds left in overtime, and New York beat Charlotte. Derrick Rose added 16 points and blocked Kemba Walker's 3-pointer that would have won it just before the buzzer. Kristaps Porzingis also scored 16 points in the Knicks' sixth straight home victory. Former Hornets guard Courtney Lee finished with 12 points in the opener of a home-and-home series. Marco Belinelli scored 19 points, Nicolas Batum had 18 and Walker added 17 for the Hornets, who have lost four straight games.



DENVER: Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried (35) blocks a shot by Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) in the closing moments of the second half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, in Denver. Oklahoma City won in overtime, 132-129. — AP

PISTONS 108, CLIPPERS 97

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points and a career-high 10 assists as Detroit beat Los Angeles. Detroit won its second straight and improved to 7-2 at home, as opposed to 1-7 on the road. The Clippers lost for just the second time in 13 games, falling to 7-1 on the road. Marcus Morris scored 17 points and Andre Drummond had 16 points and 10 rebounds, as the Pistons got at least 15 points from all five starters. Jon Leuer added 11 points and 11 rebounds off the bench. J.J. Redick and Blake Griffith each had 24 points for the Clippers, while Chris Paul had eight points to go with 15 assists.

TRAIL BLAZERS 119, PELICANS 104

Damian Lillard scored 27 points, CJ McCollum added 24 and Portland snapped New Orleans' four-game winning streak. Lillard added 11 assists for the Blazers, who were coming off a 1-4 road trip. It was the 2,000th win in franchise history. Anthony Davis, who went into the game ranked second in the league with an average of 31.3 points a game, led the Pelicans with 31 points and 13 rebounds.

JAZZ 95, HAWKS 68

Gordon Hayward scored 24 points as Utah beat Atlanta, which has lost four of five after starting the season 9-2. Hayward was unstoppable early and started the game making his first six shots. Utah used a 23-2 run early in the fourth quarter to put the game away as George Hill hit a pair 3-pointers and Rudy Gobert converted a three-point play. Hill finished with 23 and Gobert notched double-double No. 8 with 10 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks. Dennis Schroder scored a team-high 16 for the Hawks (10-6) and Paul Millsap added 11. Atlanta shot just 31.3 percent from the field. The Jazz (9-8) won the second quarter 24-11 to push its lead to 48-34 at halftime. They used a 20-3 run to build the cushion, highlighted by a behind-the-back dribble, pull-up jumper by Hill followed by a 3-pointer from the veteran.

BULLS 105, 76ERS 89

Jimmy Butler and Dwyane Wade had 26 points apiece to lead Chicago over Philadelphia. Taj Gibson added 12 points for the Bulls, who finished a six-game road trip with a 4-2 record. Butler rested for the entire fourth quarter of the blowout. Chicago led from start to finish against the short-handed 76ers, who played without center Joel Embiid. A leading candidate for Rookie of the Year, Embiid missed his fifth game as part of his rehab plan for a foot injury that cost him the last two seasons. Embiid is averaging 17.8 points and 7.6 rebounds in just 22.6 minutes as he is on a minutes restriction.

HEAT 90, GRIZZLIES 81

Tyler Johnson matched his season high with 22 points, Dion Waiters added 15 and Miami snapped its two-game losing streak by beating Memphis. James Johnson added 13 points and Josh Richardson finished with 12 for Miami in the game that matched Heat coach Erik Spoelstra against his

former assistant, first-year Memphis coach David Fizdale. Mike Conley, who came off the bench, led Memphis with 16 points but shot only 5 of 15 from the field. JaMychal Green finished with 14 points for Memphis, which played without Zach Randolph following his mother's death and had its six-game winning streak snapped. Miami shot 12 of 31 outside the arc and forced 18 turnovers, leading to 23 points.

RAPTORS 105, BUCKS 99

DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points and Kyle Lowry added 19 to lead Toronto over Milwaukee. DeRozan again tormented the Bucks and Toronto hit 14 3-pointers to continue its dominance against Milwaukee. The Raptors have won 11 of the last 12 meetings. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and added 11 assists, while Tony Snell had a season-high 16 points for the Bucks. With the game on the line, Lowry hit a 3-pointer and DeRozan knocked down a contested jumper with 16 seconds left to seal the victory. Two nights after the Raptors made 12 3-pointers in a win at Houston, they went 14 of 31 from behind the arc against the Bucks, who came in with the No. 1 defensive 3-point percentage in the league at 30.6 percent.

PACERS 118, NETS 97

Glenn Robinson III scored 20 points as Indiana beat Brooklyn. The Pacers opened the second half with a 20-5 run and led by as many 31 points. Rodney Stuckey scored 18 points, and Al Jefferson and Myles Turner each finished with 16. Robinson was one of six Pacers to score in double figures. Paul George sat out Friday night, nursing a sore left ankle. Brook Lopez finished with 20 points for the Nets.

WIZARDS 94, MAGIC 91

John Wall had 26 points and 10 assists to help Washington hold on and beat Orlando. Wall scored the Wizards' last eight points as Washington held on after surrendering a 19-point, first-quarter lead. Otto Porter Jr. scored 19 for Washington and all five starters finished in double figures. Serge Ibaka led the Magic with 19 points, while Nikola Vucevic contributed 17 points and 17 rebounds. Elfrid Payton scored 15 points, all in the second half, as Orlando lost its third straight game.

TIMBERWOLVES 98, SUNS 85

Andrew Wiggins scored 25 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 22 and Minnesota rallied from a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat Phoenix. Eric Bledsoe scored 23 for the Suns, who were just back from a six-game road trip. Minnesota used a 27-6 outburst to quickly erase the Phoenix lead and pull away, snapping a three-game losing streak. The Timberwolves outscored Phoenix 31-10 in the fourth quarter. The Suns committed a season-high 26 turnovers, resulting in 23 Minnesota points. Phoenix also was just 6 of 26 from 3-point range. Brandon Knight added 15 points for Phoenix but only two in the second half. Devin Booker scored 11. — AP

JEONBUK HYUNDAI WIN ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AL-AIN: South Korea's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors won the Asian Champions League 3-2 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw with UAE's Al Ain in the final's second leg yesterday.

An atmosphere of gloom enveloped the Hazza bin Zayed Stadium as home fans wept after Al Ain squandered a penalty to let Jeonbuk off the hook and let a second Asian Champions League crown slip through their hands.

The Emiratis were surprise winners of the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2003, but yesterday a host of missed chances combined with some stout defending by the Koreans put paid to their aspirations.

For Jeonbuk, who won the first leg 2-1 last week in Jeonju, it was also their second continental title after their 2006 title.

Han Kyo-won put Jeonbuk ahead in the 30th minute with a fine volley off a corner taken by Lee Jae-sung to put the South Koreans two goals up on aggregate. But the hosts were back in the game just four minutes later when Lee Myung-joo cut down the deficit with a volley of his own that bounced off the turf to beat goalkeeper Soon-tae Kwoun. Kwoun, who had brought off a fine save to thwart Al Ain star Omar Abdulrahman early in the game, then soon found himself facing Brazilian Douglas after Danilo Asprilla was brought down in

the box in the dying minutes of the first half.

However, Douglas, one of the stars of Al Ain's campaign this season, fired the ball well over the post much to the agony of their supporters.

To add insult to injury, Al Ain coach Zlatko Dalic was dispatched to the stands by referee Ryuji Sato soon after. Al Ain managed to keep the Jeonbuk goal under pressure for much of the second half, but Ismail Ahmed headed over the bar, while goalkeeper Kwoun brought off saves from Asprilla and Douglas. Nine minutes before time, Kwoun came to his side's rescue once again, saving a shot from close range by Ibrahim Diaky as Jeonbuk held on for the title. — AFP



AL-AIN: Jeonbuk players celebrate as they are crowned champions following their AFC Champions League final between UAE's Al-Ain and South Korea's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors at the Hazza bin Zayed Stadium in Al-Ain yesterday. — AFP

BRADLEY SECURES FIRST SWANSEA SUCCESS WITH 5-4 WIN OVER PALACE

 Swansea	5
 Crystal Palace	4

SWANSEA: Bob Bradley celebrated his first win as Swansea manager when Fernando Llorente's stoppage-time double clinched a wild 5-4 victory over Crystal Palace in the English Premier League yesterday.

Swansea led 3-1 with 15 minutes to go but faced a sixth successive winless game after going 4-3 behind by conceding three goals in nine minutes.

The comeback ended Bradley's wait for a Premier League win but Palace manager Alan Pardew was condemned to a sixth loss in a row. Swansea climbed off the bottom of the 20-team standings and Palace was two points ahead in 16th.

It started so well for Palace as Swansea's aerial struggles were exposed against the powerful Christian Benteke. He nodded the ball down into the path of Wilfried Zaha, who made the most of timid defending from Neil Taylor and Federico Fernandez to fire his fourth goal of the season past goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski.

But the mood changed inside Liberty Stadium when Jason Puncheon was adjudged to have fouled Jack Cork on the edge of the penalty area. Gylfi Sigurdsson struck a terrific free kick past Wayne Hennessey to equalize in the 36th.

It was a lifeline for Swansea as the host rarely threatened up until that point, but it almost threw it away two minutes later when Zaha headed Yohan Cabaye's cross against the crossbar before the ball was bundled to safety.

After the break, Palace forward Connor Wickham was taken off on a stretcher with what appeared to be a knee injury. The London club was being pushed back as Sigurdsson and Modou Barrow became increasingly influential and Swansea took the lead in the 66th.

Substitute Llorente's first touch proving crucial after heading toward the goal. Although Yohan Cabaye stopped the ball on the line with the possible use of an arm, Leroy Fer was primed to squeeze home the rebound. Two minutes later Palace struggled to cope with another set-piece and Fer finished again at the far post for his sixth goal of the season.

But Palace gave itself a lifeline when James Tomkins bundled home before Zaha's cross struck Cork and looped over Fabianski. Palace surged back in front when Benteke found the net off a post in a crowded goalmouth.

But Swansea was not finished yet and Llorente diverted home a shot from Sigurdsson before prodding in the winner.—AP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Watford v Stoke City	15:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Arsenal v Bournemouth	17:15
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Man' United v West Ham	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Southampton v Everton	19:30
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA DIV

Villarreal v Deportivo	14:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Osasuna v Atletico	18:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Vigo v Balaidos	20:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Real Sociedad v Barcelona	22:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A

Palermo v Lazio	14:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Bologna v Atalanta	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Genoa v Juventus	17:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Cagliari v Udinese	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Crotone v Sampdoria	17:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Roma v Pescara	22:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA 1ST DIV

Schalke v Darmstadt	17:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Hertha Berlin v Mainz	19:30
beIN SPORTS	

FRENCH LEAGUE 1ST DIV

Angers v Saint Etienne	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Nice v Bastia	19:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Lyonnais v Lyonnais	22:45
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	



MADRID: Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos, centre, attempts an over heard kick next to Sporting's Carlos Carmona, right, during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Sporting at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, yesterday. Real Madrid won 2-1.—AP

RONALDO DOUBLE EXTENDS REAL LEAD OVER BARCELONA

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice as Real Madrid were thankful to a late missed penalty from Duje Cop to open up a seven-point lead over Barcelona at the top of La Liga with a 2-1 win over Sporting Gijon yesterday.

Madrid looked set for an easy afternoon as Ronaldo opened the scoring from the penalty spot before he headed home a second inside 20 minutes. However, Carlos Carmona halved Sporting's deficit 10 minutes before half-time and the struggling visitors were handed a huge chance for an unexpected point 12 minutes from time when Nacho brought down Victor Rodriguez. Yet, Cop sent his penalty high and wide as Real held on amidst a torrential downpour to extend their unbeaten run to 31 games in all competitions. Barca can cut the gap back to four points when they travel to Real Sociedad today ahead of the first Clasico of the season between Spanish football's two giants at the Camp Nou next weekend.

"It is a game for us to forget because things didn't go as we would have liked," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane.

"We lacked a little bit of everything, but we are happy to get the three points which is the most important thing."

Fresh from netting a hat-trick against Atletico Madrid last weekend, Ronaldo continued his return to scoring form with a quickfire double to move ahead of Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez as La Liga's top scorer. Sporting had the first big chance to go in front when Carmona fired wide with just goalkeeper Keylor Navas to beat.

However, they were quickly behind when Lucas Vazquez was naively chopped down by Sergio Alvarez on five minutes and Ronaldo emphatically converted the resulting spot-kick. The Portuguese's second finish was even more impressive as he buried Nacho's cross from the left with a powerful header that left Diego Marino no chance in the Sporting goal.

In between times Ronaldo had also headed wastefully wide when unmarked from a corner, while Marino parried another fierce effort as the three-time World Player of the Year chased his 40th hat-trick for Madrid. Instead, it was Sporting who halved the arrears before half-

time when a rare misplaced pass from Luka Modric allowed Isma Lopez to cross from the left and Carmona's outstretched leg prodded the ball past Navas. In deteriorating conditions caused by the torrential rain, Madrid struggled to get going after the break.

Zidane withdrew captain Sergio Ramos with an eye on the Clasico against Barcelona next Saturday with the Spanish international a yellow card away from missing that game through suspension. However, that decision nearly backfired as Nacho moved into central defence and quickly brought down Sporting substitute Victor Rodriguez inside the area. Cop pardoned Nacho's mistake, though, as the Croatian lent back and sent the ball well wide of Navas's goal much to the relief of thousands inside the Bernabeu. Ronaldo should have completed his hat-trick late on as he broke clear on goal, but his low shot was too close to Marino as Real had to see out a nervy final few minutes to secure a sixth straight La Liga win.

A 10th straight game without a win leaves Sporting still rooted in the bottom three.—AFP

AGUERO DOUBLE EARNS MAN CITY 2-1 WIN AT BURNLEY

 Burnley	1
 Man City	2

BURNLEY: Manchester City overcame Burnley's spirited challenge as Sergio Aguero's double inspired their fightback for a 2-1 win at Turf Moor yesterday.

Aguero's decisive brace took his remarkable scoring run to 33 goals in 34 Premier League games after Dean Marney had given Burnley a surprise lead over the title contenders.

City's recovery secured their sixth win in seven away games and moved them to the top of the table, although they could surrender pole position to Liverpool or Chelsea later in the day.

It was the first time this season that Pep Guardiola's team had come from behind to win, and the first time since September they had won back-to-back league games, having triumphed at Crystal Palace last time out. Burnley sprung a surprise by including former England goalkeeper Paul Robinson, now 37, after Tom Heaton injured a calf during training to miss his first game since joining the club.

Robinson, signed on a free transfer from Blackburn, had not played in the Premier League since 2012 and had gone 802 days without a first-team game, but he showed he still has the ability that earned him 41 caps and a career that took in Tottenham and Leeds. Burnley were defending one of the best home records in the Premier League, having won four of their previous six games - a run bettered only by Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham - and they took the game to City.

The visitors were fortunate not to concede a penalty as early as the fifth minute, but the referee Andre Marriner waved away the protests when Jeff Hendrick went down after an elbow in the back from Nicolas Otamendi.

FLYING SAVE

Guardiola made five changes from the team that played in midweek in the Champions League, but they struggled to come to terms with Burnley's approach and energy. Robinson did have to tip an effort from Argentina forward Aguero round a post but then, on 13 minutes, the goalkeeper initiated the opening goal as Burnley took the lead.

Robinson launched a long free-kick into the City penalty area and Otamendi's

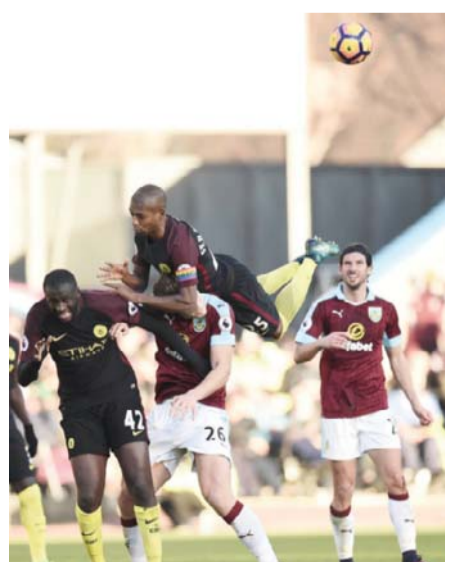
attempted clearing header fell invitingly for long-serving midfielder Marney, who rifled the ball past Claudio Bravo's dive for his first Premier League goal in seven years.

City responded but Robinson made a fine one-handed save to deny Nolito and Aguero lifted his own effort over the bar from Ferdinandinho's lay-off. Burnley eventually succumbed on 36 minutes and almost inevitably, it was Aguero who scored his ninth goal in 11 Premier League games and 15th in all competitions, pouncing at the far post after Nolito's initial shot from a corner had been blocked.

The scene appeared set for City to stride into the lead before half-time, but Robinson produced his best moment so far, a superb one-handed flying save to keep out Aguero's fierce shot on the turn.

Burnley, having lost the advantage, also lost scorer Marney to an injury and then Iceland midfielder Johann Gudmundsson limped off with a hamstring strain before half-time. City took the lead on the hour after Yaya Toure went down in the area and Burnley made a hash of clearing before Ferdinandinho was able to cut the ball back towards the near post where Aguero put the ball in with his knee.

Burnley refused to go down without a fight, but Michael Keane's well-directed header was cleared, George Boyd had a shot blocked, and substitute Ashley Barnes had an overhead kick well saved as City held out.—AFP



BURNLEY: Burnley's English defender James Tarkowski (2nd L) vies with Manchester City's Ivorian midfielder Yaya Toure and Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Ferdinandinho (up) during the English Premier League football match between Burnley and Manchester City.—AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's English midfielder James Milner scores their second goal from the penalty spot during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Sunderland at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday.—AFP

LIVERPOOL OVERCOMES COUTINHO INJURY, BEATS SUNDERLAND 2-0

 Liverpool	2
 Sunderland	0

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool overcame the loss of Philippe Coutinho to a serious-looking first-half injury to beat Sunderland 2-0 and keep up its title challenge in the English Premier League yesterday.

Coutinho was carried off on a stretcher in the 34th minute with his right leg in a brace after a challenge with Sunderland midfielder Didier Ndong. Divock Origi came on as Coutinho's replacement and put Liverpool ahead in the 75th minute with a curling shot into the far corner. James Milner converted a penalty in stoppage time to seal victory after Ndong tripped Sadio Mane.

Liverpool, which started the 13th round of games in second place, has lost only once this season. The exact nature of Coutinho's injury wasn't immediately clear. The loss put an end to Sunderland's mini-revival, after back-to-back wins lifted the team off the bottom of the standings. Sunderland manager David Moyes'

poor record at Anfield continued - including his spells at Everton and Manchester United, Moyes hasn't won in 14 games.

The visitors conceded 78 percent of possession but managed to limit Liverpool to a handful of half-chances in the first half.

Part of Sunderland's success in negating the threat of Liverpool, which scored 17 times in five previous home league matches, was Jason Denayer's man-marking job on Coutinho. The one occasion that the on-loan Manchester City defender lost his man resulted in Coutinho's injury, as Ndong's follow-through caught the right foot of the Brazilian, who was trying to jink past him.

Sunderland's one chance before the break fell to former Everton midfielder Steven Pienaar but goalkeeper Loris Karius just got out quick enough to block. Liverpool's frustration finally ended 15 minutes from time when Jordan Henderson picked out Origi on the left of the penalty area and the striker threaded a shot across a crowded box and inside the far post.

After Milner stepped up to score his fifth goal of the season, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp had the luxury of handing 17-year-old academy graduate Ben Woodburn a debut.—AP

 Leicester	2
 Middlesbrough	2

SLIMANI SPOT ON TO SAVE LEICESTER

LEICESTER: Leicester salvaged a dramatic 2-2 draw against Middlesbrough as Islam Slimani converted a penalty deep into stoppage-time at the King Power Stadium yesterday. Claudio Ranieri's side trailed twice to goals from Middlesbrough striker Alvaro Negredo, but Riyad Mahrez got Leicester's first equaliser with a penalty before his Algerian team-mate Slimani struck from the spot to earn a point with virtually the last kick of a thrilling encounter.

Although Leicester finished the happier thanks to their late escape, the Foxes remain too close to the relegation zone for comfort and their fairytale title seems a lifetime ago just seven months later. Middlesbrough went into the match as the Premier League's joint lowest scorers, but they threatened first as Adama Traore sped past Christian Fuchs and drove in a cross-shot that Ron-Robert Zieler parried to Marten de Roon, who swept his effort wide. Karanka's team had found their stride quickly and Negredo's 977-minute goal drought came to an end in the 13th minute.

Negredo, on loan from Valencia, had gone 11 games without a goal since scoring in the opening game of the season, but the Spanish striker was in unusually clinical mood as he exchanged passes with Gaston Ramirez and fired high into the net from inside the penalty area.

Leicester's 2-1 Champions League win over Brugge in midweek was the latest memorable moment in their maiden voyage in Europe's elite club competition. Ranieri's men have been far less inspired in their title defence, but they roused themselves after falling behind and Japan striker Shinji Okazaki hit the bar with a spectacular scissor kick from Mahrez's cross. The Foxes' pressure was rewarded with a 34th minute equaliser when Middlesbrough defender Calum Chambers was penalised for handball and Mahrez stroked home the spot-kick.

After scoring 13 times by this stage last season, Leicester striker Jamie Vardy has found himself stuck in a rut with 14 games without a goal since he netted his second of the campaign on September 10. Vardy could have broken his barren streak when Okazaki crossed towards him just before half time, but Ramirez cleared as the England international prepared to shoot.

It would prove another frustrating afternoon for Vardy, who was booked and never looked likely to get on the scoresheet before being substituted midway through the second half.

Vardy was replaced by Slimani and Mahrez also departed as Ranieri tried to pep up his attack, yet Middlesbrough regained the lead in the 71st minute. Adam Forshaw's high pass over the Leicester defence sent Negredo racing clear and he fired a low strike past Zieler.—AFP

Sports

Hamilton will still be champion in his heart



Ronaldo double extends Real lead over Barcelona



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016

JEONBUK HYUNDAI WIN ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Page 18



LONDON: A free kick from Tottenham Hotspur's English defender Eric Dier (L) clears the wall over Chelsea's Brazilian defender David Luiz (C) to go over the bar during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday.—AFP

MOSES DOWNS SPURS TO LEAD CHELSEA BACK TO SUMMIT

QUAKER
كويكر
1877

- No MSG
- No Preservatives
- No Artificial Colors

Stay warm this winter with our soup

	Chelsea	2
	Tottenham	1

LONDON: Chelsea stormed back from behind to end Tottenham Hotspur's unbeaten Premier League record with a 2-1 victory yesterday that propelled Antonio Conte's soaring side back into top spot. Chelsea had seen Liverpool and Manchester City steal past them earlier in the day and fell behind in the 11th minute when Christian Eriksen became the first player to score past them in seven games. But Pedro Rodriguez's glorious curler and a Victor Moses tap-in either side of half-time gave Chelsea a seventh successive win—their longest such run within one season since January to April 2007. Chelsea, who visit City next weekend, restored a one-point advantage over second-place Liverpool and left London rivals Tottenham seven points below them in fifth place. It marked a rotten end to a disappointing week for Spurs, who were knocked out of the Champions League by Monaco in mid-week and have won only one of their last 10 fixtures in all competitions.

Their run of games without victory at Stamford Bridge, where their title challenge last season ended in May, now stands at 30, their last victory there having come in February 1990. Missing Toby Alderweireld and Danny Rose, Spurs were patched up at the back, where centre-back Kevin Wimmer filled in at left-back and Eric Dier partnered Jan Vertonghen in the centre.

But the return to a 4-2-3-1 formation, after dalliances with a back three and a 4-3-2-1 system, helped them get their press in order and they had Chelsea on the back foot in the first half. After a couple of early threats, including a Harry Kane effort that was chalked off for offside, Mauricio Pochettino's men took the lead with a fine goal.

Breaking from midfield, Dele Alli took the ball to Eriksen and from outside the box the Dane let fly with a vicious left-foot shot that soared past Thibaut Courtois's outstretched right hand.

UNLUCKY 13

It was the first goal Chelsea-unchanged for the sixth game running—had conceded in 601 minutes of football, since a 3-0 defeat at Arsenal on September 24. The visitors were playing with an intensity last seen in their impressive 2-0 win over Manchester City in early October and their rediscovered confidence was expressed by their willingness to shoot.

Victor Wanyama, Kane, Eriksen and Mousa Dembele all chanced their arm from range, although only Kane worked Courtois.

The Chelsea goalkeeper also had to save from Kyle Walker after the England right-back had lifted the ball over Marcos Alonso and tried his luck from an angle. Chelsea's initial efforts to respond, via a David Luiz free-kick and an Eden Hazard shot, were comfortably held by Hugo Lloris.

But on the stroke of half-time Pedro levelled with a magnificent goal, deftly turning and then wrapping his right foot around the ball to send it curling into the right-hand upright.

N'Golo Kante signalled Chelsea's second-half intent by ramming a shot at Lloris and within six minutes of the restart, they were in front. Diego Costa was the architect, working his way to the byline on the left and crossing low for Moses, whose shot flicked off Lloris's right boot, struck Vertonghen's knee and ricocheted into the net. Marcos Alonso should have made it 3-1 shortly after, following more byline burrowing by Costa, but from 10 yards out the Spaniard ballooned a shot over the bar with his weaker right foot. Kane created a chance for Eriksen to equalise, but the Spurs number 10 could only volley straight at Courtois as the last unbeaten team in the division finally succumbed to defeat on their 13th outing.—AFP

GERMANY TO FACE CHILE AT CONFEDERATIONS CUP

KAZAN: World Cup winner Germany will play South American champion Chile in the group stage of next year's Confederations Cup.

The Germans will also take on Australia and the African champion, to be determined in February, in Group B.

European champion Portugal will face hosts Russia in Group A, along with Mexico and New Zealand. Russia will play New Zealand in the opening game in St. Petersburg.

The tournament runs from June 17 to July 2 next year in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi, and is a warmup event for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. It's a key test for some of the trickier areas of Russia's preparations, including the costly and much delayed 69,000-seat St. Petersburg stadium. The Confederations Cup's future after 2017 is uncertain, with FIFA president Gianni Infantino saying earlier yesterday that the format could be changed and "we are putting everything on the table."

That's because the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be held in November and December, meaning the Confederations Cup would cause severe

disruption to the club calendar if held in its traditional slot a year before the bigger tournament. Infantino said FIFA officials are discussing questions such as "Shall we play it in June? Shall we play it in November? Shall we think about the format?"

Last year, then-FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said the 2021 tournament would be moved from Qatar and played elsewhere in Asia. The Confederations Cup features many of the best teams in world football - with FIFA's six continental champions, plus the World Cup holder and the following year's World Cup host. But it has struggled to build a distinct identity beyond being simply a test event for a larger tournament.

Germany coach Joachim Loew plans to leave out some of the World Cup holder's established players to focus on youth at next year's tournament in Russia, but Infantino insisted that didn't devalue the competition.

"I'm sure that Joachim Loew and his team ... they take the Confederations Cup very, very seriously," Infantino said.—AP

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary BUSINESS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Boursa Kuwait stocks close week mixed

Page 24

ALARGAN launches sales of new townhouses

Page 26



Lufthansa pilots strike for 4th day, 137 flights canceled

Page 23

HOW TO EVALUATE A CANDIDATE AFTER A JOB INTERVIEW

Page 22



MIAMI: Shoppers stand in line to pay for their purchased merchandise at a Tommy Hilfiger store on Black Friday in Miami. Stores opened their doors Friday for what is still one of the busiest days of the year, even as the start of the holiday season edges ever earlier. — AP

US STORES CATER TO SAVVIER CUSTOMERS

RETAILERS TRY TO FEND OFF THE AMAZON JUGGERNAUT ON BLACK FRIDAY

TRUMP'S TREASURY PICK: WHAT MESSAGE TO THE MARKETS?

WASHINGTON: A former banker, a congressman, a former captain of industry: which one President-elect Donald Trump chooses as the US Treasury secretary will send a key message about his administration's economic plans. His signature will be on the back of the US currency, but more importantly the Treasury secretary is a key player in financial regulation, guarantor of the world's largest reserve currency, architect of economic relations with China and leader of the fight against the financing of terrorism.

Several names have circulated in the race to replace Jack Lew, President Barack Obama's finance minister since 2013, but two seem to stand out: former Goldman Sachs investment banker Steven Mnuchin, 53, and the conservative Congressman Jeb Hensarling, 59. JPMorgan boss Jamie Dimon, 60, and Blackstone real estate investor Jonathan Gray, 46, reportedly rebuffed overtures by Trump's transition team.

Industrialist Daniel DiMiccio, 66, former head of Nucor Steel and "Made in America" champion, also has been mentioned for the post but could instead lead the foreign trade portfolio. The range of capabilities of the candidates under consideration are "reflective of the breadth and depth of the Treasury agenda today," said Robert Kimmitt, a deputy Treasury secretary in George W. Bush's administration.

Crisis management

Trump's plans for the economy are vast. He plans to reform the Dodd-Frank financial regulation law and campaigned for major corporate tax cuts, while promising massive infrastructure spending and the return of offshored jobs to the United States. Treasury also is at the center of the fight against the financing of terrorism, including imposing sanctions against Iran and North Korea. And the department oversees one of two regular economic dialogues with China, made more interesting by the fact Trump has vowed to take a firmer stance against the country.

Kimmitt wonders if this dialogue will be able to continue, since just two months after Trump takes office, Treasury will have to submit to Congress its semi-annual report

on foreign exchange policies, which in particular focuses on China. That is the vehicle the administration would use to declare China a currency manipulator, something it has escaped in recent years, although economists say the country now is in fact propping up the yuan.

David Wessel, economic analyst at the Brookings Institution, said that in the wake of the 2008 Great Recession, it will be crucial that the next Treasury secretary have "the capacity to deal with a financial crisis, whether it's caused by a big banking mess, even the financial aspect of a terrorist strike."

But he warned, "One thing we've learned is that you don't want somebody who has to learn on the job."

Unpredictable Trump

Given the unpredictable personality of the new president, the ideal candidate will also have to show diplomacy and authority. "Given the nature of Donald Trump the Treasury secretary is going to have an important role in both restraining some of Trump's impulses and also in interpreting what Trump really means to the rest of the

world," Wessel told AFP.

"We have already seen how confusing some of his statements can be. That can be very damaging for the confidence in the economy, it can cause unwelcome volatility on financial markets," he said.

So ideally this key position will be filled by someone "who can both influence the president and speak for him with authority so that we don't have unnecessary misunderstandings." Another key role will be managing relations with Congress. This could make Texas Representative Hensarling, chairman of the influential House Financial Services Committee, a frontrunner since the promised tax cuts will widen the deficit and inflate the debt.

It will be difficult for a candidate to check all the boxes for the Treasury post, to be a Wall Street specialist and a negotiator with Congress or especially a liaison with the president himself, Wessel cautions. Among the leading names, Mnuchin, the Goldman Sachs veteran, will certainly draw criticism if selected, he said, since it would be paradoxical if Trump, who campaigned against the establishment, chooses a Treasury secretary who is a Wall Street insider. — AP



NEW YORK: US President-Elect Donald Trump speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in his office at Trump Tower in New York. — AP

NEW YORK: Even people who said they'd already done their shopping online came out for Black Friday to spend time with family members or just for the fun of looking.

But it's those very shoppers retailers are trying to keep as loyal customers, working to improve their own online sites and letting people pick up purchases in the store as the retailers try to fend off the Amazon juggernaut. Even as retailers kick off the shopping season earlier each year, the day after Thanksgiving is still one of the busiest sales days of the year. It's also becoming an American export to other countries. Shoppers were on the hunt for deals and were at the stores for entertainment Friday. Store executives say they see customers doing more research online before they go shop. That can mean more browsers turn into buyers, but also that they are visiting fewer stores in person.

"If I've seen it on the internet and I find a better deal than I saw on the internet, I'll buy it," said Dianna Ramirez, who was looking for a television at the Crossgates Mall in suburban Albany, New York.

Shamika Malloy of Albany was also there shopping for her four teenage children. Her must-have item a laptop for a daughter in college. Malloy said she hadn't yet shopped online but usually does so.

"It's better than coming in the store. If you do it online, you save and you can get it delivered right to the house for free. Can't beat that." But she said she wouldn't shop at as many places as last year. "Whoever's got the best deals, that's where I go."

This weekend is crucial to set the tone for the holiday season. Around 137 million people plan to or are considering doing their shopping during the Thanksgiving weekend, according to a survey conducted for the National Retail Federation trade group. That includes online and store shopping.

Marketing approach

The Black Friday mentality and marketing approach has even crossed the Atlantic and is shaping shopping habits in much of Britain. Many big box stores opened early Friday morning while others focused on cutting online prices or combining the two. Some Swiss stores that have started offering American-style "Black Friday" discounts online have seen their sites freeze, slow down or crash under a surge in traffic.

With the competition for customers so intense, many stores were open Thursday evening in what they hope will be a new holiday tradition. Retailers have also been spreading deals out more throughout the week which may have diluted the shopping.

"It was a really good start. But I have never seen Black Friday morning so calm," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at NPD Group, a market research firm, who visited

malls on Long Island on Friday. He believes the weekend's sales will likely rise from last year because shoppers did lots of buying, including pricey flat-screen TVs.

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects holiday sales to rise 3.6 percent to \$655.8 billion for November and December, better than the 3 percent growth seen for those months last year. That excludes car sales, gas and restaurant receipts, but includes online spending and other non-store sales such as catalog spending. Online sales are expected to be up 7 percent to 10 percent to as much as \$117 billion, compared to a 9 percent growth rate last year. That means that online sales could account for 18 percent of overall holiday sales.

While many major retailers reported strong online sales for Thursday and Friday, they acknowledge they also are working harder to lure shoppers to stores. Macy's has been offering exclusive deals for its app users. Target will be pushing its Cyber Monday deals on Sunday and spreading them to the stores as well as online, and CEO Brian Cornell thinks those days could be the busiest of the year. Saks Fifth Avenue has started offering concierge help on its website.

J C Penney, a laggard in the online arena, is quickly catching up under CEO Marvin Ellison. After Penney resumed selling major appliances this year in time for the holidays, Ellison, a former executive at Home Depot, says shoppers come into the stores very informed about the products. He also said a focus on toys for the holidays has also helped fuel traffic in stores and online.

Penney also started its Black Friday online sales on Wednesday instead of Thursday to compete better with online-only companies. Kohl's, too, has also been heavily investing in sprucing up its shopping app and pulling forward some online deals. Chief Executive Kevin Mansell says online sales broke records for Thanksgiving, but store visits showed solid growth as well. And Toys R Us, which saw strong traffic at stores and online, will be doing more online flash sales.

Both kinds of customers were at the Mall of America in Minnesota - which was closed on Thanksgiving this year - on Friday morning. Jennifer Cleveland was hoping to tackle a shopping list of gifts for in-laws and some winter gear. It's her second Black Friday shopping trip, and she came back to score some big deals.

"I came last year and discovered sales are better than online," she said. But Julie Singewald, 44, said she was there merely as the vehicle - "and sometimes the credit card" - as her daughters shopped. Singewald is doing more of her own shopping online.

"I'm a point-and-click person," she said. "If it were up to me, I would be in my pajamas and on my computer at home." — AP

HOW TO EVALUATE A CANDIDATE AFTER JOB INTERVIEW

Bayt.com weekly report

Job interviews are the most informative part of the hiring process; during these sessions, the employer has the opportunity to ask many questions about the candidate, understand their experience and career motives, and also showcase the company and the benefits associated with the vacant position. However, as soon as the interview is over, the hiring manager is tasked with evaluating the candidate, their performance on the interview, and their suitability for the job.

Here are the steps that Bayt.com, the #1 Job Site in the Middle East, recommends using for evaluating candidates after the interview:

1. Primary criteria

Without doubt, a list of skills, academic qualifications, and work experience must be specified before even announcing the vacancy. However, as you commence with the job interviews, it is very helpful to boil down the list of your search criteria to the most critical ones.

Create the primary list of 10-12 criteria that you will not compromise over. This will make it easier for you to exclude candidates who fail to meet the most essential requirements, and you can move on to the next steps with those who satisfy all of the primary criteria.

2. Score card

Comparing candidates against each other qualitatively is rather difficult. For instance, how do you know which candidate has better leadership skills? The answer is to use pre-designed online tests that can verify the candidate's skills. Alternatively, you can use a score card. Create a scale (one to 10 for example) to plot the skills and traits you require. Based on the candidate's performance in the interview, as well as their qualifications, assign them the appropriate score.

3. Behavioral checklist

Evaluating a candidate should also include

assessing their behavior during the interview, and under general circumstances. Consider, for instance, the candidate's punctuality, body language, communication style, energy level, listening skills, and general interaction with prospective colleagues. Observing such behavioral traits from the moment the candidate arrives for their interview until they leave can be very telling about their work ethics and dedication to the job.

4. Reference checks

If you have gathered a reference list or some recommendation letters, which are extremely valuable assessment tools, then this would be the time to go through them. Make some phone calls and discuss the candidate's qualifications and previous experiences. Gain as many details as you need and compare the answers you receive against what the candidate provided during the job interview.

5. Social media search

One of the easiest, yet highly informative, tools for evaluating the candidate post-interview is conducting a social media search. You can simply start with a Google search then go through specific sites such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Social media can be an honest revelation of the candidate's personality, interests, and passion. Such information will help in deciding whether the candidate truly fits within the hiring team and company culture, or not.

6. Second interviews

Even if your hiring process typically includes one interview, do not rule out the possibility of having additional opportunities to sit with and talk to the shortlisted candidates. Having more than one interview, with varying styles, can be extremely useful for differentiating candidates who performed at the same level or if you are still missing some details from a candidate. It is

also a good opportunity for the job seeker to re-assert their qualifications and be more comfortable in their seat.

7. Panel discussion

Whether you were the only interviewer or had a panel interview, you should feel free to seek out input and suggestions from your team. Talk to human resources, prospective peers and supervisors to gain their impression on the candidate. Hiring a new team member impacts many existing employees from different departments and their input can be highly influential. At the end of the day, as a hiring manager, you should be able to make a well-informed and objective hiring decision based on the goals and interests of the company. Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 26,750,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels.

FITCH DROPS S AFRICA OUTLOOK TO NEGATIVE

MOODY'S KEEP CREDIT RATING UNCHANGED

JOHANNESBURG: International credit rating firm Fitch dropped its outlook for South Africa from stable to negative on Friday, citing the country's recent political turmoil under President Jacob Zuma.

Zuma has been engulfed by graft scandals and a power struggle with Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, while economic growth has fallen to 0.5 percent and unemployment hit a 13-year high. "Political risks to standards of governance and policy-making have increased," Fitch said in a statement, confirming that it kept South Africa's credit rating at one notch above "junk" status.

Moody's had been expected to issue its updated grading later Friday, but made no announcement by midnight (2200 GMT). Standard & Poor's makes its key announcement on December 2.

Like Fitch, S&P currently has South Africa-the continent's most developed economy-rated at the lowest investment grade. The credit reviews could further drain investor confidence in the country's prospects under Zuma and the ANC party, which has ruled since the end of

"Zuma has focused on removing Gordhan and maintaining his grip on power, while Gordhan (has) been working very hard to avert a ratings downgrade," the Eurasia consultancy group said.

Junk threat

A junk rating by S&P could trigger bond selling by foreign investors, as well as raise borrowing costs. Some investment funds have rules that allow them to only hold bonds that have investment-grade ratings. "Efforts made by South Africa to keep the country on an investment grade have paid off," the treasury said after the Fitch announcement, while acknowledging the concerns over political uncertainty.

Pravin Gordhan had been due to appear in court earlier this month on graft charges that many analysts saw as an attempt by Zuma associates to oust him. The charges were dropped at the last minute, exposing deep tensions in the ANC as several ministers came out in his support.

Gordhan was appointed only last year to calm panicked investors when Zuma sacked two

"Business confidence remains depressed and investment has continued to contract," Fitch added.

"The economy had been hit in 2015 and 2016 by electricity shortages, the worst drought in decades, a sharp fall in international prices for some of South Africa's main mining commodities and rising policy uncertainty." The ANC is due to elect a new leader at the end of next year, ahead of the 2019 general election when Zuma must stand down after serving two terms.

South Africa this week unveiled the proposed figure for its first minimum wage — 3,500 rand (\$242) a month-in a move that could improve labor relations. Fitch, which said South Africa's banking sector "remains a rating strength", forecast GDP growth of 1.3 percent in 2017 and 2.1 percent in 2018.

Moody's rating

International credit rating firm Moody's has left South Africa's sovereign debt grading unchanged two notches above junk status, but warned yesterday of a possible future downgrade if reforms to support growth fail to materialize. Moody's rates Africa's most developed economy as Baa2 — meaning it is of investment grade for banks-albeit with a negative outlook.

Instead of the much anticipated formal review of South Africa's credit rating, Moody's issued an updated credit opinion overnight, warning that the negative outlook remained because of political tensions and weak growth. "The negative outlook on South Africa's Baa2 government bond rating reflects risks related to the implementation of structural reforms aimed at restoring confidence and encouraging investment," it said in a statement released early yesterday. It added that the country's political scene continued to be "noisy" but that key institutions remained resilient. One of the credit challenges for South Africa is "protracted political infighting that generates policy uncertainty and impedes structural reforms," it said.

On Friday, another international credit rating firm, Fitch, dropped its outlook for South Africa from stable to negative, citing the country's recent political turmoil under President Jacob Zuma. Zuma has been engulfed by graft scandals and a power struggle with Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, while economic growth has fallen to 0.5 percent and unemployment hit a 13-year high.

Moody's warned that South Africa's rating "would likely be downgraded in the absence of fundamental structural reforms supporting higher and sustainable medium term growth".

It also hinted that a rating upgrade was unlikely. Standard & Poor's is expected to make its key announcement on South Africa's investment grading on December 2. Like Fitch, S&P currently has South Africa rated at the lowest investment grade. A junk rating by S&P could trigger a bond sell-off by foreign investors, as well as hiking Pretoria's borrowing costs. — AFP



ETIHAD GROUP TARGETS UAE INNOVATORS, ENTREPRENEURS WITH 'FIKRA' PROJECT

ABU DHABI: As part of the UAE's Innovation Week, Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) has launched Fikra, a UAE-based competition aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and innovation across the country. Fikra means 'idea' in Arabic and the competition aims to encourage students to deliver solutions to some of the major challenges facing the aviation industry in today's ever-competitive environment.

The challenges of the competition are focused on ten areas where the travel group is looking for specific ideas. They are focused on delivering ideas around digital evolution, stopover visits, ancillary sales opportunities, improving loyalty schemes, specialist cargo, social media, youth engagement, airport experience and the environment. In addition there is a special category called 'Out of the Box' that allows the next generation to pitch game changing ideas, in line with some of the concepts that the airline has already launched such as The Residence.

Fatima Al-Jefri, Director at the Department of Science, Technology and Research in the Ministry of Education, said: "The Ministry believes that education and research are important ways to acquire, develop and learn knowledge so we strongly support Etihad Airways in their Fikra initiative, as it will engage the students in innovation and business development. The project will invest in our youth and help them to pave the way forward to a sustainable and prosperous future."

Ray Gammell, Chief People and Performance Officer for EAG, said: "Innovation is key to how we do business and how we will continue to grow as a travel group. We've redefined the size we are today by innovating quickly and supporting an entrepreneurial spirit throughout our business units. That commitment doesn't stop, the new Fikra project gives us an opportunity to hear from the country's next generation and we hope it will deliver ideas that can push us to the next level of our development."

The first phase of the competition will see all submissions evaluated, appraised and scored on their merits. The 20 highest scoring participants will move forward to the next phase of the competition. In the second stage, the top two ideas in each challenge will get the opportunity to work closely with and be mentored by a subject matter expert from EAG. The 20 successful participants will

work to develop their ideas into achievable business plans under the guidance of the travel group's management. Those participants will also be given the opportunity to present their business plans to the senior management of EAG who will choose the top ten winning ideas.

The winners will get the opportunity to take up a coveted internship with one of the EAG businesses to help convert their idea into reality or alternatively can choose an internship with some of EAG's key strategic partners including BT, Cognizant, SAP, TATA Consultancy Services, IBM, Sabre, Stelia Aerospace, Zodiac Aerospace, CAE Inc, B/E Aerospace Inc, Recaro Aircraft Seating and Thales Avionics Inc. These internships will give the students a chance to take their ideas even further in a professional environment and to experience first-hand how major multinational businesses use and benefit from innovation on a day to day basis.

Hareb Al-Muhairy, Senior Vice President for Corporate and International Affairs at EAG, said: "The competition will provide another opportunity for the youth of the UAE to tell us about their ideas so we can continue to build both the best airline but also one fit for the challenges of the future. Innovation is essential to the development of our airline and we're excited about the ideas we're going to see and the possibilities ahead." EAG is now inviting students from universities across the UAE to participate in the competition. All students who register will be entered into a free raffle with some fantastic travel, sporting and cultural prizes on offer.

UAE Innovation Week is taking place between Sunday November 20 and Saturday November 26 during 2016. The week is a nationwide celebration of innovation in line with the directive of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. It is one of the largest innovation initiatives in the world and combines a consolidated effort by the government, the private sector and individuals to help create a widespread culture in the UAE, to strengthen its position as a global hub for innovation.



JOHANNESBURG: This file photo taken on March 20, 2015 shows men walking past the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) building in Johannesburg. — AFP

apartheid. "The in-fighting within the ANC and the government is likely to continue over the next year," Fitch said.

"This will distract policymakers and lead to mixed messages that will continue to undermine the investment climate, thereby constraining GDP growth." Efforts to avoid junk status have been at the centre of political drama for months, with Zuma loyalists at loggerheads with Gordhan, who is widely respected among international investors.

finance ministers within four days. Gordhan and deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa have been pushing for reform of loss-making state companies, including power company Eskom and national airline South African Airways.

A recent watchdog report included allegations that Zuma ensured one business family won huge preferential contracts to supply Eskom with coal. Zuma said on Friday he would launch a court challenge to the report and its order to set up a judicial inquiry.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.707
Indian Rupees	4.477
Pakistani Rupees	2.922
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.067
Nepali Rupees	2.795
Singapore Dollar	215.720
Hongkong Dollar	39.456
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.140
Thai Baht	8.614

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.654
Qatari Riyal	84.101
ani Riyal	795.218
Bahraini Dinar	813.070
UAE Dirham	83.356

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	23.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.300
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.229
Tunisian Dinar	133.920
Jordanian Dinar	431.080
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.040
Syrian Lira	2.182
Morocco Dirham	31.066

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	306.000
Euro	325.890
Sterling Pound	384.030
Canadian dollar	227.850
Turkish lira	89.600

Swiss Franc	305.080
Australian Dollar	231.340
US Dollar Buying	304.800

GOLD

20 Gram	242.52
10 Gram	124.18
5 Gram	62.93

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 Frank	301.458
Bahrain 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	0.376083	0.386083
Czech Korune	0.004012	0.016012
Danish Krone	0.039626	0.044626
Euro	0.319381	0.328381
Norwegian Krone	0.031775	0.036975
Romanian Leu	0.084806	0.084806
Slovakia	0.009174	0.019174
Swedish Krona	0.029180	0.034180
Swiss Franc	0.295978	0.306978
Turkish Lira	0.085882	0.096182
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.426542	0.232364
New Zealand Dollar	0.209847	0.219347
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.220981	0.229981
Georgina Lari	0.138207	0.138207
US Dollars	0.301900	0.306600
US Dollars Mint	0.302400	0.306600
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003377	0.003961
Chinese Yuan	0.042875	0.046375
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037368	0.040118
Indian Rupee	0.000096	0.004607

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002633	0.002813
Kenyan Shilling	0.003147	0.003147
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.064916	0.070916
Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003010
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002999
Philippine Peso	0.006005	0.006305
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.209170	0.219170
South African Rand	0.015761	0.024261
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001642	0.002222
Taiwan	0.009486	0.009666
Thai Baht	0.008255	0.008805
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.805100	0.813600
Egyptian Pound	0.015640	0.024893
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000188	0.000248
Jordanian Dinar	0.426542	0.435542
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020137	0.044137
Nigerian Naira	0.001268	0.001903
Omani Riyal	0.788384	0.794064
Qatar Riyal	0.083239	0.084689
Saudi Riyal	0.080513	0.081813
Syrian Pound	0.001298	0.001518
Tunisian Dinar	0.129790	0.137790
Turkish Lira	0.085882	0.096182
UAE Dirhams	0.081888	0.083588
Yemeni Riyal	0.001013	0.001093



MUMBAI: This file photo taken on May 27, 2016 shows Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry posing for a photograph during the launch of the 'Cliq' online store in Mumbai. — AFP

TATA STEEL REMOVES MISTRY AS CHAIRMAN

NEW DELHI: India's Tata Steel removed Cyrus Mistry as chairman of its board Friday, as uncertainty grows over the fate of its huge loss-making British assets.

The move comes after Mistry was unceremoniously sacked last month as chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of India's most famous family conglomerate—the \$103 billion steel-to-salt Tata Group. Tata Steel Limited (TSL) said in a statement to the Bombay Stock Exchange that O P Bhatt, an independent director on the board, would replace Mistry until the outcome of an extraordinary general meeting on December 21. The decision to remove Mistry was taken by "majority consent" at a meeting of the board of directors in Mumbai on Friday.

"The board of directors... has decided to replace Mr Cyrus Mistry as the chairman of

the board with immediate effect," TSL said. Tata has been considering several bids for its British assets since putting them up for sale in March, citing a global oversupply of steel, cheap imports into Europe, high costs and currency volatility.

The British government has been racing to help find a buyer for Tata's business, which had accounted for about 16,000 jobs, many of them at the Port Talbot steelworks in Wales, the country's biggest steel plant. Analysts say patriarch Ratan Tata, who has taken interim charge of the family business, was saddened by the battering his company's reputation was taking in Britain over the uncertainty surrounding its steel assets. A change in leadership could mean that the company was now willing to commit to its steel business in Britain, they say. — AFP

CITY EYES KEY PERMIT FOR OIL TERMINAL ON WASHINGTON COAST

SEATTLE: As the small city of Hoquiam considers a key permit for a proposed terminal that would move millions of barrels of crude oil through Grays Harbor, opponents are raising concerns about the potential for oil spills and impacts on tribal fishing rights.

Westway Terminal, recently renamed Contanda, wants to expand its existing methanol facility in Washington state to receive up to 17.8 million barrels of oil a year and store up to 1 million barrels of crude oil. The project would bring crude oil by train from the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana or diluted bitumen from Alberta where it would be stored in tanks and then loaded onto tankers or barges for shipping to refineries in the Puget Sound area or California.

The Quinault Indian Nation and environmental groups say the environmental and safety risks are too great. They're urging Hoquiam to deny the project a shoreline development permit.

Houston-based Contanda says the project would bring jobs and economic benefits to the region and the facility would be built to the strictest local, state and federal safety and environmental protocols.

"We're confident that we can safely build and operate the facility in a way that protects our employees, our neighbors, and the environment, using the environmental impact statement as a guide," Contanda spokesman Paul Quary said in a statement. "We look forward to receiving permits from the city so we can start construction, put people to work, and provide the community with tax revenue and other economic benefits," he added. An environmental review completed by the state and Hoquiam in September proposed dozens of measures to offset or reduce impacts, but said there would be significant impacts to tribal resources and to health and safety if a crude oil spill, fire or explosion occurs that could not be avoided even with such measures in place.

Impacts

"The variety of impacts that are discussed and disclosed give the city of Hoquiam the evidence it needs to deny the permit," said Kristen Boyles, an attorney with Earthjustice representing the Quinault, whose reservation sits about 30 miles up the coast from the proposed site.

The tribe says moving millions of gallons of crude oil by train and tankers through the region put the tribe's safety, treaty-reserved fishing rights and way of life at risk. An environmental review found that increased vessel docking and traffic in the navigation channel would restrict access to tribal fishing areas, and that proposed measures such as giving advance notice of vessels would reduce but not eliminate that impact. Hoquiam City Administrator Brian Shay said the city has hired an independent consultant to review the project and write a draft decision. He says he typically accepts such decisions. The public comment period ended a week ago, and a decision isn't likely until January, he added.

"Whatever we do, we expect it to be appealed," Shay said. Hoquiam previously issued a permit for the oil terminal project in 2013. The Quinault and groups such as the Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation challenged it, and a state hearings board reversed the permit. The city and Department of Ecology began an environmental review in 2014 that was released in September.

That analysis proposes tug escorts, setting up oil spill prevention and response plans and other measures to lessen environmental impacts, but says that "no mitigation measures would completely eliminate the possibility of a spill, fire, or explosion, nor would they completely eliminate the adverse consequences."

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently told the city that it agrees with the Quinault Indian Nation that denying the permit "is the only defensible decision." It says the "proposal poses risks to our communities and to unique natural resources that cannot be fully mitigated, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trust resources." At one time, three oil terminals were proposed for the Port of Grays Harbor. US Development notified the port last year that it would not renew a lease option for a proposed oilterminal. Renewable Energy Group, formerly Imperium, told state and local regulators late last year that it dropped plans to handle crude oil as it pursues an expansion project.

In the meantime, the Hoquiam City Council in 2015 approved a ban on any new crude oil storage facilities within city limits. The tribe argues that the project should be covered by that ban. — AP



BARCELONA: 'El Banc dels Aliments' (Food Bank Foundation) volunteers classify food to be distributed among the poor, at a warehouse in Barcelona during a national charity campaign to fight hunger, yesterday. — AFP

UPCOMING VOTES COULD TEST EUROZONE'S STABILITY AGAIN

SLOW GROWTH, HIGH DEBT BAFFLE POLICYMAKERS

FRANKFURT: The eurozone could be in for a rough few months. A rapid-fire series of elections in Italy, the Netherlands and France plus Britain's upcoming move toward leaving the EU could buffet the 19-country monetary union - just as it is struggling to finally leave behind its troubles with slow growth and high debt. Analysts say it will take more than one unexpected outcome to provoke a renewed eurozone crisis that goes beyond temporary market turbulence around the time of the votes.

But multiple surprises and falling dominoes cannot be ruled out. That's especially true after the unexpected votes in Britain for Brexit and for Donald Trump in the United States on Nov. 8. "Since the 9th of November, times have changed," said Carsten Brzeski, chief German economist at ING-DiBa bank. "You can walk through all these political events one by one," he said. "I think each has the potential to derail the eurozone, to further disintegrate the eurozone, to maybe possibly even lead to a breakup of the eurozone - but only in the worst, worst-case scenario."

Here are the key dates:

* On Dec. 4, Italians vote on constitutional changes that would limit the power of the upper house and make it easier for governments to pass legislation. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has said he will resign in case of a "no" result. New elections, if held, could bring to power the Five Star Movement, which has said it wants to hold a referendum on euro membership.

* On March 15 in the Netherlands, the anti-immigration, anti-EU Party for Freedom stands to do well in national elections and could influence the stance of any new government.

* By the end of March, British Prime Minister Theresa May is expected to formally start Britain's talks to leave the EU, which are due to last at least two years. Market and business confidence could take a hit if it looks like Britain could leave without some privileged access to the EU single market.

* On April 23 and May 7, France holds presidential elections. Far right National Front leader Marine Le Pen is expected to at least make the second round. She wants France to leave the EU. And unlike Britain, France is a member of the euro, and its exit from that would likely be even more disruptive.

Polls indicate Le Pen doesn't have much of a chance of winning. Problem is, that's what many people thought about Britain's EU vote and Trump's chances in the US election.

So Le Pen is making pro-EU politicians and economists more nervous than before. Should investors outside Europe be worried? It's hard to tell. Craig Mackenzie, senior investment strategist at Aberdeen Asset Management, says the lack of a plunge in stocks after the US and UK votes "is teaching the market that political shocks are not necessarily the start of the next bear market... The market is harder to shock."

While a less likely Le Pen victory would be "an immediate existential threat" to the EU, the Italian troubles require multiple steps to materi-

alize and "won't be a short, sharp shock."

Right now, companies and investors are hardly pricing in a new crisis. Eurozone business activity is strengthening and German economic confidence is at a 31-month high. Overall, Europe is enjoying moderate growth, following a crisis over high debt in 2009-2012 that pushed Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus into needing bailout loans and raised the possibility the euro would break up.

Commerzbank chief economist Joerg Kraemer says the bigger risk is in Italy. He cautions that there would have to be several triggers over a period of months: first, a "no" in the referendum, then new elections, and then a win by the Five Star Movement. Kraemer and other analysts think a caretaker government is more likely, at least at first. But regular elections would be held in 2018 in any case. Kraemer argues that a Five Star government would likely spend more

and raise new capital. If it fails, it could need a bailout from the government. But in that case new EU rules would trigger losses for some bond holders, including many small retail savers - political poison. The currency union has new safeguards against turmoil. Banking supervision was toughened and moved to the EU level, lessening the chance that bad banks will bring down government finances.

And the European Central Bank has been buying government bonds to raise inflation and growth. In countries like Italy, that has driven bond prices up and interest yields, which move opposite to bond prices, down. That's key because it was exorbitant bond market rates in 2011 that threatened Italy's financial solvency.

The ECB also has a special program dubbed outright monetary transactions, or OMT, under which it could buy a country's bonds to prevent it from facing ruinous borrowing costs. But the



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel is reflected in a window as she speaks during a budget debate as part of a meeting of the German Federal Parliament, Bundestag, at the Reichstag building in Berlin. — AP

money and bust the eurozone's rules limiting deficits, adding more debt to Italy's already heavy burden of 135 percent of economic output.

More deficit spending and debt "will create a huge conflict with the fiscal rules and the European Commission," Kraemer said. "And in such an environment there is a significant risk that private bond investors will go on strike and refuse to buy Italian government bonds. That means there is a significant risk that we will see a return of the southern debt crisis if the Five Star movement continues to lead in the polls and there are early elections."

ECB program

Italy also faces potential disruptions in coming weeks from troubled bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena. The bank is trying to offload bad loans

ECB's bond purchases will have to end at some point. Right now the earliest end is March, 2017, although that may be extended by three or six months at a Dec. 8 meeting.

And Kraemer warns that deploying the OMT could strengthen support for anti-euro parties in Germany and the Netherlands, where stimulus skeptics argue such assistance only undermines the will to reform shaky government finances.

Right now, it's all hypothetical. "I still hope that by the end of this period, we have a couple of elected leaders who can get across more integration at the eurozone level," said Brzeski. "The negative scenario is, I'm wrong with at least one of these outcomes, we get a move toward more nationalist politics and policies in Europe, and we get a gradual further disintegration." "And then it would be more than noise." — AP

LUFTHANSA PILOTS STRIKE FOR 4TH DAY, 137 FLIGHTS CANCELED

FLIGHTS TO OPERATE AS SCHEDULED TODAY

BERLIN: Pilots at Lufthansa are staging a fourth consecutive day of strikes against the German airline yesterday, with chances of an immediate resolution to the pay dispute looking slim after their union rejected a new offer from the company.

The Cockpit union targeted Lufthansa's long-haul services, prompting 137 flight cancellations and affecting some 30,000 passengers. That was fewer than on previous days, when Cockpit members also hit short-haul flights. Cockpit said that there will be no walkout today and it will give at least 24 hours' notice of any further strikes next week. Lufthansa said it expects flights to operate largely as scheduled today. However, it cautioned that there will still be a few cancellations as a result of the previous days' disruption and urged passengers to check the status of their flights online.

Cockpit is seeking retroactive raises of 3.66 percent a year going back 5 1/2 years. Lufthansa, which faces increasing competition from Gulf airlines and European budget carriers, says it can't satisfy that demand. On Friday, Lufthansa offered to increase pay by 4.4 percent by mid-2018, and make a one-time payment equal to 1.8 monthly salaries in lieu of past raises.

It also offered to hire about 1,000 new pilots in the coming five years and seek third-party mediation on other outstanding issues. Cockpit, however, argued that the proposal simply reiterated one made over two months ago.

This week's walkout—the 14th since early 2014—has already grounded some 2,600 planes and affected more than 315,000 passengers. Lufthansa has said the disruption has started to hit medium-term bookings. Pilots had been threatening to extend the strike beyond yesterday, raising concerns among investors at the growing cost to the company and the wider impact on Europe's largest economy.

But the Vereinigung Cockpit pilots' union said late on Friday it now had no plans for further strikes beyond yesterday. It did not rule out further action in future however, but said that any strikes would be announced 24 hours in advance. The union dismissed the airline's latest offer as a "public relations move" and said it was not new.

Lufthansa said earlier it had offered to increase wages by 4.4 percent in two installments, as well as a one-off payment equal to 1.8 months' pay. The airline also said it had offered to create 1,000 jobs for junior pilots and up to 600 pilot traineeships over the next five years. It said it could enter mediation talks with the union on Nov. 29.



DUESSELDORF: A plane lands during sunrise at the airport in Duesseldorf on Friday. Lufthansa pilots continued their strike yesterday. — AP

In return, pilots would have to agree to a change to their pension scheme in which Lufthansa would only guarantee paid-in contributions. Cabin crew and ground staff have already agreed to these changes. Bettina Volkens, head of human resources at the airline, said the changes would help the airline save money.

The union wants an average annual pay increase of 3.7 percent for 5,400 pilots in Germany over a five-year period backdated to 2012. Lufthansa says it has to cut costs to compete with leaner rivals such as Ryanair on short-haul routes and Emirates on long-haul flights, despite making a record profit in 2015.

Lufthansa pilots are well paid by industry standards. A pilot at Lufthansa earns on average 180,000 euros (\$190,000) a year before tax, though a captain on the highest pay level can earn as much as 22,000 euros a month before tax. Lufthansa had said earlier it would be forced to cancel a further 137 flights on Saturday, including 88 intercontinental flights, affecting some 30,000 travellers. Some short- and medium-haul flights would also be affected, it said.

LONG-TERM DAMAGE?

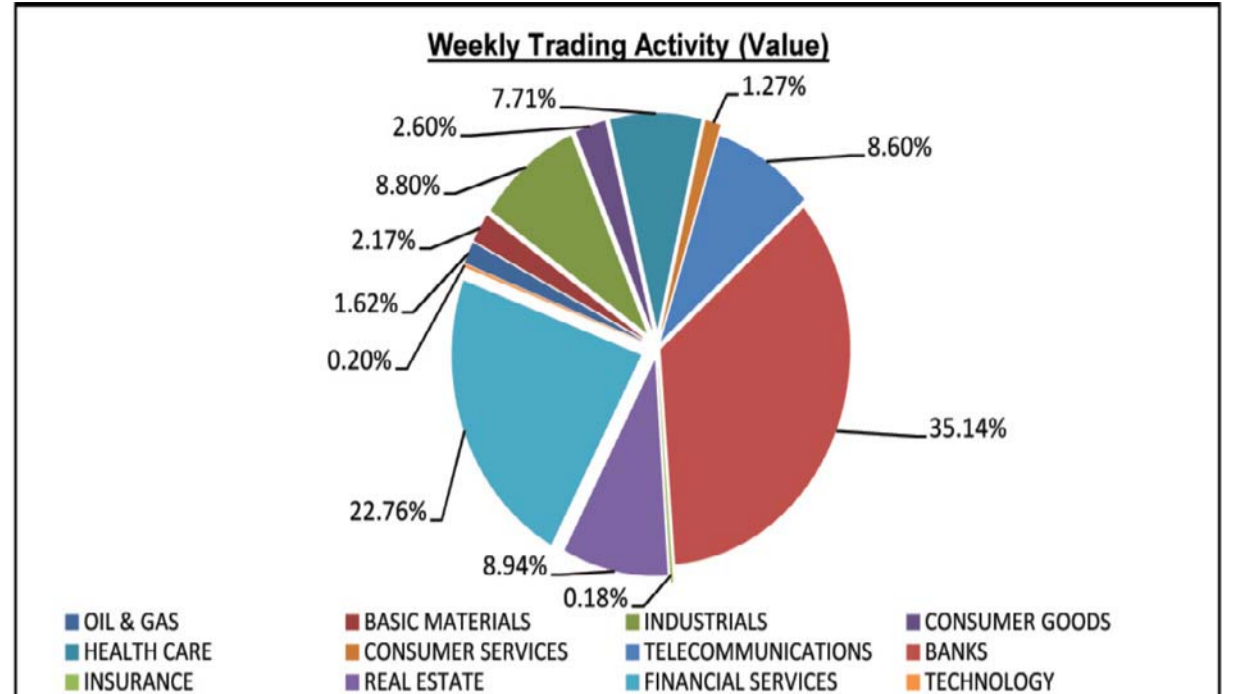
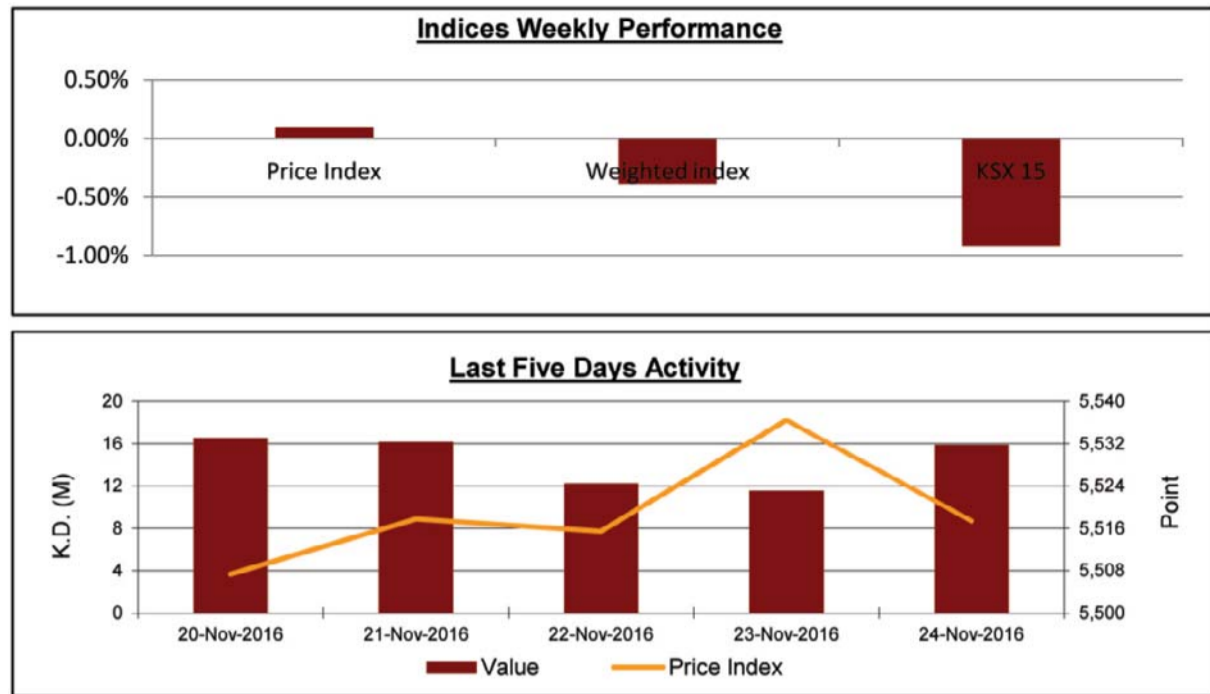
Passengers at Frankfurt airport on Friday were losing patience. "It's not pleasant," said

Lufthansa passenger Dieter Eidt who was booked on a flight to Rome and faced a lengthy delay.

"I believe that they are demanding something that can't be fulfilled and which is unjustified," Eidt said of the pilots. Lufthansa has put the cost of the stoppage at around 10 million euros (\$11 million) a day. However, the airline could take a longer-term hit if the strike prompts customers to shun Lufthansa and switch to rival airlines.

Travel search firm Kayak said nine percent fewer visitors to its site on Wednesday and Thursday had opted for a Lufthansa flight compared to the previous week. "Many people are looking for alternatives," said Julia Stadler-Damisch, regional director at Kayak. But she said she did not expect the airline's reputation to suffer in the long run.

Investors were not so sanguine. Shares in Lufthansa, down more than 13 percent this year, slipped lower on Friday as investors fretted over the prospect of stoppages dragging on. "The name Lufthansa stands for safety, punctuality, reliability," said Michael Gierse, a fund manager at Lufthansa shareholder Union Investment. "One has to wonder how much of the last two values still remain after the strike." — Agencies



BOURSA KUWAIT STOCKS CLOSE WEEK MIXED

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week mixed. The Price Index closed at 5,517.38 points, up by 0.10 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.38 percent after closing at 368.56 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 863.55 points up by 0.92 percent. Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover decreased by 10.28 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 14.48 million, whereas trading volume average was 128.92 million shares, recording a decrease of 10.34 percent.

The Boursa ended the week's trading with mixed closings to the three indices, whereas the Price Index was able to record limited gains and close in the green zone for the fifth consecutive week, in light of the speculative operations executed on the small-cap stocks especially the ones being traded below its book or par value; on the contrary, the Weighted and KSX-15 indices ended the week in the red zone, affected by the profit collection operations witnessed by the leading and operational stocks which witnessed good increases during the previous weeks' trading.

As per the daily activity, the Kuwait Boursa's indices initiated the first session of the week with mixed closings, whereas the Price and Weighted indices dropped as a result to the selling for profit operations executed on the small-cap stocks, while the KSX-15 Index was able to realize increase supported by the purchasing powers that concentrated on some heavy stocks. Also, the Boursa indices continued its fluctuation for the second consecutive session, as the Price and Weighted indices ended Monday's session in the green zone supported by the random purchasing operations and the quick speculation that included few small-cap and mid-cap stocks, while the KSX-15 Index declined due to the profit collection operations executed on the leading stocks after the increases it witnessed in the previous sessions.

On the mid-week session, the Boursa con-

MARKET ACTIVITY				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %	
Volume	644,581,660	718,934,033	-10.34%	
Value (K.D)	72,411,492	80,712,315	-10.28%	
Deals	15,402	17,596	-12.47%	
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
	24,811,223,822	24,818,744,235	-0.03%	-1.80%
TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
OSOS	214.00	106.00	108.0	101.89%
YIACO	380.00	290.00	90.0	31.03%
NAFAIS	212.00	172.00	40.0	23.26%
EKHOLDING	170.00	146.00	24.0	16.44%
PAPER	300.00	260.00	40.0	15.38%
TOP LOOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
SAFAT GLOB	28.00	32.50	-4.5	-13.85%
IFAHR	130.00	150.00	-20.0	-13.33%
LOGISTICS	70.00	77.00	-7.0	-9.09%
AMAR	54.00	59.00	-5.0	-8.47%
IKARUS	35.50	38.50	-3.0	-7.79%

tinued its mixed performance that it was witnessing throughout the week, where the Price Index witnessed a limited decrease affected by the selling pressures that included some small-cap stocks, however the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to realize increases supported by the return of the purchasing and collection operations executed on the

leading stocks.

The Wednesday's session witnessed a continued fluctuation in the indices' performance for the fourth consecutive session, where the Price Index grew as a result to the speculative operations that included a wide range of small-cap stocks, especially the ones valued less than 100 fils, where the Weighted and

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,517.38	368.56	863.55
	Previous week	5,511.74	369.98	871.57
	Change (Point)	5.64	-1.42	-8.02
	Change (%)	0.10%	-0.38%	-0.92%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-97.74	-13.14	-36.88
	Change (%)	-1.74%	-3.44%	-4.10%

KSX-15 indices were subject to the profit collection operations that concentrated on some leading stocks. On the end of week session, the three main indices of the Boursa witnessed decline affected by the selling pressures that included many listed stocks of both leading and small-cap, amid a noticeable increase in the trading value to reach around KD 15.8 million by the end of the session.

By the end of last week, the market capitalization for the listed companies in the primary market reached KD 24.81 billion, down by 0.03 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was then KD 24.82 billion, however on an annual level, the decline in the market cap for the listed companies in the primary market contracted to reach 1.80 percent of its value as at end of 2015, where it was then KD 25.27 billion.

As far as Boursa Kuwait annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 1.74 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 3.44 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 4.10 percent loss.

Sectors' indices

Four of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other eight recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 5.54 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,232.21 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Industrial sector's index closed at 1,240.39

points recording 2.34 percent increase. The Financial Services sector came in third as its index achieved 0.66 percent growth, ending the week at 568.98 points.

On the other hand, the Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 17.81 percent to end the week's activity at 814.40 points. The Consumer Goods sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.81 percent, closing at 1,115.31 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 829.97 points at a weekly loss of 0.73 percent.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 263.28 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 40.84 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 20.19 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 130.17 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 25.44 million or 35.14 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 16.48 million representing 22.76 percent of the total market trading value. - Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	30,519,695	4.73%	1,173,372	1.62%
BASIC MATERIALS	4,243,734	0.66%	1,573,295	2.17%
INDUSTRIALS	36,757,740	5.70%	6,374,441	8.80%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,688,987	0.26%	1,882,855	2.60%
HEALTH CARE	14,756,526	2.29%	5,586,239	7.71%
CONSUMER SERVICES	6,767,732	1.05%	921,378	1.27%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	38,716,648	6.01%	6,226,811	8.60%
BANKS	112,608,681	17.47%	25,444,139	35.14%
INSURANCE	3,957,802	0.61%	131,154	0.18%
REAL ESTATE	130,172,524	20.19%	6,475,302	8.94%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	263,275,085	40.84%	16,477,309	22.76%
TECHNOLOGY	1,116,506	0.17%	145,197	0.20%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	778.08	780.75	-0.34%	-4.97%
BASIC MATERIALS	918.97	918.93	0.00%	-6.83%
INDUSTRIALS	1,240.39	1,212.00	2.34%	18.92%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,115.31	1,124.42	-0.81%	1.86%
HEALTH CARE	1,232.21	1,167.52	5.54%	33.16%
CONSUMER SERVICES	912.42	914.61	-0.24%	-9.54%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	616.15	617.10	-0.15%	2.93%
BANKS	829.97	836.07	-0.73%	-8.50%
INSURANCE	946.16	950.00	-0.40%	-16.05%
REAL ESTATE	822.08	822.82	-0.09%	-12.62%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	568.98	565.26	0.66%	-4.43%
TECHNOLOGY	814.40	990.91	-17.81%	-0.70%

US STOCKS SOAR TO FRESH RECORDS IN SHORT SESSION

WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP

NEW YORK: US stocks hit fresh records in a shortened trading session Friday as investors continued to bet on a pickup in economic growth and rising corporate profits.

The gains were modest but broad, with nearly every sector in the Standard and Poor's 500 index rising. Utilities rose the most, up 1.4 percent. Indexes have been rising since the presidential election, and the close on Friday capped a third week in a row of S&P 500 gains. The index is up 4 percent so far this month. Investors anticipate that plans by President-elect Donald Trump to cut taxes, reduce regulations and spend on infrastructure will speed economic growth. Investors are also reacting to recent signs of a pickup in growth in several other major economies around the world, said Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist for Wells Capital Management.

"We haven't had a synchronized bounce in growth across the globe ever in this recovery" Paulsen said. "This is the first time you're getting all the economic boats going north at the same time, and I think stock markets are reflecting that."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 68.96 points, or 0.4 percent, to 19,152.14. The S&P 500 climbed 8.63 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,213.35. The Nasdaq composite added 18.24 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,398.92. Stock trading closed at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time. Trading was relatively quiet as investors returned from the Thanksgiving holiday.

Investors sold bonds again on fear that inflation in the future could eat into their fixed payments. Yields, which move opposite prices, fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.36 percent.

Ten of 11 sectors of the S&P 500 rose. Energy companies

fell with the price of oil. ConocoPhillips lost 55 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$45.75. Electricity supplier Entergy Energy rose \$1.41, or 2.1 percent, to \$69.53. The climb in utilities on Friday reflects investor desire for steady dividends. Telephone companies, which are also big dividend payers, rose, too. AT&T climbed 48 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$39.21.

Among others stocks making moves Friday, Johnson & Johnson rose \$1.06 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$114.13 after the health care company said it is in early talks to buy Swiss drugmaker Actelion.

Deere & Co. rose 1.7 percent, after rocketing 11 percent on Wednesday. The maker of agricultural and construction equipment reported a quarterly loss on Wednesday, but it was much less than expected. It closed Friday at \$103.92, up \$1.75. Stocks closed higher overseas, too.

Britain's FTSE 100 and France's CAC 40 each rose 0.2 percent. Germany's DAX climbed 0.1

percent. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 finished 0.3 percent higher and South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.2 percent. Stocks in Hong Kong, Australia, Taiwan, Singapore and other Southeast Asian markets also advanced. Oil prices fell sharply. Benchmark US crude fell \$1.90, or 4 percent, to \$46.06 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost \$1.90, or 3.9 percent, to \$47.10 in London.

Investors pushed prices up earlier in the week, but are on edge in anticipation of a meeting of OPEC nations next week. They are meeting to possibly hammer out an agreement on meaningful output cuts. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline fell 5 cents to \$1.37 a gallon, heating oil lost 5 cents to \$1.47 a gallon and natural gas rose 6 cents



NEW YORK: The New York Stock Exchange at sunset, in lower Manhattan. Stocks rose in trading Friday as the market continued a record-setting run. — AP

to \$3.09 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar remained at a more than eight-year high against the Chinese yuan, which was trading at 6.92 yuan

per dollar. The dollar fell against the Japanese yen, to 113.09 yen from 113.69 yen, while the euro strengthened to \$1.0600 from \$1.0547. — AP



'Mutawa Alkazi' presented 4WD Bj40 for Al-Dihani and Al-Rashidi

A PRESENT FROM THE GROUP IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN RIO 2016 OLYMPIAD

In appreciation for their historical achievements of Fuhaid Al-Dihani on receiving the golden medal and Abdullah Al-Tarqi Al-Rashidi on receiving the bronze medal in Rio 2016 Olympiad, Mutawa Alkazi Group gave a reception and appreciation parts for the two Champs at its Principal Office, which was attended by executives and personnel, in addition to a crowd of customers and attendees.

They were received by Mr. Omar Sulaiman Alkazi, CEO of Mutawa Alkazi Group and its affiliates and the sole agent of BAIC Motors, GAC Motor and DFM Motor, who welcomed them and presented for each a 4WD Bj40 as a present, in appreciation for such honorable achievement.

Alkazi asserted that presenting a 4WD Bj40 for Fuhaid Al-Dihani and Abdullah Al-Rashidi was a symbolic present from Mutawa Alkazi Group for Champ Fuhaid Al-Dihani, who accomplished a world achievement on winning the golden medal in Double Trap competitions, after defeating the Italian rival 28 versus 27. Moreover, the Group presented a similar vehicle to the Olympic Champ Abdullah Al-Tarqi Al-Rashidi, for receiving the bronze medal in Skeet Plate contests for men during 2016 Rio Olympiad, which was prominently distinct.

Alkazi paid tribute to such honorable achievement, as they gave the Kuwaitis and Arabs the best present and pleaded millions of people longing for athletes' win of medals during such world championship. Despite Al-Dihani and Al-Rashidi participated under the Olympic flag, they proved worthiness and make dreams come true. In addition, they restored trust in the Kuwaiti sports and athletes, despite the problem of world suspension and its consequences on the national athletes and sports. By such achievement, they proved that our champs are capable of facing challenges, overcoming difficulties, showing distinction and worthiness and giving Kuwait a facelift, he asserted.

Alkazi stated that Mutawa Alkazi Group firmly stands at the side of all Kuwaiti distinct people and youth, who are the source of pride, and supports all positive initiatives concerning all Kuwaiti people.

Regarding the BAIC Bj40 presented to Champs Al-Dihani and Al-Rashidi, the 4WD Bj40 is featured with flexible body arrangement and detachability of the roof and windshield, which gives an exceptional driving experience, in addition to the human design and considerate details, e.g. panoramic reversing radar, powered foldable side mirrors, Hi-Fi stereo system and cup holder at air outlet. For the adventurous people, the Bj40 is provided with off-road survival information system to give the feeling if adventure and challenge and provide a distinct performance and control all road conditions. With Bj40, the more the roads difficult, the more the drive safer and more confident, thanks to the standard configuration of ultra-high anti-roll frame, which constitutes a natural barrier to protect passengers.

Bj40 boasts a strong separate frame construction, which increases its torsional stiffness by 40%, so that Bj40 is in a position to withstand any extreme torque compared to any similar vehicle. It can work under all kinds of weather and topography by 2.5 times magnified torque up to 542 N/M, in addition to 2-wheel rear drive and high-speed 4-wheel drive and low-speed 4-wheel drive, for giving an exceptional pleasure while driving and a spirit of adventure. It was built as per the military vehicle standards and provided with V4 CC2400 motor. It was



tested like a military vehicle to verify road performance, and it has successfully experienced a road test over one million kilometers, in addition to top military security standards, including employment of metal-embossed brakes and all-floating drive axle.

The 4WD Bj40 is featured with various colors to fulfill the needs of possessors of such vehicles, e.g. black, white, dark red, and green. He asserted that Mutawa Alkazi Group

is interested in providing the best offers, including prices, guaranty and registration, in addition to the approved maintenance at the service centers located in Ahmadi and Shuwaikh, performed by the most skilled engineers and technicians capable of achieving the process as soon as practicable to enable secure and safe road drive, and constantly providing the original spare parts against the best prices. He called upon all to visit Mutawa Alkazi Group

showrooms in Rai, Shuwaikh and Ahmadi to have an idea regarding the latest offers and examine various BAIC, JAC and DFM vehicles, which fulfill different needs of customers of diverse ages and requirements.

Eventually, Alkazi asked Al-Dihani and Al-Rashidi to keep on distinction and lead all competitions and hold Kuwait name and flag high in the skies of all international, Arabic and GCC circles besides other Kuwaiti cham-

pions in all arenas, so that Kuwait would restore position of prestige as always, thanks to the efforts of its citizens.

In turn, Fuhaid Al-Dihani and Abdullah Al-Rashidi thanked Mutawa Alkazi Group for such generous initiative and referred to its distinguished role in supporting all Kuwaitis in all aspects, for its social responsibility at all times, and hoped constant success for all staff at the Group.



ALARGAN LAUNCHES SALES OF NEW TOWNHOUSES

46 TOWNHOUSES TO COVER 6,324SQ.M OF LAND IN TELAL AL-QURM, MUSCAT

MUSCAT: ALARGAN International Real Estate Company revealed in Muscat the model townhouse of 46 new townhouses that the company has started constructing in its Telal Al-Qurm community project, currently under development in the Sultanate of Oman. The townhouses are the fourth component of the overall Telal Al-Qurm community, a residential and commercial district consisting of 164,900 square meters of land located on the edge of the highly-in-demand Qurm area of Muscat.



The overall Telal Al-Qurm project is divided into six phases and is being developed into a modern mixed-use urban community providing privacy and security in a central area with direct access to amenities and nearby landmarks of Muscat. The project is characterized by its key location, development quality, advanced infrastructure, landscaping, and modern facilities and surrounding picturesque hills.

The launch of the model townhouse, made by ALARGAN's fully-owned subsidiary Telal Al-Qurm Real Estate, opens sales to the component with expectations already high for units to move quickly due to the location, build quality and overall community design.

Khaled Al-Meshaan, CEO and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of ALARGAN International Real Estate Company, said: "This is a new milestone in the development of one of our key projects in the Sultanate of Oman, and follows a continued success of the project reflected in the high demand for its residential and commercial units. The Telal Al-Qurm community is a unique development modeled on sophistication and modernity with an element of the Omani culture to bring out the beauty of residing in Muscat. The community's design distinguishes these townhouses in particular in their quality and layout, creating unique homes in the real estate world of Oman."

The townhouses will cover a net land area of 6,324 square meters, consisting of two rows of 23 townhouses each, in addition to a Community Clubhouse facing a 2,500 square-meter park and recreational amenities including a gymnasium and swimming pool.

The townhouses will be available in three layouts of three to four-bedroom houses, with private parking, gardens and yards in every layout. The townhouses were designed to have full height windows that face north and a modern design with spacious and defined spaces.

With a view towards helping Oman reach a more sustainable future, Telal Al-Qurm community offers clients the opportunity to have their home constructed to LEED-certification, the top US standard in environmentally friendly construction, helping families preserve both the environment and reduce energy costs.

ALARGAN International Real Estate Company is a leading real estate company based in Kuwait and focused on the development of affordable and middle income housing in the GCC. The company strives to integrate its motto, "Life... As You Love It", across its projects by creating "live, work, play and savor" environments that present a unique lifestyle experience. The company also endeavors to pass on its sustainability values to the community by including green and energy efficient initiatives in its projects. The only company in Kuwait to obtain Platinum ranking for the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program, which is awarded by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). ALARGAN follows a balanced investment strategy, and tries to seize opportunities with stable and superior returns based on the market's investment cycle. Its projects are diverse and located across the Gulf region, including the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman, delivering popular hotels resorts, widely visited shopping and food destinations, large development communities, and middle income level residential housing.



for 3 days only!
Exclusive 25% discount at "Givenchy Boutique"

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BURGAN BANK

BURGAN BANK REVEALS 25% DISCOUNT AT GIVENCHY TO ITS PREMIER CUSTOMERS FOR 3 DAYS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday its latest promotion for a limited time offer designed exclusively for its premier customers, which entitles them to get an exclusive 25 percent discount at the renowned French designer label, Givenchy, when using any of their Platinum Card. The promotion will be valid for three days only over the period from 26-28 November running across all Givenchy stores located in Al-Salhiya Complex, 360 Mall and Thuraya Mall and is applicable to all items including clothing for men & women and accessories. Keen on delivering superior value to its affluent customers, Burgan Bank continues to engage in partnerships that bring together privileges and benefits tailored-made to the premier customers' lifestyle, while creating a more enjoyable overall banking experience.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's Premier Banking benefits and latest promotions, customers are encouraged to visit any of the bank's branches, or contact the call center on 1804080.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

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

4 KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced four lucky winners in Al-Jawhara weekly draws during the month November. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce Representatives. NBK's Monthly Live Draw will be conducted at FM 88.8 on Tuesday November 29.



Fadhel Ahmed Tifoni, Jassem Mohammed Al-Qadeeri, Salah Abdul Hameed Al-Hamar and Esraa Mohamad Al-Sayegh each won KD 5,000. The winners expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions. NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts. NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to Al-Jawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al-Jawhara account.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw.

Al-Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.

JOHN TAKES HOME CHAIRMAN'S AWARD AT PR AWARDS 2016

ASDA'A BURSON-MARSTELLER'S FOUNDER AND CEO RECOGNIZED

DUBAI: Sunil John, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller, has been presented with the Chairman's Award at the Middle East PR Awards 2016.

Sunil was recognized with the award during a glittering ceremony organized by the Middle East Public Relations Association (MEPRA), which was held at the JW Marriott Marquis Dubai on Wednesday evening. The Chairman's Award, one of the top prizes at the industry's biggest event, is given to an individual for their overall contribution to the PR profession in the Middle East and was handed over by Brian Lott, Chairman of MEPRA.

In a speech during the ceremony, Sunil dedicated his award to the roster of senior PR professionals who have helped build the sector in the region, as well as expressing his confidence in the industry's future. "The PR industry today provides a huge opportunity for young people, particularly young Arabs - and it's fantastic to see how it is attracting some of the top talents in the market place," Sunil said. "Just by looking around this evening, I am convinced that the future of our profession is in exceptionally capable hands."

Sunil has been at the heart of the region's public relations industry for more than two decades, and founded ASDA'A in 2000. In 2001, along with four peers in the industry, Sunil also helped found MEPRA, the region's first and foremost representative body for public relations and communications professionals and students.

Since 2008, Sunil has been the driver behind the annual ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey, a unique thought leadership initiative, and one of the most widely cited pieces of public opinion research on the region by media throughout the world.

Sunil was also the first PR professional from the Middle East to receive the Outstanding Individual Achievement SABRE Award (EMEA), from the Holmes Report in 2014. The Chairman's Award capped another exceptional evening for ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller. The eighth annual Arab Youth Survey helped the Agency to get the MEPRA Gold award in the Corporate Reputation category. This follows a year in which the Survey conducted 3,500 interviews with young Arab nationals in 16 countries, concluding with expert analysis that made real global impact. In the Media Relations category, the Agency also won a silver award for its work on the Arab Youth Survey, which made front-page

headlines in top-tier newspapers around the world.

In addition, ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller won a Silver Award in the Live Event, Lunch or Stunt Award for its work on the GEMS Education's Global Education and Skills Forum.

In the Financial Communications category, the Agency collected a silver award for a first-of-its-kind Islamic Banking Index created especially for Emirates Islamic Bank, which was showcased at the second Global Islamic Economic Summit in Dubai in October 2015. Now in its eighth year, the Middle East PR Awards recognizes agencies, corporates, teams and individuals who have shown exceptional return on investment, creativity and strategic impact.



DUBAI: Sunil John (left) receiving the award from Brian Lott (right).

KFH OFFERS 4 TOYOTA CAR MODELS VIA OPERATIONAL LEASE PRODUCT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offered various Toyota car models via operational lease product, in confirmation of its interest in serving customers and strengthening ties with car dealerships which contributes in addressing customers' needs and the market demand.



Aahed Al-Essa

Aahed Al-Essa, Executive Manager Cars and leasing products at KFH stated that the operational lease product or Lease with Maintenance is now offering 4 Toyota car models in cooperation with Al-Sayer Toyota. The models are Prado, Rav, Fortner and Corolla. The rental prices starts from KD 125 per month. The offers includes very attractive advantages of comprehensive insurance and, alternative car, road assistance round the clock and travelling with the lease vehicle outside Kuwait according to certain rules

and regulations. He added that "KFH operational lease product is now available as it offers a variety of most famous and well known trademarks ie 60 models of various car types. KFH is characterized for providing the best of services to its customers (Retail and corporate) at the highest service quality. KFH gives them the opportunity to select the car of their choice out of a variety of the most modern cars at competitive rental prices starting from KD 60 per month depending on the type of car and lease contract 1-2 years. This product aims to strengthen KFH role and contributions in serving its customers and supporting the vehicles market".

Al-Essa indicated that KFH market share in retail and corporate operational lease market is in continuing increase. KFH has provided several unique offers, attractive discounts and special offers to government sector and major companies. KFH has also executed marketing campaigns with local automotive agents in light of combined cooperation. New categories have been entered in the leasing process to suite all tiers of customers including luxurious cars i.e. Borsch, Lexus, Infinity, Jaguar, Maserati in addition to other types of cars. Accordingly, More leasing options and flexibility of leasing period are offered to suite customers' needs. Customers are welcomed to visit KFH Branches at Shuwaikh, Rai, Farwaniya at Dhajeej and Ahmadi for direct contacting.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 20 November 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 13 November - 17 November 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:
(Sunday 13/11): Faisal Jassem Mohammad Al-Barjas, Abdullaouf Qasem Ramadan Habbib
(Monday 14/11): Kazem Abdulhussein Mohammed, Firaz Amin Khan
(Tuesday 15/11): Hardeeb Singh Shani, Nawaf Hamad Mohammad Al-Bagli
(Wednesday 16/11): Hamad Soud Abdulaziz Al-Hassan, Mohammad Saad Kamel Shireef
(Thursday 17/11): Kholoud Yousef Yaqoub Al-Qenaei, Faraj Othman Faraj Al-Nuby



Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced. Open an Al Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the Millionaire Draw!

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

1. Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
2. Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
3. Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
4. The most chances to win
5. Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance.

SHELL CEO SEES NO VALUATION HIT FROM CLIMATE ACCORD

AMSTERDAM: Royal Dutch Shell expects to pump out all the fossil fuel reserves listed on its balance sheet, its chief executive said, dismissing concerns that production limits in the wake of the Paris climate accord could hit the energy giant's valuation. In an interview with Dutch newspaper Het Financieel Dagblad, Ben van Beurden said the issue of "stranded" reserves - deposits in the ground that cannot be used because of carbon emissions limitations - would have no impact on balance sheets.

"The company is valued on producible reserves that we

can produce in the next 12 or 13 years," he said. "We should certainly be able to produce those under any climate outcome. Even if global temperatures can only rise by 2 degrees." The Paris Climate Agreement, which came into force this month, commits almost 200 countries, including China, the United States and the European Union, to limiting temperature increases to 2 degrees and weaning the world economy off fossil fuels.

The Anglo-Dutch energy giant, the world's third largest by market capitalization, has bet heavily on a lower-carbon

future, with investments in wind and renewables capped by the \$50 billion acquisition of British Gas in February.

Van Beurden was also skeptical that revaluation of reserves after the climate deal could trigger a financial shock, saying that the oil price's collapse from \$120 to \$30 a barrel showed the industry's ability to weather much larger shocks. "Each \$10 fall costs us \$5 billion in cash a year," he said. "The fact that over the coming few decades we are transitioning, in a more or less ordered way, to a low-carbon society is less draconian than what we've seen over the past two years." —Reuters

MIMECAST SECURITY STRATEGIST DISCUSS CYBER ATTACK TECHNIQUES



Steven Malone Chief Security Strategist at Mimecast.

DUBAI: Mimecast Limited, a leading email and data security company, announced that its Chief Security Strategist, Steven Malone, spoke at RSA Conference 2016 Abu Dhabi, which took place from 15-16 November 2016 at Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi. Steven Malone discussed how 91 Percent of Cyberattacks Start with Email: Addressing "Human Firewall" Flaws. His session explored top attack vectors such as social engineering attacks, ransomware as well as CEO fraud attacks, the impact that human error has on an organization's security and an outline of strategies for building a more resilient human firewall. Sharing his experience, Steven Malone, Chief Security Strategist, Mimecast said, "Organizations are being attacked by cyber criminals with greater frequency and sophistication than ever before. Historically businesses have turned to advanced technology to protect themselves from

cyber-attacks, but this approach is just not enough. With more than 90 percent of cyber-attacks using email as the attack vector, it is essential that organizations strengthen their email security strategy as well as create a 'human firewall' because hacking a human is often easier than breaching a business." "At RSA Conference Abu Dhabi, I spoke about the threats organizations face through socially-engineered email attacks and how to increase awareness of these threats, encourage a behavior change towards security, and invoke a stronger human firewall to help protect their business from future attacks," he added. In its second year, RSA Conference 2016 Abu Dhabi is the premier platform for attendees to learn from the most skilled individuals in cybersecurity, better enabling them to protect their valuable business assets.

CISCO TO ADDRESS COLLABORATION AND CYBER SECURITY AT EGOV4

KUWAIT: Cisco announced yesterday their participation in the 4th E-Government Forum (EGOV4) in Kuwait, to be held from November 27 - 29, 2016 at Courtyard Marriott hotel. The Forum, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, will help attendees from various government agencies in Kuwait gain the necessary knowledge and understanding of the technical, business processes, and human resources considerations of developing efficient e-Services.

Cisco will use this platform to showcase why it's important that organizations stop thinking about security as a defense-centric approach that is sold by fear, uncertainty, and doubt but rather start thinking of it as an enabler that supports innovation and helps the business go forward. Ziad Salameh, Managing Director and General Manager - West Region, Cisco Middle East will deliver a keynote on 'Government E-Services - the Journey to Success' at the event. In addition, Zak Solutions, a leader in e-learning projects and a strategic advisor to the education sector in Kuwait, will join Cisco to showcase how schools and universities are using collaboration technology to improve teaching and learning.

Governments around the world are implementing strategies to transition to secure cloud computing. These initiatives help government ministries and agencies meet mission requirements and solve the problem of tight budgets with cost-effective capabilities. Equally important, they help governments deliver secure, shared services for mobile workers and citizens. Cisco estimates that cyber security will drive \$7.6 trillion of digital value over the next decade. More than three-quarters of this amount - \$5.8 trillion - will result from cyber security's enablement of digital use cases that instigate innovation and growth. As much as digitization and the Internet of Things (IoT) provides opportunities to businesses, consumers and citizens, they also create greater opportunities for attackers as modern net-

works and their components constantly evolve and spawn new attack vectors.

Reliable

"Government agencies need assurance of a secure, reliable cloud computing strategy to manage their user and citizen information before they can commit to change. The network is the fabric that links clouds and all their components transparently and securely. Cisco addresses government's uncertainty in cloud computing by focusing on more than just security. Our assurance of integrity, together with our extensive suite of offerings, will help governments meet their critical imperatives and make the transition to the cloud with confidence," said Ziad Salameh, Managing Director and General Manager - West Region, Cisco Middle East.

In addition to demonstrating how an integrated threat defense architecture can help organizations see 100% of their extended networks and defend it faster, Cisco along with Zak Solutions will share how together they are making education more accessible and flexible in Kuwait via Cisco's Collaboration for Smart Classrooms which provides unlimited access to educational resources, regardless of location or device. Educational institutions are looking for ways to increase student access while evolving the learning experience and technology offers new opportunities to transform the education landscape, making it easier for educational institutions to reimagine learning.

"With digital transformation, students can learn more and faculty can research in new ways, in new places, with new connections to resources around the world," said Samer Al-Lahham, General Manager, Cisco Kuwait. "Cisco is leading this transformation with visionary solutions that enable students to learn without limits. Collaboration is at the core of good teaching, learning, and research. It is also how innovation occurs, which should always be the focus of a good educational institution and that is what's needed in the 21st century."



Ziad Salameh, Managing Director - West Region, Cisco Middle East.



Samer Al-Lahham, General Manager, Cisco Kuwait.

ONLINE AD EXCHANGE APPNEXUS CUTS OFF BREITBART NEWS

NEW YORK: Online advertising exchange AppNexus said it has barred Breitbart News, the ultraconservative outlet that has served as a platform for the "alt-right," a white nationalist movement. AppNexus said it removed Breitbart from its advertising network because the online news site had violated its policy against hate speech. Breitbart can still sell ads, just not on AppNexus' online marketplace, the second largest to Google's.

Breitbart was not a direct client of AppNexus but its access to some advertisers will be cut as a result of the move, although it's unclear how much this would hurt its revenue. A representative for Breitbart did not immediately return a message seeking comment Wednesday. Breitbart emerged during the campaign as an unabashed backer of President-elect Donald Trump, who has named

Steve Bannon, the news site's former leader, as chief White House strategist.

AppNexus spokesman Josh Zeitz said in an email that his company bars sites that "contain pornography, graphic violence, pirated material, or hate speech." Also barred are sites that attract a lot of nonhuman traffic or appear to be "content farms" that produce articles for the sole purpose of generating clicks. AppNexus determined that Breitbart "deployed crude racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual slurs in a way that could incite violence or discrimination against minority groups," he said. Facebook and Google have said recently that they are prohibiting fake news sites from using their ad networks. This case is different though - AppNexus is not banning Breitbart for posting fake news, but for posting hate. — AP

GERMAN TOP COURT REJECTS YAHOO CASE

BERLIN: Germany's highest court has rejected a case brought by Yahoo against a law designed to compensate news publishers for the use of their content. The Constitutional Court said Wednesday that Yahoo hadn't exhausted its legal possibilities in lower courts and should turn to them first. The judges didn't rule on the issue itself, which also

affects rival search engine companies such as Google. Germany revised its copyright laws in 2013 to allow media companies to request payment from search engines that use more than snippets of their content. A lawyer for Yahoo said he wasn't immediately able to comment on the verdict as the court hadn't informed the parties yet. — AP



This photo provided by Osmo shows an Osmo Creative Set. Toys that teach aren't a new thing, but a growing number are calling for kids to build with blocks, circuits or everyday items before reaching for a tablet screen. — AP

GET READY TO BUILD! HANDS-ON TOYS THAT TEACH ARE POPULAR

NEW YORK: Toys that teach aren't a new thing, but a growing number are calling for kids to build with blocks, circuits or everyday items before reaching for a tablet screen.

Play is how kids learn about the world around them, whether it's a toddler throwing a ball or teens playing video games. It's about seeing how things work and what happens when they do something. And over the years, toys have gotten more high tech to keep screen-obsessed children engaged with such play.

But there's growing worry among parents and educators that toys are moving too far in that direction. Educational toys that have a math and science bent - marketed under the umbrella of STEM - are now trying to get back to the basics: less screen time, more hands-on activities. "When kids use their hands, your outcomes are much higher," said Pramod Sharma, CEO of one such toy company, Osmo. "It's very different than if they're just staring at a screen watching TV."

With Osmo, kids learn everything from spelling to coding not by touching a screen, but by snapping together magnetic blocks. A screen is still part of it; an image is beamed onto an iPad through its camera. But the idea is to have kids learn first with their hands, then see their creation move to the screen.

Learn by building

Educators agree that whether you're talking about a toddler playing with blocks, or a teen building a computer from scratch, the act of putting something together helps educational concepts sink in.

"The way the world comes to us is actually through tactile activities, so tactile toys where we build stuff are incredibly helpful," said Karen Sobel-Lojeski, who studies the effects of technology on children's brain development at Stony Brook University on Long Island, New York.

Bloxels attempts to bridge the physical and the digital. Kids build their own video games by putting plastic blocks in a special tray, instead of writing out code. Using a phone or tablet's camera, an app transforms the shapes created with the blocks into digital characters and scenery.

Makey Makey, a startup founded by a pair of MIT students, asks kids to come up with their own electronic creations by combining software, circuits and everyday items like bananas and doughnuts.

Good, but popular?

Sobel-Lojeski said toys are most educational when kids can learn how things work by building. But Juli Lennett, a toy industry analyst at NPD, said such toys are rarely on kids' wish lists.

On the other hand, tech toys that have subtle educational value, but aren't specifically marketed as such, can be strong sellers. Lennett cites Fisher-Price's Think & Learn Code-a-Pillar, which introduces basic coding concepts by letting preschoolers assemble segments that each tells the caterpillar to do something different, such as

"turn left" or "play sound."

"I'm not sure that kids are asking for it, or that their parents just want their kids to go to Harvard, but it's definitely one of the top-selling toys this holiday," Lennett said.

Tracy Achinger, a former automotive engineer in Shelby Township, Michigan, said her 8-year-old son got interested in coding after starting computer programming classes this year. So for Christmas, she's buying him an Ozobot, a golf ball-sized robot that kids can program by drawing different colored lines or using a kid-friendly, block-based programming language.

Tech has its limits

Achinger's 3-year-old son will be getting an iPad this year. She said she isn't against screen time, but believes parents need to keep an eye on what their kids are watching and playing. She said her older son has been playing creative games such as "Minecraft" for a few years.

"We try to keep it educational," Achinger said. "I really think those kinds of games get their imaginations going as they create their own worlds."

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently revised its guidelines to shift the emphasis away from banning screen time and toward balancing high-quality content with non-screen activities.

That doesn't mean every toy with a screen is educational. Barbie has her own smart home in the form of the voice-activated and Wi-Fi-connected Hello Dreamhouse. And new versions of

Elmo, Furby and the Cabbage Patch Kids have apps, which Lennett said are often more about branding than learning.

Sobel-Lojeski said slapping an app on a previously low-tech toy can backfire. Instead of letting the child imagine how a particular toy would talk or behave, the app fills in those holes.

"It cuts the child off from play that is much more important for development," she said.

Some of the drive for tech in toys comes from parents who believe that the younger their kids are exposed to technology, the more prepared they will be for a lucrative career someday.

But Sobel-Lojeski said Albert Einstein came up with breakthroughs without ever touching a computer, let alone tech toys at a young age.

"We can easily be tricked into thinking that all this stuff is going to make our kids more intelligent or better scientists and that's just not true," she said.

Resist the screen

Companies that make computers for kids also see the value in a construction element.

Kano shows kids how to build their own computers in a kid-friendly storybook format.

Kano co-founder Alex Klein said he had to resist suggestions to just put Kano into app form and skip the computer construction all together. He said the act of building a computer was key because it "created a huge sense of energy and momentum for what followed on screen." — AP



This photo provided by WowWee shows CHIP, a robot dog that cuddles, plays fetch and follows you around the house. Whether you're looking for something educational, or a toy that's just for fun, there are a lot of choices for the holidays. — AP

3 AUSTRALIANS CRITICALLY ILL AFTER RARE THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA

MELBOURNE: Three patients remained critically ill on Thursday, three days after a rare condition known as thunderstorm asthma killed four people and sent hundreds to hospitals in Australia's second-largest city, an official said.

Doctors were amazed there were not more fatalities given the numbers of people who suffered cardiac arrests and struggled to breathe when a wild thunderstorm struck Melbourne on Monday

night, Victoria state Health Minister Jill Hennessy said.

The storm caused rain-soaked ryegrass pollen to explode and disperse over the city, with ruptured particles penetrating deep into lungs. Almost one third of patients who suffered asthma attacks on Monday reported never having asthma before. Nine patients remained in intensive care units on Thursday after the unprecedented event that overwhelmed

Melbourne's hospitals and emergency services, Hennessy said. The condition of three of those patients was listed as critical, she said. "I'm pleased we haven't had more deaths ... but those deaths are four deaths too many," Hennessy told reporters.

Experts were trying to determine whether asthma thunderstorms could be predicted, and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and other government

agencies met with pollen scientists Thursday to discuss whether future events could be accurately forecast.

Melbourne University botanist Ed Newbigin, who runs Melbourne's main pollen-counting station, said forecasting such events should be possible. "Thunderstorms and high pollen levels in the air occur reasonably frequently this time of year, but not all those events result in episodes of thunderstorm asthma," Newbigin said. "We can probably figure out what are the requirements for producing thunderstorm asthma and come up with, if not a perfect forecast system, at least a pretty good one," he said. The world's first recorded thunderstorm asthma event occurred in Melbourne in 1987. Similar events have happened in the United States, Canada, Britain and Italy. The last major event in Melbourne was in November 2010. —AP



SEOUL: Members of the environmental group Greenpeace hold placards and balls symbolizing microplastics from cosmetic products during a campaign to support a microbeads ban, at the Han river on August 9, 2016. —AFP

GREENPEACE URGES MICROBEAD BAN TO PROTECT OCEAN LIFE

TOO SMALL TO BE FILTERED

LONDON: Environmental group Greenpeace is calling for a ban in Britain on plastic "microbeads", found in many cosmetics, which they warn pollute the oceans and poison marine life. Campaigners want a total ban on the tiny particles—which are too small to be filtered-in products that are commonly washed down the drains.

Although only making up a fraction of the five to 12 million tons of plastic discharged into the oceans each year, these small beads are "probably the most harmful", said Erik Van Sebille, oceanographer and climate scientist at Imperial College London. "The smaller (the plastic) is, the most harmful it is," he told a news conference Thursday on the Greenpeace ship

"Esperanza", moored near Tower Bridge in central London. "Most animals won't eat an entire plastic bag, so the smaller it is, the easier it is to be ingested." He said there was evidence that the excess of plastic was causing harm to sea creatures, including stopping oysters from reproducing. The tiny balls, which can be as small as 0.1 millimeters, are found in numerous cosmetic products, from facial scrubs and exfoliators to shower gels and toothpaste.

A 125ml tube of exfoliating cream can contain several hundred thousand microbeads, usually made from polyethylene, explained David Santillo, a researcher for Greenpeace at Exeter University. Too small to be picked up by water treatment filters, they enter the oceans where

they are "very effective at picking up pollutants that are in sea water", said Santillo. These pollutants are then passed on to the fish, crustaceans and microplankton that ingest them.

'Turn back the

clock' The British government is due to launch a three-month review process in December on plans to ban microbeads, amid mounting pressure from Greenpeace and other environmental groups. A petition calling for a ban has gathered more than 375,000 signatures. It urges Britain to follow the example of the United States and other countries which have taken action to limit their use. Anticipating the ban, British supermarket chain Tesco will remove microbeads from its own brand cosmetic and household products by the end of 2016, the group's quality director Tim Smith announced on Thursday. He said Tesco had asked suppliers to effectively "turn back the clock" to before microbeads, and use natural alternatives such as ground-down coconut shells.

Cosmetics giant Johnson & Johnson has pledged to remove microbeads from its products globally by the end of 2017 while toothpaste maker Colgate told AFP it hasn't used them since 2014. US corporation Procter & Gamble says on its website that it is "in the process of eliminating them from our toothpastes and cleansers".

Greenpeace said it welcomed the British government's plans to ban microbeads but wants the legislation to go further to avoid loopholes, warning that the situation is only worsening.

"By 2025, for every three tonnes of fish, there will be one ton of plastic" in the oceans, said John Sauven, executive director for Greenpeace UK. —AFP



SEOUL: Members of the environmental group Greenpeace collect beach balls symbolizing microplastics from cosmetic products (represented by large balloons) during a campaign to support a microbeads ban, on the Han river in Seoul on August 9, 2016. —AFP

SCIENTISTS GO BIG WITH FIRST AQUATIC SPECIES MAP FOR US WEST

BOISE, Idaho: It sounds like a big fish story: a plan to create a biodiversity map identifying thousands of aquatic species in every river and stream in the western US But scientists say they're steadily reeling in that whopper and by next summer will have the first Aquatic Environmental DNA Atlas available for the public.

Boise-based US Forest Service fisheries biologist Dan Isaak is leading the project and says such a map could help with land management decisions and deciding where to spend limited money and resources. "It's kind of the Holy Grail for biologists to know what a true biodiversity map looks like," he said. "To have that formatted digitally so you can do lots of science with it will be transformative in terms of the quality of information we'll have to conserve species."

Isaak said annual surveys could provide snapshots so scientists can see how biodiversity and ecosystems change over time. Because of the project's immense scale, he said, sample collecting likely will require help from many entities, including citizen scientists.

What the map will include

The map eventually will include everything from insects to salmon to river otters. It's possible because of a new technology that can identify stream inhabitants by analyzing water samples containing DNA. The technology also can be used to identify invasive species.

That technology is evolving, said Michael Schwartz, the Forest Service's director of the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation in Missoula, Montana. Currently, he said, scientists can detect only one species at a time in a stream sample. He said the goal is to identify multiple species in a single test from one sample. A rough estimate for when that might be possible is about a year, he said.

The trove of information has the potential to be so vast that questions not presently imagined might arise. "Any time

science undertakes large projects like this, the payouts can be in directions you don't expect," Schwartz said.

Ultimately, he said, the publicly available information could be used by someone with an iPad or other device who could go to a section of river and see what species it contains.

The Aquatic Environmental DNA Atlas for the western US has its genesis in a smaller-scale project called the Bull Trout Environmental DNA Atlas involving five states - Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington - where the federally protected fish is found. That effort, Isaak said, has discovered bull trout in areas where they were thought not to exist.

Isaak also has been working on something called the Cold Water Climate Shield to identify streams that could serve as a refuge for cold water species, such as bull trout, if global warming continues.

That map uses millions of temperature recordings going back decades and has expanded to include most of the western US Stream temperatures in lower elevations have risen several degrees over the past 30 years, Isaak said. The DNA Atlas has been confirming the kind of species present as predicted by the Cold Water Climate Shield, Schwartz said.

What scientists ultimately hope to do is combine all the information from stream temperatures, DNA Atlas sampling, topography and weather patterns to get more insights into species distribution patterns and even how entire ecosystems function. "The data sets can be bigger because computers are bigger," Isaak said. Even for Isaak, who is called a visionary by his colleagues, the leaps in technology that make his ideas possible can be mind-boggling.

"It's just been an ongoing revelation," he said, recalling 15 years ago using pencil and paper to make streamside observations. "It still seems like magic to me that you can go take a water sample and you have instruments powerful enough to discern what species are present." —AP



MISSOULA, Montana: This April 17, 2014 photo provided by the US Forest Service shows Michael K. Schwartz in the process of filtering 5 liters of water to concentrate DNA on a filter to be analyzed at the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, on Rattlesnake Creek. —AP

ANOTHER FAILURE IN SEARCH FOR TREATMENT TO SLOW ALZHEIMER'S



INDIANAPOLIS: This June 30, 2011, file photo, shows the Eli Lilly and Company corporate headquarters. —AP

INDIANAPOLIS: An experimental treatment for Alzheimer's failed again in a widely anticipated study, disappointing many who had hoped drugmaker Eli Lilly had finally found a way to slow the progression of the mind-robbing disease.

The drug did not work better than a placebo treatment in a study of more than 2,100 people with mild Alzheimer's, the company announced Wednesday. "We're incredibly saddened by the news," said Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Association, who was not involved in Lilly's research. "There was a lot of hope for this avenue, this approach."

Alzheimer's experts had modest expectations for the drug, called solanezumab (sohl-ah-NAYZ'-uh-mab). It had already failed in two large studies in people with mild-to-moderate forms of the disease. Combined results, however, suggested that the drug might work for those with the mildest symptoms.

Lilly started another study, testing monthly infusions of the drug for 18 months in those patients. The drug binds to a protein called amyloid that builds up in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. The drug clears the protein from the brain before it can clump together to form a sticky plaque between nerve cells. Researchers think the protein triggers the degenerative disease, which impairs memory and thought.

Premature to abandon

Amyloid still plays some role, and it's premature to abandon the notion of targeting it, said a specialist who has led many previous failed Alzheimer's drug studies. "When you get a result like this you have to question, is it the stage of the disease, is it the particular drug you are testing, or is it some combination? Or is the strategy wrong?" said Dr. Stephen Salloway, neurology chief at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. "We don't know the answer."

Lilly's drug is still being studied in two other major tests. One involves patients with a rare, inherited form of Alzheimer's, and the other is a prevention trial of people who have no symptoms but have deposits of amyloid in their brain as seen on scans.

At least 18 other drugs are in late-stage testing, including several similar to solanezumab. Dietary therapies, supplements and even a medical device also are being tried. "There are other approaches that we need to pursue," Carrillo said. "We need to redouble our efforts."

Scientists say the search for a better Alzheimer's treatment presents several problems. They also believe changes in the brain of a person with Alzheimer's begin many years before the patient shows symptoms. That means that by the time diagnosis happens, the brain may

be essentially too damaged for potential treatments to work.

Lilly has spent about \$3 billion over the past 27 years on Alzheimer's research. One of the drugmaker's researchers, Dr. Eric Siemers, said the latest results were a "bump in the road," and scientists are looking forward to learning more from the results of other potential treatments. "We're continuing to go forward, it's just not as fast as we would like," said Siemers.

With more than 5 million people in the United States afflicted, Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. There's no known way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. Current treatments on the market, like Aricept and Namenda, only temporarily ease symptoms such as memory loss, confusion and agitation.

Alzheimer's patients typically live an average of eight years after their symptoms become noticeable, during which the disease gradually erodes their memory and ability to think or perform simple tasks. Wall Street analysts had given Lilly's drug relatively low odds of success. Even so, shares of Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co. plunged more than 10 percent, or \$8.02, to \$67.97 Wednesday afternoon. Shares of other drugmakers researching Alzheimer's treatments, like Biogen Inc., also sank in early trading. —AP

FOR FIREFIGHTERS, EMOTIONAL STRESS OFTEN DEADLIEST OF ENEMIES

'PTSD FOR FIREFIGHTERS IS REAL'



VERO BEACH, Florida: In this photo taken Monday, Oct. 24, 2016, the American flag is flown at half staff and flowers placed in front of Fire Station 2, honoring Vero Beach Battalion Chief David Dangerfield.—AP

VERO BEACH, Florida: Battalion Chief David Dangerfield's nickname was "Super Dave," a moniker the veteran firefighter had earned over the years for his cheerful, get-things-done personality. The leader of a fire department dive team in a quiet Florida beach community of 15,000 volunteered for charities helping kids and families and was the 2013 Treasure Coast Emergency Service Provider of the Year.

But one Saturday night last month, Dangerfield posted a Facebook message that revealed a world of pain behind the brave facade. "PTSD for firefighters is real. If your love (sic) one is experiencing signs get them help quickly. 27 years of deaths and babies dying in your hands is a memory that you will never get rid off (sic). ... My love to my crews. Be safe, take care. I love you all."

He then drove to some woods, called 911 and told the dispatcher where his body could be found. He hung up and fatally shot himself. He was 48. Dangerfield's death shined a light on firefighters who suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, a problem most often associated with soldiers returning from war. Firefighters are finding that their long tradition of silent stoicism, and the belief that talking about one's demons is a sign of weakness that could isolate them from colleagues, has left many of them psychologically and emotionally damaged.

30 percent suffer from PTSD

The Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance estimates about 30 percent of the nation's 1.3 million career and volunteer firefighters suffer from PTSD, with 132 suicides by active and former U.S. firefighters and paramedics reported last year. Officials believe those numbers are low because of misclassifications. Studies show firefighters are three to four times more likely to kill themselves than die in on-duty accidents. There have been recent national efforts to train firefighters to recognize PTSD and to remove the stigma of seeking help. But even knowledge can't save everyone. David Dangerfield became a firefighter in the 1980s, advancing through the ranks to a top position in the Indian River Fire Rescue Division in Vero Beach, a town of 15,000 known for its quiet beaches, retirees and as the Dodgers' former spring training grounds. Dangerfield founded and ran the firefighters chili cook-off for charity.

His team's work sometimes made the local news. He and a colleague found the severed body of a 9-year-old boy who had been attacked by a shark. He and his partners pulled mangled bodies from a small plane crash in a remote swamp and then sat with the corpses for hours before they could be removed. In 2014, Dangerfield recovered the body of a 16-year-old bicyclist who had been knocked off a bridge and into a lagoon by a car.

He told the Vero News that firefighters feel the families' pain. "It's difficult for us, too," he said. "It sticks with you."

Retired firefighter Blades Robinson, a dive team buddy, said Dangerfield had some difficulties over the past couple of years, including a divorce, but had been undergoing PTSD counseling. He had been promoted last year, bought a new house and truck. He seemed like his normal self. "We were all blindsided by his death," Robinson said.

Scott Geiselhart, a firefighter in Frazee, Minnesota,



VERO BEACH, Florida: In this photo taken Monday, Oct. 24, 2016, John O'Conner talks to a reporter.—AP

fought the same demons Dangerfield did - and would have died the same way but for some incredible luck. Geiselhart was viewed as a pillar of his community in Frazee, a town of 1,300 people tucked among the area's abundant lakes and home to "Big Tom," the world's largest turkey statue. He owned the local auto repair shop and was an assistant chief with the volunteer fire department, leading the crew that removes people when they are trapped, particularly after car accidents.

Geiselhart often found himself rescuing friends and neighbors. One night he chatted up a bartender about a necklace she was wearing. The next morning he pulled her body from her car's wreckage and found the necklace in the debris.

In 2010, Geiselhart and his team rescued a teenager who had driven into an icy swamp. He appeared to be recovering in the hospital. "Everything went perfect: It was an awesome, awesome rescue. It was just wow," said Geiselhart, 47. "I was celebrating, saying, 'We finally saved one.'" A month later, the teen died from a lung infection caused by inhaling water. Geiselhart blamed himself.

Nightmares

It wasn't long before the nightmares began, mostly about his two sons. "They would be burning to death or falling out of the sky and landing in the water and turning

to me for help and I was paralyzed. I couldn't help them. Or they would be in a car accident and the jaws of life wouldn't work or my arms wouldn't work," he said. "So I just decided I was never going to sleep again." He started taking meth to stay awake. It made his PTSD worse.

Everywhere he looked in town, something reminded him of someone he had seen dead or dying. He began yelling at his girlfriend and kids. He spent 23 hours a day at his repair shop, but spent much of his time staring at his surveillance monitor.

Finally, in 2014, he took his Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum, loaded it with six bullets, put it to his head and pulled the trigger. Click. The gun didn't fire. "I think it was God using my favorite gun to get my attention," he said. Geiselhart got help. He underwent psychotherapy, eye-movement desensitization and reprocessing, sometimes used to treat soldiers suffering from PTSD. It worked. He stopped using meth. He stopped being angry, even though he lost his auto shop. He's still a volunteer firefighter. "What's weird is that I'm in the worst financial shape of my life but I am the happiest I have ever been because I got my life back and I know there is a future," he said. "Something inside me is at peace." He now speaks to firefighters groups, urging them to seek help before it's too late. "I know how much strength it takes," he said. "It is far from a weakness."—AP

JUNO THERAPEUTICS HALTS STUDY AFTER MORE PATIENT DEATHS

WASHINGTON: Juno Therapeutics again halted its study of an experimental leukemia treatment Wednesday after two more patients died of complications. It was the second setback for the closely watched study, which was previously halted after two patient deaths in July. Company shares plunged more than 27 percent in frenzied trading.

The Seattle company said that the latest deaths occurred earlier this week after patients suffered a severe form of brain swelling, similar to the previous two fatalities. Company executives in July blamed the deaths on chemotherapy drugs used in a pre-treatment regimen, rather than on the company's experimental drug. The Food and Drug Administration granted researchers permission to resume the study several days later. Juno said Wednesday it's working with regulators to determine what to do next. The company's therapy, known only as JCAR015, is in mid-stage testing, a make-or-buy phase of development that usually focuses on effectiveness.

Juno's approach is part of a promising, but still unproven, approach that reengineers patients' immune systems to attack cancer. The company filters patients' blood to remove white blood cells called T-cells and genetically alters them in the lab so they can target cancer cells. They then return the modified cells to the patient. The company is studying several other gene-altering immunotherapies and said those trials will continue. Shares of Juno Therapeutics Inc. fell \$7.96, or 27 percent, to \$21.92 in afternoon trading.—AP

GERMAN COURT: BREAST IMPLANTS NO HINDRANCE TO POLICE WORK

BERLIN: A German court has ruled breast implants are no impediment to a woman becoming a police officer. The ruling by the administrative court in the western city of Gelsenkirchen Wednesday came after a 32-year-old woman appealed a police doctor's assessment that her silicone implants were likely to rupture during physically demanding law-enforcement work.

But the court heard expert testimony there was less than a 20 percent risk of an implant ripping or other painful problems, the dpa news agency reported. Nationwide police guidance says women with implants are not suited for police duty because of the injury risk, but other courts have also ruled otherwise. — AP

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey: A New Jersey judge has ruled a severely anorexic woman committed to a state psychiatric hospital two years ago can request forced feedings and granted her request for care to relieve pain or discomfort.

The 29-year-old Morris County woman, identified only as AG, weighs 69 pounds and has been a patient at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Parsippany since 2014. She told the court earlier this month she doesn't want food or water and would prefer instead to enter palliative care. Superior Court Judge Paul Armstrong in Morristown

granted her request on Monday and ordered her transferred into palliative care at the hospital.

The state attorney general's office contends the woman is not mentally competent due to her chronic depression. It said anorexia is not a terminal condition and had asked the court to approve force-feedings, requested by state Department of Human Services. The attorney general's office said the woman's depression could be treated using an experimental drug.

Doctors testified that the woman has been diagnosed with terminal anorexia-

nervosa. She told the court she would resist force-feedings, which are administered through a tube inserted through the nose and pushed down the throat. Her court-appointed lawyer, Edward D'Alessandro Jr., said his client's bone density is comparable to a 92-year-old's. She would be at risk for injury if restrained, he said.

Judge Armstrong determined the woman's testimony was "forthright, responsive, knowing, intelligent, voluntary, steadfast and credible." He said the woman's parents, doctors, psychiatrists, court-appointed medical guardian and

the ethics committee at Morristown Medical Center all supported her decision to refuse forced feedings.

"This decision was made by AG with a clear understanding that death was or could be the possible outcome," the judge said. Armstrong cited previous "landmark" cases where patients, their families, physicians, and their institutions were found to be "proper cooperators" in making difficult medical decisions. A spokesman for the state attorney general's office declined to comment on the order. It's unclear whether the state will appeal.—AP

SEVERELY ANOREXIC PATIENT CAN REFUSE FORCED FEEDINGS

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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AICA MARKS SIR SYED AHMAD KHAN'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The All India Cultural Association (AICA) proudly celebrated the birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Founder of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on Thursday, 10th November 2016 at the Indian Embassy auditorium. Born in 1817, it is the beginning of the 200th year of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's birth which is being celebrated all over the world by the Indian community and especially by the AMU alumni with fond enthusiasm.

All India Cultural Association is a Kuwait based non-profit organization that strives to promote the vast and diverse Indian culture. Founded in 2010 and registered with the Embassy of India in Kuwait, AICA has made a name for itself

by presenting quality literary programs, conducting several successful mushairas (poetry recitals), ghazal concerts and other cultural events. AICA's aim is to become a platform, voice and medium for communications for Indians from all walks of life. The evening started with Quran recitation by Nadeem Ahmed followed by lighting of a lamp and speeches by Shubashis Goldar, Deputy Chief of Mission and Chief Public Information Officer from the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, and AICA President, Sanjay Kumar Saxena.

Senior Indian Embassy officials, K K Pahel, First Secretary, A K Shrivastava, Second Secretary and other prominent Indians such as Samina Malik, Aijaz Baig, Dr Umair Baig, Aijaz

Ahmad Sarfaraz, etc. were also present at the event.

After an inspiring introduction about Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and AMU by corporate lawyer and AMU alumnus, Kashif Syed, tokens of appreciation were presented to some of the key supporters of the evening by prominent AMU alumni Madhuri Jha, Usman Qadir, Kareem Irfan, Dr Anis Ahmad, Mohammad Zia Uddin and Nisar Khan along with AICA members Mohd. Amir and Mohd. Ikram

The evening comprised of a thought provoking play "Letter to Gandhi" performed very professionally by Syed Mujeeb Akhtar, Ahmed Sartaj and Maria Limdi. Guest of honor of the event, well know Radio Mirchi Murga fame RJ

Naved Khan, entertained the audience with a funny, emotional and touching presentation. Renowned theater artist and Bollywood actor Major Mohammad Ali Shah, captivated the audience with an hour of monologues in English, Hindi and Sanskrit.

This was followed by the Aligarh Muslim University anthem sung by a group of alumni and their children. The evening ended with a vote of thanks by Usama Faruki, Vice President of AICA in which he thanked the audience, AICA members and the supporters of the event. Nita Bhatkar Chogle hosted the event and kept it flowing seamlessly through the evening.



KNES CELEBRATES REMEMBRANCE DAY

This week students at Kuwait National English School (KNES) have been learning about Remembrance Day and participating in events and activities that focus on peace and tolerance. This year marks the 98th Anniversary of the end of World War One. That war now seems like a very long time ago, especially when there have been plenty of wars since then. But World War One changed the modern world. For some people it defined the horror of modern warfare in what turned out to be mankind's bloodiest era, the twentieth century. Millions of men fought in the battles from all across the world. Sometimes they signed up to fight voluntarily while others were conscripted by their countries governments to fight. All those involved left behind their families. Sadly many never returned home and those that did often carried both physical and mental scars from what they had been through and seen. The First World War was a Total war affecting all people in all areas of life. Many young women travelled to the battle fields to be nurses and ambulance drivers. Others worked in dangerous jobs in

factories or in agriculture helping to fill provide much needed labor while the men were away fighting. Many women lost their husbands, sons, and brothers. For all those involved life would never seem the same again.

Once the armistice was signed and the Great War as it was then known was over, many felt that the sacrifice of all those people should not be forgotten. In 1919, on the first anniversary of the Armistice, a service was held. This was not just a national act of remembrance but an international one due to the global impact of the First World War. Now each year on the Sunday nearest to 11 November (Remembrance Day) at 11 o'clock in the morning, a Remembrance Service is held.

The Poppy was adopted in 1921 by The Royal British Legion as the symbol of Remembrance. It was the first thing that grew back on the muddy fields after the Great War ended. Many believed the dead had simply turned to poppies.

All over Britain there are memorials to those who fought and during remembrance and tolerance week they will be covered in wreaths of Poppies. They are to

be found in city centers, towns and villages as well as railway stations and universities. Each one carries a long list of the names of people from that local area, workplace or university. You may want to take time to read the names inscribed on them because they are the names of those who have died for our freedom.

This year Kuwait National English School students have been involved in acts of remembrance and tolerance at the British Embassy. KNES Staff and a group of students, many of whom are studying IGCSE History, attended the event at the Embassy that was hosted by the Ambassador's wife. The students, who ranged from Primary through to Sixth Form, were given a tour of the gardens and a presentation by a Royal Navy Officer and a Royal Air Force Officer. All the students involved showed great maturity and were honorable ambassadors for our school's diverse community. There followed an act of remembrance and poppies were laid at the war memorial to remember all those who have died for our freedom as well as all those who have been and

continue to be affected by the horrors of war.

In school this week all students have continued to learn about remembrance and tolerance. Remembrance Day is a day of reflection. It allows us to remember or think about all those people who are affected by wars, both in the past and now. It allows us to think about all those people who suffer in wars all around the world. And it reminds us how important it is to work for peace. All secondary students were involved in our annual Remembrance and Tolerance Assembly which took place in Remembrance Sunday. A two-minute silence was held to remember all those who have lost their lives or been affected by war. Students contributed to the assembly by reading war poetry, playing music and singing appropriate songs that focused on tolerance.

It is important to remember all those who have died in wars for our freedom. But, it is also important to remember all those people who have mental or physical injuries caused by war which they have to live with for the rest of their lives.

CUBAN EMBASSY MOURNS CASTRO'S PASSING

On the occasion of the passing of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba declares nine days of National Mourning, from 06:00 on 26 November to 12:00 on 4 December 2016. During the Period of National Mourning, all public activities and performances will be suspended; the national standard will fly at half-mast at all public buildings and military establishments. Cuban Radio and Television will be airing informative, patriotic and historical programming.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT BHAVANS



Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kuwait) joined hands with the CBSE and celebrated the National Education Day to commemorate the birth Anniversary of the great scholar Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of the Independent India on 13 November 2016. Lalitha Premkumar, an energizing educationist and the vice principal of the KG and Primary wing, IES, presided over the genial gathering in the school auditorium. Kisara Batugedara of grade 10 embraced the gathering with a warm welcome note. Colorful cultural events including enthralling group dances and an edge-of-the-seat skit by the secondary students of IES, played soothing notes on the invisible strings of hearts thus leaving the assembled company spellbound.

The thought-provoking speeches by T. Premkumar, the principal, Suresh V Balakrishnan, the vice principal, the middle and senior wings, and Lalitha Premkumar, the vice principal, the Primary and KG

wing, on the importance of education and on the life of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, were instrumental in sowing the seeds of unquenchable knowledge in the minds of the august gathering.

Natasha of grade 9 shed light on the life and accomplishment of the great scholar Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and Nityansh of grade 6 recited a poem in Hindi on the sublime lives of the national heroes of India igniting the sparks of patriotism in the hearts of the listeners.

The Principal extolled the efforts of the Departments of French, Hindi and Sanskrit for organizing such a function manifesting the essence of the day in its true spirit. Srinidhi of grade 10 C proposed the vote of thanks. The emcees for the day were Elizabeth Gigi and Nawal Syed of grade 10. The celebration ended with a feeling of pride and enlightenment in each spirited soul. The school is in endless praise of CBSE for providing platforms such as these for the students to be better equipped with the significance of such celebrations.



TALISE SPA INTRODUCES NEW LEVEL OF INDULGENCE FOR KUWAIT RESIDENTS

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, is offering guests a new level of indulgence at the award-winning Talise Spa. From tailored packages in its private suites, a renewed ladies' membership program, to the launch of the new luxurious British spa brand and organic skincare brand, ILA.

Voted as the Best Luxury Destination Spa and Best Luxury Resort Spa in Kuwait by the World Luxury Spa Awards 2016, Talise Spa has curated a number of treatments and therapies as part of its new Suite Menu. The treat-

ments are designed to invigorate the body and soothe the mind with experiences ranging from two hours to more than four hours of ultimate pampering.

Guests can choose to have their treatments in the Oriental private suite equipped with a Jacuzzi or the Himalayan suite with a private Himalayan Salt Room for two. Single ladies will enjoy A Delightful Memory experience, men can relax with a Rejuvenation Journey, mothers and daughters can spend time together with a Spa Indulgence experi-

ence, and best friends with a Spa Break. Wedded couples will indulge in a romantic journey with A Moment of Bliss, while newlyweds can each add The Luxurious Journey to their special occasion.

Talise Spa has also renewed its Ladies Talise Spa Membership, providing female residents regular indulgence with a wealth of health and fitness benefits. Combined benefits range from unlimited access to the spa's luxurious facilities, complimentary personal fitness sessions, exclusive facials, scrubs, and

signature massages, a private ladies fitness gym and studio, along with day passes to the beach area and the resort's main pool and infinity pool.

Having recently partnered with ILA, the organic handmade luxury skincare brand, Talise Spa now exclusively offers treatments using ingredients derived from the finest plant and earth minerals such as Himalayan Salt. One of the highlights is the ILA Gold Cellular Age-Reversal Collection, using a unique formula of naturally occurring gold

and the rarest of Frankincense from the Gardens of Ethiopia which restores, nourishes and stimulates the skin's natural ability to rejuvenate and heal.

With a holistic approach to beauty based on purity, ancient traditions and sustainable processes, ILA promises to deliver guests exceptional inner and outer benefits. Talise Spa is open from 10:00 am to 10:00pm. For guests looking to book their experience, contact +965 22269688, or email JMBTalise@jumeirah.com.



FADI AL-ANDARI ACCOMPLISHES FIVE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES AT ONCE

Fadi Al-Andari has competed and ranked first place in five world championships during the World Cup Championships held in Belgrade. He earned the Titles of "First Place Natural Body", "First Place Athletic", "First Place Physique", "First Place in Kickboxing Tournament" and last but not least "Best Fitness". He dedicates

the Titles to his beloved country Lebanon and the Arab Nation.

Andari, Palms Beach Club and Spa Manager, states, "My sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who supported me and helped me get ready for the Championship at the Palms Beach Club and Spa and it is my pleasure to be working in such a state of

the art gym".

It is quiet hard winning five championship titles at one go, especially if they differ in terms of techniques. That being said, nothing is hard for our Champion Fadi Al-Andari who has proven that once you put your heart and soul into something you love, you can achieve.



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE COMPANY ORGANIZES OPEN DAY AT BAYT ABDULLAH CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

As part of The Commercial Real Estate Company "Al Tijaria" social responsibility program, in alignment with and applying and enhancing corporate governance principles, the Company has organized an exceptional open day for the children at Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice. Qimam Foundation for Exhibitions, Conferences and Camps and 7erafy, organized a full day event of interesting sports and arts activities. Children enjoyed lovely time with their parents away from hospitals and treatment atmosphere.

"Fantasy World" Toy Store spread smiles and distributed beautiful gifts for the kids given by the cartoon character "Freedy Wonder Man" as part of their Sponsorship for this event. Fantasy World also donated

some gifts that were in the "wish list" of Bayt Abdullah that the kids can enjoy during their treatment at the Hospice. At the end of this event, Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait distributed some tasty snacks and beverages as a sponsor.

Rawan Adnan - Acting Marketing and Leasing Manager in The Commercial Real Estate Company has stated that "Al Tijaria" is always supporting activities that contribute to serving and building a better community thru organizing events, seminars and exhibitions and providing financial aid to different categories in the society. "Al Tijaria" is also working on developing the principle of social responsibility to include preserving the environment, better consumption of food and

resources thru "Rafad" Campaign, empowering small business youth and special needs children.

It is noteworthy that Bayt Abdullah is a Children's Hospice that provides multi-professional, specialist, pediatric care and support to children with life limiting or life threatening illnesses who are residents in Kuwait along with their families. BACCH aim to improve the quality of life for children and their families from diagnosis and beyond by offering these services, tailored to the individual family's needs, in the location of their choice, whether at home, in Bayt Abdullah or through outreach program in their local hospital. Al-Tijaria is proud and grateful to be able to serve the community.



OSN MOVIES ACTION
00:00 Mama
02:00 Area 407
04:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
06:00 Independence Day
08:45 Metro
11:15 Heatstroke
13:00 Con Air
15:00 Independence Day
17:30 Blackhat
20:00 Ladder 49
22:00 Watchmen

ANIMAL PLANET HD
00:50 Big Fish Man
01:45 Bondi Vet
02:40 Lone Star Law
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Wildest Africa
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Big Fish Man
06:49 Lone Star Law
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:20 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
09:15 Lone Star Law
10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Lone Star Law
14:45 Gator Boys
15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Wildest Africa
18:25 Monster Hammerhead
19:20 The Vet Life
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Wildest Africa
22:05 Mutant Planet
23:00 The Vet Life
23:55 Gator Boys

Discovery Family
01:20 Playhouse Masters
02:10 Incredible Food Race
03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 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

BBC FIRST
00:10 Doctors
00:40 Ripper Street
01:30 Ripper Street
02:25 Silent Witness
03:15 The Kettering Incident
04:10 Doctors
04:35 Doctors
05:05 Call The Midwife
06:00 I Want My Wife Back
06:30 Doctors



CORN AIR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

07:00 Doctors
07:30 Holly City
08:30 Father Brown
09:20 Dickenson
10:05 Call The Midwife
11:00 Doctors
11:30 Doctors
12:00 Father Brown
12:45 Dickenson
13:35 Call The Midwife
14:30 Doctors
15:00 Doctors
15:30 Father Brown
16:15 Dickenson
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 The Durrells
21:00 The Paradise
21:55 Silent Witness
22:50 The Kettering Incident
23:40 Doctors

16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
17:00 Buggin' With Ruud
17:50 The Lion Queen
18:40 Prototype This
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Buggin' With Ruud
22:00 The Lion Queen
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor



00:40 Your Number's Up
01:30 Deadly Women
02:20 Las Vegas Law
03:10 Killer Confessions
04:00 Your Number's Up
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
05:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
06:24 Id Kill For You
07:12 Southern Fried Homicide
08:00 Tabloid
08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:30 Id Kill For You
11:20 Southern Fried Homicide
12:10 Your Number's Up
13:00 Tabloid
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
15:30 Id Kill For You
16:20 Southern Fried Homicide
17:10 Disappeared
18:00 Tabloid
18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
20:30 Id Kill For You
21:20 Southern Fried Homicide
22:10 A Crime To Remember
23:00 Betrayed
23:50 Murder Among Friends



00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Mouk
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

crime & investigation network
00:00 Crime Stories
01:00 Murder In-Law
02:00 Killer Kids
03:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
04:00 Crime Stories
05:00 Murder In-Law
06:00 Killer Kids
07:00 The First 48
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 Killers
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 Killers
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 Deadly Wives

COMEDY CENTRAL
00:00 Tosh.0
00:25 I Live With Models
00:50 Brotherhood
01:15 Tosh.0
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 JB Smooove: That's How I Dooz It
03:00 Workaholics
03:25 Ridiculousness
03:50 Ridiculousness
04:15 Key And Peele
04:40 Impractical Jokers
05:05 Ridiculousness
05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
06:20 Tosh.0
06:50 Tosh.0
07:15 Urban Tarzan
07:40 Urban Tarzan

08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Austin & Ally
09:35 Shake It Up
10:00 A.N.T. Farm
10:25 A.N.T. Farm
10:50 That's So Raven
11:15 That's So Raven
11:40 Good Luck Charlie
12:05 Good Luck Charlie
12:30 Jessie
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 The 7D
13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Austin & Ally
15:00 Dog With A Blog
15:25 Jessie
15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
16:15 Hank Zipzer
16:40 Bunk'd
17:05 Star Darlings
17:10 Elena Of Avalor
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:25 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
00:00 Doc McStuffins

Disney Junior
00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopedidoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopedidoo
02:30 Art Attack
03:00 Calimero
03:15 Zou
03:30 Loopedidoo

00:55 WAGs Miami
01:50 El News
02:50 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
03:40 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
04:35 EJ NYC
05:30 Botched
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 El News
07:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:10 El News
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 El News
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:45 Celebrity Style Story
15:15 Botched By Nature
16:10 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2015...

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15:10 Gold Divers
16:00 Deadliest Catch
16:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
17:40 Wheeler Dealers
18:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 Gold Divers
20:10 Storage Hunters
20:35 What's In The Barn?
21:00 You Have Been Warned
21:50 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed
22:40 Magic Of Science
23:05 Magic Of Science
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

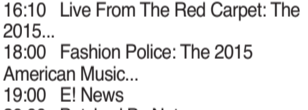


06:25 K.C. Undercover
06:50 The 7D
07:00 Phineas & Ferb
07:15 Atomic Puppet
07:40 Danger Mouse
07:50 Counterfeit Cat
08:05 Future Worm
08:10 Gravity Falls
08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Danger Mouse
10:20 Annedroids
10:45 Annedroids
11:10 Counterfeit Cat
11:35 K.C. Undercover
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12:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:45 Phineas And Ferb
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Supa Strikas
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Danger Mouse
15:55 Kirby Buckets
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Annedroids
17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything

17:40 K.C. Undercover
18:05 Future Worm
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Counterfeit Cat
19:00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
19:25 Supa Strikas
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Pickle And Peanut
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister
22:35 Boyster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
00:05 Rob & Chyna



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01:10 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
02:00 Forged In Fire
02:50 Ataska Off-Road Warriors
03:40 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 American Pickers
07:40 Pawn Stars
08:05 Pawn Stars
08:30 Storage Wars Texas
08:55 American Restoration
09:45 Lost In Transmission
10:35 Shipping Wars
11:00 Shipping Wars
11:25 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
12:15 Swamp People
13:05 Ax Men
13:55 Mountain Men
14:45 Down East Dickering
15:35 Pawn Stars
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Storage Wars
17:15 Storage Wars: Best Of
17:40 Mountain Men
18:30 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
19:20 American Pickers



00:30 Man Finds Food
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man Fire Food
02:30 Man Fire Food
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Barefoot Contessa
07:30 Barefoot Contessa
08:30 The Kitchen
09:00 Cooking For Real
09:30 Cooking For Real
10:00 Chopped

00:00 Crime Stories
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01:10 Survive That!
02:00 Dive Wars Australia
02:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
03:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
04:30 What's In The Barn?
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Deadliest Catch
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
08:30 Gold Divers
09:20 What's In The Barn?
09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Survive That!
11:25 Dive Wars Australia
12:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
13:30 Storage Hunters
13:55 What's In The Barn?
14:20 Alaskan Bush People

11:00 Guy's Big Bite
11:30 Guy's Big Bite
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Man Fire Food
13:30 Man Fire Food
14:00 Chopped
15:00 The Kitchen
16:00 Cooking For Real
16:30 Cooking For Real
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Iron Chef America
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Chopped South Africa
21:00 Kitchen Casino
22:00 Iron Chef America
23:00 Chopped
ITV Choice HD
00:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium



01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Brief Encounters
04:20 Doc Martin
05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
06:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium
07:05 The Chase
08:00 Broadchurch
09:00 Doc Martin
10:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
10:55 Sunday Night At The Palladium
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Sunday Night At The Palladium
15:10 The Chase
16:00 Brief Encounters
16:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 Brief Encounters
21:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street
00:00 America's Book Of Secrets



01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
03:00 Ancient Discoveries
03:50 Heroes Of War
04:40 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
05:30 America's Book Of Secrets
06:20 Cities Of The Underworld
07:10 Ancient Discoveries
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
09:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
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12:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
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19:00 Ancient Aliens
20:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
21:00 Ancient Discoveries
22:00 Heroes Of War
23:00 Last Days Of The Nazis
00:20 Mountain Men



01:10 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
02:00 Forged In Fire
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16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Storage Wars
17:15 Storage Wars: Best Of
17:40 Mountain Men
18:30 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
19:20 American Pickers



01:10 Wild Case Files
02:00 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
02:50 World's Deadliest
03:45 Animals Gone Wild
04:40 Hunter Hunted
05:35 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
06:30 World's Deadliest
07:25 Animals Gone Wild
08:20 Hunter Hunted
09:15 Africa's Deadliest
10:10 Deadly Game
11:05 Hippo vs Croc
12:00 Orca Killing School
12:55 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
13:50 World's Deadliest
14:45 Animals Gone Wild



SHANGHAI NOON ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Counting Cars
21:25 Counting Cars
21:50 Ice Road Truckers
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Counting Cars
23:55 Counting Cars
00:35 Places We Go

15:40 Hunter Hunted
16:35 Croc Ganglands
17:30 Deadly Game
18:25 Maneater Manhunt
19:20 Animals Gone Wild
20:10 Hunter Hunted
21:00 Croc Ganglands
21:50 Deadly Game
22:40 Maneater Manhunt
23:30 Orca Killing School
00:30 Scrubs



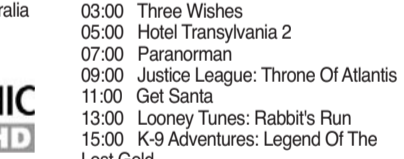
01:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
01:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
01:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
02:15 Eat Street
02:40 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
03:05 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
03:55 The Game Chef
04:20 The Game Chef
04:45 One Man & His Campervan
05:10 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
05:35 Dream Cruises
06:25 The Shellbourne
06:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
07:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
07:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
08:05 Eat Street
08:30 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
08:55 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
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10:10 The Game Chef
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12:15 The Shellbourne
12:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
14:00 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
14:30 Raw Travel
14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:50 The Game Chef
16:20 The Game Chef
16:45 A Is For Apple
17:15 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
17:40 Dream Cruises
18:35 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:00 The Game Chef
20:25 The Game Chef
20:50 A Is For Apple
21:15 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
21:40 Dream Cruises
22:30 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
22:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
00:10 Taiwan: Island Of Fish



01:30 Baskets
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 Hank
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
07:30 Fresh Off The Boat
08:30 George Lopez
09:00 2 Broke Girls
09:30 Angie Tribeca
10:00 Modern Family
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Hank
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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 Young & Hungry
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Scrubs
22:00 Baskets
23:00 You're The Worst
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:45 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya



01:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
02:00 Air Crash Investigation
02:55 Live Free Or Die
03:50 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
04:45 America The Wild
05:40 Wild Case Files
06:35 Do Or Die
07:30 Do Or Die
07:30 Air Crash Investigation
08:25 Seconds From Disaster
09:20 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
09:45 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
10:15 Science Of Stupid
10:40 Science Of Stupid
11:10 Exomars - The Hunt For Life
12:05 Mars
13:00 Seconds From Disaster
14:00 Air Crash Investigation
15:00 Do Or Die
16:30 Do Or Die
16:30 Science Of Stupid
16:30 Science Of Stupid
17:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
18:00 Mars
19:00 Do Or Die
19:30 Do Or Die
20:00 Science Of Stupid
20:25 Science Of Stupid
20:50 Years Of Living Dangerously
21:40 Mars
22:30 Do Or Die
22:55 Do Or Die
23:20 Wild Case Files
00:20 Crops Of Katuma



03:00 Three Wishes
05:00 World Transylvania 2
07:00 Paranorman
09:00 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis
11:00 Get Santa
13:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
15:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
17:00 Cinderella
19:00 Monsterverse: The Cabinet Of Souls
21:00 Houdini On The Trail Of Mansuplami
23:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
01:15 Whiplash



01:10 Wild Case Files
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02:50 World's Deadliest
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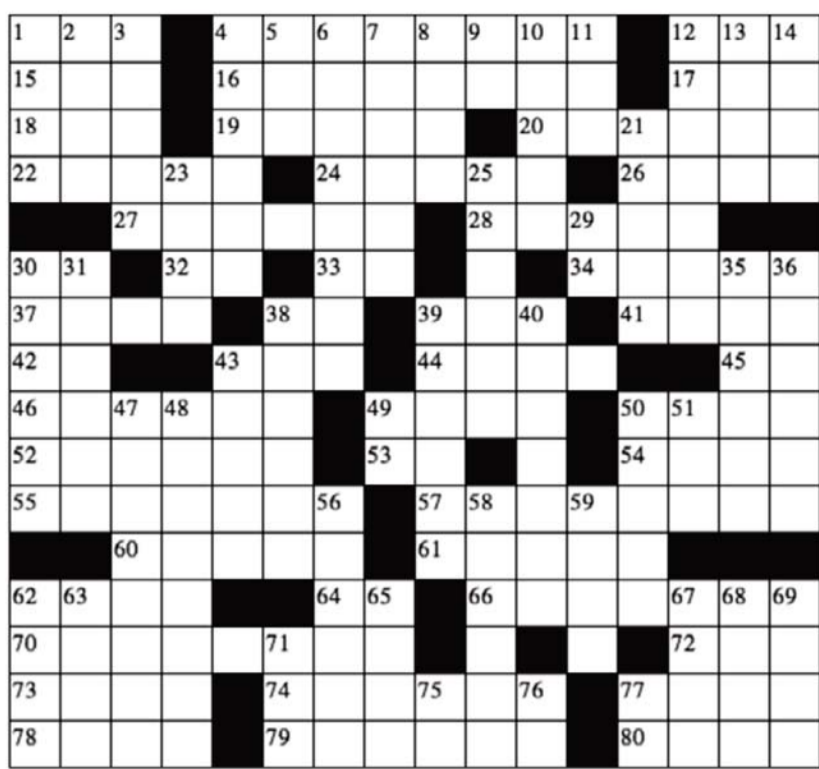


00:00 Three Night Stand
02:00 Shanghai Noon
04:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
06:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
08:00 Honeymooners
10:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
12:00 Shanghai Noon
14:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
16:00 Honeymooners
18:00 Blue Streak
20:00 Two Night Stand
22:00 Save Your Legs!



01:45 The Truth About Emanuel
03:30 Parkland
05:15 Breathe In
07:00 Days Of Heaven
09:00 Finding Forrester
11:15 The Truth About Emanuel
13:00 Parkland
15:00 Beyond The Edge
16:45 Finding Forrester
19:00 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

CROSSWORD 1443



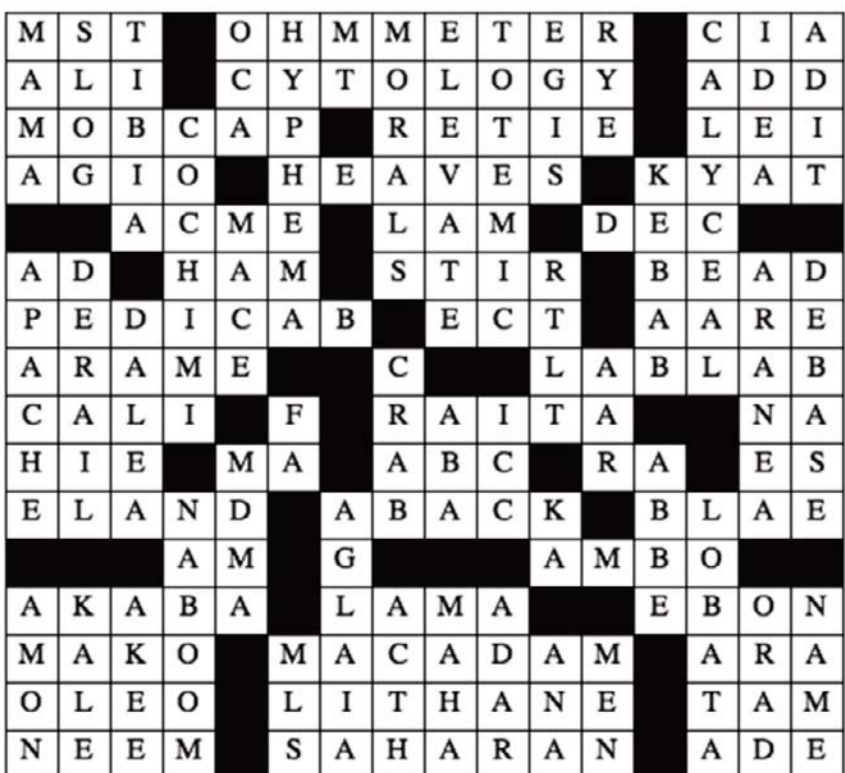
ACROSS

1. The seventh and last day of the week.
4. Pertaining to or located on or near the sea-coast.
12. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
15. A unit of pressure.
16. An acid formed as an intermediate product of the metabolism of tyrosine and phenylalanine.
17. Automatic data processing by electronic means without the use of tabulating cards or punched tapes.
18. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
19. An edict of the Russian tsar.
20. Used by southerners for an inhabitant of a northern state in the United States (especially a Union soldier).
22. Make a vibrant noise, of grasshoppers or cicadas.
24. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
26. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
27. German engineer (born in France) who invented the diesel engine (1858-1913).
28. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in question.
30. A metric unit of length equal to one thousandth of a meter.
32. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
33. A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
34. Fishes having large mouths with a worm-like filament attached for luring prey.
37. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
41. A signal transmitted along a narrow path.
42. A bachelor's degree in religion.
44. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
45. A unit of information equal to one million (1,048,576) bytes.
46. (New Testament) One of the three sages from the east who came bearing gifts for the infant Jesus.
52. Punish with an arbitrary penalty.
53. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
54. The sixth month of the civil year.
55. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
57. Weedy Eurasian plant often a pest in grain fields.
60. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
61. The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
62. (prefix) Outside or outer.
64. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
66. Not capable of being swayed or diverted from a course.
70. Relating to a clinic or conducted in or as if in a clinic and depending on direct observation of patients.
72. The cry made by sheep.
73. A person who possesses great material wealth.
74. Having an oblique or slanted direction.
78. A European river.
79. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
80. A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine.

DOWN

1. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
2. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
3. Showing fear and lack of confidence.
4. Large elongated compressed food fish of European Atlantic waters.
5. Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
6. The academic world.
7. The commonest type of solidified lava.
8. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
9. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
10. Of or relating to or indicative of or issued or performed by a king or queen or other monarch.
11. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
12. Thought to derive from meteors.
13. The content of cognition.
14. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
21. A wealthy man (who made his fortune in the Orient).
23. Possessing material wealth.
25. A nation in northern North America.
29. Being nine more than forty.
31. Title used for a married Frenchwoman.
35. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
36. Go on board.
38. Of or relating to or characteristic of Korea or its people or language.
39. Mar or spoil the appearance of.
40. A university in Massachusetts.
43. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
47. Tending to soothe or tranquilize.
48. A person who is confined.
49. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
50. Capital of the state of Oregon in the northwestern part of the state on the Willamette River.
51. A rapid bustling commotion.
56. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
58. Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
59. The face of a timepiece.
63. Wearing or provided with clothing.
65. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
67. In bed.
68. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
69. Pulled or drawn tight.
71. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
75. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
76. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
77. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Unforgettable, charismatic characters are what make novels and short stories into best sellers and award winners. If you are not writing today, you will be proofing the work of a very good artist. You have respect for whatever work you do. Your ambition is high and your achievements are many. A period of intellectual creativity has dawned in your life; expressing yourself with flair comes to mean more to you. Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation. A lover or child who is bright and articulate plays a bigger role in your life. This is a real time for communication-by phone, letter or in person. You may want to walk or exercise this afternoon. Tonight there is romance.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An attractive property is of interest to you this day and the property has the landscaping appearance that you admire. You are encouraged and look forward to learning all you can about this part of the town. If you are considering this a vacation type of home, you may want to have a meeting of family members or interested friends in order to gain the input they may have and some idea of frequency of visits to schedule. You may be able to agree to a privately owned time-share type of vacation home. If this one property is not acceptable to everyone, the interest and cooperation is obvious and likely in the future. This evening a relaxed, non-business sort of celebration is enjoyed for just the fun of being together and having the opportunity to visit.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Circumstances affect you in a very direct manner. You may become disgusted at an ongoing mess around you just now. A move may be in order-an upgrade from where you are now. Whatever the case, you will change a negative to a positive or create the opportunity to move beyond any difficulties. You have a lot of mental energy now to help you in whatever sort of endeavor you seek to accomplish. If there is no part-time job to keep you busy just now, you might find that your friends are particularly supportive and will keep you company through some social activity this evening. You enjoy the support you receive from those around you. You also enjoy the study of genealogy and may do research tonight with some ongoing information.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You will find successful results from your probing questions this day. You may be able to successfully complete a project that others have begun long ago. Because of some experience you have had in the insurance business, you could be called in to help with some diagnostic coding procedures for medical insurance reimbursement issues. You will teach others to become proficient in some long-ago endeavor that turned out to be very successful for you. Sympathy and understanding from others is of greater importance now. Give sympathy and understanding to others and you will easily have the same. It is wisdom and not knowledge that counts most now. You may spend a little time this evening mending or taking care of your work clothes.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are not really the one to cook when it's time to join a gathering but there are lots of other areas in which to participate if people at work want to gather for a party soon. You might find yourself volunteering to help with refreshments. Learning how to successfully entertain requires mastering the basic essentials of style, etiquette and planning. You seem to be very organized with little time. Allow yourself the simple ways this season. People find you at your most imaginative and you have lots to offer when it comes to planning. You will also be helping to guide a group to positive results when it comes to decision making. Today's activities in the workplace may soon point you in the direction of a raise or a better professional position.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are interested in the telecommunications industry and may find yourself studying the emerging new technologies and products. Detailed descriptions of the public networks, data communications including local area networks, current and future products and services may become available to you now. Making your mark on the world has special significance for you. Achievement, ambition and authority take on greater importance. Ambitious schemes and the pursuit of success and status take on a high priority this afternoon. This brings a focus on the practical, the successful, the pragmatic-whatever it takes to get you ahead long term. Tonight you and a friend are on the same wavelength and conversations are a lot of fun; there's laughter!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good time to organize and discipline your mind and methods of communication. Perhaps this is also a time for serious thinking. Education and studies of all kinds may be in order. This is a time for perspiration in the idea department. Science, philosophy or religion seems to hold the vital answers at this time in your life-if not for you, someone in your family. True wisdom lies in discovering that there are no ultimate answers, only good questions. Ideological crusades can set your head spinning; distant journeys can stir your soul. This evening you may touch upon very emotional parts of you and find yourself analyzing and psychoanalyzing. You may find yourself caring too much about what others think of you; easy.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

An important relationship, perhaps with an older person or someone in authority, may come into focus. There could be some tension or sense of opposition requiring compromise or negotiation on your part. An opportunity for understanding and even growth is available. Circumstances could dictate your taking action. Be very careful with your words and everyone will be a winner-all day long. This evening you will feel healthy and natural and may decide to encourage those around you to join you in some exercise routine. A light dinner followed by a fun dessert can be an impressive way to enjoy your evening. Yes, even those you live with enjoy being impressed from time to time. Family, home and your sense of roots in life are most important to you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

You are positive and upbeat but you could become annoying if you go overboard with the positive chatter. Concentrate on what is needed and keep moving forward. Opportunities to be with friends and share your positive outlook will happen often but let these times come to you. You are a fast problem solver and if interested, you would make a great investigator, either in scientific research or undercover work. Your ability to get to the point is all but phenomenal. You can talk and put into words areas of the psychological that others would not touch. You are determined in your work and you gain recognition through your productive actions. You set the example for others to follow. Tonight you celebrate your special day.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your city will hold an impounded and abandoned vehicle auction soon. Check this out and you can help yourself or a friend obtain a long-needed vehicle for driving back and forth to work. Before going off to work today, you grab a bag of books that will be gratefully received at a thrift shop this afternoon. There is more than one way to save money or to make a little extra money and you could write a book. Discovering what you truly believe in is a personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this takes place. You may find yourself examining and testing ideals. There is time for relaxation this evening. You may enjoy escaping realities with a good book or a little television this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may become informed of some unusual phenomena that a few scientists have discovered. There may be some research involved in today's work. You have some insight into ways you can be helpful. Before presenting your work, proofing or testing the work will catch mistakes you had not been aware of before this time. You and others will be quite pleased with the results of your work. Others respect your ideas as well as your good insight. Your organizational abilities and a sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. There is talk about becoming involved in some new exercise or new hobby this afternoon. Tonight, a close relationship will take on more meaning and magnitude.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have an inner need for communication of all kinds but may have too many things going on to keep up with the pace you have created. You can be all over the place, always trying to make one more connection. Speaking and writing are naturals. You have a need for lots of variety. You put forth a lot of effort, in particular regarding your career. Your drive and ambitions work well with the management skills you have. You create a harmonious work environment. You are at your most efficient when it comes to dealing and working with others. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to see positive results from your efforts. This is a new time in your life when the past should be left behind and new doors open.

WORD SEARCH

John Wayne Movies

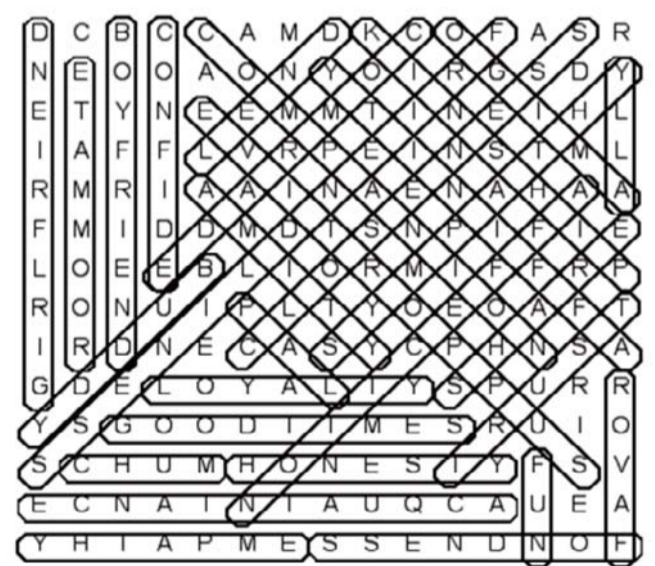
Find and circle all of the John Wayne movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a John Wayne quotation.



- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ALAMO, The | COWBOYS, The | JET PILOT | RIO LOBO |
| ARIZONA | DAKOTA | LONELY TRAIL, The | SEA CHASE, The |
| BABY FACE | DAWN RIDER, The | LONGEST DAY, The | SEARCHERS, The |
| BIG JAKE | DECEIVER, The | MCLINTOCK | SHOOTIST, The |
| BIG TRAIL, The | DESERT TRAIL, The | MCQ | SPOILERS, The |
| BLOOD ALLEY | EL DORADO | NEW FRONTIER | STAGECOACH |
| BLUE STEEL | FLYING TIGERS | NIGHT RIDERS, The | STAR PACKER, The |
| BRANNIGAN | FORT APACHE | PITTSBURGH | TRUE GRIT |
| CHISUM | GREEN BERETS, The | QUIET MAN, The | TYCOON |
| CIRCUS WORLD | HATARI | RANGE FEUD | UNDEFEATED, The |
| COMANCHEROS, The | HELL FIGHTERS | RED RIVER | WAR WAGON, The |
| CONFLICT | HONDO | RIO BRAVO | WESTWARD HO |
| CONQUEROR, The | IN HARMS WAY | RIO GRANDE | |

Yesterday Solution

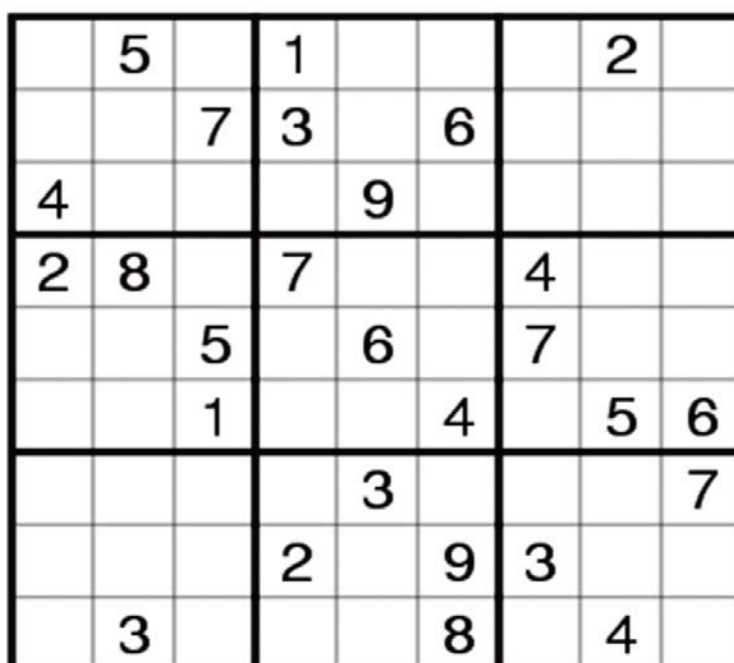
Friendship



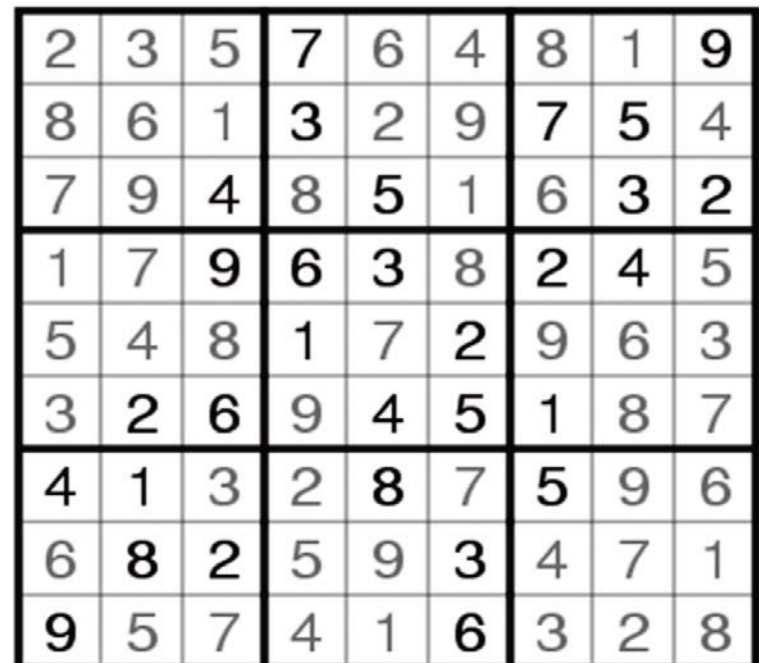
- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| ACQUAINTANCE | COMPANION | HONESTY |
| AFFECTION | COMRADE | KINSHIP |
| AFFINITY | CONFIDE | LEND |
| ALLY | EMPATHY | LOYALTY |
| AMIGO | FAVOR | PAL |
| AMITY | FONDNESS | ROOMMATE |
| BOYFRIEND | FRIENDLINESS | SHARE |
| BUDDY | FUN | SUPPORTIVE |
| CHUM | GIRLFRIEND | SYMPATHY |
| CLOSENESS | GOOD TIMES | TRUST |

The hidden message is: CAMARADERIE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	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
Faeroe 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



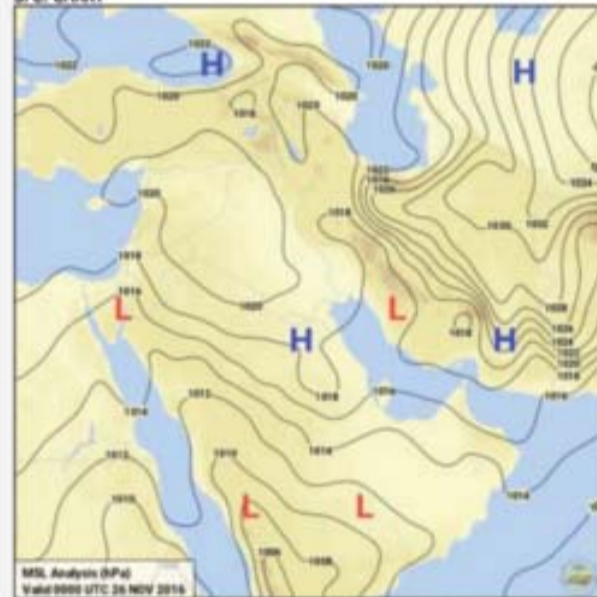
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 26/11/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 21 °C

By Day : Partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain
By Night : Partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	cloudy + scattered rain
Min Temp °C	11	12	11	13
Max Temp °C	22	21	23	25
Wind Direction	variable	variable	variable	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 20	06 - 20	06 - 20	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	13		22
KUWAIT AIRPORT	10		21
ABDULY	09		21
BUBYAN	12		22
JAHRA	13		22
FAILAKA ISLAND	12		21
SALMIYAH	14		20
AHMADI	12		20
JAL ALYAH	11		20
QAROH ISLAND	17		21
UMH AL-MARADEM	16		21
NUWAISIB	12		21
WAPRA	10		22
MANAGISH	10		21
SALMY	09		19
MUTRIBA	10		22

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	21
Min Temp (°C)	06
Max Rel Hum (%)	34
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Sunrise	06:21
Sunset	16:50
Fajr	04:58
Sunrise	06:21
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:30
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:11



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 Gynaecologists & Obstetricians DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Gastrologists Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 Internist, Chest & Heart DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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Mel B car broken into outside her home

The former Spice Girls singer has taken to Instagram to post CCTV footage of a mysterious man smashing the rear window of her car and grabbing two suitcases from inside the vehicle before making off with his ill gotten gains. In the caption of the videos, Mel, 41, has urged her followers to contact her husband Stephen Belafonte - with whom she has five-year-old daughter Madison - with any information they may have, in order to be in with a chance of bagging a whopping \$5,000 reward. One video which shows the thief in action was captioned: "I have a 5 thousand

dollar reward to anyone who no's this a** hole, I don't care who was involved I want this guy caught. At 542am last night this scum bag did this to my car DM my husband @stephenthinks11 we will wire you the monies for turning him in, the police are investigating but I need your help NOW right on my own door step in Los Angeles Beverly Hills (sic)" Mel - who also has 17-year-old Phoenix with ex-husband Jimmy Gulzar, and nine-year-old Angel from a previous relationship with Eddie Murphy then posted second video shows a car driving up toward the house and stopping for a moment before

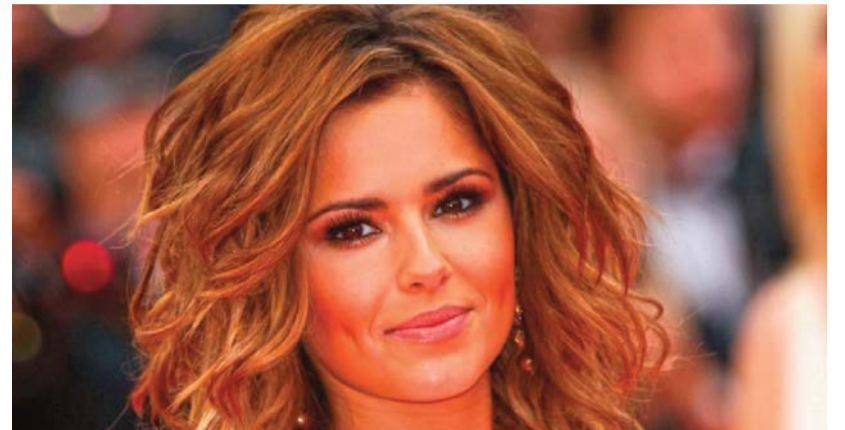
carrying on out of the sight of the camera. The second video was captioned: "neighbor by neighbor we are going to track you down the police already have a good idea who you are, but in the meantime anybody who wants to make that \$5000 DM my hubby right now @stephenthinks11 (sic)" It is not yet known what was in the suitcases, and the total value of the items stolen has not been released.



Cheryl wants to go travelling around Europe

The 'Call My Name' hitmaker - who is rumoured to be expecting her first child with boyfriend Liam Payne - would love to take a break from the spotlight and go "learning and exploring". She said: "There are loads of places even in Europe I haven't seen yet. It would be amazing to campervan around Europe. "Sometimes you need that when you are still so noticeable, to have some you-time and still be learning and exploring." Though she has been working on new music herself, the former 'X Factor' judge is keen to step behind the scenes and move into talent management as she thinks she has a great ear for finding new artists. She told HELLO! magazine: "I'd like to get into management, signing new artists myself. "Away from

'X Factor', I love spotting talent. I can feel it, I can sense it and I get a buzz out of it. "And doing TV work - not being on TV, but being involved and coming up with ideas." The 33-year-old beauty may have been working hard in the recording studio, but her fans won't get to hear any new music from her until she is completely happy with her efforts. She said: "I am working on new music and I have been for a while. "I'm not going to release it until I am 100 per cent happy and I'm getting there, but it won't be until next year. "And I've been doing a lot with my charity. It has been amazing to have time to solely focus on that and achieve what needs to be done."



Amber Heard opens up about domestic violence

The 30-year-old actress settled her divorce from Johnny Depp earlier this year after claiming he was "verbally and physically abusive" to her during the course of their relationship, and she has now shared her experiences in an emotional public service announcement shared on YouTube by the project. In the video, the 'Drive Angry' star said: "I guess there was a lot of shame attached to that, the label of victim. It happens to so many women you know, when it happens in your home behind closed doors with someone you love it's not straightforward. "If a stranger did this as it was pointed out to me if a stranger did this it would be a no brainer." "The Rum Diary" actress goes on to say that without the support of her fellow women, she might not have made it to the other side, and she now wants to use her position "in the public arena" to help people going through similar ordeals. She continued: "If I hadn't had a few people that I really trust around me, a few women support, a few friends. If I hadn't had them around me, how different my life would be. "Just as a woman having gone through this in the public stage, in the public arena that I did it, I have a unique opportunity to remind other women this doesn't have to be the way it is, you don't have to do it alone, you're not alone. We can change this." Amber rounded off her heart-warming speech by urging women to "speak up", in order to help eliminate violence against women. The 'Justice League' actress said: "Speak up, speak up. Raise your voice, your voice is the most powerful thing and we, together, as women standing shoulder to shoulder cannot and will not any longer accept silence."



Madonna is helping Kim Kardashian West get over her robbery ordeal

The 'Material Girl' singer - who previously revealed she was sexually assaulted at gunpoint in New York when she was 19 - reached out to offer her support to the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star after armed robbers invaded her Paris apartment and stole her jewellery after locking her in the bathroom last month. A source told Closer magazine: "Madonna has been helping Kim with daily phone calls and Skype sessions. "Although they've known each other for a long time, they've become so close over the past few weeks. "Madonna knows what Kim has been through and is helping her find the courage to carry on with her life. "They've found they have quite a lot in common and Kim really trusts Madonna's advice as they've known each other for so many years." Madonna isn't the only star to offer support to Kim. Courtney Love - who had been with the brunette beauty at a Paris Fashion Week show hours before the robbery took place - recently offered to "beat up" the men who had stolen from her friend. She said: "I was sitting next to her at the Givenchy show and it

happened an hour later. It's so horrible. I just wrote her a letter and said, 'If I find them I'll beat them up. I'm so sorry.'" Courtney became friends with Kim - who has children North, three, and Saint, 11 months, with husband Kanye West - through their mutual pal Riccardo Tisci and while the rocker admits a lot of people have been surprised by their bond, she thinks the 36-year-old beauty is just as "punk rock" as she is. She told Refinery29: "There was a VIP after-party for Riccardo's last collection in New York, and for a while, it was just me and Kim. We found out we had a whole lot of stuff in common: the same doctors, we're both LA girls. "Then, of course, we took a selfie, and my internet exploded. Like, 'What are you doing? You're punk rock!' It's like, she's punk rock, too. She's maybe not as willing to get up onstage and take off her top..."

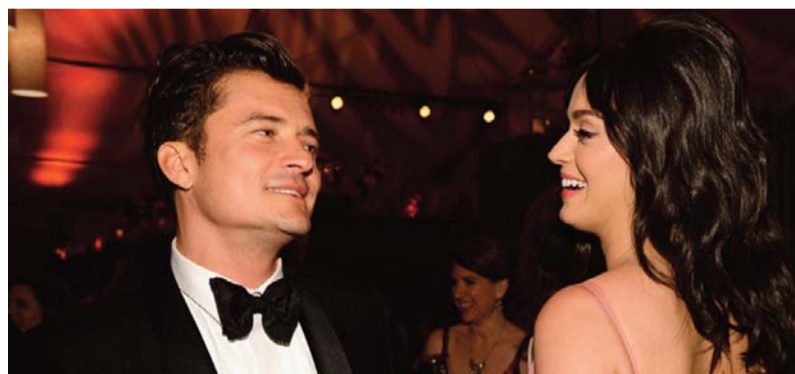
Paris Hilton says she is not just a 'dumb blonde'

Although people often expect the socialite to be ditzy, she says they are pleasantly surprised when they hear her talk about her business empire. She told Galore magazine: "If someone hasn't met me yet, they automatically have their misconceptions about me. As soon as I am in a board room in front of them talking about my business, they immediately know I'm not the dumb blonde they thought I was." Paris, 35, also revealed that she is "flattered" when people call her an icon. She said: "I've been called that by people and I found it very flattering but I've never used it to describe myself...It makes me happy to be an inspiration to people. I am all about girl power and women being fierce and independent. So, it's nice to see women following my lead and doing things on their own instead of just depending on a man." And the blonde beauty feels she has a good idea of who is using her for her fame and who genuinely wants to spend time with her. She added: "Over the years I have definitely figured out all the signs of a hungry tiger. I can mostly tell when there are paparazzi and I can see the way a person like that reacts. "Also, being in this business for so long it's pretty obvious what people's intentions are." The star also spoke about cosmetic surgery and although she is pleased with herself for never having any work done, she doesn't "judge" others who have opted to go under the knife. She said: "Yes, I'm very proud that I am all natural and have never had anything done. I am very happy with myself. But I don't judge others. People should do whatever makes them feel happy. It's just not something I've ever wanted to do."



Twiggy hates selfies

The 67-year-old model can't understand why people use their own cameras to take pictures of themselves and then post them online. Asked what she'd get rid of from the world, she said: "The person who invented selfies. I hate the bloody things. I just don't get them." And Twiggy feels embarrassed when people ask her to pose for selfies, especially when they're drunk. She said: "I was at a black tie do and a very tipsy young lady asked if she could take a selfie with me in the loo. "I declined and I found it very embarrassing. When the booze starts to flow, people can get very excitable." The 60s icon is proud to have followed her dreams and thinks people should always be brave enough to do the things that excite them. She told Grazia magazine: "Follow your dreams. I've met so many people in their fifties who say there was something they wanted to do but never did because they weren't brave enough. "So I say do it, even if it doesn't work. At least you won't have any regrets." At the end of a hard day, Twiggy likes to relax in the bath with a book, but her calming plan doesn't always go the way it should. She said: "I was reading a book in the bath and was just at a really good bit when I dropped it in the water. "I screamed and [my husband] Leigh came running in to see what had happened. "It's very crinkly now but at least I got to the end of the book."



ROB KARDASHIAN'S NEWBORN BABY DAUGHTER IS ADVERTISING HIS SOCK LINE

The reality TV star and fiancée Blac Chyna welcomed daughter Dream Kardashian into the world earlier this month but the tiny tot is already busy promoting her father's business. A video of Dream on her own Instagram account shows the tot wearing a pair of socks from Rob's Arthur George line, with the caption: "I love my new @ArthurGeorge87 socks from daddy!!! @robkardashian." Meanwhile, Rob's mother Kris Jenner recently said it has been "a joy" to see her 29-year-old son become such a loving dad. She said: "The baby is so fabulous. He's so nurturing, and he's such a care giver and such a sweet man. It's really been such a joy to watch him go through this." She admitted previously: "It's always so excit-

ing when your baby has a baby so it was really great. It's really emotional. Like you can't believe that this is happening. To see a baby being born and in my case, I've been there for six of my grandchildren's births so it's quite something. "Dream's such a great baby though. She's been really calm and really sweet so they are very lucky." And Rob's sister Kylie Jenner said she gets emotional seeing pictures of Rob and Dream together. She said: "The photos with Rob and his daughter literally make me want to cry. "All the photos make me want to cry - the family photos, the photos of just her, but it's really sweet. She's so cute."

Susan Boyle wanted to marry Piers Morgan

The singer developed a crush on the TV presenter while competing on 'Britain's Got Talent' in 2009 and revealed that her ideal man would be a hybrid of Donny Osmond, Simon Cowell and Piers. She told the Daily Mail: [My ideal man] would have Donny's voice, Simon's good looks and Piers' sense of humor. "I would have married Piers, but someone else got there first." Piers tied the knot with Celia Walden - his second wife - in 2010. Susan, 55, also opened up about her date with a "handsome" doctor she met in Florida last year and her disappointment that they did not embark on a relationship. She said: "We had fish and then ice cream, just the

one glass of wine. "It was a date, it felt romantic, I had met someone nice at last. "We kept in contact. I wish I'd kept up the relationship, but it just wasn't practical. I just felt at the time it wasn't right." Meanwhile, Susan has a new album, 'A Wonderful World', but admitted she worries constantly about disappointing her fans. She said: "Like any artist, I worry about people still liking me, I worry about going stale. I have a role to play. People have expectations of me. They see me as a pillar of society and I don't want to let them down."



The Weekend, smooth yet steamy, makes quick return

Just one year after he catapulted into the ranks of top pop stars, The Weeknd has returned with a sprawling new album in which his silky voice goes into steamier territory. "Starboy," the third studio album by the Toronto singer, stretches for 18 songs plus an accompanying short film and is full of star collaborations including with the elusive French electronic duo Daft Punk.

The album came out Friday, almost exactly a year after the artist whose real name is Abel Tesfaye released his breakthrough "Beauty Behind the Madness," which topped the charts through mega-hits such as "Can't Feel My Face."

As evidenced by his quick and voluminous return, the 26-year-old has no shortage of ideas for his latest album with tracks that take cues from hip-hop to 1980s New Wave. But the album's overall vibe is steaminess, as if "Starboy" takes place in a packed but chilled-out nightclub in the early hours of the morning. The Weeknd's defining trait remains his celebrated voice, strong yet smooth with a comfortable falsetto. On the tracks such as "Secrets," The Weeknd also shows his ease at lower ranges.

Chemistry with Daft Punk

"Starboy" marks the highest-profile project by Daft Punk since the duo, longtime leaders of the French house scene, won worldwide mainstream acclaim with the 2013 album "Random Access Memories."

Daft Punk injects a heavy bass that drives the title track and closes the album with a retro R&B feel on "I Feel It Coming"—a track that reinforces the oft-noted vocal similarities between The Weeknd and Michael Jackson. While Daft Punk is only credited as featured collaborators on the two tracks, the French duo's influence can be heard throughout "Starboy" with its embrace of audio filters and a minimalist production that emphasizes beats and The Weeknd's voice rather than synthetic effects.

The Weeknd said he had become friends with Daft Punk's Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and went into the duo's studio in Paris, with the three men experimenting with sounds and recording the two songs in just a few days.

The Weeknd said it had always been on his "bucket list" to work with the "enigmatic and mysterious" members of Daft Punk, who never appear in public outside of their robotic disguises. "I was definitely inspired by that at the beginning of my career because nobody knew how I looked as well," he told Apple Music's Beats 1 radio.

The Weeknd, who grew up with humble means as the son of Ethiopian immigrants, made his name by posting recordings on YouTube, winning fame online despite his anonymity.

'Homeless to Forbes list'

The quick earning of riches is much on the mind of The Weeknd, who topped the Forbes magazine list of top-grossing

celebrity newcomers of 2016 with \$55 million earned. Much of the lyricism on the album recalls braggadocio rap as The Weeknd—or perhaps his alter ego "Starboy"—lists off the money he earns, the cars he drives and the women he woos.

"Homeless to Forbes list / These niggas bring no stress," he sings on "Sidewalks," a collaboration with leading rapper Kendrick Lamar. "I feel like Moses. I feel like I'm chosen," he sings. Lana Del Rey imagines an erotic encounter as she sings on "Stargirl Interlude"—an apt collaboration with Del Rey's music fitting in with the album's breathy mood.

Yet The Weeknd is also reflective, especially as the album nears its end. On "Ordinary Life," he sings of a sexual experience with another woman he barely knows. "If I could, I'd trade it all / Trade it for a halo," he sings as he ominously suggests, "Like I'm James Dean, I'mma die when I young." — AFP

Recording artist The Weeknd performs onstage during the 2016 American Music Awards at Microsoft Theater on November 20, 2016 in Los Angeles, California. — AP



This file photo taken on October 10, 2016 shows Pilot Pedro Langdon flying his Travel Air 4000 biplane during a photo call for the launch of the Vintage Air Rally in Shoreham, Sussex. — AFP

MISSING VINTAGE RALLY PILOT TURNS UP IN SOUTH SUDAN

A maverick 72-year-old British pilot taking part in a vintage air rally turned up in South Sudan yesterday after going missing for a second time when the event arrived in Kenya.

Maurice Kirk is one of about a dozen pilots flying vintage biplanes across Africa, but has repeatedly run afoul of organizers for failing to stick to rules and regulations and a Facebook post from organizers said that after the Kenya leg he was "no longer part of the rally."

Kirk first went missing on Wednesday, but was later found and joined his colleagues in Gambella in western Ethiopia, where they were detained by authorities for two days over a problem with their flight permits.

While the team was released and continued their journey onward to Kenya, Vintage Air Rally (VAR) organizers announced on Facebook Friday that Kirk was a "no-show." However he turned up several hours later. "Maurice is safe! We heard he had an engine failure and landed (not at an airfield) in South Sudan but had a puncture on landing," an update said yesterday. "Locals found him and called a Brit in Juba they recently worked for. He contacted the British embassy in Juba."

Kirk, who dubs himself the Flying Vet for his days as a veterinarian, is a colorful character who describes himself on his blog as a "chronic litigant" who is embroiled in dozens of court cases in Britain.

In 2005 he was injured when he crash-landed in Japan on a solo bid to fly around the world in a vintage plane and in 2008 he crashed in the Caribbean. He was rescued then by US coastguards, and to express his gratitude he later dropped in on the Texas ranch of former US president George Bush and was briefly placed in a psychiatric clinic.

While pilots of 1920s and 1930s vintage biplanes set off on November 12 from the Greek island of Crete on their 13,000 kilometer journey to Cape Town, Kirk joined on Sunday in his 1943 Piper club plane.

Aside from Kirk's antics, the rally has seen plenty of drama. Organizers explained in a press release Saturday that a last-minute problem with flight permits led to them being detained in Ethiopia as it was too late to inform teams who had already taken to the skies.

"On arrival, the crews had their phones and other electronics confiscated and spent two nights detained, sleeping on concrete floors without air conditioning or protection from mosquitoes (in a malaria zone)," read the statement. "All requests for consular assistance were refused, and it was only by the use of a smuggled telephone that the VAR team were able to alert the outside world to their predicament." — AFP

Prisons chief aims to make the 'hard time' a rehearsal for home

When he got his first post as a warden 20 years ago, Kevin Kempf looked around the prison yard and decided everything green had to go. Trees, shrubs, even the rosebushes at the state prison in the mountain town of Orofino were ripped out, leaving nothing but an empty yard. "It's just stupid - that was our mindset," says Kempf, who now heads Idaho's correction agency. "You don't have to remind inmates every minute of every day that they are inmates."

Today, Kempf is one of a handful of US corrections leaders trying a different approach, modeled on the progressive "open" prison systems of Norway, Germany and some other European countries. The differences between "open prisons" and America's traditional "closed" lockups couldn't be starker.

At the Idaho State Correctional Center in Orofino, for example, every part of life reinforces to occupants that they are first and foremost prisoners, from the barren walls to the tiny, impact-proof windows. Inmates often get only two choices a day: whether to have a breakfast tray brought to their cell and whether to spend an hour in the recreation yard. Inmates at Norway's Halden prison, however, are treated much like free people. They wear their own clothes, buy their own food at a prison market and prepare it in a fully stocked kitchen. They are expected to go to school or work every day - with both options available on prison grounds - and they might spend their free time recording music in the prison studio, strolling across the tree-covered property, or watching TV on a flat-screen in their dorm-like cell.

Firsthand experience

Kempf was sold on Norway's approach after seeing it firsthand earlier this year. He and other Idaho officials spent a week examining European prisons, courtesy of the Prison Law Office, an inmate civil rights law firm in Berkeley, California. "We came back totally converted," Kempf said. "It made a lot of sense for increasing public safety and, frankly, increasing the safety of our staff."

Kempf acknowledges modeling prisons after the wealthy welfare state of Norway is a tough sell in Idaho, one of America's reddest states. At least one lawmaker, however, is already convinced. "What kind of person do we want leaving our prison?" asked Rep. Rick Youngblood, a Nampa Republican who accompanied Kempf on the trip. "It's this concept of working with people and trying to bring some normalcy into the system, where when they leave, that's what they'll hope to experience when they get out."

Prison Law Office executive director Don Specter began sending correction officials to see Europe's prisons in 2011 after he decided inmate civil rights lawsuits weren't doing enough to change the culture of punishment inside most US prisons.

So far, officials from states including North Dakota, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Georgia, Colorado and Pennsylvania have made the trip, resulting in varying impacts back home. "The systems that have benefited the most besides Idaho are Pennsylvania and North Dakota," Specter said. "In both cases, the directors, like Kevin (Kempf), came back with a genuine belief that prison can be more humane than it currently is while still maintaining security and appropriately housing prisoners."

In Norway, the imprisonment itself is the punishment, Specter said, and prisons are treated as training grounds for the inmates' eventual release. That approach has lowered recidivism rates and

improved prison workers' mental health, he said. "The harsh conditions that affect both the prisoners and the corrections officers working there are counterproductive to the main goal, which is to create better neighbors," Specter said.

Role models

Correctional officers in open prisons are expected to be role models, and their duties include talking to inmates and helping them navigate daily life. That might mean assisting them with homework, coaching them before a job interview or just playing volleyball if the prisoner team is short a man. They make sure the inmates are not just safe and secure but are being productive, Specter said. The same values could be applied in the US, Specter said. But changing the culture in an American prison isn't easy. Norway's prisons have much bigger budgets than most US correctional centers, and Norway lacks the gang problem common in American prisons.



This June 15, 2010 file photo shows the Idaho Correctional Center south of Boise, Idaho. — AP

Most American correctional officers have been trained to remain emotionally distant from inmates, a skill thought to make the staffers less susceptible to manipulation. But the dreary atmosphere and high-stress nature of the job lead to high levels of burnout and post-traumatic stress disorder, Kempf said.

He's directing staffers to begin taking a more personal, yet still professional, interest in prisoners, in hopes that it helps attitudes and outcomes for everyone. He's also examining changes in the way inmates are disciplined for breaking some prison rules, to ensure the response is proportional to the offense.

Kempf is focusing on changes he can make administratively without increasing the budget. Idaho's prisons won't ever look like Norway's, but many of the principles can be incorporated, he said. "We're still dealing, at the end of the day, with inmates that are broken," Kempf said. "We need to do what we can to make people better, not make them worse." — AP

Singer-songwriter dumps LA for Iowa farm to do it her way

Lissie Maurus takes the stage and the members of the standing-room crowd immediately begin to sway like old friends when they hear her raspy, bluesy voice. "I could've been a hero, I could've been a zero, I could've been all these things."

This concert in Chicago is a homecoming of sorts for the singer-songwriter, a native of Rock Island, Illinois. Many family members are in the audience, and she's glad to see them after months on the road.

Still, though the energy that is high, the lyrics of many of her songs tell of loves lost and a career that hasn't quite turned out the way she'd expected or hoped. "I could've been nothing, I could've been something, I could've been all these things."

Lissie, as she is known to her fans, was well on her way to making it a decade ago, when she was in her early 20s. She had a deal with Columbia Records UK and a first album that went gold in the United Kingdom and Norway. Tens of thousands of people bought that album. Critics raved. But after her second album didn't sell as well, she found herself without that record deal and at a crossroads.

What kind of artist did she want to be? Was her pursuit of fame really worth it? What would it now mean to "make it"?

She opted for uncharted territory: She left Los Angeles, bought a farm in Iowa and set herself up as an independent artist. It can be a more viable model in this time when singers can reach potential fans more easily via music streaming services and online sales. But there certainly are no guarantees for her or anyone else who takes this route.

"Underneath the table, 'Hope for gold, Where it stops, nobody knows.' Even as a child, the sassy towhead with freckles had some pipes - and Lissie liked the notion that her talent could lead to fame. In third grade, she landed the lead in the musical 'Annie' at the dinner theater in her hometown. 'My mom would say that my eyes would light up as soon as I got on the stage,' she says.

The daughter of an obstetrician and an interior designer, she had plenty of opportunity, but she was rebellious, cutting off her

hair, piercing her nose and becoming more of a loner. After a run-in with a teacher that landed her in jail briefly, she finished high school in an alternative program.

But she never gave up on her music

She spent a couple years in college in Colorado, then ended up at a performing arts program in LA. There, she honed her skills and material on Wednesday nights at a bar with a group of performers who dubbed themselves the Beachwood Rockers' Society. And gigs started coming. It was at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, that a big break came when Mike Smith, then an executive with Columbia Records UK, happened upon Lissie.

Pouring rain had prompted him to duck for cover inside a dive bar and he heard her voice from a back room. Her talent was still raw then, he says. But he heard something her voice. He watched her stamp her foot to keep the beat, her tousled hair waving back and forth. He liked her rocker vibe and blues edge. "I was just really taken with her," he now says.

Columbia signed her in 2006, and four years later, she finally released her first album, "Catching a Tiger." It solidified her fan base in Europe and also in her native Midwest after Fat Possum Records released the album in this country. But then Smith and another of Lissie's champions left the label, before her second album came out - unfortunate timing, he now concedes. Already, the lyrics on her second album were hinting at disillusionment:

"I don't want to be famous 'if I got to be shameless.' 'If you don't know what my name is, 'So what?'"

The new regime dropped her. And Lissie, who was then living in Ojai, California, outside LA, let the news sink in. "I was a little bit afraid, and I felt like I'd failed a little bit," she said. Mostly, she says she felt relieved. Yes, she'd learned at the label, with its exposure and resources. But she also was frustrated by a process - demands to write more, delays in getting a finished record out, being told her songs weren't good enough. That became "soul-destroying," she says.

Her longtime manager, Peter Leak, who's represented such artists as Dido and 10,000 Maniacs, said Lissie thought he would "freak out" when she decided to leave LA behind. "But actually, I thought it was a great idea," he says, noting that going independent suited her somewhat rebellious nature.

In mid-2015, she took her savings and bought that farm in northeastern Iowa. The farm, surrounded by fields of withered cornstalks, is slowly becoming home. Lissie has put her personal touches on the house, including funky wallpaper with birds in the kitchen. She's also started a mural with a big red heart on one of the smaller buildings, and talks about turning the barn into a recording studio. She rolls up for the interview in her pickup truck with her dog, Byron, in tow. Her companion at home, he stays



with her parents when she's away. When she first arrived in Iowa last year, she had already written some new songs. So she called producer and bass player Curt Schneider, with whom she'd developed a good chemistry. Together, they wrote the title track on her latest album, "My Wild West." "I think she tried or a long time to be how the establishment wanted her to be," Schneider says. "What's not common is for someone to be brave enough to say, 'I'm done trying to satisfy other people.'"

The album came out in February, with more good reviews. (Lissie also recently released a live acoustic album, recorded at Union Chapel in North London.) Smith, the former Columbia exec, says Lissie's new work is, in many ways, "melodically, the strongest record she's put out." She's been touring in the United States and Europe much of this year, and she acknowledges the traveling can be brutal. But because her overhead is low, most of what she makes in ticket and merchandise sales is hers. Financially, she says, this could be her best year yet.

A recent show in Minneapolis, for instance, was sold out at a venue that holds about 625 people. In this case, it was just Lissie, her acoustic guitar and a microphone - not unlike those early days. Her work has been getting radio airplay there, and many members of the crowd sang along:

"Don't you give up on me" "As I dive into the dark" "Slip into the endless sea." "Don't you give up on me." Back in Iowa, she walks down to the pond at her farm and stands on an old bench to survey what is now hers. She'd love to have a couple of bigger hits to sustain her career over the long run, she says. But fame is no longer the end game; her version of success is different and she says that's fine. Here, she envisions writing some of her best work. "It's been freeing," she says. "It's been fun again!" — AP

In this Oct 3, 2016 photo, singer Lissie Maurus sits on her front porch at her Iowa farm. — AP

FEATURES



Palestinian couples sit on stage during a group wedding celebration held on November 24, 2016, for 27 couples, organized by President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement in Jenin. — AFP

FLORENCE HENDERSON: 10 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER EARLY CAREER

It didn't take long for Florence Henderson to hit Variety's radar after she moved to New York from her childhood home in Kentucky to pursue a career on the stage. She was dubbed "the blonde charmer" in one of her earliest mentions in the showbiz bible. Henderson, who died Thursday at 82, was inextricably linked with the ever-cheerful TV mom that she played for five seasons (and in countless revivals) on the ABC sitcom "The Brady Bunch" from 1969-74. But she had a busy career as an actress and singer for nearly 20 years before she became Carol Brady. She did Broadway, regional theater, touring productions, all manner of TV shows and had recording contracts with Kapp Records and RCA's Camden label.

Variety

From 1958-61, she partnered with singer-actor Bill Hayes to pitch Oldsmobile cars in what qualified as a multimedia advertising campaign of the era. The pair hawked the latest models off the Olds assembly line by doing everything from nightclub engagements to TV commercials to hosting a 13-week live series on NBC, "Oldsmobile Musical Theater."

Here's a look back at Henderson's early career, as seen through the pages of Variety. The first mention of Henderson came in the Sept. 3, 1952 edition of weekly Variety, in a review of a New Haven, Conn. staging of "Oklahoma!" Our reviewer observed that Henderson was among several newcomers in the production who were able to "register" with the audience.

A few months later, Henderson's ingenue status was flagged in the Just for Variety column from Dec. 19, 1952, with an item noting

that the 18-year-old actress was heading to Los Angeles with the touring "Oklahoma!" production. Henderson landed one of the lead roles in the tuner after impressing-with all of one line-in her Broadway debut as part of the chorus in Harold Rome musical "Wish You Were Here."

Just for Variety columnist Sheila

Graham managed to predict the "lovely lady" sobriquet to come for Henderson courtesy of the "Brady Bunch" theme song. In her Feb. 2, 1953, item on Hollywood stars flocking to the "Oklahoma!" production, Graham gushed: "And what a comer is blonde, blue-eyed, lovely voice, lovely period, Florence Henderson." Two months later, Variety was reporting chatter about screen tests "cooking" for "the blond charmer" at Universal and 20th Century Fox. Henderson was up for the role of "Oklahoma!"s Laurey in Fox's big screen rendition of the tuner, but the part eventually went to Shirley Jones, the future "Partridge Family" star who became a close friend of Henderson's.

On March 27, 1954, Henderson was part of the troupe that appeared on a Rodgers and Hammerstein tribute TV special that aired across all four broadcast networks-CBS, NBC, ABC and DuMont. Variety dubbed it "the biggest, costliest commercial hookup on record" with an estimated audience of 70 million viewers. Henderson sang a tune from "Oklahoma!" with Gordon MacRae. Henderson was a regular on TV variety shows in the 1950s and '60s, including her co-hosting stint of the CBS summer series "Sing-Along" in 1958. But in a departure into the dramatic realm, the March 20, 1957, edition of weekly Variety ran an item noting that Henderson was slated to head

to Cuba to film eight episodes of the syndicated adventure series "Captain David Grief." (It's not clear if Henderson actually made the trek to Havana.)

The teaming of Henderson and Hayes for Oldsmobile was highlighted in the March 26, 1958, edition of weekly Variety, in a story about automakers courting stars and singers for elaborate endorsement pacts. Henderson and Hayes were so popular in a nightclub stint they did in Detroit that the pair were booked at New York's St. Regis Hotel. Variety noted that they marked the first musical outfit put together by an automaker "to make the class hotel circuit."

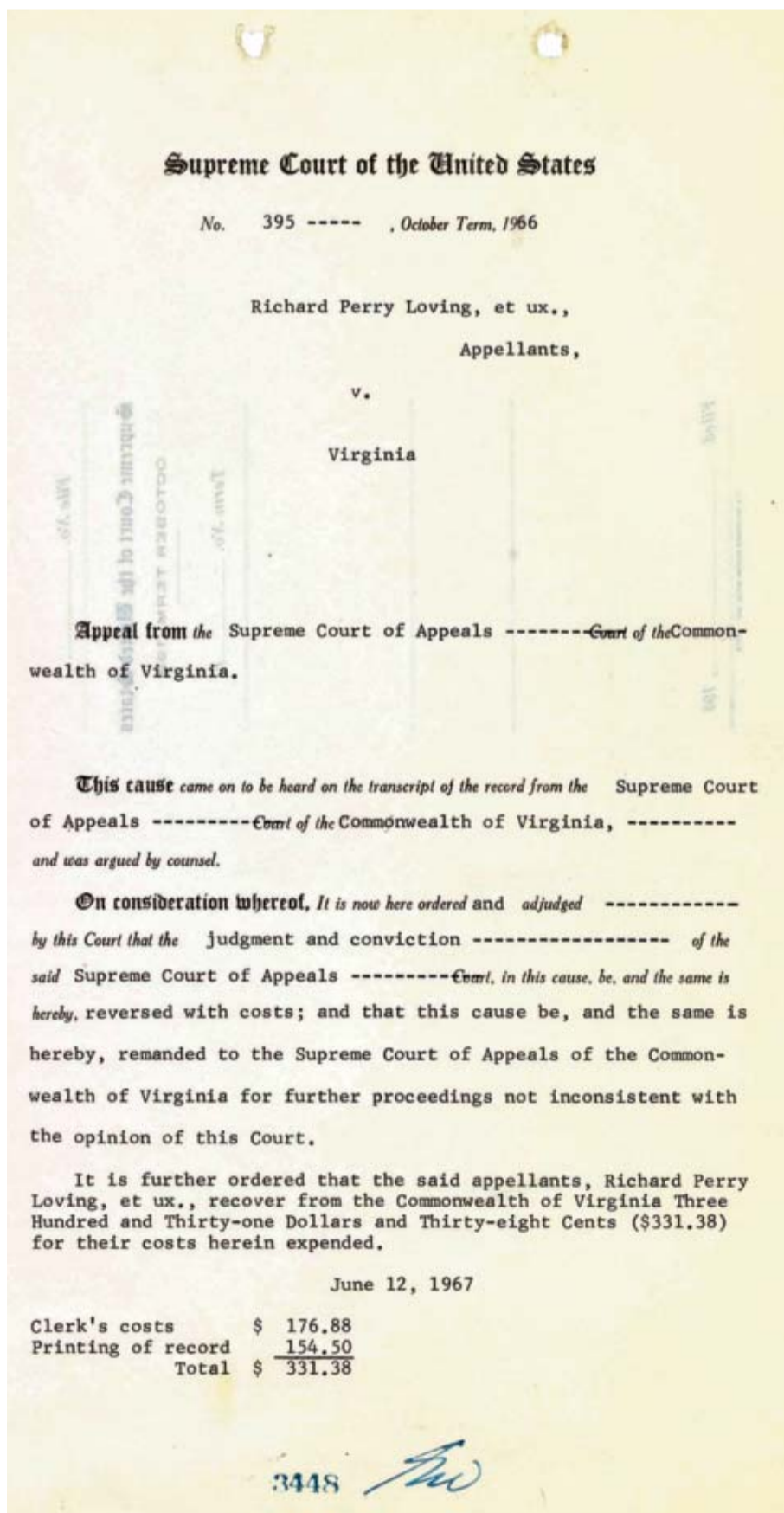
Henderson was schooled in the classics. She starred in two TV musical renditions of literary favorites: a November 1957 production of "Huck Finn" for CBS' "U.S. Steel Hour" and an October 1958 production of "Little Women," also for CBS. In both cases, Variety's reviewers found Henderson's singing to be the highlight of otherwise forgettable productions. Even as her star began to rise, Henderson never forgot the break she received in "Oklahoma!" In April 1959 she journeyed to St. Louis to sing with Hayes at a symphony performance of Richard Rodgers tunes, with Rodgers himself at the baton.

Henderson also never forgot her Roman-Catholic upbringing. In November 1960, Henderson handled the entertainment for the annual meeting of the Catholic Apostolate Radio-Television Advertising association at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. — Reuters



This file photo taken on August 22, 2016 shows actress Florence Henderson attending the Television Academy's Performers Peer Group Celebration in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

'Loving!' How an interracial couple's love changed history



This image obtained from the National Archives show US Supreme Court documents dealing with the interracial marriage of Richard and Mildred Loving. — AFP

Just as a caustic election has laid bare loose threads in the US social fabric, a new film has returned to the country's all-too-recent era of deep racial segregation. "Loving"—which entered wide release in time for the US Thanksgiving holiday—follows the romance of a black woman and a white man in mid-20th century America, when laws in some states forbade interracial marriages.

The historical drama is based on a decade-long legal battle that culminated in a landmark Supreme Court decision, declaring unconstitutional legislation banning interracial marriage, known as anti-miscegenation laws.

After they wed in Washington DC, Richard and Mildred Loving returned to the US state Virginia—part of the secessionist confederacy during the Civil War—where marrying across the racial divide was forbidden.

Childhood sweethearts, Richard and Mildred wanted little more than to build a home—but in the eyes of Virginia law, the lovers were criminals. The Lovings ultimately found themselves on the front lines of a civil rights case that would change the course of US history. Half-a-century later, the 1967 ruling's impact is still reverberating: the historic judgment helped pave the way toward legalizing gay marriage in 2015.

The right to love

Not long after the Lovings exchanged vows in Washington in 1958, police raided their home in the dead of the night. Mildred, who was pregnant, hoped the marriage certificate on the wall would shield the pair from arrest, to no avail. "That's no good here," the sheriff told her, before arresting the pair.

The couple pleaded guilty in Virginia court and received a one-year prison sentence. The punishment was suspended for 25 years on the condition that the Lovings leave the state, so they returned to Washington.

The film, which received critical acclaim following its premiere at Cannes, stars Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga whose portrayal of Mildred Loving has her tipped as a possible Oscar nominee. The lead actors portray the couple not as militants or intellectuals, but as a shy, working-class pair determined to defend their right to love. "Tell them I love my wife," Richard tells his lawyer, when asked what he would like the Supreme Court to know.

Unsung heroes

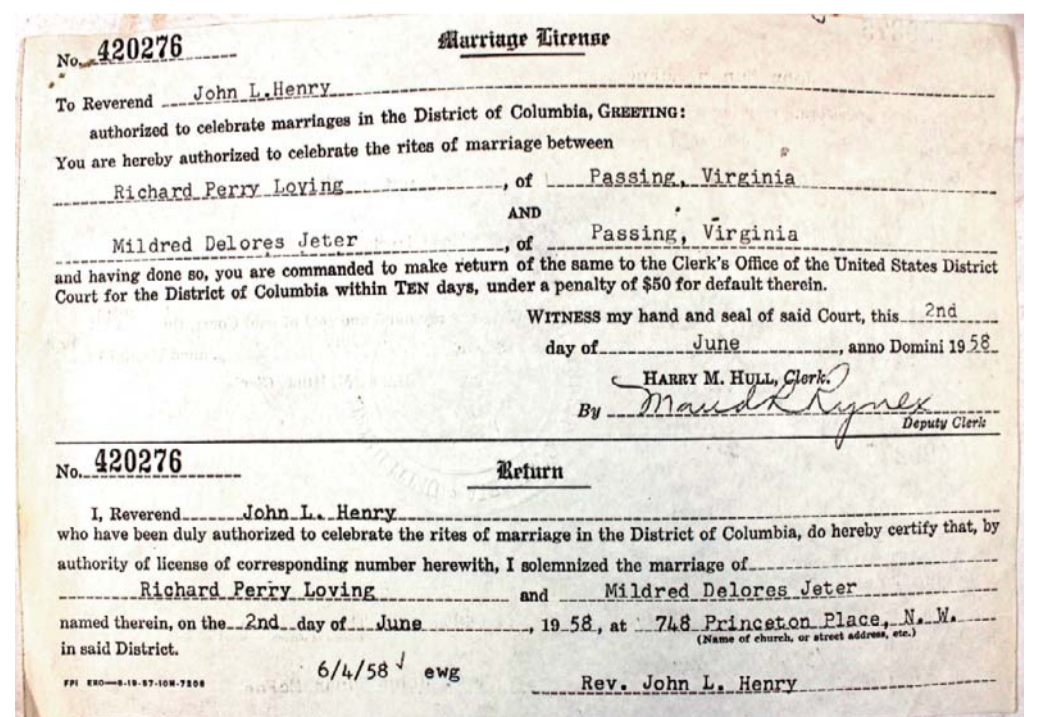
A couple whose primary aim was to leave the city and return to a life under the radar in their home state, Richard and Mildred Loving are relatively unsung heroes of the civil rights movement.

"Civil rights organizations and their allies never made reversal of the anti-miscegenation laws a major cause," historian Larry Greene of Seton Hall University told AFP, saying that housing, school desegregation and voting rights were instead the top priorities. And yet the US has a long history of barring interracial marriage, according to Robin Lenhardt, a law professor at Fordham University.

Anti-miscegenation laws existed in 30 states at one point, she said, which many people saw "as a crucial dividing line between whites and blacks, crucial to the society. "For that to be removed was a bitter pill for many communities." Some states



This file photo taken on May 16, 2016 shows Irish-Ethiopian actress Ruth Negga (L) and Australian actor Joel Edgerton as they arrive for the screening of the film 'Loving' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP



This image obtained from the National Archives shows the June 2, 1958, marriage license of interracial couple Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter. — AFP

resisted the 1967 ruling: Alabama did not overturn its legislation outlawing interracial marriage until 2000, the last state to do so.

The film has been released at a time, Lenhardt said, "when the nation is thinking and worrying about racism."

Since Donald Trump's election hate speech has been on the rise, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which seeks to track and combat racism. And the past summer saw a string of

high-profile police shootings of black citizens that inflamed racial tensions nationwide. "The film is a reminder of the need to guard against the kind of racial bias that we've seen in the distant past," Lenhardt said, "but also our recent." — AFP



Marriage or not, **Mariah Carey** goes ahead with reality TV show

Mariah Carey's new reality show sees the larger-than-life singer trying on wedding dresses and wrestling with a decision to postpone her marriage to Australian businessman James Packer. Nine months on, as "Mariah's World" prepares to air in December, Carey is dodging questions about the sudden breakdown in October of her engagement to the billionaire. Asked if the eight-part series would show what really went on to cause the split, Carey told Reuters. "Do we ever know what's really real?... I hope we learn a lesson of being good people."

Packer, 49, and twice-married Carey, 46, started a highly-publicized relationship in June 2015, and in January, the Australian proposed with a massive 35-carat diamond engagement ring. Last month, the engagement was suddenly off, sparking conflicting rumors about who backed out, and why. Packer appears briefly in the first episode of "Mariah's World," when the couple enjoyed happier times in the spring vacationing on yachts. Carey is seen lounging in lingerie, trying on a wedding dress, and debating whether to wear a tiara. Filming started while the "We Belong Together" singer was preparing for her European tour that began in March and the first

episode shows her reluctantly deciding to postpone her wedding to Packer because of her work commitments. Carey, the world's best-selling female singer, says she wants the show to capture "behind the scenes and the moments... when you are getting ready to go on stage and putting on a tour." "I don't think people really know who I am, or the different sides of my personality, so I am excited about it," Carey told Reuters. Although the show was first promoted as showing Carey planning her wedding, it remains to be seen how much Packer will now appear. On Wednesday, Carey told Ellen DeGeneres in an appearance on her talk show that her relationship with Packer was "kind of difficult to talk about" and described the split as "a whole friggin' thing."

"Mariah's World" shows Carey to be heavily involved in planning and rehearsing for her European tour, as well as flirting with her backup dancers. "There is a lot to get stressed out about and you do go through a lot of angst," she told Reuters. But "if I'm able to have my music... it's my saving grace." "Mariah's World" premieres on cable network E! on December 4. — Reuters



A bride and groom walk with relatives and friends as they prepare to pose for their Wedding photos by the Taedong river in Pyongyang on November 25, 2015. — AFP

British photographer **David Hamilton** dies in Paris

British art photographer David Hamilton died in Paris on Friday at the age of 83 after committing suicide, a police source told Reuters. Hamilton, who was born in London but had lived much of his life in France, was found unresponsive in his Paris apartment by a neighbor who alerted emergency services, French radio station Europe 1 reported. Hamilton, whose work appeared in high-end fashion magazines, was known for his images of nude or underclothed young models which drew some controversy. At the time of his death he had been embroiled in accusations of sexual assault by French TV and radio host Flavie Flament.

Flament accused Hamilton of raping her when she modeled for him as a 13-year-old in 1987. She did not mention him by name in her book "The Consolation," but just a few days

ago in an interview with a French newspaper she said Hamilton attacked her. The cover photo of the book was an image taken by Hamilton. He denied the allegations. Police launched an investigation into the cause of death. — Reuters



David Hamilton

Danish journalists sentenced for monitoring celebrity credit cards

Four journalists from a Danish gossip magazine were sentenced to up to 15 months in prison on Thursday for paying for credit card data to help track politicians, celebrities and members of the royal family. An employee of the credit card company Nets got 18 months for selling information between 2008 and 2012 that revealed the whereabouts of prominent people such as Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and Hannibal-actor Mads Mikkelsen. The leaks enabled the weekly magazine Se & Hør to follow Prince Joachim and his wife on what was meant to be a secret honeymoon to Canada in 2008, after it bought data about the couple's plane tickets from the Nets system operator. The media group that owns the magazine was fined 10 million Danish crowns (\$1.52 million) last August for the covert monitoring of more than 120 celebrities. Two of its former managers were given sus-

pending six-month sentences. "This case has drawn a clear line in the sand, leaving no doubt that stealing and selling confidential information is criminal offense," Nets spokesman Karsten Anker Petersen said. One of the monitored celebrities, Rene Dif of the Danish-Norwegian music group Aqua, was unhappy with the trial's results for the journalists. "These short sentences shows how ridiculous the Danish justice system is," he told TV2 local television. "There is no reason for people to be allowed to snoop around like this," said Dif, whose group topped the charts worldwide with its hit "Barbie Girl" in 1997. The four journalists said they would consider appealing the verdict. — Reuters



Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen speaks at the opening of the Copenhagen Film Festival in Copenhagen October 27, 2016.—Reuters



Christina Ornelas of Ashtabula checks out some boots at Peebles during the start of the Christmas shopping season, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016, in Ashtabula, Ohio. — AP photos



Shoppers queue up in front of Victoria's Secret at the Dartmouth Mall on Black Friday, in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

ADVANTAGE CONSUMER IN ANNUAL US HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPRINT

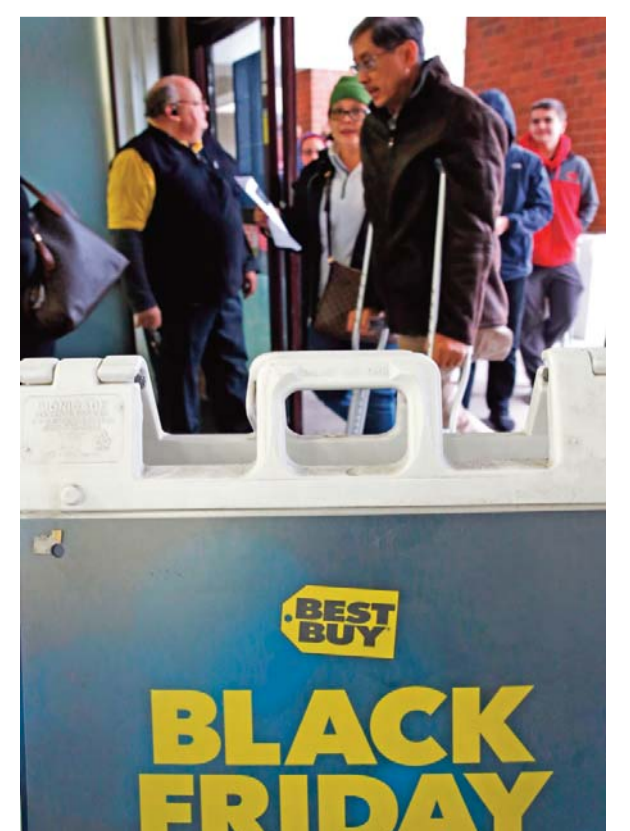
As "Black Friday" kicks off the annual holiday shopping season, US retailers are hopeful in light of stock market records and job growth, but leery of cut-throat pricing from online competition. The annual shopping frenzy once again kicked off late Thursday after the Thanksgiving holiday feast, with millions of Americans trekking to the malls after gorging on turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie. The throng swelled Friday, a day forever associated with endless lines and stampede-like rushes for bargain deals. Among the chief lures of this year's Black Friday offerings, Wal-Mart has slashed prices on high definition television sets and drones that can fly up to a half-mile from its operator. Target, Wal-Mart's smaller rival has amassed some 1,800 new toys exclusively available at the multi-purpose retailer, while Apple is luring gadget-seekers to its stores with \$150 gift cards with the purchase of a new laptop. Retailers are cautiously upbeat about the 2016 installment of the seasonal US shopping spree, which can account for as much as 30 percent of a chain's annual sales. Supporting that optimism is low unemployment, fairly cheap gasoline prices and stock market records that have left many consumers feeling flush with cash. Some analysts also said Americans who held back spending during the contentious 2016 presidential campaign may be ready

to open the spigots now that the election is over. Several leading retail analysts project a three to four percent rise in holiday shopping sales in 2016 compared with last year. Still the industry is bracing for another round of brutal price competition as the continued rise of online shopping gives consumers more options and therefore more of an upper hand. "Is the promotional environment this year likely to be more subdued?" Best Buy chief executive Hubert Joly asked on a conference call last week. "Short answer is no." The electronics retailer has had to adapt to "peaks and valleys" in traffic throughout the four-week sprint to Christmas because "the consumer has been trained to shop when the prices are more promotional," he said. Wal-Mart, the world's biggest retailer, sent a warning to its peers, including archrival Amazon, earlier this month. "I said it before and I will say it again, we will win the season on price on Black Friday, on 'Cyber Monday' and every day before and after," said Wal-Mart chief marketing officer Steve Bratspies.

'Death spiral' for malls?

This season comes as leading chains, including Macy's and Gap, have closed stores in a trend that many experts believe will increase in the years ahead. An April report by Green Street Advisors urged more companies to shutter

stores in light of an industry wide decline in department store sales for almost a decade. The report warned that "several hundred malls" were at risk over the next 10 years, with "troubled malls" co-anchored by Sears, J.C. Penney and Macy's "at the greatest death spiral risk." To stay relevant, stores like Bed, Bath & Beyond and Pottery Barn offered free shipping for sales on Thanksgiving evening. Target increasingly offers direct delivery to customers from stores in their neighborhoods. Shops also are using more in-store demonstrations and events to attract customers and boosting mapping capacities on mobile apps to help guide shoppers. All that is in addition to the usual round of price cuts. Most of these initiatives come at a cost, though retailers see them as long-term investments as they seek to build their online link to customers. "It could be while retailers have an okay Christmas from a sales point of view, from a profit point of view it's not as healthy as it was last year," said Neil Saunders, managing director at Conlumino, a retail consulting firm. — AFP



Shoppers walk into a Best Buy store on Friday, Nov. 25, 2016, in Skokie, Illinois. — AP



An art show by French artist Julien Nonnon called "Safari Urbain Sthlm" is projected on a building in Sodermalm, Stockholm on November 25, 2016. — AFP

Party in Miami as news of Fidel Castro's death spreads

To cries of "Cuba Libre!" and "Freedom! Freedom!" Cuban-Americans poured on to the streets of Miami early Saturday to celebrate the death of their nemesis Fidel Castro. Revelers, many of whom were exiled by Havana's communist regime, honked car horns, banged on pots and drums, and danced, cried, and waved Cuban flags in a wave of communal euphoria.

Castro died late Friday, his brother and Cuban President Raul Castro announced on national television around midnight. In Miami-home to the largest concentration of Cuban-Americans in the United States-the news spread quickly and with fervor. "It's sad that one finds joy in the death of a person-but that person should never have been born," said Pablo Arcencibia, 67, a teacher who fled Cuba 20 years ago. "Satan is now the one who has to worry," because "Fidel is heading there and is going to try to get his job," joked Arcencibia, amid the loud party-like atmosphere.

Sensing the historic moment, younger revelers streamed the event on Facebook Live, posted pictures on Instagram, and broadcast the celebrations on FaceTime and Skype to friends and relatives on the island.

Little Havana and Hialeah-Miami neighborhoods where many Cuban exiles settled-saw people dance, hug, and exchange comments like "it took so long!" and "now only Raul is missing." "Cuba Libre"-Free Cuba-has been a rallying cry for exiles ever since the Castro brothers took over Cuba in 1959. The rum and Coke drink of the same name, however predates the Castro regime. Some two million Cubans live in the United States, nearly 70 percent of them in Florida.

Pajama party

The late-breaking news roused some out of bed to join the street party in pajamas. Some sang the Cuban national anthem. Others shook up bottles of champagne and sprayed



fizz among the revelers. People of all ages-mostly of Cuban descent, but also some Americans-gathered. "It's a major moment for the Cuban community and I'm with them," said a retired Florida native named Debbie. "I live in Little Havana and this is a big part of our lives. The community always comes together here."

Debbie and her friend Cuban-American Aymara celebrated outside the Cafe Versailles, where for decades exiles met to plot their return to the island and strategies to protest the Castro regime. "He should have died a long time ago! He's a criminal, a murderer and a wretched being!" screamed Hugo Ribas, a 78 year-old retiree, in a voice full of rage mixed with

euphoria. "The brother should have died too-in that family they're all criminals!" said Ribas, who has been in Miami for four years. "It took too long," said Cuban immigrant Analia Rodriguez, 23, who has been in Miami for ten years. "There was too much pain and too many broken families, and now-I'm happy!" she laughed as her boyfriend streamed the conversation with AFP on his mobile phone.

Arcencibia noted the mix of generations in the crowd, which was unlike the group of elderly Cuban exiles who gathered just weeks ago to hear then-candidate Donald Trump fulminate against the Castro regime. "Those people who said that the exile community is one of old men, they should see here that ... the desire of a democratic and progressive Cuba is a wish of all Cubans," she said.

Venezuelans also party

Some Venezuelan flags fluttered in the crowd among those of Cuba and the United States, and chants against the leftist pro-Cuban government of Nicolas Maduro could be heard. A group named Veppex that says it represents Venezuelans being politically persecuted issued a statement stating that it joined the Cuban exile community "in their euphoria ... over the death of dictator Fidel Castro Ruiz."

Now that Castro has died, "Nicolas Maduro is now without a political brain," the statement read. Castro's death "is the first step for the absolute disappearance of this atrocious leftist regime," the group said.

Some 100,000 Venezuelans live in the south Florida area. Many of them arrived since the socialist government took over in their country starting in 1999. — AFP



Cuban Americans celebrate upon hearing about the death of longtime Cuban leader Fidel Castro in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami yesterday. — AFP