

Bangladeshi workers protest over iqamas, unpaid wages



Malian rebel jailed for 9 yrs for Timbuktu attacks



Gulf Bank affirms success of Euromoney conference



England boss Allardyce sacked after newspaper sting



KUWAIT ECONOMY 'STRUCTURALLY FLAWED', FISCAL REFORMS URGED

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GHANEM CALLS FOR MEETING WITH GOVT OVER PETROL HIKE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday said he has invited the government for an expanded meeting next Tuesday to discuss the hike in petrol prices, a move that will automatically end the proposed emergency parliamentary session to debate the issue. Ghanem said the Assembly will demand that Kuwaiti citizens be spared from the hike in the same way lawmakers rejected an attempt by the government to increase electricity and water tariffs.

If the government accepts the lawmakers' demand, it will mean that the over 80 percent increase in petrol prices will apply only to foreigners. The mechanism to implement this request has not yet been disclosed. Earlier this year, MPs voted to increase electricity and water prices, but Kuwaiti citizens were excluded. The new power charges will go into effect from June next year for commercial establishments, and in late August for expatriates.

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KUWAIT: (From left) Finance Ministry Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikha Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah speak during the Euromoney 2016 Conference yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's economy suffers from glaring structural errors induced by accumulations that have stalled development, Finance Ministry Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said yesterday. Hamada, speaking on behalf of Finance Minister and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh at the Euromoney 2016 Conference, said that these glitches are related to governmental procedures, adding that bureaucracy has encumbered economic production.

Moreover, Hamada noted that the flaws are also the result of irregularities in the job market, saying that the government has struggled to provide employment for

nationals. Speaking on the primary factor that has impeded growth, Hamada said that the nation's budget heavily relies on oil revenues, an issue that if not remedied, would be detrimental to the country's economy. He also noted that public spending should center on efforts to maximize production capacity to ensure sustained development.

Furthermore, Hamada made a correlation between financial reforms and economic growth, as he listed numerous factors that could help eliminate any hindrances to growth, chiefly, the addition of non-oil revenues and to rationalize public spending, measures he

described as the two focal points of financial reforms.

On the government's role in developing the economy, he said that it should monitor economic procedures and enhance collaboration with the private sector, which would result in a robust market that will keep consumers satisfied. Hamada also urged the private sector to contribute to economic growth through public projects and increased cooperation with the government sector, adding that citizens should own a 40 percent share of these projects.

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CARTAGENA: Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (center left) and the head of FARC Timoleon Jimenez, aka Timochenko, shake hands during the signing of a historic peace agreement on Monday. —AFP

COLOMBIA, FARC REBELS SIGN HISTORIC PEACE DEAL

CARTAGENA, Colombia: Colombia's leftist FARC rebel force signed a historic peace accord with the government Monday and apologized to the countless victims of the country's half-century civil war. In an emotional open-air ceremony, President Juan Manuel Santos welcomed the communist rebels into the political sphere after signing the accord with FARC leader Rodrigo Londono, alias Timoleon "Timochenko" Jimenez.

Dressed in white, the former mortal enemies signed and shook hands, smiling before an audience of international dignitaries, drawing loud cheers. The ceremony in the Caribbean coast city of Cartagena followed a four-year process

to end the last major armed conflict in the Americas. The accord remains to be ratified by referendum in a week. "We are being reborn to launch a new era of reconciliation and of building peace," Timochenko said. "In the name of the FARC, I sincerely apologize to all the victims of the conflict for any pain we may have caused during this war."

Colombian authorities estimate the territorial and ideological conflict has killed 260,000 people, left 45,000 missing and uprooted 6.9 million. "Let no one doubt that we are moving towards politics without weapons. Let us all prepare to disarm hearts and minds," Timochenko said.

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CLINTON ASSAILS TRUMP IN FIERY DEBATE

PETITION SEEKS FULL RIGHTS FOR SAUDI WOMEN

RIYADH: Thousands of Saudis have signed a petition urging an end to the guardianship system that gives men control over the study, marriage and travel of female relatives, activists said yesterday. The petition calls for the kingdom's women to be treated "as a full citizen, and decide an age where she will be an adult and will be responsible for her own acts", said campaigner Aziza Al-Yousef of Riyadh. The retired university professor told AFP that she tried unsuccessfully to deliver the petition containing 14,700 names to the Royal Court on Monday. The activists will now send it by mail as requested.

Saudi Arabia has some of the world's tightest restrictions on women, and is the only country where they are not allowed to drive. Under the guardianship system a male family member, normally the father, husband or brother, must grant permission for a woman's study, travel and other activities. Activists say that even female prisoners have to be received by the guardian upon their release, meaning that some have to languish in jail or a shelter beyond their sentences if the man does not want to accept them.

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HEMPSTEAD, New York: Republican Donald Trump vowed yesterday to hit rival Democrat Hillary Clinton harder in the next US presidential debate after she put him on the defensive by accusing him of being racist, sexist and a tax dodger during their first matchup. Trump, a real estate mogul making his first run for public office, praised himself for not attacking Clinton about the marital infidelity of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, but said in a morning interview yesterday with Fox News that he may take up the attack line going forward.

"I may hit her harder in certain ways," Trump said in a telephone interview with

"Fox & Friends." Trump added that when Clinton criticized him for his treatment of women, he resisted. "I was going to hit her with her husband's women. And I decided I shouldn't do it because her daughter was in the room."

Clinton was under pressure to perform well on Monday night after a recent bout with pneumonia and an erosion in recent weeks in her lead over Trump in opinion polls. One line of attack was Trump's past remarks about women, a message designed to resonate with women who have not yet decided who to vote for and who could prove pivotal in deciding the Nov 8 White House election.

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Aziza Al-Yousef



HEMPSTEAD, New York: Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton shakes hands with Republican nominee Donald Trump after the first presidential debate at Hofstra University on Monday. — AFP



ALEPPO: Syrians surround a man as he cries over the body of his child after she was pulled out from the rubble of a building following government air strikes in the rebel-held neighborhood of Al-Shaar yesterday. — AFP

ARMY RETAKES ALEPPO DISTRICT AS BOMBS RAIN

DAMASCUS: Syria's army took control of a rebel-held district in central Aleppo yesterday, after days of heavy air strikes that have killed dozens and sparked allegations of war crimes. In the first advance since announcing plans last week to retake all of the divided city, pro-government troops seized the Farafra district northwest of Aleppo's historic citadel, a military source told AFP. "After neutralizing many terrorists... units are now demining the area," the source said.

The push follows several days of Syrian and Russian air strikes on rebel-held Aleppo neighborhoods - some of the fiercest bombardment of the five-year conflict so far - after a ceasefire deal brokered by Moscow and Washington collapsed last week. The Aleppo maelstrom prompted Western powers to accuse Russia of committing possible war crimes, charges the Kremlin condemned as "unacceptable".

In the latest broadside, NATO Secretary

General Jens Stoltenberg also condemned the air campaign. "The appalling attacks on Aleppo have shaken all of us, and the violence and the attacks we have seen... is morally totally unacceptable and is a blatant violation of international law," Stoltenberg told a news conference in Bratislava.

On the ground in eastern Aleppo, an AFP correspondent said air strikes struck several neighborhoods simultaneously, including in Al-Shaar, where a five-storey building was levelled with a family stuck inside. One young girl, her body encased in rubble, was among the dead. Her father, in shock as rescue workers picked up her lifeless body, collapsed beside, saying: "She's just sleeping. She's just used to sleeping."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitor, said that more than 155 people have been killed by Russian and regime bombardment on Aleppo city since the government announced its offensive last week. At least 11

civilians were killed yesterday in raids on the neighborhoods of Al-Shaar and Al-Mashhad, according to the Britain-based group. As well as the intensified violence, residents have been left reeling from food shortages and skyrocketing prices. The World Health Organization warned yesterday that medical facilities in east Aleppo were on the verge of "complete destruction".

Analysts said yesterday Russia has decided to throw its military might behind the Syrian regime's drive to recapture divided Aleppo in a bid to strong-arm Washington into accepting Moscow's demands. "Negotiations with the Americans were just a smokescreen in order to buy time and prepare for the next phase of military operations," said Thomas Pierret, a Syria expert at the University of Edinburgh. "For the (regime) loyalists, diplomacy is the continuation of war by other means," Pierret said.

Continued on Page 13

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate partakes in a show near the Kuwait coastlines. — KUNA



AN AWARDING CEREMONY FOR FAMILIES OF MARTYRS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the second anniversary of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's honoring by the United Nations as a Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as a Humanitarian Center, author Abdullah Buwair held an awarding ceremony for the families of martyrs. Buwair said he decided to award families of martyrs and victims from all over the world who participated in liberating Kuwait. "These martyrs sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our country and people," he said during the ceremony on Monday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

He also spoke about HH the Amir, saying he was the first Arab leader to be awarded this title by the United Nations. "This is an honor for all Kuwaitis and for Kuwait as well, as it was named a Humanitarian Center. This is considered the golden era for Kuwait in the field of humanitarian work. On January 29, 2006, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad became the Amir of Kuwait, taking the country to new heights," stressed Buwair. "HH the Amir is a man of forgiveness. This is clear from the present Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, which have strongly developed since the Iraqi invasion, and bilateral ties have improved, including investments, demarcating borders, and the issue of mar-

tyrs and the missing. Sheikh Sabah is systematically supporting Arab countries in need, and helps countries suffering from disasters and crises. Also, Kuwait is delivering aid to fight poverty and improve health, education, economy and infrastructure all over the world. HH the Amir is behind all these charity projects," Buwair concluded.

Iman Areiqat, Head of the International Organization for Migration of the UN, said the honoring of the Amir by the UN was an unprecedented event, which was deserved by both HH the Amir and Kuwait. "The charitable and humanitarian work of the Amir goes beyond the borders of Kuwait and has reached those afflicted and people in need all over the world. The humanitarian initiatives of HH the Amir have no political aspect and are purely humanitarian. Millions of Syrian refugees have benefited from Kuwait's donations as well," she pointed out. Dr Ameera Al-Hassan, head of the visiting mission of Habitat-UN, noted that the title of Humanitarian Leader is not strange to HH the Amir. "After he assumed power in 2006, we noticed an increase in humanitarian help and donations provided by Kuwait to countries in need. Also, Kuwait hosted three international donor conferences to support the people of Syria and neighboring countries," she said.



FINISHING TOUCHES ON JAHRA ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced the progress on the ongoing final works taking place on the elevated portion of the Jahra Road Development Project, which is scheduled to open shortly. The upcoming opening begins after Saad Al-Abdullah Academy and stretches to the end of the bridge after Airport Road, in both directions. Engineer Ahmad Al-Hassan, the Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering Sector at the Ministry of Public Works commented: "Since last year this mega-project has seen multiple openings, including directional ramps, service roads and portions of the elevated mainline. This will be the largest opening to date and will mark the completion of the final remaining portion of elevated mainline on the Jahra Road Development Project."

"Currently we are working on the final stages of road works and finishing works, which include installation of edge and median barriers, anti-carbonation coating, deck waterproofing and asphaltting. Once opened, road users will immediately see a difference in overall driving time between the United Nations and Sheraton roundabouts. Additionally, it will lead to paramount differences in the overall traffic patterns in the surrounding areas with a significantly lower number of cars using the service roads as drivers will have access to the elevated mainline, heading straight to Kuwait City or towards Jahra in the other direction," explained Engineer Hanan Hussein, Deputy Project Engineer at the Jahra Road Development Project.

"We are also pleased to report that as of Thursday 8th September, we have finished casting all 8,390 bridge segments at our pre-cast yard located in Doha. To date, 7202 of them have been erected (86%), and tremendous progress has also been witnessed across other areas of the project: construction of 92% of piles, 87% of the piers, and 90% of the diaphragms. Additionally, the work on the trough located on the 2nd Ring Road currently stands at 79% complete" added Eng Hanan. This mega project involves the construction of 17.7 km of viaducts (7.3 km of mainline Jahra Road, 2.4 km of bridges on linked roads and 8.0 km of ramps), including a trough at the 2nd Ring Road intersection, 10 pedestrian bridges, and service roads. The Jahra Road project also includes major utilities relocation works.



BANGLADESHI WORKERS STAGE A SIT-IN PROTEST

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Around 100 Bangladeshi workers hired by a Kuwaiti company to guard supermarkets and various stores in Kuwait staged a sit-in protest yesterday at the Bangladesh Embassy in Khaldiya. The workers demanded residency permits, which the company failed to provide since they joined 11 months ago. They also haven't been paid for the past two months, with no housing too in this period.

"We have been working for almost a year now with this company. They said they will provide us with visas and good accommodation, but nothing happened," said 24-year-old

Muhammad Jassem. "We want a transfer as soon as possible because we do not have any place to live. We have no money too, and are forced to work elsewhere. We are very afraid, as the police could check our residency status, and we can end up in jail," he said.

Abdul Latif Khan told Kuwait Times he told the workers to be patient as the embassy has been coordinating with their company to resolve their issues. Asked why they were not able to get iqamas, he said the company has a problem with the ministry, so they cannot process the visas. "But rest assured, we have been coordinating with the company and they promised us to resolve the problems of the

workers in the next few days or weeks. Hopefully, they will comply," he said.

Khan said the company promised to pay the outstanding salaries and that work will resume in the coming days. "I appeal to the workers to cooperate with the company so that their legal documents and residencies will be given in due time. The workers came from Bangladesh directly, and we were not informed when they entered Kuwait. Only last month they came to seek assistance. We are continuing negotiations so that the problem will be resolved," he told Kuwait Times. The recruitment company was contacted by Kuwait Times, but refused to comment.



News

In brief

Kuwait and Cyprus promote trade, seek joint investment

KUWAIT: Visiting Cypriot Minister of Finance Haris Georgiades met yesterday with officials of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on ways of promoting trade exchange and available investment opportunities for the private sector. During the meeting, they discussed available investment opportunities, visa advantages for foreign investors in Kuwait, investment in real estate, tax system and investment funds, KCCI Member Wafa Al-Qattami said in a press statement. She said trade exchange between Kuwait and Cyprus stands at around \$26 million, calling on Cypriot companies to boost trade between both sides. She quoted the visiting Cypriot minister as stressing firm historical relations between Kuwait and Cyprus, boasting that his country enjoys high-quality financial services and low taxes. He added that Cyprus has several promising growth opportunities for a number of sectors, including real estate, tourism, navigation and mega development ventures.



Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa is pictured during a meeting with the CEO of Kuwait Oil Tankers Company Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

PM praises deep-rooted Bahrain and Kuwait ties

MANAMA: Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has asserted the deep-rooted bilateral ties between his country and Kuwait in various fields, stressing the Kingdom's keenness to further develop such relations. During a meeting with the CEO of Kuwait Oil Tankers Company Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in the presence of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, the premier also hailed the achievements of Kuwait - thanks to the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa chats with officials during an inspection tour of Fari'aa Bint Al-Salt secondary school for girls in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. — KUNA

Shortfalls in schools will soon be resolved

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa expressed yesterday his Ministry's keenness to cover all shortfalls in all schools in Kuwait in a short period. Al-Essa said in a statement during an inspection tour of Fari'aa Bint Al-Salt secondary school for girls in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate that there is a shortfall in the number of teachers of mathematics and physics and such deficit is not only happening in Kuwait but in the Arab world as well. He added that some 400 out of 700 positions have been allocated and approved, adding that the problem lies in rare specialties and not with the Civil Service Commission.

Kuwait legislative delegation in Cambodia for APA meeting

KUALA LUMPUR: A Kuwaiti legislative delegation headed by MP Humoud Al-Hamdan is taking part the First Executive Council meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and the meeting of APA Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations, which got underway in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh yesterday. The meeting agenda includes its endorsement, electing members of the APA bureau, examining the Assembly's general report, along with several recommendations addressing diverse issues. The conference focuses on boosting parliamentary cooperation among the Asian nations, information and expertise exchange, challenges facing sustainable development, climatic change and its impact on economic development in Asia, said the Kuwaiti legislator during the first session.

Kuwait Airways to be first to use new Cairo terminal

CAIRO: Kuwait Airways will be the first aviation firm to operate Cairo International Airport's new terminal, a senior company official said yesterday. In a statement to KUNA a day before Cairo International Airport's Terminal 2 opens for a test period, Director of Kuwait Airways' Middle East and North Africa Department Abdullah Al-Huwaila said that the fact that Kuwait Airways will be the first aviation company to use the terminal is a testament to its "repute and credibility." Moreover, Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation announced that all airlines using Terminal 1 will begin operating the new terminal on September 28, as Terminal 2 will officially be opened on October 6th.

KUWAIT 'READY TO HOST' FRESH INTRA-YEMEN TALKS

IRAQI SPEAKER PRAISES KUWAITI DIPLOMACY

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah said Kuwait is ready to receive the Yemeni stakeholders if they are willing to reach deal and break the political stalemate. "The State of Kuwait has always been supportive of all efforts aiming to resolve the Yemeni crisis peacefully, including the efforts of the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he affirmed. He was referring to a recent report by the Iranian Fars news agency that the Kuwaiti and Saudi stances on Yemen are different. Al-Jarallah made the press remarks during a celebration at China embassy this evening to celebrate the National Day of the People's Republic of China. Kuwait hosted the first round of the UN-sponsored intra-Yemeni peace talks between April 21 and August 6.

Oman commends Kuwait
Meanwhile, Oman has commended

Kuwait for hosting the peace negotiations among the Yemeni parties, with an objective of achieving a win-win solution to the conflict. "We laud the efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to bridge the gap in the views of the Yemeni parties" who held UN-brokered talks in Kuwait between April and August this year, Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah said in a speech before the UN General Assembly's (UNGA) 71st session.

The aim of hosting the talks, he added, "has been to achieve a win-win solution to the conflict by peace negotiations." Representatives from the Yemeni legitimate government, Ansarullah Movement and the General People's Congress (CPG) held several rounds of talks in Kuwait, moderated and sponsored by UN special envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmad. Bin Abdullah emphasized that Oman strongly

believed in the peaceful solution of conflicts. "Our country has been one of the states that adopted the policy of dialogue, negotiation and conciliation to settle disputes by peaceful means," he added. Ansarullah committed a coup d'etat against the legitimate government of Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and as a result the country has plunged into a crisis. The international community has been firm in calling on all parties in Yemen to solve their dispute on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 2216, GCC initiative and its implementation mechanism, and outcome of national dialogue.

Kuwait diplomacy

Also, Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim Al-Jubouri has praised the role of Kuwait's diplomacy in the region, especially its efforts to support the crisis of displaced Iraqis. Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Salem

Al-Zamanan said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday after meeting the Iraqi senior official that the latter stressed that Iraq was in dire need for support by Arab nations in light of the current challenges, wishing the Ambassador success in his diplomatic mission in his second country Iraq. The ambassador added that he discussed with Iraqi Parliament Speaker ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries to serve the interests of both peoples. He pointed out that the meeting touched on files related to bilateral affairs of the two countries, including the file of displaced persons in which Kuwait had played a significant role. He explained that the meeting also tackled what Kuwait can contribute as part of Arab support for Iraqis at the level of economic cooperation. The ambassador had submitted his credential to the Iraqi President Fouad Maasoum last Sunday. — Agencies



KUWAITI JAILED FOR RAPING BULGARIAN US CITIZEN SENTENCED TO DEATH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a citizen to 10 years in jail for raping a Bulgarian woman in Kuwait. The Criminal Court also adjourned hearing a case filed against former MP Musallam Al-Barrak and others until Jan 3 pending summoning witnesses. In another development, Kuwait court also sentenced a US citizen to death for bringing drugs from the US for trade in Kuwait. Also, a family court yesterday ordered a Kuwaiti woman divorced from her husband because he is miser.

medications, said security sources, noting the suspects were caught red-handed.

Inspection campaign

A major inspection campaign in all governorates resulted in arresting 108 people including 18 wanted for civilian cases, 39 absconders, 24 for not holding IDs, 16 with expired residencies, two for drug trafficking, two for financial claims, four for being under the influence of drugs, one drunk man and three peddlers. The campaign also resulted in filing 369 traffic tickets and impounding three vehicles.

arrested while in a Hawally cafe, said security sources.

Asians with fake visas

Two Asians were arrested for entering Kuwait using fake visas, said security sources, noting that the suspects confessed to paying KD 1,500 for the visas.

Fire in a garage

Mol's Relations and Security Media Department said a fire broke out in a garage in Fahaheel over an area of 1,000 sq m, including spare parts and accessories. No casualties were reported.

Selling MoH medications

Two Asians were arrested selling MoH



KD 28,000 stolen

A citizen reported that KD 28,000 in cash was stolen from his vehicle while it was parked outside a popular shopping mall.

Asian killed, others injured

An Asian was instantly killed and another narrowly escaped death when a winch outside a 43-storey building under construction broke and fell from the 39th floor, said security sources. Meanwhile, a 43-year-old citizen suffered from severe neck and left shoulder pain after his vehicle collided into another in Sharq while, a 22-year-old citizen broke his right foot in a collision in Sabah Al-Salem. Also, a 46-year-old Indian was rushed to Mubarak Hospital with a forehead injury he sustained in a car accident along Fahaheel expressway.

Absconding housemaids

Four absconding housemaids were



KUWAIT'S SUPPORTIVE ROLE OF OIC EXTOLLED

GENEVA: Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the European headquarters of the United Nations and international organizations in Geneva and periodical President of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ambassador Jamal Mohammed Al-Ghuneim held a reception in cooperation with the OIC Office in Geneva yesterday at the United Nations headquarters on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the founding of the OIC.

The ceremony was attended by heads of international organizations in Geneva and officials of the United Nations and its specialized agencies as well as members of the diplomatic corps and a group of academics and intellectuals. Al-Ghuneim praised in a

statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) keenness and presence of a large number of directors of international organizations and ambassadors of friendly countries to congratulate the OIC on this occasion, saying that such high-level presence reflects the significant weight of the organization in the UN besides Kuwait's role in representing its interests. The ambassador added that the international organizations and ambassadors of friendly countries have expressed their appreciation for the role played by the OIC in various United Nations mechanisms as an important voice that addresses issues of the Islamic world and highlight the true image of Islam. He said Kuwait, and as part of its presidency of the organization for

this session, is doing its part in responding to attempts to distort the image of Islam and encourage dialogue between civilizations and religions, in addition to not interfere in the internal affairs of States and respect for the sovereignty of member states.

At the same time, the Kuwaiti ambassador stressed that Islamic countries are determined on the importance not to give attention to attempts aimed to weaken this organization through questioning its role or level of performance, but to move forward in its role both within the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Conference on Disarmament, the World Trade Organization and other world bodies. — KUNA

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A Message from the Chinese Ambassador



The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Wang Di hosted a reception on the 67th anniversary of the founding of China at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. Top officials, diplomats and media representatives attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

First of all, a very warm welcome to all of you to join this reception! 67 years ago, the birth of New China marked a new epoch in the history of China. With hard work over the past half century and more, China has become the world's second largest economy and the largest goods trading nation. China has also become the largest trading partner of around 130 countries. At the background of the world's economic slowdown, the Chinese economy still grew 6.7% in the first half of this year. While strengthening the self building, we have also played an important role to the recovery of world economy as a big and responsible country.

In 2015, China contributed 25% to world economic growth. China has proposed the Belt and Road initiative in 2013. Until now, China has signed "One Belt One Road" cooperative agreements with more than 30 countries including Kuwait, the AIB has officially been founded and first investment of Silk Road Fund has been steadily carried out.

Not long ago, the G20 Summit was held in Hangzhou, China, and the "One Belt One Road" idea has been included into G20 action plan, which will promote global economic growth in a much stronger way, significantly improve people's livelihood in developing countries, and improve global governance faithfully.

In the recent years, Kuwait has scored notable successes in all areas of national construction. Under the leadership of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait has maintained stability and prosperity, Kuwaitis live an abundant

life, the influence of Kuwait in the international and regional affairs has kept rising and Kuwait has provided a large number of humanitarian aid to other countries. This month is the 2nd anniversary of the granting of the "Humanitarian Leader" honor by the United Nations to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Not long ago, Kuwait hosted the Yemen peace talks which contributed positive energy to maintain regional peace and stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

This year marked the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait. 45 years, no matter how the international situation and domestic situation in both countries changes, both countries have understood and supported each other. In the recent years, the two sides have achieved positive progress in cooperation in terms of energy, communication and infrastructure and so on, people-to-people and cultural exchanges have become increasingly vibrant, China-Kuwait friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people.

Kuwait is an important partner for China in the region to co-build "One Belt One Road". China is ready to work with Kuwait to promote cooperation in various fields so as to benefit both peoples. Last but not least, I hereby extend my sincere gratitude to people of various circles and dear friends who have contributed to our friendship. We believe tomorrow of the relationship of both countries will be better. - Thanks!



PAS APPROVES OUTSIDE SPORTS PARTICIPATION

KUWAIT: Public Authority for Sports (PAS) approved Kuwait's participation in regional, Arab and Islamic sports tournaments, which are not subjected to international sports federations. PAS deputy director Humoud Fulaiteh said, on Sunday, that this approval came after 35 representatives from sports clubs and federations had met

and unanimously agreed to make this move. This approval showed keenness to expand sports activities beyond its current limitation, Fulaiteh stressed.

Outside participation will have a positive impact on improving the level of athletes, he pointed out. This unanimous agreement showed that everyone in on the

same page in supporting sports in the country, he added. He further said that in line with the directives of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Sports Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, PAS will provide financial supports for athletes competing under the Kuwaiti flag. —KUNA

KUWAIT URGED TO MONITOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

KUWAIT: On World Heart Day 2016 Sabah Al Ahmad Cardiac Center Amiri Hospital Kuwait along with World Heart Federation calling on government to strengthen monitoring and surveillance of cardiovascular health. World Heart Federation calls on all governments to implement reliable and fit for purpose surveillance and monitoring systems for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in order to better prevent, treat and control the world's biggest killer.

The World Heart Federation is emphasizing the need to ensure that every country has information on the World Health Organization Global Action Plan (GAP) Targets and a set of measures or indicators on quality of care appropriate to a range of contexts including the primary healthcare level. This call is tied to the strengthening of health systems, in particular monitoring and surveillance, by providing complementary recommendations to governments drawn from the World Health Organization NCD Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and the Health Data Collaborative, supported by the World Bank, USAID and WHO.

Dr Salim Yusuf, President, WHF, says: "We know that robust monitoring and surveillance are key to guiding what policies and strategies we implement and whether they are successful in reducing CVD rates. Countries that measure these rates are also the ones which demonstrate the greatest reductions in CVD. "We are calling on governments to reinforce their commitment to preventing premature deaths by taking some key steps toward better surveillance of their populations

Dr Mohammed Al Jarallah Director and Head of the Department of Cardiology, Sabah Al Ahmad Cardiac Center said: In establishing systems for monitoring the burden and treatment of CVD governments should prioritize the following actions: Strengthen vital and cause of death registration systems (to better record statistics on births and causes of death). Include details of CVD key interventions (for example services provided, numbers of people being treated) in existing health information systems.

Collect information on a representative subsample of the population on the prevalence and quality of care of patients with hypertension and CVD; and undertake periodic data collection on the behavioural and metabolic risk factors (harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, overweight and obesity, raised blood pressure, raised blood glucose, and hyperlipidemia), and determinants of risk exposure such as marketing of food, tobacco and alcohol in a sub sample of the population.

Why is this needed?

To monitor public health/health system interventions; To support evidence-based advocacy, policy development and coordinated action; To ensure that appropriate prevention and treatment services are provided based on need; To reinforce political commitment to prevent and control.

Dr Raja Dashti, Chairman and Head of Internal Medicine and Consultant Cardiologist Amiri Hospital comments: CVD - including heart disease and stroke - is the leading cause of death globally, claiming 17.5 million lives each year. However, at least 80% of premature deaths from CVD could be avoided by addressing risk factors such as tobacco use, raised blood pressure and physical inactivity; and improving the use of simple treatments after a heart attack or stroke.

"CVD is the world's number one cause of death and tackling it must happen on the global stage. To achieve this we need accurate data upon which countries can build their health strategies, so we very much welcome this call on national government to improve surveillance and monitoring of CVD. No matter what the country, we all benefit from shining the spotlight on the gaps and opportunities in global data collection."

Dr Rajesh Rajan, Cardiologist Sabah Al Ahmad Cardiac Center, Amiri Hospital pointed out the impact such preventive care and activities and also said it will help in following:- Develop and/or strengthen CVD surveillance capacity. - Effective national and regional policies for the prevention and treatment of CVD. - Progress towards meeting the Global Monitoring Framework (GMF) Targets including; reduction in raised blood pressure, reduction in tobacco use, improved access to essential medicines and technologies, improved access to drug therapy and counselling.

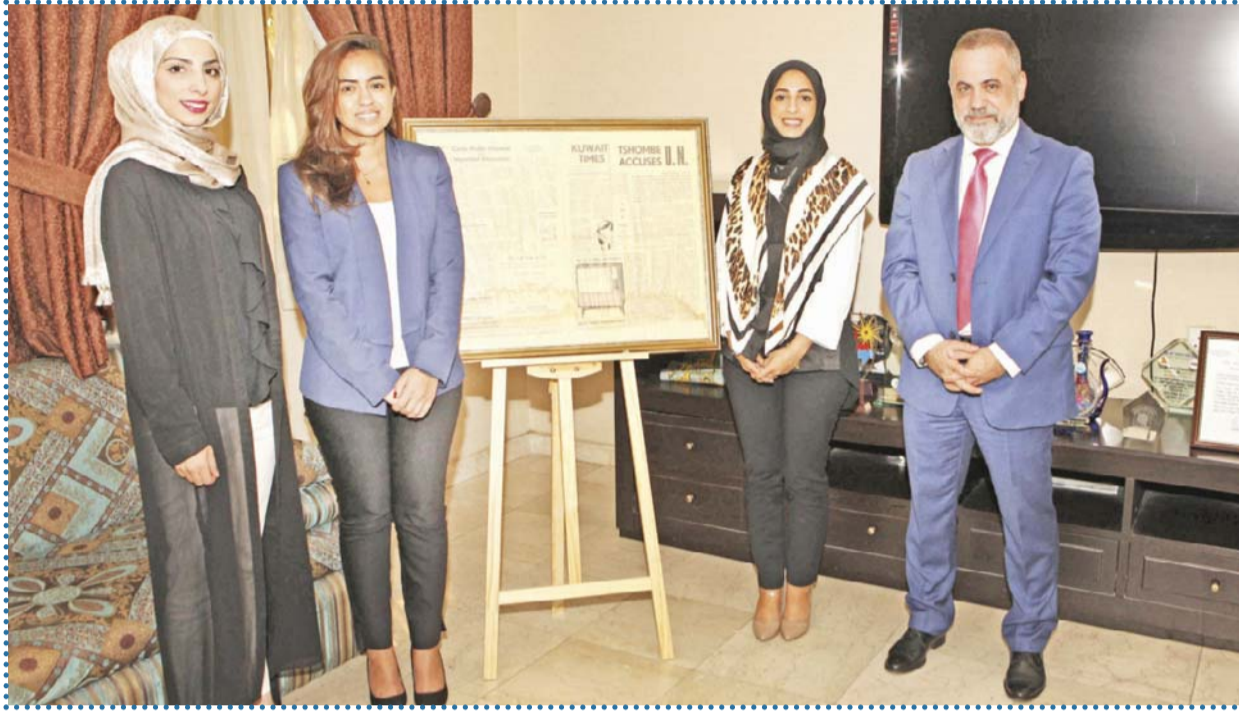
Every country has reliable information on o CVD mortality o Prevalence of CVD (number of people living with CVD) o Prevalence of CVD risk factors (at least hypertension and smoking) o Quality of preventive, primary and acute care. Cardiovascular disease burdens individuals in their most productive years by creating deaths, disabilities and illnesses at early ages that are largely preventable. In Kuwait the impact of CVD is much higher and around 45% of the total death are due to CVD. Cardiovascular disease and non-communicable diseases threaten international development by placing an incredible strain on national economies due to high medical costs and lower worker productivity as a result of premature death and disability.



Photo shows Kuwaiti police cars in the 1970s at Othman Museum. — KUNA

Kuwait Times

55th Anniversary Celebrations



(Second from left) Ola Allabban - Asst Marketing Manager Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa



Correction

Kuwait Times misspelled the name of Al-Anbaa newspaper on Monday, Sept 26, 2016. Here is the correct caption: 'Sent from Yousuf Khaled Al-Marzouq — Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa newspaper'



Diana Kaadan - Asst PR Manager Sheraton Hotel



Mohammad Jawhar - PR Manager, Mohamed Selim - Sales Manager, Lailany Juelar - Event Sales Manager Inn & Go Kuwait Plaza Hotel



Wissam El Injbar - Director of Sales and Mohammed Omar - Asst Director of Sales Marina Hotel

COURT DEFERS TERROR CASE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Criminal Court deferred a hearing into the "Abdaly cell" terrorism case, in which 26 defendants are involved, to Oct 11 for further questioning of the accused. The court held its first hearing on Aug 16 to examine the case sent to it by the court of appeals. On Jan 12, 2016, the criminal court sentenced two of the defendants, the first and the 23rd on the list of defendants, to death, while one of the accused was sentenced to life imprisonment. Other defendants in the case received sentences from five, 10 and 15 years in prison. In Sept 2015, the public prosecutor lodged criminal charges against the terrorist cell, in which the 26 defendants were put on trial over possession of huge caches of weapons and ammunition, as well as allegedly spying for Iran and Hezbollah.

Manager banned

A remand judge yesterday released the manager of Kuwait health office in Washington on KD 500 bail and banned her from leaving Kuwait. The defendant, a female citizen, denied all charges after being detained for 21 days over embezzlement charges.

Suspicious of squandering

Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmed Al-Jassar yesterday referred a contract to supply spare parts for a power plant to the public prosecution to investigate suspicions of squandering of public funds, as pointed out by MP Ali Al-Khamees. After receiving the information, Jassar formed an investigation committee which verified the suspicions, before he referred the matter to the public prosecution.

Islamic teachers demonstrated

A group of Islamic Education teachers yesterday demonstrated at MoE headquarters in protest over delays in promoting them to higher positions, said informed sources, noting that the demonstrators dispersed after getting promises to resolve the problem by Oct 15.

Kuwait Democratic Platform

Kuwait Democratic Platform (KDP) yesterday criticized the decision of sending blogger Sara Al-Derees to the central prison although she denied all charges and willingly gave herself up. "She should have been released after interrogation, leaving the final decision about the charges she is facing to the court," KDP added, noting the increase in the maximum period of detaining bloggers from 4 to 21 days is a means to intimidate them along with other political activists. The Kuwait Progressive Bloc also said that oppressing liber-

ties, namely the freedom of opinion and expression, has become a habit of the authorities.

'I want To Learn'

Chairperson of the 'hospital school' initiative 'I want To Learn' Dr Mona Borhamah said that the first conference of the initiative would be held at Kuwait Regency Hotel for two days starting Friday, Sept 30, 2016. She added that all specialists as well as parents of ill students are invited. Borhamah added that the conference will focus on shedding light on the significance of a hospital school so that all hospitalized students could carry on with their studies while being treated.

Kuwait-Sudan ties

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih yesterday received her Sudanese counterpart Dr Al-Sadeq Al-Hadi Al-Mahdi at her office, where they discussed bilateral cooperation and deep-rooted historic relations.

Demand for plastic surgeries

Burns and plastic surgery specialist at the Babtain Burns Center Dr Mohammed Abdul Samad Abdul Kareem said demand was growing in Kuwait for plastic surgeries, namely fillers and Botox amongst Kuwait women aged 40-45. Speaking on the sidelines of a workshop organized by Bader Al-Sultan & Brothers Co in collaboration with MoH under the title 'Filler Use Updates', Abdul Kareem said filler technology was rapidly developing and that it could be used by men and women of all ages.

Fishermen appeal to PAAAFR

Kuwait Fishermen Union yesterday appealed to PAAAFR to extend the period of cage fishing, locally known as 'gargour', to six months.

New case filed

A new case was filed yesterday demanding suspension of the new petrol price hike.

Cabinet appointment

The Cabinet yesterday agreed to appoint Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi as a board member at the Public Authority for Direct Investment.

'Improper dress'

A court yesterday ordered an expat to leave the courtroom because he was improperly dressed.

SAMSUNG

Galaxy Note7

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For more information on the Galaxy Note7 Exchange Programme, please visit www.samsung.com or call 183-(CALL).

*Terms and conditions apply.

Crime

Report

Ruling family member sentenced to 10 years

KUWAIT: A ruling family member was sentenced to 10 years in jail with labor for the attempted murder of a citizen. The victim was shot with an unlicensed weapon, said security sources.

2 arrested for shoplifting

Jahra detectives arrested an Egyptian and a bedoon for repeatedly shoplifting from the area's co-ops. The duo used to steal small but valuable items. They were eventually caught after reviewing footage from security cameras. In another development, an Arab expat was arrested in Khaitan for stealing cars, and for being wanted for five different financial claims.

Kuwaiti, masseur clash

A female citizen called police over an argument she had with a Filipina masseur, who insisted to be fully paid for an incomplete session after the citizen ended it because she thought she was too rough with her. Instead of paying the agreed upon sum of KD 14 for the session, the citizen ended it and only gave her KD 4 for the taxi fare.

Drug suspect nabbed

An Asian was arrested at Kuwait International Airport with two kilos of qat hidden in her luggage.



الجريدة Al-Jarida

HAIL THEM BOTH!

By Hassan Al-Essa

According to a document on debt strategy, KD 7 billion is needed to cover the 2016-2017 budget deficit, which means that the state will borrow from within and outside Kuwait to cover the deficit for this year alone. At the same time, this is the very same year when the state signed an agreement in February to purchase Eurofighter jets from Italy of a total cost of €7.8 billion, and another last August to purchase French helicopters at a total cost of €1 billion, in addition to signing an agreement with the US to purchase Hornet fighters at a total cost of \$3 billion, which adds up the value of the three deals to \$13 billion, and this is not far from the sum needed to cover the deficit.

What a deficit, what funding and what a strategy! These three vows show us the state's strategic vision for a prosperous future and its 'remarkable' administration and management of our beautiful future. No need to worry about a possible crisis in payroll over the few coming years, as MP Faisal Al-Shayeh keeps warning. There is also no need to worry about expenses for public services like health, education, security and the miserable infrastructure, with streets full of flying gravel. No need to worry about our mere existence and leading a decent life. I am not talking here about the future of our kids and future generations because this has become an illusionary dream beyond reach. Things are all fine as the government signs deals with astronomical figures and the parliament has wonderful solutions for the future of our black gold under the slogan of not overburdening citizens through recipes proposed by MPs like Abdul Rahman Al-Jeeran, suggesting more suffocation for expats, as if Kuwait's manpower is more than enough to do everything! No need to worry about tomorrow. A wise administration and bright future are awaiting us. So, long live the state ministers and long live the lawmakers. Hail them both! —Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Jarida

MGRP PRAISES KFH'S EFFORTS IN TRAINING NATIONAL LABOR

KUWAIT: Manpower and Government Restructuring Program - MGRP praised Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognition of its efforts in training the national labor through comprehensive training plans, and its commitment towards qualifying and honing the skills of the new recruits and even those of senior positions. The statement was made by Amani Al Merri, an official at the National Labor Force Development Department on the sidelines of inaugurating a training program for a batch of new KFH recruits at Millennium Hotel in the presence of a number of officials from KFH and MGRP.

She expressed her pride of Kuwaitis working at the private sector, affirming MGRP's support for the Kuwaiti nationals in collaboration and coordination with KFH and the private sector in general. She urged trainees for putting forth extra efforts, yet to strive towards pursuing leadership positions. It is worth noting that the training program was designed to prepare the employees to get fully functional in banking transactions and financial services at KFH Call Center depart-



ment and the branches to better serve clients and cater for their aspirations.

The 1-month program encompassed 24 employees. It included training courses and workshops on banking products, such as; banking cards, bank accounts, deposits, let-

ters of guarantee, and KFH eservices. In addition, the program tackled subjects on sharia basics, counterfeiting and fraud, GFS Ethix, not to mention the call center; its equipment, role, and services. Such training programs contribute to raise the bar of employ-

ees, enrich their banking knowledge and put them on track to be well equipped and prepared to assume the responsibility of serving clients and encounter any obstacle and challenge according to the highest international standards of excellence service quality.

الانباء Al-Anbaa

POLITICIANS AND ITALIAN FOOTBALLER'S MOVES

By Thaar Al-Rasheed

I believe this time of the year can be described as 'politicians' shifting season', simply because in less than three months, we have witnessed radical shifts in some iconic politicians' attitudes. They have changed sides and speeches and turned 180 degrees! Politicians' shifts are normal in Kuwait, while they do not exist in many democratic countries. Even if they do happen, we would see the politician (out of courtesy) address his supporters, explaining the reason behind such a shift.

In Kuwait, a politician will switch sides and wander among different blocs as if he is wandering through the Friday market and sees no reason to justify things. Naturally enough, such politicians are usually confronted in diwanias, and as usual, they evasively claim that they suddenly discovered they were on the wrong path. We are also expected to appreciate such a confession and courage. However, the majority of us know that the real motive is interests and has nothing to do with right and wrong!

Even the grocer around the corner of our street knows that a certain politician changed sides in pursuit of personal or electoral interests, yet we have to buy his claims and pardon him even if he does not apologize. All those who have been shifting sides since 2010 must declare the reason behind such radical and rapid shifts from one extreme to another without any explanations to the public.

The famous Italian footballer Luca Toni was the world's number one in moving from one club to another. He has played for 14 clubs throughout his career as a professional footballer. So, how many Luca Tonis do we have in Kuwait's political arena?!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

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INCREASE IN GCC BONDS ISSUANCE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Standard & Poor's ratings agency stressed that the drop in oil prices has led to an increase in the issuance of bonds by GCC governments worth \$24 billion since the beginning of the year, including \$10 billion by Saudi Arabia alone.



AL-HUMOUD CONGRATULATES THE 'HUMANITARIAN LEADER'

KUWAIT: Prof Moudi Al-Humoud, President of the Arab Open University (AOU) has extended her congratulation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the second anniversary of designating HH the Amir as a "Humanitarian Leader" and designating Kuwait as a 'Humanitarian Center' by the United Nations (UN) in recognition and appreciation of his humanitarian efforts in serving humanity and needy peoples.

On the occasion of the beginning of the academic year 2016/2017, Al-Humoud also congratulated all AOU students as well as the academic and administrative staff of the Headquarters of AOU and its branches. This came in a farewell ceremony organized by AOU in honor of the outgoing dean of the Faculty of Language Studies, Prof Ahmed Majdoubah, whose tenure had been completed. Al-Humoud lauded the efforts and contributions of Prof Majdoubah as well as his commitment in serving the University. She also praised the efforts of all academic and administrative employees of the AOU on their hard work in achieving the developmental



objectives of the University. On his part, Majdoubah expressed his gratitude to the AOU's family for organizing such a ceremony for him. He voiced his pride of the great trust granted by the AOU President to him. He also admired the ongoing cooperation among different deanships and work sectors of the AOU, at the level of its headquarters and branches. Then, he thanked the AOU, and expressed his great gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the AOU Board of Trustees, Kuwait and its people, and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He also thanked Prof Mohammad Hamdan, Advisor of the AOU. At the end of the ceremony, Ali Al-Qallaf, Director of the Public Relations at the AOU Headquarters, invited Al-Humoud to honor Majdoubah with an appreciation certificate and a memorial shield in recognition for his efforts.



Amb. Al-Fayez, Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed and FM, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled cutting the cake



Amb. Al-Fayez, FM undersecretary, Khaled Al-Jarallah and others during the ceremony

KUWAIT-SAUDI ARABIA TIES 'EXEMPLARY, DEEP-ROOTED'



Amb. Al-Fayez receiving guests

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said that Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoy close, historical and deep-rooted relationship. The two countries maintain exemplary cooperation in all fields under the kind patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and King Salman bin Abdulaziz, he said.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the press remarks while attending a celebration to mark the National Day of Saudi Arabia at the Kingdom's embassy. "As Kuwait celebrated the 26th anniversary of its liberation earlier this year, all of us remember the sacrifices offered by Saudi Arabia since the first day of the liberation war," he said. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled congratulated King Salman, the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Nayef and the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman as well as the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia on the National Day, and expressed best wishes for them on this occasion.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated the leaders and people of Saudi Arabia on this occasion. He expressed best wishes for the Kingdom under the wise leadership of King Salman, the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Nayef and the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. On his part, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez thanked the Kuwaiti senior officials and the large number of well-wishers who attended the celebration of his country's 80th national day. — KUNA



A joint laugh of joy — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A group photo with dignitaries



Lebanese Amb. with diplomats and Emad Bokhamseen



KSA's military attache with his counterparts



Dean of the diplomatic corps to Kuwait, Abdul Ahad Umbaki with other diplomats and dignitaries



Saudi cadets studying in Kuwait



Egyptian Amb. Yasser Atef and embassy staff

HARDLINE FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRAN WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

TEHRAN: Iran's hard-line former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday he won't run in next year's presidential election, ending weeks of speculation after the country's supreme leader discouraged his candidacy. Ahmadinejad could have posed a strong challenge to President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate who many believe will seek a second term after his administration struck the landmark nuclear accord with world powers. It also could have exposed the still-lingering wounds in Iran from the widespread unrest that followed Ahmadinejad's contested 2009 re-election.

"By the grace of God, I am proud to continue as a small soldier for the revolution," Ahmadinejad said in a letter to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Ahmadinejad, known for repeatedly questioning the scale of the Holocaust, predicting Israel's demise and expanding Iran's contested nuclear program, had been touring the country, fueling rumors of a political comeback.

He also wrote and publicly released a letter to President Barack Obama in August asking him to "quickly fix" a US Supreme Court ruling that allows families of people killed in attacks linked to Iran to collect damages from the country's frozen assets. Ahmadinejad previously served two four-year terms from 2005 to 2013. Under Iranian law, he became eligible to run again after four years out of office, but he remains a polarizing figure, even among fellow hard-liners.

Two of his former vice presidents have been

jailed for corruption since he left office. Iran's economy suffered under heavy international sanctions during his administration because of Western suspicions that Tehran was secretly pursuing nuclear weapons. Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. Internally, many associate Ahmadinejad with the aftermath of Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election. His victory sparked massive protests and a sweeping crackdown in which thousands of people were detained, dozens killed and others tortured.

'Harmful of the country'

The memory of the unrest likely sparked comments Monday by Khamenei, who said he recommended an unnamed candidate not seek office as it would bring about a "polarized situation" that would be "harmful for the country." In his letter yesterday, Ahmadinejad confirmed that Khamenei was referring to him. "You advised me it's not expedient to run and I announced my obedience, following my explanations of my plans," Ahmadinejad wrote. "I hereby inform you regarding the supreme leader's considerations, I have no plan for next year's elections."

Ahmadinejad said the two met on Aug 30. It wasn't immediately clear what transpired in the weeks between, though it appears Khamenei's comments Monday likely pushed Ahmadinejad into making his announcement. Without Ahmadinejad in the running, it's unclear whether hard-liners will be able to put up a candidate with similar name



TEHRAN: In this picture taken on Friday, July 1, 2016, former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, is greeted by well wishers while attending an annual pro-Palestinian rally marking Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day at the Enqelab-e-Eslami (Islamic Revolution) Street. — AP

recognition to challenge a possible Rouhani run. All Iranian presidents since Khamenei assumed the presidency in 1981 have served two four-year terms in Iran's cleric-governed democracy. Potential presi-

dential candidates are barred from publicly campaigning for the May 17 election until roughly the end of April, making it even harder to find possible challengers. — AP



DRESDEN, Germany: A woman wearing a headscarf walks past the entrance to the Fatih Camii Mosque, where traces of smoke can be seen after a bomb attack. — AFP

GERMANY MOSQUE BOMBED AHEAD OF UNITY CELEBRATIONS

XENOPHOBIC AND NATIONALIST MOTIVE SUSPECTED

DRESDEN: Bomb attacks hit a mosque and an international convention centre in the eastern German city of Dresden, police said yesterday, adding that they suspected a xenophobic and nationalist motive. No one was injured in the blasts late Monday in a city that has become a hotspot for far-right protests and hate crimes following Germany's huge migrant influx.

Although no one has claimed the attack, we assume a xenophobic motive, said Dresden police chief Horst Kretzschmar. He also suspects a connection with celebrations next weekend for the Day of German Unity on Monday, October 3. Dresden will host national celebrations Monday to mark 26 years since the reunification of East and West Germany, to be attended by Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Joachim Gauck. We have now switched to crisis mode, Kretzschmar said, with police deployed

to guard the city's two mosques and an Islamic cultural centre.

The first homemade bomb went off around 9:50 pm local time (1950 GMT) Monday and damaged the door of the mosque while the imam and his family were inside. The second blast about 25 minutes later happened at the main venue for next Monday's festivities, the city's international convention centre which also includes a hotel. It was partially evacuated.

Dresden, a Baroque city in Germany's ex-communist east, is also the birthplace of the anti-immigration PEGIDA street movement, short for Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident. Its members have angrily protested against the influx of refugees and migrants that last year brought one million asylum seekers to Europe's biggest economy. About a dozen demonstrations are planned over

the long weekend, by both PEGIDA and by anti-fascist groups.

Saxony state premier Stanislaw Tillich called the cowardly bombings an attack on freedom of religion and on the values of an enlightened society that could easily have claimed lives. German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the mosque attack was all the more scandalous because it happened on the eve of the 10th annual meeting of the dialogue forum the German Islam Conference.

Saxony state saw far-right hate crimes targeting shelters for asylum seekers rise to 106 in 2015, with another 50 recorded in the first half of this year. In an annual report outlining progress since reunification, the government warned last week that growing xenophobia and right-wing extremism could threaten peace in eastern Germany. — AFP

GAZA'S LEGION OF WOUNDED BATTLE TO FORGE NEW LIVES

GAZA CITY: Every time he hears a loud noise, Imed Al-Firi hides his healthy leg under a cushion-a reflex he developed after the summer of 2014, when Israeli tank fire struck his Gaza home and robbed him of his right leg. He is among thousands of Gazans learning to live with disabilities or missing limbs after three wars between Palestinian militants in the territory and Israel since 2008. Beyond limited medical care in Gaza, they also face a lack of facilities for the disabled in the Palestinian enclave run by Islamist movement Hamas which has been under an Israeli blockade for nearly a decade. More than 75,000 Gazans suffer from some form of disability, a third of them linked to conflict in the territory of 1.9 million people, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The 2014 war alone, the deadliest of the three conflicts, wounded 11,000 people.

Firi, 50, often sees Mohammad Aid, 20, at Gaza's clinic for polio and prosthetic limbs. Aid and Firi have at least two things in common-both are missing a leg and are unemployed, like nearly half of Gaza's population. Aid lost his leg from rocket fire while returning home from a mosque in 2014. He has since become better at managing his prosthetic leg-two metal rods connected by a joint at knee level, with a red-and-black tennis shoe at the bottom.

His physiotherapist Ahmed Abu Shaaban says he has made impressive progress, but everyday life remains a challenge for him in Gaza. "Some streets are not paved and are only dirt, others are potholed and rutted," said Abu Shaaban. "Construction is chaotic." Firi says little is done to ease conditions for the disabled despite Gaza's legion of war wounded. He has started an organization for people in his situation and has organized protests to demand improvements.

When met by AFP, he had a letter in his pocket for the mayor of Gaza City demanding paving of a road. He wants to send another one calling for beach access for the disabled. "Everyone has the right to go to the beach, but we are not good enough for that?" Firi complained. Access to medical supplies is another source of frustration. The only factory to build prosthetic limbs in the Gaza Strip faces limited capacity, factory head Nabil Farah said, as workers surrounding him moulded and carved plastic arms and legs. "It is hard to bring raw materials into Gaza, especially

chemical products needed for production," he said.

'Give them the opportunity'

Israel strictly controls goods entering the Gaza Strip to keep out items that could be employed to build weapons or tunnels, which have been used to carry out attacks. At the same time, Gaza's border with Egypt remains largely closed. So far this year, 4,562 tons of medical materials have entered Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, according to COGAT, the Israeli defense ministry unit that oversees it. COGAT says it has made an effort to improve health assistance for Gazans, though UN officials and others have called for a complete lifting of the blockade.

Israeli authorities hand out limited numbers of permits to Gazans to leave the territory. Every day hundreds of Gazans enter Israel — 22,635 in 2016 including those accompanying them for treatment there or for care in the West Bank or abroad, COGAT says. However, in July one out of three were refused or did not receive a response to their request to leave Gaza to visit a hospital, according to the World Health Organization. The total number of those who made a request was 2,040. Those who were refused or did not receive a response included 146 children, the WHO said.

Orthopaedics is among the medical specialties most in demand in Gaza, along with oncology, pediatrics, haematology and ophthalmology, the WHO says. "More than 2,300 Gazans need a prosthetic," Farah said, while his factory supplies between 12 and 18 people a month with assistance from the Red Cross. Psychological counseling is also required to help them adjust, said Mamadou Sow, head of the ICRC's Gaza branch.

Such counseling is not only to help people learn to live without a limb, but also to assist their social integration, he said. There is also a need to push for access for the disabled in public spaces and convince "authorities and the population at large that the disabled can do great things if we give them the opportunity," said Sow. Firi says he has "gained confidence in himself" and learnt that he can help others, particularly through organizing them.

"We are an engine for society, not a handicap," he said. — AFP

TURKEY DISMISSES 87 SPY STAFF OVER FAILED COUP

ISTANBUL: Turkey has dismissed 87 staff from its spy agency over alleged links to the failed July 15 coup, state media said yesterday, in the first purge of one of the country's most powerful institutions. National Intelligence Organization (MIT) has suspended 141 personnel in an internal probe over links to US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen who Ankara alleges was behind the coup. Of these, 87 have now been expelled, the Anadolu news agency said. Criminal complaints have been lodged against 52 of them, it added.

In a separate development, Turkish police detained 41 suspects from a charity organization Kimse Yok Mu? (Is There Anyone There?) for alleged links to Gulen, Anadolu news agency reported. Turkey has fired tens of thousands of people from state institutions in the wake of the attempted putsch but this was the first announcement of dismissals from the powerful spy agency. Turkey's secret service was widely criticized for not warning authorities about the coup bid and the government has acknowledged a vacuum in gathering intelligence. The 87 staff from the Turkish intelligence will no longer be able to work in another state institution after their dismissal, Anadolu also reported.

Fidan under fire

There had been intense speculation over the future of Turkish spy chief Hakan Fidan after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan publicly said intelligence lapses had helped the coup. The Turkish strongman had admitted he himself found about the coup not from the intelligence service but from his brother-in-law, and that he had been unable to reach Fidan on the night of the putsch.

Fidan was named to head MIT by the Turkish president in May 2010 after serving as his foreign policy adviser for three years. Erdogan, who described Fidan as his "secret keeper", had made no secret of his discontent when the spy chief in February 2015 resigned as head of MIT with the aim of becoming an MP from the president's ruling party. But later Fidan withdrew his candidacy and remained at the top of the intelligence service. In a picture that sparked a frenzy on social media, the previously clean-shaven Fidan was shown in a meeting with the president in the aftermath of the coup in July with a moustache. Several top ministers, including Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, have grown facial hair in recent months in what is widely seen as a sign of loyalty to the mustachioed head of state. — AFP

STRUGGLE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH ON BAGHDAD STREET

BAGHDAD: It had become something they just had to do: whenever the main shopping street in Baghdad's Karrada district was bombed, Hussein Al-Fatlawi and his brother would rush to help. When the Islamic State jihadist group set off a car bomb on Karrada Dakhil Street shortly before midnight on September 5, 24-year-old Hussein was halfway up the stairs to his flat. "I was about to reach my home when I heard the explosion... I pulled out my phone and called my brother Ali to get him to meet me so we could run to help the victims," he said.

Ali, 26, did not pick up and Hussein had a bad feeling. Instead of going to the bomb site, he started searching for his brother and eventually found him at the morgue, dead. Ali and Hussein had been among the first to reach the nearby site of a July attack, the bloodiest to ever hit Baghdad, that killed at least 323 people. The massive blast set fire to two shopping arcades on either side of Karrada's busy thoroughfare, burning many people alive. The 40-day mourning period is over and the charred bomb site is being cleaned. But everyone in the neighborhood knew at least one, sometimes many, of those killed and Karrada is still in shock.

"We used to rush out as soon as we heard a bombing and head to the site to help out with transporting the dead and wounded to hospital," said Hussam, the Fatlawi brothers' uncle. "Since these bombings started, Ali felt a lot of empathy for the victims. Whenever there was a blast, he and his brother were always the first among the

volunteers," he said.

Countless bombings

A busy shopping area on the east bank of the Tigris River, Karrada has seen countless bombings since the 2003 US-led invasion. Karrada Dakhil is a favourite spot for many Baghdadis to go for coffee or shop with friends and family, but

also a prized target for the Islamic State group's seemingly endless supply of bombs. There were phases, before IS swept through Iraq and tried to set up its Islamic "caliphate", during which several large bombings would rock Baghdad every day. On the street, the number of times a cafe or restaurant has been destroyed in bombings is almost part of its pedigree. — AFP



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi woman walks on Baghdad's Karrada Dakhil Street on July 31, 2016, at the site of a massive bombing that hit the capital's commercial district, killing at least 323 people. — AFP

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ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
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Issues

TRUMP STRUGGLES AS
'CHANGE' CANDIDATE

By James Oliphant

Running as an anti-establishment candidate, Donald Trump took the presidential debate stage on Monday night to hammer home his call for sweeping political change and try to win over millions of undecided voters. But the Republican nominee seemed unable to capitalize on his opportunity in front of a television audience that by some estimates may have been 100-million strong. Instead of presenting himself as a change agent, he spent most of the evening trading personal insults with his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

It illustrated the paradox that has plagued Trump's campaign. Polls show an electorate hungry for change, with a majority believing the country is on the wrong track. Yet Trump's brash personality and his tendency to stir up controversy have made him, at times, a poor messenger. Trump started strongly on Monday, sticking to the bread and butter theme of his campaign - the erosion of US manufacturing jobs. But he soon lost his composure, especially when Clinton questioned his success in business and his refusal to release his tax returns and accused him of racism and sexism.

When on message Trump paints a bleak picture of a United States that is victimized by China in trade, hemorrhaging jobs to Mexico and blighted by gangs of illegal immigrants roaming the streets of "warzone" inner cities committing crimes. Robert Adams, 75, an undecided voter from Boise, Idaho, said he thought Trump's dystopian view of America was correct. "I think it's hell in the big cities," Adams said.

Downcast

But after watching the debate, he viewed both the real estate magnate and Clinton as a "sad" choice for American voters and was leaning towards Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. Reuters/Ipsos polling shows an electorate in a downcast mood, with 64 percent of Americans believing the country is on the wrong track. That number includes 87 percent of Republicans and 44 percent of Democrats. When Reuters asked voters to pick the first word that comes to mind when thinking about the country, the most popular choice was "frustration," followed by "fear" and "anger".

Some of Trump's strongest moments at Monday's debate were when he categorized Clinton, a former secretary of state and US senator as a "typical politician", accusing her of achieving nothing in her years in Congress and government. With an electorate yearning for change, Clinton is hamstrung by her long record and her close association with the Obama administration. Rather than proposing wholesale political overhaul, Clinton offers up a vision of a country headed in the right direction but one that needs some changes to address income inequality and create jobs.

Her more optimistic view impressed another undecided voter, Nancy Willhite, 61, of Portland, Oregon. "She seems more in touch with reality to me," she said. A Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Monday found that about half of all likely voters in the United States were looking to the debate to help them make a final decision. Ron Bonjean, a Republican strategist in Washington, said Trump's performance on Monday would have left many undecided voters with questions about his ability to lead the country. "Donald Trump has to convince them that he is going to be a safe alternative and I think it's open to debate whether he pulled that off," Bonjean said.

Christopher Devine, a political science professor at the University of Dayton in Ohio said Trump's message on Monday sometimes got lost in a welter of hyperbole that invited mocking responses from Clinton. "He'll identify a problem people are concerned about, but in that excitement over making that point, he goes overboard and makes claims that don't hold up. It loses its effectiveness at that point." — Reuters



CLINTON WAS PREPARED, TRUMP WAS TRUMP

By Kathleen Hennessey

She was at her best. He was not at his worst. Weeks of Super Bowl-style hype aside, Monday night's 90 minutes of heated clashes between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump probably didn't shove many undecided voters off the fence. If Clinton aimed to push her famously unpredictable opponent into a made-for-sharing disqualifying moment, she didn't quite get there. If Trump set out to show America - particularly women - he's completed the transformation from cartoonish pop culture staple to leader worthy of the Oval Office, he still has a way to go.

But in a debate full of feisty exchanges and a personal scuffle or two, the candidates demonstrated clearly how they've gotten this far. Clinton was polished, prepared and proud of it - a Hermoine Granger at a podium. She came with sharp and practiced answers, most notably a newly direct one for the questions about her private email server that has dogged her candidacy for months. She grinned broadly and calmly, even when under fire, and she mocked but only gently the man she called "Donald."

"I think Donald just criticized me for

preparing for this debate. And, yes, I did," Clinton said. "And you know what else I prepared for? I prepared to be president. And I think that's a good thing." Trump addressed his opponent as "Secretary Clinton" - even asking for her approval for the term - but by the end he called her "Hillary".

The care he took with her title was a reminder of the voters he was aiming to win over. Women, particularly college-educated white women, are the key to Trump turning his current burst of momentum into a sustained surge that lasts until Election Day. The 70-year-old businessman has struggled to persuade women, even those with doubts about the first woman president, to get behind his bid, thanks in part to his performances in past debates, which led to cringe-worthy challenges to moderator Megyn Kelly or opponent Carly Fiorina.

Trump avoided another jaw-dropping, decorum-busting moment on Monday night, but it was hard to see that he did much to soften his image. He repeatedly and aggressively interrupted Clinton to rebut or deny her charges, at times talking over her or interrupting. When asked by moderator Lester Holt to explain a previous comment that Clinton doesn't

have a "presidential look", Trump simply repeated the comment. "She doesn't have the look. She doesn't have the stamina," he said. "To be president of this country, you need tremendous stamina."

Clinton came prepared to pounce: "Well, as soon as he travels to 112 countries and negotiates a peace deal, a ceasefire, 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." As the debate went on, Clinton seemed to gain confidence and a better sense of timing. When Trump concluded a long and tangled defense of his years-long campaign to challenge President Barack Obama's citizenship, she paused for a moment to let Trump's words sink in. "Well, just listen to what you heard," she said.

Insider

Trump, too, had his moments. He delivered a searing indictment of Clinton as just another insider proposing the same-old solutions for an economy on the brink of "crashing down". The riff was a potent reminder of why his candidacy has become a vehicle for the alienated

white Americans feeling pinched by the economy and forces of globalization. "Typical politician. All talk, no action. Sounds good, doesn't work. Never going to happen," he said, encapsulating the core message of his campaign.

He showed Clinton remains vulnerable on her support for trade deals, forcing Clinton in her clearest fib of the night when she denied having called the Trans-Pacific Partnership the "gold standard" of trade agreements and claimed she merely said she hoped it would be a good deal. But Trump missed opportunities to dive into Clinton's other vulnerabilities. She was also able to make swift work of her email scandal, saying simply "It was a mistake and I take responsibility for that." "That's for sure," Trump interjected, but left it there.

The Republican didn't raise Clinton's description of half of his supporters as "deplorable" or the Clinton Foundation and its donor network. That left Clinton largely free to play the prepared grown up to Trump's agitated upstart. Even Trump granted her that: "She's got experience," he said. "But it's bad experience. And this country can't afford to have another four years of that kind of experience." — AP

DANGER IN TRUMP RESPONSE TO SECRET BRIEFINGS

By David Wise

Presidential nominees are not supposed to talk about the intelligence briefings they receive as part of their race for the White House. The secret information is supposed to help them fully prepare for the presidency - not to be discussed publicly on the campaign trail. Yet that has already happened. We'll see if it happens again during the debates Monday night. During the NBC "Commander-in-Chief Forum" earlier this month, Matt Lauer of the Today show asked Republican nominee Donald Trump whether anything in the briefings caused him "shock or alarm."

"Yes, there was one thing that shocked me," Trump replied, "and it just seems to me that what they said - President Obama, Hillary Clinton and [Secretary of State] John Kerry, who is another total disaster - did exactly the opposite." Trump elaborated on the briefing sessions: "I have (sic) pretty good with the body language. And I could tell they [the briefers] were not happy. Our leaders did not follow what they were recommending."

There were several immediate problems with Trump's answer. First, on the most basic level, he did not explain what he meant by "body language." Did the intelligence professionals squirm? Wobble? Did they grimace or smirk? Raise an eyebrow? Voters watching were left to wonder, as they do so often in this bizarre election year.

Most important, however, the briefers are intelligence analysts whose job does not include recommending anything. The analysts sift through information flowing in from a multitude of sources, including the CIA's clandestine service that provides information from spies it recruits, electronic intercepts, overhead satellites and foreign radio broadcasts and publications. They synthesize and summarize all the information, and their analysis is then made available to government officials to assist in making policy.

Their task in a presidential election is much the same. They are to bring the nominees up to date on the major conflicts and issues around the world, based on information gathered by the CIA, the National Security Agency and the other US intelligence agencies. The briefings so far have likely covered topics such as Islamic State, the civil war in Syria and the refugee crisis in Europe, Washington's brittle relations with Moscow, North Korea's nuclear tests, turmoil in Iraq and Afghanistan and terrorism.

Lauer was widely criticized for the job he did as moderator. But here he twice cautioned Trump to answer the question "without going into specifics". Trump, however, managed to assert that the administration and his opponent were not following what the briefers "were recommending" - even though the briefers would not be suggesting policies. They might have described, for example, how fewer recruits are flowing into Syria from the West because Islamic State has lost control of a good deal of its territory. But as analysts, they would not have recommended that Washington increase its support for one faction or another.

Former intelligence officials were appalled at what Trump said. "That's just awful," former CIA Director Michael Hayden told Politico. "A candidate used the intelligence professionals who were briefing him in an absolutely nonpolitical setting, he imputed to them views that were politically useful to him in the moment." Hayden, a retired Air Force general who also served as head of the NSA, has not endorsed either candidate. But he has warned that Trump's election would create havoc in the relationship between the military and its civilian leadership.

This isn't the first time intelligence briefings have become entangled in election politics. The tradition of providing classified information to presidential candidates began in 1944, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt made wartime intel-

ligence reports available to the Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey. In 1952, President Harry S. Truman made CIA information available to Republican nominee General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Democratic nominee Adlai Stevenson.

Politics

In 1960, however, politics entered the presidential nominees' intelligence briefings. The results proved highly unfortunate for the nation. In that election, the GOP nominee, Vice President Richard M. Nixon, announced his opposition to a covert plan that he had actually helped devise. Meanwhile, his Democratic opponent, Senator John F. Kennedy, managed to both support the plan and then oppose it. CIA Director Allen Dulles had flown to Hyannis, Massachusetts, to brief Kennedy. Shortly before the election, Kennedy put out a statement urging support for forces opposing Cuba's new leader, Fidel Castro, both inside and outside the island nation, with the "hope of overthrowing" him.

Nixon was furious, he later confirmed in his book, "Six Crises". As vice president, he had been an architect of the Eisenhower administration's covert CIA plan to train Cuban exiles to do just that. Nixon believed Dulles told Kennedy about the plan, though Dulles later denied it. The Kennedy camp knew that Cuban exiles were training in Florida, however. It was pretty much an open secret. Life magazine published pictures of the trainees a week before the election.

After Kennedy's response, though, Nixon decided to publicly oppose the invasion that he had helped plan. "The covert operation had to be protected at all costs," he wrote. "I must not even suggest by implication that the United States was rendering aid to rebel forces in and out of Cuba. In fact, I must go to the other extreme: I must attack the Kennedy proposal to provide such aid as wrong and irresponsible."

The truth was that Nixon had actually been hoping the invasion of Cuba would take place before the election and help clinch his victory. But it didn't happen. And Kennedy, who was advised during the campaign that favoring support for the rebels was a political mistake, reversed his position. He sent a telegram to Nixon. It said Kennedy had "never advocated and I do not now advocate intervention in Cuba". Kennedy won the election, and, in April 1961, he launched the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. It failed disastrously. More than 100 Cuban exiles were killed, and almost 1,200 captured. Ten Cuban exile pilots and four US pilots recruited by the CIA also died.

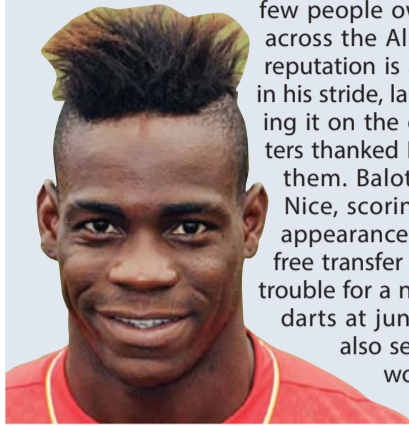
In a democratic system, the voters are supposed to listen to the candidates and make a choice. But in this instance, a major campaign issue - what to do about Cuba - became distorted. Voters were left with no true idea of where the candidates really stood. And also with no real public debate about the issue. Many historians believe the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion emboldened Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev to send missiles to the Caribbean island, leading to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Over those 13 days in October, the world faced a nuclear confrontation.

The lesson of the 1960 election is that it matters what the presidential nominees say during a campaign. One wonders, if Trump wins, how he might interpret the body language of Kim Jong Un, the volatile and unpredictable leader of North Korea, who claims to have an arsenal of nuclear missiles that the Pentagon warns might "be capable of reaching much of the continental United States" by 2020. A mistake in reading Kim's body language - or Russian President Vladimir Putin's - could lead to unimaginable consequences. Presidents had better rely on something more than body language in making decisions that could affect the millions of people around the globe. — Reuters

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CONTROVERSIAL BALOTELLI PRESENTED WITH BIDET

NICE: Controversial Italian star Mario Balotelli was presented with an unexpected gift following training with his club Nice yesterday. Presenters from a satirical Italian television show turned up on the Cote d'Azur to offer Balotelli a bidet. In Italy there is a running joke about French hygiene due to the fact few people own a bidet, while almost every bathroom across the Alps is equipped with one. Balotelli, whose reputation is anything but squeaky clean, took the joke in his stride, laughing as he accepted the gift before leaving it on the ground. The "Le iene" (the hyenas) presenters thanked Balotelli before taking the bidet away with them. Balotelli has had a storming start to life with Nice, scoring a brace in each of his first two league appearances for the Ligue 1 pace-setters following a free transfer from Liverpool. In the past he has been in trouble for a number of off-field antics, such as throwing darts at junior players at Manchester City, where he also set fire to his bathroom after setting off fireworks from inside his house. —AFP

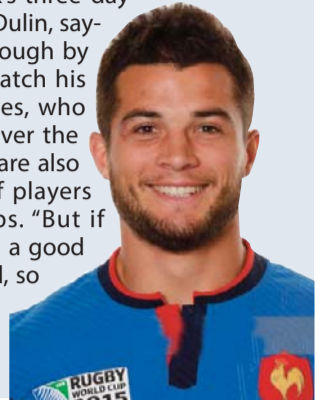


QATAR TO BUILD BEDOUIN CAMP FOR WORLD CUP FANS

DOHA: Qatar is to construct a special Bedouin-style desert camp to house thousands of fans during the 2022 World Cup as the Gulf state looks to broaden accommodation for the tournament beyond the limited number of apartments and hotels. A fan village among the sand dunes close to the Saudi border will house up to 2,000 visitors in Arabian tents, allowing them to experience the desert from close quarters, Qatar's World Cup organising committee said in a statement yesterday. "We will allow visitors from outside the country to enjoy Qatar and their football experience in an entirely new way," said the committee's Abdulaziz al-Mawlawi. "There will be options for all kinds of budgets..." Most of the 500,000 fans expected to descend on the tiny country will stay in hotels and apartments, but an earlier announcement suggested thousands could also camp under canvas in desert areas close to stadiums. Qatar's World Cup bid in 2010 said it would create more than 55,000 rooms for fans but authorities said in January that only 46,000 would be ready, prompting concern about a potential shortage of accommodation during the tournament. —Reuters

NOVES SAYS FRANCE DOOR OPEN TO OUSTED DULIN

MARCOUSSIS: France coach Guy Noves insisted yesterday the door is still open for full-back Brice Dulin to force his way back into the national set-up. Noves has not picked 26-year-old Dulin, who has 24 caps, since taking over the role following the 2015 World Cup, preferring instead his former charge at Toulouse, Maxime Medard, and South African-born Scott Spedding. And even though Spedding pulled out of this week's three-day France training camp, Noves still didn't bring in Dulin, saying his Racing 92 side was already depleted enough by four other international call-ups. "I really do watch his matches and follow his progression," said Noves, who coached Toulouse for 22 years before taking over the France reins. "His name has come up but there are also teams playing in the Top 14 who have lots of players involved, so I don't want to pillage the clubs." But if Spedding is out (of the November tests), there's a good chance Brice Dulin will join us with Max Medard, so he's not been ditched at all. "He is right to keep working hard, I would never close the door to the French team to anyone." —AFP



AL ATTIAH WELCOMES TURKEY'S REQUEST TO JOIN ME RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

KUWAIT: Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Attiyah FIA vice president welcomed the request submitted by the Republic of Turkey to join the competitions of the Middle East Rally Championship in 2017 season. Al Attiyah said that first of all, I would like to thank the management of Turkish Automobile Sports Federation for their positive initiative to join the Middle East championship for rallies, hoping to have more cooperation in the future. Al Attiyah said that, "No doubt that joining of Turkey to such a competition would strengthen it, as the Turkish riders have good and historical experience in rallies, besides the

participation of the elite of Middle East champions who will take part in this championship would contribute in the success of the championship technically and administratively". Al Attiyah also said that the presence of The Turkish Republic in the agenda of Middle East Championship for the first time would make a new success for motor sport in Middle East and North Africa - MENA and also would assure the concept of caring for the promotion of motor sport in MENA since taking over my current position (as FIA vice president) in 2013. I will continue following this approach throughout

hosting more sport events under FIA, especially MENA has many skills that managed to attract the attention of the motor sport stakeholders in MENA. Al Attiyah stated that we have to encourage the youth in MENA to take part in such sports to enjoy the success achieved in a short time, such success is considered a clear evidence of the wide spread of the motor sport in MENA region which we honor and appreciate so much. Al Attiyah continues his international meetings In the same contest, Nasser Al

Attiyah FIA vice president & FIM deputy president presided over a meeting on Monday evening with FIM board members in Geneva. Al Attiyah praised the positive efforts achieved in the meeting, which assured that there is a hard work exerted by all for better future for motor sport all over the world. Al Attiyah is in Paris to attend the general assembly meeting of FIA and to attend other meetings of some concerned committees under FIA. Finally, Al Attiyah praised the prominent role displayed by FIA president Jean Todt to push the motor sport ahead.



Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Attiyah, vice-president of FIA.

SPIETH: US RYDER SQUAD WANTS TO HONOR PALMER

CHASKA: Two-time major winner Jordan Spieth says the US Ryder Cup team is looking to pay tribute to Arnold Palmer this week after his death and bringing home the trophy would certainly qualify. The Americans have lost three in a row, six of seven and eight of the past 10 Ryder Cup showdowns to Europe ahead of Friday's start of the 41st biennial matches at Hazeltine. "As Team USA, we're all looking to do something to honor him this week," Spieth said. "We all learned a lot from him. We would not be who we are on and off the course if it were not for him." The US flag flies at half staff over the suburban Minneapolis course to pay homage to Palmer, who died Sunday at age 87 of heart issues. Palmer was the first superstar of American golf, the first true celebrity sportsman. He attracted passionate supporters known as Arnie's Army and lifted golf into the television age and beyond, serving as an inspiration to many of today's top stars. "He was the first cool guy to play golf," said US Ryder Cup player Jimmy Walker. "Nobody did anything more for golf than Arnie did. He was one of the greatest personalities in golf ever. He had a love for the game. It showed to the end." Black and white video highlights of Palmer in his prime, a US sports-TV staple since his death, fail to capture the go-for-broke style that made him popular or the fan-friendly manner and charm that made the seven-time major winner iconic for how he played in addition to how well he played. "All athletes owe him a debt. He paved the way for us," Spieth said. "He was a role model and golf's greatest friend. I still think it's underrated how much he contributed to golf. This will be

a tough loss for golf going forward." Reactions from those trying to work on their putting on a windy Monday at Hazeltine were grief-filled. "It's just sadness," two-time major winner Zach Johnson said. "He was such a great person. I don't believe you can quantify or put into words what he has done for golf." Europe star Lee Westwood of England put it in simple terms: "Professional golf is what it is today because of Arnold." "MADE DIFFICULT LOOK EASY" Palmer set a standard for himself to give back to the people who paid to come watch him, whether with a smile or personal attention. An autograph, a handshake or just a moment of his attention made him the role model some could immitate but none could duplicate, even today's most beloved shotmakers. "We all try but we never live up to his standard," five-time major winner Phil Mickelson said. "He made the difficult look easy." Spieth, 23, was born in 1993, the same year Palmer collected his last tour victory of any sort at the Champions Tour Skins Game. But Palmer was able to pass along lessons about golf and life to the younger stars. "He's just a man who has inspired me personally," said Spieth, who shared the locker Palmer uses in the Augusta National Champions Locker room. "I don't feel worthy. He should have his own. I feel very fortunate to have something in common with him." Europe Ryder Cup captain Darren Clarke said both teams are preparing to honor Palmer both with a worn emblem as well as their performances. "Whatever happens this week, it will be another great chapter in Ryder Cup history," he said. "And one that honors Mr Palmer." —AFP



CHASKA: United States vice-captain Tiger Woods talks to United States' Dustin Johnson on the second hole during a practice round for the Ryder Cup golf tournament yesterday, at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. — AP

GARCIA, MCILROY FIRE BACK AT LOVE'S BEST-EVER US TALK

CHASKA: Sergio Garcia and Rory McIlroy fired up European passions yesterday at the Ryder Cup, taking exception to US captain Davis Love's contention that his Americans might be the best team ever. "At the end of the day, you don't win Ryder Cups with your mouth," Garcia said. "You win them out there on the golf course and that's where we'll see which team is the best." European teams have won three consecutive Ryder Cups, seeking an unprecedented fourth in a row this week at Hazeltine, while the Americans have lost six of the past seven and eight of 10. But with a new task force bringing stronger organization and commitment, Love felt confident enough in his roster last Friday to tell a golf radio interviewer, "We're a great team. This is maybe the best golf team maybe ever assembled." Those words added inspiration for a Europe side not lacking for it to start with. "They are pretty much motivating factors," Garcia said. "You know what they say opinions are like—we all have one. Everybody is allowed to have their own opinions. That's what they think. We know what we have." World number three McIlroy, Europe's top-ranked player, is coming off a victory at the US PGA's season-ending Tour Championship. It brought \$1.5 million plus a \$10 million season points bonus he swiped from the pocket of US Cup rival Dustin Johnson, the US Open

champion ranked second in the world. "To see Rory showing that fighting spirit and battling the way in which he did was wonderful," Europe captain Darren Clarke said of his Northern Ireland compatriot. "That was a very enjoyable thing for all of us to watch." McIlroy tossed his own barbs at the US notion of Ryder Cup supremacy before Friday's opening tee shots. "I've followed everything and I've had a bit of fun with it, the task force and greatest team ever assembled and whatever else they are talking about," McIlroy said. "If Europe were in the same position as what America have went through over the past few Ryder Cups, we would be probably doing the same thing and searching for answers." **EUROPE 'MORE THAN READY'** The Americans have four of the world's top 10 in Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Patrick Reed and Rickie Fowler and all 12 players are ranked in the world's top 31. While Europe counters with five of the world's top 12, including Garcia in 12th, half the European squad is ranked below Ryan Moore, the captain's pick who is the lowest-ranked US player. McIlroy noted that in terms of worldwide victories this year, Europe players have taken 12 to nine by the Americans, the majors split

even at two for each roster. "So our team is good. Our team is more than ready to handle the occasion, to handle what we need to do," McIlroy said. "I don't think it's hard for us to find motivation. Whether it be the sea of red (US supporters) you see on the golf course or comments made by the US team or captain, that gives us so much motivation already. "Whenever we are going up against one of the greatest teams ever assembled, that's motivation enough. How good a victory would this be if we go out and beat these guys on home soil?" Clarke passed on his chance to dig into Love about the best-ever notion, saying, "About going up against the best team in the world, that one you should ask Davis. I'm very pleased with our team." England's Andy Sullivan, the lowest ranked player in the event at 50th and one of six Ryder Cup newcomers for Europe, was willing to grant the hosts an edge on paper but warned Europe has a tough history when unfancied. "It hasn't been spoken about very much, but on paper they are an unbelievable side," Sullivan said. "You look at it for most years and Europe go in as the underdogs. As the recent years have shown they have done pretty well out of it. Hopefully that's a common theme and we get the job done this year." —AFP



Jordan Spieth

WUHAN BOSS SAYS SERENA ABSENCE 'UNFORTUNATE'

WUHAN: Serena Williams' withdrawal from the Wuhan Open was "unfortunate", the tournament's director said yesterday, after the American star ruled herself out of the injury-hit tournament for the second year in a row.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion pulled out of the Chinese event and next week's China Open in Beijing with a shoulder injury, robbing it of its best known player.

"It's unfortunate but we understand. It's the nature of the sport," Fabrice Chouquet told AFP. "We hope to see her here in 2017." Williams has only made it to the hot and humid Wuhan Open once, in 2014, when she retired from her first match against Alize Cornet with illness. Last year, she was also injured and skipped the entire Asian swing, a busy period which culminates in the season-end-

ing WTA Finals in Singapore. The Wuhan Open, held just after the year's final Grand Slam tournament, the US Open, has become bedevilled with injury problems, witnessing a series of retirements.

Six players retired mid-match in the first two days of this year's tournament, while another five suffered the same fate last year-including Garbine Muguruza in the final.

"We are towards the end of the season and we know the players have played a lot and we know that some of them are very tired," said Chouquet. "A player never retires by pleasure. They retire because they have to." Women's Tennis Association (WTA) chief Steve Simon has vowed "fundamental changes" to the sport's gruelling schedule, which has added eight tournaments in China since 2008.

"The circuitry structure is on the agenda," Chouquet said, adding that there could be changes to the schedule by the 2018 season.

"It's always a very fine line (between) giving playing opportunities to players and overloading a calendar... (and for) these top tournaments to receive the player field they deserve for the investment they put (in)." —AFP

AGAG COMMITTED TO FORMULA E, RULES OUT FORMULA ONE ROLE

LONDON: Formula E founder and chief executive Alejandro Agag has dismissed media speculation that he could play a role in running Formula One after Liberty Media's takeover of the glamour sport.

"There haven't been any contacts at all, whatsoever," he told Reuters in an interview at his London headquarters yesterday.

"My interest is Formula E and I think there is still so much to be done in Formula E and it's really exciting to be in Formula E," said the 46-year-old Spanish businessman.

"I think I could not go anywhere without Formula E. So wherever I go, Formula E has to come, in a way. Formula E is like my baby. I founded it, we were very few in the beginning and we've taken it to this point and I don't think I can stay apart from Formula E."

Formula E, the world's first electric car racing championship which starts its third season in Hong Kong next week, is owned by Liberty Global, another of US cable television tycoon John Malone's companies.

Media reports have suggested that new Formula One chairman Chase Carey, who took the role after the takeover was announced on Sept. 7, wants to appoint executives to run the sport's commercial and sporting operations.

Agag, because of his experience and connections, has been touted as a possible candidate. Bernie Ecclestone, the 85-year-old who has run Formula One for decades, once co-owned London second tier soccer club Queens Park Rangers with Agag and former Renault team boss Flavio Briatore.

NO COMPETITION

Agag welcomed the Formula One takeover, which has still to be approved by anti-trust regulators, but said there had been no discussions "in terms of synergies or co-operation or anything".

"If you ask me for my feeling, I think it's good. I think if Formula One had been bought by a competitor of the Liberty family, the extended family, it would be more difficult," he added.

He did not envisage any competition issues, however, because the two series

were so distinct and raced in very different arenas, with Formula E a city-based series using temporary circuits.

Only Monaco, Montreal and Mexico City host both championships.

"We don't compete at all with Formula One. We don't race in racetracks, we race on very small places where Formula one cannot race so there is no competition," said Agag. "The place we race in Brooklyn is far too small for a Formula One race. And we race on a different technology, electric."

Agag said other US series NASCAR and IndyCar had more to fear, with Liberty Media clearly targeting the United States as a growth area for European-based Formula One. "If I was IndyCar or NASCAR, I would be worried," he said.

"I would be concerned because the Formula One push in America is going to affect them, if anyone. But definitely Formula One and Formula E are totally compatible in America and everywhere else." Agag said it made business sense to keep Formula One and Formula E apart and he sees scope for both to grow, even if electric racing could one day become the bigger draw.

The Formula One championship has been running since 1950, with annual turnover of around \$1.9 billion and one of the largest global audiences in sport after the soccer World Cup and Olympics.

Formula E's cumulative TV audience in its debut season was a comparatively tiny 61.5 million, according to research firm Repucom. "If the motor industry becomes fully electric, Formula E will be the relevant championship in terms of the motor industry," said Agag.

"But I don't think Formula One will disappear. I think Formula One will continue, like today there are horse races but we don't use a horse to go to the office. Combustion cars will be maybe only used for racing."

"But I think Formula One has such a strong tradition that it will continue in the future. Formula E may be the main championship at one point in 50 years or 60 years, but only time will tell." —Reuters



WUHAN: Angelique Kerber of Germany hits a return during her second round match against Kristina Mladenovic of France at the WTA Wuhan Open in Wuhan, in China's central Hubei province yesterday. — AFP

KERBER SURVIVES SCARE IN FIRST MATCH AS NUMBER ONE

WUHAN: Angelique Kerber survived a scare in her first match as world number one before beating Kristina Mladenovic in three sets at the Wuhan Open yesterday.

The US and Australian Open champion, who had a bye in the first round, made a convincing start before missing two set points and allowing Mladenovic to take the first set in a tie break.

But the German then swept through the rest of the match, winning 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-4 to set up a third-round meeting with two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova. "I was trying to find my rhythm because I was not playing my best in the first set," top seed Kerber said after the match. Kvitova said she would be trying not to think about Kerber's new status as world number one, formalised when the rankings were updated after this month's US Open, when they

play today. "(It) will be for the first time... that I will play her as a number one, which is a little bit different. But I think if I'm on the court, I don't really think about that," she told reporters.

World number four Agnieszka Radwanska also romped into the third round, as last year's US Open finalist Roberta Vinci became the tournament's first seeded casualty.

One-time Wimbledon runner-up Radwanska won 6-4, 6-1 against Russia's Ekaterina Makarova, who bagged Olympic women's doubles gold last month in Rio. Italy's Vinci, ranked 15, was ousted by Yaroslava Shvedova 7-5, 6-2 — her second defeat at the hands of the Kazakh this year. Radwanska will next meet an in-form Caroline Wozniacki, who defeated qualifier Katerina Siniakova 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday, in the third round of the \$2.6 million hardcourt event.

The former world number one beat Poland's Radwanska in the semi-finals of last week's Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, en route to her first title of the year. "We always (have) long battles against each other, especially on the slower surface (such) as here," Radwanska said of Wozniacki. Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams downed Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-2, and will next play fellow tour veteran 10th-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia. The pair have not met on court since 2009. American Madison Brengle fell to Kuznetsova 6-0, 6-4 in the second round, as eighth seed Madison Keys beat Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-4.

Former Wimbledon quarter-finalist Barbora Strycova downed Japan's Misaki Doi, while Daria Kasatkina of Russia beat fellow qualifier American Louisa Chirico. — AFP



Chris Froome

ANTI-DOPING SYSTEM OPEN TO ABUSE: FROOME

LONDON: Tour de France champion Chris Froome has responded to the drug-taking controversy surrounding Bradley Wiggins by claiming sport's anti-doping rules are open to abuse. Froome took to Twitter to vent about the issues with doping controls after two officially approved Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) earlier in his career were revealed by hackers earlier this month.

Froome, who won his third Tour de France title in four years in July, said: "I take my position in sport very seriously and I know that I have to not only abide by the rules, but also go above and beyond that to set a good example both morally and ethically."

"It is clear that the TUE (therapeutic use exemption) system is open to abuse and I believe that this is something the UCI (cycling's governing body) and WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) need to urgently address. "At the same time, there are athletes who not only abide by the rules that are in place, but also those of fair play."

"I have never had a 'win at all costs' approach in this regard. I am not looking to push the boundaries of the rules. "I believe that is something that athletes

need to take responsibility for themselves, until more stringent protocols can be put in place." Athletes are able to take some banned substances as medication if they are cleared by the authorities and Froome said he has never pushed the boundaries of what is allowed.

British star Wiggins, a five-time Olympic champion, received three TUEs for intramuscular injections of the powerful corticosteroid triamcinolone on the eve of the 2011 and 2012 Tours de France and 2013 Giro d'Italia. Triamcinolone has been described by several former dopers as one of the most effective performance-enhancing drugs and it is believed to help athletes lose weight without losing power, postpone fatigue and aid recovery. The disgraced Lance Armstrong tested positive for it at the 1999 Tour but used a bogus TUE to avoid an anti-doping violation.

Wiggins, a life-long asthma sufferer with an allergy to pollen, hasn't broken any doping rules and told the BBC on Sunday that he was not seeking "an unfair advantage" when he used the drug, but was trying to "level the playing field so he could compete at the highest level". — AFP

U-TURN AS N ZEALAND TEEN STAR AXED OVER ASSAULT

WELLINGTON: New Zealand rugby officials yesterday terminated the contract of a teenage star who viciously assaulted four people including two women, following a public outcry after he escaped conviction.

After initially supporting winger Losi Filipo, rugby administrators performed a U-turn following a heated reaction that even saw Prime Minister John Key drawn into the debate.

Filipo, 18, dodged conviction because a judge said he did not want to derail his career, sparking accusations the court system in rugby-mad New Zealand gives sports stars special treatment.

"If it was anyone else on the street, they wouldn't be let off for any of this-for attacking four of us-punching two females," Kelsey Odell, one of his victims, told TV3.

Key also weighed in, telling reporters: "Violence is unacceptable anywhere, it doesn't matter what your profession."

New Zealand Rugby (NZR), which was criticised last month over its handling of sexual assault allegations against Waikato Chiefs players, had argued that Filipo was dealt with by the court system and should not be shunned. "We believe young men, like Losi, are better off with rugby in their lives," NZR chief Steve Tew said in a statement early yesterday. However, the issue dominated radio phone-ins and Wellington Rugby, which holds Filipo's contract, had more than 1,000 negative comments on its Facebook page.

By early evening it released a

statement saying the organisation and Filipo "have mutually agreed to the termination of his contract". "The parties agreed that the termination of his contract was the best outcome for all," it said, describing the situation as "unfortunate".

Filipo's defence did not dispute the facts of the unprovoked late-night attack in central Wellington last year involving the

player and his brother.

The teenager stamped on the head of one of the male victims as he lay prone on the ground, leaving the man unable to work for eight months.

Odell, a model, said she will require plastic surgery to her face after Filipo hit her. The other woman was punched in the throat. In sentencing, judge Bruce Davidson said such a serious

attack would normally attract an 18-month jail term but a conviction would hinder Filipo's chances of playing professionally. "I have to ask myself, are the courts truly in the business of destroying people's career prospects?" he asked. Several All Blacks have also avoided convictions after facing criminal charges, including Julian Savea (domestic violence) and George Moala (assault). — AFP



Losi Filipo (right) seen in action.

SON GIVES INJURY-HIT TOTTENHAM VICTORY AT CSKA

MOSCOW: Tottenham coped well despite injury problems to put its Champions League campaign back on track yesterday with a 1-0 win over CSKA Moscow.

Son Heung-min scored the winning goal, his fifth of the season, to keep up his good form in the absence of injured Harry Kane. Tottenham - missing five

first-team regulars - bounced back from its opening loss to Monaco in Group E.

Defeat was a blow for CSKA, which was celebrating the first European game at its new stadium. Goalkeeper and captain Igor Akinfeev has not kept a clean sheet in the Champions League for 10 years and could have done more to stop Son's low shot, though Erik Lamela also

deserved credit for his incisive ball to set up the goal. Dele Alli threatened to score for Tottenham in the first half, hitting the bar with a shot from range and heading off-target from a good position.

CSKA coach Leonid Slutsky typically favors defensive tactics in European games and yesterday's fixture was no different as Spurs were allowed to domi-

nate possession. After a quiet first half from CSKA, however, Zoran Tomic could have put the Moscow team ahead shortly after the break when he shot over Hugo Lloris' bar off a low cross from Lacina Traore.

CSKA pushed forward after Son's goal, but Mario Fernandes' shot across the face of goal was the closest the Russian team

came to scoring. CSKA has a single point from its first group game, a draw against Bayer Leverkusen.

Despite the game being the first visit by an English club to Russia since violent clashes between fans from the two countries at the European Championship in June, there were no obvious signs of disorder in or around the stadium. —AP

GLIK STRIKES LATE TO SALVAGE DRAW FOR MONACO

MONACO: AS Monaco's Kamil Glik scored a fine goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time to salvage a 1-1 home draw with Bayer Leverkusen and keep them top of Champions League Group E yesterday.

Poland international Glik netted a half-volley from just outside the box to cancel out Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez's second-half opener for the German side.

Monaco have four points from two games and lead Tottenham Hotspur, who won 1-0 at CSKA Moscow, by one point. Leverkusen have two points and CSKA one. "It's probably the finest goal of my career," said defender Glik. "I think it's a deserved

draw because neither side really dominated." Monaco, who had won eight of their last nine games in all competitions and had never lost to Leverkusen, looked toothless while the mid-table Bundesliga side threatened through Hernandez.

The Mexico international broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute with a point-blank header from second-half substitute Admir Mehmedi's cross from the right.

As Leverkusen ran the clock down, though, Glik, who scored in Monaco's Ligue 1 win over Angers at the weekend, fired home a powerful half volley to give Leonardo Jardim's side a point. — Reuters

SPORTING LISBON EASES PAST LEGIA WARSAW

LISBON: Sporting Lisbon got the victory it deserved this time, defeating Legia Warsaw 2-0 in Group F of the Champions League yesterday.

After a heartbreaking loss at Real Madrid in its opener, when it was leading until the 89th minute, Sporting rebounded with another good performance and secured the three points at home against the group's weakest team. The result left Sporting one point behind Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund, which drew 2-2 in Germany. Legia remains without any points after two games. Sporting came close to opening the scoring when midfielder Gelson Martins hit the crossbar in front of the goal in the 18th. But Costa Rican playmaker Bryan Ruiz put the Portuguese side ahead from the far post in the 28th after Legia midfielder Miroslav Radovic failed to

fully clear a cross into the area.

Dutch striker Bas Dost continued to impress at his new club by adding to the lead from close range in the 37th after a well-placed cross by captain Adrien Silva.

It was the fifth goal in as many games for Dost since his high-profile signing by Sporting in August. He had scored his first four goals in three Portuguese league appearances after arriving from German club Wolfsburg.

It was the seventh loss in 11 matches for Legia, which opened its Champions League campaign with a 6-0 thrashing by Dortmund. Legia's 39-year-old coach, Jacek Magiera, replaced Besnik Hasi a week ago.

Legia is in the group stage of the Champions League for the first time since the 1995-96 season. It next plays at Madrid, while Sporting hosts Dortmund. —AP



LEICESTER: Porto's Mexican striker Jesus Corona (L) vies with Leicester City's Austrian defender Christian Fuchs during the UEFA Champions League group G football match between Leicester City and Porto at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England yesterday. — AFP

SLIMANI SCORES AGAIN AS LEICESTER BEAT PORTO

LEICESTER: Leicester City striker Islam Slimani resumed his torment of Porto as the Premier League champions preserved their 100 percent Champions League record with a narrow 1-0 victory yesterday.

Playing in their first ever Champions League home game, Claudio Ranieri's Leicester prevailed thanks to Slimani's 25th-minute header to make it two wins from two in Group G.

Slimani earned the nickname 'The Dragon Slayer' for his scoring feats against Porto with former club Sporting Lisbon and he has now scored seven goals in seven career appearances against The Dragons. Eight years to the day previously at the King Power Stadium, Leicester had beaten Hartlepool United 1-0 in an English third-tier game. Eight years on, they are the champions of England and having won 3-0 at Club Brugge in their opening group fixture, their fans will already be dreaming of a place in the last 16.

The European campaign is proving a welcome tonic for Leicester, whose faltering league title defence has seen them beaten three times

already. Two-time European champions Porto, meanwhile, have now played 17 games on English soil without winning, losing and failing to score on their last five visits.

Porto right-back Miguel Layun made an enterprising start to the game, working fit-again Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel with a curling shot and then whipping a low cross across goal. But Layun's defensive colleagues were quickly made to look uncomfortable by Leicester's muscular strike pairing of Slimani and Jamie Vardy. Brazilian centre-back Felipe was particularly discomfited, almost heading Christian Fuchs' long throw into his own net and then being booked for blocking Vardy's run.

The crowd sensed blood and in the 25th minute the breakthrough arrived courtesy of 28 million pounds (\$36.3 million, 32.3 million euros) record signing Slimani.

Marc Albrighton switched play with a glorious crossfield pass, Riyad Mahrez shaped an inviting cross to the back post and Slimani out-muscled Felipe to plant a diving header past Iker

Casillas. It was the Algeria international's third goal in four appearances for Leicester and the sixth goal he had scored past Casillas in 2016 alone. Layun flicked the side-netting at the other end with a free-kick, but half-time arrived without Porto having seriously threatened. Mahrez threatened to extend Leicester's lead shortly before the hour with a zipping low drive that Casillas had to turn around his left-hand post. Nuno Espirito Santo made a double change moments later, sending on Hector Herrera and Diogo Jota for Andre Andre and Adrian Lopez, and the entrants enlivened the visitors' attacking efforts.

Both players tested Schmeichel shortly after entering the fray, Jota with a deflected shot and Herrera with an ambitious long-range strike that the diving Dane turned behind for a corner.

There was one big scare when Schmeichel came to punch a cross and missed, but substitute Jesus Corona's volley flicked off Albrighton, struck the right-hand post and rebounded to safety. — AFP



SEVILLA: Sevilla's Argentinian forward Luciano Vietto (R) jumps over Lyon's Portuguese goalkeeper Anthony Lopes (down) and beside Lyon's defender Yanga-Mbiwa during the UEFA Champions League Group H football match Sevilla FC vs Olympique Lyonnais at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Sevilla yesterday. — AFP

YEDDER WINNER EDGES SEVILLA PAST LYON

SEVILLE: Sevilla took a big step towards reaching the knockout stage of the Champions League for the first time in six years as Wissam Ben Yedder's header ensured a 1-0 win over Lyon yesterday. Ben Yedder was left with the simple task of heading into an empty net from Luciano Vietto's knockdown early in the second-half, but Vietto had a night to forget in front of goal as he skied a penalty over the bar 20 minutes from time. Lyon hit the woodwork either side of half-time through Nabil Fekir and Corentin Tolisso, but were over-run in the second period as Sevilla held on for a deserved win.

Victory takes Jorge Sampaoli's men level with Juventus at the top of Group H on four points after the Italian champions were 4-0 victors at Dinamo Zagreb. Lyon slip to third a point further back.

Sampaoli made seven changes to the side that started Saturday's 3-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao with a host of first team regulars recalled. However, it was the visitors who threatened most early on. Fekir was forced into a more advanced role in his Champions League debut in the absence of star striker Alexandre Lacazette and was desperately unlucky when his fierce shot from outside the area came back off the bar. Sevilla have now won 15 of their last 17 European ties at home and finally worked their way into the game midway through the half when Anthony Lopes rushed from

his goal to block Vietto's effort when clean through on goal. Ben Yedder then had a goal ruled out for offside against Samir Nasri in the build-up.

However, the Europa League holders had goalkeeper Sergio Rico to thank for being level at the break as his outstretched foot turned Maxwell Cornet's low effort to safety.

Sevilla were greeted by a few timid boos as they left the field at half-time, but came out transformed at the start of the second-half. Nasri had already seen a fierce effort saved by Lopes by the time Ben Yedder followed up Vietto's intelligent header back across goal to nod the hosts into a 53rd minute lead.

Rico came to his side's rescue again two minutes later with a brilliant save from Tolisso after an excellent through ball from Fekir. Vietto had two golden chances to put the game beyond Lyon, but failed to take either as again he couldn't get the better of Lopes in a one-on-one. And when Nasri was chopped down by Jordy Gaspar inside the area, the on-loan Atletico Madrid striker chipped the ball well over the bar from the penalty spot. Tolisso fired another warning when his long-ranger effort was tipped onto the bar by Rico. Vietto's luck was out again 13 minutes from time when Jeremy Morel's brilliant goal line clearance denied the Argentina after he finally beat Lopes. — AFP

PJANIC, HIGUAIN HELP JUVENTUS EASE TO 4-0 WIN OVER DINAMO

ZAGREB: Juventus' big summer signings proved their worth as Miralem Pjanic and Gonzalo Higuain helped the Italian side to a 4-0 win at Dinamo Zagreb in the Champions League yesterday.

Pjanic scored one and set up another to put Juventus firmly in charge at half-time. Paulo Dybala and Dani Alves sealed matters after the break. Juventus moved top of Group H, level on points with Sevilla after the Spanish side beat Lyon 1-0. Dinamo, which lost 3-0 at Lyon in the first round of fixtures, remained bottom. Massimiliano Allegri's side knew it needed a win after drawing 0-0 at home to Sevilla in its opening match in Europe's elite club competition.

Juventus dominated from the start and broke the deadlock in the 26th minute. Two Dinamo defenders got in each other's way and, as

Leonardo Sigali attempted to head Leonardo Bonucci's ball back to his goalkeeper, Pjanic nipped in behind them and slotted into the bottom right corner.

Dinamo almost leveled immediately with its best chance of the match but Gordon Schildenfeld headed Domagoj Antolic's free kick onto the crossbar with Gianluigi Buffon beaten.

Pjanic, who had been signed for 32 million euros from Roma in the offseason, helped Juventus double its lead in the 31st with a stunning pass for Higuain to chest down and volley into the bottom far corner.

Higuain transferred from rival Napoli for 90 million euros (\$99 million) after scoring 36 goals last campaign to break a 66-year-old Serie A record. Dinamo was offering little resistance and Dybala extended Juve's lead with a stunning

strike, sending the ball swerving into the top near corner from more than 30 yards (meters).

Dani Alves, who was also signed in the offseason, had done little of note all match but he got on the scoresheet five minutes from time with a deflected free kick.

Dinamo goalkeeper Adrian Semper was wrongfooted by the deflection and although the 18-year-old managed to get a hand to the ball, he couldn't keep it out. The only moment for Dinamo fans to cheer was when former player Marko Pjaca, who scored 12 goals for the Croatian side last season, came on as a substitute in the 68th minute for Juventus.

Pjaca, who is yet to score for Juventus, also helped Dinamo reach the group stage with two goals in a preliminary round match against FK Vardar. —AP



ZAGREB: Zagreb's goalkeeper Adrian Semper, left, saves the ball during the Champions League Group H soccer match between Dinamo Zagreb and Juventus, at Maksimir stadium in Zagreb, Croatia, yesterday. — AP

Sports

Emotion, tears
as Marlins pay
tribute to Fernandez



Asian congress
scrapped after
FIFA protest vote



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DORTMUND: Dortmund's Raphael Guerreiro, left, and Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal challenge for the ball during the Champions League group F soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid in Dortmund, Germany, yesterday. — AP

SCHUERRLE STRIKES LATE AS DORTMUND DENY REAL

DORTMUND: Andre Schuerrle rescued Borussia Dortmund yesterday with an 87th-minute equaliser to seal a 2-2 draw with Real Madrid and deny the Spaniards a rare Champions League win in Germany.

Real were minutes from a first win in Dortmund in six attempts, and the result means the Spanish giants have won only four times in 30 away games against German clubs.

Madrid took the lead when Cristiano Ronaldo netted his 95th Champions League goal early on. Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was credited with the equaliser just before the break after a deflection off Raphael Varane.

But the French international enjoyed second-half redemption when he stabbed home on 68 minutes before Dortmund levelled in the dying stages.

Ronaldo had been left fuming after being substituted by Real coach Zinedine Zidane for the final 20 minutes of Saturday's 2-2 draw at Las Palmas in La Liga.

And the superstar chose to celebrate his goal at Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park with his Portugal team-mates Fabio Coentrao and Pepe, who were on the Real bench, with Zidane in the background.

Dortmund dominated the opening quarter of an hour before Ronaldo's opener and both goalkeepers were tested in the first five min-

utes. Matthias Ginter gave away a free-kick just outside the area and Ronaldo's powerful shot was blocked by Dortmund shot-stopper Roman Burki. At the other end, Gonzalo Castro's well-struck shot tested Costa Rica goalkeeper Keylor Navas, who was making his first appearance of the season after injury.

Ronaldo was lucky that the referee failed to spot his clear handball from an Aubameyang free-kick shortly after, and teenage French winger Ousmane Dembele then fired over.

But Real took the lead when Ronaldo finished off a sweeping move. Luka Modric and Karim Benzema combined to get the ball out of their own half.

When the ball was played into the

Dortmund area, James Rodriguez fed Gareth Bale who played the ball back between his legs for Ronaldo to sweep his shot home on 17 minutes.

At the other end, Aubameyang clipped the bar and was pulled up for offside on 29 minutes before a bullet header from defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos was too close to Navas. But Dortmund kept up the pressure and drew level on 43 minutes when Navas opted to punch out a Raphael Guerreiro free-kick. The ball rebounded into the net off the unfortunate Varane with Aubameyang in close proximity, although the Gabon striker was officially given the goal. The equaliser was lucky, but it was no more than Dortmund

deserved. Just before the half-time whistle, Ronaldo's header hit the back of the Dortmund net, but the flag went up for offside. Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel introduced Schuerrle for Germany's World Cup-winner Mario Goetze on 58 minutes in what proved to be an inspired switch.

Real took the lead a second time when Varane followed in to score after a Benzema attempt had struck the post and the bar. But Dortmund were not done, and when Aubameyang's attempt at an overhead kick distracted Danilo, the ball brushed off his chest and into Schuerrle's path as the Germany winger fired home the equaliser. — AFP

ENGLAND BOSS SACKED AFTER NEWSPAPER STING

LONDON: Sam Allardyce was sacked as England manager yesterday having behaved "inappropriately" when seeking a lucrative sideline role while talking to undercover reporters, bringing a crushing end to his dream job after one match and 67 days in charge.

The 61-year-old's fall from grace was swift after he was summoned to a meeting with new FA chairman Greg Clarke and chief executive Martin Glenn to discuss overnight revelations from an undercover sting set up by Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Amid a series of injudicious comments, the issue that seems likely to have persuaded Clarke to use his authority was Allardyce's comments about how FA and FIFA rules banning transfers involving third-party ownership could be circumnavigated.

The Telegraph, which says it has hundreds of pages of transcripts from the meeting, said Allardyce was negotiating a deal worth 400,000 pounds (\$520,840.00) to represent a Far East firm seeking advice on the transfer market.

The money would be paid for a series of visits and speeches and, though Allardyce made it clear at the meeting that any arrangement would have to be cleared with the FA and on Tuesday apologised for what he described as an error of judgement, he was forced out of the biggest job in

British football.

"Allardyce's conduct was inappropriate of the England manager," the FA said in a statement. "He accepts he made a significant error of judgement and has apologised. However, due to the serious nature of his actions, the FA and Allardyce have mutually agreed to terminate his contract with immediate effect."

"This is not a decision that was taken lightly but the FA's priority is to protect the wider interests of the game and maintain the highest standards of conduct in football."

"The manager of the England men's senior team is a position which must demonstrate strong leadership and show respect for the integrity of the game at all times."

MANAGERIAL REPUTATION

Allardyce, a former no-nonsense centre half, built his managerial reputation largely by getting the best out of unfashionable or struggling clubs, including Bolton Wanderers, Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers, West Ham United and Sunderland.

He was appointed England manager in July following the departure of Roy Hodgson after this year's poor showing by England at the European Championship and has overseen only the 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Slovakia.

One of the highest-paid managers in the game with a salary of about three million pounds (\$3.9 million) a year, Allardyce was secretly filmed by the Telegraph discussing England's failings with a group he had been told were businessmen with interests in Singapore and Hong Kong.

During his meetings with the newspaper's undercover reporters, Allardyce also criticised his predecessor Hodgson's speech impediment, referring to him as "Woy" and saying he "hasn't got the personality" for public speaking.

He also made a rambling attack on the UK's tax authorities, calling them "the most corrupt business in Britain".

"We've concluded, and Sam's agreed, that his behaviour has been inappropriate," the FA's Glenn said. "(It's) not what's expected of an England manager, discussing a range of issues from potential contraventions of FA rules to personal comments that frankly don't work when you're the manager of England."

"Sam is absolutely distraught, he recognises that he made a terrible error of judgement and I think he recognises as well that whilst it's a tough decision that the FA are taking, he can see that at least we have a point."

Seventeen years after Glenn Hoddle was sacked for making comments about the disabled, Allardyce leaves with the tag of being his coun-



This file photo taken on August 29, 2016 shows England football manager Sam Allardyce as he takes part in a press conference at St George's Park, near Burton-on-Trent, central England. Allardyce's reign as England manager came to a humiliating end yesterday, as he departed after just 67 days in charge following his controversial comments in a newspaper sting. — AFP

try's shortest-serving manager.

There seemed little sympathy for him among those giving early reaction to the news. "I'm angry, I'm sad, I'm staggered at the misjudgement from a guy who admitted this was his dream job," former England striker Alan Shearer told the BBC. "It's incredible and a catastrophic misjudgement by Sam and his advisors."

"I'm angry at the whole situation, I didn't

think England could stoop any lower from what happened in the summer at the Euros. Now here we are, a laughing stock of world football."

Gareth Southgate, the early favourite for the job, will take charge of the next four matches against Malta, Slovenia, Scotland and Spain while the FA searches for a new manager, with Steve Bruce, Alan Pardew and Eddie Howe also in the running. — Reuters



ACICO launches new 'smart parking system' in Kuwait



KUWAIT: Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman of Gulf Bank during his interview session.

GULF BANK AFFIRMS SUCCESS OF 8TH EUROMONEY CONFERENCE

SOLUTIONS TO KUWAIT'S CHALLENGES LIE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRIVATIZATION: ALGHANIM

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank successfully concluded its lead sponsorship of the 8th Euromoney conference in Kuwait, which took place yesterday at the JW Marriott Hotel in Kuwait. The theme of this year's conference was 'Meeting the Challenge of Financial Innovation and Reform' and it addressed the challenges and opportunities facing the Kuwaiti economy in an era of global uncertainties.

The opening session included keynote addresses from the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance - Dr Khalifa Musaed Hamada; Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel; Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Sheikh Meshal Jaber Al-Sabah, and Head of Markets Sector at the Capital Markets Authority, Muthanna Al-Saleh.

Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman of Gulf Bank and CEO Alghanim Industries, participated in the morning's first interview session where he offered solutions to the challenges facing Kuwait. Alghanim stressed that Kuwait is unlike any other country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); it was a leader in the region long before the discovery of oil. Kuwait's rich history of trading and entrepreneurship are unique and provide an important framework to address the issues that are currently facing the country and the region. Alghanim said: "We are all entrepreneurs, it is in our roots, and we had a production economy and must return to that, we need to

reawaken what is already in our DNA."

The two major issues Alghanim cited facing Kuwait and the GCC are: oil and demographics. With regard to oil, he noted that it has been Kuwait's single commodity and highlighted the need to move away from a single commodity market to a more diversified economy, an economy that shifts the focus from consumption to production. As for demographics, he noted the GCC region has the second youngest population in the world, after sub-Saharan Africa. Specifically in Kuwait, more than half of our people are below the age of 25. Alghanim said: "Since the birth of the oil industry, the government has employed the vast majority of our people. Today, the government employs over 85 percent of our people. But it can't continue doing so in a low oil price environment. Who is going to give jobs to Kuwait's young people? The solutions to these problems lie in fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, executing infrastructure projects, and implementing privatization."

With regard to entrepreneurship, he said: "Young people need to be taught the skills the private sector requires such as critical thinking, problem solving, empathy, creativity, and flexibility. It is equally important that we embrace taking calculated and controllable risks because nothing in business can be achieved without taking risk". He further added that companies must create environments where talent and innovation can thrive and where young people can



KUWAIT: Governor of the Central Bank Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel and Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman of Gulf Bank at the bank's stand at the 8th Euromoney conference yesterday.

flourish. He stressed the importance of reaching out to youth. "Through our work with INJAZ we offer educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills to build successful careers for high school and university students. But we must start even earlier, in elementary school."

underway. In order to maintain momentum, we should also allow the focus to be on bite-sized projects, because both the funding and the execution are easier."

As for privatization, Alghanim noted: "Our private sector has had some tremendous success not only locally but also regionally. In Kuwait, we are in an excellent position because our banking system is one of the safest in the world in terms of liquidity and capital adequacy ratios and it stands ready to support privatization efforts."

In conclusion, Alghanim said: "I am optimistic about the future, we have little national debt, wise and able leadership, and a strong banking sector. I am proud that Gulf Bank is playing a major role in this conference. It is an outstanding platform to discuss challenges and opportunities for Kuwait. I would also like to thank the organizers, the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority and all those involved in this conference." The annual Euromoney conference provides Gulf Bank an unparalleled platform to discuss Kuwait's fiscal, monetary and economic diversification strategy. The participation of Kuwait's leading financial professionals, along with the participation of regional and global experts, will provide in-depth insights into digitalization, innovation and the future of Kuwaiti business, finance and governance. There is also a strong underlying theme in the program which aims to explore the role of Kuwait in the international financial system.

SAUDIS, IRAN DASH HOPES FOR OPEC DEAL

ALGIERS: Saudi Arabia and Iran yesterday dashed hopes that OPEC oil producers could clinch an output-limiting deal in Algeria this week as sources said the group and non-member Russia were still trying to bridge differences between the kingdom and Tehran. "This is a consultative meeting ... We will consult with everyone else, we will hear the views, we will hear the secretariat of OPEC and also hear from consumers," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih told reporters. Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said: "It is not the time for decision-making." Referring to the next formal OPEC meeting in Vienna on Nov. 30, he added: "We will try to reach agreement for November." The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will hold informal talks at 1400 GMT on Wednesday. Its members are also meeting non-OPEC producers on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum, which groups producers and consumers.

Oil prices have more than halved from 2014 levels due to oversupply, prompting OPEC producers and rival Russia to seek a market rebalancing that would boost revenues from oil exports and help their crippled budgets. The predominant idea since early 2016 among producers has been to agree to freeze output levels, although market watchers have said such a move would fail to reduce unwanted barrels.

A deal has also been complicated by acute political rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which are fighting several proxy-wars in the Middle East, including in Syria and Yemen. Sources told Reuters last week that Saudi Arabia had offered to reduce its output if Iran agreed to freeze production, a shift in Riyadh's position as the kingdom had previously

refused to discuss output cuts.

WHAT IRAN WANTS

Yesterday, several OPEC delegates said the positions of Saudi Arabia and Iran remained too far apart. Oil prices were down nearly 3 percent. Three OPEC sources said Iran, whose production has stagnated at 3.6 million barrels per day, insisted on having the right to ramp that up to around 4.1-4.2 million bpd, while OPEC Gulf members wanted its output to be frozen below 4 million.

"Don't expect anything unless Iran suddenly changes its mind and agrees to a freeze. But I don't think they will," an OPEC source familiar with discussions said. The Saudi and Iranian economies depend heavily on oil, but Iran is seeing the pressure easing as it emerges from years of sanctions. Riyadh, on the other hand, faces a second year of record budget deficits and is being forced to cut the salaries of government employees.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak met Zanganeh yesterday in what sources said was a new attempt to persuade Tehran to play ball. Several other sources said Algeria and Qatar were also talking to Iran in a bid to rescue a deal. Speaking to Reuters in between meetings on whether a deal was still possible this week, Zanganeh said: "I cannot predict."

BLAME GAME

Iranian oil sources said Tehran wanted OPEC to allow it to produce 12.7 percent of the group's output, equal to what it was extracting before 2012, when the European Union imposed additional sanctions on the country for its nuclear activities. Sanctions were eased in January 2016.

Between 2012 and 2016, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf OPEC members have raised output to compete for market share with higher-cost producers such as the United States. As a result, Iran believes its fair production share in OPEC should be higher than its current output, which it says should rise once Tehran agrees new investments with international oil companies. Saudi output has risen to 10.7 million bpd from 10.2 million in recent months due to local needs for summer cooling.

Gary Ross, a veteran OPEC watcher and founder of U.S.-based think tank PIRA, said Saudi output had risen too steeply in recent months and even if it were cut to pre-summer levels, Iran would see an offer to freeze its own output as unfair. "It is a carefully calculated offer because Saudi Arabia knows it will not be acceptable to Iran ... Saudi Arabia wants to put the blame of OPEC inaction in Algeria on Iran," Ross said. Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB Markets, said: "We cannot see how Iran could possibly accept the Saudi offer. It would be like asking a long-time prisoner who was finally released from prison to go back again."

He said the lack of a deal in Algeria would result in further downside pressure on oil as Saudi Arabia would maintain elevated output levels and Iran would boost supply too.

Falih said he was, nevertheless, optimistic about the oil market although rebalancing was taking longer than expected. He said record global stocks of oil had started to decline: "How fast will it take place, it also depends on the production agreement. If there is a consensus on one in the next few months, Saudi Arabia will be with the consensus view." — Reuters

SAUDI TUMBLES ON AUSTERITY MEASURES

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock index slumped 3.8 percent yesterday after the government said it would cut ministers' salaries by 20 percent and scale back financial bonuses and perks for public sector workers under an austerity drive. The new steps largely appear to formalize spending reductions introduced on an ad hoc basis since last year, and they will not by themselves make a huge difference to the government's deficit. NCB Capital estimated allowances accounted for about a quarter of the government's total salary expenses last year, which were 38 percent of its overall budget.

Nevertheless, the announcement underlined the bleak outlook for Saudi government spending, which is a key driver of consumption, as oil prices stay low. None of the 170 traded Saudi shares rose on Tuesday with roughly 30 percent of them dropping their 10 percent daily limits as trading volume jumped above the three-month average. The index posted its biggest daily percentage drop since January. The retail and insurance sectors were hard hit. Luxury goods retailer Fitaihi slumped 10.0 percent and supermarket operator Al Othaim Markets dropped 4.7 percent. The insurance sub-index retreated 5.9 percent; the sector is chiefly traded by local retail investors.

"Disposable income has been hit - traders can no longer afford to participate in the stock market because they now have to divert this money towards paying bills," said a Jeddah-

based broker. "Moving forward I think there will be far more prudence when it comes to trading the speculative stocks. For the value traders, this may be a good time to hunt for value."

Banking shares, which had rallied on Monday, erased some of those gains with National Commercial Bank, a lender with close ties to the public sector, down 3.5 percent and Aljazira Bank, which does considerable business with stock market participants, shedding 5.4 percent.

UAE, KUWAIT

Dubai's main index pulled back 0.8 percent with 24 stocks declining and eight advancing. Builder Drake & Scull, which has substantial exposure to Saudi business, dropped 1.8 percent and Dubai Parks and Resorts retreated 1.3 percent. Blue chips weighed on Abu Dhabi's index, which fell 0.5 percent. Dana Gas lost 3.6 percent and First Gulf Bank declined 1.3 percent. In Kuwait, banking shares rose after the central bank governor said the banking system was stable, with non-performing loans dropping to 2.4 percent of total loans in 2015 from 2.9 percent in 2014.

Al Ahli Bank rose 1.6 percent and Boubyan Bank added 1.3 percent. The main index edged up 0.1 percent. Meanwhile Cairo's main index fell 0.3 percent in thin trade with losers outnumbering gainers 22 to three. Qalaa Holdings, a private equity company, declined 3.3 percent. — Reuters

TSC LAUNCHES GOLD CARD REWARDS PROGRAM

LOYAL CUSTOMERS TO GET UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Sultan Center announced yesterday the launch of TSC's Gold Card Rewards Program, an addition to the current TSC Rewards Program designed to reward TSC's most loyal customers with a unique shopping experience. Gold Card Members will receive additional reward card benefits that suits their lifestyle and will be provided with access to unrivaled benefits and distinguished rewards selected to reflect their Golden status.

The new launch was announced at a press conference held at the Millennium Hotel yesterday in the presence of TSC's executive and senior management, Gold Card partners as well as local business media representatives.

Commenting on the Gold Card Program, Mohamed Jalloul, Loyalty Card Manager at TSC said: "We are pleased to offer our loyal customers the new Gold Card which is exceptionally unique and offers them an exclusive shopping experience". "As a Gold Card member, customers will be pampered with a range of unparalleled unique services, considerable discounts from a variety of individually chosen partners, monthly draws, priority check-out, first to know and so much more." Jalloul confirmed that selected partners will be added on a monthly basis which would widen the rewards' choices for Gold Card customers.

Unique benefits

Jalloul revealed more details about the new benefits of its Gold Card Rewards Program. Speaking to the Kuwait Times on the sidelines of the conference, he said, "Gold Card members will get better rewards and more targeted services. They also will get free services inside our stores such as free valet parking, fish cleaning, cooking, VIP cashier and price discount on more than five items every month," he said. He said, "There will be an auto draw every month in which the computer will select the gifts automatically. We will give away free TSC gift vouchers." Jalloul added that TSC will choose the top customers who shop worth of minimum KD 100 per month. "The



KUWAIT: Mohammad Jalloul, Loyalty Card Program Manager, The Sultan Center, speaks about the salient features of the Gold Card Reward program.

customers will be automatically selected and contacted," he said. He noted that the Gold Card members will also get cash discounts with TSC partners. "TSC will have ten more new partners, big names in the market and we will announce the names soon," he said.

"Our latest service is the Gold Club wherein we will categorize our customers in different clubs such as cheese lovers or meat lovers and so on. No more mass marketing or sending unwanted items to customers like sending meat offers to pure vegetarians. We have a smart system that will segregate the customers according to their needs when they shop," he added.

Tailor-made

Wassim Makarem, Director of Marketing and E-Commerce at TSC, said: "we have designed the TSC Gold Card program with customers in mind. At TSC, we are committed to constantly indulging customers with a unique shopping experience tailored to meet their

needs, services and satisfaction". Those customers who enter into the Gold Card program will avail unprecedented awards tailor-made exclusively for them.

Makarem said that TSC would ensure that the royal customers would be rewarded more. "Gold members will get extra discounts and have access to VIP services. They can also get a 30 percent discount on cinema tickets and gain extra miles on Kuwait Airways," he said.

Makarem said though the Gold Card was officially launched yesterday, the actual promotion will kick off from October 10 onwards. "We already selected 10,000 customers as Gold Card holders. They will be informed of it and its benefits," he added.

Makarem told the Kuwait Times that TSC would also start its first online store. The online shopping will also be available via an app for the gold members who will have faster delivery than the regular customers. We are also bringing about a lot of changes to our stores which will be completed before the end



KUWAIT: (From left to right): Wassim Makarem, Makram Malaeb and Mohamed Jalloul address a press conference.



KUWAIT: The audience attending the conference.

of this year, he added. Makram Malaeb, Commercial and Operations Director added, "We're in the process of elevating our offering with the best variety and quality of products

in town. In the process, we're launching this program to reward our valuable clients with the highest customer service standards and a host of exclusive valuable benefits."

البنك الأهلي المتحد



ahli united bank

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on Wednesday, 21st September 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is HAMAD ABDULLAH AWWAD AL SAIED.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each:

- MOHAMED ABDULLAH AHMED AL BRAHIM
- MODIEMAD ABDULLAH AL AYYAF
- ALI ABDULLAH HASAN ASKAR
- REEM ABDULWAHEED MOHD AQEEL MOHD ZAMAN
- FAHAD SABER JAMAAN ABDULLAH
- ABDULLAH OBAID MOHAMMAD AL AJMI
- NAWAF THAAR ESHWEE AL SAIEDI
- FATMAH ALI HUSSAIN AMER

- EISA SULIMAN AHMAD AL SHARQAWI
- MOHAMAD ABDULLA MOHAMAD AL FRIEH
- ISRAAA A M AL AWADHI
- ANIS YOUSEF ALAEDDIN
- ALI HUSAIN ABDULLA KAKOULI
- ZAHRAH AHMAD HUSSAIN ABDULRAHEEM
- YACOB YOUSUF ASADULLA AL ASAD
- MONTAHA A.IBRAHIM AL ZUHIR
- MOHD SHAWQI ALTAJER
- LAYLA ABDUL QADER MOHAMED YUSUF
- HUSSAIN KHAIRALLA DADKHUDA SHAMSI
- MAHMOOD KHAMIS MOHAMED AL SAB-BAGH
- NINA AHMED ALI
- A.MAJEED A.GHANI GHANIM AL GHANIM
- HASAN ABDULLA ALSAEGH
- MUSTAFA EBRAHIM ALI AKBAR LARI
- FADHELA HASAN ALI HASAN

The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000. In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

'HARD BREXIT' WORRIES PIN STERLING AT SIX-WEEK LOWS

LONDON: Three months after Britain's vote to leave the European Union, fears in currency markets of a "hard Brexit" that would drive an exodus of banks from London have knocked sterling to within sight of its weakest levels in decades.

It has been a rollercoaster ride for investors and companies worried by or speculating on the value of the pound, which slumped 13 cents on the shock result of the June 23 vote but had recovered around half of that by early this month.

That broadly reflects shifts in expectations of how the economy will deal with the fallout from talks that may deprive Britain of its membership of the single market as the quid pro quo for imposing controls on immigration.

Comments from some of the ministers responsible for steering Brexit have raised expectations of that more disruptive scenario in the last 10 days, knocking sterling back below \$1.30 and to a six-week low of 87 pence per euro on Monday. The pound was pinned around those levels on Tuesday.

"If you take (Prime Minister) Theresa

May at her words, we will go for a hard Brexit and that is clearly a worry," said Neil Mellor, a strategist with Bank of New York Mellon. "It's about the huge amount of activity that the UK would be precluded from doing. Clearing (of euro trades) is one issue and there are a lot of activities that relate to that."

"Given how important the City is to the UK in terms of growth ... it is a negative." Forecasts for the pound after the vote were almost universally bleak. A number of major banks predicted a fall to around \$1.20, levels not seen since the Plaza Accord's move to weaken the dollar in the mid-1980s. But the pound has so far held up better than that, bottoming out in early July at \$1.2798, still a 30-year low but a long way short of many forecasts.

Analysts and traders have argued since about the reasons for the halt. Many point to record-high market positioning against the pound that means there is limited space in the trading books run by banks and speculative investors to bet further against the British currency. Those bets were trimmed in the last month. — Reuters

WTO DRASTICALLY CUTS GLOBAL TRADE FORECAST

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization yesterday downshifted its global trade forecast, warning that anti-globalisation rhetoric and Brexit were pushing trade growth to its slowest pace since the financial crisis.

The warning comes as talks on a landmark free trade deal between the European Union and United States battle stiff opposition and as Britain's EU exit causes jitters. The WTO said that global trade was now estimated to expand by just 1.7 percent this year, compared to its April projection of 2.8 percent. The new figure is also a far cry from a projection a year ago that trade would swell by 3.9 percent this year.

Describing it as "wake-up call", the Geneva-based global trade body said growth had fallen to its slowest pace in around seven years when the global financial crisis hit.

"With expected global GDP (gross domestic product) growth of 2.2 percent in 2016, this year would mark the slowest pace of trade and output growth since the financial crisis of 2009," the trade body said in a statement. Looking ahead, the WTO said several issues, including Brexit's possible impact, had now cast a shadow and it had revised down its 2017 forecast.

Trade is now expected to grow between 1.8-3.1 percent, down from the previously anticipated 3.6 percent, said the WTO, which sets the rules of global commerce. Also clouding the outlook, the WTO said, is "the possibility that growing anti-trade rhetoric will increasingly be reflected in trade policy" as well as financial volatility due to monetary policy changes in developed countries.

"The recent run of weak trade and economic growth suggests the need for a better understanding of changing global economic relationships," it said. It warned that "creeping protectionism", coupled with lacking trade liberalization and perhaps the growing role of the digital economy and e-commerce might help explain the recent declining ratio of trade growth to GDP growth. Last week, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Britain — the world's fifth-biggest economy — was poised to take a major hit next year from its decision to leave the EU. The WTO said that the main impact of the shock vote

in June had been on the value of the pound and noted that it had not sparked an immediate economic downturn. But, it added: "Effects over the longer term remain to be seen. Economic forecasts for the UK in 2017 range from fairly optimistic to quite pessimistic."

'Anti-globalisation sentiment'

The WTO said the downgrade followed a sharper-than-expected decline in merchandise trade volumes in the first quarter, and a smaller-than-expected rebound in the second quarter.

The contraction, it said, was driven especially by slowing economic and trade growth in developing economies like China and Brazil. China's banking sector debt came into the crosshairs earlier this month of the global central bank watchdog, the Bank for International Settlements, fuelling fresh fears about the world's second biggest economy. But, said the WTO, North America, which showed the

strongest import growth of any region between 2014 and 2015, was also hit by deceleration.

"The dramatic slowing of trade growth is serious and should serve as a wake-up call," WTO director general Robert Azevedo warned in the statement. "It is particularly concerning in the context of growing anti-globalisation sentiment," he added, cautioning against this translating into "misguided policies".

Azevedo also highlighted the negative impact of inequality. "While the benefits of trade are clear, it is also clear that they need to be shared more widely," he insisted. "We should seek to build a more inclusive trading system that goes further to support poorer countries to take part and benefit, as well as entrepreneurs, small companies, and marginalised groups in all economies," he said. "This is a moment to heed the lessons of history and re-commit to openness in trade, which can help to spur economic growth," Azevedo said. — AFP



GENEVA: European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom (left) and Brazilian Roberto Azevedo (right), Director General of the World Trade Organization, WTO, pose for photos after a bilateral meeting during the WTO Public Forum "Inclusive Trade" at the headquarters of the WTO in Geneva yesterday.—AP

CLOUDS GATHER OVER TURKEY ECONOMY AFTER DOWNGRADE

ISTANBUL: Turkey has snarled with anger over a downgrade of its debt to junk status, but its previously robust economic performance risks being bruised by lower growth, stalled reforms and rule of law concerns after the July 15 coup bid. Strong growth since the ruling party of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to power in 2002 amid the wreckage of financial crisis has been one of the Turkish strongman's political aces. Millions of Turks now enjoy higher incomes and backwaters in the nation's interior have been transformed into thriving manufacturing hubs.

Meanwhile, Turkey has impressed even Erdogan's critics with resilience in the face of global economic troubles, posting growth of 4.0 percent in 2015 and defying predictions of meltdown in the wake of the coup. But downgrade by Moody's on Friday came after a slew of indications the economy was starting to hurt, with July industrial production plummeting and second quarter growth slowing to 3.1 percent from 4.7 in the first. "The growth outlook is weak. Domestic demand seems to have slowed sharply after the

coup attempt, due to a hit to confidence," William Jackson, emerging markets economist at of Capital Economics in London told AFP, projecting growth to be just 2.0 percent in 2017.

'Rule of law concerns'

The move by Moody's to downgrade to Ba1 its assessment of Turkey's capacity to pay back debts brought the rating into junk status, a level deemed speculative due to a higher default risk.

With Standard and Poor's also downgrading Turkey's rating deeper into junk in July, only Fitch, of the world's big three ratings agencies, still assesses Turkish debt at so-called investment grade. The government reacted with pique, with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim saying on Saturday that Moody's was biased and government spokesman Numan Kurtulmus alleging the move was "politically motivated".

Explaining its decision, Moody's pointed to some long-standing troubles in the Turkish economy, in particular the high current account

deficit and external debt which together it said will account for 26 percent of GDP in 2016 and 2017. But Moody's also touched a nerve by suggesting Ankara's response to the failed July 15 coup—which has seen tens of thousands either arrested or dismissed from their jobs—would negatively impact growth. It cited concerns about the "predictability and effectiveness" of government policy and the rule of law.

'Likely to disappoint'

Michael Harris, global head of research at investment bank Renaissance Capital, said it was "very understandable" Ankara was unhappy over the downgrade after it showed fiscal discipline, kept the debt to GDP ratio in check and launched a key pensions reform. But he said markets were looking closely at the rule of law, in particular when the three month post-coup state of emergency comes to an end in October. "Long term, any deterioration in the rule of law has an impact on the willingness to invest," Harris told AFP. — AFP



KUWAIT: ACICO Chief Operations Officer Ahmed Al-Khaled addresses a press conference at the Palms Hotel in Salwa. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



ACICO LAUNCHES NEW 'SMART PARKING SYSTEM' IN KUWAIT



KUWAIT: ACICO management team poses for a group photo during the event.



Multi-level car parking system to be introduced in Kuwait by ACICO.

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: ACICO Construction has launched its new 'smart parking system' to help resolve a space crunch in many areas of Kuwait. "This is a new product by ACICO. We want to help manage the distressing parking problems in Kuwait. Many areas badly needed this system - from ministries to private companies," Ahmed Al-Khaled, Chief Operation Officers, said at an event at the Palms Hotel in Salwa.

Khaled announced that Kuwait is about to experience the most innovative and advanced parking system that will be installed all across Kuwait. "We are currently constructing an automated parking building. Imagine - a 900-square-meter space can actually accommodate as many as 420 cars," he said. ACICO is committed to implement the smart parking system as per Kuwait's requirements. "We can build automatic parking even for two, five, 10 or as many as 1,000-plus cars. We can customize it depending on our customers' requirements," he added.

ACICO has partnered with an Italian company specialized in the smart parking system. The Italian company will supply all mechanical components and technical support to ACICO. "The agreement is to build more of these types of parking areas in the GCC and not only in Kuwait. We are ready to work with the government and private companies. The project will be handled by ACICO from the day it is installed until it becomes operational. So no worries about the design and technicalities," Khaled assured.

About ACICO

With decades of accumulated knowledge and experience, ACICO Construction has become the leading turnkey building solutions provider in the region. An exhaustive array of state of the art equipment and machinery together with an ever-growing

range of skills, capabilities and technical expertise, have enabled ACICO Construction to deliver diversified and unrivaled integrated building solutions.

The recent introduction of ACICO Construction smart parking systems into our diversified portfolio of products and services is yet another step toward fulfilling our promise of being the turnkey solution provider of choice for both the governmental and private clients. With a corporate strategy focused on quality, efficiency and innovation, we will continue to deliver modern building solutions that promise superior living and working environments and exceed our clients' expectations.

Classified as grade "A" construction company by the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) in the state of Kuwait, ACICO has been at the forefront of the regional engineering and construction market. Since its inception, ACICO has successfully delivered numerous complex construction projects in the GCC. From residential villas and chalets to sophisticated industrial and commercial buildings, ACICO has been creating sustainable solutions and building long-term value for clients and the societies in which it operates.

Our commitment to highest standards of quality and efficiency coupled with our promise of competitive pricing and on time delivery, have enabled us to assume a leading position in the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) market. Holding ourselves to heights ethical values and conforming to world-class standards, we will continue to enhance our capabilities and deliver innovative construction solutions to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve.

With a wide variety of capabilities and technical expertise, we are able to deliver a broad range of construction and EPC solutions serving the civil and infrastructure sectors.

ACICO portfolio encompasses a wide range of services covering:

- * Project Management
- * Construction
- * Conventional systems
- * Load Bearing Watt System (ACICO Building System)
- * Maintenance
- * Civil works
- * Electromechanical
- * Plumbing
- * HVAC
- * Electric

With the ever-increasing congestion of cities and urban areas, integrating smart parking solutions into building systems has become a key challenge in the design and build process of both residential and commercial buildings.

From classic Vertical and Tower car park systems to modern Car Lift with Driver on Board, ACICO Parking Systems offers a wide range of parking solutions that could be customized in accordance to the specific requirements of each project. Partnership with major German, Italian and other European solution providers coupled with a team of highly qualified engineers and technicians enable ACICO to provide superior automated and mechanized parking systems, catering to both residential and commercial sectors.

Through utilizing sophisticated computer systems, ACICO Parking Solutions could be managed remotely to ensure at most service quality and efficiency. Through a team of professionals, ACICO provides the following Services:

- * Analysis and Development of Technical Specifications
- * Architectural, Structural and Mechanical Design
- * Construction and Implementation
- * Management
- * Scheduled Preventive Maintenance
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ZAIN AWARDED BEST 'SERVICE ORIENTATED ARCHITECTURE' IN MEA 2016 FROM ICMG

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, was awarded with the "best Service Orientated Architecture (SOA)" across the Middle East and Africa in 2016 as part of the Architecture Excellence Awards organized by iCMG, a global leader in providing Enterprise Architecture consultancy services.

SOA Layer of all direct customer contact points with the aim of delivering a seamless and high-quality customer experience.

Nabeel Mohammed, Zain Kuwait's Chief Technical Officer, commented: "This award from a leading global organization is a testament of the tremendous efforts exerted by our team to implement management's vision into a fully integrated service architecture for our internal systems."

Mohammed added: "Zain's modern Enterprise Architecture Practice is continuously being expanded to create enduring systems that will not only reflect on the quality of the services we offer our customers, but also facilitate the process of implementing new systems with our strategic partners and B2B services."

Mohammed concluded: "This achievement reflects our innovation and continuous effort to deliver the highest satisfaction levels to our customers. Winning this award is a significant achievement given the intense competition present in the Kuwait mobile market, and we are grateful to the judging panel for recognizing our efforts."

iCMG is a pioneer and leading full service Enterprise & IT Architecture Firm. It's considered a global leader in providing architectural services to a wide variety of clients (over 20 domains) across 42 countries. The complete ecosystems of Enterprise & IT Architecture services include consulting, training & certification, research & advisory. In addition, iCMG is reaching more geography and business domains through online architecture services such as Ask the Architects, Online Training & Webinars. In the last 12 years, iCMG have helped customers to manage complexity and contradictions within enterprise for growth.



The awards ceremony - held this year in Bangalore, India - witnessed the attendance of senior executives, Chief Information Officers, and representatives from leading organizations from all around the world. The annual awards are considered a global benchmark for excellence in IT architecture design and planning.

The award recognizes the company's excellence in executing its integrated vision in Enterprise Architecture domain that unifies the

AL-MAZAYA HOLDING AMONG TOP TEN KUWAITI COMPANIES

CMA LISTS 233 ARAB FIRMS NOTED FOR ROBUST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

KUWAIT: Al-Mazaya Holding has been named among the top 10 in the list of Arab companies that boast the most robust and transparent corporate governance. The list, according to a report released by Kuwait's Capitals Markets Authority (CMA), includes 233 companies, the ranking of which is based on corporate governance metrics that measure their compliance with accountability, transparency and disclosure.

Al-Mazaya Holding came fourth out of the 233 listed companies, 203 of which have ensured their governance transparency and disclosure during the legal grace period.

The enviable position held by Al-Mazaya Holding is attributed to its unwavering commitment to the guiding governance directives issued by different official and state-run authorities. The company takes a sophisticated approach to risk management, internally and externally, and relies on corporate governance principles and criteria that ensure high yields.

The top ranking undoubtedly confirms Al-Mazaya Holding's commitment to corporate governance rules and principles that fall in line with best international practices.

Al-Mazaya Holding's governance regime is considered among the best of its kind thanks to the set of plans the company has developed to ensure business development with integrated and internationally acclaimed frameworks and criteria.

Such globally recognized practices and criteria have set the company as a model to be copied for corporate governance commitment and transparency.



Al-Mazaya Holding consistently seeks the best interests of its Shareholders, and endeavors to develop its business portfolio despite the challenges it faces to maintain its commitment to governance laws. These challenges include high performance levels, and proper business regulation and structuring, creating a favorable investment environment and appropriate regulation of financial returns.

The CMA's report aims to meet the growing need for a successful capital market in the country by ensuring the ideal enactment of all relevant laws, and application of outstanding

practices and criteria. The report also underlines the CMA's pioneering role in leading the efforts made to guarantee the best governance practices and criteria in Kuwait.

The 203 out of 233 companies that submitted their governance reports within the legal grace period represent an 87 percent commitment rate. All companies concerned have been called upon to show full commitment to governance directives in compliance with Law 7 for year 2010 and its executive regulations to secure their own and their shareholders' best interests.



AL-SAYER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF SPECIAL YOKOHAMA SUMMER PROMOTION

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer (MNSS), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding companies held a raffle draw at the Yokohama Center - Canada Dry on 18th Sep 2016 to announce 10 winners of Yokohama special summer promotion. The draw was organized under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce & Industry - for Consumer protection affairs along with Krishna Kumar General Manager Tires, Oil and Paint (TOP) Division MNSS, Inderpal Singh Senior Manager, Tire Sales from Al-Sayer Yokohama and Mohammad Amin Nasimi Senior Manager After-Sales Marketing.

According to Krishna Kumar GM Tires Oil and Paint Division "I thank our customers for their valuable participation to make this promotion a big success. Yokohama promotions always come with excellent benefits, this time the finest Japanese tires powered by leading technology has offered a great chance of winning 10 attractive prizes."

Yokohama special promotion offered a chance to enter a raffle draw to all customers spending KD 20 on Yokohama tires within the period of promotion.

List of the 10 winners of the promotion are as below:

| Prize | English Name |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 Camry GL 2016 - White Color | Nawaf Al Barazi |
| 2 Samsung Galaxy Edge S7 with Headset - Black Color | Abeymathew |
| 3 | Sham Sulaiman Al Zubi |
| 4 | Khaled Khaled Ahmad |
| 5 | Mshari Hamad Al Dabous |
| 6 | Mohamad Thaefer |
| 7 | Talal Ali Awad Al Mutairi |
| 8 | Abdul Aziz |
| 9 | Khaled Abdel Hamid |
| 10 | Mesfer Salem |



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE NEW OFFER ON NISSAN PATROL PLATINUM 2016 MODELS

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the authorized agent of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait has a new offer that has just begun on the Nissan Patrol Platinum 2016 models. The offer will include special prices and a special package that consist of two years' free service or 50,000 kms and one year free comprehensive insurance along with free registration and third party insurance upon the purchase of a Nissan Patrol Platinum 2016 model vehicle.

Customers can avail the offer at both Nissan showrooms in Al-Rai and Al Ahmadi. Nissan Al-Babtain is committed to continu-



ously give its customers the best after-sale services to its customers and keep giving them exceptional offers during the year.



GOLD DOWN AS DOLLAR AND STOCKS GAIN AFTER US DEBATE

LONDON: Gold fell yesterday as the dollar and stocks gained ground on the view that US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton got the better of rival Donald Trump in their first debate.

Markets have tended to see Clinton as the candidate of the status quo, while few are sure what a Trump presidency might mean for US foreign policy, trade and the domestic economy. Gold, which is often seen as an alternative investment in times of geopolitical and financial uncertainty, suffered after the debate as a higher appetite for risk favoured shares, the dollar and the Mexican peso over the precious metal. Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,335.34 an ounce at 1136 GMT, snapping a six-day winning streak. US gold futures eased 0.3 percent to \$1,340.80 an ounce. ETF Securities analyst Martin Arnold said Clinton came out on top during the debate against Trump, which eased investor uncertainty.

"The debate gave financial markets more optimism over the outlook so it put a little bit of pressure on gold, especially because the US dollar has been supported by its outcome," he said. "It takes away some of the uncertainty that has been weighing on investors' minds."

Some market participants said the US presidential race was still a hot issue, with polls giving Clinton only a slight lead over Trump and this could prevent gold from falling too sharply.

"Gold slipped back slightly on the back of that but this story is far from over. Trump showed his true colours (unpleasant) and this will continue to support gold prices if his poll numbers climb," David Govett, head of precious metals at Marex Spectron wrote in a note.

"The current \$1,330-\$1,342 range is still in play and participants will be looking closely at the results of the first US presidential debate for direction," MKS PAMP Group trader Sam Laughlin said in a note. The dollar index, which weighs the greenback against a basket of currencies, was up 0.1 percent at 95.350.

Among other precious metals, silver shed 0.1 percent to \$19.40 an ounce after falling 1.2 percent in the previous session, which was its biggest loss over two weeks. Platinum and palladium were barely changed at \$1,035 an ounce and \$694.85, respectively. — Reuters

KFH: 8,234 WITHDRAWAL TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED ON MOBI BAITAK IN JULY

KUWAIT: The number of withdrawal transactions conducted on the Mobi Baitak ATMs of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) last July was 8,234. This reflects the important role of this service that adds value to the branches, while serves clients at different locations. It is worth noting that KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to offer Mobi Baitak vehicles service.

The satellite-monitored vehicle offers cheque books, change of password, and other regular banking services, such as cash withdrawal and the deposit of cash and cheques, in addition to balance statements in a secure and easy manner.

Moreover, those vehicles serve as indicators at certain locations, in order to determine if KFH needs to open a branch at that location, or install an ATM machine, based on the number of clients using the vehicle at that location. KFH is keen to expand and to communicate with its clients through offering them necessary banking services at any time and place.

Such services are highly applauded by clients, especially those at remote locations, which cements KFH's leadership in offering banking services that meet the requirements of its clients, not to mention its ability to compete in the local market.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.





KUWAIT: Ali Morad Behbehani and German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner.



KUWAIT: Abdullah Ali, Peter Green, Guy Edmunds, Ali Morad Behbehani, German Ambassador to Kuwait, Karlfried Bergner, Abdul Mohsen Behbehani and Paul Peters from Volkswagen Behbehani.

THE NEW TIGUAN IS NOW AVAILABLE IN KUWAIT

THE COMPACT SUV, REDEFINED



KUWAIT: The new 2017 Tiguan now available in Volkswagen - Al-Rai showroom.

KUWAIT: The sporty and powerful new Tiguan - an SUV that redefines the compact SUV class - is now available in Volkswagen Kuwait. The new model was presented in Kuwait for the first time in the Volkswagen showroom in Al Rai on 27 September at a media event attended by the German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner, Ali Morad Behbehani and VIPs.

The new Tiguan is packed with cutting-edge technology and offered in five model configurations - S 1.4L, SE 1.4L, SE 2.0L, SEL 2.0L and Sport 2.0L with 220 HP.

The new model is the first Volkswagen SUV built on the state-of-the-art MQB platform and features new technology, completely unique in the compact class; including Active Info Display, Adaptive Cruise Control and Head-Up Display. Commenting at the launch of the new Tiguan, Abdullah Ali, General Manager of Volkswagen Kuwait said, "The SUV segment represents 65 percent of our volume sales. The introduction of the new Tiguan, with its all-new, authentic SUV styling and innovative technology redefines the compact SUV segment and confidently points the way to the future for Volkswagen in Kuwait."

Andrew Savvas, Brand Director Volkswagen Middle East, said, "The new Tiguan is perfectly thought-out - from its sharp new design to the state-of-the-art tech-

nology. The new model is spacious, flexible and appealing to drivers and their families as an ideal companion for their everyday business and personal lives.

"A smart SUV, with sophisticated design and technology, it is the most affordably innovative compact SUV currently available for Middle East and Levant drivers", he continued.

With passenger comfort and convenience prioritized, the new Tiguan offers optional leather seats with memory function, an additional 145 litres of cargo space and easy open trunk available as an option, in addition to adaptive cruise control, 4MOTION Active Control, front assist and AppConnect.

The numerous technical innovations, combined with its authentic SUV design, make the new Tiguan one of the most attractive SUVs in its segment. Moreover, the new Tiguan offers a wide range of safety features - active bonnet and six airbags as standard, and an additional knee airbag on the driver's side as an option, and forward collision warning and autonomous emergency braking system for adaptive cruise control - underpinning the Tiguan's benchmark as a leader in safety.

Kuwait will get both power and comfort with three new engines - 150 HP, 180 HP and 220 HP with six and seven-speed dual-clutch gearboxes (DSG) respectively.



KUWAIT: Ahood Alenzi, Jamal Al Nejada and Dana Al-Tuwarish.



KUWAIT: Group photo during the launch of the new Tiguan.

CISCO ANNOUNCES INTEGRATED CLOUD-BASED SECURITY SOLUTIONS

KUWAIT: Cisco announced new services and cloud-based security solutions built with Cisco's threat-centric security architecture. With best of breed security solutions uniquely architected to be integrated, automated and simple to use, the Cisco security portfolio provides companies with a more effective approach for securing their digital business models. From the network to the endpoint to the cloud, Cisco's architectural approach detects more threats and helps customers on average reduce their time to detection to less than 13 hours - much faster than the industry standard of 100 days.



Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East.

"Digital business is the most impactful disruption to security in the history of the technology industry. As a result, companies are struggling to manage the security challenges from both large, distributed environments and the active adversaries aggressively targeting these expansive attack surfaces every day. Our customers are finding that they need a more integrated approach to security, and Cisco provides them with a threat-centric security architecture that is much more effective in a digital world," said Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East.

As digital transformation brings more users, devices and applications online, companies are challenged to protect an expanding attack surface. With more space to operate in and greater opportunities to generate a profit, active adversaries are relentlessly targeting businesses, organizations and people. In response, companies are deploying up to 70 disparate security products to address a variety of needs - a practice that is difficult to manage and often leaves businesses more vulnerable.

While potentially increasing capabilities, this conventional, niche-product approach to security can create unmanageable complexity that results in a security effectiveness gap for companies. Through its security architec-

ture, the Cisco security portfolio increases capabilities but also decreases complexity - offering an alternative approach for customers that helps them close the gap and be more secure.

By combining unprecedented network visibility and its breadth of integrated products, Cisco makes it simple for distributed and mobile businesses to deploy effective security where needed from the branch office to headquarters or with the end user wherever they go. Cisco embeds security into the points of connection that users traverse so that the network, access points or endpoints are safe before a user even logs on.

Cisco is releasing the following solutions and services that make effective security simpler for customers:

- **Cisco Umbrella Roaming:** This centralized, cloud-delivered protection is the simplest way to remove off-network blind spots, guarding roaming employees wherever they work. With Umbrella Roaming, now embedded as a module with AnyConnect(r) (Cisco's VPN solution), organizations can add a new layer of off-network protection that blocks connections to malicious sites without needing to deploy another agent.

- **Cisco Umbrella Branch:** This cloud-delivered solution gives businesses more control over guest Wi-Fi use with easy content filtering. With Umbrella

Branch, businesses can simply upgrade Integrated Services Routers (ISR) for simple, fast and comprehensive security at branch locations.

- **Cisco Defense Orchestrator:** This cloud-based management application enables users to easily and effectively manage a large security infrastructure and policies in distributed locations across thousands of devices through a simple cloud-based console. It cuts through complexity to manage security policies across Cisco security products from ASA and ASA firewalls to Cisco Firepower next-generation firewalls and ASA with FirePOWER Services featuring Firepower Threat Defense, and OpenDNS.

- **Cisco Meraki MX Security Appliances with Advanced Malware Protection (AMP) and Threat Grid:** This completely cloud-managed unified threat management (UTM) solution simplifies advanced threat protection for the distributed enterprise, providing branch offices with malware protection that checks files against its cloud database to identify malicious content, blocking the files before users download them.

- **Cisco Stealthwatch Learning Network License:** This component enables the Cisco ISR to act as a security sensor and enforcer for branch threat protection. It allows businesses to detect and track anomalies in network traffic, analyze suspicious network activity, and identify malicious traffic.

Additionally, Cisco Security Services for Digital Transformation enables organizations to build a strong security foundation, which is the key to successful business outcomes. The new service helps organizations examine core security fundamentals that identify their readiness to adopt digital technologies. Expert advisers recommend security strategies and provide tailored solutions based on industry trends and vital business needs to achieve agility, innovation and growth.

USERS' PRIVACY UNDER PROTECTION OF NEW KASPERSKY INTERNET SECURITY - MULTI-DEVICE

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab has presented the new version of its flagship security solution Kaspersky Internet Security - multi-device, which provides users with additional opportunities to manage their Internet protection and to ensure their data safety.

Kaspersky Internet Security - multi-device are security solutions for the whole family; they protect Windows, Mac, and Android users against malware, dangerous sites, online tracking, fraud and money theft. This year Kaspersky Lab products for Windows have integrated several new functions. Now users can protect their data from being intercepted during an unsafe Internet connection with the help of Secure Connection. In addition, they can patch potential "holes" in their device security with Software Updater and Software Cleaner.

"At Kaspersky Lab we believe that IT security is not only about the effectiveness of a security solution. It is also about the user's own cyber savviness. Cyber savvy people behave carefully and watchfully online, and they are also ready to apply the latest technological achievements to protect what is most important for them - whether that's personal information, files, privacy, their devices or peace of mind for their family members. We are striving to offer the user these possibilities with each new version of our solutions", commented Aman M. Manzoor Regional Consumer Sales Director, Middle East, Kaspersky Lab.

Secure connection
Secure Connection allows users to connect to the Internet safely, by encrypting all data sent and received through the network. This is especially important when performing financial operations, authorization on sites, or transferring confidential information, as in these cases traffic interception by a stranger could cause users serious (for example,

financial) losses.

This function is especially useful while traveling, when many people are increasingly connecting to insecure Wi-Fi networks to stay in touch. According to the Kaspersky Lab study, every fifth (18 percent) user has fallen victim to cybercriminals when traveling. This is not surprising considering the fact that - what a coincidence! - one in five (18 percent) travelers does not take any steps to protect them online. Secure Connection is now a necessary protection measure when connecting to a public Wi-Fi.



The Kaspersky Lab protection component, Secure Connection, can be launched from the main window of Kaspersky Internet Security - multi-device. It can also be activated automatically when the device is connected to public Wi-Fi or the user is inputting confidential information online, such as on banking websites, online stores, payment systems, e-mail, social networks, etc.

Within the security product's license, users have 200 MB of encrypted traffic at their daily disposal, and for an additional monthly or annual fee they can get an unlimited volume of traffic.

"Right from times old, the Arab culture and history has valued the right to privacy and the need to protect it. However, the habitual use of the Internet coupled with social

media platforms is creating a new paradox, where the same people who have valued privacy in everyday life, don't place the same importance to protecting it from prying eyes online. Today, it is the responsibility of every member of society to educate themselves, keep themselves informed and stay aware of the changing landscape online. It is the responsibility of the youth to help the older generation understand the threats they are exposed to and how they can better protect themselves. Only when we come together as a society, can the dream of safer com-

munities become a reality", said Nasif Kayed, Cultural Consultant, The Arab Culturalist.

Software updater

One of the common methods of malware penetrating the computer is the use of errors (so-called vulnerabilities) in the programs installed on it. Developers regularly update their products, however not all users regularly update these on their devices. Software Updater can automatically find the applications that need to be updated and, if the user agrees, install the latest versions from vendor sites on their computer. The user can also request the update of an application manually or add any of them to the list of applications that should not be updated (for example, if the older version is required).

MELTING GREENLAND ICE THREATENS TO EXPOSE COLD WAR WASTE

COPENHAGEN: A snow-covered former US army base in Greenland-dubbed "a city under ice"-could leak pollutants into the environment as the climate changes, raising difficult questions over who is responsible for a clean-up. In 1959, US army engineers began constructing a futuristic project in northwestern Greenland that might as well have been lifted from a Cold War spy movie. A network of tunnels under the snow contained everything from research facilities to a hospital, a cinema and a church-all powered by a small, portable nuclear reactor. The pollutants left behind include PCBs used in building supplies, tanks of raw sewage and low-level radioactive coolant used in the nuclear reactor that once stood there.

"When the waste was deposited there nobody thought it would get out again," William Colgan, an assistant professor in the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University in Canada, told AFP. But a study led by Colgan, published in August in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, found that higher temperatures could eventually result in toxic waste from the base being released into the environment. "Neither the US or Denmark has done anything wrong per se, but the world has changed," he said.

Accommodating up to 200 soldiers, "Camp Century" was officially built to provide a laboratory for Arctic research projects, but it was also home to a secret US effort to deploy nuclear missiles. Code-named "Project Iceworm", that part of the operation was never mentioned in the treaty between the US and Denmark, once the colonial master of Greenland, a territory that is now largely self-governing. But the spectacular project-which even included a test railway under the snow-was never fully realized. Three years later scientists found that the glacier was shifting much faster than previously thought, threatening to crush the tunnels, and the base was abandoned in 1967.

Warmer climes

Assuming the site would remain frozen in perpetuity, the US army removed the nuclear reactor but allowed waste-equivalent to the mass of 30 Airbus A320 airplanes-to be entombed under the snow. Half a century later that decision is being questioned as temperatures in the Arctic rise at a higher pace than in the rest of the world. By 2090, the amount of ice melting may no longer be offset by snowfall, meaning the toxic chemicals could start leaking into the environment, the study found. Before then, fissures in the snow could lead to melt water seeping into the crushed tunnels, currently located around 35 meters (115 feet) below the surface.

Since excavating the site would be hugely expensive, Colgan believes a clean-up operation would have to wait until the camp has been uncovered by the melting ice. Greenland Foreign Minister Vittus Qujaukitsoq said the study's findings were "worrying" and that his government was working to ensure that it was established who would be responsible for cleaning up the site. The former government in the capital Nuuk had in 2014 requested a report from Copenhagen on possible contamination from Camp Century without receiving "any assessment of the extent or character of the waste" described in the study, he said in a statement. Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen said in a statement that his government would "now look closer at these aspects together with the relevant expertise... in close dialogue with Greenland." After Colgan's report was published, the US Department of Defense released a statement saying it "recognizes the reality of climate change and the risks it poses. The Department is aware of the report but has not evaluated it." The US would "continue to work with Danish authorities and Greenland home rule authorities to address mutual security concerns," it said.

Placing the blame

The logistics of decontaminating the site may not be the greater challenge, Colgan said, noting that the US and Denmark have previously cleaned up a site where a B-52 bomber carrying four hydrogen bombs crashed in 1968 near the Thule air base, around 240 kilometers (150 miles) from Camp Century. "The environmental hazard is relatively small and far away and there are only a few native towns close by," he said. Establishing which country is responsible for doing it would be trickier, but could help set a precedent for other conflicts arising from climate change, he predicted. "It hasn't really been done before, there's no blueprint. It's not as easy as the engineering aspect of the challenge," he said. Sara Olsvig, a Greenland opposition lawmaker who raised the issue in Nuuk's parliament, admitted that "a lot of things" in the decades-old agreements between Copenhagen and Washington on several different military installations were "unclear."

"There's not so much that Greenland can do in regards to the Danish-US relationship and what they will do concerning the final responsibility," she said. In the end, the two countries would probably take joint responsibility for cleaning up the base, said Kristian Hvidtfelt Nielsen, an associate professor of science history at Aarhus University who has studied the Camp Century project. — AFP



CAMEMBERT, ORNE, France: Cheese maker Nicolas Durand stands next to freshly made camembert cheeses in an haloir of the cheese factory at the Fromagerie Durand in the Normandy's village of Camembert, northwestern France.—AFP photos



CAMEMBERT, ORNE, France: An employee makes camembert cheeses.

'REAL' FRENCH CAMEMBERT PLAYS DAVID TO INDUSTRIAL GOLIATH

'ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IS THROUGH DIRECT DISTRIBUTION'

CAMEMBERT, France: It's a cheese maker's take on David and Goliath. Camembert, the village that gave its name to France's most famous and imitated-cheese, has only one remaining traditional "fromagerie" still making the specialty. And it's holding its own against big industry. As they tend cows and ladle curdled raw milk into low, wooden cylindrical molds, the Durand family and their employees don't look like militants in a Gallic culinary battle against globalization. But they are on the front line in this Normandy locality, population 200, on a picturesque hillside where Camembert was first created during the French Revolution.

Dairy producers "are really in dire straits," said Nicolas Durand, 43, owner of the Heronniere farm in the northwestern French region where Europe's biggest dairy group Lactalis has bought out numerous farms like his. For a small operation, the "only way to survive is through direct distribution," he said. Durand's family acquired the farm in 1961 and has produced Camembert since 1987. Today his seven employees turn 90 percent of the milk from his 90 cows into 700 to 800 cheeses a day, up from 600 in the year 2000. Durand sells the minuscule remainder of his output to Agril, one of France's top agricultural cooperatives and food processors.

French way of life

Dairy production is a hot-button issue in France. Only last month, the agriculture ministry had to step in to mediate between Lactalis and farmers angry over what they say are unsustainably low milk prices. Lactalis today is France's biggest maker of Camembert, mass-producing it for sale in supermarkets at home and abroad under labels like the ubiquitous "President" brand. But ask anyone at a Heronniere farm how a "Durand" differs from a factory-produced Camembert and they will laugh, saying even the question is an "insult". Real Normandy Camembert-a soft-cheese staple on France's



CAMEMBERT, ORNE, France: An employee packs camembert cheeses in an haloir of the cheese factory.

post-dinner cheese plates-finally won the coveted AOP, or Protected Designation of Origin, only 33 years ago. The label ensures that a product's origin and fabrication is within a strict geographical area and adheres to traditional methods and craftsmanship.

Local pride is such that a stone monument in honor of Marie Harel — who invented the creamy cheese in 1791 with, as legend has it, the help of a priest stands in Vimoutiers, the nearby village where she died. Camembert itself has a museum recounting the history of its specialty, a symbol of the "French way of life". Yet half the museum is rented by Lactalis, whose industrial Camemberts tend to be made with pasteurized raw-milk. And since it is not necessarily from Normandy and is ripened quickly, it cannot bear the "AOP Camembert de Normandie" label.

Bloomy white rind

Durand notes that his cheese is not only AOP it is also "fermier", or entirely made on one farm — a mark of distinction in a France struggling to

defend "terroir", an almost untranslatable notion evoking the goodness of a particular patch of countryside. "It's made with milk from our cows and not from a mixture of milk from different farms. That is important for the taste," Durand says. "Durand's flavor stays with you" and it has a stronger, richer scent, said one cheese seller from the Normandy port of Caen.

While an industrial version costs a couple of euros in the supermarket, a Durand Camembert is costlier, fetching 4.40 euros (about \$5) on the farm and 5.60 euros (about \$7) at the Caen merchant's store. But the scene at Durand's farm looks like just like the cheese making portrayed in the ageing black and white celluloid film at the museum. The milk preparation is set in molds to drain for half a day in rooms heated to 32 degrees Celsius (89 Fahrenheit). Because modern sanitary standards require farmers to sterilize the cows' teats-removing both good and bad bacteria-lactic acids must be added to aid coagulation.

The forms are then taken to the "haloires" or drying rooms, and kept at between 12 and 17 degrees Celsius. Salt is added as well as penicillin, which helps to form Camembert's characteristic bloomy white rind. This part takes two weeks, after which the cheese is left again to mature properly. While Durand's supply is necessarily limited, demand is strong and the farm is already attracting some 10,000 visitors a year. He is working with partners to develop his marketing strategy and to ramp up tourist interest even more. The cheese maker says he brings in around 2,000 euros (\$2,250) a month, of which he must pay off 500 euros in loans until 2018. He also needs to replace his brother and sister-in-law, who left the farm to open a cheese store at Granville on the Normandy coast last July. Numerous candidates have shown interest, including some from as far away as China and Russia. But Durand says one thing he'll not be doing is selling up, to Lactalis or anyone else. —AFP



COPENHAGEN: This file photo taken on April 6, 2010 shows Danish people searching for jobs at a job center in Copenhagen.—AFP

ENGINEERED BLOOD VESSELS GROW IN LAMBS

PARIS: In a hopeful development for children born with congenital heart defects, scientists said yesterday they had built artificial blood vessels which grew unaided when implanted into lambs, right into adulthood. If repeated in humans, such grafts would spare afflicted children the need for repeated surgeries, an expert team from the University of Minnesota reported in the journal Nature Communications. "This might be the first time we have an 'off-the-shelf' material that doctors can implant in a patient, and it can grow in the body," study co-author

Robert Tranquillo said in a statement. Children born with heart defects often need five or more open-heart operations to replace synthetic blood vessel grafts which cannot grow or regenerate. In the quest for a longer-lasting alternative, Tranquillo and a team grew vessel-like tubes in the lab from a donor sheep's skin cells. After about five weeks, they used special detergents to wash away all the sheep cells, leaving scaffold-like tubes, which were used to replace a part of the pulmonary artery-which carries blood from the heart to the lungs-in

three lambs. The lambs' own cells repopulated the tubes, allowing them to grow and preventing their rejection by the immune system as foreign tissue, said the team. "This is the perfect marriage between tissue engineering and regenerative medicine where tissue is grown in the lab and then... the natural processes of the recipient's body makes it a living tissue again," said Tranquillo. The lambs developed normally into adulthood. The next step would be human clinical trials, hopefully "within the next few years," said the team.—AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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The Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Manvel Badeyan recently celebrated the 25th Armenian Independence Day anniversary. A special reception was held on the occasion and attended by archbishop of the Armenian Church in Kuwait Masyas Zoubyan. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) recently honored the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) for its social contributions to communal activities and humane and charity causes. In this regard, KRCS' chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer visited NBK's headquarters and presented a trophy to board chairman Nasser Musaed Al-Sayer in appreciation for the bank's support to a project to educate the children of poor.



NAFO-KUWAIT CELEBRATES ONAM 2016

National Forum (NAFO-Kuwait) celebrated 'Onam 2016' on 23rd September at the Indian Community School (Senior), Salmiya. The celebrations started at 10.15am with the lighting of lamp by elderly members of NAFO. A meticulously crafted Onapookalam by talented NAFO families set the perfect start for the festivities on Onam day early morning itself.

The cultural events began with a prayer song by Sreela Raviprasad and Sreeranjini Ajay. Vice President of NAFO Sreekumar Pillai by briefly denoting the background and significance of Onam, welcomed the auspicious gathering. NAFO President O N Nandakumar, General Secretary Vijay Krishnan, Advisory Board member B S Pillai, Treasurer Unnikrishna Kaimal and Ladies' Wing co-ordinator Anitha Murali delivered speeches on the occasion. In their messages they highlighted the joyful feelings, memories and traditions of Onam festival and briefed the visions and missions of NAFO's socio-cultural activities.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, delegates of co-organizations, media representatives, NAFO well-wishers and esteemed sponsors. NAFO Life member Dr R Unnikrishnan and his spouse Dr Anitha Prabhakaran who will be leaving Kuwait for good were honored during the event.

They were presented with a memento by the President and General Secretary. Pramod Menon Joint Secretary formally introduced the family by reading a brief profile.

Day's cultural programs commenced with a graceful devotional dance by Anupama Dileep Nambiar and Athira Raviprasad. Panchavadyam concert by Cherthala Sreenath and party was one of the highlights of the whole day celebrations. A magnificent traditional Thiruvathirakkali was performed by members of NAFO Ladies Wing enchantingly choreographed by Preethi Rajeev. This was followed by a Bharathanatyam 'Kavadichinthu' by duo sisters Gayatri Mdu and Anjali Madhu. A semi classical performance by Dr Anitha Unnikrishnan and NAFO Ladies with their allusive gestures and rhythmic steps for the folklore "Aalayal Thara Venam" captivated the whole audience.

The colorful fusion dance performance by Meera Devdutt and senior NAFO girls superfluously showcased the contemporary art of modern age enthralled not only the youth but also the spectators of all age and genre. "Avanipothennal" a theme based dance-drama skit staged by more than 20 kids of NAFO Gurukulam, directed by Subbaraman and Anitha Murali, stolen the heart of audience yields a standing ovation of audience and guests attended.



GUST VP ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ATTENDS IFIP CONFERENCE



Last week, GUST VP Academic Affairs, Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, and the Dean of the College of Business Administration, Professor Antonis Simintiras attended the 15th IFIP WG 6.11 e-Business, e-Services and e-Society (I3E) Conference with the theme 'Social Media: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly'. The conference was held from 13th September to 15th September 2016 at the School of Management - Swansea University, UK.

The conference attracted a large number of submissions and delegates from more than 25 countries across the world attended and presented their papers on topics ranging from digital marketing strategy and adoption of social media to building terrorist brands and finding missing persons through social media. All accepted papers were published by Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) Series.

Dr Salah Al-Sharhan and Professor Antonis

Simintiras served as conference committee members, program co-chairs and co-editors of conference proceedings. Moreover, they submitted an application (bid) to host the 17th IFIP WG6.11 e-Business, e-Services, and e-Society (I3E) conference at GUST in 2018. The application was well received and we remain confident that our application will be successful. GUST was an official sponsor of the best paper awards and key note speakers.

The VP Academic Affairs, Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, presented the best paper awards to the following best paper winners of the 15th IFIP WG6.11 Conference: "Breaking Anonymity of Social Network Accounts" by Hashimoto et al. from Japan; - "Business Intelligence from User Generated Content" by KaranSetiya et al. from the Netherlands; - "Technology Acceptance, Personality, Civic Engagement and Social Capital" by VishnupriyaRaghavan et al from India; - "Sharing Political Contents in Social Media: The Moderating

Effect of Collective Opinion" by Mohammad Hossain et al. from Australia; - "Influences and Benefits of Role Models on Social Media" by Lyndsey Jenkins et al from the UK and Germany; and "Using Facebook to find Missing Persons" by Hattingh and Matthee from South Africa.

The key note speakers were Professor H Raghav Rao (The University of Texas at San Antonio), Professor Ben Light (University of Salford), and Professor Viswanath Venkatesh (University of Arkansas). Professor Rao's keynote was entitled "ICT Mediated Rumor Beliefs and Resulting User Behaviors during a Community Crisis"; Professor Light's keynote was entitled "The Inter of us: Increasing Convergence Amongst Digital and Physical Actors"; and Professor Venkatesh's keynote was entitled "Pursuing the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals: Lessons Learned from a Project in Villages in India".



The Crowne Plaza Hotel's general manager Antoin Flouty recently welcomed the International Women Group's event of Duha Tea party, which is an old Kuwaiti tradition. Flouty also welcomed the committee members including the spouses of ambassadors designated to Kuwait. The committee advisor Narjis Al-Shatti briefed them about the committee's program and activities.

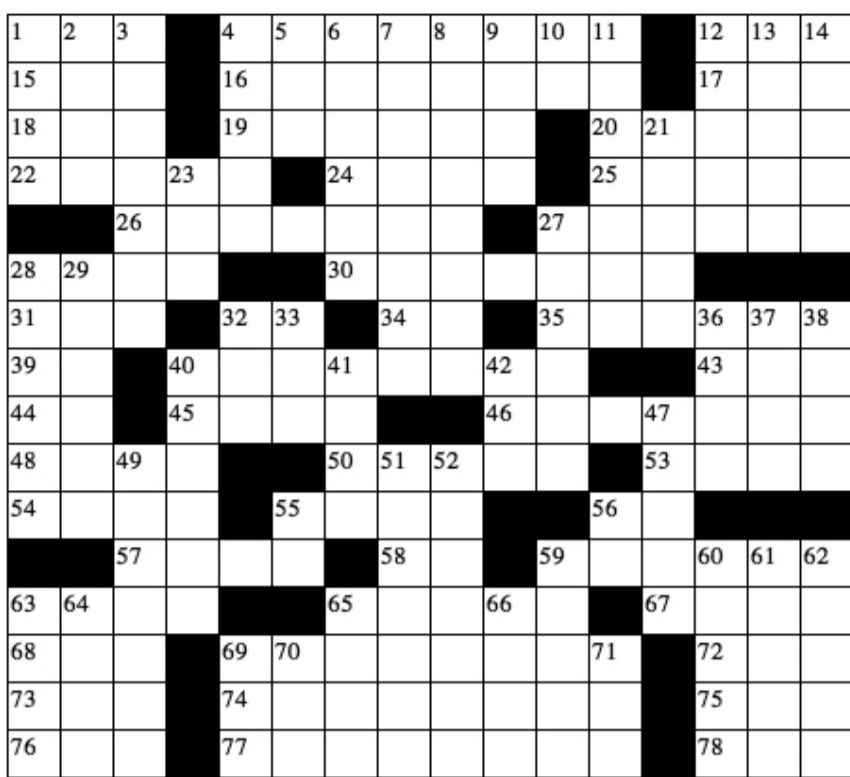
BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES NAMES OF LUCKY WINNERS

Burgan Bank sponsored Marina FM's "Refresh" program which is hosted by Ali Najem where the quarterly winners of Yawmi and Youth accounts were announced on air, and at the same time during the program, the features and benefits of both accounts were communicated. Youth Account offers quarterly draws for customers transferring their Student allowances to the bank where they will be automatically enrolled into the draw. The draw offers 3 prizes, the first prize is a cash prize of KD 1,000 while the second and third prizes are unlimited access to Grand Cinemas for 1 year.

The Yawmi Account offers customers more chances to win higher rewards with its Daily prizes of KD 5,000 and quarterly prizes of KD 125,000. To enter Burgan Bank's Yawmi Quarterly Draws, customers should maintain a minimum amount of KD500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. For further information, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or call 1804080, or visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.



CROSSWORD 1384



ACROSS

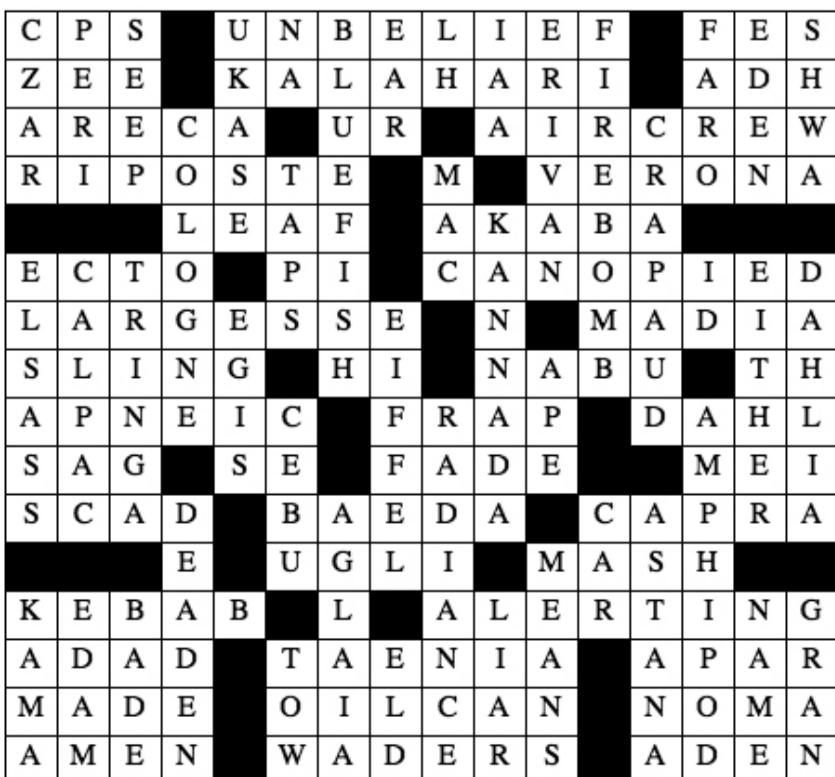
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Generalized edema with accumulation of serum in subcutaneous connective tissue.
- (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.
- Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
- The state of being unclothed and exposed (especially of a part of the body).
- The universal time coordinated when an event is received on Earth.
- A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- One of several residents of a dwelling (especially someone confined to a prison or hospital).
- Slanderous defamation.
- Strike with disgust or revulsion.
- Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
- West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
- The trait of lacking restraint or control.
- A Loloish language.
- A loss of will power.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- A state in the Rocky Mountains.
- A member of the Pawnee nation formerly living in Nebraska and Kansas but now largely in Oklahoma.
- A note appended to a letter after the signature.
- (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- A genus of echinoderms of the family Antedonidae.
- Fabric dyed with splotches of green and brown and black and tan.
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- Offering fun and gaiety.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- (Old Testament) Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve born after the Fall of Man.
- Being one more than fifty.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- A demon who swallows the sun causing eclipses.
- A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
- A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
- A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
- Order of mammals having few or no teeth including.
- (informal) Of the highest quality.
- A master's degree in fine arts.
- A skilled worker who is employed to restore or refinish buildings or antique furniture.
- Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.

DOWN

- Largest known toad species.
- (British) Colloquial terms for an umbrella.

- A member of a North American Plains people (now living in Oklahoma and Wyoming).
- A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
- (British) Your grandmother.
- A large fleet.
- American gurnard.
- (physics) The point of maximum displacement in a periodic system.
- Tall woody perennial grasses with hollow slender stems especially of the genera Arundo and Phragmites.
- A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
- An ancient kingdom in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq.
- Any of several large deciduous trees with rounded spreading crowns and smooth gray bark and small sweet edible triangular nuts enclosed in burs.
- A support that steadies or strengthens something else.
- A violin made by Antonio Stradivari or a member of his family.
- Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A town in northern Michigan on an arm of Lake Huron.
- The quarter of many North African cities in which the citadel is located.
- Having undesirable or negative qualities.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- A quantity of no importance.
- An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
- An enclosed space.
- Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
- Tropical American feather palm having a swollen spiny trunk and edible nuts.
- An often persistent bodily disorder or disease.
- Evergreen tree of West Indies and Central America having edible purple fruit star-shaped in cross section and dark green leaves with golden silky undersides.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- Related to the mother's side.
- The capital of Morocco.
- A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or moss capsule.
- Swiss mathematician (1707-1783).
- Young of domestic cattle.
- (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
- A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could find that you will have a lot of eagerness to pour into a work project today. You may appear commanding and assertive. Whatever the mood, this is the time to push ahead but listen very carefully to your responses to others so that you do not damage a relationship between co-workers. Breakthrough in your career could open up during this time, making it possible for you to solve problems and reach new levels of accomplishment. Improved solutions, insights and approaches to problems make opportunities for you to turn to your advantage. This evening you will be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life. Perhaps a sunset, a child or an animal makes you smile this evening. Enjoy the simple things in life.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An anonymous writer once wrote that if we do not take care of our bodies, we would have a problem finding a place to live. This is your attitude now as you strive to maintain good health. Exercise is important. Have fun with it-you will encourage others. You could be most persuasive with others and the feeling today lends itself to your particular ideas. This afternoon a shopping expedition shows off your excellent taste. You could be an expert in all matters of art and discrimination. You can always pick out the valuable and worthwhile. You appreciate all that is fine and beautiful. You will charm an older person this evening with your fascinating stories and theories. Later this evening there is a chance to have some special time with a lover.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward with projects in the workplace as well as in your personal life. Magical things happen in your favor today. You have the opportunity to help a new co-worker learn and develop his or her work skills. Something as simple as the hiccups can create havoc in most offices. In your office, however, some wise person comes up with a remedy that saves the afternoon; there is much laughter. You may realize that it is good to have these breaks from time to time and perhaps regular break time can be utilized in ways that cause laughter and chatter and friendliness to occur. You enjoy time with a volunteer group this evening and may wonder where the time has flown.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There is an instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of you. You may have tried a multitude of methods to get your body into the shape you desire. Now, it is time to settle on one method and stick to it. Any method will work for you-the secret to your success is consistency. Give yourself three days of hard work to learn about a routine and each day in the future will become as though it is automatic. You will be on your way to better health and you will be helping others learn as well. This is a very nice day; work and personal goals meet with success. You have a sense of value that may find you lavishing affection on those near you this afternoon. An older family member will appreciate your attention.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are responsible and this deliberate sense of responsibility comes across and is central to your personality and the way you relate to other people, particularly in the workplace. You may enjoy today's work most as you are able to run a finished product through your checkpoint to see if it holds up and can pass the test of perfection. There is not always time for tests. You can be a stickler with details and you are in your element. You will find that higher-ups may come to you for problem-solving help. Keep your own detailed progress notes for employee review. You are personal with friends and relatives as well as patient enough to listen and be understanding. You have a following of friends and there is a sense of support and goodwill from those around you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Things are happening and your career or path depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong now. You are able to use good common sense as it is easy for you to feel the trends and accordingly make all the right moves. There are openings at work and changes in status that are open to you now. This is a time to get ahead by taking action. A progressive mood develops. You help others who have talent and do not know how to better their careers. Politics and community activities can hold your attention later today. You may create an interest among your neighbors to put on some type of charity fair soon. As a reward for everyone's participation, a percentage of the earnings could go to some landscaping that would beautify the area.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You find it easy to work with others today, whether you are in the work force or attending to a project at home. When it comes to business, you have a mind that just cannot help but perform in an efficient manner. Your practical ideas may help you find ways to simplify tasks in hours that others would take days to complete. Your clear-sightedness makes it easy to find good ways to organize. There are plenty of people that you may catch watching you from time to time and what is happening amounts to learning how you do what you do and imitating your skills. You teach others how to find the positive and cope until you can change or adapt to a particular outcome. Rewards are many and may come in unexpected ways. Enjoy!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

What you sign up for today may set up a delay toward your goals. Think long term and then perhaps you can look at your choices with different insight. You are moving in the direction of your dreams and if you want to secure the direction in which you are advancing, it would be good not to become sidetracked. A sense of belonging to something bigger than just a personal desire becomes a focus in your life. You know that success is available as you remain focused. You have a real need to care and protect others and this afternoon you will be asked to help out in a family situation. You enjoy change but because your work demands focus you will change things in your personal life, maybe a fresh coat of paint on one wall or a new picture.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are in a great mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own company. You may feel love for an older person or someone in authority today. This is, however, a good day to make phone appointment follow-ups and brush up on some legal guidelines. You feel good about your place at work and can move in most any direction. Considering the day, this is a productive and potentially satisfying one. You may find yourself working on a new habit you want to take on for yourself. Give yourself three days of paying close attention to what you want to accomplish and you will find the fourth day will become easier and you will be more comfortable with the new habit. Your thoughts tonight are centered on future wishes and goals. You can do anything!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a time when you may become involved with your co-workers more than usual. Perhaps a new job is no longer new and the people around you trust you and enjoy having you as a work friend. You may become most interested in political issues, perhaps to the point of becoming involved as a politician or campaigner. You may be scheduling a speech or arranging your time so that it will easily put you in front of the public. This evening, your attention is on the home front. Redecorating, remodeling or organizing and cleaning may be listed at the top of your priority list. You will also be concentrating on quickly completing whatever projects need to be completed at this time. Winter comes soon and these projects will help you keep utility bills low.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Circumstances may urge you to great effort and hard work at this time. Things are working with rather than against you however, so do not hold back. Talking and listening are the natural gifts we have that help us achieve what we want. If you are in sales, some issue will come up today that will give you the opportunity to persuade others to buy your product. With this gift of gab, by example, you are able to help others excel. If you are teaching, your communication will mean more than any instructions that can be read. Because you do not tire of communicating, your class will achieve high marks over any other class. Reading your instructions or your thoughts does not mean the same as your verbal communication. This talent is important to all.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood this day but the beckoning of a paycheck or new projects gains your attention and your interest. You like to be challenged with projects that stretch the imagination and the capabilities of your wisdom. When your work becomes stressful or tedious and you see the challenges before you, there is a desire to be the one that saves the day or learns about the shortcut or finds something new in the project at hand. Your horoscope for today is a good one as well as a lucky one; something lost is found. Good things happen all day long. This afternoon you have time to dive into a favorite hobby. You may gain the attention of neighbors or family-you can teach this hobby to others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fantasy World 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 29 letters spell the name of a popular fantasy book

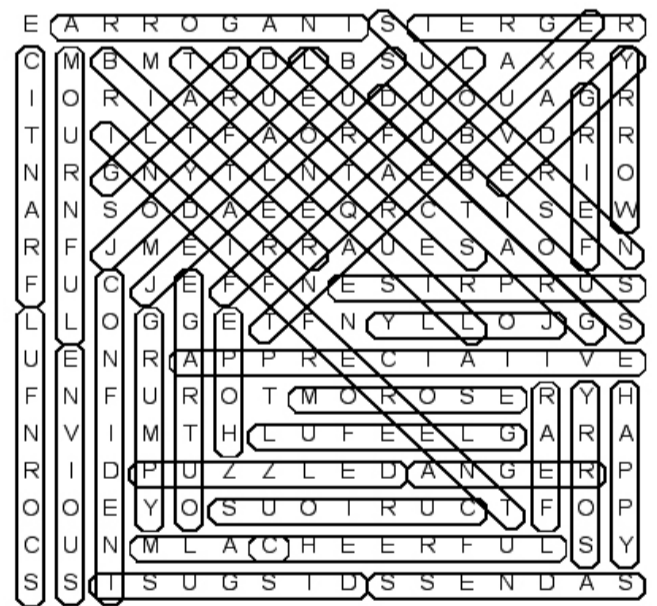


- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| ARCHERS | DWARF | LORDS | SPELL |
| ARMOR | ELF | MAGIC | SWORD |
| ARROWS | EVIL | MARKET | THRONE |
| AXE | FAERIES | MINOTAUR | TROLL |
| BARD | GOBLET | MOUNTAINS | UNICORN |
| BLACKSMITH | GOLD COINS | PALACE | VILLAGE |
| BOW | GOOD | POTION | WAGON |
| COURT | HEADSMAN | PRINCESS | WAND |
| CRYSTAL BALL | KING | SHIELD | WIZARD |
| DRAGON | KNIGHT | SILVER | WRAITH |

Yesterday's Solution

Moods & Emotions 3

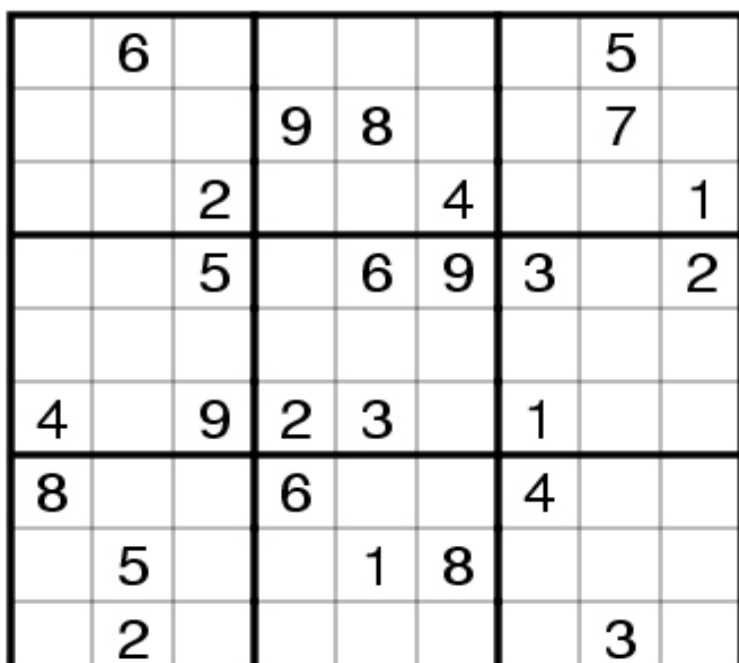
This is the solution to the puzzle located here.



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| ANGER | EDGY | GRUMPY | OUTRAGE |
| APPRECIATIVE | ENVOIUS | HAPPY | PUZZLED |
| ARROGANT | EXUBERANT | HOPE | REGRET |
| BITTER | FEAR | INDIFFERENT | SADNESS |
| CALM | FRANTIC | JEALOUS | SCARED |
| CHEERFUL | FRETFUL | JOLLY | SCORNFUL |
| CONFIDENT | GLAD | JOYFUL | SORRY |
| CURIOUS | GLEEFUL | MOROSE | SURPRISE |
| DISGUST | GRATEFUL | MOURNFUL | TRANQUIL |
| DUBIOUS | GRIEF | NEURVUS | WORRY |

The hidden word is: EMBARRASSMENT

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital | 24812000 |
| Amiri Hospital | 22450005 |
| Maternity Hospital | 24843100 |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700 |
| Chest Hospital | 24849400 |
| Farwaniya Hospital | 24892010 |
| Adan Hospital | 23940620 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 24840300 |
| Al-Razi Hospital | 24846000 |
| Physiotherapy Hospital | 24874330/9 |

Clinics

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center | 25716707 |
| Rawda | 22517733 |
| Adaliya | 22517144 |
| Khaldiya | 24848075 |
| Kaifan | 24849807 |
| Shamiya | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem | 22549134 |
| Nuzha | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya | 22515088 |
| Dasmah | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar | 22531908 |
| Shaab | 22518752 |
| Qibla | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla | 22451082 |
| Mirqab | 22456536 |
| Sharq | 22465401 |
| Salmiya | 25746401 |
| Jabriya | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally | 25623444 |
| Bayan | 25388462 |
| Mishref | 25381200 |
| W Hawally | 22630786 |
| Sabah | 24810221 |
| Jahra | 24770319 |
| New Jahra | 24575755 |
| West Jahra | 24772608 |
| South Jahra | 24775066 |
| North Jahra | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya | 24884079 |
| Firdous | 24892674 |
| Omariya | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan | 24710044 |
| Fintas | 23900322 |



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd | 23915883 23715414 23726558 |
| Jahra | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92 | 24575518 24566622 |
| Capital | Ahlam Khalidiya Coop | Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop | 22436184 24833967 |
| Farwaniya | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11 | 24734000 24881201 24726638 |
| Hawally | Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | 25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241 |

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan | 0093 | Lithuania | 00370 |
| Albania | 00355 | Luxembourg | 00352 |
| Algeria | 00213 | Macau | 00853 |
| Andorra | 00376 | Macedonia | 00389 |
| Angola | 00244 | Madagascar | 00261 |
| Anguilla | 001264 | Majorca | 0034 |
| Antiga | 001268 | Malawi | 00265 |
| Argentina | 0054 | Malaysia | 0060 |
| Armenia | 00374 | Maldives | 00960 |
| Australia | 0061 | Mali | 00223 |
| Austria | 0043 | Malta | 00356 |
| Azerbaijan | 00994 | Marshall Islands | 00692 |
| Bahamas | 001242 | Martinique | 00596 |
| Bahrain | 00973 | Mauritania | 00222 |
| Bangladesh | 00880 | Mauritius | 00230 |
| Barbados | 001246 | Mayotte | 00269 |
| Belarus | 00375 | Mexico | 0052 |
| Belgium | 0032 | Micronesia | 00691 |
| Belize | 00501 | Moldova | 00373 |
| Benin | 00229 | Monaco | 00377 |
| Bermuda | 001441 | Mongolia | 00976 |
| Bhutan | 00975 | Montserrat | 001664 |
| Bolivia | 00591 | Morocco | 00212 |
| Bosnia | 00387 | Mozambique | 00258 |
| Botswana | 00267 | Myanmar (Burma) | 0095 |
| Brazil | 0055 | Namibia | 00264 |
| Brunei | 00673 | Nepal | 00977 |
| Bulgaria | 00359 | Netherlands | 0031 |
| Burkina | 00226 | Netherlands Antilles | 00599 |
| Burundi | 00257 | New Caledonia | 00687 |
| Cambodia | 00855 | New Zealand | 0064 |
| Cameroon | 00237 | Nicaragua | 00505 |
| Canada | 001 | Niger | 00227 |
| Cape Verde | 00238 | Nigeria | 00234 |
| Cayman Islands | 001345 | Niue | 00683 |
| Central African | 00236 | Norfolk Island | 00672 |
| Chad | 00235 | N. Ireland (UK) | 0044 |
| Chile | 0056 | North Korea | 00850 |
| China | 0086 | Norway | 0047 |
| Colombia | 0057 | Oman | 00968 |
| Comoros | 00269 | Pakistan | 0092 |
| Congo | 00242 | Palau | 00680 |
| Cook Islands | 00682 | Panama | 00507 |
| Costa Rica | 00506 | Papua New Guinea | 00675 |
| Croatia | 00385 | Paraguay | 00595 |
| Cuba | 0053 | Peru | 0051 |
| Cyprus | 00357 | Philippines | 0063 |
| Cyprus (Northern) | 0090392 | Poland | 0048 |
| Czech Republic | 00420 | Portugal | 00351 |
| Denmark | 0045 | Puerto Rico | 001787 |
| Diego Garcia | 00246 | Qatar | 00974 |
| Djibouti | 00253 | Romania | 0040 |
| Dominica | 001767 | Russian Federation | 007 |
| Dominican Republic | 001809 | Rwanda | 00250 |
| Ecuador | 00593 | Saint Helena | 00290 |
| Egypt | 0020 | Saint Kitts | 001869 |
| El Salvador | 00503 | Saint Lucia | 001758 |
| England (UK) | 0044 | Saint Pierre | 00508 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 00240 | Saint Vincent | 001784 |
| Eritrea | 00291 | Samoa US | 00684 |
| Estonia | 00372 | Samoa West | 00685 |
| Ethiopia | 00251 | San Marino | 00378 |
| Falkland Islands | 00500 | Sao Tome | 00239 |
| Faroe Islands | 00298 | Saudi Arabia | 00966 |
| Fiji | 00679 | Scotland (UK) | 0044 |
| Finland | 00358 | Senegal | 00221 |
| France | 0033 | Seychelles | 00284 |
| French Guiana | 00594 | Sierra Leone | 00232 |
| French Polynesia | 00689 | Singapore | 0065 |
| Gabon | 00241 | Slovakia | 00421 |
| Gambia | 00220 | Slovenia | 00386 |
| Georgia | 00995 | Solomon Islands | 00677 |
| Germany | 0049 | Somalia | 00252 |
| Ghana | 00233 | South Africa | 0027 |
| Gibraltar | 00350 | South Korea | 0082 |
| Greece | 0030 | Spain | 0034 |
| Greenland | 00299 | Sri Lanka | 0094 |
| Grenada | 001473 | Sudan | 00249 |
| Guadeloupe | 00590 | Suriname | 00597 |
| Guam | 001671 | Swaziland | 00268 |
| Guatemala | 00502 | Sweden | 0046 |
| Guinea | 00224 | Switzerland | 0041 |
| Guyana | 00592 | Syria | 00963 |
| Haiti | 00509 | Serbia | 00381 |
| Holland (Netherlands) | 0031 | Taiwan | 00886 |
| Honduras | 00504 | Tanzania | 00255 |
| Hong Kong | 00852 | Thailand | 0066 |
| Hungary | 0036 | Togo | 00228 |
| Ibiza (Spain) | 0034 | Tonga | 00676 |
| Iceland | 00354 | Tokelau | 00690 |
| India | 0091 | Trinidad | 001868 |
| Indian Ocean | 00873 | Tunisia | 00216 |
| Indonesia | 0062 | Turkey | 0090 |
| Iran | 0098 | Tuvalu | 00688 |
| Iraq | 00964 | Uganda | 00256 |
| Ireland | 00353 | Ukraine | 00380 |
| Italy | 0039 | United Arab Emirates | 00976 |
| Ivory Coast | 00225 | United Kingdom | 0044 |
| Jamaica | 001876 | Uruguay | 00598 |
| Japan | 0081 | USA | 001 |
| Jordan | 00962 | Uzbekistan | 00998 |
| Kazakhstan | 007 | Vanuatu | 00678 |
| Kenya | 00254 | Venezuela | 00582 |
| Kiribati | 00686 | Vietnam | 0084 |
| Kuwait | 00965 | Virgin Islands UK | 001284 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 00996 | Virgin Islands US | 001340 |
| Laos | 00856 | Wales (UK) | 0044 |
| Latvia | 00371 | Yemen | 00967 |
| Lebanon | 00961 | Yugoslavia | 00381 |
| Liberia | 00231 | Zambia | 00260 |
| Libya | 00218 | Zimbabwe | 00263 |
| Lesotho | 00266 | | |

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

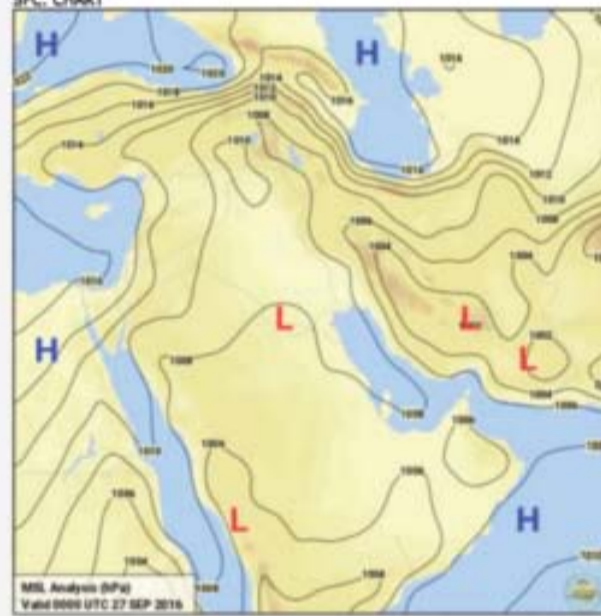
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 27/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 41 °C

By Day : Hot with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h
By Night : Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

| | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Expected Weather | hot | hot + raising dust | hot + raising dust | hot |
| Min Temp °C | 23 | 24 | 27 | 26 |
| Max Temp °C | 41 | 39 | 37 | 37 |
| Wind Direction | north westerly to light variable | north westerly | north westerly | north westerly |
| Wind Speed km/h | 06 - 26 | 20 - 45 | 20 - 45 | 15 - 38 |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

| Station | MIN °C | REC | Max °C | EXP |
|----------------|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| KUWAIT CITY | 30 | | 41 | |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 23 | | 41 | |
| ABDALY | 24 | | 40 | |
| BUBYAN | 25 | | 41 | |
| JAHRA | 26 | | 42 | |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 24 | | 40 | |
| SALMIYAH | 30 | | 39 | |
| AHMADI | 31 | | 37 | |
| JAL ALYAH | 24 | | 41 | |
| QAROH ISLAND | 30 | | 34 | |
| UMH AL-MARADEM | 30 | | 35 | |
| NUWAISIB | 25 | | 39 | |
| WAFRA | 22 | | 41 | |
| MANAGISH | 24 | | 41 | |
| SALHY | 23 | | 41 | |
| MUTRIBA | 23 | | 43 | |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 41 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 26 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 24 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 08 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 36 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 0 mm |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 05:40 |
| Sunset | 17:39 |

Prayer Times

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 04:20 |
| Sunrise | 05:40 |
| Zuhr | 11:39 |
| Asr | 15:05 |
| Sunset | 17:39 |
| Isha | 18:56 |



PRIVATE CLINICS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Ophthalmologists Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223 Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510 Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660 Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478 Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996 Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426 General Practitioners Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem 23926920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea 25333501 Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427 | Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 Gynaecologists & Obstetricians Dr. Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s. Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr. Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3 | Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarouf 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gajare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr. Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisani 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Gastrologists Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135 | Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 Internist, Chest & Heart DR. Mohammed Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123 |
|---|---|---|--|

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Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



Beyoncé performs during the Formation World Tour at Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Saturday, in New Orleans. — AP

Beyoncé, Bieber lead MTV Europe nods

Pop chart-toppers Beyoncé and Justin Bieber yesterday led nominations for the MTV Europe Music Awards, with Danish newcomers Lukas Graham also among top contenders. The Europe Music Awards, which will take place on November 6 in Rotterdam, are held each year in a different location as the entertainment network highlights international acts and fans.

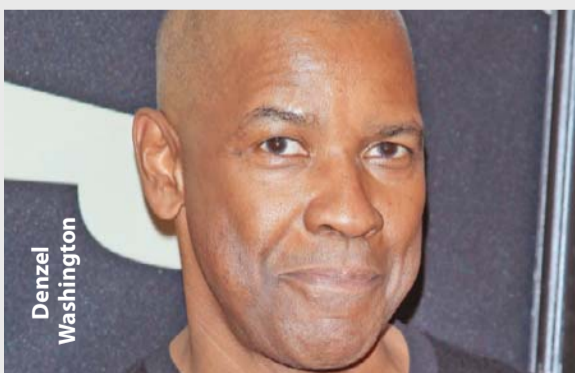
Beyoncé—who dominated MTV's signature Video Music Awards in New York last month amid acclaim for her intertwined "Lemonade" album and film—and Bieber were nominated in five categories each at the Europe Music Awards, or EMAs. With the EMAs also giving out awards by country, Beyoncé was in the running for best US act and Bieber for Canada.

Bieber was nominated for Best Song with his pop hit "Sorry" and Beyoncé was in the running for Best Video for "Formation," her most politically charged work that references the Black Lives Matter movement against police brutality. Lukas Graham—a band that has quickly found a global fan base with socially conscious tracks such as "7 Years" and "Mama Said" about life on the economic fringes—was nominated in four categories, including Best Danish Act.

Adele, the English balladeer whose blockbuster hits include "Hello," was also nominated in four categories alongside British rockers Coldplay and Canadian singer Shawn Mendes. Showing MTV's growing focus on international markets and social media, the network announced the nominations through a medley video in which Leroy Sanchez, a Spanish singer who has won a YouTube following for covers, sings the Best Song nominees. — AFP

Washington and Davis dig deep in first 'Fences' trailer

Paramount Pictures has unveiled the first trailer for Denzel Washington's "Fences," based on August Wilson's 1987 play. The film is set for wide release on Christmas Day following a New York/Los Angeles limited run on Dec 16. The trailer features Washington in the lead role of Pittsburgh garbage collector Troy Maxson that won him a Tony six years ago, launching into the memorable "How come you ain't never liked me?" scene with Jovan Adepo, who stars as Troy's son, Cory. The scene is intercut with flashes from the rest of the story, building as Troy's monologue becomes more impassioned until it explodes with an emotional moment from Viola Davis as Troy's wife, Rose.



Wilson won a Pulitzer Prize for the work in 1987, and the Broadway production went on to win Tonys for best play, best leading actor (James Earl Jones), best featured actress (Mary Alice) and best direction (Lloyd Richards). The 2010 revival won best revival of a play, best leading actor (Washington) and best leading actress (Davis).

Naturally, then, "Fences" comes with an undeniable pedigree. Produced by Scott Rudin, with Stephen McKinley Henderson reprising his Tony-nominated role and Mykelti Williamson back as well, the film is one of a handful Paramount has to work with this Oscar season. It's also one of a number of 2016 films that can help answer two years of #OscarsSoWhite controversy, if voters are so inclined. But Wilson's work stands out in any context, and the first big screen treatment of "Fences" will be an event regardless. — Reuters

Springsteen reveals father's ghost, depression in memoir

When Bruce Springsteen's first marriage fell apart, the rock legend—a multimillionaire about to turn 40—received a surprise offer: his father asked him to move back temporarily into their tiny home. "The old man finally wanted me around the house," Springsteen, who ultimately declined the invitation, writes in his new memoir, "Born to Run." Springsteen's late father Doug—who worked a string of unstable blue-collar jobs, struggled with drinking and mental illness, and only hesitantly late in life acknowledged his failings to his son—looms as a reflection both for the artist's life and for the state of America in "Born to Run," published yesterday.

The "Born in the USA" chronicler of working-class America describes his childhood fear of his father in their poorly heated home in Freehold, New Jersey and also reveals that he has spent years himself in treatment for depression. While sensing that he inherited his father's demons, the 67-year-old rocker also sees broader traits in his dad—"the rigidity and blue-collar narcissism of 'manhood' 1950s-style."

"I haven't been completely fair to my father in my songs, treating him as an archetype of the neglecting, domineering parent," he writes. "Our story is much more complicated. Not in the details of what happened, but in the 'why' of it all." Springsteen describes a loving relationship with his second wife-Patti Scialfa, a singer in his E Street Band—and their three children. But "The Boss"—famed for his marathon, audience-reeving concert—writes that he still needs therapy and occasional medication for depression, with comedowns especially hard after tours.



This file photo taken on July 11, 2016 shows US musician Bruce Springsteen performing with The E Street Band at the AccorHotels Arena in Paris. — AP

Mother as guiding force
Springsteen—who spent seven years writing "Born to Run," named after one of best-known songs, in long hand-infused the 510-page book with his music's same lyrical voice, evocatively weaving together stories of blue-collar America. Yet Springsteen, whose songs are rarely noted for irony, also shows a surprising gift for humor as he recounts his early days as a struggling artist.

His teenage band landed a gig playing at a psychiatric hospital, where he writes that patients sang along "vigorously" to a cover of "We Gotta Get out of This Place" by The Animals.

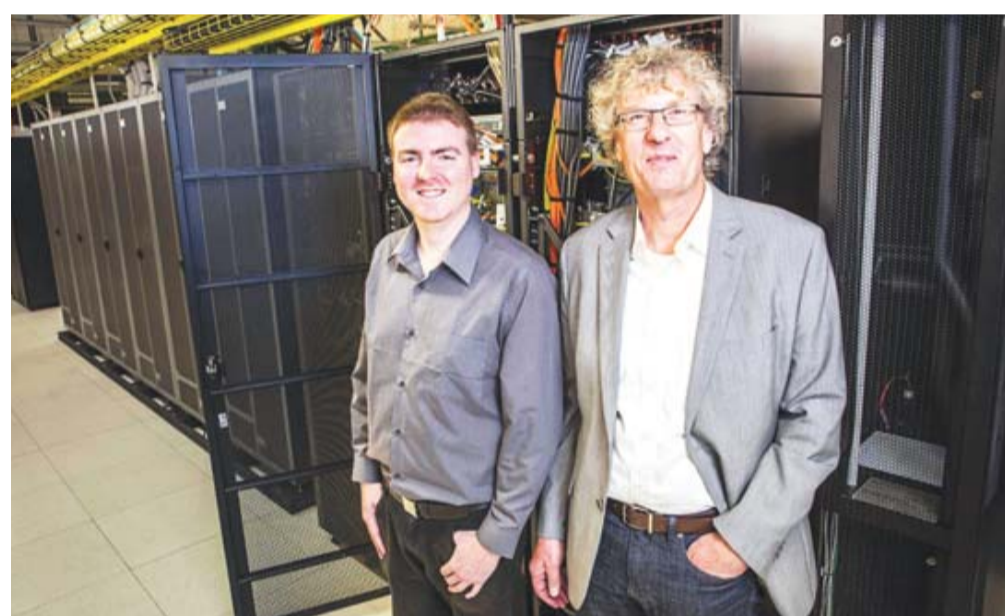
Another early show in 1969 was marred by a television in the bar-patrons were distracted by watching the Apollo 11 Moon landing. And as he first makes his break into the New York-based music industry, he is so broke that he tries to pay the toll to enter through the Lincoln Tunnel from New Jersey by paying pennies—and is nearly prevented after the operator sifts through the 100 coins and finds that one is Canadian. Springsteen's family was so cash-strapped that he says he never ate at a restaurant until his 20s. But his mother Adele, a secretary, managed to save enough to help him buy his first electric guitar.

His mother emerges as the heroine of his book, sacrificing for young Bruce and sticking by her husband, judging that for all his faults he would never abandon the family. Springsteen, whose Dutch surname comes from his father, identifies with his mother's Italian heritage and grew up Roman Catholic, a faith witnessed later in his songs' themes of redemption. His mother at age 90 became an online sensation earlier this year when she danced with her son, even shaking her behind, as he packed another concert at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Gradual political turn

Springsteen did not grow up political. He says that his mother told him only that they voted Democratic as they were working class. In recent years, Springsteen has been increasingly active, campaigning for President Barack Obama and other Democrats and speaking out through his 2001 song "American Skin (41 Shots)," about New York police's fatal shooting of Guinean immigrant Amadou Diallo. But his most political resonant song may still be 1984's "Born in the USA," about a Vietnam War veteran returning home to discomfort. President Ronald Reagan hailed the song as he ran for re-election, a move that Springsteen in his book describes as cynical.

Springsteen writes that the song remains a Rorschach test for listeners to find their meaning—but he has no regrets. "If I'd tried to undercut or change the music, I believe I would've had a record that would've been more easily understood but not as satisfying." — AFP



This handout photo shows University of Canterbury alumni composer Jason Long (left) and professor Jack Copeland (right) in the UNIVER Blue Gene computer area. — AP

Researchers restore first ever computer music recording

New Zealand researchers said yesterday they have restored the first recording of computer-generated music, created in 1951 on a gigantic contraption built by British genius Alan Turing. The aural artefact, which paved the way for everything from synthesizers to modern electronics, opens with a staunchly conservative tune—the British national anthem "God Save the King." Researchers at the University of Canterbury (UC) in Christchurch said it showed Turing—best known as the father of computing who broke the WWII Enigma code—was also a musical innovator. "Alan Turing's pioneering work in the late 1940s on transforming the computer into a musical instrument has been largely overlooked," they said.

The recording was made 65 years ago by a BBC outside-broadcast unit at the Computing Machine Laboratory in Manchester, northern England. The machine, which filled much of the lab's

ground floor, was used to generate three melodies: "God Save the King," "Baa Baa Black Sheep" and Glenn Miller's swing classic "In the Mood." But when UC professor Jack Copeland and composer Jason Long examined the 12-inch (30.5 centimeter) acetate disc containing the music, they found the audio was distorted.

"The frequencies in the recording were not accurate. The recording gave at best only a rough impression of how the computer sounded," they said. They fixed it with electronic detective work, tweaking the speed of the audio, compensating for a "wobble" in the recording and filtering out extraneous noise. "It was a beautiful moment when we first heard the true sound of Turing's computer," Copeland and Long said in a blog post on the British Library website. It features short snippets of the tunes rendered in a slightly grating drone, like electronic bagpipes. There are also a number of

glitches and when the music halts during the Glenn Miller number, a presenter comments: "The machine's obviously not in the mood."

While Turing programmed the first musical notes into a computer, he had little interest in stringing them together into tunes. That work was carried out by a school teacher named Christopher Strachey, who went on to become a renowned computer scientist in his own right. Strachey recalled that Turing's taciturn response upon hearing his machine play music was "good show." Turing was a computer scientist, philosopher and cryptologist who played a crucial role in breaking the Nazi's Enigma Code. As depicted in the Oscar-winning movie "The Imitation Game," he was prosecuted for homosexuality and forced to undergo chemical castration, killing himself in 1954 at the age of 41. He was officially pardoned by Queen Elizabeth II in 2013. — AFP



Spanish actor Javier Bardem poses for a photocall after the screening of his film "Bigas X Bigas" at the 64th San Sebastian Film Festival, in the northern Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian. — AFP

Cruz, Bardem team up again for film about Pablo Escobar

Oscar-winning Spanish actors Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem will begin shooting a movie about Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar next month, the married couple's first film together since 2008. "Escobar," a Spanish-Bulgarian joint project to be filmed in Colombia, will go into production on October 24 with Bardem playing Escobar and Cruz playing his lover, journalist Virginia Vallejo, producers said yesterday in a statement.

"This is not a biopic, not just the story of a tough gangster. This is the story of the man who changed the history of crime in the last decades of the 20th century," the film's producer, Miguel Menendez de Zubillaga, said in the statement. Husband and wife off screen, the last time the two appeared together in a movie was in the 2008 Woody Allen romantic comedy "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Cruz won a supporting-actress Oscar for her role.

Bardem won a supporting-actor Oscar for the 2007 crime thriller "No Country for Old Men." "Escobar" will be directed by Spain's Fernando Leon de Aranoa whose credits include the 2002 film "Mondays in the Sun" also starring Bardem, for which both got Spain's Oscar-equivalent Goya for best director and best actor. Escobar was the boss of one of the world's most powerful criminal organizations and Colombia's most-wanted fugitive. The Colombian farmer's son who became the world's seventh-richest man with his ruthless dominance of the global cocaine trade was hunted for years before police killed him in his hometown of Medellín in 1993. Over the years, thousands of people were killed in violence unleashed by his Medellín cartel. He has recently inspired several films and series including "Narcos," a hit on Netflix which is in its second season. — AFP

Scorsese's 'Silence' lands Oscar-season release date

"Silence," Martin Scorsese's passion project about Jesuit priests in feudal Japan, has snagged an awards-season release date, signaling that Paramount Pictures believes it has an Oscar contender on its hands. The religious epic will debut in limited release on Dec 23, before expanding in January. There are no wide releases scheduled to debut on that date, but "A Monster Calls," a fantasy adventure, will bow in limited release on that date. Moreover, it is a crowded time of year as studios are fielding a number of prestige films and commercial projects, all trying to take advantage of the holidays. The animated musical "Sing," video game adaptation "Assassin's Creed," and "Passengers," a sci-fi romance with Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt, hit theaters two days before "Silence" debuts.

Related Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks Make a Case for Star Power "Silence" boasts a cast that includes Andrew Garfield, Liam Neeson, and Adam Driver, as well as a screenplay by Jay Cocks, Scorsese's collaborator on "Gangs of New York" and "The Age



of Innocence." The film has been in development for over two decades, with the likes of Daniel Day-Lewis, Benicio del Toro, and Gael Garcia Bernal all involved at various points before they left for other projects. Lining up financing for the \$50 million production was a herculean task.

Scorsese has been nominated 12 times for an Oscar, winning best director in 2007 for "The Departed," starring

Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg, and Jack Nicholson. If "Silence" is going to emerge victorious it will have to hold off the likes of "La La Land," a musical with Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling that has drawn raves; "Manchester by the Sea," Kenneth Lonergan's portrait of a family tragedy; and "Fences," Denzel Washington's adaptation of August Wilson's beloved play. — Reuters



Mohammed Al-Haj walks along a shopping center with fashion posters in Saarbruecken, Germany. — AP photos



Mohammed Al-Haj makes coffee in his home.

A Syrian refugee balances life in Germany with chaos at home

'Germany opened its door for me and gave me everything I have'



Mohammed Al-Haj sits beside his classmates during a German lesson at the FIS Language Institute.



Through a window with reflections Mohammed Al-Haj learns German in his home.



Mohammed Al-Haj, 27, left, Mazen Al-Ali, 26, center, and Mohammed Zahlt, 32, right, take selfies in the German-French Garden in Saarbruecken, Germany.

At the intersection, Mohammed Al-Haj waited patiently for the "green man." No cars were coming, no policemen watching. Back home in Syria, he wouldn't hesitate. But here in Germany, it's the law, you only cross when the walk light is green. "I don't want to get into the habit of not waiting for him," said the 27-year-old Mohammed. "I felt from the first day, that this is a country of law and order."

This is one world Mohammed lives in, guided by rules, where he says he knows his rights and his responsibilities. It's a world where he can plan for the future, after arriving a year ago among hundreds of thousands of refugees. But at the same time, Mohammed is living in a second world: The hell of Syria. First thing every morning, he checks

“ Syria is like a nightmare that travels with me wherever I go ”

on the Internet and social media for the latest in the constant stream of grim news. He can't stop, even though he feels helpless, following day by day the destruction of his home city, Aleppo.

"Syria is like a nightmare that travels with me wherever I go," he said. "I could just be sitting here doing nothing and suddenly learn that someone I know has died." The Associated Press followed Mohammed in the summer of 2015 as he made the arduous trek from Turkey to Germany. In August, the AP revisited him in the German city of Saarbruecken. He shares a

Spartan two-bedroom apartment with three other Syrian men. There's little furniture, and none of them have beds. A blackboard hangs on a wall, and one of his housemates has drawn on it a map of Syria topped by the flag of Syria's opposition.

Syrian friends

Mohammed receives a monthly government stipend of 370 euros (\$400), and his rent, utility bills and language school are paid for. He's grateful for it - he says Germany "opened its door for me and gave me everything I have." Still, the money is barely enough. He rarely eats out, sits at a cafe or goes to a movie. He has one pair of jeans and one pair of shoes. He can't visit Syrian friends settled elsewhere in Germany because public transport is too expensive for him.

It's a similar situation for many others. In 2015, at least 477,000 refugees - more than 160,000 of them Syrians - applied for asylum status, and another 310,000 have applied so far this year. Five days a week, Mohammed attends German classes. He often walks the 25-minute route to the language institute to save the tram fare. After four months of studies, he can now converse reasonably well in German. As he spoke to the AP one weekend evening in Saarbruecken, two German men walked by, stark naked. Mohammed was unfazed. There's a group of anarchists in town who sometimes walk around nude, he explained.

There are things he has had to get used to. You don't take off your shoes entering a German's home, like you do in Syria. You don't just drop by unexpectedly. And he never calls a German after 10 pm. It's all a world apart from Syria. The war has scattered Mohammed's family, as it has for many Syrians. One sister lives in the Turkish city of Killis, another in Izmir and a third

in Lebanon. His parents live in Izmir with a brother, and his other brother is stuck in Syria, driving a taxi. Mohammed is the farthest away, unable to reach the rest of his family. All he has are calls.

My heart aches

After every one, he said, "my heart aches." Every few days, Mohammed talks on WhatsApp to his parents in Turkey. In almost every sentence, they say "inshallah" - "God willing" - or "al-hamdullillah" - "thanks be to God." The generic Arabic phrases are a cushion, letting parents and child avoid burdening each other with their hardships, trying to keep each from worrying about the other.

In July, Mohammed learned of the latest of his friends to die. He woke up in the morning, checked Facebook and saw that Tareq al-Bayanooni, a rebel commander, had been killed by an air strike outside Aleppo. It felt, he said, like a stab in the heart.

"But I did not cry. Honestly, I have run out of tears." Al-Bayanooni was the fifth of his childhood friends to be killed, guys he played with in his neighborhood streets as a kid. From his broader friends and acquaintances, he guesses 20 to 25 have died - the ones he knows about, anyway. At the time, it looked like the opposition-held part of Mohammed's home city of Aleppo was on the verge of being crushed. Mohammed kept going back to his telephone to follow the news. His studies suffered. "I was feeling down, I lost my concentration," he said.

Making it even harder, he felt he couldn't call friends or relatives still in Aleppo. "How can I be in the safety of Germany so far away from home and call someone in Aleppo to ask how they are doing?" he said. "I will only get 'Thanks be to God' and nothing else. He gives that answer because he could die five minutes later."



In this photo taken from a balcony people walk along a bridge in Saarbruecken, Germany.

Mohammed's housemates tease him over how closely he follows the war. He understands, they're fed up with war. Mohammed also wants to move on with his German life. He aims to enroll at a German university by the fall of 2017. Plan B is to enroll in a vocational training program as a quicker way of gaining employment. When he gets a job, he will pay taxes - perhaps 30 or 35 percent of his income - and he says that will repay the money he is now getting from the government. For now, his entire future hangs on learning German. If he doesn't pass an exam in October, he'll have to repeat, delaying everything. "Germany needs a great deal of patience," he said. "My journey is long, and without patience I will not complete it." — AP



Mohammed Al-Haj left, visits a doctor in Saarbruecken, Germany.



Mohammed Al-Haj talks with Mazen Al-Ali, center, and Mohammed Zahlt, left, in their home.



Mohammed Al-Haj stands on the bank of the river 'Saar' in Saarbruecken, Germany.

FASHION

What to look out for at Paris fashion week



Paris fashion week started yesterday with dizzying changes at the top of some of the most famous brands. Saint Laurent, Dior and Lanvin all have new artistic directors who will be putting on their first shows in their new roles. With more than 90 runway shows and dozens more presentations behind closed doors over nine days, the spring-summer ready to wear collections promise to be the most scrutinized for some time. Here is our guide to the shows to watch out for:

Saint Laurent after Slimane

How will Anthony Vaccarello face up to the massive challenge of filling Hedi Slimane's Chelsea boots at Saint Laurent is the question on many fashionistas' lips. Slimane, the man credited with reviving skinny jeans, brought the French label a whole new younger generation of fans, drawn by his grungy rock star chic.

Nor is Vaccarello a slouch when it comes to sass. The 36-year-old Belgian has developed a sexy, leggy, asymmetrical style since he first came to fame with a collection inspired by the Hungarian-Italian porn actress turned politician la Ciccolina. And he showed he could do rock with the best of them with his designs for the younger Versus Versace label. Like Slimane, he has a taste for black. And in a sign that he is prepared to sink all his creative energy into Saint Laurent, Vaccarello has put his own brand on hold. All will be revealed at the Saint Laurent show on Tuesday evening.

Jarrar at Lanvin

The popular French haute couture designer Bouchra Jarrar debuted yesterday at the head of Lanvin, the oldest Paris cou-

ture house of them all. The 45-year-old takes over from Alber Elbaz, who was fired in October 2015 after 14 years at the head of the label, in a move that caused dismay at the time.

The label's redoubtable Taiwanese owner businesswoman Shaw-Lan Wang has now turned to Jarrar, and her pure, elegant lines are likely to mark Lanvin's show on Wednesday. Jarrar, whose parents came from Morocco, worked her way up through Balenciaga and Christian Lacroix before launching her own label in 2010.

Dior's Italian job

But perhaps the week's biggest moment will be Italian designer Maria Grazia Chiuri's debut show on Friday at Dior as the first woman ever to lead the house. The 52-year-old helped revive Valentino with her creative partner Pierpaolo Piccioli before leaving him to run the Roman brand alone this summer.

Like the Belgian Raf Simons who she succeeded, hers is a sober, restrained aesthetic with romantic flourishes, very much in contrast to the flamboyant theatrics of John Galliano's time at the helm. Simons has since moved on to the more mass market Calvin Klein.

Leonard's new face

French designer Christine Phung is the other new arrival of the week. The 37-year-old, who has her own prize-winning label, will give her first show for Leonard next Monday. Leonard, which was founded by Daniel Tribouillard in 1958, and is known for its floral prints, has seen a succession of designers in recent years. — AFP



Models present creations for Liselore Frowijn during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show yesterday in Paris. — AP/AFP photos



Models present creations for Paule Ka.



Customer Edward Lam, a 35-year-old technician for a television station, holds up a photograph of himself that shows the natural shape of his eyebrows before he started having them plucked by trained face reader Li Chau-jing.



Picture shows a row of stalls where the public can visit face reading practitioners near the Wong Tai Sin Temple in Hong Kong.

Reshaping the future? Hong Kong's face readers



The reflection of a face reading practitioner in a mirror at a stall near the Wong Tai Sin Temple in Hong Kong.



This picture shows a fortune teller (center) with customers at a stall near the Wong Tai Sin Temple in Hong Kong.



Daisy Tse holds up a photograph of herself that shows the natural shape of her eyebrows before she started having them plucked by trained face reader Li Chau-jing.



Trained face reader Li Chau-jing (right), who makes slight changes to her client's brows to bring them better luck, and an assistant (center) pluck the eyebrows of their customers in Hong Kong.

Want to improve your performance at work, or solve relationship problems? Li Chau-jing has the solution—plucking your eyebrows to help achieve those life goals. A trained face reader, Li has taken the ancient Chinese tradition one step further, making slight changes to her client's brows to bring them better luck. Stalls practicing the face-reading discipline, which dates back more than 2,000 years, are still found in market streets and near temples in modern-day Hong Kong. Practitioners believe they can determine a client's fate by interpreting their features—a strong brow translates to the person's ability to plan ahead, high cheekbones can point to power.

The face can be read like a book, they say, a showcase of a person's wealth, health and family. But Li claims she can help alter the path of destiny with a few flicks of her tweezers. "It's an instant change and you can change it for everyone," she told AFP, describing her clientele as ranging from just a few years old to in their 70s. "I can help a person in the shortest amount of time, by bringing them energy and happiness and the goal they want to reach," Li said. Wearing a long white dress with a ruffled high collar and purple polka-dots, the former make-up artist says she has studied the art of face reading with a mentor.

She has been running her shop in the working class neighborhood of Sham Shui Po for six years and its walls are covered with photos of her clients' eyes and brows. Women tend to come to her to solve emotional or relationship problems, men for better luck at work, she says. Li, who refused to give her age but said she has worked for 43 years, believes straight brows will bring more luck and happiness than curved. "If the brows are very straight, then those people will not have to suffer through many hardships," she says.

Customer Edward Lam, a 35-year-old technician for a television station, said he felt more energetic after having his brows modified. "The biggest goal I have for fixing my eyebrows is to find jobs and to have better networking, and that my career will improve," Lam told AFP. "I believe that the impression I gave was better," he said of job interviews since having his brows worked on by Li.

Traditional Hong Kong face reader Chow Hon-ming says the art is a scientific discipline that ties in with some of the tenets of traditional Chinese medicine. Face reading has been practiced in China for thousands of years but became a popular practice in the 10th century because the social upheaval in the dying days of the Tang Dynasty prompted many to worry more about their fate, Chow said.

"There are turning points in a person's life, and when you can't make a decision at those points, you might want to seek a (face reading) master," Chow said. A face reader starts with the left ear, which tells the story of the first seven years of a person's life. The right ear reflects the next seven years, followed by

the nose, eyes and chin, which are used to predict later life. Different parts of the face also represent different topics.

A jutting chin and a squarish jaw mean a person will have power as they get older, while large exposed nostrils mean they are bad at saving money. "The nose represents wealth, just look at (actor) Jackie Chan's nose, it is very big," says Chow, who also predicted Hillary Clinton to win the US presidential election as her chin is "stronger" than rival Donald Trump's. Chow said tweaking features like eyebrows could give fortunes a short-term boost—but warned against making drastic changes, describing plastic surgery as potentially doing more harm than good.

While some may prefer eyebrow-plucking Li's proactive approach, others are happy to stick to tradition.

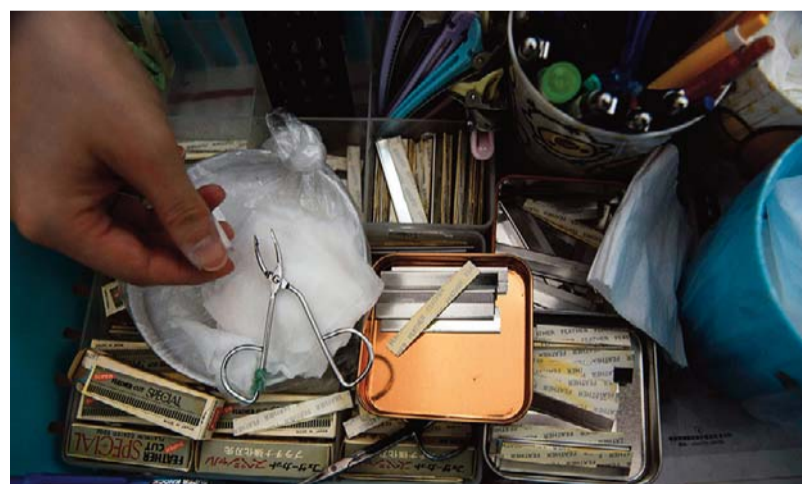
Dozens of packed stalls next to Hong Kong's popular Wong Tai Sin Temple offer face reading to thousands of worshippers and tourists visiting the religious hot-spot. Chinese tourist Fu Xiaohong, 26, says she came here to have her face read in order to deal with a personal matter. "I have some longing in my heart," she said near one stall where diagrams of faces and palms were displayed. Fu said she felt more confident after her session, but that she also took the advice she was given with a grain of salt. "I don't fully believe in it—I just came to try it out." — AFP



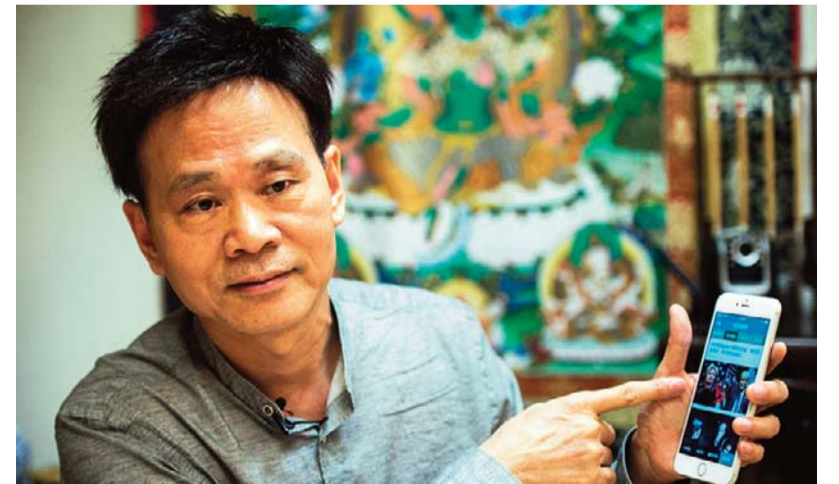
Customer Edward Lam, a 35-year-old technician for a television station, has his eyebrows plucked by trained face reader Li Chau-jing, who makes slight changes to her clients brows to bring them better luck.



A selection of before and after photos are seen as a customer has her eyebrows plucked by trained face reader Li Chau-jing (right), who makes slight changes to her client's brows to bring them better luck, at Li's shop in Hong Kong.



An assistant of trained face reader Li Chau-jing, who makes slight changes to her clients brows to bring them better luck, prepares to pick up a pair of eyebrow pluckers next to a selection of razors and other instruments.



Traditional Hong Kong face reader Chow Hon-ming holds a mobile phone in Hong Kong, displaying images of US presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton (left on phone) and Donald Trump (right on phone) as he predicts Clinton to win the US presidential election as her chin is "stronger" than rival Trump's.

Al Capone letter showing mobster's soft side sells for \$62K

An intimate letter that gangster Al Capone wrote while imprisoned at Alcatraz has sold at auction for \$62,500. Boston-based RR Auction says the winning bid came Monday at an auction in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The buyer was identified only as a collector from the Chicago area who wished

to remain anonymous. Auctioneers had expected the letter to fetch around \$50,000.

The three-page letter was addressed to Capone's son, Albert "Sonny" Capone. The mobster signed it, "Love & Kisses, Your Dear Dad Alphonse Capone #85," which was his number at Alcatraz in San Francisco

Bay. Experts say it shows that the notorious mobster who ruled gangland Chicago during Prohibition had a soft side. — AP



This Jan 19, 1931, file photo shows Chicago mobster Al Capone at a football game. — AP

Lifestyle

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Hong Kong's face readers



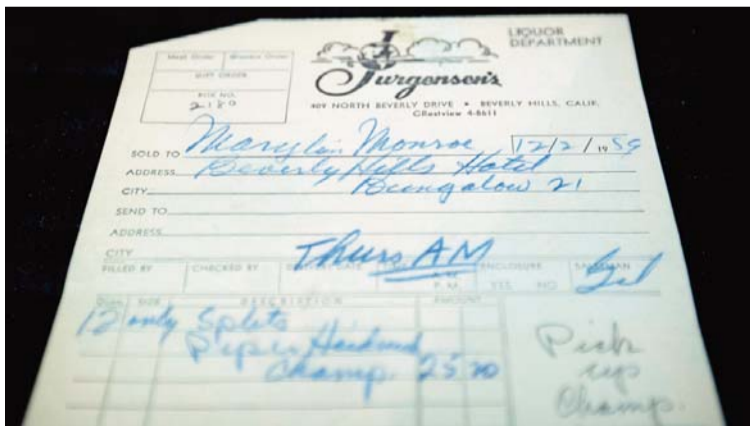
Men perform during a presentation of the 'Capoeira for Peace' project in Kinshasa on September 26, 2016. — AFP



Personal checks from actress Marilyn Monroe, including one dated from the day before her death, are displayed at an exhibition of Monroe's personal effects in Beijing. — AP photos



A vintage tube of partially-used lipstick found among items belonging to actress Marilyn Monroe is displayed at an exhibition of Monroe's personal effects in Beijing.



A receipt from a grocery store addressed to actress Marilyn Monroe is displayed.



Martin Nolan, Executive Director of Julien's Auctions, holds a photograph of actress Marilyn Monroe at age 2 during an exhibition of Monroe's personal effects.

Marilyn Monroe's dresses, notes, chequebook seen before sale

Marilyn Monroe's dress from "Some Like It Hot." Handwritten notes and letters expressing the Hollywood icon's inner thoughts and, at times, despair. These and dozens of other personal items the actress left to a friend and mentor were in Beijing yesterday for a private viewing by Chinese collectors. More than 1,200 items, including Monroe's shoes, purses, makeup and jewelry, will then be auctioned in Los Angeles come November.

The 1950s actress who achieved fame as a sex symbol led a troubled life and died aged just 36. The image and recollections of her have endured and made her into a pop culture icon. Now the personal items up for auction may invite new readings of the screen legend in the world as well as in China, a country she never visited.

"Last night I was awake all night again," she writes to her therapist in March 1961. "Sometimes I wonder what the night time is for. It almost doesn't exist for me - it all seems like one long, long horrible day." She goes on to describe her recent time in a mental institution, which she likens to a being sent to a prison "for a crime I hadn't committed." "Oh, well, men are climbing to the moon but they don't seem interested in the beating human heart," she writes.

Around 800 items to be auctioned come from the estate of Lee Strasberg, the famed American acting coach who became a father figure to Monroe. The money will go to his widow, Anna. Other items come from the collection of David Gainsborough-Roberts, a major collector of Monroe's costumes. The hundreds of items include dresses and outfits, the negligee she wore in the movie "Niagara" and the green and black-sequined leotard she picked out herself from a studio wardrobe to wear in "Bus Stop." There is a tube of her "non-smear" Revlon lipstick in "Bachelor's Carnation" shade, the shoes she wore to marry playwright Arthur Miller, and the pair of costume earrings that she wore to the premiere of "The Seven Year Itch."

Crayon drawings

Then there are the personal notes, crayon drawings and watercolors. Lee Strasberg's son, David, said that he, his mother and brother found many of the items in suitcases and closets about six years ago during a clean-out, including one trunk he'd been throwing his football



cleats on for years that turned out to contain some of Monroe's personal writings.

"She writes a note to my dad talking about something she heard in class, and she says, 'It helped me feel freer - you said two plus two does not necessary equal four in acting,'" said Strasberg, 45. "There's logic and then there's imagination, there's something more. And for Marilyn, I think she was always after that 'something more.'"

Monroe, who would have turned 90 this year, spent most of her childhood in foster homes and an orphanage and became one of Hollywood's most bankable stars, trading off her sex appeal and an image as a vacuous blonde. Off camera, she struggled with drug addiction and depression. She died from an overdose of barbiturates.

Some items up for auction have never been seen by the public before. They include a first-edition hand-bound 1957 volume of her third husband Miller's plays dedicated to Monroe, and a letter from a member of the Kennedy family.

The early 1960s letter is from Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of politicians President John F. Kennedy and Robert "Bobby" Kennedy. Smith writes to Monroe: "Understand that you and Bobby are the new item! We all think you should come with him when he comes back East!" "There's always speculation about her relationship with the Kennedys and this speaks to the fact that there was in fact a relationship between Robert Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe," said Martin Nolan, executive director of Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, which will be handling the sale.

Strap sandals

Among the quirkier items are a receipt for a bottle of champagne, her 1947 contract with Twentieth Century Fox and a recipe for stuffing jotted down on a slip of paper with an insurance company's letterhead. Her final chequebook shows her payments to the window cleaner, her maid and the New York Telephone Co. She paid \$200 to herself marked as "cash for trips." "Marilyn kept everything. She was a hoarder," said Nolan. "She bought a pound of butter, she bought a bottle of tonic water she kept the receipt. It's incredible. We have a pair of strap sandals that she wore when she was Norma Jean, probably 1943, 1945. And all the money she made and how famous she became and she kept those."

Although Western movies were banned in China during Monroe's heyday, her pop culture image and aspects of her life are well-known among many Chinese. Darren Julien, founder and CEO of Julien Auctions, said about 40 percent of their client base are Chinese collectors interested in Western pop culture, and particularly Monroe.

"A lot of people relate to her because she had actually a very difficult life in a lot of ways. She never had a lot of money, but she captured the hearts of so many people around the world," said Julien. In recent years, wealthy Chinese citizens and private businesses have become big spenders in the art and pop culture worlds, often as a way to display their wealth or find a place to park their money. Real-time online bidding has made it easier for Chinese collectors to buy Western pop culture. The auction takes place Nov 17-19 in Los Angeles. — AP



A worker moves a ladder near the dress that actress Marilyn Monroe wore in the movie "Some Like It Hot" at an exhibition of Monroe's personal effects.



David Strasberg, son of American acting coach Lee Strasberg who was a friend and mentor to actress Marilyn Monroe, walks past an oversized photograph of Monroe.