

Candidate defends rights of expatriates



Brazil mutant mosquitoes to breed out diseases



Ronaldo hat-trick extends Madrid lead



SEE PAGE 11

MOI REJECTS REPORTS OF IRAQI MILITARY MOVES NEAR BORDER

PLATES OF VIOLATING CARS TO BE REMOVED • NO JAMMERS IN JAILS



Min 22°
Max 36°
High Tide 12:14 & 23:53
Low Tide 06:05 & 18:12

GOVT MULLS NO PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS FOR EXPATS

NO NATIONALITY QUOTAS

KUWAIT: The special report on adjusting Kuwait's demographic structure is almost complete, with 12 recommendations that do not include reduction of the numbers of expats holding certain nationalities, well-informed official sources at the Supreme Planning Council's secretariat general told Al-Rai daily. The sources said that according to analyses made at the end of the previous five-year plan, the number of Kuwaitis is continuously decreasing due to the growth of the expat population in the same period.

The sources also demanded suspending the recruitment of expats in the public sector with exceptions for those with rare specializations who cannot be replaced by citizens. Furthermore, the

sources highlighted that building labor cities was one of the main recommendations made to adjust Kuwait's demography, as the government would be able to control the number of expats entering and exiting Kuwait, while security authorities would be able to monitor their actions once they are confined to specified locations.

Moreover, the source explained that six locations had been suggested to build labor cities and that two of them had been already built to avoid the chaos about the whereabouts and exact numbers of expats, needless to mention their legal statuses, especially since some of them are currently residing in urban areas amongst citizens.

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KUWAIT: An Indian working for an airline was arrested for facilitating the entry of people who had been deported from Kuwait and helping them get residency visas for money, said security sources. Case papers indicate that residency detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspect's activities, adding that he usually charged KD 1,000-1,500 per person. The sources said one of the suspect's clients, who had been deported in 2013, was also arrested and confessed to paying KD 1,500 to return to Kuwait and get a new residency visa.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior yesterday rejected local reports on unusual Iraqi military moves near the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. Commenting on such news, the ministry's Undersecretary Maj Gen Abdullah Al-Muhanna was quoted by the ministry's security information department as saying in a statement that there are no Iraqi military moves, mobilization or deployment on the border. In this context, Muhanna stressed that Kuwaiti border security personnel are doing their duties properly and well aware of their due responsibilities. He urged everyone in the country to observe public interest and national security that should be put above all other considerations.

Later yesterday, the Iraqi defense ministry also denied the reports that military troops were deployed in the south of the country near the borders with Kuwait. "Iraqi security forces have not carried out any movement in the south, and the reports about military formations near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders are not true," a ministry source, who did not want to be named, confirmed to KUNA.

Meanwhile, the ministry's relations and security media director Brig Adel Ahmed Al-Hashash announced that effective today, Sunday, Oct 30, all vehicles blocking or delaying traffic on various roads would be fined and have their license plates removed for a certain period.

Continued on Page 13

REBELS FIGHT TO BREAK ALEPPO SIEGE

CLINTON FACES NEW FBI PROBE AS RACE ENTERS LAST 10 DAYS

DES MOINES: Hillary Clinton embarks this weekend on the frenetic final 10 days of her White House campaign, determined to shake off renewed controversy over the FBI probe into her private emails. The 69-year-old Democrat - vying to become America's first female president - is still the frontrunner to win the November 8 election over her Republican rival Donald Trump. Clinton has a clear lead in the polls, and voting has already begun in 34 of 50 states to choose a successor to President Barack Obama, who will hit the campaign trail again next week in defense of his onetime secretary of state.

But her momentum was threatened Friday by a renewed eruption in a scandal that has long dogged her in the race: investigations into her use of a private email server while at the State Department.

Continued on Page 13



Hillary Clinton



ALEPPO: Rebel fighters from the Jaish al-Fatah (or Army of Conquest) brigades get in a vehicle yesterday in the neighborhood of Dahiyet al-Assad after they retook control of the area. — AFP

ALEPPO: Car bombs and rocket fire shook Aleppo yesterday as rebels battled to break a suffocating siege by the Syrian regime, accused by Washington of using starvation as a "weapon of war". The offensive, launched Friday, aims to break through a three-month encirclement of the battered city's eastern districts, where more than 250,000 people live without access to food or humanitarian aid.

"In just a few days, we will open the way for our besieged brothers," rebel

commander Abu Mustafa told AFP from the frontline district of Dahiyet al-Assad, on the southwestern outskirts of Aleppo. Fighting and air strikes pounded nearly all of Aleppo's western outskirts, with the most intense clashes reported in the districts of Al-Zahraa and Dahiyet al-Assad. Yasser Al-Youssef of the Nouredin Al-Zinki rebel faction said opposition fighters opened a new front in Al-Zahraa on Saturday with a massive car bombing.

Continued on Page 13



Iraqi forces and the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) militia advance towards the village of Ayn Nasir, south of Mosul, yesterday, during the ongoing battle against Islamic State militants to liberate the city of Mosul. — AFP

IRAQI PARAMILITARIES LAUNCH OPERATION TO SEAL OFF MOSUL

AL QAYYARAH, Iraq: Iraqi paramilitary forces launched an operation yesterday to cut the Islamic State group's supply lines between its Mosul bastion and neighboring Syria, opening a new front in the nearly two-week-old offensive. Forces from the Hashed Al-Shaabi, a paramilitary umbrella organization dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias, have largely been on the sidelines since the launch of the operation to retake Mosul.

But yesterday they began a push on the town of Tal Afar on the western approach to the city, the only side where ground forces, which have advanced from the north, east and south, are not yet deployed. "The operation aims to cut supplies between Mosul and Raqqa and tighten the siege of (IS) in Mosul and liberate Tal Afar," Hashed spokesman Ahmed Al-Assadi told AFP, referring to IS' main stronghold in Syria.

Continued on Page 13

GAZA FLOTILLA RAID VICTIMS' KIN VOW LEGAL BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL

ISTANBUL: The families of Turkish activists killed in a 2010 Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid ship say they will not drop their legal cases despite a deal between Turkey and the Jewish

state. Nine Turks died when Israeli marines stormed the "Mavi Marmara," which was part of an aid flotilla to break a naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. One more died in hospital in

2014. Ties between Israel and Turkey crumbled after the raid but in June they finally agreed to end the bitter six-year row after months-long secret talks.

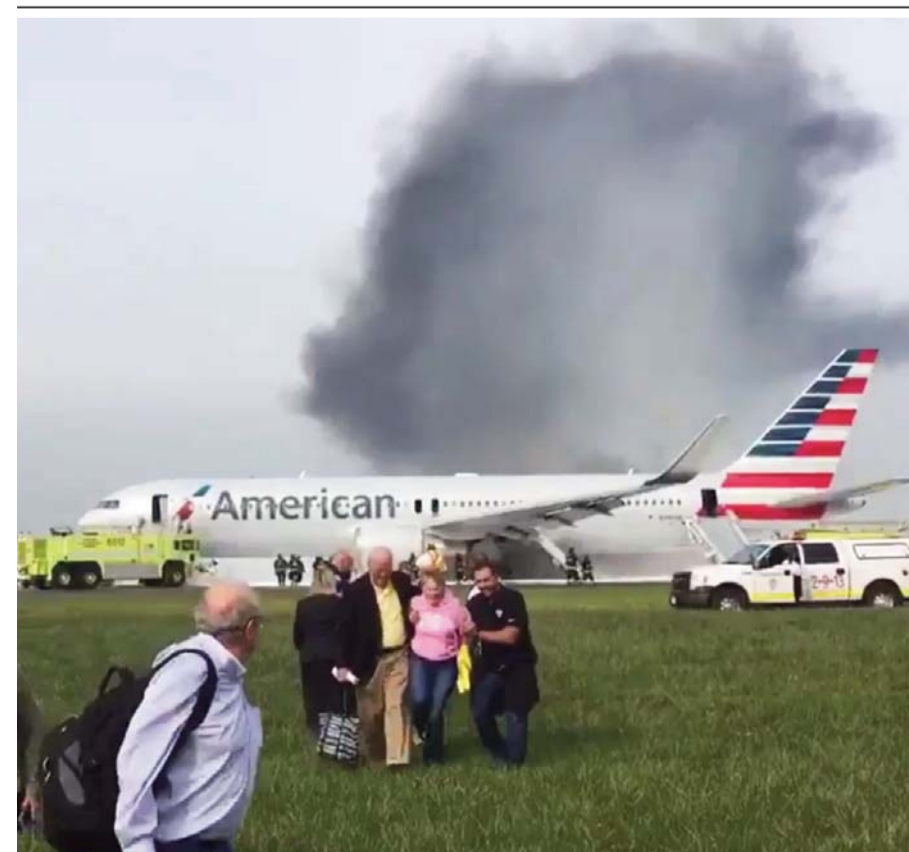
Israel had offered an apology over the raid, permission for Turkish aid to reach Gaza through Israeli ports, and a payout of \$20 million to the families of those killed. Turkish officials confirmed the amount was transferred to the justice ministry account last month. Under the deal, both sides agreed that individual Israeli citizens or those acting on behalf of the government would not be held liable.

Families of the victims however say they will press on with their legal battle until the alleged perpetrators are brought to justice. Cigdem Topcuoglu, an academic from southern Adana province, said her husband was killed as the couple embarked on the ship. "We are certainly not accepting the compensation," she told AFP in Istanbul. "They will come and kill your husband next to you and say 'take this money, keep your mouth shut and give up on the case'. Would you accept that?" In total, there were six ships in the flotilla that were boarded in international waters about 130 km from the Israeli coast. After the deal with Israel, an Istanbul court on Oct 19

Continued on Page 13



ISTANBUL: Ismail Songur, whose father was killed in the 2010 Israeli storming of a Turkish aid ship to Gaza, poses on Oct 21, 2016. — AFP



CHICAGO: In this photo provided by passenger Jose Castillo, fellow passengers walk away from a burning American Airlines jet that aborted takeoff and caught fire on the runway at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Friday. Pilots on Flight 383 bound for Miami reported an engine-related mechanical issue, according to an airline spokeswoman. — AP



AMF LAUNCHES YOUTH VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES AWARD



AMF's Secretary General Madhi Al-Khamees

KUWAIT: The Arab Media Forum (AMF) yesterday launched the activities of the Youth Voluntary and Humanitarian Initiatives Award, which included a number of seminars on the challenges of voluntary work, and an exhibition displaying sample youth initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, AMF's Secretary General Madhi Al-Khamees said that the activities started with the opening of the youth initiatives' exhibition, featuring participation of 50 initiatives from six Arab states.

Khamees added that AMF organized two seminars about voluntary activities, allowing participants to explain and introduce their initiatives to visitors. In addition, Khamees said that the winning teams would be honored on the closing ceremony.

Notably, the Youth Voluntary and Humanitarian Initiatives Award is held under auspices and attendance of the Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and the participation of a wide group of Arab charities and youth voluntary initiatives. — KUNA



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Faisal Al-Ayyar with the five finalists of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award

'MOQAWALAT.COM' WINS THE 2ND KIPCO TMKEEN AWARD FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

PRIZE IS WORTH \$100,000 IN SERVICES FROM THE KIPCO GROUP

KUWAIT: Moqawalat.com - an online platform that connects customers with contractors, founded by young Kuwaiti entrepreneur Mohammad Al Awadhi - was named the winner of the 2nd KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. The announcement was made at the closing session of the Fifth Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tmkeen), held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The award is a collaboration between KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Tmkeen. The prize is worth \$100,000 in services from the KIPCO Group, including financial, strategic and operational consultation sessions, market studies, insurance coverage and advertising services.

Moqawalat.com offers an online presence to an old school industry, connecting customers with contractors and service providers under one platform. The website aito provide a hassle-free approach for customers who require a range of contracting solutions and service providers looking for their next project.

Five young entrepreneurs running retail and service businesses in Kuwait had qualified in first judging round. The top five - Easy Shipping, Moqawalat.com, Label KW, Fix It Home Services and Seyaaha Travel Guide - gave their presentations during the 'Start-Up Battle' at the Tmkeen Symposium before a live audience.

The final judging panel included the Head of Global Recruitment at Booking.com, Jennifer Boulanger; CEO of KAMCO, Faisal Sarkhou; General Manager of Ghaliyah online communications agency, Abdulrazag Al-Mutawa; and Founder and CEO of Saveco, Nour Al-Qatami.

Young people
Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "At KIPCO, we strongly believe that it is Kuwait's young people who will pave the way for a bright future for our country. Through our collaboration with Tmkeen over the past two years, we have been able to gain insight into Kuwait's young business community and better understand how we can support these talented people as they strive to set up and manage more sustainable businesses. The past year has been an exciting journey during which we worked with Ajar Online, the winner of our first award, to support the online rent-collection business and work to expand it. We are excited to

have the opportunity to do the same for Moqawalat.com this year."

Meanwhile, Ali Al Ibrahim, CEO of the Youth Empowerment Organization, said: "Our mission at Tmkeen is to educate, inform and inspire young people. Our partnership with KIPCO, a Group that has experience in diverse sectors, has allowed us to add mentorship to this effort. We have already seen the results of this over the past year, and we look forward to extending our support to yet another winner of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award. All of the young people who competed showed passion to grow their businesses, and we wish everyone all the best in taking their work to the next level!"



Faisal Al-Ayyar with the winning team, Moqawalat.com



The judging panel (from left) Abdulrazag Al-Mutawa, Faisal Sarkhou, Jennifer Boulanger, Nour Al-Qatami

'KUWAIT AMONGST TOP COUNTRIES SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES'

AMMAN: Kuwait is a leading country that supports humanitarian issues in the region and the entire world, Jordan's Princess Basma bint Talal said yesterday. The Princess made the statement on the sidelines of inaugurating a diplomatic charitable bazaar in the Jordanian capital.

She extolled Kuwait's efforts aiming to serve humanitarian issues, indicating that the bazaar is highly attracted by representatives of Arab and foreign embassies to Jordan. She stressed the importance of participation of the diplomatic missions in Amman and their role in backing charitable action which helps needy people.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Embassy's representative to Jordan Khaled Al-Saqabi said that the annual humanitarian activity reflects the real sense of partnership and solidarity with diplomatic authorities in Jordan. He lauded the distinguished annual organization of the bazaar whose revenues are allocated to orphans and charities.

Kuwait's pavilion presents cotton and textile industries, handicrafts and varied food items of Kuwait for visitors, he said. He underlined the significance of boosting charitable and humanitarian action, and effective participation in activities so as to help needy people. — KUNA



Candidates speak

CANDIDATE DEFENDS EXPATS' RIGHTS: 'WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM'

FARIDON TACKLES ENVIRONMENT, LABOR RIGHTS, EDUCATION

By Nawara Fattahova

Hussein Faridon is a candidate from the second constituency running in the National Assembly elections for the first time. He is an author and has published three books. He is also an inventor who has four international and 30 local patents for his inventions. He has faced many obstacles while registering his research papers. His son has also faced similar problems registering his inventions. So Faridon has decided to run to help young people and talented Kuwaitis.

His slogan is 'I'm the servant of my country, its people and the environment'. 'I'm working on more research papers for my country. I discussed with professors some issues, such as the quantity of oxygen that a person needs for breathing per minute, which is one liter, while a vehicle consumes two liters per cylinder, which means that a four-cylinder vehicle equals the oxygen consumption of eight people. This is why people feel nervous when stuck in a traffic jam, which results in various diseases and health complications. Therefore, I want to work on solving the problem of traffic,' Faridon told Kuwait Times.



Candidate Hussein Faridon

Four hours

He has some suggestions. 'I suggest increasing the salaries of employees who work during the day to encourage them. I also suggest decreasing working hours to only four, so employees won't experience the harshest heat during June, July and August. They can work from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, as the heat gets worse after noon,' he pointed out. Faridon wonders why people only talk about the petrol price hike and not the increasing prices of other products such as food. 'If I reach the parliament, I will demand distributing fuel coupons to citizens worth least KD 20 per month, equal to 200 liters,' he vowed.

Regarding education, he said that there is a great shortage and failure in this field. 'It's shameful that a student is very weak in English, especially after graduating from school and registering at the university. Teachers are responsible in the

first place, who should be punished if there are more weak students in their class,' stressed Faridon.

The Ministry of Justice also needs some changes, according to him. 'We need to solve the problem of the long period of sessions. Also, it suffers from a marked shortage of parking spaces. There are also no police patrols or ambulances available at the court. Furthermore, it doesn't provide special services for elderly people or the disabled,' he explained.

Expats

Faridon is against discrimination between citizens and expatriates in the health sector. 'This is a humanitarian service, so if a patient reaches the hospital, he should be treated no matter what his nationality is. We can't live without expats, as they are important in all fields, especially jobs that Kuwaitis don't do. I wrote about this issue in one of my books, 'The Maid,' he said.

'I suggest that any expat who spends five years doing any work should receive a 10 to 15 percent increase in salary. Also, I suggest adopting a system that allows an expat to sponsor himself without the need for a kafeel after spending 10 years in this country, as he has served us and should be respected,' Faridon proposed.

Tourism

'We don't have any local touristic places. So we should improve this field and benefit from our resources so people will spend their money inside the country and not abroad.'

Resources

'We should stop depending on oil as the only source of income. Also, we should have more factories and decrease depending on foreign products, because in the event of any crisis, we will die of hunger. We have everything, but there is no execution,' Faridon remarked.

No headquarters

'I won't have a headquarters for my election campaign to protect the environment and save my neighborhood from traffic jams. I will be depending on social media instead. If I win, I will try to defend the rights of people and protect the environment.'

Candidate Hussein Faridon shows his patent certificates during his interview with Kuwait Times.



BURGAN BANK SPONSORS 'EXPERIENCE ADVENTURE'

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is proud to announce its recent and major sponsorship of 'Experience Adventure'; an exhibition showcasing all that is related to adventure travel. The 2-day exhibition will be held from 1st - 2nd November 2016 in Marina Waves and will entail showcases, workshops, and many opportunities for the growing adventure travel trend in Kuwait.

The event will bring together outfitters, product providers and avid adventurers to one place, and will help on highlighting solutions to this young nation in response to its thirst for new and unique experiences, through offering trips to different destinations, all operated by seven local operators in Kuwait. Through this exhibition, attendees will get to register for trips, listen to exciting travel stories, attend enlightening workshops, and buy the best adventure products and packages available.

Burgan Bank highlighted that its role in sponsoring such initiatives is sprung from its belief that the current generational innovation in lifestyle and travel demands are contributing

positively to creating a young, innovative and vibrant entrepreneurship shift and a positive social, and cultural impact on Kuwait.

Supporting the involvement of young entrepreneurship and creative ideas in all its forms and shapes is one of Burgan Bank's main pillars as a leading financial institution, and with this initiative taking place, the bank hopes it will enhance the quality of life in Kuwait by offering world-standard opportunities of travel, starting from Kuwait.

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

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In Brief

AMBASSADOR HAILS PRIVATE SECTOR

MANAMA: Dean of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah has commended the Kuwaiti private sector, saying it owns a capability of challenge and initiative. The sector enjoys the appreciation of the leadership in Kuwait and Bahrain, Sheikh Azzam said yesterday during a visit to the Marina Market, a Kuwaiti project of Bahrain's Durrat Marina. He stressed the fact that the Kuwaiti private sector is a major development partner. Durrat Marina is a Kuwaiti investment project in Bahrain, owned by Port Marine. —KUNA



KUWAIT INVESTS IN HUMAN RESOURCES

NEW YORK: Kuwait is keen on making better use of its human resources out of belief in central role of man in development. In an address to the meeting of the UN General Assembly's Fifth Committee the third secretary of Kuwait's mission to the UN Saad Mijbil Al-Hubaideh commended the progress made by secretariat of the committee in improving the management of human resources since the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly. The implementation of reforms in contractual frameworks, work conditions and skills management are still underway, he pointed out. — KUNA



SPECIAL DISCOUNTS ON MAMMOGRAM TESTS

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently launched a special offer for its female clients, offering a 30 percent discount on early cancer detection tests conducted at the Royale Hayat hospital. CBK's initiative coincides with the anniversary of the international initiative to boost awareness about breast cancer that was launched in October 2006. The offer is valid until the end of November offering the 30 percent discount on mammogram tests conducted using any of CBK cards as a payment method.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A woman weaves an item inside Beit Al-Sadu, or Sadu House in Kuwait City. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Under the motto 'No time to rest', print houses throughout Kuwait are in full swing during this elections' period; a typically lucrative one for this business. With less than a month to elections' day; November 26, print houses are having their own kind of race, to beat the clock, meet deadlines and deliver candidates' ideas for their campaigns. — KUNA



OFFICIAL HIGHLIGHTS AWARD'S ROLE

KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Mahdi stressed the significant role played by Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award in supporting the state's development plan through adapting its main strategy of having a sustainable and direrse economy. Speaking on a visit to the foundation's headquarters, Mahdi said that the World Informatics Forum 2016 organized by the foundation focuses on digital economy that would eventually help develop Kuwait's economy in view of the current revolution in information and information technology.



Local Spotlight

DNA TESTS PENDING



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Last week, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah directed HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to reconsider the DNA law in accordance with constitutional principles to protect civil rights to privacy, uphold the public interest and the security of the society and realize the goals behind this law.

The announcement of this law had created controversy between supporters of this decision for security reasons, and opponents from Kuwait and overseas like human rights organizations that see such an act as a violation of individual rights. Moreover, those who refuse to undergo DNA tests will be subjected to the punishment of imprisonment and a fine, and this is why some see this law as a violation of the principles of human rights.

The National Assembly had approved the DNA law, which required all Kuwaitis, expats and visitors to undergo DNA testing, the results of which will be stored in a database at the Ministry of Interior. The law was approved in response to security challenges facing the country, linked to the complex regional situation in July 2015 and less than a week after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a mosque in Kuwait City, leaving 26 dead and more than 200 injured. The primary goal that was declared was about the security aspect, namely to collect forensic evidence in the event of a crime or an act of sabotage.

Under the law, the interior ministry will create a database of all residents of the country, totaling 1.3 million citizens and 2.9 million foreign residents. The constitutional court later decided to accept appeals against the law. The interior ministry is now working on a new draft bill amending the DNA law 78/2015, responding to the directives of HH the Amir. The law has not been put into effect yet. But the interior ministry has already begun preparing the technical requirements for the law, a process that will last two years.

With the DNA database, the government will be able to map the genes of the population down the generations. This law could support the authorities to resolve part of the bedoon issue, especially those who demand Kuwaiti citizenship, because it may show that they have no roots in this land or with its people. But some are now raising doubts if citizenship is all about being here first or not. I think it is. But I have reservations about such a law and believe that it should only be implemented on suspects. I also wonder about those who got citizenship by forgery, and have died and passed the nationality to their sons.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights last month called to amend the law to collect DNA samples only to conduct specific investigations with a court order. Let's consider the worst case scenario - what if this database is stolen by a subversive group? This would mean all genetic information would be transmitted outside Kuwait. This is why I agree that reconsidering this law is essential. It is well known that international laws and courts have prevented similar attempts to collect and store the genetic information of innocent people, while the collection of genetic information for criminal purposes internationally is subject to very strict terms and conditions and is handled with maximum transparency.

Human rights activists had repeatedly called for suspending this law in Kuwait for reconsideration. Their call has now been answered by HH the Amir. Thank you!

KUWAIT NOT ISOLATED FROM MIDEAST TURMOIL, CHALLENGES: AMBASSADOR

LONDON: The current turmoil and tension in the Middle East is affecting all regional countries and that also includes Kuwait, said Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan late Friday. Ambassador Al-Duwaisan's statement came at the annual meeting for the National Union of Kuwait Students (NUKS) - the UK and Republic of Ireland Branch. "The challenges in the region require vigilance and counter-measures against those meaning

harm to Kuwait's national security and stability," said the Ambassador.

The Ambassador called on the students to stand in solidarity and help each other for the sake of their country. He added that the current status quo in the region was alarming, saying that the people of Kuwait must face the matter head-on and as one nation under the guidelines set by the leadership of the country.

"This is why the government is

keen on developing education," said Ambassador Duwaisan, noting that this year, around 4,200 Kuwaiti students were studying in the UK and Ireland which reflected the government's utter commitment to the cause of education and learning. He called on the students to use their time in the UK and Ireland wisely, affirming that Kuwait was waiting for them to return home in order to contribute to the development of the country. — KUNA



LONDON: Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan speaks during the meeting. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Mansour Al-Otaibi (right) hands the cheque to Director of the UNRWA Representative Office in New York Richard Wright. — KUNA

KUWAIT DONATES \$5 MILLION TO UNRWA SYRIA PROGRAM

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait contributed on Friday \$5 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal.

Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Mansour Al-Otaibi handed a cheque in this contribution to Director of the UNRWA Representative Office in New York Richard Wright at the Kuwaiti mission here.

"The contribution follows pledges made by Kuwait at the Fourth International Pledging Conference in London earlier this year," Otaibi said. He renewed Kuwait's commitment to support the Agency's relief efforts for the internally-displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees in Syria and in other parts of the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Agency's Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl thanked Kuwait for "this generous donation," saying: "I am very grateful for this renewed solidarity from the State of Kuwait towards Palestine refugees in Syria."

"I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the government and people of Kuwait for this valuable support. It will allow us to respond to essential needs of some 440,000 Palestine refugees deeply affected by the dramatic conflict in Syria. This latest donation is a strong illustration of UNRWA's trustful partnership with Kuwait," Krahenbuhl added.

Kuwait has long been a consistent and reliable donor, contributing a total of \$45 million over three consecutive years in support of the Agency's efforts to assist Palestine refugees in Syria. Additionally, a contribution of \$17 million from the State of Kuwait in 2015 enabled UNRWA to open its school-year on time, he pointed out. In 2016, UNRWA is appealing for \$414 million to meet the minimum humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria, he added. — KUNA



DRUG DEALER ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An Asian man was arrested with possession of three kilograms of heroin, a kilogram of ice (methamphetamine) and 10,000 illicit pills, said security sources, noting that the suspect confessed to trading in drugs. The man was taken to the Drug Control General Department (DGCD) for further action.

Accident

Members of a Kuwaiti family sustained various injuries when their vehicle collided into a truck in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. Firemen dispatched to the scene had to cut open the vehicle and free them from the wrecked car.

Fire

A fire broke out in a house in Jaber Al-Ali, said security sources, adding that the fire started in the

kitchen and was controlled without any casualties. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Municipality campaign

Kuwait Municipality inspection teams launched an inspection campaign on a number of stores and restaurants in Mubarakiya. The campaign resulted in confiscating 35 kg of banned food items, 15 kg of inedible fish and filing 20 citations.

9,696 PEOPLE GRANTED CITIZENSHIP IN 6 YEARS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior statistics show that 9,696 people have been granted Kuwaiti citizenship in the period of 2010-2016, according to various citizenship articles. Meanwhile, the Cabinet's citizenship committee has referred the files of 200 children of people who recently acquired Kuwaiti citizenship to the criminal evidence department to undergo DNA tests to grant them citizenship as well. Informed sources said that the 200 people were summoned in batches to undergo the procedure along with their children.

North Zour plant

Kuwait has invited two out of three consortiums applying to execute the North Zour power plant's tender. Informed sources said officials from the Kuwait Authority For Partnership Projects and the Ministry of Electricity and Water held special meetings with the Japanese Marubeni Corp and Fuad Al-Ghanem and Sons Co and Sumitomo Corp, Osaka Gas Co and

National Industries Group. The sources added that a third consortium led by Saudi Aqua Power Co and a Japanese company was not invited to the meeting. The three consortia had filed their bids on June 21, 2016, but the bids will not be opened until after the final technical assessment. Notably, the new plant will produce at least 1,500 megawatts of electricity and desalinate 102 million imperial gallons of water a day.

Land transport

Deputy director of the roads public authority Saud Al-Naqi said the land transport department would be shifted from the ministry of communications to the authority next month. Naqi added that the authority's organizational structure was completed pending review by board members for approval, before submitting it to the Cabinet for final approval and naming a director.

Billionaires

A report issued by CNBC on the top cities favored by millionaires and

billionaires around the world showed that 97 out of the world's 2,473 billionaires reside in New York. Among Arabs, the report said Kuwait came in sixth and 37th in the world with 11 billionaires. The report showed that the Arab list was topped by Dubai with 35 billionaires, followed by Riyadh (13th worldwide) with 24 billionaires, Jeddah (16th worldwide) with 23 billionaires, Cairo (32nd worldwide) with 13 billionaires and finally Abu Dhabi (35th worldwide) with 12 billionaires.

Free Trade Zone

Managing Director of the Public Authority for Investment (PAI), Bader Al-Saad said that there has been no feasibility study for building a free trade zone in Salmi. In a letter responding to a proposal made by municipal council member Hassan Kamal about building free zones at the three land border exists in Salmi, Abdaly and Nuwaiseeb, Saad said that a study about the Abdaly free zone has been completed, but he denied plans to build any zones in Salmi and Nuwaiseeb.

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الجريدة Al-Jarida

HOW TO FACE CHALLENGES

By Dr Bader Al-Daihani

There is no doubt that, as a state and people, we all have serious challenges including some security ones about our national security and existence as part of a highly tense region witnessing contradicting international interests, making it an arena for conflicts amongst major international capitalist countries seeking protection of their interests, political influence and sustainability. We also have very serious developmental challenges that go way beyond the economy to include political and social elements without which no sustainable development is achievable.

However, facing major challenges and overcoming them will not be achieved in the presence of the current futile political equation that monopolizes power and wealth, especially after public participation in decision-making has decreased with the result that success rates in parliamentary elections are becoming as low as half percent in some constituencies, at a time when, according to the constitution, an MP should represent the entire nation.

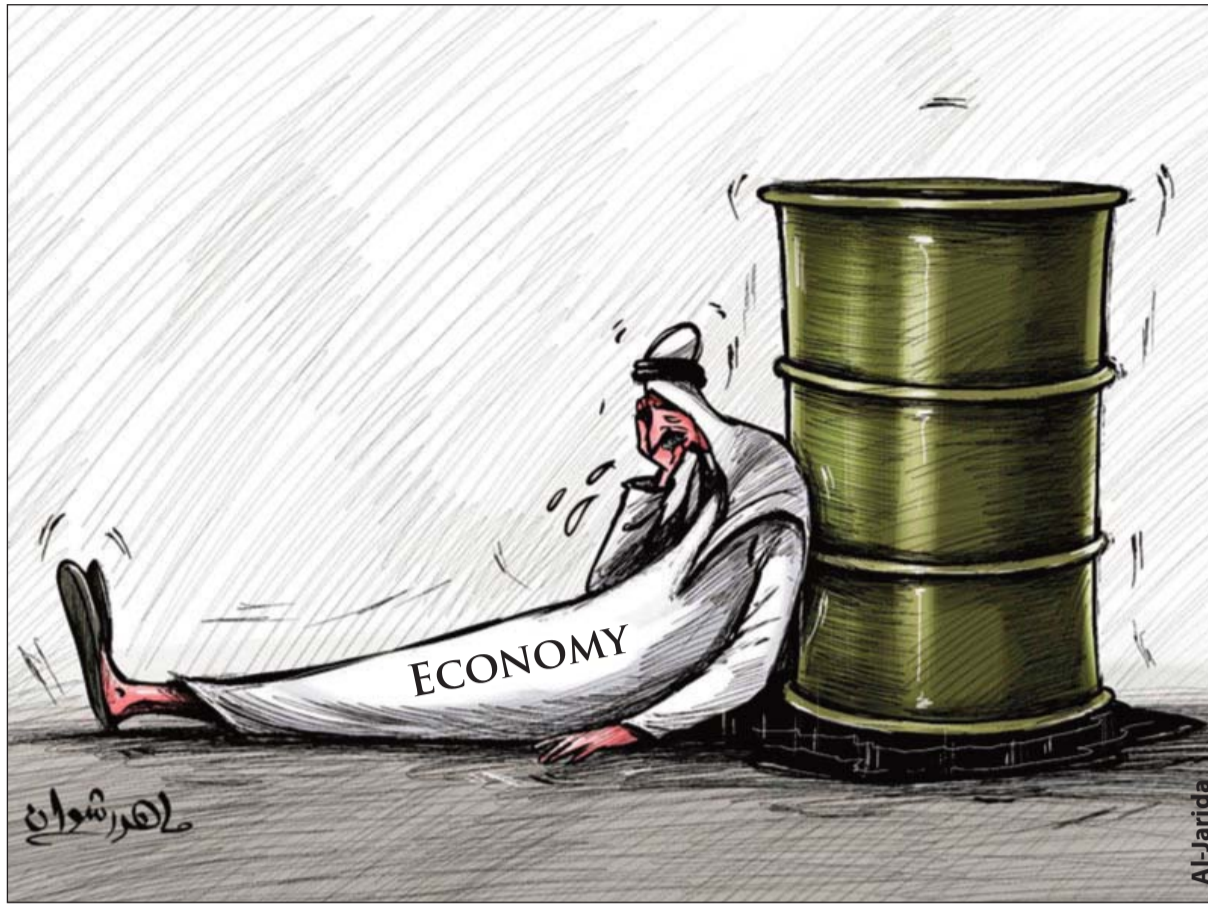
If the current political situations continue, efforts to face the coming major regional or developmental challenges will be very feeble, or rather nonexistent

In addition, social justice imbalances will get wider as a result of political imbalances included in the government's economic document, repression and destroying the national fabric that made the government's role retreat, and unfortunately, made way for former traditional social forms that used to prevail long before forming modern states.

Thus, people, namely the youth in universities and schools, started bragging of their origins instead of laws and state establishments. They brag about secondary identities, tribal, sectarian and family affiliations to whom they resort to get their constitutional rights. To make things worse, the role played by legislatures turned into a merely nominal one and rubber-stamping whatever bills proposed by the government, as we have seen over the past three years.

Once more, if the current political situations continue without radical political and democratic reforms that would produce a developed political system instead of nominal establishments controlled by the government and abandoned with a blink of an eye, efforts to face the coming major regional or developmental challenges will be very feeble, or rather nonexistent. In addition, the government's statements about facing challenges are totally different from its policies and decisions.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



الانباء

Al-Anbaa

THE BLACK TRUCK

By Saad Al-Motesh

I strongly oppose the theory of evolution, that according to some people, suggests that creatures adapted to their surrounding environments and thus changed and evolved. There is nothing better than the human mind because of which Almighty Allah distinguished human beings from all other creatures. However, man can never change destined things. We all want to develop and improve our living conditions, yet we have no say in things we are destined to do.

However, all man-made things are subject to rise and decline no matter how big they are, because humans do err. The best example of this is computers that used to be as big as king-sized bedrooms in royal palaces, but are now smaller than a matchbox. Evolution makes me wonder about the black Chevys politicians claim go out of Central Bank during every parliamentary election since the 1980s. Ever since, we have been hearing stories about political money in those

Chevys. It is this that brings evolution to my mind.

In the past, the total number of voters was very few compared to the present. It was just natural that 'gifts' were small and could fit in a car's trunk. I believe that evolution should include both the cash grants and the means of transport carrying them. It is unreasonable that the grants supposedly given are still the same!

In the past, the total number of voters was very few compared to the present

This makes us tell those talking about political money and accusing fellow candidates to pay attention to the brand, type and color of the means of transport and decide whether they saw a truck or half-lorry carrying this money, particularly the color, because most of those vehicles are white and black ones are rarely used.

May the Almighty protect and send the black trucks that will carry that money to me personally and to hell with those carrying money for candidates!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

News

in brief

Reckless driver arrested

KUWAIT: A Saudi juvenile was arrested for driving without a license, stunt driving and endangering his life and the lives of others. Security sources said the suspect resisted arrest and had to be physically carried into a police patrol car. Initial reports suggest the youth is mentally disturbed.

Body found

The decomposed body of an Asian man was found in an under-construction building in Mahboula. Security sources said due to the high level of humidity, the janitor noticed a foul smell and discovered the corpse.

Inmates fight

Two Central Jail inmates detained over charges of funding and fighting with IS fought after an argument concerning the current military operations in Mosul. Prison authorities said one of the prisoners sustained a serious head injury during the fight and was rushed to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment.

Expired visas

Four expats holding expired residency visas were arrested by chance during a traffic accident along the Sixth Ring Road. Security sources said policemen's suspicions were aroused when the driver of one of the two vehicles insisted on not pressing charges, and on checking on the four passengers with him, their residency visas were found to be expired.

Drunk driving

A Kuwaiti man and a Filipina woman were arrested in Fintas for drinking and driving, said security sources, noting that the suspects had two bottles of whiskey with them. They were taken to the concerned authorities to face charges.

Drug possession

An Egyptian man was arrested in Farwaniya with possession of eight packets of heroin and ice (methamphetamine). He was taken to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) for further action. Separately, a bedoon man was arrested in Farwaniya for driving under the effect of drugs as well as possessing drugs. Meanwhile, two citizens with criminal records were arrested with drugs and large sums of money. Security sources said the suspects themselves were under the influence of drugs and confessed that the money they had was the value of their sales.

Insult

A female citizen filed a complaint against her ex-husband accusing him of insulting her through WhatsApp messages. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Runaway driver

After colliding into a luxury vehicle, an Asian man abandoned his car and fled the scene on foot. Investigations are ongoing to identify and arrest the suspect. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

JAZEERA AIRWAYS RAISES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, the largest airline serving the Middle East out of Kuwait, in collaboration with the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN), recently hosted a breast cancer awareness lecture for its employees as part of its month long activities to spread awareness on breast cancer. Dr Amani Hussein, Oncologist from the Ministry of Health, shared her insights on the cancer, including the importance of its prevention as well as early detection.

CAN is sponsored by His Highness the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the aim of this campaign is to organize regular lectures and public events to improve the understanding of cancer and provide preventive techniques and measures to the public. Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, Jazeera Airways aimed to raise awareness about the seriousness of the condition, through the help of CAN.

In support of this initiative, Dr Hussein commanded Jazeera Airways for their efforts and time and called on the employees to conduct annual mammography tests. "Early detection of breast cancer helps increase cure rate by 90%, avoids

mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, as well as psychological and organic trauma," explained Dr Hussein.

Dr Barakat, VP Marketing and Product at Jazeera Airways claimed that Jazeera Airways feels that the event is a great opportunity to help spread awareness to its employees, who will in turn extend their knowledge to the public.

"We are grateful to partner with CAN as they show their support for continuous cancer awareness in Kuwait. We sincerely thank Dr Amani Hussein for her informative presentation that allowed Jazeera employees to take this matter more seriously and to provide them with easy ways to help detect the disease at earlier stages as well as overcome it at later stages. The enthusiastic feedback from our employees determined the success of the event," Dr Barakat added.

To learn more about Jazeera Airways services, offers, promotions and destinations, customers can contact the Call Center on 177 or visit the airline's website on www.jazeeraairways.com. Customers can also download the Jazeera Airways app on the iPhone or Android or Windows.



KUWAIT: Acting Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard Major General Falah Falah met yesterday with a US Army delegation including Brigadier General David Clemente, Chief, Office of Military Cooperation, US Embassy - Kuwait, in presence of Kuwait National Guard officials and US Embassy staff.



KFH HOLDS WORKSHOP TO RAISE AWARENESS ON BREAST CANCER

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held in collaboration with Kuwait Cancer Control Center a workshop for a number of female students at Bebe Al-Salem Al-Sabah secondary school as part of the bank's social responsibility and in an attempt to raise their awareness on breast cancer.

The workshop witnessed significant interaction where participants got acquainted with the disease's symptoms, ways of prevention, and self-investigation techniques through special discussion sessions and a variety of awareness events.

The workshop comes on the heels of the awareness campaign the bank launched in collaboration with Kuwait Cancer Control Center and the Cancer Awareness National Campaign, and in line with KFH's commitment towards the community with respect of health care.

It is worth noting that KFH takes part in all relevant awareness campaigns such as diabetes and heart diseases. Moreover, the bank inks agreement with respective bodies locally and globally in a bid to coordinate and bolster efforts that aim at preventing Kuwait society from the serious impact of these diseases.



AL-ZAD SILVER SPONSOR OF HORECA KUWAIT 2017

KUWAIT: Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development announced more hospitality, catering and hotel equipment companies that have so far announced their intention to take part in Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition, which is due to be held early next year.

In this regard, Al-Zad Trading Group's Chairman Abdullah Al-Nafisi said that this year's exhibition is the fifth in which his company participates as a sponsor. He also stressed that Horeca had proved the significance of specialized exhibitions in promoting trade exchanges among companies, as well as highlighting this vital line that is closely related to Kuwait's development, housing projects and touristic plans. He added that the exhibition would be the largest gathering of specialized people under one roof.

Speaking about his group, Nafisi said that it is one of the biggest 'full line' sup-

pliers to hotels and restaurants in Kuwait. He added that it was established in 1994 and became one Kuwait's largest suppliers to hotels, restaurants and catering companies. Moreover, Nafisi called for facilitating goods importing procedures in terms of customs and food testing labs in order to help improve the hotels and catering sector.

Horeca Kuwait 2017 is organized in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company under auspices of the Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salaman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. It takes place at Mishref International Fair grounds in the period of January 16-18, 2017.



Abdullah Al-Nafisi

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary

International

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016

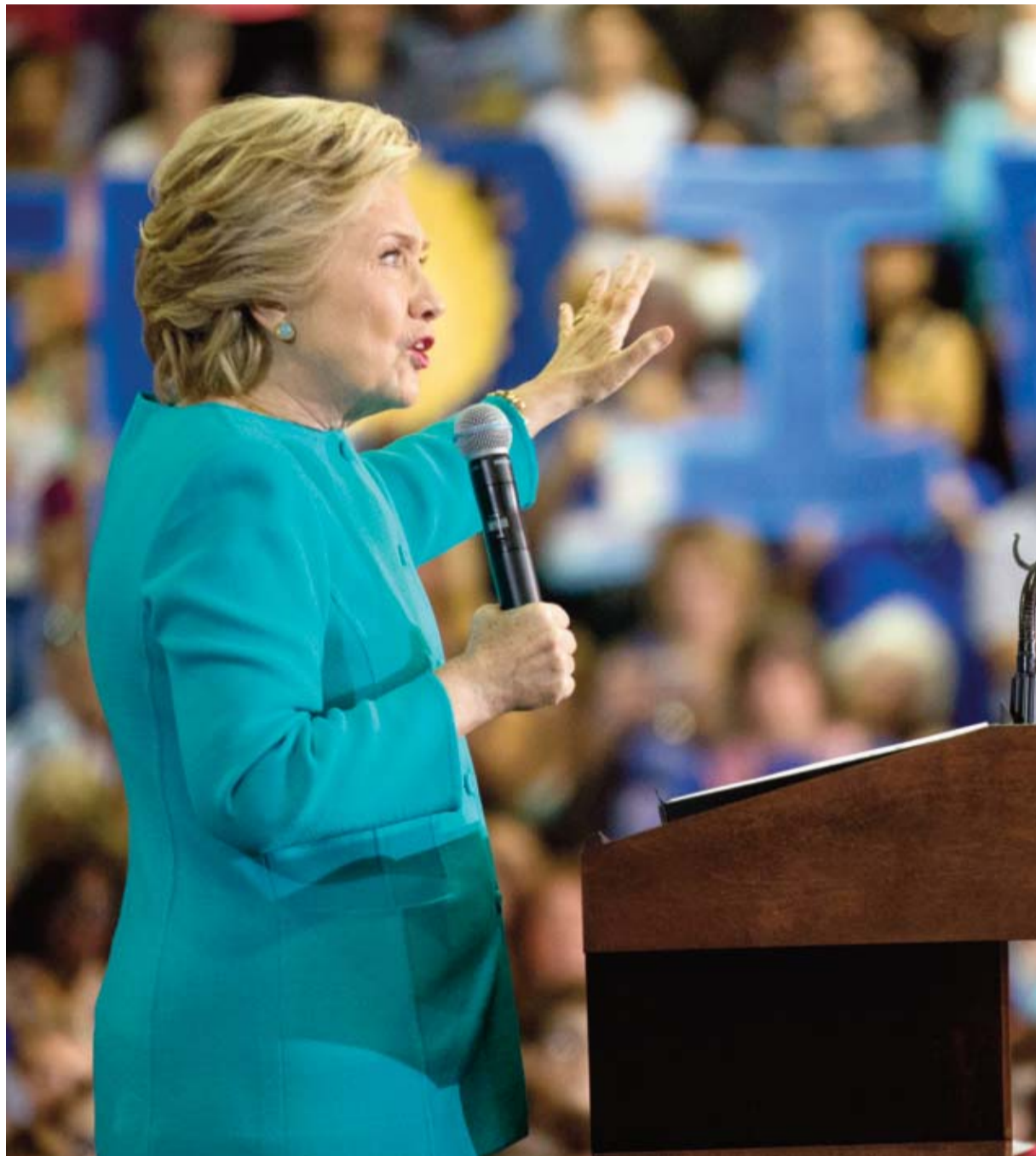


Hollande urges Britain to take 1,500 'Jungle' minors

PROTESTS PRESSURE S KOREA'S SCANDAL-HIT PRESIDENT

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FLORIDA: In this Oct 26, 2016 file photo, members of the audience hold signs that spell out "Florida" as Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a rally in Lake Worth. — AP



FLORIDA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives to speak to a campaign rally in Naples. — AP

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER OR FORGET FROM CAMPAIGN 2016

HISTORIC, AMUSING AND CRINGE-INDUCING EVENTS

WASHINGTON: Every presidential race has its big moments. This one, more than most. A look back at some of the historic, amusing and cringe-inducing events of Campaign 2016. There are plenty more where these came from. Play along at home and think about what you would add to the list.

Going down?

Donald Trump's long ride down the escalator at Trump Tower to announce his presidential bid in June 2015 wasn't huge news at the time. It only merited a page 16 story in his hometown newspaper, The New York Times. But his 45-minute speech laid out a road map for the next 500 days. It had denunciations of rapists from Mexico, the promise to build a border wall, complaints that the United States doesn't win anymore, assertions that the US should have taken Iraq's oil before the Islamic State group got it, criticism of President Barack Obama's health law, pledges to get lost jobs back from China and elsewhere, rants against "stupid" trade deals and many more themes Trump has hammered on ever since.

Raise your hand

Trump jolted the first Republican debate in August 2015 when he was the sole candidate among 10 men on the stage to raise his hand to signal he wouldn't pledge to support the eventual GOP nominee. The best he could offer: "I can totally make the pledge if I'm the nominee." (The GOP field was so crowded then that seven more Republican candidates were relegated to an undercard debate.) This was the same debate where Trump mixed it up with Fox News' Megyn Kelly over his history of intemperate comments about women, foreshadowing a running campaign theme. Trump answered Kelly's question about whether he was part of the "war on women" with a riff against political correctness.

Those 'damn emails'

Clinton got a gift from Bernie Sanders in the first Democratic debate in October 2015 when he seconded her dismay at all the focus on her use of a private email setup as secretary of state. "The American people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails," Sanders said. That took some air out of the controversy but it never fully went away.

Then in June, FBI Director James Comey announced he would not recommend charges against Clinton over the email issue, but said she and her aides had been "extremely careless" in handling classified information. The issue took on new life when the FBI announced just 11 days before the election that it was investigating whether there is classified information in newly discovered emails. Trump called it "bigger than Watergate."

Small hands

A Republican debate this past March strayed into cringe-inducing territory when Trump brought up GOP rival Marco Rubio's mocking reference to his "small hands" and then volunteered some reassurance about the size of his genitals. Trump told his debate audience and millions of TV viewers, "He referred to my hands, if they're small, something else must be small. I guarantee you, There's no problem, I guarantee." The arbiters of good taste had a problem with that.

Ceiling: Shattered

She wore white, the color of suffragettes. Clinton stood before voters at the Democrats' Philadelphia convention in July and at last claimed the presidential nomination of a major party for women. "I'm so happy this day has come," she told cheering supporters. "Happy for grandmothers and little girls and everyone in between. Happy for boys and men, too. Because when any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone." Clinton had finally shattered that "glass ceiling" she cracked in the 2008 campaign.

The 'deplorables'

Clinton drew laughter when she told supporters at a private fundraiser in September that half of Trump supporters could be lumped into a "basket of deplorables" - denouncing them as "racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic, you name it." No one was laughing when her remarks became public. Clinton did a partial rollback, saying she'd been "grossly generalistic" and regretted saying the label fit "half" Trump's supporters. But she didn't back down from the general sentiment, saying, "He has built his campaign largely on prejudice and paranoia and given a national platform to hateful views and voices." Soon enough, Trump had the video running in his campaign ads, and his supporters were wearing the "deplorable" label as a badge of honor.

A real stumble

There are always stumbles in a presidential campaign. Clinton took a real one in September when she became overheated while attending a 9/11 memorial service in New York. It turned out she was suffering from pneumonia, a condition she'd hidden from the public and most of her aides. That gave Trump an opening to press his case that Clinton lacks the "stamina" to be president. But she had a sharp rejoinder in the fall debate with Trump, saying: "As soon as he travels to 112 countries and negotiates a peace deal, a cease-fire, a release of dissidents, an opening of new opportunities in nations around the world or even spends 11 hours testifying in front of a congressional committee, he can talk to me about stamina."

'You can do anything'

Trump's living-large persona is part of his appeal for many people. But the leaked release in October of a 2005 video in which Trump boasted about groping women's genitals and kissing them without permission threw his campaign into crisis. Politicians in both parties denounced Trump and some said he should drop out of the race. Trump apologized, but wrote off his videotaped comments as mere "locker-room banter." He denied engaging in the kind of predatory activity he'd laughed about. But a string of women came forward to say he'd made unwanted sexual advances toward them.

Allegations

Trump toyed throughout the campaign with bringing up allegations about Bill Clinton's past sexual misconduct. Trump went there in a big way in October at the second presidential debate, seating three of the former president's accusers in the front row for the faceoff. "Bill Clinton was abusive to women," Trump said. "Hillary Clinton attacked those same women and attacked them viciously."

He wouldn't go there

As Trump's standing in the polls faltered, he cranked up his claims that the election was being rigged against him. Asked in the final presidential debate if he would accept the results of the election, Trump refused to go there. Pressed on the matter by

the debate moderator, Trump said: "I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense." It was a startling statement that raised uncertainty about the peaceful transfer of power after the election. Even the Republican National Committee disavowed Trump's statement. — AP

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IRAQ'S FOOD DELIVERY ARMY STAYS BEHIND THE FRONTLINES

FISHQEH: Abu Ahmed drove all night and half-way across Iraq to bring the meat stew and rice in the back of his pickup truck to fighters on the Mosul front lines. Seven hours after leaving the Shiite holy city of Najaf in a convoy, he stopped under a road sign saying the northern city of Mosul, the Islamic State group's last major stronghold in Iraq, was 59 kilometers away.

As he unloaded the food from his truck, Abu Ahmed, a white scarf wrapped around his head, said he had come to "bring his support" to the Iraqi forces that have been fighting on Mosul's southern front for two weeks. The convoys known as "mawakeb" have been relentlessly delivering food, water, juice, tea, clothes and other basic supplies to the fighters battling the jihadists

of the Islamic State (IS) group. "They are heroes who are sacrificing their lives for us, so we are supporting them in whatever way we can, such as by cooking for them," said another member of the convoy, Ryad Al-Attabi. The 42-year-old car dealer left his wife and children in Baghdad to spend a week behind the front lines, serving food to pro-government fighters. The mawakeb, a religious term that usually describes services volunteered to Shiite pilgrims, have become an informal but effective organization that forms an integral of the war effort.

In June 2014, the most revered Shiite cleric in the country, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, urged Iraqis to take up arms against IS, which had swept across the Sunni Arab heartland and was threatening Baghdad and Shiite holy cities in the

south. That call for jihad (holy war) saw the emergence of the Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation), a mix of volunteers and pre-existing Shiite militias that has played a key role in pushing back the jihadists. The paramilitary umbrella group has vowed to stay out of Mosul proper but on Saturday opened a new front by pushing toward Tal Afar, a town west of Mosul, with the aim of cutting off the city from Syria. The mawakeb are sometimes described as the civilian branch of the Hashed Al-Shaabi.

Food, clothes and cigarettes

On their vehicles, Sistani's portrait is everywhere. Some of the volunteers have his picture taped to their clothes or the back of their mobile phones. "Hashed is as much about fighting as it is

about serving the fighters," said Abu Ali Al-Akiali, who led the day's convoy to Fishqeh, south of Mosul. He said the massive delivery operation, which never seems to suffer from the same budgetary turbulence that affects the police and the army, was financed entirely by private donations.

"Day and night, these convoys are there for us," said Ali, a 30-year-old who said he joined the Hashed Al-Shaabi on the very day Sistani called for mass mobilization.

The services provided by the mawakeb are not restricted to members of the Hashed Al-Shaabi, an organization dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias often accused of sectarianism.

Hussein Ali, a 21-year-old deployed with the federal police in Fishqeh just a

handful of kilometers (miles) from the first IS positions, had just received a parcel for his unit. He listed the day's offerings: "Underwear, shoes, scarves, caps and even mobile phone top-up cards." "We collect things in our neighborhoods and bring every fighter some cigarettes, clothes and food," said Mohamed Settar, one of Ali's benefactors.

The engineer and father of two left Baghdad in the middle of the night: "Even a few kilometers from the front line, we're not afraid." All along the road, snaking through desolate villages recently retaken from the jihadists and dotted with charred car bomb carcasses, residents and fighters waved at the mawakeb, chanting religious slogans and shooting in the air as they drove on to their next delivery spot. — AFP

LEBANON TO ELECT PRESIDENT BUT DIVISIONS RUN DEEP

KEY POLITICAL BLOCS DISAGREE ON ALMOST EVERYTHING

BEIRUT: Lebanon's parliament is set to end more than two years of stalemate today by electing ex-general Michel Aoun as president, but the vote is unlikely to heal deep political divisions. Aoun, a Christian former army chief, is allied with the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah movement whose forces are fighting in Syria alongside President Bashar Al-Assad's government. But his election has been made possible by the surprise endorsement of former Prime Minister Saad Hariri, a fierce opponent of Syria's government and head of a bloc that is Hezbollah's key rival and has received regional support from Saudi Arabia.

So, while a deal has been made on the country's next president, analysts say Lebanon's key

political crisis, or the stagnant political institutions or the major divisions over domestic and foreign issues, particularly the war in Syria," she told AFP.

'No common ground'

Under a power-sharing agreement, Lebanon's presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian while the prime minister is a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of parliament is a Shiite Muslim. The presidency has been vacant since May 2014 when Michel Sleiman's mandate expired. Since then, parliament has held 45 failed sessions to elect a successor, each time failing to make quorum. Each session was boycotted by the 20 members of Aoun's parliamentary bloc who

divided polity with government institutions that have been impotent in the face of challenges including a garbage collection crisis. The economy meanwhile has struggled with regional and domestic instability and already strained resources have been tested by an influx of more than a million Syrian refugees.

"Given what we know from history and the profiles of the personalities that have come together and the overall political climate, nothing guarantees any progress from filling the vacancy," said Carol Sharabati, a political science professor at the Jesuit University in Beirut. "We're looking at an alliance of interest, in which each party has their demands. Aoun wants the presidency at any cost, and Hariri wants to rebuild his crumbling political bloc," added Sharabati. "Will the personal agendas of each party allow them to build a common, long-term strategy, given that their alliance is not formed on common ground?"

'Can't expect miracles'

Atrache said the agreement could not be described as a "political alliance," and said it would "prove difficult to maintain because they don't agree on how to share power." The track record of recent years does not bode well: the last government led by Hariri, between 2009 and 2011, was hamstrung by tensions with Hezbollah's bloc which eventually brought it down. And after going into self-imposed exile, Hariri's influence has waned domestically even as his personal finances have taken a hit because key backer Saudi Arabia is no longer willing to pump aid into Lebanon to shore up its influence.

Last time Hariri formed a government, it took five months, and the incumbent, Tamam Salam, spent 10 months crafting a national unity cabinet, which has nonetheless proved largely impotent. "We can't rule out the possibility that we'll have a president, a prime minister without a government and a suspended parliament" until the next legislative election, Sharabati said. Parliament has twice extended its mandate without holding elections because of disagreements over a new electoral law, with the next vote scheduled for mid-2017.

Parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who opposes Aoun's election, has already said he expects the formation of a new government to take five to six months. But even if a government is formed, it will be full of "contradictions, and the question is whether it will be able, even partially, to restore institutions and put them back on track," said Atrache. "We can't expect miracles." — AFP



BAABDA: A picture yesterday shows a detail of a room at the presidential palace in Baabda, on the outskirts of Beirut, two days before the parliament elects a new president for a non-renewable six-year term. — AFP

political blocs still disagree on almost everything else. Aoun is expected to nominate Hariri to return as prime minister, but with little consensus in the political landscape, the process of forming a government is likely to be long and arduous. "Aoun's election is not a magic wand," said Sahar Atrache, a researcher at the International Crisis Group think tank. "Certainly the presidential vacancy will end, but it doesn't

insisted he be elected, with Hezbollah also keeping its 13 members away as a show of support. Today's session is expected to involve two votes, with Aoun unlikely to win the two-thirds majority necessary to avoid a second round. The additional round only requires him to win a 50 percent plus one majority, which now looks assured. The vote is set to end a void that has been seen as a reflection of a broader malaise: a

US: SYRIAN REGIME USING STARVATION AS A WEAPON

WASHINGTON: The United States accused the Syrian regime Friday of using "starvation as a weapon of war"—a war crime under the Geneva Conventions—stepping up the rhetoric against Bashar al-Assad and his Russian backers. Rejecting the Kremlin claims that attacks on Aleppo have stopped, a US official told AFP "the regime has rejected UN requests to deliver aid to Eastern Aleppo using starvation as a weapon of war."

The language mirrors the Geneva Conventions' prohibition against starving civilians "as a method of warfare." Aleppo's quarter of a million residents have been besieged and bombarded for months, prompting international outcry. Washington is currently weighing further sanctions against Syria and a push for justice at

the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Officials hope that Russian President Vladimir Putin may rethink his country's participation in a war that has seen chemical weapons and barrel bombs used against civilians, if Russia is seen as an international pariah. Earlier Friday Russia failed to win re-election to the UN Human Rights Commission, a serious diplomatic blow.

"We are taking steps, whether its ramping up public pressure or other forms of pressure," a second senior Obama administration official told AFP. "We are still looking at the whole arsenal of tools to make them feel the weight of international criticism, not saying that in and of itself is going to work." "But we have some indication that they don't want to be viewed the Russians in particular-as being guilty of war crimes."

"We've also spoken about forms of international accountability when it comes to Russian and regime actions."

The Kremlin said Friday that Putin did not think it was time to resume air strikes on Aleppo after the defense ministry requested that a moratorium on bombing be lifted. Syrian rebels launched a major assault Friday aimed at linking opposition-held districts with the outside world. But a US official gave the Kremlin's claim short shrift. "Despite Russia's claims, attacks by the regime and its backers have continued in Aleppo," the official said. "We continue to look at Russia's actions not their words to determine if Russia is meeting their claims about their military intervention on behalf of the Assad regime." — AFP



HASS: This frame grab from video provided by Muaz Al-Shami, Syrian Revolution Network, an opposition activist media organization, that is consistent with independent AP reporting, shows children pulled by an adult after airstrikes killed over 20 people, mostly children, in the northern rebel-held village. — AP



ADEN: A member of Yemeni security forces stands guard at the site where a suicide car bomb exploded next to the central bank. — AFP

GUARDS STOP ATTACK ON YEMEN CENTRAL BANK

ADEN: Guards thwarted a suicide attack on the Yemeni central bank yesterday opening fire on the bomber's vehicle and blowing it up before it reached the building, a security official said. The central bank has been based in the government-controlled second city of Aden since last month, when President Abedabbo Mansour Hadi ordered its relocation from the rebel-held capital Sanaa accusing the rebels of running down its foreign reserves.

Five guards were wounded when the bomber's vehicle blew up around 30 meters from the bank building, the security official told AFP. The force of the blast shattered the bank's windows and caused damage to other nearby buildings. The bank's relocation has been a major blow to the rebels, forcing them to halt salary payments to state employees in the large areas of the country they control.

The move came after a UN report released in August found that the rebels and their allies were diverting about \$100 million a month from the central bank, and that its foreign reserves had dwindled to \$1.3 billion from about \$4 billion in November 2014. A Saudi-led coalition has been fighting the rebels alongside Hadi's forces since March last year but his writ is still largely confined to the south and areas along the Saudi border. Government targets in Aden have also been repeatedly hit by jihadists of both Al-Qaeda and its rival the Islamic State group. The two groups have taken advantage of the conflict between the government and the rebels to bolster their presence across much of the south.

Coalition strikes kill 17 Yemen civilians

Meanwhile, air strikes by the Saudi-led

coalition fighting rebels in Yemen killed 17 civilians in a battleground southwestern town yesterday, the insurgents said. Rescuers were still pulling bodies from the rubble after the raids hit residential buildings in Salo southeast of Yemen's third city Ta'ez, rebel-controlled media said, giving a toll of 17 dead and seven wounded.

Most of those killed were women, sabanews.net said, reporting four strikes hit three residential buildings, "completely destroying them". A doctor at the town's public hospital said it had received the bodies of 15 dead and was treating seven wounded. There was no immediate comment from the coalition, which launched a military campaign against the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and their allies in March last year to support President Abedabbo Mansour Hadi's government. But a local Yemeni official loyal to the Saudi-backed government said the coalition air strikes had hit three adjacent homes by mistake.

"All those in the houses were killed," he told AFP, adding that a child and seven women were among the dead. The coalition has come under mounting international criticism for the high civilian death toll from its bombing campaign. An October 8 strike that killed more than 140 people attending a funeral ceremony for the father of a rebel leader in the capital Sanaa drew condemnation even from close Western allies. The coalition launched a swift investigation into that attack and acknowledged that one of its warplanes had "wrongly targeted" the funeral based on "incorrect information". It announced disciplinary measures, compensation for the families of victims and allowed the most seriously wounded to be evacuated on board an Omani flight. — Agencies

ARMED MEN BURN DOWN GIRLS' SCHOOL IN NORTH AFGHANISTAN

MAZAR-I-SHARIF: Armed men have burned down a girls' school in northern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, with police blaming the Taliban for the assault as the militants expand their foothold across the country. The attackers burst into the school in northern Jawzjan province on Friday night, beat up the security guards and set the building on fire, a local government official told AFP.

"The armed men entered the school at around 10 pm, beat the guards and set chairs, books and classes ablaze," the provincial governor's spokesman, Reza Ghafouri, said.

"They also warned that the girls should not be allowed in the school again," he said, adding that around 500 girls were attending the school. Local police said the Taliban were behind the attack, adding that an investigation was

underway to find the perpetrators.

"They were Taliban, they have burnt schools in this area in the past," the provincial deputy police chief, Abdul Hafiz Khasheh, said. The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 when they were ousted by a US-led invasion, opposed girls' education during their reign. Millions of girls began attending school after the Taliban were toppled from power. But as the militants ramp up their 15-year insurgency against the Western-backed government, educational facilities, students and teachers have repeatedly come under attack. More than 300 schools have been destroyed in the last two months, largely at the hands of the Taliban as fighting intensifies across the country, according to a government spokesman. No one has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack so far. — AFP

ROUHANI WARNS OF 'TERRORIST GOVERNMENTS' ACROSS REGION

TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned against the threat of "terrorist governments" being established in the Middle East and North Africa, during a visit by EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini yesterday. "The terrorist actions in Syria and Iraq are a serious threat to the world.

If there is not a serious battle against terrorism in the region, we will see several terrorist governments and entities" established in the Middle East and North Africa, said Rouhani, according to the presidency's website. The Islamic State jihadist group has spread from its bases in Syria and Iraq

to gain a significant foothold in Libya, and has also carried out attacks in Algeria and Egypt.

Mogherini also met with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif during her visit to Tehran for "high-level talks" on the Syria crisis. The EU official, who was due to fly on to Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia, was quoted by local media as saying the EU "needed the cooperation of Iran, a key power for solving the region's problems". Rouhani called on the European Union to put pressure on regional powers to cut support to rebel groups in Syria. — AFP

'BRIDGEGATE' TRIAL SPOTLIGHTS TRUMP ALLY, 'BULLY' CHRISTIE

NEWARK: Trailing in the polls and reeling from scandal, the Trump campaign is being further embarrassed by a trial portraying a key ally, Republican Governor Chris Christie, as a "bully" and his aides as criminals. Federal prosecutors wrapped up their case Friday in a six-week trial accusing former aides of the New Jersey governor of unlawfully forcing a major traffic jam on the world's busiest bridge to punish a Democratic mayor for refusing to endorse their boss's re-election bid in 2013.

Thousands were affected in the town of Fort Lee, with children prevented from going to school and emergency response times seriously delayed when Christie aides cut traffic down to a solitary lane on the George Washington Bridge in September 2013, prosecutors said. The scandal was lampooned by Bruce Springsteen on a late night chat show and ultimately cost Christie his then-status as a leading Republican hope in the 2016 White House race. The trial has spotlighted a bruising political climate among some of those closest to Christie, who is now the chairman of Donald Trump's transition team should the New York billionaire win the White House next month. Defense lawyer Michael Baldassare told the court Friday that the 54-year-old governor was a "bully" and a micromanager who "mistreated" his then deputy chief of staff, Bridget Kelly, who is now in the dock.

Kelly and Bill Baroni, whom Christie appointed deputy executive director at the Port Authority, which operates the bridge, pleaded not guilty to nine counts. A third Christie aide, David Wildstein, has already pled guilty. "Bill Baroni, Bridget Kelly and David Wildstein shared an intense commitment to the political success of Governor Chris Christie," prosecutor Lee Cortes told the federal court in his summation.

Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich, a Democrat, was deliberately punished after it became apparent that he would not endorse Christie's ultimately successful re-

election bid, he said. Their "cruel and callous" scheme "disrupted and endangered the lives of thousands," the assistant US attorney added in Newark, New Jersey.

Political revenge

They "chose personal and political revenge over public safety," and repeated entreaties for help from the Fort Lee mayor fell on deaf ears as they ignored his voice messages, calls and emails, Cortes said. The trio used government money, resources and employees "just to mess with people so they could send a clear and nasty message. That ladies and gentlemen is what makes it a federal crime," Cortes said.

The case rests on a trail of emails, text messages and phone calls between the three aides, which paint an unsavory picture of the climate in the governor's orbit. Kelly was one of Christie's senior advisers, who saw him daily, sat 20 feet away from his office and was "the eyes and ears of the Christie administration," Cortes said. Wildstein, the court heard, was a bruiser handpicked by Christie to deliver tough messages to political opponents.

"Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee," Kelly wrote in one email to Wildstein. To cover up the crime, they claimed the lane closures were part of a traffic study, which the prosecution called a sham. "Is it wrong that I am smiling?" Kelly wrote in a text message to Wildstein when told about Sokolich's complaints. Baroni's lawyer Baldassare savaged Wildstein's reliability as a witness and said his client acted in good faith, believing there was a traffic study and trusted Wildstein, who was a close friend.

Kelly's lawyer will sum up Monday. Prosecutors will be allowed to rebut before the jury retires to deliberate. Christie was the first heavyweight establishment Republican to endorse Trump, the maverick New York billionaire trailing frontrunner Hillary Clinton in the US election on November 8. — AFP



CEDAR RAPIDS: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally. — AP

TRUMP GIVES \$10 MILLION, STILL SHORT ON INVESTMENT PROMISE

AUSTRALIAN MISS UNIVERSE DEFENDS TRUMP

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has repeatedly said he will spend \$100 million or more of his own money on his presidential bid. Yet even with a fresh donation, he is \$34 million short of that promise. The Republican nominee gave his campaign another \$10 million, a Federal Election Commission report filed late Friday showed. At rallies earlier in the day, he told supporters he'd contributed anew. "Boy, am I spending a lot of my money," he said in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

He has now made a personal investment of about \$66 million over the course of the primary and general elections. The latest infusion comes as Democrat Hillary Clinton hold a striking cash advantage over Trump, FEC reports filed Thursday show. As of last week, Clinton and her Democratic partners had \$153 million in the bank, more than double the resources as on the Trump side.

Trump, a New York businessman who says he is worth billions of dollars, invested heavily throughout his GOP primary race. Then, during the general election, he slowed his personal contributions to about \$2 million per month. Trump's giving has been tied to email appeals to his supporters, promising to "match" their donations up to \$2 million.

He stopped making those solicitations through most of October, according to Tom Sather, senior director of research at the email data solutions firm Return Path. The firm tracks every email from political candidates. Trump's campaign recently resumed the "matching" solicitations. "I will TRIPLE MATCH any amount you can contribute today," stated an email message to his supporters.

The new gift represents the most that Trump has put into his bid since the month of March, when he loaned his campaign \$11.5 million.

Trump later zeroed out all of his loans, converting them into contributions that cannot be repaid. His personal investment shrinks when accounting for about \$9 million in campaign cash that has returned to his family and businesses. That money has largely gone to the holding company of his private jet, but the campaign also paid for rent at Trump Tower, catering at his restaurants and even the Trump Ice bottled water that has popped up at his events.

And Trump's Friday aid follows weeks where Clinton actually chipped in more than he did to cover political expenses. In the first 19 days of the month, Clinton herself offset \$87,000 worth of campaign expenses while Trump covered about \$33,000 of his. Trump gave about \$31,000 through the first 19 days of October, the period covered in the filing released Thursday, all of which went to cover rent and payroll. Trump also gave an additional \$2,600 on Oct. 20, other filings show. Trump has said repeatedly, during rallies and media interviews, that he will spend \$100 million of his own money. In a CNN interview on Wednesday, he said he was "prepared to go much higher than that."

During a Friday rally in Manchester, New Hampshire, he lightly revised his words, saying he would give "maybe close to or over" the \$100 million mark. "There's something nice about that," Trump said of his personal campaign contributions - quickly adding that it wouldn't be so nice if he lost the election after spending so much.

Australian Miss Universe speaks out

Meanwhile, an Australian former Miss Universe said yesterday that Donald Trump had always treated her with respect after a video emerged of an embarrassing exchange between the pair in Sydney in 2011. Jennifer

Hawkins won the pageant in 2004, when it was owned by Trump. Trump, now the Republican presidential nominee, accuses her in the video as he addresses 10,000 people at the National Achievers Congress in Sydney of initially refusing to introduce him. She blames a "miscommunication" with her management.

The video, released by Huffington Post, shows Hawkins raising her forearm between she and Trump as Trump kisses her on the cheek. He gets laughs from the crowd with a double entendre and she tells Trump that he has embarrassed her before leaving the stage. Hawkins, who Trump has described as his favorite Miss Universe, is a successful businesswoman who has praised Trump as an inspiration. "Donald and his family, I have to say, have always been respectful to me, and that's all I can really say," the 32-year-old said in Melbourne on Saturday as she was questioned by media in her role as an Australian department store ambassador. "I've seen what's been going on in the news, but really what is there for me to say other than that he respected me during that time in my life and I have a lot of respect for him because of that," she added, referring to the 2004 pageant.

Hawkins has canceled media interviews since early October, when video emerged of Trump engaged in vulgar conversation about women before an "Access Hollywood" appearance in 2005. Trump told the Sydney audience in September 2011 that he had prepared to denigrate Hawkins in his speech if she had not turned up to introduce him. He said Hawkins owed him for her success. "Get even with people. If they screw you, screw them back 10 times as hard and I'll give you an example: Jennifer Hawkins," Trump said. Hawkins' management did not respond to a request from The Associated Press for comment. — Agencies



NEW JERSEY: In this Nov 3, 2012, file photo, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie comforts Kerri Berean, a resident of an area flooded by a tidal surge on the Hackensack River during Superstorm Sandy, while visiting Little Ferry. — AP

ELECTION EXPOSES GENERATIONAL DIVIDE IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

PUEBLO: Donald Trump's rhetoric on immigration is testing a long-term trend among Hispanics: Members of a family that has been in the country for multiple generations and uses primarily English are more likely to vote Republican than those who more recently arrived in the United States. The number of Latinos in the United States is growing, making them a key demographic group whose votes are coveted by both major parties. While traditionally they vote for Democrats, that support isn't ironclad.

Leo Lopez's father, who came to the United States from Mexico in the 1980s, is a Democrat and firm Hillary Clinton supporter. But Lopez himself, an accounting student at the state university in this heavily Hispanic, blue-collar town, is leaning toward Trump. "I'm kind of scoping them all out," Lopez said at a recent Donald Trump rally here. "Trump's tax plan would help me out more."

Ninety percent of Hispanics who primarily speak Spanish identify as Democrats, but of those who mostly use English that number drops to 59 percent, according to a Pew Hispanic Center survey released earlier this month. Those English-dominant voters are by no means leaving the Democratic Party in droves, however. Overall, Clinton leads among Latino voters by nearly 3-1. But of Latino Trump supporters, 83 percent are U.S.-born. A similar pattern was seen in 2012, when Hispanics who mainly speak Spanish supported Barack Obama over Mitt Romney by a whopping margin of 59 percentage points. English-speaking Latinos still overwhelmingly supported the president, but the margin dropped to 40 points. "For them the issues of immigration are much closer," Mark Hugo Lopez of the Pew Hispanic Center said of first- and second-generation Hispanic Americans, who tend to be poorer than longer-established families. By contrast, English-dominant Latinos are usually wealthier and consume less Spanish-language media. The great exception is among Cuban-Americans. First-generation immigrants from Cuba lean Republican - their politics are partly defined by their flight from a communist country - but their children are more likely to vote Democratic.

Immigration issues

As immigration from Latin America slows, an increasing percentage of

Hispanics are US-born, but how those people vote is an open question. "It's not a single bloc that will forever be tied to one party," Lopez said. "You might see Americans in 50 years who say, 'Yes, I have a Mexican heritage, but I don't consider myself Mexican or Hispanic - I'm American.'" But Trump's harsh words against immigrants could turn American-born Latinos against the Republican Party by making even them feel unwelcome.

"If you're going to force someone to vote on their ethnicity, they will," said Sylvia Manzano of the polling group Latino Decisions. "Latino voters who voted against Mitt Romney did so on health care and the economy but didn't think, 'This guy hates people like me.' This thing with Trump is a qualitatively different animal." The dynamic is on display in Pueblo, a city of 100,000 in southern Colorado that is 44 percent Hispanic.

Pueblo is an anomaly in generally affluent Colorado - a downscale slice of Rust Belt on the high plains, a heavily unionized steel town that for decades was a Democratic bastion but has been trending Republican. Many of its Latino residents trace their ancestry back centuries, to when the area was part of Mexico. While many have been considering Republican candidates, voting for Trump is a bridge too far for some.

"He's a racist. He's anti-everything but white," said Dario Madrid, a 66-year-old retired cook who has voted for Republicans in the past but will vote for Clinton. That view is far from unanimous. Alison Valdez, 41, brought her 10-year-old son, David, and newborn daughter, Olive, to see Trump speak in downtown Pueblo earlier this month. She liked his views on subjecting immigrants to what he calls "extreme vetting" to weed out terrorists. "San Bernardino, that did it for me," Valdez said, referring to the December 2015 attack that claimed 13 lives. "Keeping America safe is No 1."

Valdez and many other Pueblo residents said their families, all of which have been in the country for multiple generations, are torn in this election. Valdez said she and her 11 siblings are all over the map on the campaign. Erin Ruiz's family is also divided. The high school teacher is a Clinton supporter but she, too, avoids discussing politics around family or even at local coffee shops. "There's no conversation between the two sides," Ruiz said. — AP

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE OF TRANSGENDER BATHROOM POLICY

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court will take up transgender rights for the first time in the case of a Virginia school board that wants to prevent a transgender teenager from using the boys' bathroom at his high school. The justices said Friday they will hear the appeal from the Gloucester County school board sometime next year. The high court's order means that student Gavin Grimm will not be able to use the boys' bathroom in the meantime.

The court could use the case to resolve similar disputes across the country, said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "Obviously, for transgender people, the stakes of this case are incredibly high. Whatever the court rules in Grimm may ensure that transgender people are accepted and included as equal members of our society, or it may relegate them to outsiders for decades to come," Minter said. A lower court had ordered the school board to accommodate Grimm, but the justices in August put that order on hold while they considered whether to hear the

appeal. Grimm, a 17-year-old high school senior, was born female but identifies as male. He was allowed to use the boys' restroom at his high school for several weeks in 2014.

But after some parents complained, the school board adopted a policy requiring students to use either the restroom that corresponds with their biological gender or a private, single-stall restroom. Grimm is backed by the Obama administration in his argument that the policy violates Title IX, a federal law that bars sex discrimination in schools.

"I never thought that my restroom use would ever turn into any kind of national debate," Grimm said in a statement issued after the court announced it will hear his case. "The only thing I ever asked for was the right to be treated like everyone else. While I'm disappointed that I will have to spend my final school year being singled out and treated differently from every other guy, I will do everything I can to make sure that other transgender students don't have to go through the same experience."



GLOUCESTER: In this Aug 22, 2016 file photo, transgender high school student Gavin Grimm poses. — AP

Gloucester County school board chairman Troy Andersen praised the court for agreeing to hear what he called a difficult case. "The board looks forward to explaining to the Court that its restroom and locker room policy carefully balances the interests of all students and parents in the Gloucester County school system," Andersen said. The Education Department says transgender students should be allowed to use restrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identities. Among the issues in the case is whether the department's guidance should have the force of law.

Pending lawsuits

Similar lawsuits are pending around the country. The Obama administration has sued North Carolina over a state law aimed at restricting transgender students to bathrooms that correspond to their biological genders. A federal judge in Texas has sided with Texas and 12 other states in issuing a nationwide hold on the administration's directive to public schools, issued in May. The directive tells schools to allow transgender students to use the bathroom and locker room consistent with their gender identity. The case probably will be heard in the winter, and it is by no means certain that there will be a ninth justice to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February. Senate Republicans have refused to act on Judge Merrick Garland's nomination to the high court. A tie vote would be a victory for Grimm, who won in the lower courts, but would leave the issue unresolved nationally.

The Supreme Court split 5 to 3 in August to put the court order in Grimm's case on hold. At the time, Justice Stephen Breyer said he was providing a fifth vote to go along with the four more conservative justices to "preserve the status quo" until the court decided whether to weigh in. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissented. Grimm had urged the court not to take up his case. The school board asked the court to settle the matter now. It said that allowing Grimm to use the boys restroom raises privacy concerns and may cause some parents to pull their children out of school. — AP

SPAIN ON VERGE OF ENDING 10-MONTH POLITICAL CRISIS

MADRID: Spain turns the page on a 10-month political crisis yesterday as lawmakers ready to vote the conservatives back in power, although at the head of a government with unprecedented opposition. Aided by divisions among his rivals, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is widely expected to win a crunch parliamentary confidence vote yesterday evening which will see him officially reappointed as Spanish leader.

In a sign of how deep the divisions run, former Socialist chief Pedro Sanchez, a staunch opponent of Rajoy who was ousted in a party rebellion this month, announced he was quitting parliament just hours before the vote in a tearful media appearance. At the same time, protesters unhappy about corruption and sweeping spending cuts during Rajoy's first term are set to take to the streets, fearing his new government will be more of the same.

Socialists torn apart

Party leaders this week appeared far from conciliatory as the confidence vote neared and came out fighting, criticising Rajoy and each other just as they did

over 10 months as the country went through two inconclusive elections. This unstable period saw Spain go from jubilant hope after polls last December ended the two-party system as millions voted for two upstart parties, to disillusion following repeat polls in June that yielded similar inconclusive results.

Rajoy's Popular Party (PP) won both elections but without enough parliamentary seats to govern alone. As no political grouping was able to agree on a viable coalition, Spain looked set for unprecedented third elections in less than a year. This all changed last week when the Socialists swallowed a bitter pill and opted to abstain in yesterday's confidence vote to avoid more polls, after weeks of bitter in-fighting that saw Sanchez ousted as leader.

This gives Rajoy, the official prime ministerial candidate, enough traction to see him through the vote. In retaliation, Sanchez announced yesterday he had resigned as lawmaker, unable to choose between going against his principles and abstaining, or going against his party and voting no to Rajoy. In an announcement just hours before the

vote, the 44-year-old emphasised "how painful the decision was" before breaking down and choking back tears.

'Turbulent' term

Unlike when he came to power in 2011 with an absolute majority, Rajoy's party will only have 137 out of 350 seats in parliament and will face huge opposition, forcing him to negotiate every bill. First on his list will be a 2017 budget, which may need at least five billion euros (\$5.5 billion) in spending cuts to reduce the deficit under EU pressure. But this is likely to face stiff opposition both in parliament and on the street, and already Rajoy's rivals have pledged to vote against it. Rajoy, meanwhile, has called on the opposition to let him govern effectively, pointing to the return to growth and drop in unemployment under his watch after a devastating economic crisis, and the necessity to keep this going. Political analyst Pablo Simon said there was "no doubt" his term in office would be the most "turbulent" ever in Spain and could prompt Rajoy to call early elections if he keeps hitting brick walls. But he predicted Rajoy may not have quite as hard a ride as



MADRID: Former leader of the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE), Pedro Sanchez leaves a press conference announcing his resignation as parliament deputy, as lawmakers ready to vote the conservative Popular party back in power at the Spanish Congress. — AFP

expected. The Socialists, for one, will need time to rebuild in the opposition and will not want early elections, knowing they would fare badly after their very public

breakdown. The PP also has a majority in the Senate, and may be able to form pacts with smaller parties in the lower house to see laws through, Simon added. — AFP



CALAIS: Young migrants walk through the debris of the "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais, northern France, on October 29, 2016, during a massive operation to clear the squalid settlement where 6,000-8,000 people have been living in dire conditions. — AFP

HOLLANDE URGES BRITAIN TO TAKE 1,500 'JUNGLE' MINORS

DIGGERS MOVE IN TO CLEAR DEBRIS OF MAKESHIFT DWELLINGS

DOUE-LA-FONTAINE: French President Francois Hollande yesterday urged Britain to take in 1,500 unaccompanied minors from Calais' "Jungle" as officials stepped up efforts to finish demolishing the almost-deserted migrant camp. Hailing the evacuation of the sprawling encampment, Hollande vowed that France would not accept the emergence of any more makeshift camps, which have become a glaring symbol of Europe's worst migration crisis since World War II. He pledged youngsters left at a container camp near the site would be "very quickly dispatched" to reception centers, with the hope that they would eventually be taken in by Britain. "We had to rise to the challenge of the refugee issue. We could not tolerate the camp and we will not tolerate any others," he said while visiting a reception centre in Doue-la-Fontaine in western France. "There are 1,500 unaccompanied minors left in Calais and they will be very quickly dispatched to other (reception) centers," he added. Hollande said he had spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May to ensure that British officials would "accompany these minors to these centres and would play their part in subsequently welcoming them to the United Kingdom."

Meanwhile on the ground, three huge diggers moved in to clear the debris of makeshift dwellings in the northern section of the camp which until Tuesday had been home to between 6,000 and 8,000 migrants. Many tents and shacks had been ravaged as huge fires ripped

through the camp on Wednesday. Around a dozen riot police trucks were posted at the camp's entrance, where skips were in place to take away piles of debris. Officials hope to complete the clearance by Monday night and on Saturday morning there was little sign of life save for workmen and police.

French MPs appeal to London

In Paris, more than 100 leftwing lawmakers sent a letter to British Home Secretary Amber Rudd, calling on her government to "immediately" take in unaccompanied minors from the Jungle who want to rejoin relatives in the UK.

The letter, a copy of which was sent to AFP by the deputy president of the National Assembly, Sandrine Mazetier, said 1,500 unaccompanied minors had been placed in safety in the provisional reception centre—a container camp—in Calais. "(They) are not seeking any favours: they have the right, in line with current international regulations and British law, to go to Britain. Their transfer to Britain is urgent. We ask you to take your responsibilities and assume your moral duty by immediately organizing their arrival." Britain's Help Refugees charity estimated that as of late Friday there remained over 1,000 unaccompanied children living in the container camp. Since mid-October, Britain has taken in 274 children from the Jungle, mostly youngsters with relatives already living in the country. Children who had been told they were headed for Britain to join family there were get-

ting ready on Saturday, hoping to be on their way later in the day.

New arrivals in Paris

Migrants, mainly from Afghanistan, Sudan and Eritrea, had flocked to the camp near the northern port of Calais in the hope of making it across the Channel to Britain. Clare Moseley, founder of British charity Care4Calais, expressed concern for those who had been evacuated. "We are worried about what happens next—there will be multitude of small camps where conditions are even worse than in the Jungle," she said.

Many Calais locals also fear the Jungle will simply spring back up again once the current clearance operation is over. In a separate development, officials said that more than 2,000 migrants were sleeping on the streets of northern Paris, with Hollande pledging that these new arrivals would also be evacuated. "Those who have gone to Paris are not people who have come from Calais. There are perhaps a few. However there was a new migration wave of people coming from Libya in recent weeks and months who have headed for Paris," he said.

"We are going to do the same as we did in Calais," the French leader said, meaning makeshift camps in Paris would be evacuated. "I have been perfectly clear: those who have a right to claim asylum will go to welcome and orientation centers, and those who don't will be shown the door," he said, referring to their imminent deportation. — AFP

ICELAND'S 'PIRATES' EYEING POWER AFTER PANAMA PAPERS SCANDAL

REYKJAVIK: Icelanders voted yesterday in a snap election that could see the anti-establishment Pirate Party form the next government in the wake of the Panama Papers tax-dodging scandal and lingering anger over the 2008 financial meltdown. Voters are expected to punish the incumbent coalition after the Panama Papers revealed a global tax evasion scandal that ensnared several senior politicians and forced former prime minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson to resign.

Although the current government of the conservative Independence Party and the centrist Progressive Party survived the scandal, it promised a snap election six months before the end of its term in spring 2017. Prime Minister Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson, who is also the chairman of the Progressive Party, was one of the first people to vote when the polling station opened in the small Icelandic village of Fludir. "I'm optimistic. We have found for the last days that a lot of people are coming to us," Johannsson told AFP. But three separate polls released a day before the vote showed that the Pirate Party, founded in 2012 by activists, anarchists and former hackers, could win up to 21 percent of the vote and the Left-Green movement up to 16.8 percent.

Each of the polls, conducted by the University of Iceland, research company MMR and Gallup, indicate the incumbent conservative coalition government would most likely be voted out. "We're losing support (because of) the big anti-establishment (feeling)," Independence Party MP Birgir Arnmannsson said.

Fight against corruption

Final election results will be released shortly after polling stations close, but because no party is expected to win a majority, Iceland's fate will only be known after coalition negotiations. The latest wave of a global movement against establishment politics, seen in the US with onetime presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, the Five Star Movement in Italy, and the upstart Podemos party in Spain, the Pirate Party could become the parliament's second largest group. "I'm looking for some changes. The system... is not all bad," said Helgi Mar Gunnarsson, a 54-year-old designer, adding that decision-making should be more transparent. The people of Iceland should be "more involved," he told AFP. The Pirates, who campaign for trans-

parency and the fight against corruption, could form the nation's second centre-left government since Iceland's independence from Denmark in 1944. The Social Democrats and Greens ruled in a coalition between 2009-2013.

The Pirate Party reached a pre-election agreement with three other leftist and centrist opposition parties, including the Left-Greens, the Social Democrats and the Bright Future Movement, to form a coalition government. "We think that these parties can cooperate very well... I think it will be a very feasible governmental choice," Katrin Jakobsdottir, leader of the Left-Green movement told AFP.

'I want change'

Iceland, a volcanic island with a population of 332,000, has returned to prosperity since its 2008 financial meltdown. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth is expected to be above four percent this year thanks to tourism revenues and a recovering financial system. Still, young people do not trust the nation's traditional political parties. The crisis eight years ago saw Iceland's three biggest banks and its oversized financial sector collapse, while the country was forced to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund. A string of bankers were jailed, the failed banks were temporarily nationalized and then sold, and foreign investors had to accept write-downs on their debt holdings. Olafur Hardarson, professor of political science at the University of Iceland, attributed the Pirates' rise in popularity to voters' anger at the 2008 meltdown.

"They have managed to focus on the anti-politics and anti-establishment feelings of a lot of voters (who) have been frustrated in Iceland since the bank crash," Hardarson told AFP. But several months ago, the Pirates had almost twice the support the latest polls have shown, according to Icelandic newspaper Morgunblaðid. The fall in popularity may have been caused by internal disputes within the party, the paper added. "The Pirates are in fact a rather loose alliance of people who are mainly united in their opposition to traditional politics and the system," the newspaper said. Still, Einar Hannesson, 42, said he would be voting for the Pirates because they offered change. "I want change. I don't like everything that the Pirates are proposing, but if we want change, it's the best party," he said. — AFP



REYKJAVIK: Birgitta Jonsdottir of the Pirate Party (Pirater) casts her vote at a polling station. — AP

FORGET UKRAINIAN: SCHOOLS DROP CLASSES IN REBEL AREA

DONETSK: Valeriya Turbay says she's forgetting how to speak Ukraine's official language as schoolchildren in the bastion of the pro-Russian rebels get fewer lessons after two years of war and an onslaught of Kremlin-inspired instruction. Ukrainian is the main teaching language in schools across the bulk of the country controlled by pro-Western Kiev since the historic February 2014 ouster of a Russian-backed regime. But in rebel-held eastern Ukraine—where most people know both languages but usually speak Russian—schools now teach just one Ukrainian language and literature lesson per week. "There is so little Ukrainian spoken that I am literally starting to forget it," says 16-year-old Turbay.

Schools in the region used to teach two to five hours a week of Ukrainian classes. Now they have

doubled the number of Russian language and literature classes since the insurgency began in April 2014. Ukrainian patriotism is demonised in the east while Russian and separatist ideology is the norm in classrooms full of youngsters caught up in the geopolitical conflict.

"There have been some serious changes to our region," says Donetsk high school student Andrei Trubetsky. "And so we have seen the Ukrainian language and literature become a kind of political victim," he tells AFP. Trubetsky comes to school dressed in the same camouflage fatigues as his rebel fighter father and says he is in fact proud of the shift toward Russian in his classroom. "We have been helped by Russia," Trubetsky says. "They have shipped in some very good school books."

'History of the Donbass'

Moscow brushes off Kiev and its Western allies' charges of backing the insurgents in the conflict, which has claimed nearly 10,000 lives since it broke out more than two years ago following Russia's annexation of Crimea. Rebel forces, which Kiev estimates number some 40,000, have carved out an unofficial state in the industrial heartland of east Ukraine. Monitors from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said in a September report that "instead of Ukrainian history, these schools teach the history of the Donbass"—another name for the industrial region. Regional schools and colleges have swapped old textbooks for ones printed in Russian. The last official census conducted in Ukraine in 2001 showed that three-quarters of those living in the Donetsk region were Russian speak-

ers. But the country has since undergone a profound transformation and some recent studies show a more even split in the Donbass.

Secret Ukrainian lessons

Teachers of Ukrainian language and literature have to undergo retraining in order to be able to lead classes in Russian and keep their jobs. But some parents are secretly hiring private tutors who can brush up their children's Ukrainian skills. The Russian and Ukrainian languages have the same Slavic roots but are different enough that they are not always mutually comprehensible. A 43-year-old history teacher, who agreed to be identified only as Igor for security reasons, says most of those who ask him to tutor their children in Ukrainian harbor hopes of one day escaping the rebel zones. — AFP

SWISS WOMAN HELD IN SPAIN FOR HOLDING KIDS CAPTIVE

MADRID: Spanish police said yesterday they had detained a Swiss woman who allegedly kept her children captive for seven years, threatening to kill them if they ever tried to get help. The children, now 17 and 15, had never gone to school during their time in the southeastern province of Alicante and had hardly been allowed assistance when ill, the Guardia Civil police force said.

"The minor's signatures during police proceedings were exactly the same as those on their Swiss ID cards from seven years ago, the writing looks like that of a small child who has not developed his writing," a spokesman for the Guardia Civil in Alicante told AFP. According to police, the

17-year-old daughter managed to evade her mother's surveillance in August and send an email to the ANAR Foundation, which helps children in trouble and sounded the alarm. She had allegedly been the victim of violence from her mother, who prohibited either of her kids to have any contact with the outside world. She said they were only allowed out on the streets for a short while every day for quick shopping errands or walks, but under strict surveillance. Their 49-year-old mother, who is of Spanish origin, was allegedly particularly brutal towards her daughter, "hitting her, pushing her against walls or furniture and throwing cutlery or any other object she had in her hands," police said. — AFP

Fast facts about the 'Festival of Light'

Diwali, which is also referred to as Deepavali and Diwali, is an important festival in India that is mainly celebrated by the Hindus. It is also known as the festival of light. Every year, the date of this festival is calculated by the Hindu lunar calendar. In 2016, the festival will be held on October 30.

1. Diwali is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the Hindu month of Kartika. Hinduism is a major religion of India, and is considered to be the oldest religion in the world.
2. More than 800 million people celebrate this festival in various ways.
3. It is celebrated in honor of Lakshmi.
4. The festival also marks the return of the Lord Rama and Sita after completing 14 years in exile.
5. The word Diwali means "the row of lighted lamps (diyas)" in Hindi.
6. The festival signifies the victory of light over darkness.
7. Diwali also marks a major shopping festival in the places where it is celebrated. There are special discounts and offers that businesses provide to their customers. Buying new things during this festival is considered to be good.
8. It is the most famous, biggest and brightest festival of India, and is celebrated for five days.
9. It is a national holiday in India, Trinidad & Tobago, Myanmar, Nepal, Mauritius, Guyana, Singapore, Surinam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Fiji.
10. On the same night that Diwali is celebrated, Jains celebrate a festival of lights to mark the attainment of moksha by Mahavira.
11. Oil and light lamps are used in high numbers in and around peoples' houses and properties to celebrate the festival. The festival commemorates the lighting that was done to bring Lord Rama and his wife Sita from the forest of Ayodhya.
12. Diyas light the houses; fireworks illuminate the skies and rangoli decorates the outside Hindu homes. They do this to attract Lakshmi, of good fortune.
13. Traditional diyas (light lamps) used during Diwali are earthen lamps, although plastic and metallic diyas have also become available recently. These diyas are filled with ghee or oil, and a cotton wick is used to bear the flame.
14. And the diyas are left burning all night.
15. Sikhs also celebrate Diwali, as it marks the release of their guruji - Guru Hargobind Sahibji - and 52 other kings and princess of India that were made captives by the mogul emperor Shah Jahan.
16. It is a tradition to clean the house, making it spotless before entering the New Year.
17. Businesses also start new accounting books, and farmers end the harvest season. The festival also signals the



18. Hindus all over the world, and especially in India celebrate the festival by exchanging gifts, wearing new clothes and preparing festive meals.
19. Diwali is also celebrated in honor of the marriage of the Vishnu and Lakshmi. And it also marks the triumph of the Krishna over the demon Naraka. Hindus in Bengal honor the fearsome Kali on the occasion of Diwali.
20. The English city of Leicester hosts the biggest Diwali celebrations outside of India.
21. Diwali also plays a significant role in Sikhism. The foundation stone of the Golden Temple was laid on the day of Diwali in 1577.
22. "Shubh Deepavali" is a customary greeting associated with Diwali. It means, "Have an auspicious diwali".
23. During the festival of Diwali, fireworks worth billions of dollars are ignited. These fireworks cause a lot of pollu-

- tion, which is a particularly life hazard for those living in densely populated areas such as the cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in India. Fireworks produce a variety of pollutants affecting sound, light, air and water.
24. These fireworks cause health hazards such as respiratory issues, heart attacks, high blood pressure and many more. Moreover, fireworks during Diwali also cause safety hazards to the children handling them. Many of these firecrackers burst near children, causing them direct injuries. Hence, necessary precautions must be taken during the festival season, and a more environmentally friendly way of celebrating the festival should be adopted in the coming years.
25. Electricity consumption also rises significantly during the festival season, which results in heavy use of diesel generators to meet the demand for power. In turn, more pollution is caused due to the burning of fossil fuels.
26. The total cost of the firecrackers exploded in Diwali

is estimated to be around \$1 billion. This is a significant amount of money, which could be used for other purposes like providing education and better health care facilities to those individuals who need them.

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The sweets of Diwali

Diwali is synonymous with 'mithai' or sweets. Diwali is also the time for family reunions, lighted diyas, colourful rangoli, vibrant apparels, and mouth-watering sweets - all symbolic of the happy occasion. With the spirit of Diwali permeating the society, traditional households gear up for the special preparation of Sweets and Delicacies. However, this scenario is slowly fading away with the advent of "gift packages" offered by all popular sweet shops and households making sweets not just for self-consumption but for exchanges and gifting as well. A range of special sweets/mithai include cashew sweets like kaju kalinga, kaju katli, kaju anaar. Other specialties include daal, ghee, bombay peda, boondi, kashmiri peda, sangam, green cream fruit burfi, kesari and mango pedas. Excellent Sweets/Mithai
 Moti Choor Ladoo: The most famous of all Indian sweets. Round in shape, made of besan and consisting of cardamom, pistachio, and a touch of saffron.
 Jalebi: Another well renowned Indian mithai. Jalebis are

made of sugar and besan (gram flour).
 Kajukatli: A soft diamond shaped sweet made from freshly ground cashews.
 Kaju-Pista Rolls: A twist of cashew and pistachio.
 Peda: A special mithai recipe preparation from Khoa flour. Agra pedas are delicious.
 Barfi: All special occasions warrant this. Quadrangular shaped sweets made of whole milk and sugar, garnished with cardamom and pistachios.
 Gulab Jamun: A tasty circular mithai that is known by all. On the top of everyone's list. Comes in a sugary syrup. It is the favorite choice of many Indians.
 Badam Barfi: Square shaped Barfi made from Almonds and topped with cardamom seeds and pistachio nuts.
 Ras Malai: Medallions of home-made curd cheese served in sweetened cream sauce.
 Rasgulla: These round sweets hail from Bengal. They are white in color and come immersed in a tasty syrup.



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INDIA OFFERS TO BUY FOREIGN JETS ONLY IF THEY'RE MADE-IN-INDIA

NEW DELHI: India is offering to buy hundreds of fighter planes from foreign manufacturers - as long as the jets are made in India and with a local partner, air force officials say. A deal for 200 single-engine planes produced in India - which the air force says could rise to 300 as it fully phases out ageing Soviet-era aircraft - could be worth anything from \$13-\$15 billion, experts say, potentially one of the country's biggest military aircraft deals.

After a deal to buy high-end Rafale planes from France's Dassault was scaled back to just 36 jets last month, the Indian Air Force is desperately trying to speed up other acquisitions and arrest a fall in operational strength, now a third less than required to face both China and Pakistan. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration wants any further military planes to be built in India with an Indian partner to kickstart a domestic aircraft industry, and end an expensive addiction to imports.

Lockheed Martin said it is interested in setting up a production line for its F-

16 plane in India for not just the Indian military, but also for export. And Sweden's Saab has offered a rival production line for its Gripen aircraft, setting up an early contest for one of the biggest military plane deals in play. "The immediate shortfall is 200. That would be the minimum we would be looking at," said an air officer briefed on the Make-in-India plans under which a foreign manufacturer will partner local firms to build the aircraft with technology transfer.

India's defense ministry has written to several companies asking if they would be willing to set up an assembly line for single-engine fighter planes in India and the amount of technology transfer that would happen, another government source said. "We are testing the waters, testing the foreign firms' willingness to move production here and to find out their expectations," the person said.

Operational gaps

India's air force originally planned for 126 Rafale twin-engine fighters from

Dassault, but the two sides could not agree on the terms of local production with a state-run Indian firm and settled for 36 planes in a fly-away condition. Adding to the military's problems is India's three-decade effort to build a single-engine fighter of its own which was meant to be the backbone of the air force. Only two of those Light Combat Aircraft, called Tejas, have been delivered to the air force which has ordered 140 of them. The Indian Air Force is down to 32 operational squadrons compared with the 45 it has said are necessary, and in March the vice chief Air Marshal BS Dhanoa told parliament's defense committee that it didn't have the operational strength to fight a two front war against China and Pakistan.

Jet makers respond

Saab said it was ready to not only produce its frontline Gripen fighter in India, but help build a local aviation industry base. "We are very experienced in transfer of technology - our way of working involves extensive cooperation with our

partners to establish a complete ecosystem, not just an assembly line," said Jan Widerström, Chairman and Managing Director, Saab India Technologies.

He confirmed Saab had received the letter from the Indian government seeking a fourth generation fighter. A source close to the company said that while there was no minimum order set in stone for it to lay down a production line, they would expect to build at least 100 planes at the facility. Lockheed Martin said it had responded to the defense ministry's letter with an offer to transfer the entire production of its F-16 fighter to India. "Exclusive F-16 production in India would make India home to the world's only F-16 production facility, a leading exporter of advanced fighter aircraft, and offer Indian industry the opportunity to become an integral part of the world's largest fighter aircraft supply chain," Abhay Paranjape, National Executive for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Business Development in India said in an email.

US top supplier

Lockheed's offer comes on the back

of expanding US-India military ties in which Washington has emerged as India's top arms supplier in recent years, ousting old ally Russia. Earlier this year Boeing also offered India its twin-engine F/A-18 Hornets, but the level of technology transfer was not clear.

India has never previously attempted to build a modern aircraft production line, whether military or civilian. State-run Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has assembled Russian combat jets including the Su-30, but these are under licensed production. "We have never had control over technology. This represents the most serious attempt to build a domestic base."

A full or a near-full tech transfer lays the ground for further development," said retired Indian air marshal M Matheswaran, a former adviser at HAL. He said the Indian government would be looking at producing at least 200 fighters, and then probably some more, to make up for the decades of delay in modernizing the air force. — Reuters

RAIDS, PROTESTS PRESSURE SOUTH KOREA'S SCANDAL-HIT PRESIDENT

THOUSANDS PROTEST DEMANDING HER RESIGNATION

SEOUL: Pressure mounted yesterday on beleaguered South Korean President Park Geun-Hye over a personal and political scandal, as prosecutors raided the homes of senior aides and thousands joined a protest in central Seoul demanding her resignation. With just over a year left to run, Park's presidency has suddenly unraveled over shocking revelations of how she allowed a close personal friend, with no official position, to meddle in affairs of state.

Over the past week, the media has been full of increasingly sensational reports regarding Choi Soon-Sil, the 60-year-old daughter of a shadowy religious leader and one-time Park mentor. Invoking a lurid back-story of religious cults, shamanist rituals and corruption, the reports have portrayed Choi as a Rasputin-like figure whose influence over Park extended to vetting her presidential speeches and advising on key appointments and policy issues.

Yesterday morning, prosecutors confiscated computers and documents from the homes of a top presidential adviser and two other aides as well as a deputy culture minister, Yonhap news agency said. The raids came hours before thousands took to the streets of central Seoul in a candle-lit rally, denouncing Choi as a dangerous charlatan and calling on Park to step down.

Teenagers in school uniforms, college students, labor activists, and middle-aged couples with young children joined the rally, carrying banners and chanting "step down Park Geun-Hye".

Public anger

"I came here today to show how angry I am," said Lee Ji-Hu, a 33-year-old housewife from Gimpo, northwest of Seoul, accompanied by her husband and two infant children in strollers. "How can a leader have a shaman, or someone linked to a religious cult as a secret advisor and let her handle state affairs and squander taxpayers' money like that?" Lee said. "I feel so ashamed ... I can't let our country where my children will live be corrupted like this," she added.

Police put the crowd at around 8,000, while organisers said 20,000 people turned out. Similar protests also took place in several provincial cities, including the country's second largest city, Busan. Choi is being formally investigated for using her ties to Park to strong-arm major conglomerates into donating funds to two non-profit foundations she set up.

But the real focus of public anger has been the extent to which Park-the daughter of South Korea's late military leader Park Chung-Hee-

apparently allowed herself to be controlled by a such a cult-like figure. The head of the main opposition Minjoo Party said it was like discovering you were being ruled by a "terrifying theocracy".

Lurid past

Choi is the daughter of the late Choi Tae-Min, who married six times, had multiple pseudonyms and set up his own religious group known as the Church of Eternal Life. Choi Tae-Min first befriended a traumatised Park after the 1974 assassination of her mother, who he said had appeared to him in a dream, asking him to help her daughter. Park Geun-Hye subsequently formed a close bond with Choi Soon-Sil that endured after Choi Tae-Min's death in 1994. Choi Soon-Sil's ex-husband served as a top aide to Park until her presidential election victory in 2012. Choi left the country for Germany in early September as reports of her alleged influence-peddling began to emerge. Her lawyer has said she is well aware of the gravity of the situation and was willing to return home "to be punished if she did anything wrong". Prosecutors have detained two people close to Choi for questioning, including one who told reporters that Choi had been behaving as Park's de-facto regent. — AFP



BANGKOK: Mourners dressed in black walk towards the gates of the Grand Palace to pay respects to the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej. — AFP

TENS OF THOUSANDS PAY RESPECTS TO THAI KING

BANGKOK: Thousands of Thais streamed into the gates of Bangkok's Grand Palace yesterday as the public was granted its first chance to enter the throne hall where the body of late King Bhumibol Adulyadej is lying in state. Bhumibol, who died aged 88 two weeks ago, was adored by many of his subjects and seen as an anchor of stability in a kingdom rocked by political turmoil.

His passing has thrust the country into a year of official mourning, with many Thais wearing only black and white since his death and TV channels devoting hours of airtime to footage from his 70-year reign. For the past two weeks crowds have massed outside the Grand Palace, a compound of shimmering temples and pavilions in Bangkok's old quarter, to pay tribute before a portrait of the late monarch. But yesterday was the first time the public has been allowed to enter the ornate throne hall where his body is lying in a coffin, out of sight, near a gilded urn.

"I have been waiting here since 1:00 am," said Saman Daoruang, an 84-year-old sitting in a massive queue that snaked around a large field outside the palace. Like many in the crowd, Saman camped out under a tent on the grassy parade grounds, having arrived in Bangkok by train from northern Nakhon Sawan province. "But I wasn't able to sleep because I was so thrilled and proud to

come here," he told AFP, clutching several portraits of the monarch.

An initial plan to limit visitors to 10,000 per day was dropped yesterday after crowds swelled to 100,000, according to a monitoring centre outside the palace. However Sansern Kaewkamnerd, a government spokesman, urged people "not to rush to come in the early days" as the throne hall would be open for "a long time". Thailand's arch-royalist military government, which came to power in a 2014 coup, has encouraged mass displays of devotion for the late king and arranged a flurry of free bus, train and boat rides to move mourners to the capital.

It has also stepped up its enforcement of lese majeste-a law that punishes criticism of the monarchy with up to 15 years in prison per infringement. All media based in Thailand must self-censor to avoid falling foul of the law. The legislation has also severely curbed public discussion about the heir to the throne, Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, who has yet to attract the same level of devotion as his father. In a move that surprised many and veered from tradition, the 64-year-old asked to delay his proclamation as king in order to grieve with the nation, according to the junta. The government has not provided a clear timeline for when he will formally ascend the throne. — AFP

INDIAN SOLDIERS KILLED ALONG DISPUTED KASHMIR FRONTIER

SRINAGAR: Two Indian soldiers have been killed in fighting with Pakistani soldiers and suspected militants along the volatile frontier in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said yesterday. An army officer said militants overnight ambushed an Indian army patrol, killing one, while Pakistani soldiers provided covering fire near Machil sector along the Line of Control dividing the disputed region between India and Pakistan.

The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media, said that militants crossed over from the Pakistani-controlled Kashmir while taking advantage of rugged terrain and thick foliage. He said Indian soldiers retaliated and killed an insurgent in what he described as "face-to-face combat." He said the militants "mutilated" the body of the Indian soldier before fleeing to the Pakistani side. There was no independent confirmation of the incident.

In a strongly worded statement, the Indian army called the soldier's mutilation a "despicable act." "This barbarism is a true reflection which pervades official and non-

official organizations across the border," the statement said. "This act will invite an appropriate response." Shortly after, cross-border clashes erupted at several posts in Machil sector, killing another Indian soldier.

In Pakistan, the military in a statement said that India again resorted to unprovoked firing along the Line of Control and that the soldiers from the two countries were still exchanging fire. It did not say Pakistan suffered any casualties.

Indian and Pakistani troops in recent weeks have frequently exchanged cross-border fire, causing casualties on both sides. Both have blamed each other for initiating it. While the Line of Control is guarded by the Indian and Pakistani armies and divides the two parts of Kashmir, each country also has a separate paramilitary border force guarding the lower-altitude frontier separating Indian-controlled Kashmir and the Pakistani province of Punjab. Troops from the two countries have regularly traded fire since last month, when India said it carried out "surgical strikes" against militants in the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir. — AP



SEOUL: South Koreans shout slogans during an anti-president rally. — AP

PAKISTAN OPPN PARTY SAYS MORE OF ITS WORKERS ARRESTED, CANCELS RALLY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani police have arrested 30 workers from the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party ahead of planned protests to shut down the capital on Wednesday, a PTI official said on Saturday, as the party cancelled a rally in the capital. On Friday, supporters of PTI leader Imran Khan, a former Pakistani cricket hero, clashed with police in Rawalpindi, 20 km from Islamabad, and Khan accused the government of placing him under virtual house arrest.

Police on Thursday arrested 38 PTI workers at a youth rally, hours after local authorities imposed a two-month ban on all public gatherings in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The police and local authorities did not respond to requests for comment. Khan has vowed to 'lock down' Islamabad on Wednesday in a bid to force Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign over allegations of corruption linked to the Panama Papers leaks. Police say they will block any such attempt.

Chaudhry Rizwan, a senior PTI official for Islamabad, said 30 people were arrested overnight from outside Khan's home, where some supporters slept. A Reuters reporter saw more than 100 police officers, some in riot gear, posted near Khan's residence. "Today's rally has been cancelled. For now, whatever will happen will be at Khan's Bani Gala residence," added Rizwan. PTI's rally on Saturday was scheduled to act as a prelude for Wednesday's attempt to lock down Islamabad.

There were about 80 PTI supporters near Khan's road, vowing to protect their leader and demanding that Sharif stand down. "I came here

because I think of Pakistan, and things are very bad here. There is too much corruption here," said Dost Muhammad, 30, a tailor from Swat region who camped outside Khan's home overnight. Khan's latest challenge to Sharif's government is based on leaked documents from the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm that appear to show that his daughter and two sons owned offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands. Sharif's family denies wrongdoing.

Holding offshore companies is not illegal in Pakistan, but Khan has implied the money was gained by corruption. Khan admitted in May that he used an offshore company himself to legally avoid paying British tax on a London property sale. — Reuters



SRINAGAR: Masked Kashmiri protesters throw stones at Indian paramilitary soldiers during a protest on Friday. — AP

IRAQI PARAMILITARIES LAUNCH OPERATION...

Continued from Page 1

Assadi said the operation was launched from the Sin al-Dhaban area south of Mosul and aimed to retake the towns of Hatra and Tal Abta as well as Tal Afar.

The involvement of Shiite militias in the Mosul operation has been a source of contention, although some of the Hashed's top commanders insist they do not plan to enter the largely Sunni city.

Relations between the Hashed and the US-led coalition fighting IS are also tense, but the paramilitaries enjoy widespread support among members of Iraq's Shiite majority.

Assadi said Turkish forces, who are training Sunni tribal combatants in a camp northeast of Mosul to join the offensive against IS, were in no position to obstruct the Shiite militia advance.

Amnesty International says that in previous campaigns, they committed serious human rights violations, including war crimes against civilians fleeing Islamic State-held territory.

REBELS FIGHT TO BREAK ALEPPO SIEGE

Continued from Page 1

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said rebels and allied jihadists have unleashed a barrage of rocket fire and at least 10 car bombs since their assault began.

Last week, Russia implemented a three-day humanitarian truce intended to allow civilians and surrendering rebels to leave the east, but few did so.

The Observatory said yesterday that Russian raids have been battering Aleppo's western battlefronts, but confirmed the halt to Moscow's aerial bombing of the city itself was holding.

Syria's second city, Aleppo has been devastated by

Shiite militia in Fallujah, a former militant bastion west of Baghdad, and about 50 others who were summarily executed or tortured to death.

As the Hashed push on Tal Afar got underway, Iraq's federal police advanced into Al-Shura, an area south of Mosul with a long history as a militant bastion.

The offensive operations came despite an assertion from the US-led coalition on Friday that Iraqi forces were temporarily halting their advance on Mosul for a period expected to last "a couple days".

More than 17,500 people have fled their homes toward government-held areas since the Mosul operation began, the International Organisation for Migration said yesterday.

IS's "depraved, cowardly strategy is to attempt to use the presence of civilians to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations", UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said.

GAZA FLOTILLA RAID VICTIMS' KIN VOW LEGAL...

Continued from Page 1

held another hearing in the trial of the four former Israeli military commanders, though it was later adjourned to Dec 2.

Human rights lawyer Rodney Dixon said the criminal case against the accused must go on "at all costs".

Families say they were not informed of any details about the deal with Israel and they have not received any money.

said: "Nobody from the Turkish government asked our opinion before they struck a deal. Unfortunately the Turkish government is becoming a part of the lawlessness carried out by Israel."

"Even if families of the victims accept the money, that would not affect the case," said Gulden Sonmez, one of the lawyers in the trial and also a passenger on the ship.

"Did you ask then-prime minister to deliver humanitarian aid from Turkey?" he said in comments seen as veiled criticism of the Turkish Islamic charity IHH that organized the flotilla.

CLINTON FACES NEW FBI PROBE AS RACE ENTERS...

Continued from Page 1

Trump gleefully seized on news that FBI agents are investigating a newly discovered group of mails sent to Clinton's private address, to see if they exposed any US secrets.

The probe had been thought finished in July, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation had recommended that no charges be filed against Clinton, although it found her to have been "extremely careless" in her use of a private server.

Clinton cried foul, demanding that Comey reveal more information about the probe, and declared herself "confident" that voters, and the FBI, would conclude that she had done nothing wrong.

Clinton's defiant words came after Trump - himself dogged by scandal over alleged sexual misconduct - declared her unfit for office as a jubilant crowd of supporters in New Hampshire chanted: "Lock her up!"

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sages, is under investigation over allegations he sent sexual messages to a 15-year-old girl.

Meanwhile, Trump, trailing in polls both nationally and in the swing states he must win to secure the White House, seized triumphantly on the news.

Republicans on Capitol Hill also seemed jubilant over Clinton's latest travails. "Everything that has happened... is the natural, probable consequence of deciding you're going to have a rogue email system," Trey Gowdy, chairman of the congressional committee that first uncovered the existence of Clinton's private server, told Fox News late Friday.

News of the probe took the shine off what should have been a good day for Clinton on Friday, with the Obama administration announcing stronger than expected economic growth numbers.

Next week, both candidates will continue to barnstorm battleground states. Trump's campaign was rocked this month by the release of 2005 footage showing him bragging about his groping women, followed by a string of accusations of sexual misconduct - which he denies.

GOVT MULLS NO PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS...

Continued from Page 1

The sources explained that most recommendations involved limiting the number of marginal expat laborers and recruiting only skilled and experienced people who can provide benefits to Kuwait.

imbalances including amending certain legislations, resolving absconders' problems, travel bans and immediate deportation procedures.

MOI REJECTS REPORTS OF IRAQI MILITARY...

Continued from Page 1

A sticker will also be placed on them, asking drivers to check with relevant departments to pay the fine and recollect the plates after the suspension period is over.

The interior ministry also denied a press report claiming that there are jamming devices with health risks for inmates at the Central Jail.

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Washington Watch

ARAB AMERICAN
VOTERS: CLINTON
60%, TRUMP 26%

By Dr James J Zogby

For years, Arab American voters, like most other ethnic communities, slightly leaned toward the Democratic Party but were swing voters in national and local elections. This was the pattern we observed in the early years of our more than two decades of biannual surveys of the community's voting behavior. It is no longer the case, as Arab Americans have increasingly come to identify themselves as Democrats and vote for Democratic candidates.

In a book I wrote back in 2001 on the values and voting patterns of a number of ethnic American communities ("What Ethnic Americans Really Think" - based on polling conducted by my brother's group, Zogby International) we found that most ethnics leaned Democrat but shared a value system that ran counter to the political ideas offered by what were then called "moderate Republicans" and "New Democrats". The tendency of both was to combine fiscal conservatism with social liberalism. Many ethnic voters, on the other hand, embraced beliefs that were the exact opposite. They were fiscally progressive and socially more conservative. They believed that government played a constructive role in society and they were, therefore, supportive of strengthening programs like Social Security and Medicare, investing in public education, and expanding healthcare coverage. At the same time, they were small business people with extended family networks who believed in building strong communities and, therefore, had belief systems that reflected those values.

Beginning in 2002 and continuing during the next decade, the community drifted away from the Republican Party. There were a number of factors that fueled this drift. Initially, it was the post-9/11 reaction of the Bush Administration that compromised the civil liberties of recent immigrants, followed by the War in Iraq, and then the hard line rhetoric that came to dominate the GOP. The first to be affected were those Arab Americans who were more recent immigrants and Muslim. While Arab Americans who had been born in the US had stronger party identification, those who were immigrants were classic "swing voters". But, as our polling demonstrated, all parts of the community were repulsed by and felt threatened by the increased harsh anti-Arab and anti-Muslim rhetoric. In our most recent poll of Arab Americans, 50 percent of all those surveyed said they had personally experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity, while 53 percent expressed concern that they might face discrimination in the future.

Impact

In reality, it might be said that it wasn't the community that drifted away from the Republicans, it was the party that was galloping away from Arab Americans. This parting of the ways especially intensified during the elections from 2008 to 2016, culminating in the nomination of Donald Trump. The impact of all this can be seen in the results of this year's Arab American Institute (AAI) poll.

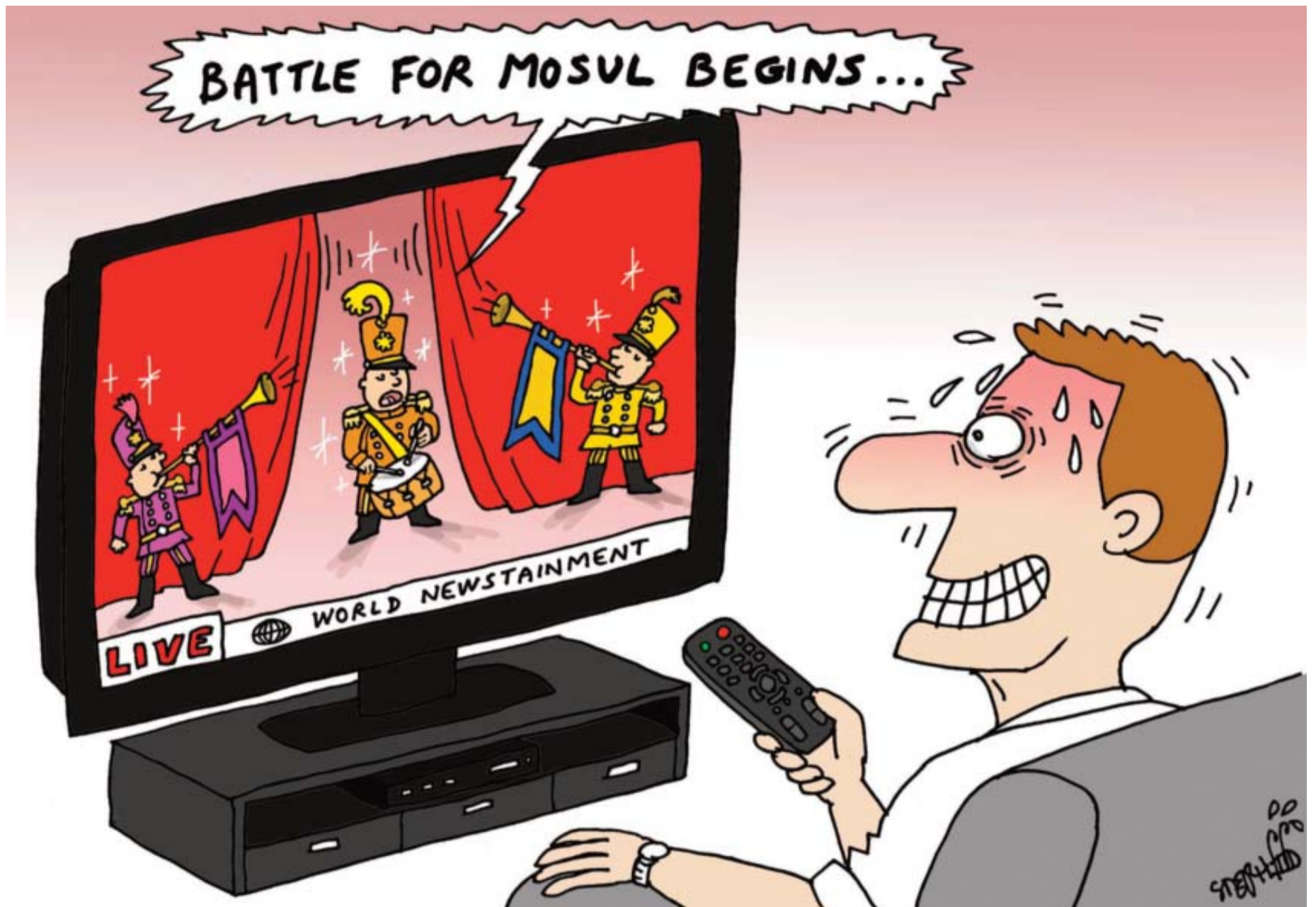
In an October poll of likely Arab American voters, Hillary Clinton smothered Donald Trump, by a margin of 60 percent to 26 percent. Commissioned by the AAI and conducted by Zogby Analytics, the survey found that the movement of Arab Americans away from the Republican Party has continued. Arab Americans now favor the Democratic Party over the Republicans by two to one - with 52 percent identifying as Democrats and only 26 percent who say they are Republicans. And when asked which party they prefer to control Congress, by a margin of 54 percent to 27 percent Arab Americans say they favor the Democrats.

When asked why they would vote for either Clinton or Trump, Arab Americans gave surprisingly similar responses. Over 40 percent of Clinton voters said they were supporting her either because of party loyalty or because they liked her domestic policies. Another third said they were, in fact, voting against Trump. Only one in ten identified foreign policy as the reason they were supporting Clinton.

Supporters of both Clinton and Trump identified "jobs and the economy" as the most important issue in determining their vote. But that was where the similarity ended. While Democrats pointed to gun violence, healthcare, and Social Security and Medicare as next in importance, Republicans identified combating terrorism, the budget deficit and controlling government spending, and immigration as their most important concerns. And when asked on which issues they felt Clinton would be best able to address, Arab Americans added improving education and race relations to the mix.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

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ICC 'BIAS' HANDY COVER-UP FOR AFRICA

Complex diverse political agendas are driving African nations to quit the International Criminal Court, with leaders seeking to cloak the move by reigniting age-old anger at the West, analysts say. Gambia's announcement that it would be the third country to withdraw from the court is all the more frustrating as it comes at a time when the tribunal is beginning to probe some of the world's most intractable conflicts, in places such as the Palestinian territories and Afghanistan, experts say.

Set up in 2002, the ICC's mission is to try the world's most heinous crimes which national governments are either unable or unwilling to prosecute. And most of the ICC prosecutions, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have been requested by the countries themselves. But Gambian Information Minister Sheriff Bojang charged the ICC had been used "for the persecution of Africans and especially their leaders". "Not a single Western war criminal has been indicted," he said late Tuesday, as his country followed Burundi and continental heavyweight South Africa in announcing it intends to leave the tribunal.

Shielding the Powerful

It is a "very worrying development," said analyst Mark Kersten, from the University of Toronto. "The ultimate effect of this will be to protect high-level senior perpetrators of mass atrocities." In his online blog, Kersten predicted while there would not be a mass exodus, as many as five to 10 nations could withdraw from the court based in The Hague, including Kenya, Namibia and Uganda. But he said ironically that showed the tribunal was more relevant than ever. "Why is the ICC in the African states as it is? If you look at all of them, I think what you'll see is that the ICC has justified investigation in all those situations," he told AFP.

The three African nations involved so far have different reasons for trying to avoid any international spotlight on their domestic issues. Burundi, where ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda opened an initial probe in April, has been mired in 18 months of political violence since President Pierre Nkurunziza announced his successful bid for a third term. Former ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo highlighted repeated fears from the United Nations and the African Union of "a possible genocide" in Burundi. "Who will

defend the victims?" he asked. "Escaping the ICC is a way to come (with) free hands to commit genocide," Moreno-Ocampo told AFP, adding all "dictators are against" the court.

Domino Effect?

It seems Bujumbura's decision sparked a kind of "withdrawal race," said Kersten, while insisting Pretoria's decision "was not made in solidarity with Burundi nor was it to protect or promote Nkurunziza". And Gambia, Bensouda's home country where President Yahya Jammeh is seeking a fifth

term having ruled with an iron-fist for decades, may have tried a preemptive strike amid fears of an opposition crackdown.

Experts warned of the "polarized debate" which has become symptomatic of everything that has gone wrong with the court. Of the 124 nations which have ratified the Rome Statute underpinning the court, 34 are currently African. But with the United States, Russia and China all absent from the ICC's signatories, real discussion is needed on boosting the tribunal's legitimacy. — AFP

HARD JOB FOR US POLLSTERS

Many opinion polls show Democrat Hillary Clinton leading Republican Donald Trump in a tight race for the Nov 8 US presidential election, but any one of four factors may make the outcome harder to predict. Among the challenges for pollsters: The historic unpopularity of both candidates, the potential Election Day voter response to the polls themselves, the growing abandonment of landlines for cellphones, and the rise of online polling.

Some high-profile stumbles worldwide - including opinion polls that missed Colombia's Oct. 2 rejection of a peace deal - underscore how technological, social and cultural shifts have made polling more difficult than ever. An average of polls compiled by RealClearPolitics.com shows former Secretary of State Clinton beating Trump, a businessman, by 5.4 percentage points. Highlighting the difficulties, the range varies from plus-13 for Clinton to a straight tie.

Trump has said the election is rigged against him and this week, in a Reuters interview, he accused media organizations of tilting the polls deliberately, but he has yet to offer any widely accepted evidence to back up these claims. Voter turnout in the last few presidential elections has been about 60 percent. But given both candidates' low overall popularity, turnout this year may fall to as low as 52 percent, said Cliff Zukin, a professor

emeritus of political science at New Jersey's Rutgers University and a former president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. That makes it hard to guess who might stay home. "It's always been difficult to simulate a likely electorate and I think that's harder to do in 2016," Zukin said.

Polling May Affect Turnout

A second pitfall is the effect of the polling itself on voters. Sociologists believe polls can weaken projected winners by making their supporters more confident of the outcome and, therefore, less likely to vote. The percentage of Trump supporters who expect him to win has dropped to 49 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted from Oct 20-24, down from 74 percent from Sept 16-20. Clinton supporters' confidence rose at the same time. If that leads to a higher turnout of Trump supporters than of Clinton supporters, it might affect the election outcome. Pollsters caution, however, that the effect of polls on the electorate can only go so far. "If it were showing Clinton up by 2 points, then it's certainly possible that it would be within the margin of error that Trump might win," said Douglas Schwartz, director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. "But if you're finding that all of these high-quality polls are showing Clinton consistently ahead, then I think you can trust them," he said. — Reuters

AS XI'S STAR RISES, CAN THE CENTER HOLD?

Chinese Communist chief Xi Jinping's ascension to the highest title in the party hierarchy formalizes his position as its preeminent figure, analysts said, making him the country's most powerful leader in a generation and inviting comparisons with Mao Zedong. The ruling party's declaration that Xi is the "core" of its leadership saw some observers argue it heralded the beginnings of a personality cult, smacking of the adulation that once surrounded Communist China's founding father, who ruled for three decades.

Others saw it as a crucial step to enforce genuine reform in the world's most populous country and second-largest economy, including liberalizing markets and strengthening the legal system. Xi's anointment, by the ruling party's top echelons after a key meeting in Beijing known as the Sixth Plenum, was met with fanfare by state media. A picture of the leader in a somber Western suit dominated the front pages of the country's major papers Friday, and China's national broadcaster showed footage of Xi's lectures during the meeting on a near-continuous loop.

A gushing editorial in the Communist Party's mouthpiece, the People's Daily, called the leader's elevation the "common will" of the nation, language echoed by commentaries in many major news outlets. The official Xinhua news service said the decision was a formal recognition of the critical role Xi has played since taking power in 2012, when he launched a massive anti-corruption drive that has shaken the party to its roots.

While the campaign has led to the punishment of over a million officials, it, too, has raised questions about whether Xi is a reformer or is carrying out a ruthless political purge. The document that declared Xi's primacy also emphasized the importance of collective leadership and warned against the deification of the party's chiefs. "Propaganda about leaders should be factual and avoid flattery," it emphasized.

The message appeared to have bypassed the denizens of China's social media, many of whom are thought to be by paid by authorities to lavish praise on the government. "Resolutely embrace Xi Dada!" said one commenter, using a popular nickname for the leader that some say evokes an air of paternalistic authoritarianism. "With Xi Jinping as the core... we will definitely realize our Chinese dream," it con-

tinued, echoing the leader's nationalistic call for the "Great Rejuvenation" of the Chinese nation.

China's Washington

The concept of a "core" leader was first put forward by China's former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in 1989, shortly after nationwide democracy protests turned into the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown. The situation was "unstable" at the time, said Xi Xianglin, a professor of political science at Beijing University, and Deng conferred

the title on the country's new leader Jiang Zemin as a way to rally support. The term, he said, describes "a virtuous person who comes to resolve differences of opinion within the party".

Many loyalists see Xi as a transformative figure, and Hu Xingdou, an expert on China's governance at the Beijing Institute of Technology, said his new status could see him become "China's (George) Washington" and lead the country "out of the shadow of chaos". The government had failed to deliver on its previous commitments in such areas as improving rule of law and opening markets, he said. "Conversely, they have been violated, and we have seen major setbacks." Without a strong leader, he said, "no one can make final decisions. Nothing can be accomplished".

Regional cadres began using the term "core" for Xi last December, but it then disappeared, suggesting that the Chinese president had encountered resistance to his efforts to further consolidate his power. The move comes ahead of a party congress next year when Xi will have an opportunity to put his own allies into the top Politburo Standing Committee. Jean-Pierre Cabestan of Hong Kong Baptist University said that calls for unity before and at the plenum showed that the party was "far from being monolithic and that Xi is facing difficulties and even headwinds as far as his policy agenda is concerned". "The battle for the next party congress has started but it is far from being over," he said.

Power Hungry

Not all are convinced Xi will use his new-found authority for good. He is a "power hungry politician," said Willy Lam, professor of politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "It's what the psychologists call megalomania: The more powerful you are, the more power hungry you remain." Lam believes that Xi will try to remain in power beyond the two five-year terms allowed to the national president by law. There is no formal rule on tenure for the general secretary of the ruling party, the post from which he derives his power. "The core can ask for 20 years," he said. "This is a very blatant building of the personality cult... a big step back for institutional reform." Lam is not alone. For many, Xi's new title brings to mind an age-old tradition. One commenter on China's Weibo microblog service posted: "One country, one emperor. It's the way it's been for thousands of years." — AFP



LOEW TO EXTEND GERMANY REIGN UNTIL 2020: REPORTS

BERLIN: Germany's World Cup-winning coach Joachim Loew is set to extend his reign until 2020 amidst reports his new contract will be confirmed tomorrow by the German FA (DFB). German daily Bild reported yesterday that the 56-year-old, who took charge in 2006, will pen a two-year extension to lead Germany's defence of the World Cup in Russia in 2018 and to the European Championships in 2020. Loew, who led die Mannschaft to their fourth World Cup title in Brazil two years ago, is set to receive a huge pay rise to four million euros (\$4.4m) per year. His current contract, which expires after the 2018 World Cup, reportedly earned him an annual salary of around three million euros. The DFB's president Reinhard Grindel refused to comment when approached by SID, an AFP subsidiary, but he is believed to want to get the deal sealed before the German FA meets in Erfurt on November 3-4. If Loew stays in office until 2020, his 14-year reign would make him the joint second-longest serving Germany coach, equal to Helmut Schoen (1964-78). Sepp Herberger holds the 28-year record, from 1936-64, during which time he led West Germany to their first World Cup title in 1954.—AFP



'SADDEST HOLE-IN-ONE' AS KUCHAR LOSES CAR IN SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI: Matt Kuchar had a rare hole-in-one but felt like crying afterwards at the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai yesterday.

The US Ryder Cup player aced Sheshan International Golf Club's treacherous par-three 17th, but was 24 hours too late to win a brand new luxury Cadillac CT6 40T Prem.

"It was the saddest hole-in-one," Kuchar told reporters. "I knew I just made a hole-in-one and I was teased by this beautiful car sitting there, that's not to be mine."

During Thursday and Friday's opening two rounds of the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai the car had been on offer to anyone who could make a hole-in-one.

But yesterday the teeing ground was moved up inside 200 yards as its turf had cut up badly in wet conditions this week.

The reduced length of the usually 212-yard hole negated the sponsor's insurance cover-meaning no car could be given away. "Most of the time a hole-in-one, you're just overjoyed with excitement," said Kuchar.

"But literally, a minute before my shot, I found out. "There's a car sitting there, the most beautiful Cadillac sitting on a tee with the note below saying, 'This hole is under

200 yards, thus no longer qualifies for the insurance for the giveaway for the prize."

He said the worst part was he wasn't sure how he was going to explain it all to his young golf-mad son.

"I've got this nine-year-old son at home that's just a golf junkie, always asking have I ever made a hole-in-one with a car on it," said Kuchar. "And now I finally have. But unfortunately the insurance was taken away due to the forward tee."

Kuchar soon found out why the tee had been moved and said he knew who to blame. "Henrik Stenson came up and said: 'My fault, the back tee box was not in very good shape.' He was the one that asked for the tees to be moved forward," said Kuchar.

He added with a smile: "He owes me something."

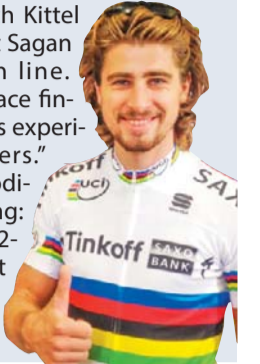
The ace did help propel Kuchar to a 68 and to nine-under for the tournament. "A hole-in-one is great to have. It's an eagle and to put two-under on a scorecard on a hole is a nice thing and certainly helps my placement out a good bit." He is in a six-way tie for eighth place going into Sunday's final round, eight shots behind leader Hideki Matsuyama of Japan.—AFP

CHAN GRABS LEAD, HANYU TAKES A KNEE

TORONTO: Three-time world champion Patrick Chan is turning heads early and Sochi gold medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir marked their return to the ISU Grand Prix with a sparkling performance on Friday. Chan seized a commanding lead after the men's short program as rival Yuzuru Hanyu stumbled through his routine and placed fourth at Skate Canada, the second stop on the ISU figure skating Grand Prix calendar. Chan, who changed coaches just before the start of this season, finished with 90.56 points while Olympic champion Hanyu is almost 11 points back with a score of 79.65. Japan's Takahito Mura is second at 81.24 and Kevin Reynolds is third with 80.57 as Canadian and Japanese skaters took the top four spots. This is the second straight year Hanyu has failed to impress in the short program at Skate Canada. Last year in Lethbridge, Alberta, he finished seventh in the short before rallying in the free skate to place second behind winner Chan. On Friday, Hanyu took a knee on his first jump, bent over on the second and failed to execute a combination.—AFP

CHAMPION SAGAN WINS SAITAMA CRITERIUM

SAITAMA: Two-time world champion Peter Sagan clinched the Saitama Criterium yesterday in a tight sprint finish, edging three-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome into third place. The 26-year-old Slovakian, who retained his world road race title earlier this month, tweeted it's a "great feeling to win the Saitama Criterium," which was held in Saitama, north of Tokyo. In the final lap, sprint king Marcel Kittel, who won the Japanese road circuit race in 2014, jumped ahead of Sagan, Froome and Japanese rider Sho Hatsuyama. Sagan and Hatsuyama caught up with Kittel before the last stretch to fight in a one-on-one duel, but Sagan raced past the local favourite to cross the finish line. Hatsuyama, however, was not glum over his second-place finish, saying: "I was so excited. It was a very much precious experience for me to race with so many world-class racers." Froome, who finished ahead of Kittel to secure the podium, expressed his gratitude to Japanese fans, tweeting: "Fantastic support out on the roads of Saitama." The 62-kilometre (38-mile) race around a 3.1 kilometre street circuit is organised by ASO, the same company that holds Tour de France.—AFP



CHICAGO: Chicago Cubs' Dexter Fowler hits a single off the Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Bryan Shaw during the eighth inning of Game 3 of the Major League Baseball World Series Friday in Chicago.—AP

KO FINDS GROOVE BUT RAIN DOUSES PLAY IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR: World number one Lydia Ko posted her best round yesterday but remained a few strokes off the leaders after a rain-interrupted day three at the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia.

The New Zealand 19-year-old shot a six-under-par 65 to move to eight-under overall in the tournament at TPC Kuala Lumpur.

However, play was delayed for more than four hours by heavy rain and eventually halted with several leading golfers yet to finish their rounds, which will be completed Sunday morning.

China's Feng Shanshan holed six birdies and an eagle to go to seven-under on the day through 17 holes before play was stopped. She provisionally topped the leaderboard at 13-under, followed by Anna Nordqvist of Sweden at 12-under and South Korea's Amy Yang another stroke back. Nordqvist and Yang still have three holes to play from the third round. The clubhouse lead officially belonged to Suzann Pettersen of Norway, who shot a 66 to move to nine-under overall.

She was the highest golfer on the leaderboard who had finished the round. Mother Nature's interference meant that 15

golfers will be making up suspended rounds Sunday morning.

Ko made it over the line despite the lengthy delays, and will try to catch the leaders for her first title since the Marathon Classic in July. That's an uncharacteristic drought for the young phenom, who has struggled to break out on the leaderboard this week.

"I've been striking the ball pretty well. I'm making a few putts here and there but the putts that didn't drop on the first day kind of have been dropping the past two days," she said.

"Those little things I think make the difference at the end of the day. But I've still got one long day tomorrow, so I've just got to stick to the same game plan."

Ko is using a local Malaysian caddie after she parted ways with Australian Jason Hamilton earlier this month. Feng is hoping to reprise her success in 2014, when she won the tournament.

"Every week, I know that I actually get pretty close to winning. So this week, I know that my record here is really good in Malaysia and I've won here before," said Feng.—AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: Lydia Ko of New Zealand follows her shot on the first hole during the third round of the LPGA golf tournament at Tournament Players Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.—AP

INDIANS EDGE CUBS TO SEIZE WORLD SERIES LEAD

CHICAGO: For the Chicago Cubs to capture their first World Series since 1908 this year and snap America's record longest sports title drought, they must win it in Cleveland after losing 1-0 Friday to the Indians at Wrigley Field.

Coco Crisp singled home Michael Martinez in the seventh inning for the only run as the Indians, despite stranding seven base runners, won the first World Series game at 102-year-old Wrigley Field since 1945. "That's a heck of a win," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "We needed something, anything just to put a run across and our staff made it hold up, which was a remarkable effort."

Cleveland grabbed a 2-1 lead over the Cubs in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship showdown, which continues Saturday and Sunday in Chicago then returns to Cleveland if more games are needed.

The Indians, seeking their first World Series crown since 1948, took their fifth playoff shutout victory, a major league record for a single post-season campaign, and their second Series blanking of the Cubs. "We'll learn from tonight, come back and be ready to play tomorrow," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "We're seeing good pitching. We have to adjust to it."

Tribe relief pitcher Cody Allen escaped a last gasp by Chicago in the ninth, striking out Javier Baez to end the game with the potential tying run stranded on third base.

"We were in a little bit of a jam there. That's one of those situations you think about throughout the season or spring training or even as a kid. You play that over in your mind," Allen said.

"All you're trying to do is slow the game down as much as possible and just try to make one good pitch. Then you just try to make another one. So we were fortunate enough to string a few good pitches together there and get the last out." In all, four Cleveland pitchers struck out eight batters and scattered five hits. The Cubs still have won only two World Series games at Wrigley Field, game six in 1945 and game five in 1935, both over Detroit.

The game was decided when Cleveland's Roberto Perez singled and was replaced by Indians pinch-runner Martinez, who took second base on Tyler Naquin's sacrifice and third on a wild pitch by Cubs relief pitcher Carl Edwards.

After a pickoff try failed following a video review, Martinez scored on pinch-hitter Crisp's single to right field. "Coming here and seeing all that blue in the stands, you know the support for the Cubs is worldwide," Crisp said. "Coming in here and getting the victory is big for us."

The Indians did not manage another hit but didn't need it. Anthony Rizzo led off the ninth for the Cubs with a single to left field, bringing the crowd to its feet for good.

The potential tying run advanced to second on a Wilson Contreras ground out and took third after Jason Heyward reached base on a fielding error by Cleveland first baseman Mike Napoli.

But Baez, who grounded out to end the eighth inning with the potential tying run on third base, was struck out by Allen to send most of the 41,703 spectators home disappointed.

"To be on the field, live that moment of getting the last out and feeling the emotions of get-

ting a win, that's a special feeling," Allen said.

STARTERS BAFFLE SLUGGERS

Chicago starting pitcher Kyle Hendricks struck out six but surrendered six hits and two walks over 4 1/3 innings. Cleveland starter Josh Tomlin, who won his two prior playoff starts, allowed two

hits with one walk and one strikeout over 4 2/3 innings. Saturday's starting pitchers will be Cubs right-hander John Lackey, a two-time World Series champion, and Cleveland right-hander Corey Kluber, an 18-game winner who is 3-1 in the playoffs but who will be throwing on short rest after winning Tuesday's opener.—AFP

MATSUYAMA KEEPS 3-SHOT LEAD AT HSBC CHAMPIONS

SHANGHAI: Hideki Matsuyama left the highlights to everyone else yesterday at the HSBC Champions. All he cared about was keeping the lead. In a third round that was dull by the standard Matsuyama had set for himself in making 19 birdies the opening two days at Sheshan International, the Japanese star picked up three of his birdies on the par 5s and rarely got out of position. Bogy-free for the first time all week, he was more than satisfied with a 4-under 68 to keep his three-shot lead going into the final round.

"The first two days, making lots of birdies, it's a lot of fun," Matsuyama said. "But today, when you're in a position to win, playing smart and making no bogeys was very satisfying for me." Even more satisfying was that only four players were within five shots of his lead. One of them was defending champion Russell Knox, who had far too much excitement in the middle of the back nine that kept his round together. Knox sandwiched birdies on a pair of tough par 4s around a par on one the third-easiest hole on the course, the par-5 14th. He hit into the water and was headed for a bogey when he made a long putt that kept his momentum and sent him to a 68 to stay three shots behind.

"After hitting in the water on 14, to make a massive putt for par was huge," Knox said. "Those little moments are what add up in a tournament. Could have been a lot worse."

Daniel Berger was another shot behind after quite the adventure over his final hole.

Berger ran off four straight birdies to get within two shots before taking bogey on the par-3 17th. Then he chose to go for the green on the par-5 closing hole, only to block it right into the water. He took his penalty drop, hit a full wedge into 5 feet and escaped with a par for a 67. "That's what it's been like the last three days," Berger said about his scrambling. "To make bogeys on the last two holes would not be nice going into tomorrow."

Today might be no less daunting considering how Matsuyama has been playing - not just this week, but all month. Matsuyama was at 17-under 199. Francesco Molinari, who won the HSBC Champions in 2010, shot a 68 and joined Bill Haas (70) at 12-under 204.

Matsuyama finished fifth in the Tour Championship to cap off his most successful season on the PGA Tour, which includes his Phoenix Open playoff victory over Fowler at the start of the year. Two weeks ago, he won the Japan Open, then flew to Malaysia and was runner-up to Justin Thomas in the CIMB Classic. Starting with his 10-birdie round of 66 to start the HSBC Champions, he has looked like the man to beat all week. No one got closer than two shots of Matsuyama in the third round, though the last hole was important to him.—AP



SHANGHAI: Japan's Hideki Matsuyama recovers the ball after finishing at 18th hole during the 2016 WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, yesterday.—AP

SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS REPAIR DEVASTATED WINTER OLYMPIC TRACKS

MOUNT TREBEVIC: Sports enthusiasts and former athletes in Bosnia have taken it upon themselves to reclaim some of the glory Sarajevo savored as host of the 1984 Olympics - and in the process rekindled the flame of international cooperation. Since the country lacks the resources to rebuild the Olympic facilities that were destroyed in the deadly war that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia, volunteers bought tools, rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

At first, they planned to restore the bobsled and luge track on Mount Trebevic just so it could be used by the Bosnian national team for summer training. But the previously abandoned facility became a draw for athletes from throughout Europe.

"We bought some tools with our own money and started cleaning the track from vegetation, debris and mud," Senad Omanovic, the head of Bosnia's Bobsleigh Federation, recalled. "We had trees growing out of the track."

The 1992-95 Bosnian war was the most brutal conflict on European soil since World War II. It took over 100,000 lives and turned more than half the population into refugees.

It also trashed the decade-old Olympic facilities on the mountains around Sarajevo, venues residents once proudly looked up to from downtown as symbols of one of the city's most glorious moments. During the war, Sarajevans hid from the artillery and snipers Bosnian Serbs had placed on

the Dinaric Alps. War turned the bobsled and luge track on Mount Trebevic, overlooking Sarajevo, into a concrete skeleton that eventually became covered with graffiti and trash. Little remains of the ski-jump facilities on Mount Igman, another site of fierce fighting. The men's downhill courses on Bjelasnica were resurrected as the city's main ski resort, but only after the land mines around them were cleared.

It took Omanovic and his teammates years to clean the bobs- and luge track where in 1984 teams from the German Democratic Republic took the gold and silver medals. They could only approach the Trebevic track after mine-removal experts cleared its entire length.

As word spread through Eastern

Europe that the Olympic track had been fixed up, teams in other countries approached Omanovic to ask about practicing there. The first was from Slovakia.

Omanovic recalled frankly telling the Slovaks the facility lacked locker rooms, timing sensors and even toilets. They insisted the Sarajevo track, despite its rough history and condition, was among the best of the nine tracks available around the world for summer training. Tackling the course on wheeled equipment, racers can achieve speeds of 130 kilometers (81 miles) per hour. After Slovakia, teams from Poland, Turkey, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia followed.

"So this became a regional training

center," said Omanovic, who now hopes the track will one day achieve its "old glory." Jacob Simonek, a member of the Slovakian team that has practiced in Sarajevo six times now, said the track was "a bit bumpy but good" despite its age and battle scars.

On the other end of town, the ski-jump facilities on Mount Igman still stand as sad relics of war.

Selver Merdanovic, a former ski jumper for Bosnia, has started working to revive the two small jumps so the 15 children from his club team can practice there. Rebuilding the high jumps, an expensive endeavor, remains a distant dream. "I'm trying to return this sport to Bosnia," Merdanovic said. "I wish this to be my legacy." — AP

PLAYERS ANNOYED WITH NFL'S CRACKDOWN ON CELEBRATIONS

NEW YORK: Hey NFL players: If you want a safe way to celebrate touchdowns and big plays, just hug it out. Don't twerk. Don't pretend to shoot a bow and arrow. Don't even think about playing basketball with a football. And, never take your helmet off.

"Hugs are always legal," Dean Blandino, the NFL's senior vice president for officiating, said in an explanatory video earlier this month. Not a hugger? No problem. You have options.

"This may seem crazy, but you can always just hand the ball to an official," Blandino also said in the video sent to news media and teams. The league's crackdown on celebrations has resulted in more unsportsmanlike penalties.

There have been 22 taunting penalties through Week 7, up from 13 at this point in 2015 and double the total after seven games in 2014.

"The rule hasn't changed in terms of what is and what isn't taunting," Blandino said, adding referees were advised to make it a point-of-emphasis call. "Fouls go up initially, and then as the players start to regulate their behavior and they understand where the bar is, we start to see the foul numbers go down."

But many players and fans don't understand why the league cares so much about celebrations. They're quick to call it the "No Fun League."

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Torrey Smith criticized the league last week in a series of tweets after former Giants kicker Josh Brown was placed on Commissioner Roger Goodell's "exempt" list because police documents revealed Brown admit-

ted to repeatedly abusing his former wife while they were married.

"Celebrating a TD will get you fined but being an abuser can keep the checks coming in," Smith wrote on Twitter. "Gotta start taking the things that are important serious...and be consistent with the investigation and punishment."

In his video, Blandino said: "We're not trying to legislate emotion out of the game. Sportsmanship and player safety are the two top priorities in the game today." No doubt, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson's dancing, the Ickey Shuffle, the high-fiving Fun Bunch and Mark Gastineau's sack dance wouldn't be tolerated. Terrell Owens and Chad Johnson would've been ejected for their creative celebrations.

"We talk about, we want to grow the business of the NFL and revenues," Jets wide receiver

Brandon Marshall said. "We see growth from 10 billion to 20 billion (dollars) by the end of 2022. We need more of that. We need guys to come out of the box. We need Antonio Brown twerking in the end zone. Kids shouldn't be fined for that. Guys should go out there and wear colorful cleats. That's our culture right now. This is this new era, this hip-hop and lifestyle era. We need to embrace that. You can't just put guys in a box."

Blandino explained that Brown was penalized for twerking because it was "sexually suggestive" and sends the wrong message to youngsters watching the sport. "We don't want that out on the youth football field," Blandino said. "That's not the image we want to portray." — AP



NEWARK: Corey Crawford #50 of the Chicago Blackhawks defends the net against the New Jersey Devils during the third period at the Prudential Center on October 28, 2016 in Newark, New Jersey. The Blackhawks defeated the Devils 3-2 in overtime.—AFLP

SKINNER'S TWO GOALS LEAD HURRICANES OVER RANGERS

RALEIGH: Jeff Skinner had two goals and an assist as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers 3-2 on Friday night. Skinner originally had his fifth career hat trick before the third goal was awarded to Bryan Bickell on a scoring change. Still, Skinner's 16th career three-point night - in his debut wearing the "A" as an alternate captain - helped the Hurricanes win their home opener. Victor Rask had two assists, giving him points in all seven games, and Cam Ward made 28 saves - stopping Mats Zuccarello with about 5 seconds left - to help Carolina snap a two-game losing streak. Zuccarello scored two power-play goals and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 18 shots for the Rangers, whose three-game winning streak was snapped.

BLACKHAWKS 3, DEVILS 2, OT

Artem Anisimov scored on a rebound at 1:15 of overtime as Chicago rallied to hand New Jersey its first home loss. Marian Hossa tied the game with a power-play goal with 2:11 left in regulation after the Blackhawks pulled goaltender Corey Crawford for a sixth skater. Artemi Panarin, who took the shot on Anisimov's game winner, also scored for Chicago. Crawford was outstanding in making 30 saves. PA Parenteau and John Moore scored for New Jersey, which was 3-0 at home. Keith Kinkaid made 26 saves in his first start of the season. Chicago had all three shots in the overtime. Panarin took a shot from the right circle. Kinkaid made the save but the puck went right to Anisimov for his fifth goal of the season.

OILERS 2, CANUCKS 0

Connor McDavid scored on a breakaway in the second period and Cam Talbot made 26 saves for his 13th career shutout to lead the Edmonton Oilers to their fifth straight win, over the Vancouver Canucks. Milan Lucic added an empty-netter to help Western Conference-leading Edmonton, off to its best start since 1985, improve to 7-1-0. Talbot, who has started all eight games this season, recorded his second shutout in three games. Ryan Miller had 25 saves for Vancouver and fell to 12-1-1 in his career against the Oilers. The Canucks, 0-3-1 since starting the season with four wins, haven't scored since the third period against Anaheim on Sunday.

BLUE JACKETS 4, DUCKS 0

Sam Gagner and Brandon Saad each

scored twice in the first period and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 35 shots for his 14th career shutout as Columbus beat Anaheim. Gagner scored midway through the first period, cleaning up Scott Hartnell's missed shot for his first goal since signing with the Blue Jackets as a free agent. Saad scored 21 seconds later as he unleashed a wrist shot from the high slot that hit the post and careened in. Saad knew it was a goal and started celebrating immediately, but the officials needed a video review to confirm it. Saad then swatted in his own rebound with 6:10 left for his 10th career multi-goal game and first with the Blue Jackets. Gagner added a power-play goal 20 seconds later. Ducks goalie John Gibson made 28 saves before being replaced by Dustin Tokarski midway through the third period. Tokarski stopped all five shots he faced.

JETS 1, AVALANCHE 0

Shawn Matthias scored in the second period against his former team and Michael Hutchinson stopped 37 shots for his third career NHL shutout as Winnipeg beat Colorado. The Jets were more energetic despite playing their third game in four days, including a 4-1 win over Dallas

the night before. Colorado looked a bit rusty after a week off and couldn't solve Hutchinson. It was Hutchinson's first shutout since Jan. 15, 2015, against Columbus. The Avalanche pulled Semyon Varlamov with around 1:22 remaining, but the Avalanche couldn't capitalize. Varlamov stopped 20 shots, his only mistake not sliding over in time to stop Matthias' wrist shot.

FLAMES 5, SENATORS 2

Dougie Hamilton scored his first two goals and added an assist to lead Calgary to its third straight win. Sam Bennett, Sean Monahan and Michael Frolik also scored for Calgary, and Brian Elliott stopped 31 shots. Erik Karlsson and Kyle Turris scored for Ottawa. Andrew Hammond started in goal and had three saves on four shots before leaving with a lower-body injury after one period. Chris Dreidger replaced him and gave up four goals on 15 shots. With the score tied 2-2 halfway through the second, Hamilton retrieved the puck from the sideboards, spun and whipped a shot from a bad angle over the Dreidger's shoulder. Calgary put the game away on goals by Monahan and Frolik 2:46 apart midway through the third. —AP



EAST RUTHERFORD: In this Dec 6, 2015, file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham (13) and Dwayne Harris (17) celebrate after Beckham scored a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J. Don't twerk. Don't pretend to shoot a bow-and-arrow. Don't even think about playing basketball with a football. And, never take your helmet off. — AP

DOVIZIOSO WINS MALAYSIA POLE, ROSSI SECOND

SEFANG: Andrea Dovizioso won pole position yesterday for the Malaysia MotoGP as fellow Italian Valentino Rossi improved his chances of finishing second in the world championship by joining the front row.

Ducati's Dovizioso clocked a lap of 2min 11.485secs to take his second pole of the season after opting for a tyre switch that paid off on a rain-dampened Sepang International Circuit.

Honda's Marc Marquez clinched the MotoGP crown two weeks ago in Japan, and yesterday's results set up a clash today between Rossi and his Yamaha teammate Jorge Lorenzo for runner-up honours in the world championship.

Rossi leads Lorenzo by 24 points with two races left. In the frantic late stages of qualifying on Saturday, Rossi leap-frogged Lorenzo into second position, finishing just 0.246 behind Dovizioso.

Lorenzo rounds out the front row, while Marquez leads the second line after finishing fourth in qualifying despite battling gastroenteritis for days.

Riders had to contend with a heavy rain that had soaked the track before final qualifying got going, as well as the challenge of adapting to a track that has been repaved and seen modifications on turns.

Dovizioso had already posted a top time earlier in the session but bettered it later after his tyre change. "I'm really happy to

make a pole position because the conditions were difficult," he said.

"I'm happy because I was able to improve on the last lap with the hard tyre and ... was able to go much faster. So I'm really happy about that speed."

No rider has been as successful at Sepang as Rossi, 37, who has won here six times. But the nine-time world champion has not won in Malaysia since 2010, which was also the last year he took the MotoGP world title.

Rossi said success at the notoriously challenging track depends on being able to adjust to conditions, and added that he was happy with Saturday's result.

"We have to work in these conditions, but starting in the front row is really good," he said. Track temperatures have been moderate this week, but can top 50 degrees centigrade (122 Fahrenheit) — putting strain on both man and machine.

The tropical humidity and sudden heavy downpours also can pose control issues. The track modifications have also made it a learning process this week, with several riders going down at various points. Track officials said the modifications and repaving were aimed at improving run-off and tyre grip. But some riders have complained about the difficulty negotiating the hairpin final curve, which now-unusually-slopes away from the direction of the turn. — AFLP

NHL Results/Standings

Chicago 3, New Jersey 2 (OT); Carolina 3, NY Rangers 2; Winnipeg 1, Colorado 0; Calgary 5, Ottawa 2; Edmonton 2, Vancouver 0; Columbus 4, Anaheim 0.													
Western Conference													
Central Division													
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Detroit	6	2	0	26	18	12
Minnesota	5	2	1	28	19	11	Tampa Bay	5	2	0	25	20	10
St. Louis	4	2	2	21	21	10	Ottawa	4	3	0	23	25	8
Chicago	4	3	1	28	27	9	Florida	3	3	1	20	18	7
Winnipeg	4	4	0	21	23	8	Toronto	2	2	3	24	28	7
Dallas	3	3	1	18	22	7	Boston	3	4	0	17	23	6
Colorado	3	3	0	16	17	6	Buffalo	1	3	2	14	20	4
Nashville	2	4	1	18	24	5	Metropolitan Division						
Pacific Division													
Edmonton	7	1	0	29	17	14	Pittsburgh	5	2	1	20	23	11
San Jose	5	3	0	19	20	10	NY Rangers	5	3	0	29	21	10
Vancouver	4	3	1	15	19	9	New Jersey	3	2	2	15	15	8
Calgary	4	4	1	30	32	9	Washington	3	2	1	14	17	7
Los Angeles	4	3	0	20	22	8	Columbus	3	3	1	18	17	7
Anaheim	3	4	2	21	23	8	Philadelphia	3	4	1	28	30	7
Arizona	2	5	0	22	30	4	Carolina	2	3	2	21	26	6
Eastern Conference													
Atlantic Division													
Montreal	7	0	1	29	13	15	NY Islanders	3	5	0	22	24	6

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

MUM'S THE WORD AS INDIA BATS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

VISAKHAPATNAM: Indian cricketers yesterday sported their mothers' names on their jerseys to applaud their role in shaping their careers in a campaign to change attitudes towards women in the patriarchal country.

The "Nayi Soch (New Thinking)" initiative pitched by official broadcasters 'Star Sports' saw the players don the renamed

jerseys in the fifth and final one-day international against New Zealand in the Indian city of Visakhapatnam.

"It's an initiative to appreciate the contribution of the mom," skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said during the toss ceremony, sporting his mother's name 'Devki' on the jersey.

Opens Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit

Sharma then walked out to bat with "Sujata" and "Purnima" written above their jersey numbers instead of their surnames which refer to their fathers' family names. Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rahane also feature in TV advertisements to promote the campaign which seeks to recognise the contribution of millions of Indian mothers in shaping their chil-

dren's lives and values. "You must be wondering whose name it is? It's mine. Whatever I am today. Its because of my mother so obviously why should my identity be linked only to my father's name? I am as much a Saroj as I am a Kohli," says Kohli in the TV ad.

Patriarchy remains deeply entrenched in Indian society with

women battling gender inequality on many fronts including limited access to job opportunities, healthcare and education.

India has faced intense scrutiny in recent years in the wake of a series of high-profile rapes that have unleashed a wave of public anger over its violent treatment of women.—AFP

PERERA HITS TON, S LANKA PUNISH SLOPPY ZIMBABWE

HARARE: Kusal Perera struck his maiden Test century as Sri Lanka took control of the first Test against Zimbabwe on the opening day at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Perera took advantage of two dropped catches to make an attacking 110, while Kaushal Silva scored 94 as Sri Lanka notched up 317 for four on a largely one-sided day.

Zimbabwe had hoped to push an under-strength Sri Lankan side in their 100th Test match, and first under new coach Heath Streak, but were instead dogged by familiar problems with their fielding.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Perera survived chances on 15 and 30, while Silva was put down on 89 and fellow opener Dimuth Karunaratne, who made 56, was dropped in the second over of the match.

Zimbabwe did pull things back in the final hour of the day, with legspinner Graeme Cremer picking up two wickets to close with figures of 3 for 82.

With regular captain Angelo Mathews and vice-captain Dinesh Chandimal among the five players ruled out of the two-Test series by injury, 38-year-old Rangana Herath led Sri Lanka for the first time in his career. Having won the toss, and elected to bat, he watched his openers put on a stand of 123, although they could have been separated early on. Zimbabwe gave a debut to fast bowler Carl Mumba, making him their 100th Test player in the process, and his first delivery caught the shoulder of Karunaratne's bat only for Sean Williams to

put down a one-handed effort as he back-pedalled at gully.

Karunaratne departed after lunch when he chipped Cremer to midwicket, but that brought Perera to the crease where he quickly took the attack to Zimbabwe's bowlers.

"They were bowling in good areas but my normal approach is to attack. That's my natural way," he said. "I'm really happy about my first Test century." The approach did give Zimbabwe opportunities to strike back, but wicketkeeper Peter Moor was unable to hold onto two thin edges—one from Silva and one from Perera—before Malcolm Waller dropped a simpler chance from Perera at long-on.

Perera responded with a fearsome onslaught after tea, taking five boundaries off a Mumba over to race into the 70s. His scoring rate slowed thereafter as Zimbabwe went into a containing pattern and Cremer had Kusal Mendis caught behind for 34, but he was still able to reach three figures in just 104 deliveries.

A sloppy stroke in the final half-hour of the day eventually brought his innings to a close as he drove a Cremer delivery to Waller at cover, but Sri Lanka nonetheless closed the day in a strong position with Upul Tharanga on 13 and Dhananjaya de Silva on 10.

"We need to take our chances, because we let a few go today," reflected Mumba. "If we take all of our chances tomorrow then we might get them before they reach a big score." —AFP



VISAKHAPATNAM: India's bowler Amit Mishra holds the winner's trophy and poses with team members after India won the one day series 3-2 after the fifth one day international (ODI) cricket match between India and New Zealand at Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday. —AFP

CHAMPIONS

MISHRA SPINS INDIA TO SERIES WIN OVER NZ

VISAKHAPATNAM: New Zealand was bowled out for just 79 runs in 23.1 overs in the final one-day international yesterday as India won the five-match series 3-2.

Spinner Amit Mishra took 5-18 as the Black Caps lost eight wickets for 16 runs to collapse to their lowest ODI total against India. Chasing its first ODI series win on Indian soil, after the hosts' 269-6, New Zealand got off to a bad start. Umesh Yadav (1-28) bowled Martin Guptill (0) in the first over.

Tom Latham (19) and captain Kane Williamson (27) added 28 runs for the second wicket, before Latham was out caught at mid-on as he lobbed a rising delivery from Jasprit Bumrah (1-16).

Ross Taylor put on 35 runs with Williamson for the third wicket. The skipper was caught on 19 at long-off after going for a big shot against Axar Patel (2-9) in the 15th over. The New Zealand batting then collapsed.

MS Dhoni completed a smart catch off Taylor off Mishra in the 16th over. Two balls later, the leg spinner bowled BJ Watling for a duck with a googly. At the other end, debutant Jayant Yadav (1-8) picked his maiden ODI wicket when he trapped Corey Anderson (0) lbw off the last ball of the 19th over. Within the space of next five balls, the visitors lost another two wickets.

Mishra bowled James Neesham and then four balls later Tim Southee was stumped by Dhoni. Two overs later, Mishra completed his second five-wicket haul in ODI cricket, as Ish Sodhi's skier was caught by Ajinkya Rahane.

India completed its massive win, when Patel bowled Mitchell Santner in the 24th over. The visitors collapsed from 63-2 in the space of 51 balls.

It was the shortest innings - in terms of overs faced - for New Zealand in ODI cricket where they have been bowled out. It was also the highest margin of defeat against India in terms of

SCOREBOARD

VISAKHAPATNAM, India: Scoreboard yesterday in the fifth one-day international between India and New Zealand at YSR Reddy ACA Cricket Stadium:

India		New Zealand	
Ajinkya Rahane c Latham b Neesham	20	Tom Latham c JYadav b Bumrah	19
Rohit Sharma c Neesham b Boult	70	Kane Williamson c Jadhav b Patel	27
Virat Kohli c Guptill b Sodhi	65	Ross Taylor c Dhoni b Mishra	19
Mahendra Singh Dhoni lbw b Santner	41	James Neesham b Mishra	3
Manish Pandey c Boult b Sodhi	0	BJ Watling b Mishra	0
Kedar Jadhav not out	39	Corey Anderson lbw b Jyadav	0
Axar Patel b Boult	24	Mitchell Santner b Patel	4
Jayant Yadav not out	1	Tim Southee st Dhoni b Mishra	0
Extras: (1b, 1lb, 7w)	9	Ish Sodhi c Rahane b Mishra	0
Total: (for 6 wickets)	269	Trent Boult not out	1
Did not bat: Amit Mishra, Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah.		Extras: (6w)	6
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-119, 3-190, 4-195, 5-220, 6-266.		Total: (all out)	79
Bowling: Tim Southee 10-0-56-0 (1w), Trent Boult 10-0-52-2 (1w), James Neesham 6-0-30-1 (1w), Mitchell Santner 10-0-36-1, Ish Sodhi 10-0-66-2, Corey Anderson 4-0-27-0.		Overs: 23.1.	
		Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-28, 3-63, 4-66, 5-66, 6-74, 7-74, 8-74, 9-76, 10-79.	
		Bowling: Umesh Yadav 4-0-28-1 (1w), Jasprit Bumrah 5-0-16-1, Axar Patel 4.1-0-9-2, Amit Mishra 6-2-18-5 (1w), Jayant Yadav 4-0-8-1.	
		Result: India wins by 190 runs.	

runs. Earlier, India opted to bat first and scored 269-6. Rohit Sharma top-scored with 70 runs, including five fours and three sixes, with Virat Kohli hitting 65.

India, which usually likes to chase in limited-overs cricket, made a sedate start. Sharma and Rahane (20) put on 40 runs for the first wicket in more than nine overs. Neesham (1-30) provided the breakthrough as Rahane was caught at short midwicket.

Kohli and Sharma then put on 79 runs for the second wicket. Sharma reached his 29th ODI half-century off 49 balls in the only period of the Indian innings when runs flowed easily. Sharma was caught at deep midwicket off Trent Boult (2-52), a short ball doing the trick. Dhoni (41) then came to the crease and added 71 runs for the

third wicket with Kohli.

However, the run rate dropped as Santner (1-36) applied the brakes. He also trapped Dhoni lbw in the 38th over, as India lost momentum. Sodhi (2-66) had dropped a return chance from Kohli on 8 and the vice captain went on to score his 38th ODI half-century off 62 balls. He held the innings together, even as Manish Pandey played a poor shot and holed out at deep midwicket for a duck.

The big moment came in the 44th over as Kohli was caught in the deep off Sodhi. Kedar Jadhav (39 not out) and Axar (24) then put on 46 runs off 39 balls, and helped India past the 250-mark in the 49th over.

Both hit a six each, before Boult bowled Axar in the last over. — AP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka yesterday:

Sri Lanka first innings		Zimbabwe first innings	
D. Karunaratne c Mawoyo b Cremer	56	Lakmal, L. Kumara.	
K. Silva c Williams b Waller	94	Fall of wickets: 1-123 (Karunaratne), 2-198 (Silva), 3-282 (Mendis), 4-307 (Perera).	
K. Perera c Waller b Perera	110	Bowling: Mpofo 20-5-62-0, Mumba 15-2-65-0, Tiripano 14-4-37-0, Cremer 21-2-82-3, Masakadza 6-2-22-0, Williams 8-0-24-0, Waller 6-0-25-1.	
K. Mendis c Moor b Cremer	34	Zimbabwe: Tino Mawoyo, Brian Chari, Hamilton Masakadza, Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, Malcolm Waller, Peter Moor (wk), Graeme Cremer (capt), Donald Tiripano, Carl Mumba, Chris Mpofo.	
U. Tharanga not out	13		
D. de Silva not out	10		
Extras	0		
Total (4 wks, 90 overs)	317		
To bat: A. Gunaratne, D. Perera, R. Herath, S.			



HARARE: Sri Lanka batsman Kaushal Silva hits the ball as wicketkeeper Peter Moor and Tinotenda Mawoyo look on during the first match in a series of two cricket matches between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club, yesterday. This is the 100th test match since Zimbabwe began playing international test cricket in 1992. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

DHAKA: Scores at stumps on the second day of the second Test between Bangladesh and England at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday:

Bangladesh 1st innings 220 (Tamim Iqbal 104, Mominul Haque 66, M. Ali 5-57, C. Woakes 3-30)	
England first innings (overnight 50-3)	
A. Cook lbw b Mehedi	14
B. Duckett c Rahim b Shakib	7
J. Root lbw b Tajjul	56
G. Ballance c Rahim b Mehedi	9
M. Ali b Mehedi	10
B. Stokes c Mominul b Tajjul	0
J. Bairstow lbw b Mehedi	24
Z. Ansari c Shuvagata b Mehedi	13
C. Woakes Shuvagata b Mehedi	46
A. Rashid not out	44
S. Finn c Rahim b Tajjul	0
Extras (b13, lb7, nb 1)	23
Total (all out; 81.3 overs)	244
Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Duckett), 2-24 (Cook), 3-42 (Ballance), 4-64 (Ali), 5-69 (Stokes), 6-114 (Bairstow), 7-140 (Ansari), 8-144 (Root), 9-243 (Woakes), 10-244 (Finn)	
Bowling: Mehedi 28-2-82-6, Shakib 16-5-41-1, Tajjul 25.3-3-65-3, Kamrul 3-0-16-0, Shuvagata 4-0-8-0, Sabbir 5-0-12-0 (nb1).	

Bangladesh second innings	
Tamim Iqbal c Cook b Ansari	40
Imrul Kayes not out	59
Mominul Haque c Cook b Stokes	1
Mahmudullah b Ansari	47
Extras (b1, lb2, w1, nb1)	5
Total (three wickets, 31 overs)	152
Fall of wickets: 1-65 (Tamim), 2-66 (Mominul), 3-152 (Mahmudullah)	
To bat: Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Sabbir Rahman, Shuvagata Hom, Mehedi Hasan, Tajjul Islam, Kamrul Islam.	
Bowling: Finn 3-0-18-0, Ali 8-0-34-0, Ansari 8-0-33-2, Stokes 5-1-20-1 (nb1, w1), Rashid 5-0-30-0, Woakes 2-0-14-0.	

BANGLADESH AHEAD IN TOPSY-TURVY TEST

DHAKA: Left-arm spinner Zafar Ansari dismissed Mahmudullah Riyad off the final ball of the day to bring England back into the contest in the second Test after Bangladesh surged ahead with 152-3 at stumps on the second day. Bangladesh made a confident start in the second innings thanks to a fluent batting by their top-order after Chris Woakes and Adil Rashid shared 99 runs in the ninth wicket to give England a vital 24-run first innings lead.

The hosts wiped out the deficit quickly and went for almost five runs in an over in the final session to put the pressure back on England before Ansari's late strike restored some parity for the visitors.

Ansari earlier removed Tamim Iqbal for 40 to make the first innings century maker his maiden Test wicket and two balls later Ben Stokes got rid of Mominul Haque to put a brake on Bangladesh's breakneck speed.

But Imrul Kayes, unbeaten on 59, and Mahmudullah shared 86 runs for the third wicket to help the home side claw back their advantage.

They were leading England by 128 runs at the end of the second day's play with seven wickets in hand, which must have given them hopes for setting a decent target for England to chase in the fourth innings.

"I think a lead of 300 would be good enough," said Bangladesh off-spinner Mehedi Hasan, who starred with 6-82 in England's innings.

"You cannot determine anything at the moment because there is still a lot of cricket left in the remaining three days," he said. Bangladesh dominated the opening session of the day to claim five wickets putting England on the ropes before Woakes and Rashid staged a fightback.

Woakes made 46 while Rashid added an unbeaten 44 to

lift England 244 from a precarious 144-8 giving them a handy 24-run lead in the first innings. "I think the partnership was crucial between us," Woakes said after the second day's play. "The slim lead surely added some advantage. The game would have different if we were 80 runs behind." Their die-hard batting overshadowed the bowling heroics of Bangladesh's teenage spin sensation Mehedi, who completed his second five-wicket haul in as many matches.

Mehedi broke the partnership with the second new ball when he forced an edge from Woakes at slip and five balls later left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam, who claimed 3-65, wrapped up England's innings.

England could have been dismissed a little earlier if Woakes was not given a reprieve when Sabbir Rahman had him caught by Mahmudullah for 38 with a full toss delivery. Replay confirmed the ball was above the waist prompting the umpires to call Woakes back. Resuming on 50-3, England found themselves in deep trouble in the morning session before Joe Root offered some resistance with 56 off 122 balls. Jonny Bairstow, who made 24, gave him some support in their 45-run sixth wicket stand. Mehedi, who claimed seven wickets in Bangladesh's 22-run loss in the first Test, including 6-80 in a single innings, again drew first blood, bowling overnight batsman Moeen Ali for 10 in the third over. Tajjul removed Stokes, the man of the match in the first Test, for a duck two overs later before Root and Bairstow repaired England innings. Mehedi returned for his second spell to hit Bairstow plumb in front in his first ball, ending their resistance.

Tajjul removed Root almost identically to expose England's tail after Mehedi complete his five-wicket haul with the wicket of Ansari. — AFP



DHAKA: England's Ben Stokes celebrates the dismissal of Bangladesh's Mominul Haque, unseen, during their second day of the second cricket test match in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday. — AP

TOULOUSE GAIN FIRST AWAY WIN OF THE SEASON AT PAU

PARIS: Toulouse earned their first away win of the season in a vital 24-20 success at Pau in the Top 14 yesterday. Tries from Julien Marchand and Joe Tekori cancelled out efforts from Daniel Ramsay and Watisoni Votu for the hosts as Jean-Marc Doussain kicked 14 points to 10 from Pau's Tom Taylor to make the difference. It took almost half an hour for the game to burst into life, at which point Doussain had out-scored New Zealand's Taylor by three

penalties to one in the visitors' favour. But Pau turned the scores on their head with a sweeping move that ended in a try on 29 minutes. The ball was spread wide left and only a poor pass slowed down Pau's progress enough to allow covering tacklers to stop English back-rower Steffon Armitage. But several phases later the ball was worked in from the opposite touchline and New Zealander Ramsay twisted his way over the line, with Taylor converting to help the

hosts into a 10-9 lead. Toulouse regained the lead from a Doussain drop goal just before the break but still had time to cross the whitewash themselves. A simple catch and drive from a close-range line-out saw hooker Marchand shoved over the line under a pile of bodies, although Doussain's conversion sailed wide leaving the visitors 17-10 ahead at half-time. Pau came flying out of the blocks after the break and

carved Toulouse open with some incisive running rugby before Ramsay's brilliant offload in the tackle sent Fiji flyer Votu over in the corner. Taylor's conversion levelled the scores and just past the hour mark his penalty gave the Pyreneans a narrow advantage. But disaster struck when New Zealand international Colin Slade's clearing kick close to his own line was charged down by giant Samoan lock Tekori, who powered

through Taylor's tackle to score. Pau blew a late chance to go for a match-winning try as Slade's penalty kick to the corner failed to find touch. Champions Racing 92 are away to rock-bottom Bayonne later on Saturday, looking for their first win on the road this season. Mike Ford takes charge of Toulon for the first time at home to Grenoble. Leaders Clermont travel to Brive today. — AFP

RUTHLESS KERBER SETS UP FINAL WITH CIBULKOVA

SINGAPORE: Angelique Kerber continued her relentless march towards a maiden WTA Finals crown with a comprehensive 6-2 6-1 victory over defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska yesterday to set up a title showdown against Dominika Cibulkova.

The German enjoyed a breakthrough campaign with victories at the Australian and US Opens to usurp Serena Williams at the top of the world rankings and after another dominant display, she will be favoured to cap her season with the Singapore title today.

"I was trying to be focused on every single point because playing against her is so tough, so I just made sure I played my game and was aggressive," Kerber said. "It's amazing to think that I will be in the final in Singapore."

Both players are renowned for their exemplary defence and supreme athleticism but, with serving not considered their strongest suit, it was hardly surprising to see the contest start with three straight breaks in favour of the German.

Kerber gave her Polish opponent no free points, got everything back and forced Radwanska into playing an extra shot on every rally, the constant pressure leading to another break in the seventh game, enough for the German to claim the opener.

Radwanska struggled to come up with any answers as the alarmingly consistent Kerber ran away with the contest against her dispirited opponent with four more breaks of serve.

In the first semi-final, Cibulkova continued her dream debut at the elite eight-woman event with a thrilling 1-6 7-6(2) 6-4

victory over Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova in an absorbing encounter.

INTENSITY LEVELS

The 27-year-old Slovakian, who had won their last five encounters, enjoyed a bright opening and threatened to Kuznetsova's first service game but some booming forehands bailed out the Russian, who edged ahead when she broke in the third game.

Kuznetsova was now firing on all cylinders, pushing Cibulkova all around the court and forcing her into errors and the rampant Russian secured two more breaks to complete a run of six straight games to wrap up the opener.

Cibulkova responded by stepping up her intensity levels in the second set and, as the tension mounted, neither player was capable of holding serve and four consecutive breaks from the ninth game sent it to a tiebreaker.

Cibulkova maintained her aggression in the tiebreak, sprinting 6-2 ahead as Kuznetsova struggled to keep pace and the Slovakian sent the contest into a decider when she rifled a backhand winner past her static opponent.

The third set was punctuated by several swings in momentum before Cibulkova followed up a gutsy hold from 15-40 in the ninth game to seal victory with another break. "This is my first time here and it's one of my dreams come true, just incredible," world number eight Cibulkova said.

The final is a rematch of their opening round-robin match last Sunday in which Kerber beat the Slovakian 7-6(5) 2-6 6-3, the only contest of the week when the German lost a set. — Reuters



DALLAS: J.J. Barea #5 of the Dallas Mavericks drives to the basket against Sam Dekker #7 of the Houston Rockets and Clint Capela #15 of the Houston Rockets in the first half at American Airlines Center on Friday in Dallas, Texas. — AFP

WESTBROOK LEADS THUNDER WITH 50-POINT TRIPLE-DOUBLE

OKLAHOMA CITY: Russell Westbrook had 51 points and a triple-double and scored the winning points in the Oklahoma City Thunder's 113-110 overtime victory over the Phoenix Suns on Friday night. According to the Thunder, it was the first 50-point triple-double since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had one in 1975. Westbrook finished with 13 rebounds and 10 assists and took a career-high 44 shots. Westbrook made a layup to put the Thunder up a point with 7.6 seconds remaining. Phoenix's Devin Booker missed a layup and Westbrook fouled. Westbrook scored his 50th and 51st points at the free-throw line with 3.5 seconds remaining. Booker missed a 3-pointer as time expired. Westbrook has 38 career triple-doubles. He scored 39 points in the second half and overtime. T.J. Warren had a career-high 30 points for the Suns.

ROCKETS 106, MAVERICKS 98

Trevor Ariza scored 27 points and James Harden had 26 as Houston beat Dallas with Dirk Nowitzki missing from the Mavericks' home opener. Nowitzki didn't play for just the second time in 19 home openers with Dallas. The 38-year-old had a stomach ailment bad enough that coach Rick Carlisle wasn't sure he would make the trip to Houston for the Rockets' home opener today. Harrison Barnes, playing his first home game for the Mavericks after signing a max contract in the summer, had a career-high 31 points.

WARRIORS 122, PELICANS 114

Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Klay Thompson added 28 and Golden State bounced back emphatically from a surprising season-opening loss. After scoring only six points on five shot attempts in the first half, Stephen Curry asserted himself more with an array of inside and deep shots to finish with 23 points, including a momentum-swinging 8-0 run by himself in the third quarter. Durant also had 17 rebounds. Anthony Davis, who scored 50 points in New Orleans' season-opening loss, finished with 45 points and 17 rebounds against Golden State, but the Pelicans struggled to trim their deficit below double digits for much of the final quarter. Tim Frazier scored a career-high 21 points and added 10 assists for New Orleans. Lance Stephenson and Dante Cunningham each scored 15 points.

CAVALIERS 94, RAPTORS 91

Kyrie Irving had 26 points and LeBron James scored 21, helping Cleveland hold off DeMar DeRozan and Toronto. DeRozan had 32 points for Toronto in the first of four games

scheduled between last season's Eastern Conference finalists. Cleveland beat Toronto in six games on its way to winning the franchise's first NBA championship. Kevin Love had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Cavs. Toronto's Jonas Valanciunas had his second straight double-double to open the season with 10 points and 17 rebounds, while Cleveland's Tristan Thompson had his first of the season with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

HORNETS 97, HEAT 91

Kemba Walker scored 24 points to lead six players in double figures as Charlotte erased a 19-point deficit in the second half. Jeremy Lamb scored 16 points for the Hornets, who lost a first-round series in seven games to Miami last season - albeit a very different looking Miami. Nic Batum and Marco Belinelli each scored 12 points for Charlotte. Hassan Whiteside led Miami with 20 points and 15 rebounds. Goran Dragic scored 14 points and Dion Waiters added 13 for the Heat, who lost a home opener for the first time in nine years.

JAZZ 96, LAKERS 89

George Hill scored 23 points and Rudy Gobert had 13 points and 13 rebounds to help Utah win its home opener. The Jazz used a 16-1 run spanning halftime to take an 11-point lead, but the Lakers closed the third quarter on a 22-11 run - highlighted by Tarik Black's put-backs and Lou Williams' 3-pointer - to take a 65-64 lead. The Jazz trailed by four midway through the fourth quarter when

Hill's 3-pointer sparked an 11-0 run for an 83-76 lead. Utah led the rest of the way. Jazz forward Derrick Favors returned from a knee injury that kept him out for most of the pre-season and the season opener. He finished with 15 points, nine rebounds and two blocks. Teammate Rodney Hood added 15. Williams led the Lakers with 17 points.

NETS 103, PACERS 94

Jeremy Lin had 21 points and just missed a triple-double in his Brooklyn home debut while Brook Lopez scored 25 as the Nets got their first victory. Lin finished with nine rebounds and nine assists, drawing some delirious cheers the way he briefly did during his run of Linsanity last time he played in New York, with the Knicks in 2012. Sean Kilpatrick hit consecutive 3-pointers during the decisive fourth-quarter surge as the Nets gave new coach Kenny Atkinson his first victory, not far from where the Northport native grew up.

PISTONS 108, MAGIC 82

Andre Drummond had 12 points and 20 rebounds, helping Detroit rout Orlando in what might have been the final home opener for the Pistons at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Pistons owner Tom Gores confirmed before the game the team was close to a deal to move downtown next season. Tobias Harris scored 18 points for the Pistons, and Marcus Morris added 17. Ish Smith had 16 points and eight assists. Aaron Gordon led the Magic with 17 points. — AP



SINGAPORE: Angelique Kerber of Germany hits a return against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their women's singles semifinal match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

TSONGA BEATS KARLOVIC, TO PLAY MURRAY IN VIENNA FINAL

VIENNA: Jo-Wilfried Tsonga saved a match point before beating Ivo Karlovic 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (6) and setting up a final against top-seeded Andy Murray at the Erste Bank Open yesterday.

Murray advanced because defending champion David Ferrer pulled out with a left leg injury shortly before their semifinal. Tournament director Herwig Straka said Ferrer visited a private clinic, where doctors advised him not to play. Further details on the Spaniard's injury were not immediately available.

Ferrer already looked hampered in Friday's quarterfinal, and he complained about muscle cramps after the 2 1/2-hour match against Serbia's Viktor Troicki.

"It's unfortunate for him, he must be in quite a lot of pain," Murray said. "I'll use today as a rest day, practice a little bit on the center court." Murray, who is 6-4 in finals this year, could set a personal best with the seventh tournament win in 2016. He leads Tsonga 12-3 in career meetings and has won the last four matches against the 15th-ranked Frenchman.

The Scot, who is chasing his 42nd career title, is on a 13-match winning streak after winning back-to-back titles in Beijing and Shanghai. He won in Vienna on his only previous visit, in 2014.

"I'm obviously motivated to try and finish the season as strong as I can," Murray said. "The first couple of matches were really tricky. But now that I get the chance to play for the title I hopefully play my best match in the final."

In his first final of the year, Tsonga is aiming for his 13th career title. He won the event in 2011. The eighth-seeded Karlovic used his only break point on Tsonga's serve to take the opening set. He added an early break in the second but missed four more chances on the Frenchman's serve for a 5-2 lead, before losing 10 straight points and dropping his serve for a second time at 5-6.

Tsonga went 4-2 up in the deciding set but lost his serve in the next game. He saved a match point for Karlovic at 6-5 in the tiebreaker before winning the next three points. Karlovic, who won in Newport and Los Cabos, missed out on his fourth final of the season. — AP



VIENNA: France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga returns the ball to Croatia's Ivo Karlovic during their semifinal match at the ATP tennis tournament in Vienna, Austria, yesterday. — AFP

NBA Results/Standings

Eastern Conference					Western Conference									
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division									
W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	2	0	1.000	-	Denver	1	0	1.000	0.5	
Boston	1	1	.500	-	Portland	1	1	.500	1	Utah	1	1	.500	1
Toronto	1	1	.500	-	Minnesota	0	1	0	1.5	LA Clippers	1	0	1.000	-
Brooklyn	1	1	.500	-	Sacramento	1	1	.500	0.5	LA Lakers	1	1	.500	0.5
Philadelphia	0	1	0	0.5	Golden State	1	1	.500	0.5	Phoenix	0	2	0	1.5
NY Knicks	0	1	0	0.5	San Antonio	2	0	1.000	-	Memphis	1	0	1.000	0.5
Central Division					Pacific Division									
Cleveland	2	0	1.000	-	Houston	1	1	.500	1	Chicago	1	0	1.000	0.5
Chicago	1	0	1.000	0.5	New Orleans	0	2	0	2	Detroit	1	1	.500	1
Detroit	1	1	.500	1	Dallas	0	2	0	2	Indiana	1	1	.500	1
Indiana	1	1	.500	1	Phoenix	0	2	0	1.5	Washington	0	1	0	1.5
Milwaukee	0	1	0	1.5	Southwest Division									
Southeast Division					Charlotte	2	0	1.000	-	Atlanta	1	0	1.000	0.5
Charlotte	2	0	1.000	-	Miami	1	1	.500	1	Houston	1	1	.500	1
Atlanta	1	0	1.000	0.5	New Orleans	0	2	0	2	Washington	0	1	0	1.5
Miami	1	1	.500	1	Dallas	0	2	0	2	Orlando	0	2	0	2
Washington	0	1	0	1.5	San Antonio	2	0	1.000	-	Memphis	1	0	1.000	0.5
Orlando	0	2	0	2	Memphis	1	0	1.000	0.5	Houston	1	1	.500	1
					New Orleans	0	2	0	2	Dallas	0	2	0	2
					Dallas	0	2	0	2					

DAWSON OWN GOAL BRINGS MORE WOE FOR HULL



WATFORD: Watford piled on the misery for struggling Hull as Michael Dawson's late own goal condemned the visitors to a painful 1-0 loss yesterday.

Hull manager Mike Phelan is yet to register a Premier League win since taking over on a permanent basis on October 13 and his luck was out again at Vicarage Road.

Just seven minutes from stealing a point, Hull crashed to a sixth successive league defeat when Tigers captain Dawson deflected Roberto Pereyra's effort into his own net seven minutes from full-time.

Hull have gone without a league victory since beating Swansea on August 20 and they are languishing in the bottom three with a long struggle ahead as they fight to avoid the relegation.

Watford's spirited showing extended their best ever Premier League start and they have lost only one of their last seven top-flight matches.

Hull had enjoyed a rare bit of good news in midweek when they advanced to the League Cup quarter-finals, but their first

top-flight meeting with Watford quickly took on a more familiar downbeat tone.

Walter Mazzarri's side were on top right from the start and threatened twice in quick succession when Younes Kaboul powered his header against the crossbar before Pereyra's curling effort clipped a post and bounced to safety.

Troy Deeney was bidding to join Cliff Holton, Ross Jenkins, Tommy Barnett and Luther Blissett as the only players with 100 goals for Watford and the burly striker flashed a low shot wide midway through the half.

Watford should have been in front before the interval, but Sebastian Prodl nodded wide from a Nordin Amrabat cross and Deeney headed over from close range after another Amrabat delivery bounced into his path.

A rare Hull attack saw David Marshall's goal kick headed on by Will Keane into the path of Abel Hernandez, who raced clear only to see his tame shot saved by Heurelho Gomes.

Amrabat remained a constant menace down the wings and the Watford star produced another fine cross that Odion Ighalo couldn't keep on target. Just as it seemed Hull might ride their luck and take a point, the Hornets won it in the 83rd minute when Daryl Janmaat's cross was flicked on by Pereyra and took a deflection off Dawson's shoulder en route to the back of the net. — AFP



VITORIA: Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, jumps for the ball beside Deportivo Alaves Raul Garcia during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Deportivo Alaves, at Mendizorrosa stadium, in Vitoria, northern Spain, yesterday. — AP

ARSENAL BEAT SUNDERLAND 4-1 TO GO TOP OF THE EPL



SUNDERLAND: Olivier Giroud scored his first goals of the season as Arsenal beat Sunderland 4-1 yesterday, leaving the beleaguered northeast team with only two points after 10 Premier League games.

The France forward struck twice within five minutes of being introduced as a 69th-minute substitute to kill off hopes of Sunderland's fightback after Jermain Defoe's penalty had canceled out Alexis Sanchez's first-half opener for Arsenal.

The Gunners have now gone 14 games unbeaten in all competitions since the opening day of the season. Sunderland lacked both the defensive resilience and the raw pace to compete, further weakening David Moyes' hold on the Sunderland job.

Mesut Ozil had already shot tamely at goalkeeper Jordan Pickford after Sanchez's 13th-minute pass had carved a highway through the home defense.

However, Sanchez put Arsenal ahead

in the 19th minute when he got ahead of Lamine Kone to head home Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's cross.

Ozil should have made it 2-0 seven minutes before halftime after running on to Oxlade-Chamberlain's ball over the top, but did not get enough on his lobbed attempt to let the advancing Pickford and his team-mates off the hook.

After the break, Oxlade-Chamberlain squandered another golden opportunity after being played in behind a square defense once again and Sanchez was astonished not to be awarded a 62nd-minute penalty after going down under Kone's challenge.

Referee Martin Atkinson, however, did point to the spot at the other end two minutes later after Duncan Watmore had got away from defender Shkodran Mustafi and been tripped by keeper Petr Cech, and Defoe converted from the spot.

The respite was fleeting as Giroud steered home Kieran Gibbs' 71st-minute cross to restore his side's lead and then headed home Ozil's cross five minutes later.

Sanchez converted from close range after Gibbs' shot had come back off the post to complete a miserable afternoon for Sunderland. — AP

RONALDO HITS HAT-TRICK IN REAL COMEBACK AT ALAVES

BARCELONA: Cristiano Ronaldo answered his critics with a hat-trick as Real Madrid came from behind to win 4-1 at Alaves and provisionally go three points clear at the top of La Liga.

Alaves forward Deyverson pounced on an error by Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas to give the home side a shock lead in the seventh minute but the Brazilian gave away a controversial penalty in the 17th for handball, which Ronaldo calmly converted.

The Portuguese put the European champions in charge in the 33rd with a powerful strike that deflected off Zouhair Feddal beyond the reach of former Real goalkeeper Fernando Pacheco.

Pacheco did manage to turn away another penalty by Ronaldo in the second half but Real's all-time top scorer netted his first treble of the season in the 88th after substitute

Alvaro Morata had stretched Real's lead four minutes earlier with a delightful chip.

Real are top of the standings on 24 points, three clear of Sevilla, who drew 1-1 at Sporting Gijon. Champions Barcelona can cut the gap with Real to two points when they host Granada later.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane praised his side for how they reacted to going behind, although their third straight victory was tainted by the sight of defender Pepe going off injured in the first half.

"If you do not suffer, you cannot win La Liga. We kept our heads cool even in difficult moments, which always occur in this league," said Zidane.

Ronaldo had been questioned going into the game after making his worst start to a season with Real, scoring only two goals in six starts, but he is now Zidane's top scorer

in the league with five strikes.

His opening goal, from the spot, incensed the home side, as referee Jose Maria Sanchez Martinez harshly penalised Deyverson for blocking Gareth Bale's free-kick with his arm, the ball appearing to strike his shoulder.

Alaves coach Mauricio Pellegrino was sent off late on for protesting against another decision by the referee. "It wasn't an easy game at the start or in the second half. It's a deserved victory for us although it might look harsh on our opponents," added Zidane.

Luciano Vietto got Sevilla off to a dream start at Sporting by squeezing the ball under Ivan Cuellar in the fourth minute, only for Moi Gomez to level with a volley in the 20th, denying them a club-record-breaking start. — Reuters

TOTTENHAM SLIP UP WITH LEICESTER DRAW



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur lost ground in the race for the Premier League title after a 1-1 draw at home to faltering champions Leicester City yesterday.

Vincent Janssen's first Premier League goal, from the penalty spot, gave Spurs the lead at White Hart Lane but this was cancelled out by Ahmed Musa as Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri extended his unbeaten record against Tottenham to 11 league games.

Spurs started the weekend just a point behind the top three but this result extended their winless run in all competitions to five games and left them three points off the summit after north London rivals Arsenal and Manchester City both won yesterday, with Liverpool still to kick-off against Crystal Palace.

The draw at White Hart Lane saw Leicester collect their first away point of the season after four league defeats on their travels this term. Leicester may be on the verge of qualification for the knockout stages of the Champions League, but it was Tottenham who had the game's first clear chance when Dele Alli forced Kasper Schmeichel into a 15th-minute save with a long-range shot after the Foxes failed to clear a Christian Eriksen corner. Eriksen was next to try his luck with a 25-yard free-kick that drifted just past Schmeichel's right-hand post.

Leicester kicked-off having already lost more times on their travels than they did throughout the whole of last season, with England striker Jamie Vardy as yet unable to repeat his goal-scoring heroics. Vardy wasted the kind of chance he would surely have taken during the Foxes surge to the title when, on the half-hour mark, a break-away saw Tottenham opened up only for

the forward to fail to collect Musa's pass.

WOODWORK DENIES ALLI

Leicester went even closer to opening the scoring when a Riyad Mahrez cross saw Shinji Okazaki head just over the crossbar.

Christian Fuchs scored his first goal for Leicester last weekend and he almost followed that up with another spectacular effort on Saturday, striking Mahrez's corner just wide from distance. But while Leicester had worked their way into the game, the home side still looked the more dangerous of the two teams. That was evident when a sweeping move saw Kyle Walker cross for Alli to thump his first-time shot against the crossbar. It was a warning to Leicester and it wasn't heeded as Spurs took a 44th-minute lead via Janssen's penalty. Robert Huth was penalised for bringing down the Dutchman, although the contact appeared minimal, and Janssen took full advantage of referee Robert Madley's decision to award a spot-kick with a well-struck shot. It took Leicester just three minutes of the second half to draw level thanks to Musa.

Vincent Wanyama's loose header was collected by Vardy who showed good pace before crossing low for the £16.5 million (\$20.1 million, 18.3 million euros) Nigeria winger to fire home from close range.

It was a jolt to the system for Mauricio Pochettino's Spurs side as Leicester had threatened without ever looking likely to score in the first-half. Tottenham once again had to break down Leicester, who had conceded four goals at both Liverpool and Manchester United this season, but were looking a more resolute and organised side this time around. Eriksen drew a smart save out of Schmeichel on the hour mark before Janssen's free-kick just failed to dip under the bar. Janssen, boosted by breaking his league duck, turned and saw his 75th minute shot drift just past Schmeichel's post.

Tottenham still had one more chance to win the game but Jan Vertonghen saw his header from Wanyama's cross hit the woodwork in the closing stages. — AFP

RAMIREZ DAZZLER EARNS BORO FIRST HOME WIN



MIDDLESBROUGH: Gaston Ramirez's brilliant solo goal inspired Middlesbrough to a 2-0 victory at home to Bournemouth in the Premier League yesterday. The Uruguay playmaker ran from 70 yards to break the deadlock in the 39th minute and Stewart Downing's second-half strike sealed the win. Aitor Karanka, taking charge of Boro for the 150th time, saw his side end a seven-game

winless run in the league and claim a first home victory since promotion last season.

The northeast club climbed three places to 14th in the table, three points clear of the relegation places, while Eddie Howe's Bournemouth remain five points clear of danger in 10th.

Buoyed by a four-game unbeaten run in the league, Bournemouth made a bright start at the Riverside Stadium, with Jack Wilshere prominent. From the Arsenal loanee's corner, Josh King saw a shot cleared off the line by Adam Clayton.

Moments later, the same combination culminated in King chipping down Wilshere's lofted pass and dispatching a volley that Boro goalkeeper Victor Valdes superbly touched onto the bar. Boro had seen a penalty appeal by Adama Traore turned down by referee Stuart Attwell in the 19th

minute. Six minutes from half-time they went in front courtesy of Ramirez's memorable strike. After picking the ball up deep inside his own half, the former Southampton player drove to the edge of the Bournemouth box, cut inside Andrew Surman and slotted home with his right foot from 10 yards.

Any hopes Bournemouth had of engineering a comeback were nixed 11 minutes into the second half. Traore's crossed was nodded back across goal by Alvaro Negredo and Downing side-footed in his first goal of the season.

Howe wasted no time responding, sending on Benik Afobe and Ryan Fraser for Callum Wilson and Jordan Ibe. But Boro continued to threaten and Negredo should have made the game safe when he shot tamely at Artur Boruc.—AFP



SUNDERLAND: Arsenal's Spanish defender Hector Bellerin (R) jumps against Sunderland's Dutch defender Patrick van Aanholt (L) during the English Premier League football match between Sunderland and Arsenal at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northeast England yesterday. — AFP

Live		
Matches on TV		
(Local Timings)		
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Everton v West Ham United	16:30	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Southampton v Chelsea	19:00	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
SPANISH LEAGUE		
SD Eibar v Villarreal	14:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Athletic de Bilbao v Osasuna	18:15	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Real Betis v Espanyol	20:30	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Las Palmas v Celta de Vigo	22:45	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Atalanta v Genoa CFC	14:30	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
SS Lazio v US Sassuolo	17:00	beIN SPORTS 12 HD
AC Milan v Pescara	17:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Empoli v AS Roma	17:00	beIN SPORTS 1 HD
Crotone v Chievo Verona	17:00	beIN SPORTS
Sampdoria v Internazionale	22:45	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
Hoffenheim v Hertha Berlin	17:30	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
FC Koln v Hamburger SV	19:30	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
FRENCH LEAGUE		
OGC Nice v Nantes	17:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
Stade Rennes v FC Metz	19:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
Olympique v Girondins	22:45	beIN SPORTS 6 HD

Sports

Indians edge Cubs
to seize World
Series lead

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Mishra spins
India to series
win over NZ

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RUTHLESS KERBER SETS UP FINAL WITH CIBULKOVA Page 18



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic (C) is tackled by Burnley's English defender Ben Mee (R) on the edge of the box during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Burnley at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

MOURINHO BANISHED, HEATON FRUSTRATES MAN UTD



Man United 0



Burnley 0

MANCHESTER: Tom Heaton's saves frustrated his former club Manchester United as Burnley drew 0-0 at Old Trafford yesterday to secure a first Premier League away point of the season.

Heaton dived to palm away a Jesse Lingard header and spread himself to block a powerful Zlatan Ibrahimovic volley against a United side who finished with 10 men as midfielder Ander Herrera was sent off.

United manager Jose Mourinho was sent to the stands at half-time for protesting too vehemently to the officials, having seen Matteo Darmian deny a penalty after being caught by Jon Flanagan's trailing leg.

The draw means that United have gone four Premier League matches without victory and have fallen eight

points behind the leaders.

Wayne Rooney, back from a thigh injury, appeared as a substitute for the final 17 minutes, but could not inspire a victory, blasting over from Daley Blind's low free-kick deep into stoppage time.

Former Manchester United youth goalkeeper Heaton was inspired on his return to Old Trafford. He had already made a couple of straightforward stops from Ibrahimovic and Juan Mata when he raced off his line to block the former Sweden forward, who had latched onto a well-judged through pass from the Spaniard.

Burnley, whose defence included another United academy graduate in Michael Keane, were well organised as they frustrated the home side. But they were indebted to Heaton as United started to find gaps in the later stages of the first half.

He dived to his right to push the ball aside after Mata had dug out a left-foot shot from the edge of the penalty area. Heaton was grateful to see former Manchester City defender Ben Mee throw his head in the way of Ibrahimovic's shot after a lovely drag-back flick from Paul Pogba set up the chance.

But the England international was inspired as he palmed away a powerful Lingard header from Herrera's right-wing cross, before tipping over a 25-yard Pogba drive moments later.

Burnley lost left-back Stephen Ward to injury just before half-time and his replacement Flanagan escaped a strong penalty shout within two minutes of coming on.

MATA, IBRAHIMOVIC HIT WOODWORK

The Liverpool loanee seemed to clip Darmian's trailing leg right on the edge of the area, but referee Mark Clattenburg dismissed the home side's appeals.

Mourinho protested too strongly during the interval and began the second half in the Sir Bobby Charlton Stand. Having taken a seat near the front of the stand, the manager was then ordered to move further back.

As that drama unfolded off the pitch, United briefly lost their focus on it.

A Pogba error allowed Andre Gray a run at goal, although Luke Shaw managed to usher the striker into a wide position before making a challenge to snuff out the threat. Scott Arfield then fired over with the visitors'

best chance of the afternoon.

But United were soon pressing towards the Burnley goal once more. Heaton stopped Mata's close-range shot from an Ibrahimovic cut-back, then got his body in the way bravely to block the Swede's thunderous volley.

When Mourinho's side beat the goalkeeper, they were still denied, as Mata hit the post with a clever shot on the turn and Ibrahimovic looped a header against the bar.

United then lost Herrera to a red card. The midfielder, booked for a first-half foul, was shown a second yellow card and sent off for a late challenge on Dean Marney.

The game became scrappy, with Burnley striker Sam Vokes and United full-back Darmian seeing penalty appeals rejected in quick succession.

Ashley Barnes, on as a substitute, had a chance late in the game to secure the visitors' first win at Old Trafford since 1962, glancing just wide from a Johan Berg Gudmundsson cross.

United finished on the attack, with Blind, Shaw and Ibrahimovic all going close, but the winning goal would not come. — AFP

AGUERO BRACE ENDS GUARDIOLA BARREN RUN



West Bromwich 0



Man City 4

WEST BROMWICH: Sergio Aguero's brace ended Pep Guardiola's worst run as a manager as Manchester City turned on the style with a 4-0 win at West Bromwich Albion yesterday.

Aguero has been linked with a move away from City after being dropped for a Champions League tie at Barcelona recently, but he underlined his value with clinical first-half goals at the Hawthorns.

The Argentine forward, who had gone six games without a goal, then turned provider for Ilkay Gundogan on 79 minutes before the latter sealed it in the closing moments.

Victory ended City's six-match winless run in all competitions and was the perfect preparation for their Champions League clash with Guardiola's former side Barcelona on Tuesday.

City, who made eight changes from Wednesday's 1-0 defeat to Manchester United in the League Cup, rarely looked in danger and controlled much of the game as they matched their biggest Premier League win of the season.

West Brom forced the first opening when Nacer Chadli's first-time effort swerved away from goal after Craig Dawson won the ball on the byline and Salomon Rondon teed him up.

City responded with a floated effort from Raheem Sterling that forced a save from Ben Foster and the visitors had the ball in the net in the ninth minute when Aguero squared for Nolito to tap home, but the effort was ruled out

for offside. City began to exert control and forced two chances in quick succession. First Sterling tested Foster with a fierce volley that was palmed away, then John Stones produced a glaring miss after being left free from Nolito's cross, firing wide from five yards out.

Given the pressure from the visitors, it was no surprise when City took the lead. Gundogan split the Baggies defence as Aguero peeled off his man and slotted home across Foster from an acute angle.

THUMPING STRIKE

Aguero was in superb form and set up the next chance when he robbed Darren Fletcher in midfield and fed Gundogan, whose pass released Nolito.

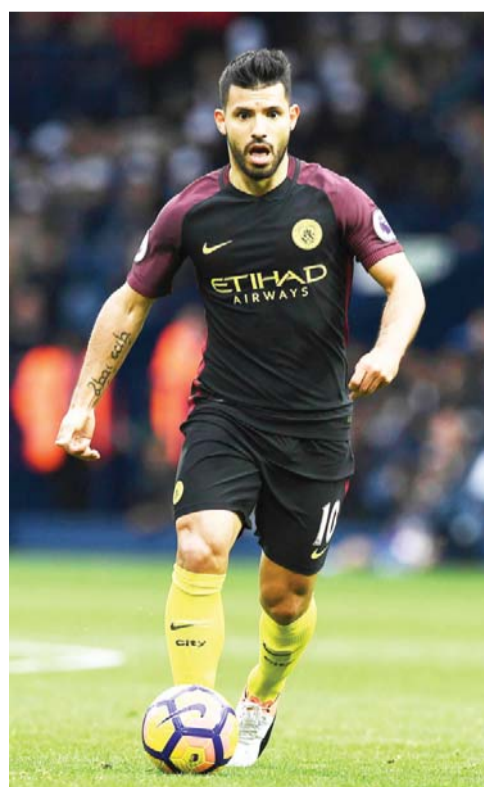
His shot beat Foster but hit Gareth McAuley in front of the line. City fans didn't have to wait long for a second goal as Aguero claimed his 13th of the season.

It was a thumping strike to live long in the memory as he took advantage of some sloppy passing from Dawson and Fletcher just outside the Albion box to rifle an unstoppable drive into the top corner of the net. Two minutes after the break, David Silva's skidding left-foot drive clipped Nolito and deflected just wide.

Gundogan was next to try his luck when he attempted to pick his spot inside the box, but his side-footed effort trickled wide.

West Brom made a double substitution six minutes after the break when Jonathan Leko and James Morrison replaced Jonas Olsson and Fletcher. Chris Brunt set up Rondon with a pass that had keeper Claudio Bravo racing to the edge of his area and Rondon, West Brom's record signing, then headed narrowly wide.

But City were always a threat and Sterling



WEST BROMWICH: Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero runs with the ball during the English Premier League football match between West Bromwich Albion and Manchester City yesterday. — AFP

screwed his shot over after some pinball in the Albion box. West Brom should have scored in the 72nd minute but Rondon miscued from six yards out after James McClean broke down the left and crossed low into the box. City ended any faint hopes of a Baggies comeback 11 minutes from time when Aguero produced a lovely dink over the defence to beat the offside trap for Gundogan to slot home. — AFP

LOVREN HERO AND VILLAIN AS LIVERPOOL KEEP PACE



Crystal Palace 2



Liverpool 4

LONDON: Liverpool kept pace with Premier League top two Manchester City and Arsenal with a dramatic 4-2 success at Crystal Palace yesterday.

A breathless first half saw both sides take advantage of defensive errors, with Palace twice levelling through James McArthur after Liverpool took the lead with goals from Emre Can and Dejan Lovren. Joel Matip's 44th-minute header gave the visitors a half-time advantage and Roberto Firmino's second-half effort secured a win that left Jurgen Klopp's men behind City and Arsenal on goal difference. While the Merseysiders' vibrant display showcased their attacking talents — assisted by a generous Palace defence — lapses at the back again raised questions about their ability to sustain their title challenge. Liverpool have kept just one clean sheet in 10 league games this season and Lovren's failings in particular complicated what should have been a routine victory.

But if Klopp had reason to be frustrated about elements of his side's display, Palace manager Alan Pardew had even more grounds for complaint. The hosts' porousness meant that even when they twice came back to level, they never looked like kicking on to record what would have been only a sixth league win in 2016.

Initially the game had the look of an

uneven contest when a typically incisive move, orchestrated by Philippe Coutinho, brought about Can's opening goal after 16 minutes. Coutinho picked out left-back Alberto Moreno, whose volleyed cross was turned home by Can with a first-time shot from 10 yards. Already things looked bleak for Pardew's side, but within two minutes they were gifted a route back into the game.

A long clearance by Palace goalkeeper Steve Mandanda was headed on by former Liverpool striker Christian Benteke. The flick should have been dealt with comfortably by Liverpool's centre-backs, but Matip squared for Lovren, whose mishit, looping pass allowed McArthur to nip in and head the ball over the advancing Loris Karius.

That was the first time Palace had threatened and should have given the home side the chance to settle into the game. Instead, they were undone in similarly routine fashion in the 21st minute when Lovren made amends for his error by easily rising above Palace skipper Scott Dann to head past Mandanda from Coutinho's corner. Both managers were already fuming at their side's mistakes and there was worse to come for Klopp, who saw his side pegged back once again 11 minutes later with Lovren once again the weak link. The move was familiar: a ball lifted towards Benteke, whose headed flick found Wilfried Zaha wide on the right.

When the winger delivered a cross towards the near post Lovren was flat-footed and McArthur nipped ahead of him to head home. Fortunately for Klopp's side they were facing an equally vulnerable side whose defence appeared on the point of collapse whenever threatened. — AFP



BOURSA KUWAIT GAINS ON POSITIVE SENTIMENT

VIVA REPORTS REVENUES OF KD 211 MILLION

REVENUES GREW BY 3% FOR 9-MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the financial results for the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2016, whereby VIVA's revenues grew by 3 percent to reach KD 211 million compared to the same period in 2015. VIVA achieved these results thanks to the high quality of services, promotions and packages offered to its customers to meet their needs and expectations, inspired by our customers' confidence. Moreover, VIVA customers' base reached 2.4 million by end of September 2016.

"Despite the highly competitive Kuwaiti telecom market, VIVA was able to achieve growth in revenues and good profitability levels. In addition, VIVA maintained the operational efficiency that led to generating positive returns to our shareholders during the nine month period of 2016. VIVA witnessed growth in its revenues a result of the company's strategic plans and efforts to be one of the most developed telecommunications companies in the state of Kuwait and the region, as we always look forward to play a central and significant role in providing smart telecom solutions in order to provide our customers with the best and most advanced telecom services," said Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Abdul Rahman, VIVA Chairman.

Following VIVA's disclosure regarding the board of directors' discussion for the recent developments of the Internet Service Provider Company (ISP) acquisition, the chairman said: "In line with the strategic plan drawn up by VIVA BoDs' for expansion in integrated telecommunications and technology solutions, BoD has approved to acquire one of the internet service providing companies which is not listed on Kuwait Stock Exchange". Also, we would like to highlight that VIVA will take the necessary actions to implement acquisition and obtain the permits and approvals of the concerned regulatory and authority bodies to ensure successful acquisition in all aspects.

Eng Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Badran, VIVA Chief

Executive Officer stated: "VIVA continued to achieve growth in operating revenues and strengthen its leadership in the telecom market. It is noteworthy to mention that VIVA has been awarded as "Best Contact Centre Experience" and "Best Network Experience" awarded by INSIGHTS Middle East, and was recently named the "Leading Corporate for



**Dr Mahmoud Ahmad Abdul Rahman,
VIVA Chairman**

Investor Relations in Kuwait" due to the hard work and the dedication of the management and employees and excellent recruitment process to hire experts and professionals, in addition to the highest professional standards in the process of communicating with our shareholders and the investment community. He added: "With the high competition

in the Kuwaiti telecom market, VIVA's strong revenue performance contributed to maintain a good profitability level as a result of the company's financial & operating capacity and efficiency. VIVA recorded a revenue of KD 211 million for the nine month period of 2016 representing an increase of 3 percent compared to the same period last year and resulted in



**Eng Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Badran,
VIVA CEO**

achieving a net profit of KD 29 million (earnings per share of 58 fils) at the end of September 2016 compared to a net profit of KD 32.9 million (earnings per share of 66 fils) in the same period last year, while the operating profit reached KD 31 million for the nine month period of 2016. On the other hand, VIVA's shareholders equity base increased by 47 per-

cent to reach KD 122 million at the end of September 2016 compared to KD 83 million at the end of September 2015.

He added: "VIVA endeavors to offer innovative products, services and solutions in the telecom market on a global scale to meet its customers' expectations and aspirations in Kuwait and provide them with the latest in technology."

Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Qatie, VIVA Chief Financial Officer said: "During the nine month period of 2016, VIVA's financial results reflected its ability to compete and achieve growth in revenues, and maintain its position as the second largest telecom operator in the Kuwaiti market in term of revenues in the telecom sector. The company managed to decrease its leverage ratio due to its conservative financial policy to reach 0.47x at end of September 2016 as compared to 0.95x recorded at end of September 2015." He added: "We will continue our hard work in implementing our strategy to maintain our competitive edge and achieve further growth and success in the Kuwaiti telecom market through offering innovative products and services in line with the latest technology to meet our customers' needs."

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

211

KD million

Total Revenues

2016

First nine months

The Board of Directors of the Kuwait telecommunications Company (VIVA) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 29.0 million during the first nine months of the fiscal year 2016.

Operating Profit

31.4

KD million

Net Profit

29.0

KD million

EPS

58

Kuwaiti fils

Subscribers

2.4

Million subscriber

www.viva.com.kw

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

UAE'S REAL GDP GROWTH SOFTENING IN 2016

KUWAIT: Real GDP growth in the UAE is forecast to soften from an estimated 3.8 percent in 2015 to around 2.1 percent in 2016, on the back of a slowdown in the oil sector and a moderation in non-oil sector activity. Depressed global energy prices have capped gains in the oil sector. Growth in the non-oil sector has been softening, albeit moderately, as the hospitality and construction sectors continue to churn out decent gains.

Growth in the oil economy is expected to remain muted in the near-to-medium term, as low oil prices keep any significant increases in production at bay. We expect real growth in the oil sector to slow from 5.0 percent in 2015 to 1.0 percent in 2016, before recovering slightly in 2017, provided that production levels increase as planned.

Non-oil sector activity continued to lose momentum in 2016, though it maintained a healthy pace. The UAE's Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a leading indicator of non-oil sector growth, appeared to stabilize in 2016 after a period of retreat. Some weakness in external demand appeared to be partly offset by strength in the domestic market. The tourism, transport and construction sectors, some of the biggest contributors to non-oil GDP growth, continue to see decent gains. Furthermore, after slowing for the bulk of 2015, activity in the residential real estate sector is seeing signs of stabilization.

Much of the resilience of the non-oil sector comes from Dubai's tourism and hospitality sectors. The number of passengers passing through Dubai's International Airport continues to hit new records. In August it reached 7.7 million passengers, up from the previous record of 7.6 million passengers just in July. Despite the drop in average daily room rates at hotels in Dubai over the past year, the demand for hotel rooms remains fairly strong as reflected in the occupancy rates. According to STR, Dubai's occupancy rate stood at a solid 76.1 percent in August.

Dubai's construction sector has also been a key driver of non-oil growth. Construction activity is poised to hold especially as Dubai prepares for Expo 2020. Projects include the construction of buildings, metro expansions, roads and bridges. In its 2016 budget, Dubai announced that it would allocate Dh 17 billion (\$5 billion) to infrastructure projects; this is around Dh 2 billion higher than in 2015. The number is set to rise further in the lead up to Expo 2020 and as plans to foster the UAE's long-term vision of a post-oil "knowledge economy" get underway.

The vision is outlined in the recently launched "UAE Strategy for the Future", a comprehensive long-term blueprint that aims to strengthen the nation's non-oil economy and further its economic diversification. The Dubai Industrial Strategy, which is expected to inject around \$44 billion into Dubai's economy by 2030, was also launched recently and aims to harness and propel the emirate's non-oil economy.

Dubai's non-oil GDP loses some momentum but continues to hold

The latest data showed Dubai's overall economy slowing from 4.2 percent year-on-year (y/y) in 3Q15 to 3.1 percent y/y in 4Q15 (Chart 2). For the year 2015 as a whole, Dubai's headline GDP logged in a still decent growth rate of 4.1 percent y/y, thanks to pockets of strength in the non-oil economy. We expect to see a slight improvement in GDP growth in 1H16, as reflected in the Emirates NBD Dubai Economy Tracker Index (DET), which has remained decent. The DET is a forward-looking survey that tracks economic activity in Dubai's non-oil private sector. It appears to have plateaued of late, standing at 55.1 in September.

State spending

Following a strong acceleration of 7.7 percent y/y in 4Q15, growth in Abu Dhabi's real GDP slowed to 2.2 percent y/y in 1Q16. The slowdown was led by a loss of momentum in both real oil GDP and non-oil GDP. While the slowdown can be attributed to lower oil revenues and a cutback in government spending, it can also be explained by some base effects; (overall growth was up 7.2 percent y/y around the same period last year). We should see some upward correction in 2Q16 as the economy remains supported by decent levels of state spending and the re-launching of delayed projects.

PMI appears to have steadied in 2016

After moderating throughout 2015, the UAE's PMI appears to have steadied between 53 and 55 in 2016. In September, the headline PMI eased slightly to 54.1 on the back of a slowdown in new orders and new export orders. (A reading above 50 indicates an expansion in activity; a reading below 50 indicates a contraction.) However, output remains robust, above the 60 mark; the employment index ticked up slightly to 51.6, helping alleviate concerns of weaker business and employment conditions.

Following almost two years of slowing growth amid tighter regulations, higher housing supply and risk aversion, residential property price growth in Dubai appears to have stabilized in 2016. According to data published by Asteco, prices of apartments fell by approximately 2.8 percent y/y in 2Q16 versus a decline of 4.3 percent y/y in 1Q16. On the other hand, prices of villas rose for the first time in just over a year, by 10.6 percent y/y. While the rebound in villa price growth indicates a recovery, it is also

Overview and outlook

- Real GDP growth is expected to come in moderately lower in 2016 before seeing a pickup in 2017.
- Non-oil growth softened in 2016 but remains moderate thanks to pockets of strength in the transport, tourism and construction sectors.
- Inflation maintained its downward trend in 2016, as the initial impact of the sizeable 2015 subsidy cuts continued to subside.
- A wider but manageable fiscal deficit is projected for 2016, before returning to a surplus in 2017.
- Bank liquidity remained tight in 2016, as credit growth outpaced deposit growth; the latter has been pressured by lower oil revenues.

in part due to base effects. While the value of real estate sales continues to trend lower, growth in the number of transactions has been recovering, albeit gradually. One reason for this has been increased activity in the "more affordable" housing segment.

Consumer price inflation

Headline inflation has been trending lower since mid-2015, mainly due to a slowdown in housing inflation (which weighs heavily in the index) and lower fuel prices. Inflation in the consumer price index (CPI) dropped from 1.8 percent y/y in July to 0.6 percent y/y in August. Among the drivers have been easing housing inflation and soft local food prices. Declining fuel prices were also a factor, causing prices in transportation and communication to decline by 12.1 percent y/y in August.

Following a recovery in global oil markets in both September and early October, we may see some upward inflationary pressures from the transport & communications segment in the near-to-medium term. However, the ongoing softness in both housing and food inflation should help offset some of that upward inflationary pressure. As a result, we forecast inflation to slow from an annual average of 4.1 percent in 2015 to 2.5 percent in 2016.

Wider but manageable fiscal deficit

The UAE's fiscal balance is expected to log in a deficit of 3.0 percent of GDP in 2016, on solid spending levels and lower oil earnings. The fiscal balance is expected to return to a surplus in 2017 provided that oil prices recover and the UAE increases its oil production levels as planned.

The UAE government is unlikely to engage in significant fiscal consolidation in the medium-term, thanks to its

abundant financial reserves (200 percent of GDP). Both Dubai and Abu Dhabi are projected to maintain high levels of public spending on infrastructure projects. In Dubai, infrastructure spending is expected to accelerate in the run-up to Expo 2020. Nonetheless, the major emirates have embarked on some fiscal adjustment and reform, including subsidy cuts and the introduction of fees on certain services. According to official reports, Abu Dhabi has cut back or delayed spending on a number of projects designated as low-priority. Efforts have also been made to rely more heavily on the private sector for implementation of some projects. Furthermore, it increasingly looks like the UAE will be one of the first GCC nations to implement a value added tax (VAT). According to recent reports, draft VAT legislation is expected in early 4Q16. So far, the first phase of implementation is scheduled for 2018 and will require UAE companies with annual revenues greater than \$1 million (Dh 3.75 million) to collect and pay VAT. At 5 percent, the VAT is expected to generate around \$3.3 billion (Dh 12 billion) in tax revenues or around 1 percent of GDP.

In an attempt to preserve foreign assets, the UAE has also tapped into international debt markets to plug its budget gap. In April, Abu Dhabi sold \$5 billion in sovereign bonds, the first issuance since 2009. With public debt estimated at around 50 percent of GDP, the UAE still has room to raise debt. Thus far, sovereign issuance has been at the level of individual emirates rather than at the federal level. This is about to change, with the UAE in the process of finalizing a federal debt law by early 2017 allowing the federal government to issue bonds. With investors globally in search for yield amid a low global rate environment, higher yielding UAE bonds are expected to be in high demand once the federal government begins to issue them.

CA surplus to narrow

The surplus in the current account is set to continue to narrow in 2016, as oil export earnings remain in decline and non-oil export growth sees some moderation. Non-oil export revenues are expected to face downward pressure, but are nevertheless expected to hold thanks to modest gains in the trade and tourism sectors. As a result, we project the current account balance to narrow slightly from 6 percent of GDP in 2015 to 5 percent in 2016, before edging higher in 2017 on the back of a recovery in oil prices and as non-oil export growth gathers momentum.

The UAE's non-oil exports will be under some pressure due to the stronger dirham. Although it has come off the highs seen earlier this year, the stronger dollar has led to an appreciation in the dirham's trade-weighted index, increasing the cost of its exports and making it a more expensive place to visit and invest in (Chart 16). Trade with the UAE's Asian markets has been most affected by the stronger dirham. Tourism has been less affected given that a majority of tourists are from the GCC. Meanwhile, investment in real estate, which depends far more on UAE nationals, has not been much affected. Overall, the impact on the non-oil economy has been relatively limited and we forecast a continued decent performance.

Banking liquidity remains tight

Credit growth has continued to moderate this year, albeit gradually, on the back of softer real estate activity and some cutbacks in the construction sector. Latest data showed loan growth easing from 6.2 percent y/y in July to a still decent 5.8 percent y/y in August. With capital spending projected to accelerate in the run-up to Expo 2020 in Dubai, we should see lending growth gather some momentum in the medium-term.

Bank deposit growth eased further, from 3.5 percent y/y in July to 3.3 percent y/y in August amid weaker government deposit growth, which continued to be weighed down by lower oil receipts (Chart 11). Against a backdrop of relatively decent rates of credit growth, the slowdown in deposit growth pushed the loan-to-deposit ratio up from 103.6 percent in July to 104.7 percent in August, its highest level in just over four years. Growth in the broad money supply (M2) remains soft pointing to tighter liquidity conditions. In August, it stood at 2.3 percent y/y as growth in quasi-money (foreign exchange and longer-term dirham deposits) decelerated from 2.0 percent y/y in July to 1.5 percent y/y in August. Both the UAE's three-month and one-month interbank rates have been gradually edging upwards, and are currently hovering at near four-year highs. These rates are forecast to edge even higher, especially if the US Fed hikes its federal funds rate again this year.

SME market reform

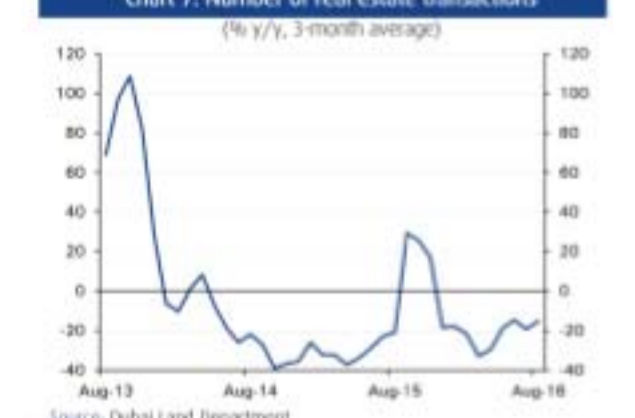
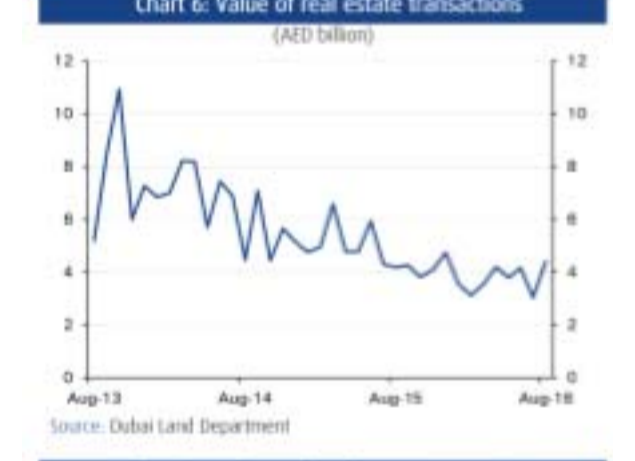
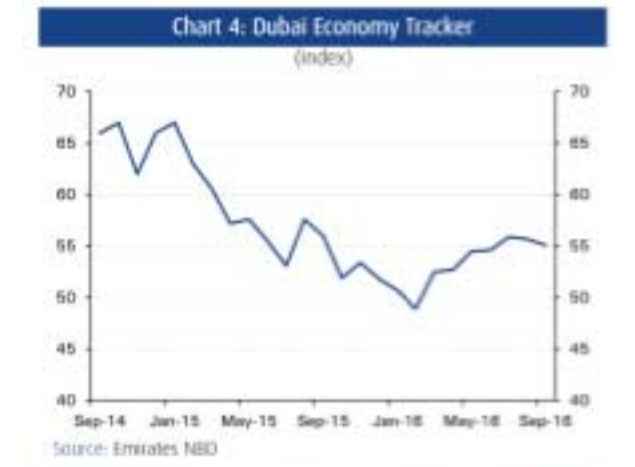
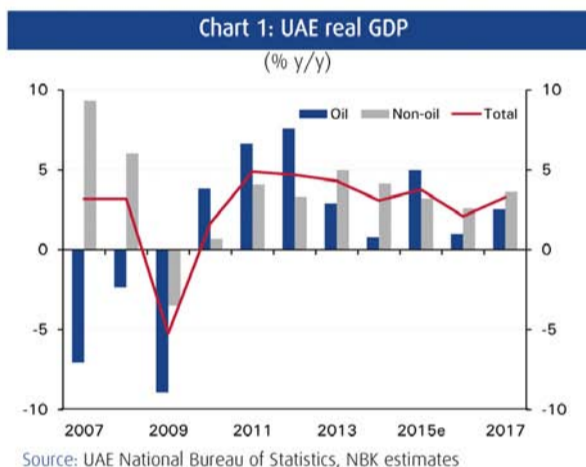
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) account for

over 95 percent of companies in Dubai and are a major driving force behind the emirate's economy. Yet, SMEs have been hobbled by the absence of a robust and fair bankruptcy law, with knock-on effects on the banking sector. This is expected to change with a long-awaited bankruptcy law set to be finalized before the end of 2016.

Under the existing regulatory umbrella, any unpaid debt or a bounced check would land the owner in prison. Given the weaker external environment and a vulnerable trading sector that accounts for the bulk of SMEs in Dubai, this led to a jump in the incidences of default. Under the new insolvency law, banks and company owners will be able to negotiate ways to restructure any bad debts. This should help improve banks' credit quality and instill confidence in SMEs, and subsequently boost lending to the sector.

Markets and interest rates

The main Abu Dhabi and Dubai markets continue to lack major catalysts in-line with regional and international markets, on the back of global growth concerns, the low oil price environment and uncertainties ahead of the US presidential elections in November. The main credit default swaps (CDS), which serve as good gauges of the level of risk within an economy, have come down further recently and have been hovering at multi-year lows. At the start of October, the CDS on five-year Dubai and Abu Dhabi government debt stood at 166 and 73 basis points, respectively.



EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.907
Indian Rupees	4.552
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Srilankan Rupees	2.066
Nepali Rupees	2.846
Singapore Dollar	219.060
Hongkong Dollar	39.206
Bangladesh Taka	3.876
Philippine Peso	6.282
Thai Baht	8.706

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.134
Qatari Riyal	83.565
ani Riyal	790.151
Bahraini Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirham	82.825

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	25.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.629
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	135.590
Jordanian Dinar	428.630
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.027
Syrian Lira	2.0168
Morocco Dirham	31.153

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.050
Euro	333.390
Sterling Pound	373.530
Canadian dollar	228.010
Turkish lira	99.960

Swiss Franc	307.740
Australian Dollar	233.660
US Dollar Buylng	302.850

GOLD

20 Gram	257.420
10 Gram	131.630
5 Gram	66.660

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.300
Canadian Dolla	228.025
Sterling Pound	370.815
Euro	332.295
Swiss Franc	303.795
Bahraini Dinar	804.445
UAE Dirhams	83.080
Qatari Riyals	84.295
Saudi Riyals	81.870
Jordanian Dinar	428.790
Egyptian Pound	34.171
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.064
Indian Rupees	4.549
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Bangladesh Taka	3.871
Philippines Peso	6.287
Cyprus pound	160.383
Japanese Yen	3.910
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.840
Malaysian Ringgit	73.910
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.305
Thai Bhat	9.665
Turkish Lira	99.295

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

Europe		
British Pound	0.364603	0.374603
Czech Korune	0.004242	0.016242
Danish Krone	0.040467	0.045467
Euro	0.0325834	0.0334834
Norwegian Krone	0.032662	0.037862
Romanian Leu	0.073497	0.073497
Slovakia	0.009083	0.019083
Swedish Krona	0.030019	0.035019
Swiss Franc	0.299150	0.310150
Turkish Lira	0.093986	0.104286
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223638	0.235638
New Zealand Dollar	0.211168	0.220668
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.221550	0.230550
Georgina Lari	0.137325	0.137325
US Dollars	0.299950	0.304650
US Dollars Mint	0.300450	0.304650
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003383	0.003867
Chinese Yuan	0.043441	0.046941
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037116	0.039866
Indian Rupee	0.004197	0.004586
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002824	0.003004

Kenyan Shilling	0.002992	0.002992
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069450	0.075450
Nepalese Rupee	0.002822	0.002992
Pakistan Rupee	0.002697	0.002987
Philippine Peso	0.000187	0.000470
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.212877	0.222877
South African Rand	0.015777	0.024277
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001667	0.002247
Taiwan	0.009471	0.009651
Thai Baht	0.008336	0.008886

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799929	0.808429
Egyptian Pound	0.017492	0.024745
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000187	0.000247
Jordanian Dinar	0.424695	0.433695
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019932	0.043932
Nigerian Naira	0.000395	0.001030
Omani Riyal	0.783320	0.789000
Qatar Riyal	0.082704	0.084154
Saudi Riyal	0.079993	0.081293
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.131184	0.139184
Turkish Lira	0.093986	0.104286
UAE Dirhams	0.081357	0.083057
Yemeni Riyal	0.001374	0.001454

ZAIN GROUP CEO GEGENHEIMER ELECTED TO GSMA BOARD

LONDON/KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator across the Middle East and Africa announces the election of its Chief Executive Officer, Scott Gegenheimer, as a member of the Board of Directors of GSM Association (GSMA) for a two-year period commencing January 2017 through December 2018.

The GSMA represents the interests of over 800 operators, as well as almost 300 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies, as well as organisations in adjacent industry sectors. On behalf of and in partnership with its members, the GSMA undertakes a range of industry programs and advocacy initiatives, and convenes the expanding mobile ecosystem at leading events around the world.

The GSMA Board has 26 members, including 25 operator representatives from the world's largest

operator groups, together with smaller, independent operators with global representation. The appointment of Gegenheimer to serve on the Board is a reflection of the esteem that the GSMA Board holds him in personally, as well as its regard for Zain Group as one of the leading mobile operators in the Middle East and Africa, actively supporting GSMA initiatives in the development of the mobile telecommunications industry. The two-year term will see Gegenheimer involved in charting the future course of mobile connectivity across the globe.

Commenting on his selection to join the GSM Board, Scott Gegenheimer said, "I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the GSMA Board for bestowing this honor on me and Zain. The GSMA has a proud history of elevating the requirements of mobile network operators globally and championing causes that have led to our

industry becoming one of the most successful ever. I look forward to representing the region, fully recognizing how essential our industry endeavors are to empowering and improving the quality of life in the Middle East and Africa and beyond."

The mobile industry has fundamentally changed how individuals, businesses and governments alike communicate, interact and conduct their everyday lives. However, there is still so much more to be done in extending the transformative effects of mobile and the GSMA is ideally positioned to drive further connectivity across the globe.

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa, providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.8 million active customers as of 30 September, 2016. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan.



FIVE WAYS TO HOLD YOUR TEAM ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR WORK

BAYT.COM WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

Maintaining accountability at work is about trusting your employees, empowering them with the tools and resources they need, but also giving them the leeway to try things out on their own. Accountability is best achieved when employees are able to keep a sense of control and ownership over their tasks at work. In order to use the most productive management practices that ensure teams are held accountable without micromanaging them, take a look at the below guidelines from Bayt.com, the #1 Job Site in the Middle East.

1. Set clear expectations

The first step is to be crystal clear about what you expect from your employees. This means being specific about the outcomes you're looking for, how you'll measure them, and how your employees should go about achieving them. The expectations don't all have to come from you. In fact, the more skilled your teams are, the more ideas and strategies should be coming from them. Have a genuine two-way conversation with your employees and ask them to set their own objectives. You can also ask your teams to come up with a strategy or an approach to reach these outcomes. You can then provide them with support and guidance as needed throughout the process.

2. Provide the resources

It's important to put procedures into place so your team knows how to properly handle issues that may frequently arise. For example, what should they do if they're falling behind the schedule for a particular job? What's the procedure for handling errors and mistakes? Who should be notified when complaints are received? By systemizing processes and putting reporting procedures into place, it makes it easier for team members to solve problems head-on rather than attempt to hide them. The majority of respondents (88.2 percent) to the Bayt.com 'Teams in the MENA Workplace' poll, October 2016, believe that their teams work effectively together, with 47.9 percent stating that their teamwork is 'very' effective. Creating a sensible plan that addresses all the possible scenarios and outcomes and outlines the available resources will ensure that your teams have what they need to do their job. This step could also include providing training, equipment, and access to mentors and coaches.

3. Re-engage

Think about how you feel when you're doing work that you love or care deeply

about. You take responsibility for your actions, simply because you have a deep sense of pride in what you're doing. The same will likely hold true for your team members: show them that you care and re-engage them, and you will be able to lead them down the path towards personal responsibility. Your employees will be more engaged if their career aspirations are understood and their work aligns with their values. Talk to them and find out what their goals and aspirations are, then, illustrate how their daily tasks and responsibilities can help them with these values and objectives.

4. Adopt open communication

One of the biggest mistakes managers make is failing to communicate openly and effectively. It's important to create an environment where people can communicate honestly and freely and share ideas without the fear of being judged. For example, failing to inform your employees when changes take place or when minor mistakes are made is unfair to them, and sets a bad example for other employees. According to the 'Teams in the MENA Workplace' poll by Bayt.com, almost seven in 10 respondents say that communication between their team members is open and participative. By the same token, when one of your employees is going above and beyond, it's important to praise that person in public in order to provide recognition and motivation to the rest of the team.

5. Embrace mistakes

Nobody likes mistakes. They're bad news for your customer, your business, and the employee who makes them. However, when your employees don't feel comfortable approaching you when a mistake is made, the problem can escalate and become much worse. The goal here is to make it safe for your employees to approach you with problems. Turn mistakes into lessons. Schedule weekly meetings, and during these meetings, consider having each employee share an issue they encountered and talk about how they fixed it. This is not only an opportunity for your team members to speak up when mistakes occur, but to also learn from their mistakes and the mistakes of others.

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 26,500,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.

OPEC, NON-OPEC MEMBERS DISCUSS PRODUCTION CUTS

CARTEL FAILS TO AGREE ON OUTPUT CUTS, AZERBAIJAN TO HELP

VIENNA: OPEC officials held talks with Russia and other non-cartel members yesterday in Vienna to debate how to implement a plan aimed at cutting oil output to reduce a global supply glut and bolster prices.

"The recovery process has taken far too long and we cannot risk delaying the adjustment any further," said Sanusi Barkindo, the secretary general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, in his opening remarks.

"Therefore, we should be calling for maximum commitment from all OPEC and non-OPEC countries in this regard and we should expect no less as this is our commitment, not only to our member countries but to the global community."

Moscow's delegation declined to comment before the meeting. But OPEC and Russia-the world's top oil producer along with Saudi Arabia-have held several meetings recently to tighten cooperation to ease price volatility. "There is an acute and urgent need to speed

up the rebalancing," Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said during a recent Vienna visit. Other non-OPEC members attending the technical committee meeting were delegations from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Oman and Azerbaijan.

"We will discuss the recognized positions of countries, first of all the OPEC countries," Azerbaijan's Energy Minister Natig Aliyev told reporters in Vienna. He added that some measures needed "to be taken to stabilise the market". On Friday, OPEC-only members, led by oil kingpin Saudi Arabia, had already met to try and hammer out details of the plan ahead of a summit late next month.

Participants' opinions from the weekend gathering "will be included in a report to be considered by ministers" at the November 30 meeting, OPEC said.

Obstacles remain

In a surprise move, the cartel in September agreed a deal to trim production by up to

750,000 barrels per day to between 32.5 and 33 million per day. The announcement of the first such move since 2008 sent prices surging. Production has outpaced demand over the past two years, with the resulting supply glut hammering prices from highs of more than \$100 a barrel in June 2014 to near 13-year lows below \$30 in February this year. Prices are currently hovering around \$50 a barrel, still too low for oil revenue-dependent nations.

But obstacles remain to the new accord as some OPEC members refuse to decrease their output. Iran, Saudi Arabia's bitter geopolitical rival, was exempted from the cuts as it is still ramping up production depleted by years of crippling Western economic sanctions lifted only in January.

Meanwhile, Iraq also recently said it should not participate in the deal because it is waging a war against the Islamic State group. Some analysts say Baghdad's position risks derailing implementation of the OPEC agreement. — AFP

'NOTHING'S SIMPLE', BELGIUM SAYS, SIGNS EU-CANADA DEAL

BRUSSELS: Belgium yesterday officially signed the landmark EU-Canada trade accord after a drama that saw Belgian regions threaten to torpedo years of negotiations.

"Nothing is simple in Belgium but few things are impossible," tweeted Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders after signing the pact on behalf of his country. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, who negotiated the deal, attended the signing with Belgium the last of the 28 EU countries to approve the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Today, the European Union and Canada will formally sign the trade accord at a summit in Brussels. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hailed the deal as "a good sign in an uncertain world" in a phone call with EU president Donald Tusk on Friday, an EU source said. CETA will remove 99 percent of customs duties between the two sides, linking the single EU market of 500 million people with the world's 10th largest economy.

Sunday's summit will begin at 0930 GMT, with the agreement due to be signed at 1100 GMT, Tusk's spokesman Preben Aamann said on Twitter. Just days ago, CETA-the most ambitious deal ever negotiated by the EU-had been left hanging by a thread due to protests from Belgium's Wallonia region and other French-speaking communities over its potentially harmful effect on local interests.

Trudeau had been due to arrive in Brussels on Thursday to sign the deal but his trip had to be called off, with leaders including Tusk warning that the debacle was further damaging EU credibility following Britain's shock vote to leave the bloc.

After hitting deadlock in talks with Walloon leaders last week, an emotional Canadian Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland dismissed Brussels as "incapable" of achieving an international agreement.



BRUSSELS: Vice-Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Didier Reynders (center) signs next to European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom (left) and Canadian Ambassador Olivier Nicoloff (R) during the signing ceremony by Belgium of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) yesterday at the Egmont palace in Brussels. — AFP

'Not a comma changed'

Paul Magnette, head of the southern, French-speaking Wallonia region, had fought for regional farming interests and guarantees against international investors forcing governments to change laws against the wishes of the people. Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel has said the fraught talks with Wallonia that were finally resolved on Thursday "did not change a comma" in the deal, but Magnette says he received assurances from the federal government of strengthened social and environmental protection. "CETA amended, CETA corrected-that is fairer than the

former CETA and offers more guarantees," Magnette said.

The EU was cleared to sign the pact shortly after Wallonia's parliament voted to approve the deal, along with that of the Brussels-Capital region and the Federation Wallonia-Brussels.

Once signed by the EU and Canada today, the trade pact will go into effect on a provisional basis, pending full member state ratification-a process that could take years. Prime Minister Robert Fico of Slovakia, which currently holds the EU presidency, hailed the delayed approval of the deal as "a milestone in the EU's trade policy". — AFP



CALAIS: Migrants at the temporary reception center (CAP) housing minors, in the "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais, northern France, yesterday. — AFP

CALAIS BUSINESSES DARE TO HOPE FOR 'APRES-JUNGLE' BOOST

CALAIS: A new scent is in the air in Calais called "apres-Jungle", but it is not an exotic aftershave.

Rather it sums up the northern French port's hopes and fears for the future following the dismantling of the notorious "Jungle" migrant camp in its backyard. The bars and restaurants of the high street, the Rue Royale, "used to be packed with Britons," said pensioner Michelle Toulotte in a brasserie where staff outnumbered the customers.

"It's about time" the Jungle was cleared, said Christophe Defever, owner of the Au Davydson brasserie, a stone's throw from the town's central rail station. "The economy has really suffered since they've been here," he said. "It's easier to count the shops that are closed than those that are open."

While a quick tour of the city centre

revealed that to be an exaggeration, the shuttered Le Tub disco in the Rue Royale attested to a more vibrant past.

The economy of Calais, a town of 72,000 people that has long a beacon for British day-trippers hunting for a bargain, began to slump early last year when thousands of migrants converged on France's northern shores, bent on reaching Britain. In June, the Brexit vote in Britain, which was followed by a slump in the value of sterling, also dented business morale.

Real estate demand has soured, especially among investors, according to Evelyne Duriez, an estate agent in the high street. Media accounts of the crisis have "disfigured Calais' image" and scared off investors, Duriez said, while noting that the property market has remained relatively stable for transactions between locals. — AFP

INFINITI AL BABTAIN OFFERS ONE LUCKY WINNER THE ULTIMATE TEST DRIVE

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, offers the 'Ultimate Test Drive' experience, providing one lucky motorist from Kuwait the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a real Renault Sports Formula One car in Valencia, Spain.

Earlier this year, Infiniti continued its successful involvement in Formula One by entering the next phase, through a technical partnership with Renault Sport Formula One team. Leveraging the association, Infiniti is now offering the chance of a life time with the Infiniti Q50 test drive.

Customers who visit the Infiniti showroom in Kuwait and complete an Infiniti Q50 test drive will be entered into a prize draw. At the end of the contest, 1 lucky winner will be selected to go to Valencia, Spain. The winner will first get the opportunity to perfect his driving skills on one of the world's most challenging race tracks before making his dream a reality behind the wheel of a race-prepared Grand Prix machine.

Infiniti Al-Babtain aims through this promotion to deliver an unprecedented and enthralling motoring experience to driving enthusiasts. Mr.



Mohamed Shalaby, Chief Operating Officer commented, "Al-Babtain continues to meet the demands of demanding motoring enthusiasts by offering unique and novel experiences. Our partnership with Renault Sports Formula One team provides us a unique advantage to offer value to our customers that is not matched by others."

Al-Babtain places a high value on customer satisfaction at the core of its business, endeavouring for all customers to have the premium Infiniti experience. This is evident when the dis-

tributor recently achieved the number one position for new car sales and service awards at the Kuwait Service Hero event.

The Infiniti family offers multiple choices to meet the needs of all customers starting from the family vehicle, through sports and multipurpose sports vehicles. All these vehicles share the luxury designs of both the exterior and interior, which was equipped with latest technology, not forgetting the powerful engine and the most active safety and security systems.

BOURSA KUWAIT GAINS ON POSITIVE SENTIMENT

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	23,393,013	3.82%	885,846	0.91%
BASIC MATERIALS	5,017,243	0.82%	1,165,240	1.19%
INDUSTRIALS	34,548,676	5.64%	5,740,988	5.87%
CONSUMER GOODS	5,329,103	0.87%	5,102,571	5.22%
HEALTH CARE	40,000	0.01%	15,600	0.02%
CONSUMER SERVICES	47,403,696	7.73%	2,588,785	2.65%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	76,442,245	12.47%	23,761,351	24.30%
BANKS	126,528,349	20.64%	41,853,899	42.81%
INSURANCE	178,554	0.03%	58,237	0.06%
REAL ESTATE	119,277,398	19.46%	6,556,932	6.71%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	174,148,298	28.41%	10,000,794	10.23%
TECHNOLOGY	741,850	0.12%	42,093	0.04%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	762.53	750.45	1.61%	-6.87%
BASIC MATERIALS	916.63	894.47	2.48%	-7.07%
INDUSTRIALS	1,187.94	1,181.28	0.56%	13.89%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,130.87	1,108.44	2.02%	3.28%
HEALTH CARE	1,055.20	1,046.80	0.80%	14.03%
CONSUMER SERVICES	921.89	911.82	1.10%	-8.60%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	589.17	558.65	5.46%	-1.58%
BANKS	798.32	775.78	2.91%	-11.99%
INSURANCE	953.87	946.68	0.76%	-15.36%
REAL ESTATE	798.70	794.25	0.56%	-15.10%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	552.04	537.38	2.73%	-7.28%
TECHNOLOGY	995.15	991.79	0.34%	21.34%

KUWAIT: Bursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,397.85 points, up by 1.44 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 3.39 percent after closing at 357.86 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 841.13 points up by 4.49 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 59.90 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 19.55 million, whereas trading volume average was 122.61 million shares, recording an increase of 55.50 percent.

The Bursa was able to realize spectacular gains supported by the optimism state that over controlled a large group of traders, as its three indices witnessed good increase compared to the previous week closings, especially the Weighted and KSX-15 indices which benefited from the noticeable activity witnessed by the leading and operational stocks, especially in the Telecommunication and Banks sectors. Also, the speculations operations played an important role in supporting the Price Index, which recorded good increase by the end of the week. As per the daily trading activity, the Bursa Kuwait initiated its first sessions of the week with grouped gain that included its three indices, despite the large decline in the trading value during the session, whereas it recorded a decrease of 62 percent compared to the previous session, however the purchasing and collection operations that con-

centrated on the leading stocks pushed the three indices to end the session in the green zone. On the second session, the Bursa witnessed mixed closings for the three indices, whereas the Price and Weighted indices increased supported by the purchasing and quick speculative operations that included some small-cap and mid-cap stocks, while the KSX-15 Index was subject to a limited drop due to the profit collection operations executed on some heavy stocks, which the Index is composed of.

On the mid-week session, the session was described to be exceptional, as the Bursa witnessed a large increase in all its indices, where the three main indices jumped by high rates, in addition to the noticeable growth in the pumped liquidity to the market, where it increased by about 190 percent, and the traded volume grew by 118 percent compared to the Monday's session. Such exceptional performance came in light of the heavy purchasing activity that the leading and heavy stocks were subject to, especially in the Telecommunication and Banks sectors, the most active ones in terms of value during the last week.

The Bursa Kuwait continued its activity on Wednesday's session, and its three indices continued in recording gains reaching new levels that never witnessed in a while, as the Price Index reached its highest level of the month during the

session, which is considered reasonable and logic especially after the good gains realized by the market in the previous sessions. By the end of the week, the market capitalization for the listed companies in the official market reached KD 24.01 billion, up by 3.31 percent compared to its level in the previous week, where it reached then KD 23.24 billion, however on an annual level, the decline in the market cap of the listed companies in the official market decreased to reach 4.96 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion. As far as Bursa Kuwait annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 3.87 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 6.25 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 6.59 percent loss.

Sectors' Indices

All of Bursa Kuwait sectors ended last week in the green zone. Last week's highest gainer was the Telecommunications sector, achieving 5.46 percent growth rate as its index closed at 589.17 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Banks sector's index closed at 798.32 points

recording 2.91 percent increase. The Financial Services sector came in third as its index achieved 2.73 percent growth, ending the week at 552.04 points. The Technology sector was the least growing as its index closed at 995.15 points with a 0.34 percent increase.

Sectors' Activity

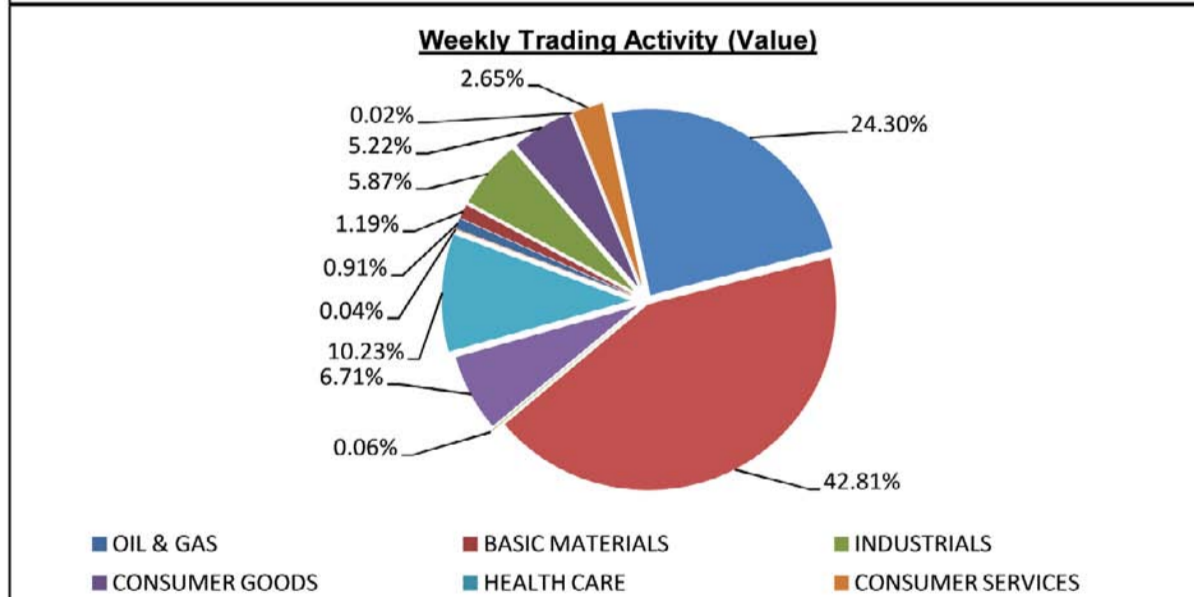
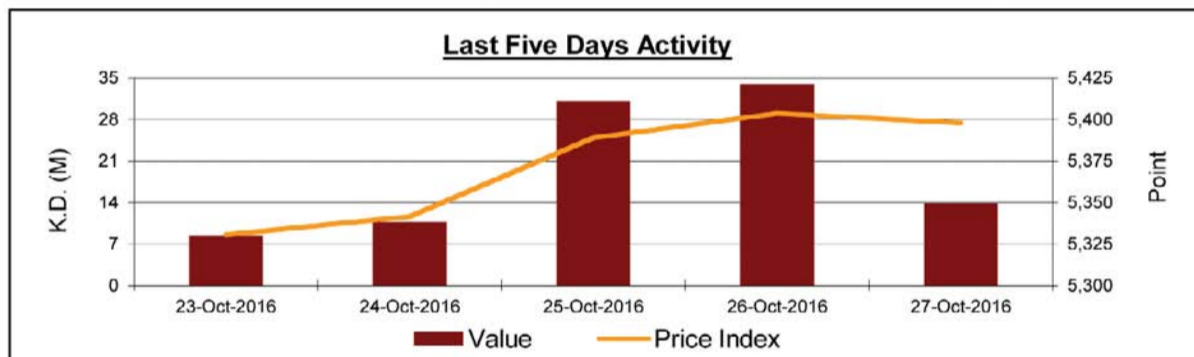
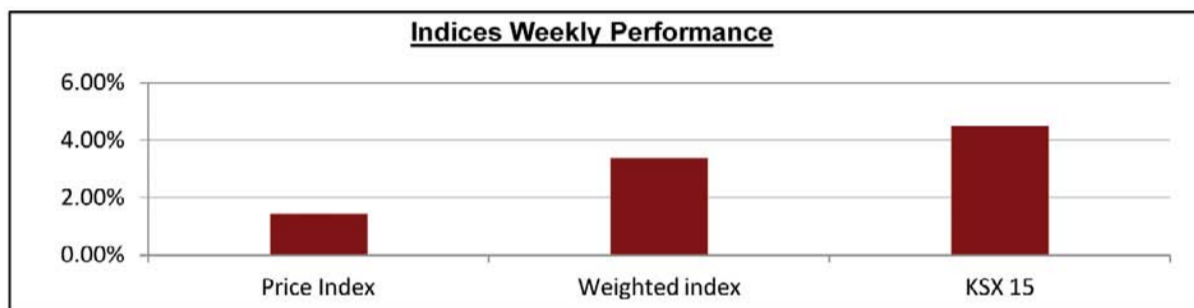
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 174.15 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 28.41 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 20.64 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 126.53 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 41.85 million or 42.81 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 23.76 million representing 24.30 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	613,048,425	394,251,652	55.50%
Value (K.D)	97,772,335	61,146,873	59.90%
Deals	15,707	10,935	43.64%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
24,012,785,525	23,243,159,644	3.31%	-4.96%	

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
IPG	395.00	345.00	50.0	14.49%
ZIMAH	47.00	41.50	5.5	13.25%
FTI	44.50	39.50	5.0	12.66%
ALAMAN	50.00	44.50	5.5	12.36%
ZAIN	410.00	365.00	45.0	12.33%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
GGMC	310.00	350.00	-40.0	-11.43%
MUNSHAAT	42.50	46.50	-4.0	-8.60%
ALRAI	136.00	146.00	-10.0	-6.85%
MARIN	87.00	92.00	-5.0	-5.43%
ALOLA	44.00	46.50	-2.5	-5.38%



STOCKS WILT AFTER FBI INQUIRY INTO NEW CLINTON EMAILS

WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP

NEW YORK: A midday advance on the stock market wilted in afternoon trading Friday after the FBI notified Congress that it will investigate new emails linked to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. The market had started out on a strong note after the government reported that the economy broke out of a slump in the third quarter and grew at the fastest pace in two years.

The early climb was led by industrial, energy and technology companies, which would stand to benefit most from a pickup in economy, but the gains disappeared after the FBI made its announcement at about 1 p.m. Eastern. Clinton has led in recent polls, and the surprise development added new uncertainty just a week and a half before the presidential election.

"I think the betting has to be that there's nothing too damning, but we don't know," said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial Network.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 8.49 points, less than 0.1 percent, at 18,161.19. The index was 80 points higher shortly before the new inquiry was disclosed, then went down as much as 74 points in the minutes that followed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dipped 6.63 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,126.41. The Nasdaq composite slid 25.87 points, or 0.5 percent, to 5,190.10.

Health care companies took the biggest losses by far. Prescription drug distributor McKesson plunged to a three-year low after its revenue fell about \$1.5 billion short of estimates. The company slashed its annual out-

look because of weaker drug prices, and investors worried that McKesson and its rivals will compete by making bigger cuts in prices.

McKesson tumbled \$36.39, or 22.7 percent, to \$124.11 and competitor AmerisourceBergen lost \$10.36, or 13 percent, to \$69.14 while Cardinal Health shed \$7.30, or 9.8 percent, to \$67.50.

Drugmakers were pummeled on weak earnings. Amgen, the world's largest biotech drug company, reported solid results for the third quarter and raised its guidance. However the company also disclosed flat sales of the anti-inflammatory medication Enbrel, its top-selling drug. Enbrel will soon face more competition, which could hurt sales.

Amgen gave up \$15.39, or 9.6 percent, to \$145.18. It was the stock's worst one-day loss since October 2000. Drugmaker AbbVie disclosed weak sales and lost \$3.86, or 6.3 percent, to \$57.60.

Health care stocks are the worst performing part of the market this year. They're down 6 percent while the S&P 500 is up 4 percent. Their performance compared to the rest of the market has gotten even worse over the last few months. Earlier, stocks rose after the economy grew faster than expected during the third quarter. The Commerce Department said exports grew and more businesses restocked their shelves. In total, gross domestic product grew 2.9 percent, which was better than economists expected. Growth had slowed down late last year, causing worry among investors.

McMillan said he thinks the economy should keep growing at a similar pace for the next few quarters.

"We're already seeing business and consumer confidence come back," he said. General Electric and oil and gas drilling services company Baker Hughes rose as they discussed a possible deal. GE said the discussions concern a partnership and that it doesn't intend to buy Baker Hughes outright. Baker Hughes tried to merge with competitor Halliburton two years ago, but the companies walked away from the combination after the federal government sued to block it. GE added 59 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$29.22 and Baker Hughes gained \$4.57, or 8.4 percent, to \$59.12. Other industrial stocks including

United Technologies, which makes products including jet engines and elevators, and manufacturer Honeywell also traded higher. Amazon sank after its profit came up short of analysts' estimates. The company also released a weak outlook. The stock is trading at all-time highs and has surged more than 30 percent over the last 12 months. It fell \$42.04, or 5.1 percent, to \$776.32. AB InBev cut its annual revenue forecast following weak results from its business in Brazil. The world's largest beer maker fell \$4.62, or 3.8 percent, to \$116.84. US crude fell \$1.02, or 2.1 percent, to \$48.70 a barrel in New York. That was its lowest price this month. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 76 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$49.71 a barrel in London.

Bond prices edged higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.84 percent from 1.85 percent. The dollar slipped to 104.78 yen from 105.29 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0982 from \$1.0898.

Metals turned higher. The price of gold picked up \$7.30 to \$1,276.80 an ounce. Silver rose 16 cents to \$17.80 an ounce. Copper added 3 cents to \$2.19 a pound. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline lost 2 cents to \$1.47 a gallon. Heating oil gave up 3 cents to \$1.54 a gallon and natural gas rose 4 cents to \$3.11 per 1,000 cubic feet. Overseas, France's CAC 40 rose 0.3 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain picked up 0.1 percent. Germany's DAX edged down 0.2 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.6 percent and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.2 percent. In Hong Kong the Hang Seng lost 0.8 percent. —AP



NEW YORK: A miniature reproduction of Arturo Di Modica's "Charging Bull" sculpture sits on display at a street vendor's table outside the New York Stock Exchange, in lower Manhattan. — AP

KUWAIT MARKET WITNESSES POSITIVE WEEK

KFH CAPITAL MARKET REPORT

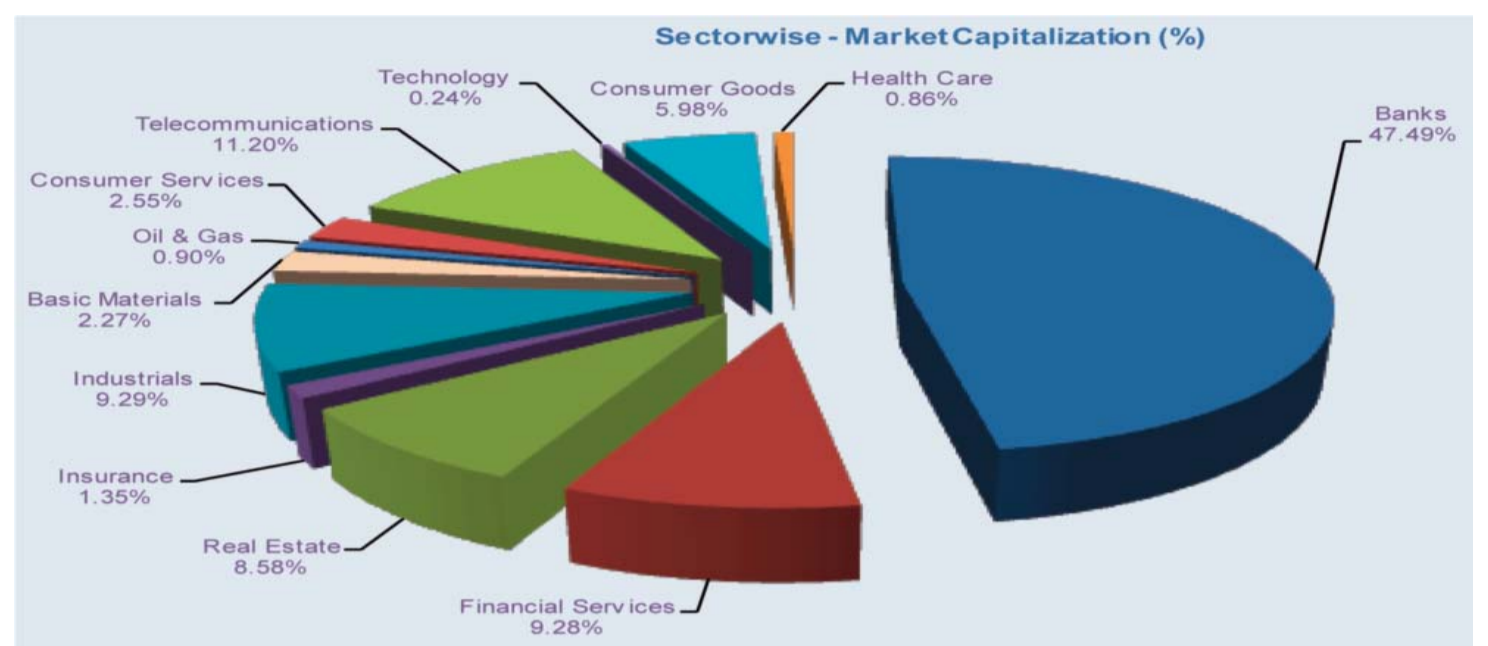
KUWAIT: The Bursa Kuwait Indices witnessed a positive week as most indices increased this week. The price index closed at 5,397.85, an increase of 1.44 percent up 76.39 points compared to the previous week. As the MUDX witnessed a similar increase this week of 2.06 percent to close at 536.86 for the week. While the market blue-chip index the KXS15 closed at 841.13 points up 4.49 percent during the week.

Increased liquidity had positive effects on the weekly indices driving the market blue-chips into weekly gains. The reported weekly volumes were 613.05 million shares compared to 394.25 million shares in previous. Among the major contributors, the Financial Services Sector (contributing 28.42 percent) witnessed 174.14 million shares of trading compared to 123.33 million shares in the previous week, while Banking Sector (contributing 20.65 percent) witnessed 126.52 million shares of trading compared to 86.35 million shares in the previous week.

The overall Market Cap witnessed an increase this week as it stood at KD 24.73 billion up 3.4 percent on weekly basis.

As for the blue chips, National Bank of Kuwait - NBK (Mcap - KWD 3.43 billion) saw its market cap increase 7.02 percent during the week. While Mobile Telecommunication Co- Zain (Mcap - KD 1.76 billion) saw its market cap increase by 12.33 percent continued effect due to reported growth in earnings for Q3. Moreover, Ahli United Bank - AUB (Mcap - KD 1.30 billion) saw its market cap increase 1.05 percent during the week.

On the total market breadth, of the 56 Islamic Companies, 27 advanced while 13 declined during the week. The Islamic universe market cap witnessed its market cap an increase of 2.52 percent to close at KWD 6.33 billion. The universe heavyweights Kuwait Finance House - KFH (Mcap - KD 2.51 billion) saw its market cap increase 3.23 percent during the week. While Boubyan Bank (Mcap - KWD 834.07 million) saw its market cap increase 2.67 percent. Kuwait Telecommunication Co - VIVA (Mcap - KWD 424.49 million) saw its market cap increase 2.41 percent during the week.



Most Active Stocks	Current Week ('000 Share)	Prev. Week ('000 Share)	Chng	% Total Mkt	YTD-Turnover	Price Stats- Weekly		
						Current	Prev.	Chng.
Mobile Telecommunication Co. (Zain) ©	55,397	15,516	257.0%	9.04%	9.9%	0.410	0.365	12.3%
Zima Holding Co. ©	44,455	13,433	230.9%	7.25%	575.1%	0.047	0.042	13.3%
Warba Bank ©	40,462	11,852	241.4%	6.60%	22.4%	0.198	0.182	8.8%
Investors Holding Group ©	26,054	19,242	35.4%	4.25%	175.4%	0.021	0.020	5.1%
Al-Mal Investment Co.	23,930	12,834	86.5%	3.90%	135.9%	0.021	0.022	-2.3%

Top 3 Gainers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	
					Current	Previous
Independent Petroleum Group	60.14	52.53	14.49%	0.243%	0.395	0.345
Zima Holding Co. ©	4.70	4.15	13.25%	0.019%	0.047	0.042
First Takaful Insurance Co. ©	4.74	4.21	12.66%	0.019%	0.045	0.040

Top 3 Losers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	
					Current	Previous
Gulf Glass Manufacturing Co. ©	15.90	17.95	-11.43%	0.064%	0.310	0.350
Munshaat Real Estate Projects Co. ©	13.69	14.97	-8.60%	0.055%	0.043	0.047
Al Rai Media Group Co.	31.69	34.02	-6.85%	0.128%	0.136	0.146

© : Islamic Stock © : Compatible Islamic Stock Market Cap is in KWD million. Market Prices are in KWD

Top KSE Islamic Stocks in terms of Market Capitalization (MC)						
Stocks	Current Week	Previous Week	Chg.	% of MUDX	Weekly Volume	YTD-Gain
Kuwait Finance House ©	2,515.94	2,437.32	3.2%	39.7%	22,155,334	0.9%
Boubyan Bank ©	834.07	812.40	2.7%	13.2%	11,173,169	-7.0%
Ahli United Bank ©	666.96	658.30	1.3%	10.5%	338,505	-19.2%
Kuwait Telecommunications Co. ©	424.49	414.50	2.4%	6.7%	254,492	-14.1%
GFH Financial Group B.S.C ©	216.63	203.09	6.7%	3.4%	6,322,298	152.6%

Market Cap is in KWD Million and Prices are in KWD

Weekly KSE Statistics				
Key Parameters	Current	Previous	Chg.	%
Volume (Million Share)	613.05	394.25	218.80	55.5%
Value (KD Million)	97.77	61.15	36.63	59.9%
Deals ('000)	15.71	10.94	4.77	43.6%
Market Cap (KD Bln)	24.73	23.92	0.81	3.4%

Market Movers			
Advance	Decline	Unchanged	Not Traded
98	32	18	37



Note: Indices are re-based on 1,000 as of last week's closing.

FED MEETING IN SIGHT BUT ELECTION LOOMS FOR STOCKS

WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

NEW YORK: The Federal Reserve meets next week and the US government releases an important report on jobs, but investors could be forgiven for having something else on their minds.

The heated US presidential campaign, which for months has grabbed the bulk of US news headlines, enters its final stretch next week before the Nov. 8 vote, and the race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump of late has provided market-moving surprises.

In the latest reminder of how an upset in the expected outcome could rattle investors, news came on Friday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is reviewing fresh evidence in its probe of Clinton's email server. That briefly pushed stocks down sharply and drove the CBOE Volatility Index - Wall Street's fear gauge - to a two-week high.

"We're so close to the election, and the pots are boiling. There's always something going on," said Bucky Hellwig, senior vice president at BB&T Wealth Management in Birmingham, Alabama.

"And where there's uncertainty with the Oval Office, it seems to historically cause problems for the market." Wall Street has been expecting Clinton to win her White House bid but Republicans to retain at least the US House of Representatives, essentially keeping the current state of political gridlock.

In recent weeks, Clinton's lead has widened in polls, causing some concern about the Democrats potentially winning control of both the presidency and Congress. "That would be bad for certain sectors including health care and perhaps the financial sector," said Ed Campbell, a portfolio manager at QMA, a multi-asset manager owned by Prudential Financial. "But I don't think that's likely to happen."

Investor expectations also are low that the Fed will raise interest rates when it meets Tuesday and Wednesday, especially since the meeting falls just days ahead of the election. The chances appear to be less than 10 percent that the Fed will raise rates next week, while there's about a 75 percent chance the Fed will hike rates in December, according to the CME Group's FedWatch tool on Friday.

"I think it's largely going to be a non-event," Campbell said. "They'd be loath to surprise the market, especially one week before the election." What could shake equities, however, is any comment from the Fed that could indicate the possible timing of the next hike.

At the Fed's November meeting last year, it tweaked its policy statement to specifically reference the next policy meeting as a date of a possible rate lift-off, a move that grabbed investors' attention. The Fed then in December raised rates for the first time in nearly a decade.

If it's strong enough, Friday's jobs report could bolster already broad expectations that the Fed will raise rates again this December. Economists polled by Reuters show expected nonfarm job gains of 175,000 for October, up from 156,000 the previous month. "Post-election day, you might see a little bit of relief but then you start worrying about the Fed," said Steve Chiavarone, portfolio manager at Federated Investors. — Reuters

GRAND CELEBRATIONS MARK 20 YEARS OF SIKA ARABIA IN GCC

KUWAIT: Sika Arabia, a joint venture with Saudi Sumam Chemicals, held a gala dinner to celebrate 20 years of success established across the GCC countries on Friday, 21 October 2016 at Art Rotana, Bahrain. The dinner also honored 27 employees who had dedicated 15 years or more of service to the company.

The dinner was attended by Etienne Thevoz, Swiss Ambassador to Qatar and Bahrain and Paul Haelg, Group Chairman and Abdullaziz Zaidan, Sika Arabia Chairman and other distinguished guests from the construction industry. More than 150 guests were present at the event.

Speaking at the event, Ashraf Wahib, Area Manager GCC, said, "Over the past 20 years, Sika Arabia has established itself as an industry leader in specialty chemical products and industrial construction materials. Today, we are celebrating a key milestone for Sika Arabia in the GCC, as the largest producer of construction chemicals across the Middle East and Africa. Our strategy for the next five years is to double our turnover both by accelerating organic growth and through acquisitions. We are confident, that our excellent network with a strong supply chain presence in the region will enable us to achieve our vision and satisfy the growing demands of our customers."

"On behalf of our Board of Directors and the management team, I would like to thank all our employees, whose remarkable contributions have made it possible to achieve our stated mission, vision and values. At Sika, our employees are our greatest asset, and we are proud of our long-term employees and their families who were honored tonight for their

commitment and dedication to the success of the organization, and we look forward to working with them for many more years to come."

Sika Arabia, has a highly skilled, innovative and diverse workforce. More than 40 percent of its employees are local nationals, with a number of them holding key positions, and contributing efficiently to the robust and dynamic growth of the business.

Sika Arabia continues to bolster its investments in technology and production facilities within the GCC. Currently, the organization has three factories in Rabigh, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, UAE and in Manama, Bahrain, with two additional plants in the pipeline. Sika expanded its position in the Middle East by establishing a new national subsidiary in Kuwait in 2016. The creation of this 94th subsidiary worldwide marks a further step forward in the implementation of Sika's growth strategy, which aims to expand the Group's international presence to 100 national subsidiaries by 2018.

Kuwait's construction market is set to grow at a tremendous pace, with investments of just under US\$ 30 billion in the focus areas of real estate and infrastructure. Key construction projects at national level include an airport extension and upgrade of the metropolitan transportation network, which alone account for a total investment of \$ 13 billion.

Sika Kuwait is perfectly positioned to supply high quality concrete admixtures and refurbishment products directly to customers in Kuwait and to benefit from the country's booming construction market. Its products are already being used in the construction of a new university and several road building projects.



L-R: Dr Paul Haelg, Miss Layla Abbas, Maria Theresa, Ashraf Wahib.

GULF BANK WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 23 October 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 16 October - 20 October 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 16/10): Jamila Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, Mona Mohammed Nasrallah Abdulrahman
 - (Monday 17/10): Yousef Abdullah Ali Al-Ghanem, Tawfeeq Ahmed Mohammed Al-Rasheed
 - (Tuesday 18/10): Mona Abdulmohsen Hussain Al-Ali, Reem Mostafa Jafer Abumejdad
 - (Wednesday 19/10): Badriya Abdulkareem Hassan Al-Hassawi, Noura Ghazi Fahed Al-Nafisi
 - (Thursday 20/10): Jaber Ahmad Abdallah Al-Saqoubi, Khadija Abdulsamad Mohammad Sadiq
- Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (Two winners per working day each receive KD1000). The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million 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. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.



The new 2017 Honda Accord

Discover the power of style and functionality

KUWAIT: The always popular, benchmark-setting Honda Accord, retail car buyers' most popular choice in 2013 and again in 2014, receives a major mid-model cycle refresh for the 2017 model year. With dynamic new styling, a revised and upgraded body and chassis. The Accord also benefits from the addition of Honda Sensing, among the most comprehensive suites of safety and driver-assistive technologies ever offered in the midsize car class, along with a host of available new features and technologies, including HD Radio, heated rear seats, front and rear parking sensors, remote engine start, smartphone connect and more.

"The best is getting better with the launch of the redesigned 2017 Accord," said Jeff Conrad, Senior Vice President of the Honda Division. "With more customer-relevant technology, an even more refined and sporty ride and top-class fuel economy and safety ratings, the 2017 redesign keeps Accord at the top of its class."

Accord has been named 29 times to Car and Driver magazine's coveted "10Best" list, more than any other automobile, and Accord is the top selling car in America to under-35-year-old car buyers⁴. The 2017 Accord, with its next-generation Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) body structure and available Honda Sensing technology, received the highest avail-

able crash safety ratings from the US government - a 5-Star Overall Vehicle Score from the NHTSA - and targets a similar top rating of TOP SAFETY PICK+ from the IIHS (when equipped with available CMBS).

2017 Accord Sedan models equipped with a 4-cylinder i-VTEC engine and CVT get a 1-mpg bump in their highway EPA fuel economy ratings, to 37 mpg, due in part to the application of a lighter weight and re-sculpted all-aluminum hood, along with new aerodynamic elements and friction-reducing features.

It's worth noting that 2017 Accord Sedan 4-cylinder engines are all labeled "Excellent" in fuel consumption in Kuwait.

Exterior and Interior Design

The 2017 Accord Sedan gets a major facelift with sportier, more sophisticated styling, front and back. In front lies a more sharply creased and intricately structured bumper fascia with outside edges that tuck into large side intakes containing new LED fog lights. A new aluminum hood with sharper character lines meets up with a brighter, more expressive front grille. In the rear, the Accord Sedan gets restyled LED taillights and a similarly aggressive rear bumper fascia redesign. All Accord models feature restyled alloy wheels with a new styling that is

complemented by the expanded application of LED daytime running lights, LED taillights, and LED fog lights.

The Accord also gets a revised exterior color palette, including a new San Marino Red.

The 2017 Accord cabin also features new fabric and color schemes, depending on model and trim, including a new gloss black interior trim; new seat fabric and leather seat bolsters, and a carbon fiber-style instrumental panel garnish for the sedan in Sport trim; and new wood grain-style instrument panel garnish.

Body and Chassis Upgrades

The 2017 Accord's sportier design is matched by its improved dynamic performance. Accord body rigidity is increased through the application of multiple body stiffeners, a sturdier rear bulkhead and a thicker front shock tower bar and is complimented by the application of new high-performance shock absorbers for all models, as well as a retuned electric power steering system. The aforementioned, all-aluminum hood on Accord Sedan not only provides updated character, but also improves both efficiency and dynamic performance.

Within the sedan lineup, the popular Accord Sport trim receives upgraded performance credentials courtesy of larger front brakes, as well as a combination of new body and chassis features and engineering changes that have been designed to give each Accord model a more clearly defined and distinctive dynamic feeling within the lineup.

The Accord also gets new Straight Driving Assist technology that utilizes the Motion Adaptive Steering system to help reduce the driver's workload when driving on a crowned or canted road surface by providing an automatic counter-steering force.

Honda Sensing

All 2017 Accords can also now be equipped with Honda Sensing, among the most comprehensive suite of advanced safety and driver-assistive technologies in the class. Honda Sensing(tm) includes Collision Mitigation Braking System(tm) (CMBS) with Forward Collision Warning, Road Departure Mitigation (RDM) with Lane Keeping Assist (LKAS) and Adaptive Cruise Control, and is available as a



standalone option on all trims with the exception of Touring, where Honda Sensing is included as standard equipment.

Also, all 2016 Accords feature a standard Multi-Angle Rearview Camera and Expanded View Driver's Mirror and, for the first time on Touring trim models, new auto high-beam headlights that enhance nighttime visibility and driving convenience by defaulting to the high-beam setting and automatically switching to low beams when an oncoming vehicle is detected.

Display Audio with Smartphone Connect

The Accord audio and digital experience is also significantly upgraded with the available application of a 7-inch Display Audio touchscreen interface featuring one of the first volume production applications of Smartphone Connect. The intuitive and easy-to-use capacitive touchscreen lets users swipe, tap and pinch - just like on a tablet or smartphone - to control the vehicle's audio system, display settings and other advanced features.

Accord Sedan and Coupe EX and above models incorporate Smartphone Connect, offering a multitude of new functions and features, including smartphone-linked navigation, audio streaming, voice-controlled SMS text messaging and more. The 7-inch touchscreen is paired with an upper 7.7-inch high-resolution Intelligent

Multi-information Display (i-MID) screen with steering wheel-mounted controls. The i-MID can display audio settings, turn-by-turn directions, time and trip information, LaneWatch and Rearview Camera displays, incoming calls, SMS text messages, and parking sensor alerts.

Advanced Powertrains

The Accord Sedan and Coupe are offered with two advanced Honda engines: A direct-injected (DI) 2.4-liter inline i-VTEC 4-cylinder and a 3.5-liter VTEC(tm) V-6 that is the most powerful engine offered in a Honda sedan to date. Available transmissions include a sporty and fuel-efficient CVT for the 4-cylinder engines and a 6-speed automatic for V-6 models.

Customers are encouraged to visit any of the Honda showrooms for a chance to test drive the new Accord and get full details from our sales representatives. Honda Alghanim showroom operates from 9:30 AM till 10:00 PM all week-long. Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services. The cars service center's waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers with digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs. For more information, please call 1822777.



MILLENNIALS AND GLOBAL DEMAND DRIVE FORD'S CONTINUED SUV LINEUP GROWTH

KUWAIT: Ford has a long history of SUV leadership, with all-time favourite nameplates such as Escape, Edge, Explorer and Expedition setting the benchmarks for their segments since their debut. Having sold more than 1.5 million SUVs globally last year and plans to introduce four all-new SUVs in the next five years, Ford is sure to reinforce that leadership.

"Currently in the Middle East and Africa, SUVs account for 16 per cent of the industry share and forecasts suggest a rise to 31 per cent by 2025," said Kalyana Sivagnanam, VP for Marketing, Sales and Service, Ford Middle East and Africa. "And with a continuous flow of class-leading products such as the recently launched all-new Ford Edge in the Middle East region, the upcoming introduction of the all-new Ford Everest out of South Africa, and more on the way over the next five years, Ford is on track to grow its product offerings with an extensive lineup of SUVs in the MEA region."

Ford helped create the SUV segment with the Explorer more than 25 years ago. Since then it has sold more than eight million globally, or one every two minutes. In the next five years, Ford's SUV lineup will be completely new or refreshed, delivering smart technologies, enhanced safety features, and superior comfort and capability that empower Ford SUV owners to go anywhere, any-

time. Recent Ford research has shown that once millennials - an age group entering their prime child-rearing years - begin thinking about starting a family, their interest in shopping for SUVs is piqued significantly.

From the legendary full-size Expedition to the mid-size Explorer and Everest SUVs; the seven-passenger utility Flex, to the small, chic Escape SUV, and the compact urban EcoSport CUV, Ford is showing the strength of its global utility portfolio. This packed stable - lead by refined, boldly-styled new flagship CUV, the Ford Edge - gives not only millennials, but also baby boomers, a full range of exceptional utility vehicles to choose from. When launched a decade ago, Edge helped define the crossover sport utility vehicle segment. With a car-based design, Edge delivered better on-road comfort, fuel efficiency and overall driving dynamics than any truck-based SUV. It was proof a utility vehicle could meet the demanding needs of an everyday commuter, and it soon became its segment leader in the Middle East.

The all-new Ford Edge has been remade in almost every single detail, always keeping in mind the customer, who expects something premium, powerful and special. With a structure more rigid than ever and a suspension tuned to the highest global standards, the Edge is a high-tech utility that delivers a special driving experi-

ence customers will feel from their first moments behind the wheel, and is primed to reset the standard in the two-row utility vehicle market.

Ideal combination

Joining Edge is Ford's signature full-size SUV, Explorer, a centrepiece of Ford's global utility vehicle lineup because it delivers an ideal combination of form and function. Introduced in 1990 as a 1991 model, Explorer featured generous interior space customers were looking for, and was engineered specifically for people seeking adventure for their families and a way to express their individuality. And that's still true today, with its popularity unwavering as America's best-selling three-row SUV.

Ford's biggest SUV, the Ford Expedition, enjoys an existence as a serious contender in the Middle East's full-size SUV segment and one of the most capable and safest SUV in its category. The latest model is the most powerful, fuel-efficient Expedition to date, with a 3.5-litre EcoBoost V6 engine delivering 370PS and best-in-class torque. Customers appreciate the space, performance, comfort and capability the Expedition delivers for up to eight passengers.

Escape is the second best-selling vehicle in the Ford lineup globally, only behind the Ford F-150. Ford Escape's popularity is born of its reputation for great fuel economy, versatility and technology aimed at helping customers - all in a sleek design. This is a competitive segment, and Escape offers features and amenities that make it irresistible to customers. Escape's signature technology is its available hands-free liftgate that allows fast and easy access to the cargo area with a gentle kicking motion. Along with versatility, great fuel economy is another reason Escape is popular with customers. Ford Flex is a seven-passenger utility vehicle that offers power, efficiency, technology and driver-assist features in one stylish package. It comes standard with a 3.5-litre V6 engine featuring twin independent variable camshaft timing to control when the valves open and close for improved performance. This advanced V6 delivers 291 PS and 344 Nm of torque, and is mated to an equally advanced six-speed SelectShift automatic transmission. Also available on Flex is the 3.5-litre twin-turbocharged EcoBoost V6 engine producing 370 PS and 475 NM of torque from 1,500 rpm to 5,250 rpm.





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NORAH AL-AZMI WINS KD 125,000 IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA DRAW FOR OCTOBER

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announces the winner for October's KD 125,000 Al-Jawhara monthly prize, Norah Motlaq Al-Azmi. The draw was held in NBK's Hawally Branch under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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 one entry into the draw, thus more money in an account means

more chances into each draw. This new added feature enables Al-Jawhara Account holders' to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing.

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 account is available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's numerous branches around Kuwait, or safely and easily through NBK's website for existing customers.



NEW YORK: The Apple Watch Nike Plus on display in New York. Apple isn't the first to add GPS functionality to a smartwatch, but it's the first to make something that feels like a running watch. — AP

APPLE DOUBLE DOWNS ON RUNNING WITH NIKE-EDITION SMARTWATCH

NEW YORK: Apple isn't the first to add GPS functionality to a smartwatch, but it's the first to make something that feels like a running watch.

And the company is doubling down on that with a Nike edition out Friday, while Nike is bringing features from its phone app directly to all models of Apple Watch.

I've found devices without GPS typically awful at measuring how fast and how far I'm running. And those with GPS typically do little more than measure how fast and how far I'm running. The basics are great for casual runners, but anyone who becomes a serious runner needs much more. I've logged more than 400 miles over the past six weeks with the GPS edition of Apple Watch, known as Series 2. I've also run 34 miles with the Nike Plus version over the past few days; it's essentially a Series 2 watch with a custom wristband and watch face. With both, Apple addressed many of the shortcomings in the original watch, GPS being just one of them. I'm not ready to ditch my Garmin running watch yet, but the Apple Watch comes close to meeting all my needs.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GPS

The original watch does a fine job of latching onto your phone's GPS if you're running with the phone, but with built-in GPS, you can leave the phone behind. Accuracy is on par with other good GPS watches, which is to say, measurements are sometimes off, especially when tall buildings block GPS signals. The watch automatically calibrates to my running style, so it's better than non-GPS devices even when there's no GPS.

Though GPS drains the battery more quickly, the watch still had about an hour of non-GPS use left after a marathon run of about four hours, 40 minutes. For normal use, Apple says you should get up to 90 minutes a day of GPS workouts; I've often gone longer without the watch dying before bedtime. It helps that I've disabled the heart-rate sensor during workouts.

While Series 2 is meant for stand-alone running, many people carry phones anyway. With it, I get slightly better accuracy and battery life.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR ALL

Series 2 watches start at \$369, though it's \$30 more for a larger screen - the optimal size for larger wrists. Non-GPS models, now called Series 1, are \$100 less. All models get software updates that address two gripes with the original:

Apple's Workout app now records your route, something other GPS fitness devices and apps have long done. The Apple app didn't use to, even with access to the phone's GPS. You can double tap the screen to record splits, or manual snapshots of how long it takes to run a stretch. Before, that was limited to mile or kilometer intervals, which didn't help when you were running laps or loops that weren't precisely that length.

NIKE EXTRAS

Nike's app offers a lot to like, including big yellow numerals for easy reading during runs and voice updates every mile and half way toward your goal. Nike keeps things simple for beginners by displaying just distance and time; turn on advanced mode for current pace and heart rate. My gripes: no manual splits, and average pace appears only when pausing or through the voice updates.

Nike excels in trying to motivate you even when you're not running. It will keep asking "Are we running today?" by reminding you the weather is nice or that a friend (with a watch or just the phone app) is just ahead of you for the month's total. A scheduling feature shows you weather forecasts in half-hour increments. After making a selection, you get a notification when it's time to run.

Though the app is available for all models, the Nike watch also has a colorful wristband sporting holes to help sweat dry. It offers custom watch faces with one-touch access to the app, plus a reminder of your next scheduled run. Most people will be fine with just the free app, but running enthusiasts can get the Nike version for the same price.

BEYOND RUNNING

Cyclists get similar speed and distance information, though the watch doesn't measure how fast you're pedaling, something hard-core cyclists might want. You can swim with Series 2, even with chlorinated or salt water, something most water-resistant gadgets don't allow. The watch measures distance indoors by counting laps, though you need a pool large enough for at least five strokes per lap.

WHAT'S STILL MISSING

Recording splits during runs is great, but I also want to know my average pace and time since the last split, rather than the beginning of the run. I find it useful when I want to go faster in the middle of a run before a gentle cooldown. And while Apple Watch syncs workout data with the phone's Activity app, many long-time runners already have their favorite online repository, whether that's Nike, Strava or Garmin. The ability to move data around is limited. While Nike offers an Apple Watch app, it'll take time for others to catch up. Strava's still requires running with a phone, while Garmin doesn't have one at all. For these reasons, I'm sticking with my Garmin Forerunner 220. And while it's a minor annoyance, both Apple's and Nike's app do a three-second countdown before workouts. I just want to run when I hit "start."

DO YOU NEED APPLE WATCH?

Because this review is focused on runners' needs, I haven't gotten into all the other features, such as maps, weather and shopping. Running watches and general-purpose fitness trackers such as Fitbit don't offer as much. The ability to reply to messages by voice came in handy when coordinating with friends waiting at the finish line, for instance. But if you don't need the "smarts," a decent GPS fitness device is more than \$100 cheaper.

The story has been corrected to show that Nike challenge is based on month's total, and not by week. —AP

DIGITAL RETAIL STRATEGIES IN THE GCC

THRIVING AMIDST DISRUPTION

KUWAIT: The retail sector globally is going through a period of rapid change that has forced iconic brands like Walmart to leave the confines of their brick and mortar space and make forays into the digital world. It has also forced digital pioneers such as Amazon to set up a physical space for their customers - proving yet again that as customers evolve, so must retailers.

For both customers and retailers, this is a time of discovery and disruption. Retailers need to rethink their business model, especially with a growing generation of digital native customers, pressures to enhance efficiency and processes, and the need to find new sources of revenue.

Understanding the new reality of retail in the GCC

After a period of rapid growth for years, with the region successfully positioned as a leading international retail destination, there has been some expected slowing of momentum recently. According to Kantar Retail, the Middle East retail market is expected to grow at 7.7 per cent CAGR between 2015 and 2020, down from 9.8 per cent CAGR between 2010 and 2015.

Keeping this in mind, the GCC retail sector needs to think through its digital strategy, assess short- and long-term opportunities, prioritize, prepare for challenges and regulations, and tailor plans to region-specific demands. The GCC population is remarkable in the fact that a large percentage of the population is under the age of 25, making it even more imperative for retailers to have a strategy in place to cater to a generation of digital natives. According to Alpen Capital, the GCC population is projected to reach close to 60 million in 2020, of which, the number of people below 25 years of age is likely to surpass 22 million.

But before we think digital, it is important to also understand the changing role of brick and mortar. Today, instead of just a store to grow sales, the physical space is an experience zone for customers, to establish long-term relationships and turn customers into brand loyalists. A case in point is the Apple Store in the Mall of the Emirates, which allows an immersive experience where customers browse, lounge and leave with hopefully a better understanding of the technology that the brand offers instead of feeling pressured to buy a product. So the retail space has evolved into a marketing tool, demand generator, and brand differentiator.

Getting phygital

This shifting role applies across all touch points in the customer cycle - be it pre and

post sales, and more and more seamlessly across physical and digital sales platforms, or what are collectively becoming known as phygital platforms.

This is where digitization can play a crucial role to enhance the customer experience and where associated advanced data analytics can draw beneficial marketing and service insights from the massive amounts of customer data being generated. All of this can then be used to provide a 360-degree personalized view of the customer for advancing more intelligent and

**Dr Raymond Khoury,
Executive Vice President,
Booz Allen Hamilton,
discusses how the future
is 'phygital' for the retail
sector in the GCC**



Dr Raymond Khoury

enhanced customer experiences, and for also identifying new customer bases with similar interests. Aggregated data provides insights into customer behavior and preferences, thereby enabling more targeted marketing options for retailers.

Innovation in the retail space through digital strategies can be lateral or vertical. Lateral involves leveraging existing product lines that can be made into regular or repetitive revenue streams, such as groceries packaging and delivery. Vertical innovation is through offering new product lines that didn't exist before, based on analyzing customer behavior data, both online and in-store, such as customized 3-D printed objects. Customers are ultimately best placed to benefit from digitization. Besides being offered a variety of options so far unavailable, all at the click of a button, they are also being empowered to make the right choice with easily accessible knowledge and the support of a community of informed peers on social media - a collective digitally-enabled market-backed selection process.

Facing fears

As digital strategies change the sector, it is important for retailers to prepare for some of the expected challenges.

For example, today automation allows for the tracking of products through the delivery process: from manufacturing to shipping and delivery. Automation enables process efficiencies and optimization, and eliminates redundancies. This will lead to a redistribution of jobs, and some traditional functions will need to be repurposed.

There is an understandable fear that digitization and automation may threaten jobs. Smart change management is key towards addressing this fear, to gain large-scale support for digitization in the retail sector. It is important to understand that instead of creating redundancies, digitization and automation enable a redistribution of functions and the acquisition or preferably development of new skills as the job roles become more sophisticated.

Security is another challenge. It is important to understand that maintaining security is a continuous process. Cybersecurity is a shifting target and includes comprehensive phygital security planning, as the physical and digital enablers tend to increasingly overlap, for example smart HVAC or security systems in malls and their interdependent technology platforms. Another concern is maintaining data privacy. One solution is to anonymize information by stripping off personal details, so that insights from the customer data can be utilized while addressing privacy concerns. Regionally, governments have also sought to drive a number of recent regulations towards enabling greater understanding and inviting more participation among governments and citizens when it comes to data exchange. For example, the Dubai Data Law introduced in 2016, requires both individuals and organizations - public and private - to make their data available, in an anonymous manner, either for free or in exchange for data from other providers. The aim of such initiatives is to have a broad base of customer acceptance so that retailers are able to utilize anonymous data to enhance the customer experience.

What's next?
Robotics is a field of much interest and has already started impacting the retail sector. From manufacturing to logistics, the unmanned world will become the norm in the not-so-distant future.

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) are helping to improve customer experience and are here to stay, a case in point being Marks & Spencer's Middle East stores, which have launched the Virtual Closet, using augmented reality for customers to try on outfits and accessories.

3D printing is also revolutionizing the retail sector - with industry analysts Gartner predicting at least seven of the top 10 retailers in the world using 3D printing. Spend on 3D printing in MEA is expected to increase from \$0.47 billion in 2015 to \$1.3 billion by 2019, according to IDC. Regional governments are also preparing for the increasing role of this technology across sectors. For example, the world's first 3D printed office building opened in Dubai recently, and the Dubai 3D Printing Strategy aims to make the city a global 3D hub by 2030. Higher integration of Machine to Machine (M2M) technology in retail is also expected to enhance the customer experience, whether through m-payment trends or location-based targeted marketing. The connected world is becoming a goldmine of new ideas that can bring benefits to both customers and retailers. Change is always disruptive and digitization in retail will be no exception. What is important is to not rush into it in panic, but instead to systematically plan for how it will drive enhanced customer experience, operational efficiency, transparency, profitability, and new revenue models.



This Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 file photo shows the damaged SpaceX launch complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. — AP

SPACE X CLOSER TO UNDERSTANDING ROCKET EXPLOSION AT PAD

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla: SpaceX said Friday it's closer to understanding last month's rocket explosion at the launch pad and aims to resume flights by year's end.

The company already had targeted the rocket's helium system as being breached. On Friday, SpaceX said the investigation has been further narrowed to one of the pressurized helium containers, located in the second-stage oxygen tank. In recent testing, SpaceX said it's managed to recreate a system failure, noting it can happen entirely through helium-loading conditions, namely temperature and pressure. More tests are planned at SpaceX facilities in Texas to identify the precise cause.

The unmanned Falcon rocket erupted in a fireball Sept. 1 during prelaunch testing at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Both the rocket and the satellite on board were destroyed. Facebook had wanted to use the Israeli-made satellite to spread internet access in Africa.

It was the second Falcon failure in just over a year for Elon Musk, the billionaire behind SpaceX. In June 2015, a rocket loaded with space station supplies erupted shortly after liftoff. Company officials said the two accidents were unrelated, although the 2015 loss also originated in the upper-stage helium system. In that instance, a support strut broke.

"SpaceX's efforts are now focused on

two areas - finding the exact root cause, and developing improved helium loading conditions that allow SpaceX to reliably load Falcon 9," the company said on its web site. "This is an important milestone on the path to returning to flight."

Falcon rockets have been grounded as SpaceX conducts the investigation along with NASA, the Air Force, the Federal Aviation Administration and industry experts. The California-based company has about 70 launches in line, worth more than \$10 billion.

The September explosion - which occurred as the rocket was being fueled for a test-firing of its engines - damaged the SpaceX launch pad. Until repairs can be completed, the company has the option of launching from its soon-to-be-modified pad at neighboring Kennedy Space Center - once used by NASA's moon rockets and space shuttles - or from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Besides launching commercial satellites, SpaceX hauls supplies to the International Space Station for NASA and is developing a bigger Falcon capable of flying astronauts to the orbiting lab in another year or two. Less than two weeks ago, NASA's other major shipper, Orbital ATK, resumed launches from Wallops Island, Virginia, following an explosion of its Antares rocket soon after liftoff in 2014.

MOBILE MONEY ON THE RISE IN AFRICA AS MILLIONS GET PHONES

KAMPALA, Uganda: Ivan Kiryowa repeatedly checked the balance on his phone, nervous sweat on his cheeks, as he waited for money from a friend. Thirty minutes later, \$150 had landed in his account and he sauntered into a hardware store, where he bought bags of cement. "Mobile money is convenient for many of us who rely on our phones to pay bills and make transactions without having to go to the bank all the time," Kiryowa said. "Without it, I think we would have a lot more problems." Mobile money has become a way of life for millions of Africans who use their phones to pay utility bills, settle loans and even bail out friends in distress. There were 84 million active mobile money accounts in Africa as of December, according to the London-based industry group GSMA. It says there were mobile money operations in 31 African countries.

In the East African capitals of Kampala and Nairobi, where the phenomenon is particularly strong, booths offering mobile money services dot the streets. Now, even taxes can be paid via mobile phone in Uganda, in a revolution that threatens commercial banks as more and more people can afford handheld

devices. "When people come here to make mobile transactions, in effect this is their bank," said Charles Onyiah, a mobile money agent in Kampala, the Ugandan capital. "The most important thing, of course, is the convenience of mobile money." Only about 34 percent of adults in Africa have a traditional bank account, according to World Bank data. Analysts say mobile money is widening financial inclusion by tapping into unbanked Africans, especially in rural areas where banking facilities are few and illiteracy tends to be high.

The value of mobile money transactions in sub-Saharan Africa reached \$655 million in 2014 and could surpass \$1.3 billion by 2019, according to data by the consulting firm Frost & Sullivan. This year, mobile money services have become international. In January, the London-based remittance service company WorldRemit and the South African telecom giant MTN Group announced a global partnership agreement that allows WorldRemit customers to send money instantly to MTN mobile money wallets in Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia, adding to the growing list of destinations where such transfers can be possible. —AP



TESLA EXPANDS ITS PORTFOLIO TO PRODUCE SOLAR ROOF TILES

ELECTRIC CARMAKER TESLA DIVERSIFIES INTO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

LOS ANGELES: Electric carmaker Tesla has diversified into the alternative energy business, on Friday unveiling solar roofs for environmentally friendly homes. "Global warming is a serious crisis and we need to do something about that," company founder Elon Musk said during a news conference at Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

Musk noted that electric cars in the past "didn't look good... They were like a golf cart," but Tesla automobiles are now highly desired by movers and shakers including Hollywood stars and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. Solar panels need to undergo the same transformation, he said.

"We need to make them as appealing as electric cars have become." The goal is to

have solar roofs that look better than a normal roof, generate electricity, last longer, have better insulation, and actually have a total cost that his less than the price of a normal roof plus electricity," Musk said.

"Why would you buy anything else?" Tesla, which has joined forces with solar panel maker SolarCity, aims to capture five percent of the market, Musk said. The roof tiles are made with extremely strong tempered glass, high-efficiency solar cells and colored film. "We expect to start installing these roofs sometimes next year," Musk said. He also unveiled an updated version of Tesla's Powerwall, a compact, solar-powered battery that can provide the energy to a home or business.



BELFAST, Maine: In this Nov 21, 2014, file photo, a former U.S. Marine smokes medical marijuana. —AP

POT BALLOT DRIVES PUT MEDICAL, RECREATIONAL USERS AT ODDS

PORTLAND: A handful of recreational marijuana legalization drives has the medical pot industry bracing for something it never expected to deal with: competition. Legalization is on the ballot in five states this November, and all five currently allow some form of medical marijuana already. Growers, medical professionals and users of medical marijuana say they worry that people who want medical marijuana will buy it on the open market instead of going through the hassle of getting a doctor's recommendation.

"This is being structured for big corporations to come in and in a very short period of time wipe out the caregivers," said Lori Libbey, a board director of a Maine group campaigning against legalization and a nurse who administers cannabis. "I wonder who is going to be able to provide for pediatric patients." But in Maine and the other states considering legalization, others in the marijuana business are very much looking forward to the possibility of legalization. And some proponents believe medical marijuana professionals just don't want to lose their monopoly.

Struggles

Recreational legalization measures are also on ballots in Arizona, California, Massachusetts and Nevada. Concerns from medical marijuana professionals have also cropped up in those states, and they have echoed similar struggles in states that have already legalized recreational marijuana, such as Oregon and Colorado. Competition in the marijuana market has become part of the landscape in Colorado, which saw nearly \$1 billion in sales of medical and recreational marijuana last year. The state went legal in 2012.

Paul Armentano, spokesman for the leading marijuana legalization group NORML, said some medical users and advocacy groups worry about potential corporatization of marijuana as the market expands. Tension between medical and recreational marijuana supporters, he said, has already become an issue in California.

NORML is sensitive to the concerns of medical marijuana users, Armentano said, but also understands some of the consternation is about angst over free-market competition. "There is a concern among individuals who largely have the marijuana

market solely to themselves that the advent of broader legalization will introduce competition into the existing market and that competition will pose a threat to their existing business model," he said.

Age of pot

Some advocates of medical marijuana feel state regulations are the key to making sure medical marijuana survives in the age of legal pot. In Massachusetts, the language has alarmed some critics who fear passage of the ballot question could compromise or perhaps even overrule the state's medical marijuana program, which has already been slowed by regulatory delays since Massachusetts voters authorized it in 2012.

Nichole Snow, executive director of the Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance, said her group, which supports medical marijuana recipients, is neutral on the ballot question and uncertain of its potential impact. "I hope there is still patient focus (if) this initiative passes," Snow said.

Americans for Safe Access, an organization that advocates for legal access to medical cannabis, said recreational marijuana programs should be kept separate from medical marijuana. The group sees potential "competing interests" between the two if they are comingled, said Beth Collins, a leader of the organization. The group also sees potential harm from the possibility of corporatization of marijuana, Collins said.

"On the negative side, big business may try to impose regulations to keep other players out, which could lead to fewer products," she said. "The best medical cannabis programs allow for both large and small businesses along with access via patient or caregiver cultivation." Some ardent proponents of medical marijuana are on board with broad legalization. Carey Clark, a member of the board of directors for the Oregon-based American Cannabis Nurses Association, said recreational legalization will allow people who use marijuana as medicine to have easier access to it. "When it's legal we're going to see an increase in quality and a decrease in cost, and that is really good for people who need access to this medicine," Clark said. "Things will be labeled and they'll know what they're getting." —AP

PATIENTS LEFT IN LIMBO AS DOCTORS FLEE PUERTO RICO

SAN JUAN: Wanda Serrano arrived at Puerto Rico's largest public hospital before dawn to take her 17-year-old son to an appointment. Six hours later, they were still in the packed waiting room hoping to see a doctor. They had gone to San Juan's Centro Medico to see one of the many kinds of specialists the teen needs for treatment of a genetic disease called tuberous sclerosis, which can cause tumors to grow on his brain, kidneys and other organs. But specialized medical expertise is increasingly difficult to find in the economically troubled US island territory.

Six hours in a waiting room is no longer the exception, but the norm. A pediatric neurologist recently told Serrano that her son, Cedric, needed to wait 10 months for an appointment. "I live terrified every single day," Serrano said one recent morning as she clutched his medical records and peered anxiously down a fluorescent-lit hallway for a nurse or doctor. "You feel powerless. You can't do anything except wait for that date to arrive."

Doctors have gradually left Puerto Rico during a decade-long recession that has gripped the island and driven more than 200,000 people to the US mainland seeking better opportunities. Now, the steady departure of pediatricians, surgeons, orthopedists, neurologists and others has become a stampede as the economy shows no sign of improving and financial problems in the territorial health insurance program make it nearly impossible for doctors to stay in business.

Up to 700 doctors are expected to leave Puerto Rico this year, double the number from two years ago, said Dr. Victor Ramos, president of the island's Association of Surgeons. The territory's number of doctors has dropped from 14,000 to 9,000 in the past decade, the majority leaving for higher salaries and lower living costs on the US mainland.

The island of 3.5 million people now has only two pediatric urologists, one orthopedist specializing in ankle and feet, one pediatric cardiologist, and a handful of geneticists and endocrinologists. It can take a year to see a specialist, Ramos said. "People are waiting much longer for appointments, including one that could be a matter of life or death because there is simply no room," he said. Dr. Hiram Luigi, an orthopedic surgeon, said he has to realign the bones of patients a couple of times each month because they did not see a specialist in time. "I have spent 30 years in orthopedics, and I have never seen something like this," Luigi said. The lack of specialists has adversely affected patients, whose health conditions often worsen before a doctor sees them.

'Quality of life'

Many people like Serrano have moved to the US specifically to get medical care. "I'm searching for quality of life," she said. Puerto Rico's financial woes are largely to blame. The government is behind on insurance payments as it scrambles to make payments on debts that have ballooned in recent years to nearly \$70 billion. Doctors not only struggle with delayed reimbursements for services but receive less money through the government's Medicare and Medicaid programs as well as private health insurance than they would for the same services on the U.S. mainland.

Many specialists no longer accept patients with Medicaid, which covers roughly half of Puerto Rico's population. The great majority of patients like Serrano's son now seek specialists at Puerto Rico's largest public hospital, lining up as early as 1 a.m. daily for medical care. "It's truly the final stop for many people," said Edgar Colon, dean of the University of Puerto Rico's School of Medicine. "We can't keep up." —AP

BRAZIL MUTANT MOSQUITOES TO HELP BREED OUT DISEASES

MALES CREATED TO MATE AND THEN DIE

PIRACICABA: Scientists in Brazil are preparing to release millions of factory-bred mosquitoes in an attempt to wipe out their distant cousins that carry tropical diseases. The insects' method: have sex and then die. British firm Oxitec says its genetically modified mosquitoes will swarm in among ordinary species such as *Aedes aegypti*, the insect that carries feared diseases such as Zika, dengue, yellow fever and chikungunya.

They will mate with the females of the ordinary mosquitoes, spawning babies with a genetically inbuilt flaw that causes them to die quickly. With their work done, the modified father mosquitoes will then give up the ghost themselves-as they are genetically programmed to do. Oxitec says its factory in the town of Piracicaba, northwest of Sao Paulo, can produce 60 million mutant mosquitoes a week.

Piracicaba is the world's "first and biggest factory" of genetically modified mosquitos, said Oxitec president Hadyn Parry. "This is the only place where we have a factory like this. We can use this as a hub for Brazil," said Parry, who traveled to Piracicaba for the plant opening. Currently their only Brazilian customer is the city of Piracicaba, "but we are having conversations with several municipalities and states," Parry said.

Mosquitoes by the millions

According to the firm, five field tests that they conducted between 2011 and 2014 — in Panama and the Cayman Islands, as well as the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia—showed the population of wild *Aedes aegypti* insects dropped by 90 percent after the mutant mosquitoes were released. Oxitec does not yet have a sales permit from Brazil's Anvisa health authorities, and there are no epidemiological studies showing whether mosquito-carried diseases drop after the factory-bred insects are released.

Parry is not concerned. "We are still waiting for Anvisa approval—we have no date for it, but we expect it for 2017," he said. And none of this has stopped the mayor of Piracicaba from signing a four-year, \$1.1 million deal with Oxitec. In its first wave, the company will release 10 million factory-bred mosquitos each week into this city of 360,000 people.

The need for insect control is pressing, as the summer in the southern hemisphere approaches and the mosquito population—and cases of the diseases that they carry—is



SAO PAULO: View of larvae of mosquito *Aedes aegypti* OX513A, infected with the *Wolbachia* bacteria which alters the reproductive capability of its host at Oxitec. —AFP

likely to boom. As of July nearly 1.4 million cases of dengue were recorded in Brazil, following the record 1.6 million cases in 2015, according to health ministry figures. In the same period 174,000 cases of Zika were reported.

The Zika virus outbreak began in late 2015 in Brazil and has since spread across the Americas. Zika is particularly dangerous to pregnant women because it can cause birth defects such as microcephaly, in which babies are born with unusually small heads and brain deformities. Zika infection has also been linked to a nerve and immune disorder called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Sex and death

Scientists keep the spacious rooms at the Piracicaba factory at temperature and humidity levels ideal for mosquito breeding. While female mosquitoes are kept for breeding, male mosquitoes of the OX513A breed—especially developed by Oxitec in 2002 — are released to mate with females in the wild, pro-

duce short-lived offspring, then die.

Oxitec biologist Karla Tepedino dismisses environmentalists' concerns about the lack of long-term impact studies. "There are three essential factors for the transmission of these diseases: the mosquitoes, the virus and humans. What we do here is eliminate the mosquitoes, which transmit the virus," Tepedino told AFP. "Eliminating the vector, we eliminate the disease," she said.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is well-adapted to city life as it can breed in even tiny amounts of water, such as a puddle of rainwater or water pooled in flowerpots. Experts have pointed to poor sanitation and the practice of storing open water containers in poor neighborhoods as contributing factors in the explosive growth of the mosquito population. Separately, Rio de Janeiro authorities are attempting to control their mosquito population by releasing insects inoculated with the *Wolbachia* bacteria, which makes them resistant to Zika, dengue and other viruses. —AFP

BABY POWDER CAUSING CANCER? JURY SAYS YES

TRENTON: For the third time, Johnson & Johnson has been hit with a multimillion-dollar jury verdict over whether the talc in its iconic baby powder causes ovarian cancer when applied regularly for feminine hygiene.

Late Thursday, a St Louis jury awarded \$70.1 million to Deborah Giannecchini of Modesto, California, who was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer in 2012. Giannecchini, then 59, said she had used Johnson's Baby Powder for more than 40 years to keep her genital area dry, as many women do. She blamed it for her cancer and accused J&J of negligence. Two other jury trials in St Louis reached similar outcomes earlier this year, awarding the plaintiffs \$72 million and \$55 million. But in J&J's home state of New Jersey a judge recently threw out two other cases, ruling there wasn't reliable evidence talc causes ovarian cancer, a relatively rare disease.

Johnson & Johnson says its product is safe, and it is appealing all three losses. And investors don't seem worried that J&J is in financial trouble, even though the company faces an estimated 2,000 similar lawsuits. J&J shares fell 0.3 percent Friday, about the same as the broader stock market, to close at \$115.33. The next trial is set to start in January, also in St. Louis. Here's what experts say about talc and cancer.

WHAT IS TALC?

Talc is a mineral that is mined from deposits around the world, including the U.S. The softest of minerals, it's crushed into a white powder. It's been widely used in cosmetics and other personal care products to absorb moisture since at least 1894, when Johnson & Johnson's Baby Powder was launched. But it's mainly used in a variety of other products, including paint and plastics.

DOES IT CAUSE OVARIAN CANCER?

Like many questions in science, there's no definitive answer. Finding the cause of cancer is difficult. It would be unethical to do the best kind of study, asking a group of women to use talcum powder on their genitals and wait to see if it causes cancer, while comparing them to a group who didn't use it. While ovarian cancer is often fatal,

it's relatively rare. It accounts for only about 22,000 of the 1.7 million new cases of cancer expected to be diagnosed in the United States this year.

Factors that are known to increase a women's risk of ovarian cancer include age, obesity, use of estrogen therapy after menopause, not having any children, certain genetic mutations and personal or family history of breast or ovarian cancer.

WHAT RESEARCH SHOWS

The biggest studies have found no link between talcum powder applied to the genitals and ovarian cancer. But about two dozen smaller studies over three decades have mostly found a modest connection — a 20 percent to 40 percent increased risk among talc users. However, that doesn't mean talc causes cancer. Several factors make that unlikely, and there's no proof talc, which doesn't interact with chemicals or cells, can travel up the reproductive tract, enter the ovaries and then trigger cancer.

One large study published in June that followed 51,000 sisters of breast cancer patients found genital talc users had a reduced risk of ovarian cancer, 27 percent lower than in nonusers. An analysis of two huge, long-running US studies, the Women's Health Initiative and the Nurses' Health Study, showed no increased risk of ovarian cancer in talc users.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

If there were a true link, Dr Hal C Lawrence III says large studies that tracked women's health for years would have verified results of the smaller ones. "Lord knows, with the amount of powder that's been applied to babies' bottoms, we would've seen something," if talc caused cancer, said Lawrence, vice president of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The National Cancer Institute's Dr Nicolas Wentzensen says the federal agency's position is that there's not a clear connection.

"It is very hard to establish causal relationships," he said, adding, "A lot of ovarian cancers occur in women who have never used talc, and many women have used talc and not gotten ovarian cancer." Research director Elizabeth Ward of the American Cancer Society says it is unusual to have so much discrepancy between studies. "The risk for any individual woman, if there is one, is probably very small," Ward said. —AP



In this April 19, 2010, file photo, Johnson's baby powder is squeezed from its container. —AP

TOXIC LIQUOR KILLS 11 IN PAKISTAN: POLICE

ISLAMABAD: At least 11 people from a minority Christian community in Pakistan's central Punjab province died after consuming toxic liquor, police said yesterday. Three other people who consumed the alcohol at a party on Friday night in Jhelum district, some 126 kilometers east of the capital Islamabad, are in hospital in critical condi-

tion, police said.

"The dead bodies of 11 victims have been handed over to their relatives after completing the postmortem, the condition of the three others is still critical," Asif Nawaz, a senior police official in Jhelum told AFP. Nawaz said most of the victims were young and from same Christian neighborhood.

"They drank locally-made poisonous liquor while partying late Friday," he added. Police are looking to arrest the suspected supplier of the poisoned alcohol, whose brother was reportedly among the dead. The public sale of alcohol is banned in conservative Muslim Pakistan but some people make moonshine at home. —AFP



SOUTH HAVEN: This Thursday Oct 11, 2012 photo shows cranberries in a field. —AP

CRANBERRIES SQUASHED AS FOLK REMEDY FOR URINARY INFECTIONS

CHICAGO: Another folk remedy bites the dust. Cranberry capsules didn't prevent or cure urinary infections in nursing home residents in a study challenging persistent unproven claims to the contrary. The research adds to decades of conflicting evidence on whether cranberries in any form can prevent extremely common bacterial infections, especially in women. Many studies suggesting a benefit were based on weak science, but that hasn't stopped marketers and even some health care providers from recommending cranberry juice or capsules as an inexpensive way to avoid these uncomfortable and potentially risky infections.

The new study, published online Thursday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, used rigorous methods and the results are convincing, according to a journal editorial. Health care providers who encourage using cranberry products as a prevention method "are doing their patients a disservice," the editorial says.

The infections

Urinary infections lead to nearly 9 million doctor visits and more than 1 million hospitalizations each year. Men, because of their urinary anatomy, are less vulnerable, while almost half of all U.S. women will develop at least one of these infections in their lifetime. Symptoms can include painful, frequent urination and fatigue. Antibiotics are often used to treat the infections, which usually are not serious but can lead to kidney infections and sometimes dangerous bloodstream infections. Urinary infections are the most commonly diagnosed infection in nursing home residents, but they often have no obvious symptoms and evidence suggests antibiotics have little effect in these older patients without symptoms, the study authors say.

The study

The research included 147 older women in nursing homes who were randomly assigned to take two cranberry capsules or dummy pills for a year. The number of women with laboratory evidence of infection - bacteria and white blood cells in their urine - varied during the study but averaged about 29 percent overall in both groups. Ten infections in the cranberry group caused overt symptoms, compared with 12 in the placebo group but that difference wasn't statistically significant. There also were no differences in hospitalizations and deaths between the two groups. The National Institutes of Health helped pay for the research, led by Dr. Manisha Juthani-Mehta, a Yale University infectious disease specialist.

Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., one of the best-known makers of cranberry-based products, promotes the purported health benefits on its website. Responding to the new study, company spokeswoman Kellyanne Dignan cited previous studies that suggested a benefit and said, "We take great pride in our cranberry products and the health benefits associated with them."

The advice

People who think they have a urinary infection should see a doctor for diagnosis and treatment, but avoid cranberry products "in place of proven treatments for infections," according to the National Institutes of Health alternative medicine branch. The journal editorial says additional research is needed to find effective treatments for nursing home residents and others. "It is time to move on from cranberries," the editorial says. —AP

EMMA MORANO: WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON AND GREAT LOVER OF EGGS

LAST KNOWN PERSON ALIVE TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

VERBANIA: In one month it will be Emma Morano's birthday. Though she hasn't invited anyone, people from around the world are still likely to turn up to celebrate with the last known person alive to have been born in the 19th century. "I'm 116 years and on 27 November, I'll be 117," this alert and chatty lady tells AFP in her room in Verbania, a town in northern Italy on Lake Maggiore.

On a marble-topped chest of drawers stands proudly the Guinness World Records certificate declaring Morano, born in 1899, to be the world's oldest living person. There is also a photograph of her and her doctor Carlo Bava holding eggs: the secret to her long life appears to lie in eschewing all received medical wisdom. "I eat two eggs a day, and that's it. And cookies. But I do not eat much because I have no teeth," she says.

The egg habit dates from when she was diagnosed with anaemia at 20 in the wake of World War I and a doctor advised her to eat three a day, two raw and one cooked. She maintained that regime for 90 years and is believed to have eaten over 100,000 eggs and counting. "Emma has always eaten very few vegetables, very little fruit. When I met her, she ate three eggs per day, two raw in the morning and then an omelette at noon, and chicken at dinner," said Bava, who has been her doctor for the past 27 years. Now she lives mostly on biscuits "and does not want to eat meat because she doesn't like it anymore and someone told her it causes cancer," he said. Morano is not even sure she'll have a slice of her birthday cake, saying "the last time I ate a little, but then I did not feel good".

A 'precarious equilibrium'

She may still be some way off the previous record, held by France's Jeanne Calment who lived to be 122, but Morano, the eldest of eight children who has outlived all her younger siblings, knows turning 117 will be an event to celebrate.



VERBANIA: Emma Morano poses next to a picture depicting her when she was young. —AP

"People come. I don't invite anybody but they come. From America, Switzerland, Austria, Turin, Milan... They come from all over to see me," she says with an amused smile. Birthdays aside, Morano is a solitary person. Having left her violent husband in 1938 shortly after the death in infancy of her only son, she lived alone, working in a factory producing jute sacks to support herself.

She clung to her independence, only taking on a full-time caregiver last year, though she has not left her small two-room apartment for 20 years, and has been bed-bound for the last year. While her mind is alert, she is very deaf, speaks with difficulty and does not see well enough to watch television, spending her time instead either sleeping or snacking.

Bava puts her longevity party down to genetics-Morano's mother died at 91 and at least two of her sisters lived to be over 100 — but said having a daily routine and her great strength of character had also likely played their parts. "She is a very determined person. She has never wanted to go to hospital, she's never received any particular (health) care. She's suffered from a bit of bronchitis, had a (blood) transfusion, and some stitches, but always at home."

"Now she's well, she's very well, but it's clear she lives every day in a very, very precarious equilibrium," he said. Bava admits he feels a bit like "the keeper of the Tower of Pisa, which has been leaning for centuries. The day it topples over, someone will be held responsible. "When Emma dies, people will hold me accountable." —AFP

SPACECRAFT SENDS BACK LAST BIT OF DATA FROM 2015 PLUTO FLYBY



CAPE CANAVERAL: NASA's New Horizons spacecraft has sent back the last bit of data from its 2015 flyby of Pluto. The picture - one of a sequence of shots of Pluto and its big moon, Charon - arrived earlier this week at Mission Control in Maryland. It took more than five hours for the image to reach Earth from New Horizons, some 3 billion miles away. "We did it! Pluto data download complete!" principal scientist Alan Stern cheered via Twitter on Thursday. "We have our pot of gold," mission operations manager Alice Bowman added in a statement. New Horizons swooped past Pluto on July 14, 2015. It's now headed to an even smaller, frozen orb in the far reaches of the solar system. That close encounter is targeted for 2019. Mission managers opted to save all the Pluto data on New Horizons' digital recorders, in order to maximize observing time. Only the highest priority sets of information were sent back in the days before and after the flyby, providing humanity's first up-close look at Pluto. It wasn't until September 2015 when the real data transmission began. In all, more than 50 gigabits of

data were relayed over the past 15 months to Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. The final data arrived Tuesday, and NASA announced the safe arrival Thursday. The team will make absolutely certain nothing got left behind, before erasing the recorders to make room for future observations, Bowman said. Stern noted it will take "a great deal of work" to understand all the amazing observations made by New Horizons. "Who knows when the next data from a spacecraft visiting Pluto will be sent?" he said in a statement.

New Horizons came within 7,700 miles of Pluto, following a journey of 9 1/2 years. Now the spacecraft is 350 million miles from the dwarf planet and aiming for 2014 MU69, another remote object in our solar system's faraway twilight zone known as the Kuiper Belt. This next destination will make Pluto look immense; the ancient 2014 MU69 is thought to be no more than 30 miles across, barely 1 percent the size of Pluto, which in turn is considerably smaller than Earth's moon. —AP

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The Embassy of Mexico recently organized a ceremony to award the Order of the Aztec Eagle, Sash Degree to Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat, the Ambassador of Kuwait to Mexico.



Dr Susovana Sujit Nair

FITNESS FIRST DRIVES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WITH 'PINK POWER' CAMPAIGN

Fitness First, one of the world's leading health and fitness companies, and a part of Landmark Group recently hosted "Pink Power" an informative fun event held to support breast cancer awareness.

Themed as Party in Pink, the event began with an educational session conducted by renowned medical oncologist Dr Susovana Sujit Nair, from Kuwait Cancer Control Center followed by a fun group exercise marathon which included body pump, Zumba step, body attack, body combat, Zumba and yoga all conducted by professional trainers. The venue came to life in pink and boomed with everyone's favorite Zumba tracks and choreography.

The Fitness First Chief Operating Officer, George Flocks, while making the announcement, reiterated the company's commitment in spearheading health and fitness awareness in the region. He also underscored the importance of exercising as a way of reducing the risk of diseases such as breast cancer and many other health related diseases.

"Since 2014, Fitness First has been driving

breast cancer awareness by promoting compelling messages about fitness for good health in a fun way. Our objective as a leading fitness provider is to rally women in the Kuwait to recognize the importance of keeping fit as one way of minimizing the risks of breast cancer," said George.

He further added, "Our Ladies-Only clubs are a testimony of our efforts towards encouraging women to chase their fitness goals in a well-kitted out environment. Ladies can comfortably and freely exercise through their fitness goals in these exclusive clubs regularly. For now, we would like to invite all ladies to try out our Fitness First clubs during weekends, all of this month."

"I am delighted to be a part of the "Pink Power" initiative", said Dr Susovana Sujit Nair, medical oncologist from Kuwait Cancer Control Center. Approximately 1 in 9 women have an estimated life time risk for developing breast cancer. Everyone can join the fight by spreading knowledge about the disease, encouraging their loved ones to get screened. The earlier

breast cancer is diagnosed, the better the treatment options available and the higher the survival rate. Breast cancer is a curable disease, agonizing and painful months of chemotherapy treatment can be avoided by only doing yearly check-ups and undergoing a life-saving mammography in women."

"Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Kuwait and is the second biggest killer of women in the country. While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to detect the disease in its early stages. If discovered and treated at an early stage, 98 per cent of sufferers will survive. It is really inspiring to see the dedication of Fitness First and the support they receive from the Kuwait residents to spread the message on breast cancer awareness."

All attendees were encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle, which include regular exercise and physical activity. The 'Pink Power' event was fun filled with vigor and vibrancy and open to everyone including non-Fitness First members.

KFH OPERATES BRANCH IN SAAD AL-ABDULLAH

Deputy General Manager Sales and Distributions at KFH, Khaled Al-Subaiei said that the bank had operated its branch in Saad Al-Abdullah city, indicating the branch will provide a vast array of banking products and services to customers.

"This step is an important added value in the field of geographical expansion, yet it emanates from KFH's endeavors to be more accessible to customers and to render them best banking and financial services and products," added Subaiei.

He continued "the bank arranged all technical equipment needed, provided skillful and highly qualified employees so that the branch operates properly with high service quality to optimally address clients' needs and meet their aspirations as per the international standards of service excellence."

He reiterated that KFH services aren't limited to the branches. KFH offers its services through a plethora of alternative channels such as the website KFH.com and the app KFHonline that offer 150 free services, Ato Baitak service, the 65 ATM machines for withdrawal, deposits, fund transfer, requesting and cheque book, in addition to the Mobi Baitak vehicles.

He stressed on harnessing all potential human and technical resources to constantly improve the service quality and achieve better performance, while adhering to the concepts of accuracy, speed and security. It is worth noting that KFH branch in Saad Al-Abdullah city is the 65th branch of the bank. It is situated near the Central Super Market. It opens Sunday through Thursday 8:30 am-3:00 pm.



Khaled Al-Subaiei

ACK WINS BEST PAPER AWARD AT CANADA'S ICMSI 2016

A'Best Paper Award' at the 18th International Conference on Materials and Structural Integrity in Vancouver, Canada was rewarded to the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK). The Paper was presented by three Professors from the School of Engineering at ACK, Dr Nader Ghareeb, Assistant Professor-Mechanical Engineering Department, Dr Mohammad Gaith - Head of School of Engineering and Dr Sayed Mohamad Soleimani, Assistant Professor and Head of Civil Engineering Department.



Dr Nader Ghareeb

The International Conference on Materials and Structural Integrity brings together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share experiences and research results on all aspects of Materials and Structural Integrity. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Materials and Structural Integrity.

When asked about the achievement, Dr Nader Ghareeb, Assistant Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at ACK, stated: "We are very proud of this achievement as accomplishments such as this are valuable to ACK. We will continue to participate in such events, while exchanging knowledge and expertise with the local and international community."

SEND MONEY TO JORDAN, WIN A HARLEY DAVIDSON

NEW MARKETING PROMOTION FROM AL MULLA EXCHANGE

Al Mulla Exchange, the leading money exchange company in Kuwait, is giving the Jordanian community in Kuwait a fabulous opportunity to win a brand new Harley Davidson bike. The promotion will run for 3 months, starting from 30 October, 2016, to 30 January, 2017. Every customer transacting to Jordan from any of Al Mulla branches will automatically enter the grand raffle draw. Western union transactions are also concluded, the grand draw will be held on January 31, 2017 and a lucky winner will be chosen for the dream prize.

Speaking to the media, Rakesh Joshi General Manager Al Mulla Exchange said the latest promotional initiative by Al Mulla Exchange Company is part of an ongoing scheme aimed at rewarding our customers from the Jordanian community, alongside other promotions aimed at the Philippines and the Indian communities in Kuwait."

Joshi stated that the Jordanian community are an important part of the com-

pany's customer base and "this is our way of expressing our gratitude for their support and trust. We decided to give away a Harley Davidson keeping in mind the taste and the brand-consciousness of the Jordanian community; we believe the Harley Davidson will be the right fit for Jordan customers.

Kuwait is a happening place for biking enthusiasts, and fall is the best time for such outdoor activities. The promotion, therefore, comes at the right time when the season is undergoing a change with summer coming to an end and weather getting more pleasant in general.

Al Mulla Exchange has a reputation for running exceptional promotions to not only achieve business objectives, but also as a token of gratitude to the customers. Other than the continuous marketing promotion that are devised, Al Mulla exchange also offers loyalty points against commission and free insurance coverage. There are lots of value added benefits customers of Al Mulla exchange can look forward to.





DR HADI MAKTABI LECTURES AT DAR AL-ATHAR AL-ISLAMIYYA



Dr Hadi Maktabi, an expert on antique carpets and Islamic art, delivered a lecture at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyya recently, which addressed the subject of carpet production in Iran in the 150 years following the downfall of the Safavid Empire. The importance of this period is that the carpets were entirely woven to meet local and domestic demand, rather than to pander and cater to international tastes. In parallel, this was a lengthy period where trends and styles were formulated by the more rural and provincial sectors of society rather than by the dominant urban workshops. Dr Maktabi is a lecturer at American University of Beirut, a participant in conferences and lectures around the world. He has contributed to numerous professional journals and his doctoral thesis on Persian carpets, is being published by HALI Publications.



The Kuwait National Library's theater recently hosted a ceremony to celebrate the World Animal Day, under the patronage of Sheikha Fatima Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chief Executive and Vice President of K's Path.



04:25 Deadliest Place On Earth
 05:15 Mermaids: The New Evidence
 06:02 Hunt For Hogzilla
 06:49 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
 07:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 08:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 08:25 My Cat From Hell
 09:15 Operation Whale
 10:10 Operation Whale
 11:05 Tanked
 12:00 Rugged Justice
 12:55 Hello World!
 13:20 Hello World!
 13:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 14:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 14:45 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 15:10 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 15:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 16:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 16:35 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 17:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 17:30 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 17:55 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 18:25 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 18:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
 19:20 Treasures Masters
 20:15 Operation Whale
 21:10 Toucan Nation
 22:05 Treasures Masters
 23:00 Mountain Monsters
 23:55 Mermaids: The New Evidence
 00:50 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger
 01:45 Killer Swarms
 02:40 Deadliest Place On Earth
 03:35 Rabid



03:05 David Spade: My Fake Problems
 04:15 Jungle Gold
 05:05 Jungle Gold
 06:00 Jungle Gold
 07:00 Deadliest Catch
 07:50 For The Love Of Cars
 08:40 Fast N' Loud
 09:30 Gold Divers
 10:20 Garage Gold
 10:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 11:10 How Do They Do It?
 11:35 Harley And The Davidson's
 13:15 Fire In The Hole
 14:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 14:30 Storage Hunters
 14:55 Garage Gold
 15:20 Gold Divers
 16:10 Alaskan Bush People
 17:00 Deadliest Catch
 17:50 Fast N' Loud
 18:40 For The Love Of Cars
 19:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
 19:55 How Do They Do It?
 20:20 Gold Divers
 21:10 Storage Hunters
 21:35 Garage Gold
 22:00 Extreme Car Hoarders
 22:50 Built To Survive
 23:40 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
 00:30 Fast N' Loud
 01:20 For The Love Of Cars
 02:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
 03:00 Built To Survive
 03:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island



04:00 USA Memory Championships
 04:48 How Do They Do It?
 05:12 How Do They Do It?
 05:36 How Do They Do It?
 06:00 Food Factory
 06:24 Food Factory
 06:48 Food Factory
 07:12 Food Factory
 07:36 Food Factory
 08:00 How Do They Do It?
 08:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 09:14 Redesign My Brain
 10:02 Mind Control Freaks
 10:26 Mind Control Freaks
 10:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 11:38 USA Memory Championships
 12:26 Prototype This
 13:14 Prototype This
 14:02 Prototype This
 14:50 Prototype This
 15:38 Prototype This
 16:26 Food Factory
 16:50 Food Factory
 17:14 Food Factory
 17:38 Food Factory
 18:02 Food Factory
 18:26 How Do They Do It?
 18:50 How Do They Do It?
 19:15 How Do They Do It?
 19:40 How Do They Do It?
 20:05 How Do They Do It?
 20:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 21:20 Redesign My Brain
 22:10 Mind Control Freaks
 22:35 Mind Control Freaks
 23:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
 23:50 USA Memory Championships
 00:40 Food Factory
 01:05 Food Factory
 01:30 Food Factory
 01:55 Food Factory
 02:20 Food Factory
 02:45 How Do They Do It?
 03:10 How Do They Do It?
 03:35 How Do They Do It?

REESE WITHERSPOON OWEN WILSON PAUL RUDD AND JACK NICHOLSON

HOW DO YOU KNOW

A new comedy from writer-director James L. Brooks



"One of the smartest, sweetest and downright best romantic comedies in years."
 — Jake Hamilton, FOX TV (LOS ANGELES)

HOW DO YOU KNOW ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

05:00 Art Attack
 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
 05:35 Calimero
 05:50 Zou
 06:00 Loopedidoo
 06:15 Art Attack
 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
 06:50 Calimero
 07:00 Zou
 07:20 Loopedidoo
 07:35 Art Attack
 08:00 The Hive
 08:10 Zou
 08:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 08:50 Minnie The First
 09:00 Sofia The First
 09:30 Goldie & Bear
 10:00 PJ Masks
 10:30 Doc McStuffins
 11:00 Sofia The First
 11:30 Goldie & Bear
 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
 12:30 PJ Masks

07:35 Super Matrak
 08:00 Danger Mouse
 08:25 K.C. Undercover
 08:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 09:15 Supa Strikas
 09:40 Kirby Buckets
 10:10 Ratalouille
 12:05 Danger Mouse
 12:20 Supa Strikas
 12:45 Supa Strikas
 13:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 13:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 14:00 Phineas & Ferb: Mission Marvel
 14:55 Gravity Falls
 15:20 Gravity Falls
 15:45 Danger Mouse
 16:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
 16:15 Counterfeit Cat
 16:40 Supa Strikas
 17:05 Supa Strikas
 17:30 Supa Strikas
 17:55 Supa Strikas
 18:25 Supa Strikas
 18:50 Danger Mouse
 19:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 19:40 Counterfeit Cat
 20:05 Counterfeit Cat
 20:10 Gravity Falls
 20:35 Pickle And Peanut
 21:00 Lab Rats
 21:25 Supa Strikas
 21:55 K.C. Undercover
 22:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 23:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
 23:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
 KSA

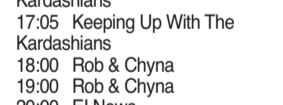
22:25 Pawn Stars
 22:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
 23:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
 23:40 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
 00:30 Pawn Stars
 00:55 Pawn Stars
 01:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
 01:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
 02:10 American Restoration
 03:00 Swamp People
 03:50 Ice Road Truckers



04:05 Coronation Street
 04:30 Coronation Street
 04:55 Coronation Street
 05:15 The Chase
 06:10 The Chase
 07:05 The Jonathan Ross Show
 07:55 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
 08:45 Grantchester
 09:40 Tonight At The London Palladium
 10:35 Murdoch Mysteries
 11:30 Murdoch Mysteries
 12:20 Murdoch Mysteries
 20:35 Pickle And Peanut
 21:00 Lab Rats
 21:25 Supa Strikas
 21:55 K.C. Undercover
 22:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
 22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
 23:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
 23:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
 KSA



04:40 Christina Milian Turned Up
 05:35 Christina Milian Turned Up
 06:30 Celebrity Style Story
 07:00 #RichKidsOfBeverlyHills
 07:50 E! News
 08:20 #RichKidsOfBeverlyHills
 09:10 E! News
 10:05 #RichKidsOfBeverlyHills
 10:55 Botched
 11:45 Botched
 12:35 Botched
 13:25 Botched
 14:20 Botched
 15:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 18:00 Rob & Chyna
 19:00 Rob & Chyna
 20:00 E! News
 21:00 Rob & Chyna
 22:00 Rob & Chyna
 23:00 WAGs
 00:00 Rob & Chyna
 01:00 Rob & Chyna
 01:55 WAGs
 02:50 E! News
 03:50 Botched



04:10 Counting Cars: Best Of
 04:35 Counting Cars: Best Of
 05:00 Shipping Wars
 05:30 Shipping Wars
 06:00 Time Team
 07:00 Shipping Wars
 07:25 Shipping Wars
 07:50 American Pickers
 08:40 Ax Men
 09:30 American Restoration
 09:55 Counting Cars
 10:20 Counting Cars
 10:45 Ice Road Truckers
 11:35 American Restoration
 12:25 Battle 360
 13:15 Mountain Men
 14:05 The Curse Of Oak Island
 14:55 Storage Wars: Best Of
 15:20 Storage Wars: Best Of
 15:45 Alone
 16:35 Shipping Wars
 17:00 Ax Men
 17:50 Storage Wars Miami
 18:15 Storage Wars Texas
 18:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
 19:30 Battle 360
 20:20 American Pickers
 21:10 Pawn Stars
 21:35 Pawn Stars
 22:00 Pawn Stars

00:15 Royal Stories
 00:40 Coronation Street
 01:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 02:00 Emmerdale
 02:30 Emmerdale
 03:00 Coronation Street
 03:30 The Chase



04:05 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
 04:55 The Food Files
 05:20 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
 05:45 Delinquent Gourmet
 06:10 Street Food Around The World
 06:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
 07:25 Poh & Co
 07:50 Croatia's Finest
 08:15 Croatia's Finest
 08:40 Carnival Eats
 09:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
 09:55 Delinquent Gourmet
 10:20 Raw Travel
 10:45 Raw Travel
 11:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
 11:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
 12:00 Poh & Co
 12:25 Poh & Co
 12:50 Dog Whisperer
 13:40 Andy And Ben Eat The World
 14:05 Eat: The Story Of Food
 15:00 A Marriage Of Flavours
 15:30 A Marriage Of Flavours
 15:55 Poh & Co
 16:25 Poh & Co
 16:50 The Food Files
 17:20 Delinquent Gourmet
 17:45 American Food Table
 18:15 Street Food Around The World
 18:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
 19:10 Top Tables, Top Cities
 19:35 Maximum Foodie
 20:05 Poh & Co
 20:30 Poh & Co
 21:00 The Food Files
 21:25 Delinquent Gourmet
 21:50 American Food Table
 22:15 Street Food Around The World
 22:40 David Rocco's Dolce India
 23:05 Top Tables, Top Cities
 23:30 Maximum Foodie
 23:55 Andy And Ben Eat The World
 00:20 Eat: The Story Of Food
 01:10 A Marriage Of Flavours
 01:35 A Marriage Of Flavours
 02:00 Glamour Puds
 02:25 Croatia's Finest
 02:50 Croatia's Finest
 03:15 Eat Street
 03:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia

14:00 Dog Whisperer
 15:00 Dog Whisperer
 16:00 Yukon Gold
 17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
 18:00 Facing...
 19:00 Nazi World War Weird
 20:00 Yukon Gold
 21:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
 21:50 Facing...
 22:40 Nazi World War Weird
 23:30 Yukon Gold
 00:20 Family Guns
 01:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
 02:00 Facing...
 03:00 Nazi World War Weird
 03:55 Yukon Gold



04:00 Grimm
 05:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
 06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
 07:00 The Amazing Race
 08:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
 09:00 Rosewood
 10:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
 11:00 The Amazing Race
 12:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
 13:00 Rosewood
 14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 15:00 Marvel's Agent Carter
 16:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
 17:00 The Blacklist
 18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 19:00 Rosewood
 20:00 Containment
 21:00 This Is Us
 22:00 Notorious
 23:00 How To Get Away With Murder
 00:00 Bates Motel
 01:00 Prison Break
 02:00 Notorious
 03:00 How To Get Away With Murder



ACTION
 05:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
 07:00 S.W.A.T.
 09:00 Seventh Son
 11:00 Blunt Force Trauma
 13:00 Apocalypse Pompeii
 15:00 S.W.A.T.
 17:00 Seventh Son
 19:00 Blunt Force Trauma
 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 23:00 Death Race
 01:00 The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day
 03:00 Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!



COMEDY
 05:00 Caveman
 07:00 How Do You Know
 09:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
 11:00 Caveman
 13:00 Ghostbusters II
 15:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
 17:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
 19:00 A Lot Like Love
 21:00 Thank You For Smoking
 23:00 The Wedding Ringer
 01:00 Top Five
 03:00 A Lot Like Love



FESTIVAL
 05:30 A Perfect Day
 07:30 The Signal
 09:30 Gridiron Gang
 12:00 Monkey Kingdom
 13:30 War Horse
 16:00 Short Term 12
 17:45 Gridiron Gang
 20:00 Masaan
 22:00 Inside Lewwyn Davis
 00:00 Hustle And Flow
 02:00 Short Term 12
 03:45 Masaan



04:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
 06:00 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis
 08:00 Barely Lethal
 10:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
 12:00 San Andreas
 14:00 Pixels
 16:00 The Imitation Game
 18:00 Alex Of Venice
 20:00 Ricki And The Flash
 22:00 The Beat Beneath My Feet
 00:00 Focus
 02:00 Return To Sender



04:15 Death In Paradise
 05:10 Doctors
 05:40 Eastenders
 06:10 The Coroner
 07:00 Doctors
 07:30 Eastenders
 08:00 Holly City
 09:00 New Tricks
 09:55 Doctor Who
 10:45 Stella
 11:35 Doctors
 12:05 Eastenders
 12:40 Death In Paradise
 13:35 Doctor Who
 14:30 Stella
 15:15 Doctors
 15:45 Eastenders
 16:20 New Tricks
 17:15 Doctor Who
 18:10 Stella
 19:00 Doctors
 19:30 Eastenders
 20:05 New Tricks
 21:00 Wallander
 22:40 Silent Witness
 23:40 Orphan Black
 00:25 Doctors
 00:55 Eastenders
 01:25 Wallander
 03:05 Silent Witness



04:00 Storm Chasers
 04:50 Ultimate Survival
 05:40 Ultimate Survival
 06:30 Ultimate Survival
 07:20 How It's Made
 07:40 How It's Made
 08:00 Kenny The Shark
 08:25 Kenny The Shark
 08:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
 09:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
 09:40 How It's Made
 10:05 How It's Made
 10:30 How It's Made
 10:55 How It's Made
 11:20 How It's Made
 11:45 How It's Made
 12:10 How It's Made
 12:35 How It's Made
 13:00 How It's Made
 13:25 How It's Made
 13:50 Ultimate Survival
 14:40 Ultimate Survival
 15:30 Ultimate Survival
 16:20 Ultimate Survival
 17:10 Ultimate Survival
 18:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 18:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 19:40 Bear Grylls Survival School
 20:05 Bear Grylls Survival School
 20:30 Prehistoric
 21:20 Clash Of The Dinosaurs
 22:10 Curiosity: Megastorm
 23:00 What Happened Next?
 23:25 What Happened Next?
 23:50 What Happened Next?
 00:15 What Happened Next?
 00:40 What Happened Next?
 01:05 What Happened Next?
 01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



04:00 Workaholics
 04:25 Catch A Contractor
 04:50 Ridiculousness
 05:15 Key And Peele
 05:40 Ridiculousness
 06:05 Ridiculousness



SEVENTH SON ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

06:30 Impractical Jokers
 06:55 Impractical Jokers
 07:20 Tosh.0
 07:50 Tosh.0
 08:15 Hungry Investors
 09:05 Ridiculousness
 09:30 Ridiculousness
 09:55 Impractical Jokers
 10:20 Impractical Jokers
 10:45 Nathan For You
 11:10 Nathan For You
 11:35 Ridiculousness
 12:00 Catch A Contractor
 12:25 Hungry Investors
 13:15 Workaholics
 13:40 Workaholics
 14:05 Impractical Jokers
 14:30 Impractical Jokers
 14:55 Ridiculousness
 15:20 Ridiculousness
 15:45 Coaching Bad
 16:35 Tosh.0
 17:00 Tosh.0
 17:30 Nathan For You
 17:55 Nathan For You
 18:25 Workaholics
 18:50 Tattoo Disasters
 19:15 Tattoo Disasters
 19:30 Ridiculousness
 20:03 Ridiculousness
 20:27 Impractical Jokers
 20:50 Impractical Jokers
 21:13 TUT
 22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 22:30 John Oliver's New York
 23:18 Broad City
 23:42 Tosh.0
 00:05 Lip Sync Battle
 00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
 01:00 John Oliver's New York
 01:30 Stand Up Show
 01:50 South Park
 02:15 Tosh.0
 02:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

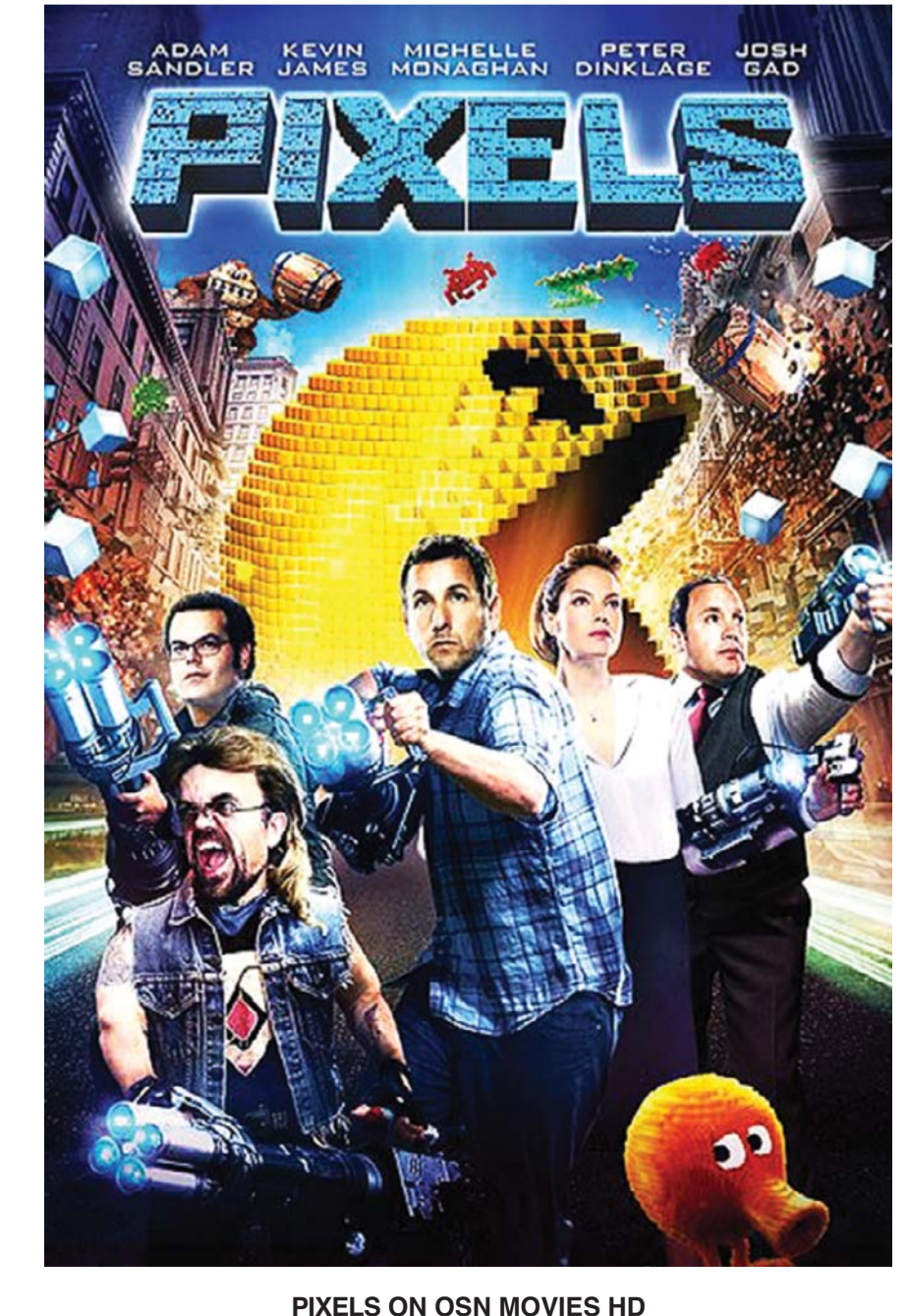
Wrong?
 02:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
 03:10 Storm Chasers
 04:00 Surviving Evil
 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
 05:36 I Almost Got Away With It
 06:24 I Almost Got Away With It
 07:12 I Almost Got Away With It
 08:00 Nightmare Next Door
 08:50 Nightmare Next Door
 09:40 Nightmare Next Door
 10:30 Nightmare Next Door
 11:20 Nightmare Next Door
 12:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
 13:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
 13:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
 13:50 Deadly Affairs
 14:40 Deadly Affairs
 15:30 Deadly Affairs
 16:20 Deadly Affairs
 17:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
 18:00 I'd Kill For You
 18:50 I'd Kill For You
 19:40 I'd Kill For You
 20:30 I'd Kill For You
 21:20 I'd Kill For You
 22:10 California Investigator
 22:35 California Investigator
 23:00 The Vanishing Women
 23:50 Deadline: Crime With Tarron Hall
 00:40 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead
 01:30 A Haunting
 02:20 Alaska Haunting
 03:10 The Vanishing Women

13:20 That's So Raven
 13:45 That's So Raven
 14:10 That's So Raven
 14:35 That's So Raven
 15:00 That's So Raven
 15:25 Austin & Ally
 15:50 Austin & Ally
 16:15 Disney Cookabout
 16:40 Bunk'D
 17:05 Descendants Wicked World
 17:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
 18:00 Gravity Falls
 18:25 Teen Beach 2
 20:00 Star Darlings
 20:05 Austin & Ally
 20:30 Jessie
 20:55 Liv And Maddie
 21:20 Best Friends Whenever
 21:45 Good Luck Charlie
 22:10 H2O: Just Add Water
 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
 00:10 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

13:00 Goldie & Bear
 13:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 13:40 Miles From Tomorrow
 14:00 Sofia The First
 14:30 Goldie & Bear
 15:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
 15:30 The Lion Guard
 16:00 PJ Masks
 16:30 Sofia The First
 17:00 Doc McStuffins
 17:30 Goldie & Bear
 18:00 PJ Masks
 18:30 The Lion Guard
 19:00 Goldie & Bear
 19:30 Goldie & Bear
 20:00 PJ Masks
 20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 21:00 Doc McStuffins
 21:30 Sofia The First
 22:00 The Lion Guard
 22:30 The Lion Guard
 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
 00:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
 00:20 Calimero
 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
 03:45 Art Attack



07:00 Boyster
 07:10 Super Matrak



PIXELS ON OSN MOVIES HD

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Table listing hospitals such as Sabah Hospital, Amiri Hospital, Maternity Hospital, Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital, etc.

Clinics

Table listing various clinics like Kaizen center, Rawda, Adaliya, Khalidiya, Kaifan, etc.

Table listing pharmacies by Governorate (Ahmadi, Jahra, Capital, Farwaniya, Hawally) with details on Pharmacy, Address, and Phone.

Large table listing international calls with country names and phone numbers.

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT. Includes contact info and logo.

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours. Includes temperature charts, maps, and forecast details.

PRIVATE CLINICS

Grid of private clinic listings for various medical specialties: Ophthalmologists, Plastic Surgeons, Paediatricians, Endocrinologist, etc.



LANDMARK GROUP CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN KUWAIT

Up to KD 20,000 to be won on raffle draw, gift vouchers and instant cash back in 20 days

Landmark Group, the region's leading retail and hospitality conglomerate, unveils future plans in Kuwait during a press conference held to commemorate its 20th anniversary celebrations in the country. To mark the celebrations, Landmark Group has launched a special campaign where everyone is a winner. The promotion will run from 25th October - 13th November 2016 where customers can win up to KD 20,000 on raffle draw, gift vouchers, instant cash back and much more. Home Centre will also have a promotion where customers who shop at Home Centre can avail 20% discount on home furniture.

Speaking on the occasion Saibal Basu, Chief Operating Officer, Landmark Group Kuwait stated: "We are very happy to achieve this milestone in Kuwait, The Landmark Group set up its first store in Kuwait in 1996 in Al Rai; today we have close to 60 stores in prime locations across the country. Over a period of 20 years we have always strived to grow with our customers. Kuwait has always been a very important market for the Group, we now have a solid network across all our brands, which offer a fantastic range of products, as well as excellent customer service. We are extremely proud of our achievements here in Kuwait and strive to keep the momentum growing in the years to come."

"The Group's vision and the response from our consumers have enabled us to grow and our stores have received unprecedented loyalty over the past 20 years wherein we have expanded from 108,416 sq.ft of retail space in 1996 to about 1,241,677 sq.ft. We will continue to solidify our position in the country in the coming years and continue to deliver exceptional service and value to our customers."

"We thank all our customers for their loyalty and support. As a brand we are constantly innovating and striving to improve our customer's shopping experience while simultaneously offering products and merchan-



dis of great value. We are present in all the key shopping areas of Kuwait which makes us more accessible and efficient in customer service delivery. Our proximity allows us to provide the customers with the latest update on trends, sales and promotions", concluded Saibal.

Over the years Landmark Group has successfully grown into one of the largest and most successful retail organizations in the Middle East and India. Today, the Group operates close to 2,400 stores in over 20 coun-

tries, encompassing a wide range of diverse retail and hospitality concepts. The best measure of this success is the 15 million plus Shukran Loyalty Members across the Middle East who choose Landmark brands as their preferred shopping destination. In Kuwait, Landmark Group has a wide network of brands including - Centrepoint, Babyshop, Splash, Shoe Mart, Lifestyle, Iconic, Max, Home Centre, Shoexpress, Bossini, and franchise brands like New Look, YOURS London, Dumond, Steve Madden, Pablosky & Carpisa. The Group also has

a host of hospitality brands like Fitness First, Zafran, Max Restaurant, Centrepoint Cafes & Fun City. Enjoying unparalleled customer acceptance, Landmark Group in Kuwait is poised for phenomenal growth in the coming years.



— Photos by Joseph Shagra

GOSSIP

DESTINY'S CHILD HAVE LAUNCHED A VERIFIED INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

The girl group - comprised of Beyonce Knowles, Kelly Rowland, and Michelle Williams - have raised fans' hopes that a reunion could be on horizon after they opened an online profile. The account, which is run and controlled by Sony Music Entertainment, has only been up and running since last weekend but it's already drummed up 18,500 followers. Only three pictures - taken during the 90s and 00s - have been uploaded to the website but the captions have raised eyebrows. One photo - believed to be their promotional shot for their single 'Girl' in 2005 - of the trio dressed in gold was accompanied with the caption: "Girl" became the fifth Destiny's Child single to earn a gold record from the RIAA on this day in 2005. The second, which was a collage of all three girls, said: "Destiny's Child released '#1's' on this day in 2005! This career-spanning compilation includes all their biggest singles plus new tracks 'Stand Up for Love,' 'Feel the Same Way I Do' and Beyonce's 'Check on It' (sic)" And the third picture, of the trio leaning on one another in skimpy ensembles, was accompanied with: "Where they at, where they at? 'Soldier,'

featuring raps from T.I. and Lil Wayne, was released as a single on this day in 2004! (sic)" The band went their separate ways in 2006 to carve out solo careers but there has been heavy speculation that the trio will come back together next year to mark their 20th anniversary. However, although bosses at the label are seemingly keen to add fuel to the fire, Kelly shut down the speculation earlier this week by declaring no reunion conversations have taken place. She said of the rumors: "We haven't even talked anything about that. We've just been enjoying each other's company and love and enjoying being women." Despite splitting up 10 years ago, the girls have always remained close and supported each other's solo careers. Kelly explained: "We just had dinner [with Beyonce] last night! [People] often look at us sideways, like, 'Are we really seeing this?' It's really cute."



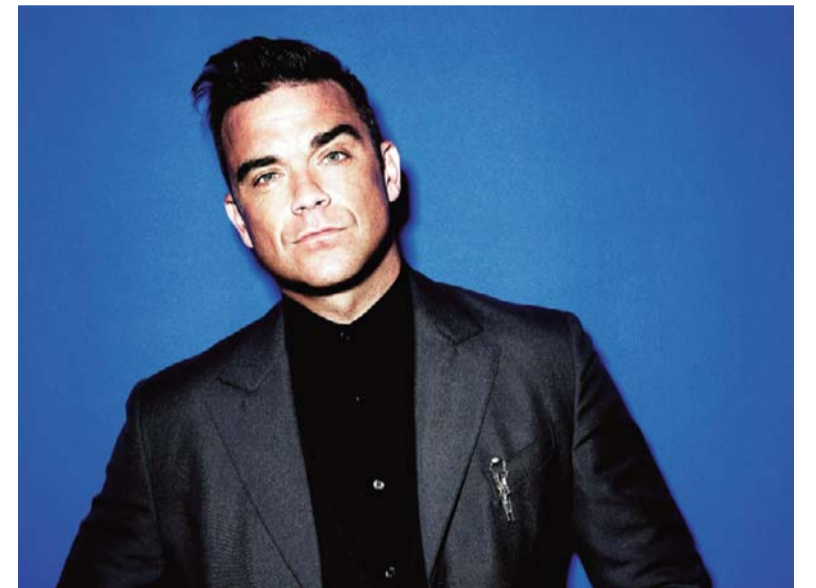
Eva Longoria wants to have children

The 41-year-old actress married her "soul mate" Jose 'Pepe' Baston five months ago in a romantic ceremony in Mexico and, although they'd like to start a little family together at some point, they're not pushing things and will let nature take its course. Speaking in Ocean Drive Magazine, she said: "If it happens, it happens - if it's meant to be, it would be a blessing." Prior to getting hitched to the 48-year-old hunk, the former 'Desperate Housewives' star was married to Tyler Christopher from 2002 until 2004 and Tony Parker from 2007 until 2010 and she vowed she'd never tie the knot again after her past unions. She said: "When Pepe and I met, I said I didn't ever want to get married again. He said, 'Great, me neither.' And here we are! 'Pepe and I are soul mates-I don't even know how to explain it, because it's like we're two different sides of the same coin." However, despite her previous relationships not working out, the brunette beauty is adamant she doesn't regret her first and second marriage because they've led her to where she is today. She explained to the publication: "I think every relationship is a path to where you are today. Every wrong turn led you to the spot where you are, so it wasn't necessarily the wrong turn at the time. I wouldn't change anything - never." Meanwhile, as well as settling into the married life and juggling their busy schedules, the Eva and Pepe are currently working hard renovating their new home in Hollywood. Eva said: "It is a lot of work for us. At the moment we're living in Mexico City, although I'm always travelling to Los Angeles."

Robbie Williams promised himself he wouldn't get married and have children

The 'Candy' hitmaker can't imagine life without his wife Ayda Field and their two kids Theodora, four, and Charlton, two, now but has admitted settling down was the last thing on his mind when his career started to take off. Speaking to the Irish Times newspaper, he said: "I made a vow to myself that marriage and kids just wasn't going to happen. "I looked at others around me and it seemed like a pain in the a**e. It looked tiring and awful and I didn't want that for myself. Yet here I am: married, two kids, feeling better about my life than I ever could have imagined." And, despite his initial reservations, the 42-year-old singer believes parenthood is the "best thing in the world" as it gives him a purpose in life. He said: "Having kids is an emotional atomic bomb. It's a reason to live and a reason to go to work. And this is the best job in the world, but it's a job." However, Robbie will be forced to spend a large chunk of time away from his little ones and beloved wife, whom he married in 2010, next year as he has just announced plans to do a stadium tour across the UK and Europe. Taking to his Facebook

account on Friday (28.10.16), he said: "I'll be bringing The Heavy Entertainment Show to a stadium near you next June! All dates will be announced on Monday 7 November... (sic)" The hunk is also hoping to join his former band Take That for a couple of gigs on their 25th anniversary tour next year, but, given his schedule, he doesn't know if he'll have time. He said recently: "My head is, I'd love to do something with the boys but I don't know if it's going to be next year because you know, I want this album to have legs and I'm going to go on tour." As you can imagine, diary goes: album promo until January, February, March, and then I go on tour for a year which takes me through next year, next Christmas, which would be when the boys would be releasing an album I suppose. I can't do it. I can't do it next year. I want to - I want to be able to do both, but you can't."



Lea Michele is 'really happy' with where her life is going



The 30-year-old actress said that whilst she believes beauty comes from within, she's thankful she's never had an "unhealthy relationship" with food and has managed to stay in good shape her whole life. She said: "Beauty I think comes from the happiness within. And I'm really happy with my life right now." "I've never thankfully had a period where I had an unhealthy relationship with my body or food. But just the fact that I went from being someone who casually worked out to know someone who really works out, I think is the biggest accomplishment of the year." The 'Glee' star - who was in a relationship with her co-star Cory Monteith before his tragic death in 2013 - credits her family and friends for her happiness. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', the 'Scream Queens' actress said: "I think

for me right now... I just turned 30, I love my job, I have the greatest friends, such an incredibly family. What's not to be so happy and grateful for?" And with such a tight support system, the 'New Year's Eve' actress is ready to take on just about anything, as she said previously that she prides herself on "achieving goals and constantly growing". She said: "I constantly set goals for myself, and then I achieve them. I'm not someone who says they're going to do something and then doesn't." "Follow-through is a huge thing for me. It's something I look for in friendships and relationships," Michele continued. "I pride myself on achieving goals and constantly growing and getting stronger. It's about not becoming stagnant or letting anything hold me back."

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have sold their New Orleans home for \$4.9 million

The 41-year-old actress filed for divorce from the 'Fury' star over a month ago, and the pair have now sold their shared home in the Louisiana city for the hefty sum. The former couple - who share six children, Maddox, 15, Pax, 12, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and eight-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne - first put the 1830s-era mansion on the market for \$6.5 million in May 2015, long before the news of the divorce filing. A rep for the pair said at the time: "[Brad and Angelina are] looking for something more off the beaten path." Brad, 52, and Angelina bought the property in 2006 after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and splashed out \$3.5 million at the time. They moved into the property whilst the 'Fight Club' actor set up the Make It Right foundation to foster new housing development in the wake of the natural disaster. The three-story home features five bedrooms, three bathrooms, marble mantles and fireplaces, a chef's gourmet kitchen, and a grand spiral staircase. The mansion spans a total of 7,645 square feet, and in addition to the main home there is an entirely separate two-story guest house. Despite having sold the home, the couple are no closer to a definite split as they still currently own a further three properties together - a 5,300-square-foot home in Los Angeles, an extravagant 1,200-acre chateau in Correns, France, and an apartment in Waldorf Astoria Towers in New York City. The 'Maleficent' star filed for divorce from her husband - whom she had been in a relationship with since 2004, and married to since 2014 - on September 19, citing "irreconcilable differences".



Amy Adams' daughter doesn't think she's very 'rock 'n' roll'



The 'Nocturnal Animals' actress - who has six-year-old Aviana with husband Darren LeGallo - appreciates the fact her little girl already "defines herself" as a separate personality away from her mother. She said: "She defines herself differently to me and I like that. She said, 'Mum, I'm more rock 'n' roll than you. You're not very rock 'n' roll!' And I said, 'You're right.'" The 42-year-old actress feels she is a "powerful" mother, though she is unsure whether she has the same attitude in her career. She said: "I don't know if I feel more powerful as an actress but I feel powerful as a mother and more powerful than I did in my 20s. I don't know what that means for my career - that's yet to be seen. But as a woman, if I lose something because of the honesty of who I am, then I don't care." Amy changed her attitude to work after making 'American Hustle' as she realised she wasn't able to let go of the project during her time off. She explained to ELLE magazine: "I'd be distracted and left with my character or an experience from the day. Even though I was present with my family, there was a part of me that was still wrapped up in myself and I didn't like that. 'I couldn't figure out what to do but when it got crazy, it became clear. I wasn't fully enjoying my time on set because I wasn't at home and I wasn't fully enjoying my time at home, I just felt thin. My expectations of myself were so high, I needed to allow myself to be flawed, both at work and at home, and accept I'm not perfect and able to do it all."



Anastacia is yet to ever find the 'love of her life'

The 48-year-old star - who married her bodyguard Wayne Newton in 2007 before they split three years later - admits she has never found her true Mr. Right and prefers to focus on her career. She said: "My relationships have never been the true love of my life so far. 'Until I had enough time to realise the love that each one of us as human beings search for was already there for me, I just didn't quite absorb it that way. "You have to know what your major priority is and mine is my career. I love my family, granted, but I mean, the bills gotta get paid." While the 'I'm Outta Love' hitmaker is concentrating on herself, she still gets chatted up by guys - but they are often already married and speak to her when she is shopping in home improvement stores. She added to Now magazine: "I go to Home Depot, the place where you buy nails and hammers. "But a lot of the men in there chatting you up have wedding rings on and you're like, 'You ain't right, brother.' Guys will be guys - they're not dead because they're married. I'm fully aware of what the situation is now." Meanwhile, Anastacia previously revealed she is dating again but has no plans to get married. She explained: "I am dating. I don't want to be specific but I am enjoying it. I wouldn't marry again but I would totally commit and be someone's soul mate. 'I've done a lot of soul searching and it's my career that is the love of my life. I've spent a long time searching but I've had it with me, my whole life."



CHINA FASHION WEEK



Models parading creations from Maryma Collection designed by Mary Ma at China Fashion Week in Beijing.—AFP

SOTHEBY SALE FEATURING EDVARD MUNCH WORK MAY FETCH \$50M

Work by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch will highlight Sotheby's fall auction of impressionist and modern art. The auction house expects the painting, "Girls on the Bridge," to sell for more than \$50 million on Nov. 14.

The seminal work from 1902 depicts a cluster of girls huddled on the bridge of a country village. It sold in 1996 for \$7.7 million and again in 2008 for \$30.8 million, each time setting a record for the artist.

In 2012, Munch's work "The Scream," one of the most iconic images in art history, sold for \$119.9 million at Sotheby's. It became the most expensive artwork ever sold at auction, a record that has been broken four times since.

Pablo Picasso's "Women of Algiers (Version O)" now holds that distinction. It sold last year for \$179.4 million. Other works in the November evening sale include a large-scale painting by Picasso, "The Painter and His Model," from 1963. The 5-foot-wide painting has descended through the same family since

it was acquired in 1968. It carries a presale estimate of \$12 million to \$18 million.

A 1951 bronze bust by Picasso of his lover and muse Françoise Gilot is also on tap. "Head of a Woman" could fetch \$6 million to \$8 million. An early cubist composition by Mexican artist Diego Rivera, "Untitled (Cubist Composition)," from 1916 is estimated to bring \$500,000 to \$700,000.

The sale also has two abstract works by Laszlo Maholy-Nagy that recently appeared in a retrospective of his work at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. The 1923 work, "EM 1 Telephonbild," has a presale estimate of \$3 million to \$4 million. — AP

Sotheby's employees hang a painting by David Hockney called 'Woldgate Woods, 24, 25 and 26 October, 2006' at Sotheby's auction rooms in London, Friday, Sept. 30, 2016. — AP



In this Jan. 12, 2012, file photo, Bob Dylan performs in Los Angeles. — AP

Dylan accepts Nobel Prize : Swedish Academy

Bob Dylan has accepted the 2016 Nobel Prize for literature, the Swedish Academy said, adding that getting the prestigious award left him "speechless." The academy's permanent secretary, Sara Danius, said Dylan himself contacted them and said "of course" he would accept the prize. Danius told Sweden's TT news agency that Dylan called her Tuesday evening and they spoke for about 15 minutes.

"The news about the Nobel Prize left me speechless," Dylan told Danius, according to a statement posted Friday on the academy's website. "I appreciate the honor so much." It has not yet been decided whether Dylan will attend any Nobel events in Stockholm in December, Danius said.

In an interview with British newspaper The Telegraph posted Friday, Dylan was quoted as saying he "absolutely" wants to attend the Dec. 10 prize ceremony, "if it's at all possible." Danius said the academy will do "all it can" to have a schedule suiting Dylan if he wants to come to Stockholm, according to TT.

The 75-year-old singer-songwriter was awarded the prize on Oct. 13 "for having

created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition." Dylan at first was silent after the announcement, and a member of the Swedish Academy called the silence "impolite and arrogant." Dylan has accepted numerous awards over the years, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for which he attended a White House ceremony in 2012. But he also has a history of taking his time acknowledging them.

In 2013, he became the first rock star voted into the elite American Academy of Arts and Letters, which made him an honorary member. According to executive director Virginia Dajani, the academy informed Dylan of the decision - through his manager, Jeff Rosen - in January of that year. Only in May 2013 did Dylan respond, through his manager.

If Dylan travels to Stockholm for the Nobel ceremony, it won't be the first time he receives an award from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf. In 2000, Dylan collected the Polar Music Prize from him. — AP



In this April 21, 2016 file photo, people stand outside the entertainer Prince's Paisley Park compound in Chanhassen, Minnesota. — AP

Mayor declares 'Paisley Park Day' as Prince museum reopens

Prince's Paisley Park studio complex and home reopened permanently Friday as a museum honoring his musical legacy, and the mayor of the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen declared it "Paisley Park Day" in celebration.

The Chanhassen City Council earlier this month put the brakes on Paisley Park's planned Oct. 6 opening, citing concerns over traffic and parking. Only a limited number of tours were allowed under a temporary permit, disappointing fans who had already made travel plans.

But the council signed off on the museum's rezoning request Monday after steps were taken to address traffic issues, allowing the gates to reopen Friday. "Prince was known to love all, and today we welcome the world to our city while extending an open invitation

for fans to visit Chanhassen and this beautiful music landmark," read the proclamation from Mayor Denny Laufenburger.

Visitors to the museum can see the studios where he recorded his hits, his guitars, "Purple Rain" motorcycle, costumes, awards and other memorabilia. Also on display is an urn - a stylized replica of the building - that contains Prince's ashes. Prince died at Paisley Park in April of an accidental painkiller overdose.

The museum, managed by the same company that runs Elvis Presley's Graceland, is expected to draw 600,000 people a year. The 70-minute tour costs \$38.50 while the 100-minute VIP tour costs \$100. Additional fees are \$11.75 per ticket. — AP

TV's Terrifying Trend: 'The Walking Dead,' 'American Horror Story' and Head-Bashings

Spoilers abound for the Season 7 premiere of "The Walking Dead" and the Oct 26 episode of "American Horror Story." What sound does a barbed wire-encircled bat make when it first hits a human head? What about the second time?

Anyone who watched Sunday's Season 7 premiere of "The Walking Dead" can answer those questions. And anyone who watched Wednesday's "American Horror Story" can tell you what it's like to watch a crowbar hitting a human head over and over.

The extremely violent head-bashings on the dramas that air on ad-supported cable followed the Oct. 16 episode of HBO's "Westworld," in which one of the robot hosts bashed his own head in with a large rock-though viewer exposure to the act didn't extend quite as long as it did on the other shows. But the televised caving in of skulls has been so in vogue of late, it even extends to nonfiction. CBS' "The Case of:

JonBenet Ramsey" brought in a 10-year-old child to bash in a pig skull with a wig on it last month as an experiment to see whether JonBenet's brother could have been her killer.

The prevalence of a particular kind of horrific act on TV raises questions about its necessity. What narrative purpose is served by holding on a skull-bashing, visually? By making the viewer witness every swing? And why are so many show runners running to this well?

The head is the holder of all that makes us human, that miracle of intelligence, emotion, and memory. There's a reason the only way to truly kill a zombie is by destroying the brain. Which is perhaps why watching three main characters on two series subjected this level of butchery edges the experience from a coincidence to a surprising trend.

"Walking Dead" exec producer Greg Nicotero defended the show's creative choices as important to establishing the evil nature of the character doing the head-bashing, Negan, played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

"We spent so much time really setting up different groups of people, this is by far the most despicable villain we have ever encountered. And the way the character is crafted and designed is that when he's there, he's on stage, he's doing this all to prove a point. This is my world, these are my rules," Nicotero said. "In this instance we felt it was important to launch us into this season to show us the extent of what Negan is capable of doing, because that drives so much of where the series is going from here on in. Yeah, it's graphic and it's horrible. While we were designing and testing and shooting the makeups, we wanted to push it a little bit."

But others disagree

"It's a cop-out to say, 'We had to do it for storytelling reasons,'" Stanton Wood, the USA strategic initiatives officer for the Minneapolis-based Center for Victims of Torture, told Variety. "It actually divorced it from the storytelling, in 'The Walking Dead.' It wasn't about the storytelling, it was about the torture."

By now, after six seasons, viewers of the "Walking Dead" know to expect a level of shocking material from the show. But the bat-wielding attack by Jeffrey Dean Morgan's Negan character sparked outrage even among ardent fans. The big complaint was that many felt they didn't need to see characters they've loved for six years killed in such a graphic and inhumane fashion.

On "American Horror Story," the storytelling

excuse holds a little more water. Perhaps we did need to see Lily Rabe's normally passive Shelby go absolutely nuts-and the show didn't give the act with quite the same visual treatment as "Walking Dead." Plus, it's not as if "AHS" producers knew this episode was going to follow so close on the heels of one of the "Walking Dead" episode, or even the "Westworld" scenes. And yet it did follow so close to those other events, resulting in brain-bath overload.

For Wood, the issue in the "Walking Dead" scenes wasn't just the unnecessary visuals, but with the dehumanization of all the characters-literally, for Glenn and Abraham, and more figuratively for the others. At a time when cases of hate crimes against certain groups have spiked, he points out, pop culture might have a moral imperative to avoid the glorification of this kind of violence.

There are all manner of arguments for show runners to have creative leeway in telling stories as they see fit, just as all Americans have the right to simply turn off the TV. The reaction to the rash of head-bashings, particularly in the case of "Walking Dead," suggests that the cultural context for enduring violent scenes may have changed for some viewers.

"This violence is being read in a different context than it might have been even a year ago," Wood said. "It wouldn't have been acceptable then, but it might not have been quite so noticeable. But showing this kind of torture is irresponsible." — Reuters

Things looking up for star of 'Big Bang Theory'

To say Kunal Nayyar looks up to his wife would be an understatement-he barely reaches the beauty queen's shoulder when she puts on stiletto heels for the red carpet. But the "Big Bang Theory" star, who measures 5ft 7in (170 centimeters) — three inches less than former Miss India Neha Kapur-has no reason for "short man syndrome."

Towering astride the entertainment industry as one of the world's best paid actors, the 35-year-old British-Indian has become one of the biggest celebrities in Hollywood. "I feel like the tallest guy in the room," he tells AFP in an interview to promote his latest project, a starring part in DreamWorks Animation's "Trolls" alongside Justin Timberlake and Anna Kendrick. "Maybe I'm the short guy who got the beautiful woman, I don't know. I have no qualms about it. She's not only a beautiful person, she's also an amazing human being."

Nayyar has good reason for his easy self-confidence, having seen his salary bloom from \$100,000 per episode to a reported \$800,000 for his role in "The Big Bang Theory," known by its dedicated fans as "BBT."

He is making around \$22 million a year, according to Forbes, making him the world's fourth highest paid television actor, a short distance behind three of his fellow cast members.

There has been much speculation over whether season 10 of BBT will be the last, and while Nayyar says he's "not ready to say goodbye yet," he is already looking forward, with plans to star in Bollywood.

'Humanity is love'

Outside of the show, he recently took on a starring part in Jesse Eisenberg's acclaimed play "The Spoils" and has a successful book-"not a memoir"-in stores, called "Yes, My Accent Is Real." "Trolls," inspired by the fuzzy-headed dolls popular in the early 1990s, is set for release in the US on November 4.

Ostensibly for children, it follows Poppy and Branch on their mission to rescue their friends from the Bergens, giants who believe the only way to lift their melancholy is to eat the cute, colorful trolls. Nayyar plays one of the captives,

an endearing little troll called Guy Diamond who refuses to wear clothes and farts glitter as a means of spreading joy.

When he talks about the film's message that "humanity is about positivity and love," he comes across like his character-disarmingly animated. "It's a film for both kids and adults and the music is incredible... And the world looks beautiful-the hair on the trolls, the glitter on Guy Diamond, the quality," he enthuses.

Born in London and brought up in New Delhi, Nayyar moved to the US at 18, initially to pursue a business degree at the University of Portland, Oregon.

'Good overcomes evil'

He was already on BBT when he met Kapur on a trip to India and married her there in 2011, in a lavish six-day ceremony involving white horses and 1,000 guests. The couple were dubbed "Beauty and the Geek," irritating Nayyar, who admits he gets frustrated by the media conflating him with Raj, his shy, nerdy character on the sitcom.

"Trolls" comes out four days before America gives serious consideration to electing Donald Trump, a populist presidential candidate who has polarized the public with his rhetoric on Muslims, Mexicans and immigration. "As an immigrant, I am beginning to seriously worry-if Trump gets elected does that mean I could get deported and no more Raj?" he tweeted a few days before his interview with AFP.

But the actor-again, like his troll character-is an optimist at heart and clarifies that he was being "glib." "I think the world is becoming a smaller place and I really do believe in the bottom of my heart-and this may sound trivial to some people-that good always overcomes evil," he tells AFP.

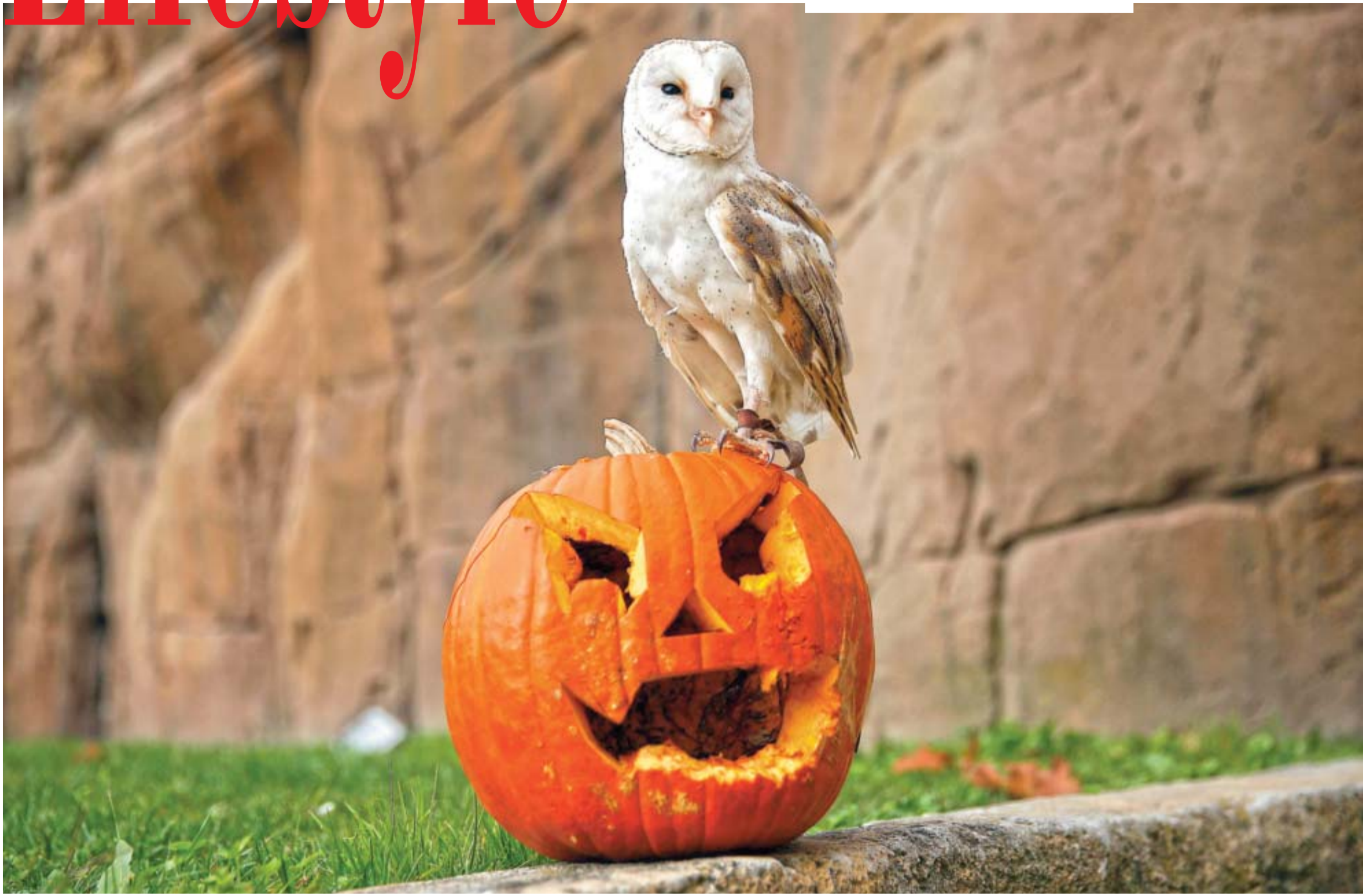
"That's why the universe, the world, is where it is today. A lot of bad things have happened in the past, in many different generations. Our parents survived world wars. I think we're going to be okay." — AFP



Kunal Nayyar (R) and Neha Kapur attend the premiere of 20th Century Fox's "Trolls", in Westwood, California, on October 8, 2016. — AFP



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016



A barn owl stands on a jack-o-lantern carved from a pumpkin and used to symbolize Halloween or All Saints' Eve at the Zoom Torino zoo and amusement park in Cumiana, near Turin, northern Italy, on October 28, 2016, few days ahead of Halloween. — AFP

MARADONA'S FORMER HOUSE TURNED INTO MUSEUM

How many sleepless nights did the young man who would become one of soccer's greatest players spend gazing up at the ceiling, imagining dizzying dribbles, spectacular goals and hoisting the World Cup above his head?

That is the question visitors often ask when they see the small wooden bed in the former house of Diego Maradona, which was recently turned into a museum in Argentina's capital.

Maradona, now 55, lived with his family in the two-story house in Buenos Aires' La Paternal neighborhood in the late 1970s, when he was playing with the Argentinos Junior soccer club. Officials say the museum sheds light on a little-known era of his life, before he became an internationally known superstar who led Argentina to victory at the 1986 World Cup tournament.

The home was given to Maradona's family in 1978 by Argentinos, part of his payment for signing his first contract. At that time, such payments were rare for teenage soccer players, even those with exceptional talent.

Travel back in time

Crossing the doorstep, visitors travel back in time, seeing dozens of photographs, documents and objects evocative of Maradona's teenage years. A photograph of him with curly hair and an innocent smile sitting on a stair in front of the house vouches for the authenticity of the building, as does a deed in the name of Maradona's father, Don Diego.

His first contract is another treasure displayed in the museum, which is owned by Alberto Perez, a former Argentinos Junior

manager who is a collector of Maradona paraphernalia. "This was perhaps the most romantic part of his life, the best time," Perez said.

Standing in the courtyard where Maradona used to play pingpong with his brothers, Perez recalled that era. "We raised Diego in Argentinos Junior ... We can't forget what Diego meant for the club and for the neighborhood. At the world level, they know us because of him."

Perez negotiated for years to buy the house from the woman who acquired it after Maradona left the neighborhood in 1981, when he went to play for Boca Juniors. Perez achieved his goal eight years ago when he bought the house for \$100,000. Since then he has sought exact replicas of the original furniture and other household items used by the Maradonas.

Diego Maradona's bedroom was on the upper floor, with the bed covered by a blue quilt. A small table with a lamp sits next to it. "Diego slept in this room and had a bathroom outside. It was cold in winter. Diego is a person who always lived with family," said Perez.

The family came to this middle-class neighborhood in Buenos Aires from the poor suburb of Villa Fiorito. Here Dona Tota, as Maradona's mother was known, raised five daughters and three sons. She died in 2011.

"In the pictures you can see how happy he was," Cesar Perez, who helped his father with the museum, said of Maradona. "This is a work of the heart, a living tribute to the best player of all time," he said of the museum, which is free for visitors. — AP



Images from inside Maradona's old home in Buenos Aires taken on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016. — AP